

# Advent

December 7, 2014 ♦ Second Sunday of Advent

## Today's Readings

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

### Monday

DECEMBER 8

*Immaculate  
Conception  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary,  
Patronal Feast  
Day of the  
United States  
of America*  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 9

*Advent Weekday*  
Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 10

*Advent Weekday*  
Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday

DECEMBER 11

*Advent Weekday*  
Is 41:13-20  
Mt 11:11-15

### Friday

DECEMBER 12

*Our Lady of  
Guadalupe*  
Zec 2:14-17 or  
Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,  
10ab  
Lk 1:26-38 or  
Lk 1:39-47

### Saturday

DECEMBER 13

*Saint Lucy, Virgin  
and Martyr*  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Sunday

DECEMBER 14

*Third Sunday  
of Advent*  
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

In the weeks before Christmas, preparations for the holiday seem all-consuming. We cook, we shop, we clean; we buy or make presents for our families and friends. Sometimes we break into song, and often we give more generously than at other times. We'll probably have guests, and we'll want to do a little extra to make ready for them.

Today's readings turn our gaze to a more significant kind of preparation for Christmas and remind us that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, waits to come again in the fullness of time. More to the point, he waits for us to open our hearts and our lives to him.

What does that take exactly?

Think about the way we clean house for special guests. Not content with simple wiping and dusting, we get out the polish, clean the top of the refrigerator, and even double check for dust bunnies that have wandered to the corner under the bed. That's a fine metaphor for what we need to do with our souls.

Advent is the time to check the dark recesses for thoughts and actions that indicate we're less than ready to meet Christ face to face.

Advent is the time to sweep away the cobwebs and put our inner house in order, knowing that Christ is on his way.

Maybe in the midst of cooking and cleaning the house we live in, we can find the time for prayer and reconciliation so that when he comes, we can stand before him with doors open wide in welcome.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



*Advent is the time  
to sweep away the  
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*December 7 2014*

*St. Ann Catholic Church & Our Lady of Chartres Mission*

*Pastor: Reverend Khoa P. Vo*

*Office: 228-832-2560, Fax: 228-832-3140*

*Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.*

**Web: [www.stannparishlizana.org](http://www.stannparishlizana.org) --- Email: [stanncatholic@bellsouth.net](mailto:stanncatholic@bellsouth.net)**

**I indeed have baptized you with water:  
but he shall baptize you  
with the Holy Ghost.**



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Every Friday Adoration from 8:30  
a.m. to 9:30 a.m

**SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION**  
Both Before Mass and by  
Appointment.

*Mass Schedule for this Week*  
Our Lady of Chartres Mass Schedule  
Sun 7:30 am Our Parish Family

St. Ann Mass Schedule & Intentions  
Sat 4:00 pm +Walter Guillot III  
Sun 9:00am Our Parish Family

**Mon 8:00 am** +Fr Pete (spec int)  
**7 pm** +Walter Guillot III

Tues 8:00 am +Fr Pete (spec int)  
Wed 6:00 pm +Fr Pete (spec int)  
Thu 8:00am +Fr Pete (spec int)  
Fri 8:00 am +Fr Pete (spec int)

## **From Father Khoa's Desk...**

### ***Dear Parishioners and Friends,***

**Advent** is our most counter-cultural season. While the secular world puts out the Christmas decorations by Halloween, the Church does not begin to celebrate Christmas until the evening of December 24th. The Advent Season is similar to preparing for a visit from a close friend or beloved family member. Lots of preparation needs to be made, and our joy is not complete until the loved one arrives. But the preparation itself is a happy time. I want to express our gratitude to our Altar Society for preparing our Advent decor.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist speaks about what's to come. It's going to be different. It's going to be better. When the Messiah comes, something amazing is going to happen. "I have baptized you with water," John says, but "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the coming of Christ, we move from water to Spirit-in other words, from the natural to the supernatural. Jesus takes our lives to a new level. But we have to be ready to join in on this spiritual journey. That's why John went around baptizing people for the repentance of their sins. He wanted to be sure their spirits were open to the Spirit. He wanted to help them be ready when the time came.

During Advent, we take a similar approach. We focus on what lies ahead: the coming of Christ. Of course he already came at the first Christmas when he was born of the Virgin Mary. Certainly, part of this season involves preparing for Christmas when we remember this original "advent" of the Lord. But another important element of these days is to make ourselves ready for the second coming of Christ. This is the moment for which we must always be ready. But we have an advantage that John's followers did not have. We already have the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts as baptized Christians.

Now, the Lord himself is at work in our souls to prepare us for his return. The question is only how cooperative we are going to be in the process. How attentive will we be to the promptings of this Holy Spirit which are often as quiet as a whisper? Let's be sure, during the busy pre-holiday bustle, to set aside enough quiet time that we can properly "prepare the way of the Lord" by listening to his voice.

