

*"I have baptized you with water, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

MARK 1:8





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**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 DECEMBER 6, 2020**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

*Mass of Anticipation for Second Sunday of Advent*  
 4:00PM Salvatore DiStefano—30th Anniversary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*  
 7:30 AM Peter & Gloria Monti—Memorial  
 9:00AM Joseph Bartolomeo —Memorial  
 10:30AM Gay McCreery—Memorial

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7**

*St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*  
 7:30AM Gerard Franques—20th Anniversary  
*The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM*  
 5:00PM Elena J. Bernstrom—Memorial

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8**

*The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM*  
 7:30AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Memorial  
 9:00AM Ann Selma McNabb  
 7:00PM Tom Chisolm—Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

*Advent Weekday; St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin*  
 7:30AM Richard E. Curran—1st Anniversary

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**

*Advent Weekday*  
 7:30AM Margaret Devlin—45th Anniversary

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11**

*Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope*  
 7:30AM Theresa Pearson—13th Anniversary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
 8:30AM Teresa M. Romano—Memorial  
*Mass of Anticipation for the 3rd Sunday of Advent*  
 4:00PM Russell Ferrara—2nd Anniversary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
 7:30 AM Robert F. Grausgruber—20th Anniversary  
 9:00AM Joyce Honour—5th Anniversary  
 10:30AM Kate Bedard—11th Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

We have begun to live in what the Governor calls a "Pause" for the next two weeks. Many businesses are closed or have had limits and restrictions placed upon them. Thankfully Churches are open, and our parish school continues on with in school classes.

The rate of COVID cases is rising, as are hospitalizations. The "Pause" is to stem the rising rate of infection and curtail the need for hospitalizations. The state has opened two field hospitals to help ease the stress on our hospitals.

The week before Thanksgiving, I spent three days in Kent Hospital with bacterial pneumonia. Thankfully I twice tested negative for COVID-19! I can attest that the hospitals are full. I spent my entire time on a gurney in the Emergency Room as no rooms or beds were available. There were over 40 patients in the Emergency Room, waiting for rooms, and none were available.

It was terrific to return home to my own bed and be back at OLM! I am on the mend and feeling much better. My doctor tells me it will take several weeks to recover fully. I am genuinely grateful to Fr. Barrow, who has provided invaluable assistance during my illness.

It's hard to believe we are already preparing for Christmas, but prior planning is essential in these uncertain times. In this week's bulletin, we have published the Christmas Mass Schedule. It will be slightly different than past years and includes an extra Vigil Mass. Usually, the 4:00 PM Christmas

Eve Vigil Mass garners the biggest crowd, and the church is full.

With the uncertainty of these times, it is hard to know how to plan for Christmas Masses properly. After discussion and reflection and with the Bishop's permission, we are scheduling two Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve. One is at 3:00PM (allowed only for this year due to COVID), and the second at 5:00 PM.

Also, we will celebrate the Christmas Night Mass at Midnight, and it will be live-streamed. So those who cannot stay up will be able to view it on Christmas morning.

On Christmas Day, Masses will be at 7:30AM, 9:00AM, and 10:30AM. Not knowing how many will show up for Mass, this schedule affords us some flexibility. You too might be more flexible in choosing what Mass you attend on Christmas as we are limited to 125 people per Mass.

In your own planning for Christmas Mass, understand that seating is limited to first-come, first seated. Please ensure you arrive 15 minutes before Mass, wear a face mask, wash your hands and keep a social distance. With your patient cooperation, Christmas should be just as faith-filled and joyous as it always is.

Of course, planning and preparing for Christmas means that we should also cleanse our souls of sin. We continue to have Confessions on Saturdays at 3:00PM and Mondays at 6:00PM. Our OLM School students continue to come to Advent Confessions on Monday afternoons, and our RE Students will be coming on Monday,

December 7th at 6:00 PM.

On the Monday before Christmas, December 21st, we have scheduled two hours of Confessions from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. There will be three priests available to hear Confessions for each hour. It is an excellent opportunity to give yourself the best Christmas gift possible, God's forgiveness of sins and the grace of the Sacrament!

This Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Under this title, Our Lady serves as the patroness of the United States of America. Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854 declared Our Lady immaculately conceived stating that the Blessed Virgin Mary "*in the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin.*"

We celebrate this great feast with a Vigil Mass on Monday at 5:00 PM and Masses on the Holyday at 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM. There is a 9:00 AM Holyday Mass for OLM School, but only the students may attend. The 9:00 AM Mass will be live-streamed for those who cannot participate in Mass.

Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good. God Bless. May the Immaculate Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for our nation and us!

# Ask Father

## How Much Did Mary Know

To summarize what we know from scripture Mary knew: (1) what she heard from Gabriel at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38), (2) what the angel told Joseph in his dream, presumably (Matthew 1:18–25); (3) what Elizabeth told Mary by the Holy Spirit at the Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); (4) what Gabriel told Zechariah about his own son John, (Luke 1:5–23); (5) what the shepherds told Mary at the Nativity they heard from the heavenly host (Luke 2:8–20); and (6) what Simeon and Anna told Mary at the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–38). We read: “[She] pondered what sort of greeting this might be.” This is a key theme for Mary’s life: pondering deeply the message of the Angel, the message of God, the Word of God.

