

December 17, 2023

JOY

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
Third Sunday of Advent



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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
Our Lady of Grace Church

SIGN UP FOR PARISH MESSAGES:
flocknote.com/olgsa

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00AM - 5:00PM

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI

7:00AM

TUES & THUR

5:30PM

SATURDAY

5:30PM

**1st Saturdays - 8:00am*

SUNDAY

8:30AM

10:30AM

12:00PM

CONFESSION/ RECONCILIATION

TUES, THURS, SAT
4:45PM - 5:15PM

SUNDAY

**Please see weekly schedule*

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AFTER HOURS

ANNOINTING REQUEST

210-239-1322

BAPTISMS

*Call the office six weeks
in advance to prepare
registration documents*

WEDDINGS

*Call the office at least six
months in advance to reserve
date and complete marriage
preparation.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Eugenio B., Neomi Balderas, Marie Black, Mary Blake, Rosa Becnel, Michael Castro, Juliana Cavazos, Maria Chavez de Hernandez, Esther Contreras, Ashley Cuellar, Emiliano Cuellar, David Davis, Kate DeWein, John Ferguson, Dcn Frank Gallardo, Vangie Gallardo, Sadie Garcia, Juan Garza, Danny Gusme, Erlinda Hamilton, Eric Hawbecker, Marialice Hayes, Josephine Janczar, Steve Janosek, Markus Klink, Joe Mangione, Kathy McCoy, Sally McDuffee, Joseph McKinley, Gracie Miller, John David Navejar, George Perez, Rina Pollack, Jose Sanchez, Jeanie Sanders, Carlos Saucedo, Edward Jacob Sciantarelli, Jim Sciantarelli, Laurie Seligman, Jerry SESCO, Carolyn Smith, Henry Wolff, Stephen Wyrick.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm - My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel - I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, Interna-

**THIS
WEEK
@OLG**



WEDNESDAY, 20TH

- RCIA - The Last Things: What Happens After We Die? - 6:30pm
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal -Madonna Room Lower Level- 6pm
- Choir Practice - 7pm

FRIDAY, 22ND

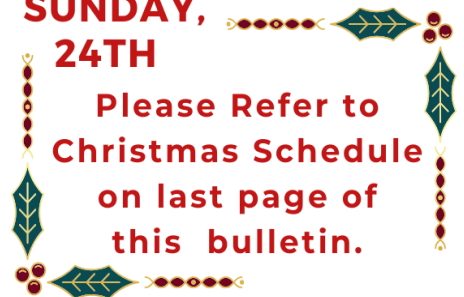
- Office closes @ 3pm
- Choir & Pageant Rehearsal in the Church - 6pm

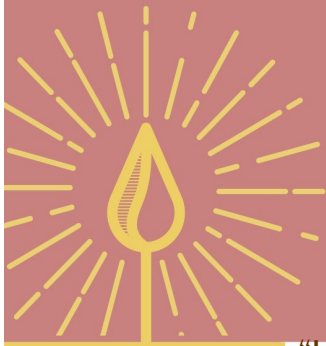
SATURDAY, 23RD

- Pageant Costume Fitting in Church Nursery - 6:30pm

SUNDAY, 24TH

**Please Refer to
Christmas Schedule
on last page of
this bulletin.**





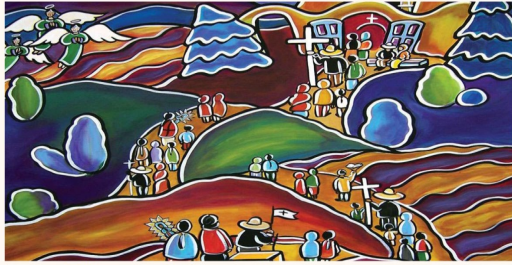
“This is the one about whom it is written:
‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.’”

Matthew 11:10

“I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’*” as Isaiah the prophet said.” John 1:23

In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist quotes Isaiah 40:3: “A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God. John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior. First of all, John cries out in the “desert.” His message is for those who experience dryness, destitution, need and loss in life due to sin. His message of repentance is first for those who are without the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the Living Water of the Savior of the World. Second, this new “straight” way implies that many are not walking the direct path to Christ. Instead, they are taking unnecessary detours in life. John’s message is one that calls everyone to the straight and direct way of repenting of their sins so that they can come to faith in Christ Jesus. Third, walking through the desert to find Christ requires trust in God’s providence. It takes courage to make such a journey. Trust in the ongoing providence of God, Who promises to meet all of our needs, is key. One would not walk straight through the desert if they did not trust their guide. Advent is a time to reexamine the road you are on. Are you trying to find your own way to happiness? Are you trusting in your own abilities, your own intelligence and your own plan for the future? If so, then listen to the “voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” Listen to Saint John speak to you, calling you to the simplicity of the desert, to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead you.

J
O
Y



**Please join us for our annual
Las Posadas!**

Sunday December 17th @6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Come celebrate the journey Mary and Joseph made
on the evening of Jesus' birth.**

6:30 pm - Candlelight Procession

7 pm - Tamale Potluck Dinner

7:45 pm - Piñata, Hot Cocoa & Desserts

Donations are welcome!



CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:

Assisting with the Parish Posada will count towards service hours.

