

St. Paul Parish est. M 1876 + St. James Parish est. 1888 + St. Philip Parish est. 1910

Rev. Mario P. Farana, Pastor

Noe Valley Parishes

St. Paul's Catholic Church

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Coffee & Donuts following 9:15 Mass

Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass and Devotions

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

Parish Office and Rectory

221 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131

Telephone: 415 - 648 - 7538

www.stpaulsf.org

lmiller@stpaulsf.org

Parish Secretary: Laurie Miller

Liturgical Schedule & Bulletin Editor: Joan Strachan

RCIA Program: Terri Brady and Deacon Bill McLoughlin

Music Ministry: Joseph Duggan, Director & Cantor

Diane Costa, Pianist

Parish Worship and Religious Education:

Dorothy Vigna, Director

religiouseducation@stpaulsf.org

Grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Saturdays: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

September - May

Confirmation Preparation for High School Teens

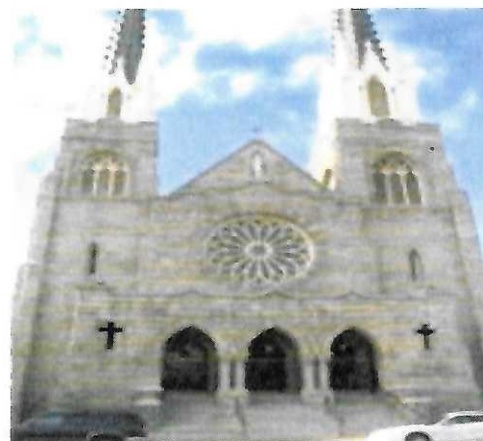
Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Chapel

Baptismal Catechesis Class - by appointment only

English on the first Wednesday of the month

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, program runs September through May

Marriage Preparation, contact Fr. Mario Farana at least six (6) months in advance



**Rev. Mario P. Farana,
Pastor**

Rev. James Liebner, SVD

Parochial Vicar

In Residence, St. Phiips

Deacon Bill McLoughlin

Rev. Ulysses D'Aquila,

In Residence St. James

Rev. H. Brendan McBride,

In Residence St. Philip's

Littlest Angel Preparatory Preschool

Tina Baluyut, Director

415 - 824 - 5437

tina@littlestangelpreschool.com

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

St. Paul's Elementary School

Kindergarten through Eighth-Grade

Ms. Jacqueline Curran, Principal

415-648-2055 or jcurran@stpaulsf.net

www.stpaulschool.org

St. Paul's: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow + serving Noe Valley over 140 years

December 4th. Second Sunday of Advent

HARMONY

Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice, and awe in God's presence reign. In such a paradise, everyone sees eye to eye and thinks in harmony with each other, as Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Romans. Even animals with a natural animosity toward one another coexist peacefully. John the Baptist understood that such harmonious relationships do not simply happen. They are the fruit of living in right relationship with God and others.

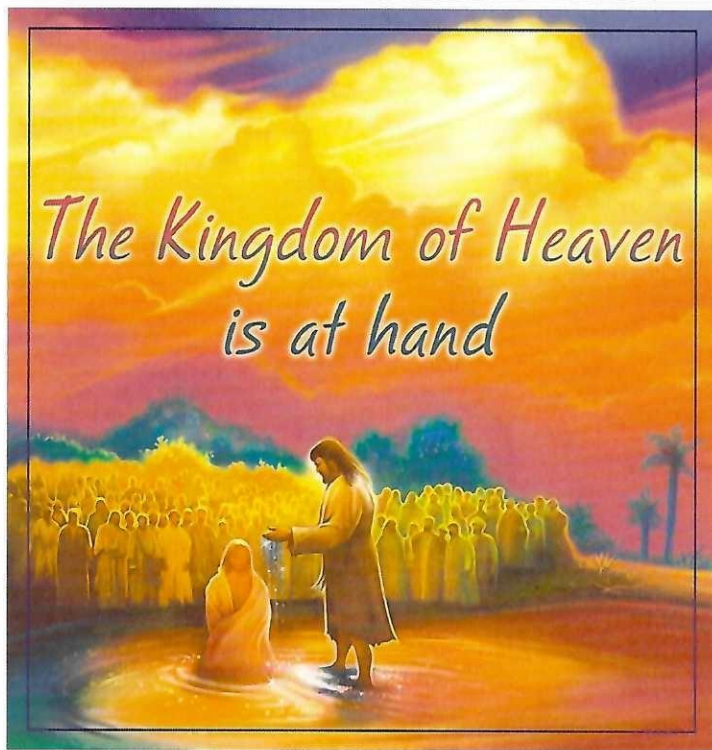
CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

