

## St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

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## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8,  
2024



### Christ-mass is the joy of Christ-mess

My goodness, it is dark in December – especially as we await the *Cold Moon's* fullness on December 15. Lights shine so much more brilliantly in the dark. And Christmas lights? No matter what our age they do bring sparkles to our hearts through our eyes.

My goodness, it is messy when cold snows are pelted with rain. A sigh for the pure white when the dirty spray solidifies into treacherous black ice.

Advent sees both these things happening – outside and inside. Families especially see this. Nothing like “holiday expectations” to rile up the mess that rests in every home – slippery black ice of strained relations and disappointments. The idea of the ‘Ideal Family’, of how things *should* be, becomes a vehicle for encouraging escape into consumerism. And now, the materialistic culture itself has grown cynical as *Christ-less* attempts to find a “real meaning for the season” of *Christ-mass* leave people sneering at the whole mess as a recipe for disappointment.

And so the table is set for the miracle.

*Behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Christ-mass is the meaning – God has come in our mess – hear in the joy of your heart the story of Christ-mess.

A story from a dear parishioner.

Young mother with a passel of kids. Trying hard to keep it all together through piles of diapers, demands, and discovery. Children being children, always at each other. Going for Holy Communion, and the boys are fighting ... *fighting!* ... as they approach the front. Back in the pew, ready to weep with the tiredness of failing so badly at motherhood. Saying to Jesus, “I wish that I had something better to offer you than this.” Then. A quiet strong voice, “You are doing exactly what I want. Well done good and faithful servant.” ... and such peaceful joy.



Giotto's Nativity captures the all-too-human and mysteriously divine birth of the Saviour

There is the meaning.

Mess becomes Christ-mess  
tasted in Christ-mass.

There is the light in the dark.

*“The Lord has done great  
things for us. We are filled with Joy.”*

**MONDAY, December 9, 2024**  
**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)**

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Luciene Smith*)  
6:30 pm - Medjugorje Prayer Group

**TUESDAY, December 10, 2024**  
**Our Lady of Loreto (OM)**

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*† Merla Canto*)  
4:30 pm - 1st Reconciliation (Grades 4+5)

**WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2024**  
**St. Damasus (OM)**

11:00 am - Confessions, & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Xavier Tan*)  
4:30 pm - 1st Reconciliation (Grades 2+3)  
7:00 pm - Altar Server Training

**THURSDAY, December 12, 2024**  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)**

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Cirila Leviste*)  
4:30 pm - RCIC  
7:00 pm - RCIA  
8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

**FRIDAY, December 13, 2024**  
**St. Lucy (M)**

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*† Jills Bergeron*)  
5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group

**SATURDAY, December 14, 2024**  
**St. John of the Cross (M)**

11:00 am - Confessions & Rosary  
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*† Donalene McKinnon*)  
2:00 pm - Baptism

**SUNDAY, December 15, 2024**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am - **Mass**  
10:00 am - **Mass**  
5:00 pm - **Filipino Mass**  
7:30 pm - **Solemn Vespers**  
8:00 pm - **Mass**

*Christmas Season Masses*

**Christmas Eve** - 6pm & 11pm

**Christmas Day** - 10am with Bishop Mark

**December 31** - 12:10pm (*no Vigil Mass*)

**New Years Day** - 10am



**Advent Penitential Service**

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm

**Call for Christmas Poinsettias!**

We are asking for donations of poinsettias to decorate the Church for Christmas. Please drop off any poinsettias at the parish office by Thursday, December 19.



**LITTLE SISTER PARISH**

As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please consider a non-perishable food or monetary donation to the food pantry. Guadalupe Parish is always in need of **Ziplock bags** and **Powdered Milk**. Our drop-off bin is in the welcome area.



**OFFERING for December 1, 2024**

Cash Donations	\$ 629.75
Envelopes	\$ 5,648.00
Renovations	\$ 103,870.00