We have a song called “Mary did you know,” and it asks whether Mary knew everything that would take place. For instance the song asks if Mary knew that “[her] Baby Boy would one day walk on water?” Did Mary know that Jesus would perform miracles? Being a pious Jew she knew the prophecies. She knew that the Messiah would perform healing miracles: cure the blind, heal the sick, have dominion over the powers of nature. All Jews knew this and it is why when Jesus started doing these things Peter said: “you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

The song asks: “Did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?” Mary knew from the revelation of the angel that Jesus would be the Messiah, the incarnate God, the savior of the world who would die for our sins. The angel told her: “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...” Elizabeth greeted her with “the mother of my Lord” which refers to Jesus’ divinity. She also knew the Suffering Servant prophecy of Isaiah: “But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep. Like a lamb led to slaughter...” Finally Simeon told her: “and you yourself a sword will pierce,” to indicate the sorrow she would bear at his crucifixion.

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ and the best person to imitate is Mary; to ponder in our hearts what this all means and so when Christmas day arrives, to truly understand what takes place; the incarnation, the coming of God in the flesh for the salvation of the world.

## Weekly Collection

### November 22, 2020

Weekly.....	\$6,839.00
EFT.....	\$3,984.00
	<b>Total=\$10,823.00</b>
CCHD.....	\$1,212.00
Outreach.....	\$542.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$107,128 .00

### Weekly for November 24, 2019

Weekly.....	\$12,519.00
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### November 29, 2020

Weekly.....	\$6,895.00
EFT.....	\$4,184.00
	<b>Total=\$11,079.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$651.00
Annual Collection.....	\$107,328.00

### Weekly for December 1, 2019

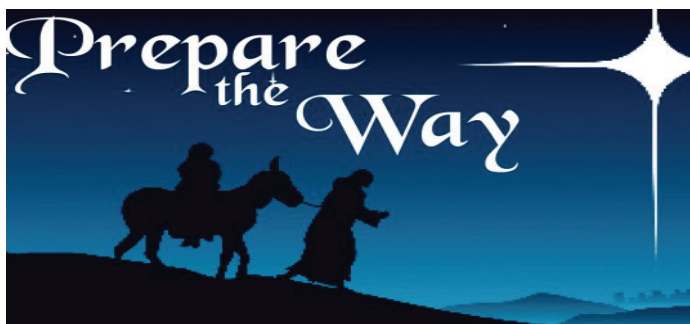
Weekly.....	\$21,129.00
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**Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**



In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of **Elena L. Bernstrom** and **Joseph Bartolomeo** who have died.





**Holyday Mass Schedule at OLM**

**Monday, December 7**

Holyday Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

**Tuesday, December 8**

Holyday Masses at 7:30PM & 7:00PM

\*9:00AM School Holyday Mass

\*This Mass is livestream only, not open to public.



*Striving to be Saints & Scholars!*

*Upcoming School Events*

- **Monday, December 7:** School Confessions at 1:00pm
- **Tuesday, December 8:** Holyday Mass 9:00AM (livestreamed only)

We are looking for substitute teachers for OLM School. If interested, please contact OLM School Principal, Mr. Patrick McNabb at 401-884-1618

*Discover the OLM Advantage at [www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)*



• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in **need of food and paper goods** for the members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

• **Christmas Outreach:** We are in need of **Stop & Shop and Walmart Gift Cards (small denominations only \$10, \$20 & \$25).** Please drop in safe in vestibule or mail in to the office.

***Thank you for your support!***

• For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



• **First Communion Class (2020-21):** Family Mass & Class on Sunday, December 6th at 5:00PM. ***Only First Communion students & families may attend Mass,*** followed by brief Family Catechesis Class.

• **Confirmation Class (2020-21):** Next Family Mass & Class on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00PM. ***Only Confirmation students & families may attend Mass,*** followed by brief Family Catechesis Class.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B



**A**s we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is a B year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In B years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Mark. In A years, we read Matthew, and in C years, we delve into Luke.

This Gospel may have been written for Roman converts because it presumes no knowledge of Jewish law or custom on the part of its audience, and tradition has it that Mark was a disciple of Peter.

Mark's is the oldest of the Gospels, most likely written between the years 65 and 70. It is also the shortest and contains no infancy narrative, but begins with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river.

Early manuscripts of Mark reveal two different endings, a shorter one that stops at the resurrection and a longer one that goes on to the ascension. It is agreed that the longer ending was added by someone other than the original author, but both endings are accepted as canonical.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*



### Monday, December 21

Confessions from 6:00PM –8:00PM  
with three priests

### *The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord* Thursday, December 24

#### Christmas Eve

Vigil Masses at 3:00PM & 5:00PM

#### Friday, December 25

#### Christmas Day

Midnight Mass at 12:00AM (livestream)  
Christmas Day Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM &  
10:30AM

#### *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

#### New Year's Eve, December 31, 2020

Vigil Mass at 4:00PM

#### New Year's Day, January 1, 2021

Holiday Masses at 7:30AM & 10:30AM



*Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain.* The power of pray is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email directly at [2hart@cox.net](mailto:2hart@cox.net). *If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!*

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## What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

**#WHATSMYNAME**

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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