December 4th. Second Sunday of Advent

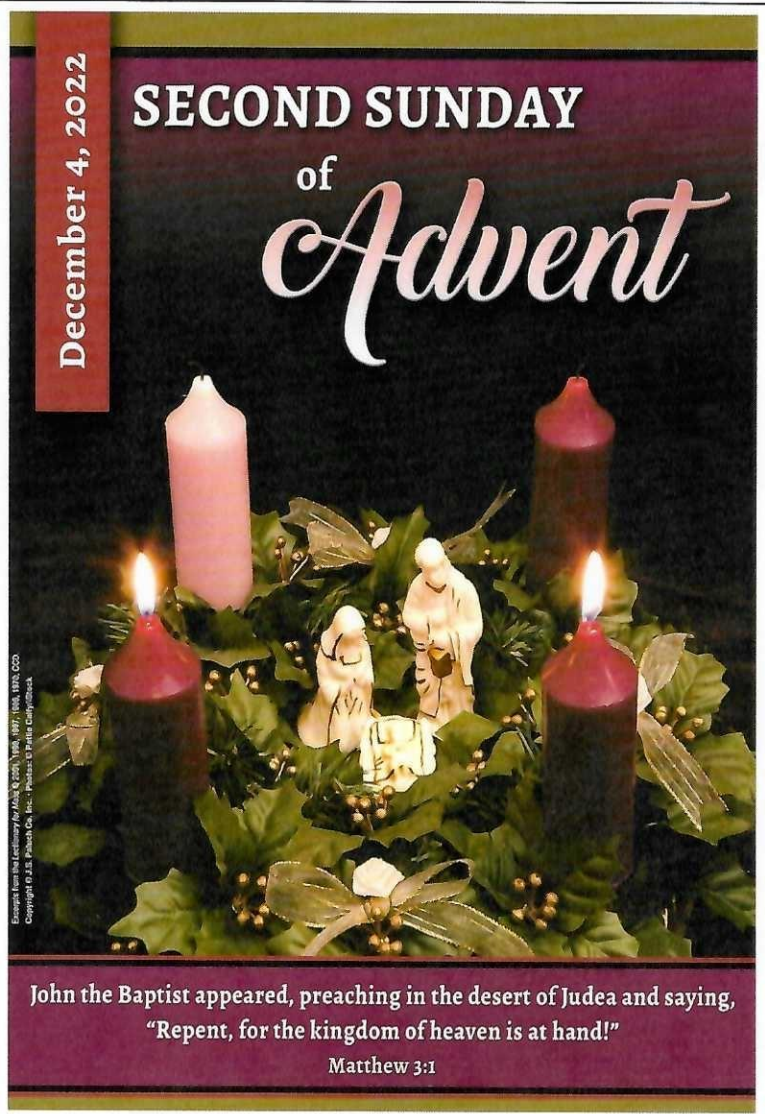
May God help us prepare the way of the Lord by acting with tenderness and compassion, especially toward the most vulnerable among us; We pray to the Lord:



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11



Calendar of the Week

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| Monday | Dec. 5 th . | |
| Tuesday: | Dec. 6 th . | Spiritual Journey 9:30am in the Rectory |
| Wednesday | Dec. 7 th . | Confirmation Class 7pm |
| Thursday | Dec. 8 th . | Baptism Class 7pm |
| Friday: | Dec. 9 th . | |
| Saturday: | Dec. 10 th . | CCD – 9:30am to 11am |
| Sunday: | Dec. 11 th . | Coffee and Donuts following the 9:15am Mass |

ST. PAUL'S THANKSGIVING RESPONSE TO GOD THIS PAST WEEK

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Weekly Collection Nov 27, 2022 | \$ 2,940.31 |
| E-Contributions for November 2022 | \$ 10,903.00 |
| 2022 Annual Appeal Goal | \$ 83,431.00 |
| Collected as of October 2022 | \$ 57,723.00 |
| Balance Still Remaining for the 2022 Appeal | \$ 25,708.00 |

SECOND COLLECTION Next weekend December 10th/11th

Next weekend the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up. Your gift will help defray some of the costs needed to care for our elderly religious and relieve the genuine financial crisis in many religious congregations. Whatever you give will be greatly appreciated. Please place your envelope in the first and only collection. Envelopes are attached to the bulletin

