

From the Desk of the Pastor

December 21, 2025

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

19 St. Mary's Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94112

(415) 334-4646

www.saintjohnnevangelist.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Two weeks ago Isaiah, the prophet spoke of the hope of a new king who would be more reliant on God than on the might and political alliances with foreign powers. Today's passage brings us to the dynamic that laid the groundwork for a new oracle.

King Ahaz was in a panic. The might of the Assyrian army was massing on the borders of Judah. How could Ahaz extricate himself from this inevitable defeat at the hands of his enemies. Prophet Isaiah reminded Ahaz that his duty as Judah's king was not to find strength in arms or in political alliances, but in the ancient covenant with God.

Isaiah begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to trust in God, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. But Ahaz would not listen. **Isaiah encounters in Ahaz, a stiff resistance and a stubborn refusal to seek refuge in God and know what he is expected to do;** because that meant that he had to act with diligence. The king hypocritically refuses to change his plans He pouts and turns his back on Isaiah. (See 2 kgs 16:5-9)

It was at this point that the prophet Isaiah, a true Israelite, foretold the birth of, "Emmanuel" an heir to the throne of David.

This is in sharp contrast with St. Matthew's presentation of **Mary and Joseph:** who are given to hear of God's plans, and who **in total surrender to God with utmost trust and fidelity embrace God's Word, even when they have to change and give up their own plans for their future.**

Together, they try to do what is right. When God reveals to them a different plan, one that seems to make their lives more difficult, they respond with trust.

As the Gospel tells us, Joseph "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him." Joseph shows us that at the heart of a right relationship with God lies trust that is put into action!

It seems as if Joseph slept the rest of the night through and in the morning awakened to a new life.



CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Hace dos semanas Isaías, el Profeta habló de la esperanza de un nuevo rey quien sería más dependiente de Dios que del poder y las alianzas políticas con los poderes extranjeros. El pasaje de hoy nos lleva a la dinámica que sentó las bases para un nuevo oráculo.

Rey Ahaz estaba en pánico. El poder del ejército Asirio fue concentrándose en las fronteras de Judá.

Cómo podría Ahaz liberarse de esta inevitable derrota a manos de sus enemigos.

El Profeta Isaías le recordó a Ahaz que su deber como el rey de Judá no era encontrar fuerza en las armas o alianzas políticas, pero en el antiguo pacto con Dios.

Isaías le ruega a Ahaz en pedir una señal, de confiar en Dios, de permitirle a Dios ofrecerle consuelo de la supervivencia de la dinastía Davidica. Pero Ahaz no escucharía. **Isaías encuentra en Ahaz, una dura resistencia y un terco rechazo de buscar refugio en Dios y saber lo que se esperaba de Él;** porque eso significaba que tenía que actuar con diligencia. El rey rehúsa hipócritamente cambiar sus planes se enfada y le da la espalda a Isaías. (Véa 2 kgs 16:5-9)

Fue en este punto que el profeta Isaías, un verdadero Israelita, predijo el nacimiento de, "Emmanuel" un heredero al trono de David.

Esto está en contraste agudo con la presentación de San Mateo de **María y José:** que reciben oír de los planes de Dios, y que **en total entrega a Dios con suma confianza y fidelidad abrazan la palabra de Dios, incluso cuando tienen que cambiar y renunciar a sus propios planes para su futuro.**

Juntos, tratan de hacer lo correcto. Cuando Dios les revela un plan diferente, uno que parece hacer sus vidas más difíciles, responden con confianza.

Como el Evangelio nos dice, José "hizo como el ángel del Señor le había mandado". San José nos muestra que en el corazón de una relación correcta con Dios reside la confianza que se pone en acción!

Parece como si José, se durmió el resto de la noche y en la mañana despertó a una nueva vida.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

December 13 - 14, 2025

Weekday Masses Offerings.....\$ 261.28
Immaculate Conception.....\$ 497.57
Weekend Mass Offerings.....\$2,047.20
Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.....\$ 950.20

UPCOMING 2nd COLLECTIONS

December 21: Retirement for Religious

January 1: Solemnity of Mary

January 5: Reserve Fund

January 11: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

A A A 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

We urge you to help us meet our goal:

Parish Assessment:	\$31,021.00
YTD we paid:	\$25,123.82
Balance we owe:	\$ 5,897.18
Pledges Balance	\$ 75.00

Thank you for your generosity!

SIMBANG GABI

December 16th - December 24th

The Filipino Community invites all to join our Christmas tradition that prepares us for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Simbang Gabi is a time to hope, a time to pray, and eagerly wait for the coming of our Messiah.

The schedule of the Rosary are as follows:

- **Tuesday, December 16th to Saturday, December 21st after 9:00 am Mass**
- **Sunday, December 21st at 9:30am before 10:00 am Mass**
- **Monday, December 22nd to Wednesday, December 24th after 9:00 am Mass**

As our tradition, Simbang Gabi Novena Envelopes will be distributed by volunteers after each Masses. This special collection will go to the needs of St. John the Evangelist Church.

All are welcome to join in this communal devotion.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

9:00 am: Morning Mass

The Vigil of Christmas

**4:30 pm: Bi-Lingual Mass:
In English & Spanish**

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Solemnity of Christmas

**8:00 am: Mass in English
10:00 am: Mass in English
12:00 noon: Misa en Español**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 27

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 20, 2025	December 21, 2025
9:00am ✠ Medina & Eufracio Ermitano 4:30pm ✠ Dorothy Steiner ✠ Matthew Malvar 	8:00am Parish of St. John 10:00am ✠ Ramon Berry ✠ Ruben Javina Magpantay ✠ Matthew Malvar ✠ Deceased Members of the Galang Family Flaviano Redublado 🕯️ David Steinbruner & Family 12:00pm ✠ Manuel Escoto ✠ Olga Sanabria ✠ Roberto Hernández Patricia Barragan
MONDAY	TUESDAY
December 22, 2025	December 23, 2025
9:00am Young Men's Institute	9:00am Rochelle G. de Joya 🕯️
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
December 24, 2025	December 25, 2025
9:00am ✠ Guadalupe Berry ✠ Manuel Simpliciano ✠ Frisco & Consolacion Apalit ✠ Eduardo Lostica ✠ Benjamin Caceres ✠ Teresita Salunga Olazo Family ✠ Andy Liwanag Vangie C. Liwanag 🕯️  4:30pm Parish of St. John	<i>The Solemnity of Christmas</i> 8:00am ✠ Reynerio Olazo 10:00am ✠ Vilma Legaspi ✠ Erlinda Legaspi ✠ Cathy & Simon Lauzon ✠ Lety Tomas 🕯️ ✠ Mel Ventura Members of the Berry Family Ryan & Flo Wolf Joy Mendoza & Family 12:00pm Parish of St. John
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 26, 2025	December 27, 2025
9:00am Parish of St. John	9:00am Living & Deceased members of the Young Men's Institute 4:30pm ✠ Grace Ann Knopp