



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Holy Family Church

13900 Church Place, Seal Beach, CA 90740 - (562) 430-8170
www.holyfamilysb.com / holyfamily.sb@verizon.net

Rev. Joseph Son Nguyen, Pastor

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 Noon

Weekday Masses

Monday –Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesdays 8:15a.m

Anointing of the Sick Sacrament: Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Mass

Bible Study: 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month 12:30 p.m.

Confessions

Saturdays: 9:00am-9:30am / First Fridays 9:00am-9:30am

Merry Christmas Holy Family

While we enjoy the changing seasons and the celebrations surrounding Christmas, let us not forget that there is still so much sadness in the world, namely where wars and violence are still going on. Spend these seasons in prayer and thanksgiving. Most importantly, let us keep each other in our treasured Holy Family community under watchful care.

Thank you for all your prayers and support. May Our Lord Jesus pour out his blessings upon you, and may His Blessed Mother be your guiding light towards His Peace.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph Son Nguyen, Pastor

Rev. Joe Droessler, in Residence

Rev. Jim Hartnett, Pastor Emeritus

& Staff

Fourth Sunday of Advent Prayer

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Corinthias 3:15
Lord, I invite your peace to rule my heart!
As I end this year and reflect on your many gifts you have given me; let my heart be encouraged with the truth that you are a good God. I thank you for sending your Son to die for me. I thank you for the peace I have through you. May my words and actions be ones that glorify you. Amen.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday: December 24th 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass and Concert
Monday: December 25th
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

Feast of the Holy Family & New Year

Saturday: December 30th
4:00 p.m. Vigil Sunday Mass
Sunday: December 31st
8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
12 Noon Sunday Mass

Note: There was a mistake on the mailing schedule, there will **NOT** be 4 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 31

Monday: January 1st, 2024
8:30 a.m. New Year Mass

Around Our Diocese

On January 22, 2024, Bishop Vann invites all the Catholic community to observe the day as a Day of Reparation. While the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide was overturned in June of 2022, many state and federal laws are still hostile to unborn children and many lack sufficient support for women, children, and families in need. Bishop Vann also invites our Catholic community as well as all people of good will to join together with Bishop Nguyen in prayer for an end to abortion, healing for those involved in abortion, the protection of unborn children, our radical solidarity in walking with moms and all in need, and a renewed respect for all human life at the Mass for the Protection of Unborn Children on Monday, January 22, 2024. The Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Cathedral, followed by a “Walking with Moms” Ministry fair in the Cultural Center.

Gazing Upon the Mother of God (Catholic Reflections)

What an amazing experience this would have been. This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord.

At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life.

Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. “May it be done to me according to your word.” This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect “fiat” to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else, that made her the worthy Mother of God. Though none of us were immaculately conceived within our mother’s wombs and none of us have remained without sin throughout our lives, we must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God’s will in her life. And we must all strive to imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue. Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us.

Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is not one we can “figure out.” Instead, she is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God’s inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues.

My dearest Mother, you lived a life of perfect virtue and holiness. You continuously pondered the mysteries of God in your heart and always surrendered to the will of God with perfection. Please inspire me so that I may not only learn from you but also be able to share in the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit given to you. Mother Mary, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.



Special Parish Announcement

It is with great joy to announce that our dear parishioner, **Becky Maffucci**, has been chosen to represent the Diocese of Orange at the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress, scheduled to take place from July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis. Additionally, she will be part of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Eucharistic Committee, committing to a three-year term. We thank God for these great news since we know Becky will do an amazing job on this important national initiative that will benefit us and our future generations.

Congratulations Becky!

Our prayers and support are with you.

Pastoral Services Appeal 2023 (PSA) – Update-Thank you!

Thank you for all those who has already participated. As of today, this is the update

Funds Raised: \$61,476

Funds Received: \$60,665

Donors: 155

As we are approaching the end of the year, we kindly remind you that **there is still opportunity to pledge for the 2023 PSA** and be included as a tax deductible for the year.

There are pledge cards in our church pews for your convenience or you can do it electronically thru our website at www.holyfamilylsb.com. Thank you for your generosity.

Your Contributions- Thank you

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023: \$3,988

Online Giving: \$451.35

Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer Intentions for the Week

Monday 9:00 a.m. Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Sang Nguyen & Khuyen Hoang, RIP

Janine Terrell, RIP

Carol Bellamy, Sp. Int

Williams Family, Sp. Int.

Monday 11:00 a.m. Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Philip Zagarella, Sp.Int.

The Maffucci Family, Sp. Int.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 26

Don and Angela Adams, Sp. Int.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 27

All Souls Mark Davis, RIP

Angela Kim, RIP

Thursday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 28

Hoang Thi Di & Hoang Thi Nah, RIP

Robert Holliman, Sp. Int.

Maureen Habel, Sp. Int. (Bday)

Friday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 29

Sang Nguyen & Khuyen Hoang, RIP

Anh Kim Bui, RIP

Saturday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 30

Joseph Tinh Bui & Teresa Thanh Lai, RIP

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Dec. 30

Bill Koons, RIP

Peter Tien Pham, RIP

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Dec. 31

Thuy Do and family, Sp. Int.

Khoi Nguyen, Sp. Int.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Dec. 31

Steven Klemin, RIP

Priscilla Biller, Sp. Int. (Bday)

Sunday 12 Noon Dec. 31

All Souls Ken Vanzo, Sp. Int.

Larry Tanguay, Sp. Int.