The St. Paul's Community Outreach Program Annual Giving Tree

will begin the weekend of Nov 26th. & 27th. Please take an ornament for a Child or Senior and return it with your gift. Gifts for teens/pre-teen are most needed. As always, your generosity and prayers are always appreciated



2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal update

Thank you for your response to Father Mario's latest letter about the 2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Our Parish is now only \$25,708 from our assigned goal. We remind you again that the Parish will have to pay the Archdiocese \$25,708 from our operating account if donations do not pick up. We know all things are possible with God. Please donate any amount you can for the good of St. Paul's Parish.

Lou Segale

The family of Lou Segale will gather on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at 12:00 PM for his Memorial Mass. Friends and parishioners are welcome to attend. Fr. Mario will officiate.

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Because of the combined generosity St. Paul's parishioners and the elementary school and Littlest Angels preschool communities, the San Francisco Food Bank received \$2,512 in online donations. Thanks to all.

Lectors, Commentators and Eucharistic Ministers, The Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Mass sign up sheet is in the Sacristy. Please add your name to the list as soon as possible

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Please make note that the regular 9:15 am mass will change to 9:30am on Christmas Day, December 25th.

We have a new look

Come see our newly updated Web page.

www.stpaulsf.org

Follow us on Facebook at

St. Paul's Catholic Church



Saturday Mass 4:30pm

Mary Doherty (D)

Dr. Chuck Steven Geiger Jr. (D)

Sunday Mass 8:00 am

Altar Society (L&D)

Beverly Ohlsson (D)

Sunday Mass 9:15 am

Mary O'Rourke (D)

Lou Segale (D)

Rite of Catechumenate

Monday 8:30 am

People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Tuesday 8:30 am

People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Wednesday 8:30 am

Alma Ruth Vargas AP (L)

Mary O'Rourke (D)

Thursday 8:30am

People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Thursday 6pm Mass

People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Friday 8:30am

People of St. Paul's (L&D)

Saturday Mass 4:30pm

Josephine and Jack Shea (D)

Juanita Lagarda Callejas (D)

Sunday Mass 8:00 am

Frank Venturini Jr. (D)

Margaret & Jack Kotlanger (D)

Rev. Michael Kotlanger (D)

Sunday Mass 9:15 am

Nick Fesunoff (D)



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our readings tell us today that:

ISAIAH 11: 1 – 10 The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

PSALM 72: "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever,"

ROMANS 15: 4 – 9 God, the source of patience, enables us to live in harmony.

MATTHEW 3: 1 – 12: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way of the Lord." Isaiah cries through John the Baptist's words, and we continue to hear that call today. Before we hear John quote him, we hear Isaiah himself, longing for the day when the Lord's chosen one would arrive, and justice and harmony would blossom. Let us prepare a place in our hearts and in our homes for the Lord, so that we may sing, like the psalmist, of a new day of justice and peace for one and all.

Our questions for the week:

For what do I need to repent and how can my repentance produce good fruit?