*Please arrive for Set up @5 PM; Madonna Room

We should be finished and cleaned up by @9 PM*



ASSIST



RSVP



DONATE



**My spirit rejoices in
God my savior**

Luke 1:47

**Parish Advent
Reconciliation
Service**



Our Lady of Grace

**Monday,
December 18th**

6:30 p.m.

**We will have four priests
available to
hear your confessions.**

MASS, CONFESSION & INTENTION SCHEDULE

Monday, December 18

7:00 AM **Fr. Abe**

Jane H. Horton (d) - Pierrel Family

Tuesday, December 19

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Abe**

5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Abe**

Shelly Davis - Mari Carmen Romero

Wednesday, December 20

7:00AM **Fr. Abe**

In Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 21

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Abe**

5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Abe**

Hunter Fitzner's Birthday - Family

Friday, December 22

7:00 AM **Fr. Abe**

Erica Romero - Mari Carmen Romero

Saturday, December 23

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Jorge**

5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Jorge**

Steven Davile (d) - His Parents

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM **Fr. Jorge**

Beth & Jim O'Brien - David & Theresa Tiggeman

10:30 AM **Fr. Jorge**

Moses Sorola (d) - Norma Sorola

12:00PM

Fr. Art Flores, OMI

Our Lady of Grace Parishioners

Sunday, December 24 - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 PM **Fr. Jorge - OLG *Children's Christmas Pageant at 3:30pm**

The DeLeon Family - Dolores Beardsley

4:00 PM

Fr. Jim Schellenburg, SM - SAHS Chapel

Our Lady of Grace Parishioners

6:30 PM

TBD

Special Intentions

10:00PM

Fr. Jorge *Christmas Carols at 9:30pm

Pat Hedemann (d) - Marylin Johnson

10:30 AM

Fr. Abe

Pat Hedemann (d) - Marylin Johnson

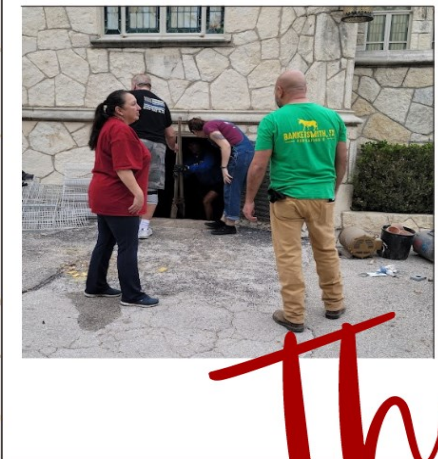
**Please Join the Rosary
Prayer Group**



The group will meet
December 19th at 6:30 pm
in the Madonna Room
for a brief Scripture, reflection
and praying the Holy Rosary.
For info call Greg Clary at
903-714-0232.



**OLG PARISH
DAY OF SERVICE
2023**



Thank you!

Thank you to all of the Confirmandi, RE students, parishioners and staff who took part in our Parish Day of Service on Saturday, December 1st. Everyone came together in such a wonderful effort of faith and community. Projects included polishing brass and church pews, cleaning windowsills, cleaning out and organizing the Madonna Room closet, church basement and upstairs office storage and pulling weeds. It was a great success!



Peace on Earth



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Community News

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

FRIDAY, DEC. 23	Closes @ 3pm
MONDAY, DEC. 25	Closed
TUESDAY, DEC. 26	Closed
WED - THUR - Altered Hours	10 am - 3pm
FRIDAY, DEC. 29	Closed
MONDAY, JAN. 1	Closed

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUNDAY, DEC. 24	No Classes
SUNDAY, DEC 31	No Classes

PARISH MINISTRIES

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP	Tuesday, Dec. 19th
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	Contact parish office
MORNING BIBLE STUDY	ON BREAK
	**will resume meeting on February 28th
THAT MAN IS YOU	ON BREAK
	**will resume meeting on January 19
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP	Not Meeting
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD	ON BREAK
	**Children will not be gathered at Mass for CLOW on Dec. 24, Dec 31 or Jan. 7 -will resume Jan. 14



The second collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is designated for the mission and ministry of Assumption Seminary.

Many THANKS to all of our parish 'Christmas Angels' that participated in this year's Angel Tree Project. Our community was able to bless the children at Healy-Murphy with their requested gift cards.

We would also like to thank everyone that donated to the Knights of Columbus Wheelchair Drive. Your willingness to share in the spirit of Our Lord to care for the infirm in need raised \$6,500 and will enable the Knights to purchase more than the hoped for 3 or 4 wheelchairs. As always, we are amazed and humbled by the generosity of our faith community!



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Christmas SEASON SCHEDULE

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, Dec. 18th 6:30pm

4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 23rd Confessions 4:30pm & Mass 5:30pm

Dec. 24th 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

**Choose one*

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, Dec. 24th

3:30pm

Children's Pageant-OLG

4:00pm

Children's Mass-OLG

4:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass-SAHS Chapel

6:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass

9:30pm

Christmas Carols

10:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, Dec. 25th

Christmas Day Mass

10:30am

**Choose one*

Feast of the Holy Family

Dec. 30th Confessions 4:30pm & Mass 5:30pm

Dec. 31st 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Mon. Jan. 1st

10:30am

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 6th Confessions 4:30pm & Mass 5:30pm

Jan. 7th 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

Adoration of the Child Jesus after every Mass

**The Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 8th- 7am Mass)
is the conclusion of the Christmas Season**