I hope that our Advent reflection booklets, 'The Word Among Us,' and our opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday December 20 will prove to be beneficial for your spiritual journey as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

This Monday, December 8th, is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**. Under that title, Mary is the patroness of the United States. It is a holy day of obligation. Our Mass schedule is 8am and 7pm.

**May God bless all of us!**

***...Fr. Khoa***

**New Mass Time:** Starting this **Saturday**, December 7, 2014, the Vigil mass will be at 4:00pm.

***The Immaculate Conception*** Of The Blessed Virgin Mary Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> - Mass Times **8:00am and 7:00pm.**

### ***Saint Vincent DePaul Pharmacy***

A reminder that ***next weekend*** is the Special Diocesan Collection for the Pharmacy.

### ***St. Ann and OLC Penance Service***

is on Saturday December 20 after 4 pm mass.

**Altar Society:** Meet on next Sunday December 14. For more information, please contact **Lenell King**.

MASS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MIN.	SERVERS	USHERS	GIFT B.
Sat Dec 06 4:00pm	Dr. Lanny Acosta	Rita Acosta, Richard Dunlap, Henrietta Ladner	Katelyn Casey Boots Moran	Doug Ladner August Sch.	Ira Necaise
Dec 07 7:30	Sandra Ammons	Daniel Squillante	(OLC)	Gil Aguirre	(OLC)
Sun Dec 07 9am	Sharon Leimer	Dale Babin, Carolyn Brewer, Kim Wood	Keegan Rylie Rines	Robert Pat Leimer	Lester Palmer Family
Sat Dec 13 4:00pm	Paul McGill	W.C. King, Lenell King, Sharon Ladner	Katelyn Casey Boots Moran	Doug Ladner Ira Necaise	Patricia Lizana
Dec 14 7:30	Sandra Ammons	Daniel Squillante	(OLC)	Gil Aguirre	(OLC)
Sun Dec 14 9am	Jason Necaise	Chantel Crabtree, Helena, Dale Babin	Conner Kaison McGill	Robert David	Jason & Lisa Necaise Family

**Christmas Flowers:** There are envelopes for donations for Christmas flowers at each pew. Thank you for your generosity.

**Calendar:** New Calendar for 2015 arrived. They are available at the back of the church. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**RCIA:** RCIA classes are on Wednesdays 6:30pm from September to May at Parish Chapel. Please contact Tim Brogdon at 344-5449. Thank you.

**ST. ANN STEWARDSHIP:\*\*** 61Identifiable: \$3,092.40; Loose: \$1,470.00; Total: \$4,562.00; Children: \$16.00. Building Fund: \$139.60, Flower: \$163.00 Thanksgiving: \$301.00

**OUR LADY OF CHARTRES STEWARDSHIP:** Identifiable: \$280.00; Loose: \$83.00 Total: \$363.00.

\*\*Amount needed weekly \$2,908.84.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### **ST. ANN ACTIVITIES**

**Bible Study:** Classes are on **Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm, and on Thursday from 9-10:30am at CCD Building.** For more information, please contact **Ruth Schonewitz and Henrietta Ladner**

**Religious Ed:** CCD after 9:00am Sunday mass. During school year, we have Bible Study on Sundays for parents in the parish hall. Thank you.

**Church Cleaning:** Please contact Ellen West for more information.

**Parish Council:** meet on third Sundays.

**CYO:** meet every other week on Sunday 6:00pm. You can visit St Ann CYO on [www.facebook.com/stannslizanacyo](http://www.facebook.com/stannslizanacyo) or contact **Katelyn Moran and Danielle Ladner.**

**Project Hope and Compassion:** For more information, please contact the office.

**2015 Diocesan Directory:** The Gulf Pine Catholic publishes an annual diocesan directory. The 2015 Diocesan Directory will be available in January. Each copy is \$10. Deadline is December 19.

**MASS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS:** You can have Masses offered for the deceased as well as for living family and friends. Mass cards and envelopes are available at the office.

**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Please keep the parish office informed so we may minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital, or in a nursing facility. For those wishing to receive the Eucharist contact the parish office, 832-2560 or in emergency, 234-6005.

**PRAYER REQUESTS Those who are ill:**

Leslie Cuevas, William DeMello, Betty Pierce, Dcn Jack Hunter, Lee James, Annette Moran, Darlene Billingsley, Janet Thompson, Victoria Moran, Michael Gilbert, Jerry Malley, Vivian Clifford, Sr Joann Lowry, Ezekiel Rutherford, Julia Perronne, and Loretta Ladner.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS † PLEASE FILL OUT A NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM AND SUBMIT TO PARISH OFFICE FR. KHOA WOULD BE HAPPY TO VISIT WITH YOU AND HELP YOU ASSESS YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.