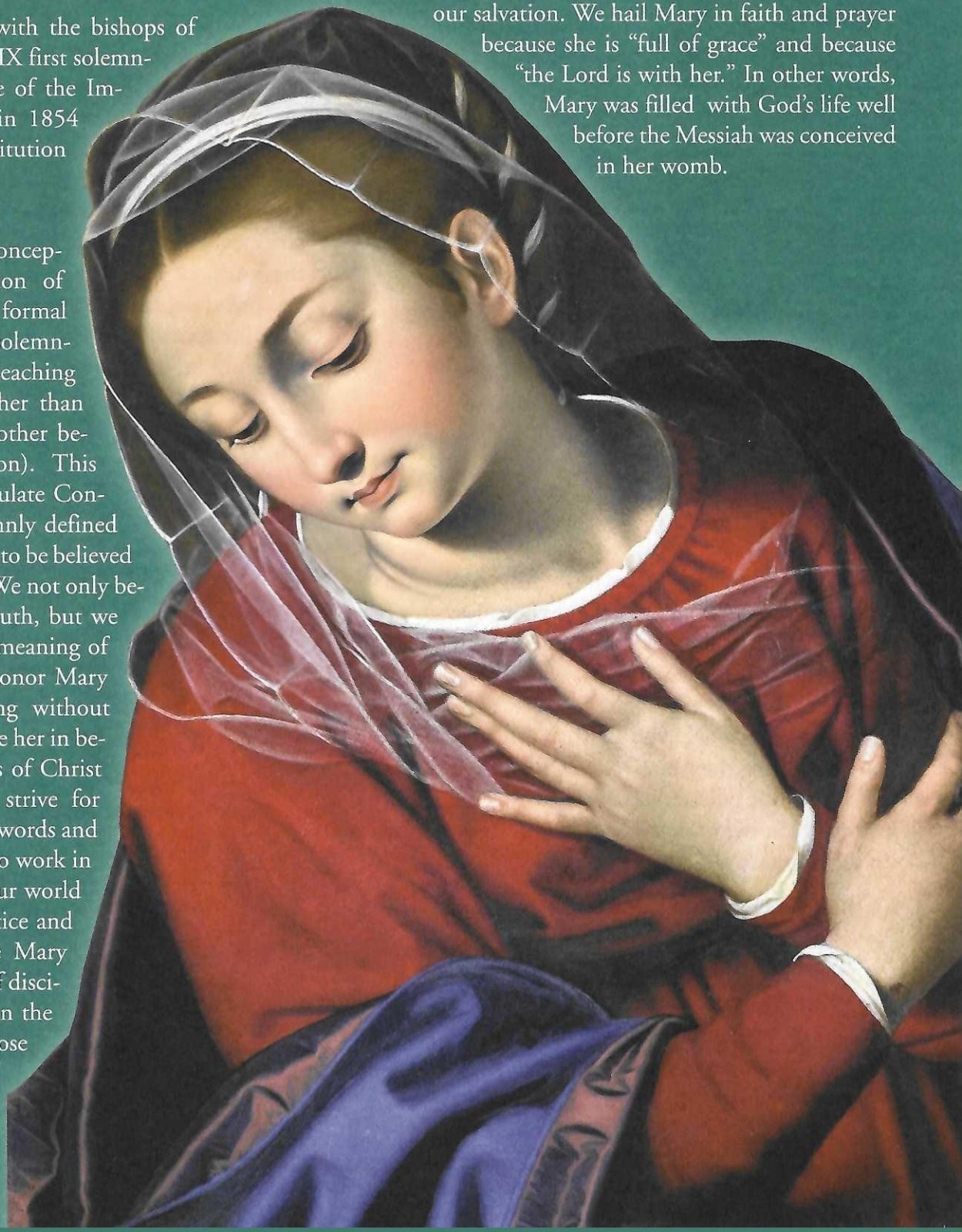
Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father (St. Joachim and St. Anne), was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special favor was conferred on her because of her role in God's plan for our salvation. Historically, this doctrine has sometimes been misunderstood as the conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit in the feast we know as the Annunciation. Instead, the Immaculate Conception celebrates the special gift of God's grace to Mary because she was to be the mother of Jesus, God's chosen agent to bring about

our salvation. We hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her." In other words, Mary was filled with God's life well before the Messiah was conceived in her womb.

After consulting with the bishops of the Church, Pope Pius IX first solemnly defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*.

The Immaculate Conception has the distinction of being one of only two formal Church dogmas to be solemnly defined by the full teaching authority of popes rather than general Councils (the other being Mary's Assumption). This means that the Immaculate Conception has been solemnly defined as an infallible teaching to be believed by the whole Church. We not only believe that this is our truth, but we also try to imitate the meaning of this truth. While we honor Mary for the privilege of being without sin, we also try to be like her in becoming faithful bearers of Christ in the world. As we strive for greater integrity in our words and actions we allow God to work in us to help transform our world into one of greater justice and love. Thus we imitate Mary and become the kind of disciples that Jesus praises in the Gospel: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it (Luke 11:28).



The Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55)

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Mary, Mother of the Church

Jesus gave Mary to the Church from the cross when he told his beloved disciple, "Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27). Mary was present in the upper room with the other disciples on Pentecost, when the Church was born (Acts 1:13-14). Over the centuries of Christianity, Mary has been sought out by the faithful who find in her support for their own lives of discipleship. As one whose own life of faith was not easy or simple, Mary is a companion who can show us a path in our everyday lives and in our suffering.

Mary is a wonderful example of what happens when one opens oneself to the life and power of God. As at the marriage at Cana, Mary always directs our attention to Jesus, saying "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5). Mary is not a goddess wielding power. Neither is she controlling and domineering nor cold and aloof. Mary is there for us whenever we need her.

WHY DEFINE THIS DOCTRINE?

The doctrine of Mary's Immaculate Conception affirms that through God's grace she was never separated from God by sin. Over the centuries Mary's freedom from original sin—the teaching that every human is born in the wrong relationship with God (this is what sin is and does) and so must be freed from this condition through God's grace (this is what salvation is and does)—was disputed by theologians who could not agree.

After consulting with the Bishops of the Church to confirm that almost all Catholics believed this doctrine, Pope Pius IX first solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in these words: We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful.

WHY DECEMBER 8?

December 8 is the liturgical celebration of Mary's Immaculate Conception, i.e., her being "adorned from the first moment of her conception with the splendors of an entirely unique holiness" (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #56). This date was chosen because it is 9 months (the time of a child's gestation in the mother's womb) before the traditional celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Mary on September 8.

A Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;

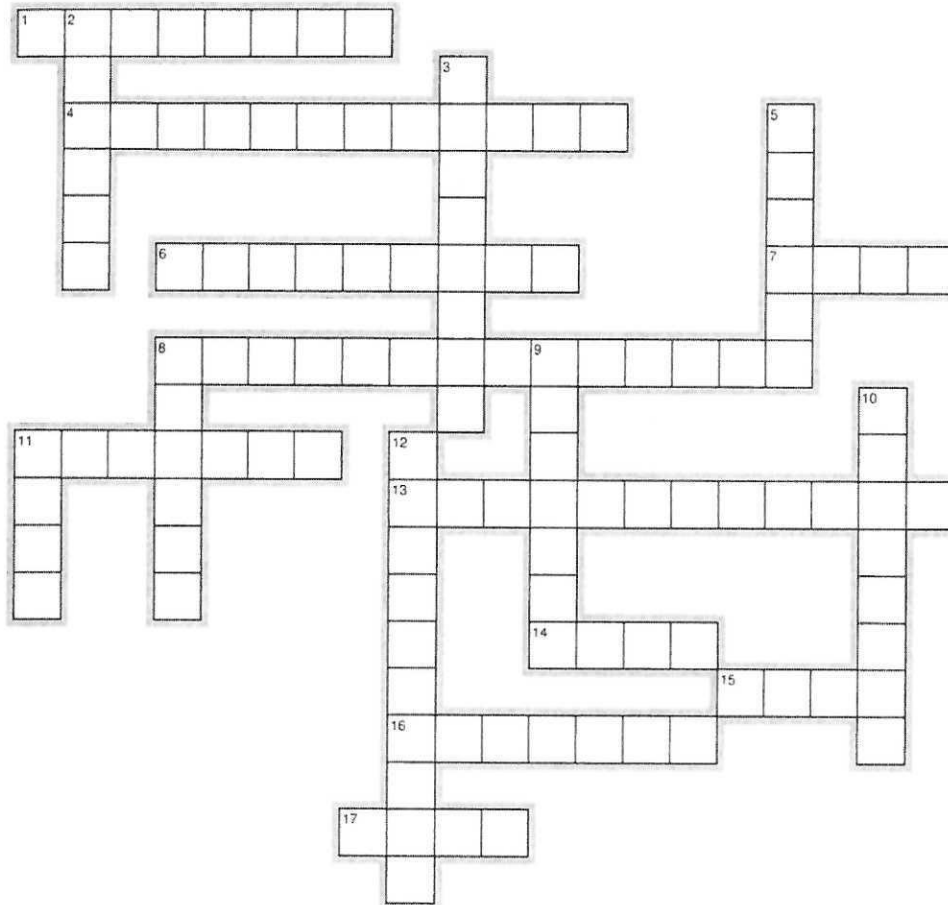
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.

Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

—Pope Francis

Advent Crossword Puzzle

David Bennett, ChurchYear.Net



EclipseCrossword.com

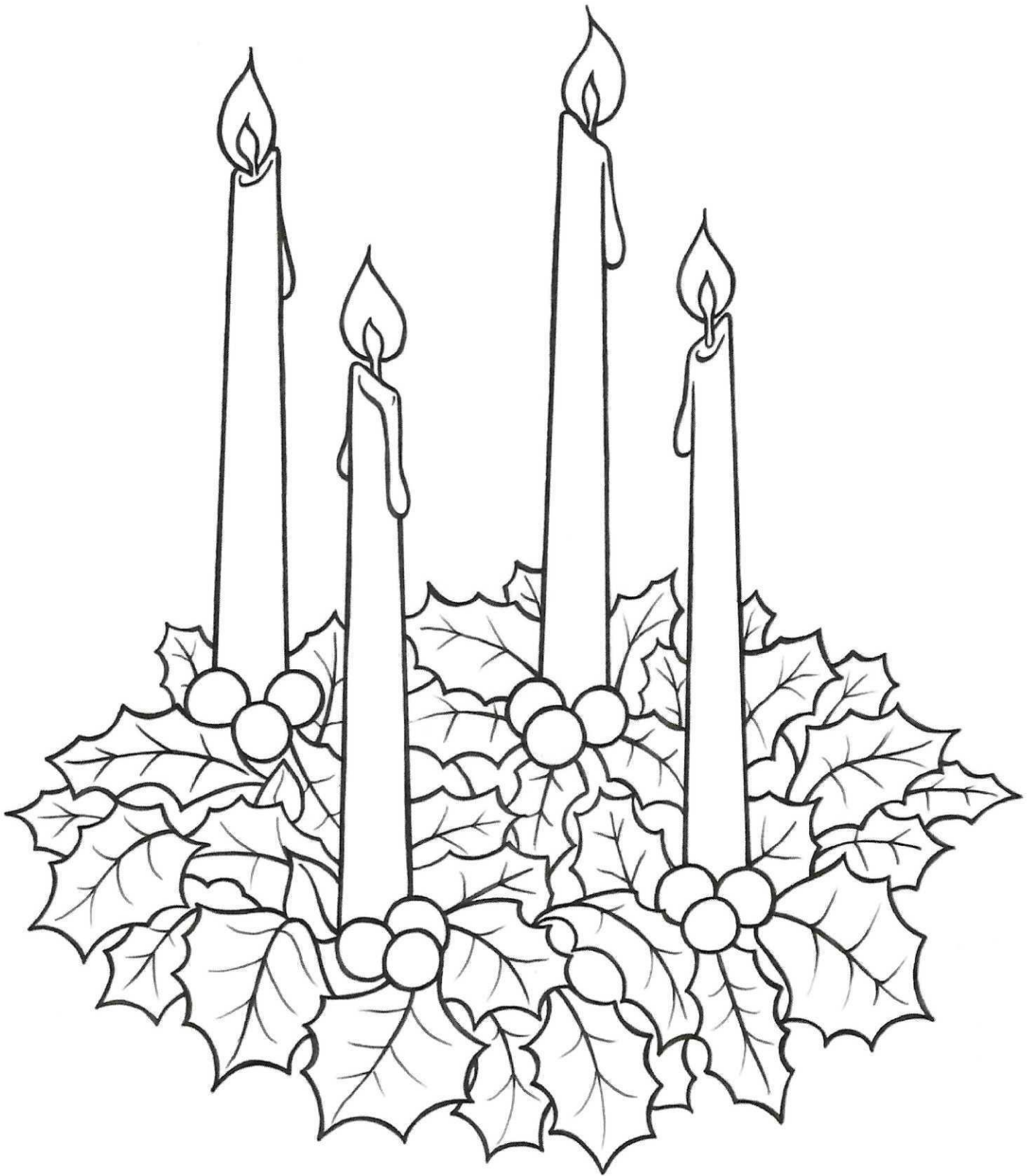
Across

1. Famous saint, who is associated with Christmas, whose feast is celebrated during Advent
4. Popular evergreen family devotion used during Advent (2 words)
6. Church holiday right after Advent
7. "Our _____ of Guadalupe," Catholic feast falling during Advent
8. Jesus' cousin who prepared the way for Jesus (3 words)
11. Title of Jesus, meaning "anointed one," and the name of an oratorio by Handel
13. Church season immediately before Advent (2 words)
14. Title of Jesus meaning "master"
15. Pinkish color used during the third Sunday of Advent
16. "Christ _____": Church holiday celebrated the Sunday before Advent (2 words)

17. Number of Sundays during the Advent season

Down

2. One of the major Old Testament prophets
3. Month when Advent usually begins
5. Liturgical color of the Advent season
8. Foster-father of Jesus
9. What the word "Advent" means
10. Advent Hymn: "O come, O come _____"
11. Mother of Jesus
12. "The Immaculate _____": Marian holiday that falls during the Advent season



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