

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

DECEMBER 2018 – ADVENTIDE

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel. – Isaias 7:14**

**A**DVENT, the great and holy season is a time of new beginnings: it is the Liturgical “new year” for the Holy Church and our time to prepare for the *Coming of the Lord*.

How can it already be another beginning of the Liturgical Year? I seems like we just took down the purple from Lent yet the purple returns in anticipation of our Newborn King. This has been a rough year on many fronts; we lost several lifetime parishioners who went to their eternal reward (in the grace of the Sacraments), a few moved away, and we have really struggled to meet our financial obligations. This often concerns me, not because we “need” money, but it inhibits our ability to do for others. We must always share what we have with those in want, and for us at S. Francis to do such we need the generosity of others. Keeping the doors open are just a small part of this apostolate, trying to aid the needy and bring the Holy Mass and Faith to others in other locations must always be in our intentions both in prayer and in action.

The surest sign of a living actualized grace in the soul is Apostolic Zeal: the burning desire to share the Gospel of Our Lord and King and bring the Faith to all we meet. Not just by words,

but by action, as S. James teaches us, Faith without works is dead (S. James 2:17). Indeed, the Saviour teaches us that we must be active in His work by holy deeds, as this is the will of the Father, lest we be unprofitable before Him (cf. S. Matthew 7:20-23).

There is always a careful balance we must keep, witnessing His Gospel without becoming a *sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal* (cf. I Corinthians 13:1)...in other words, an unpleasant and distracting noise! The pious layman, because he has no formal vocation as a messenger of the Gospel, must witness the Lord by his holy behaviour, thereby sanctifying himself, his family and his community.



This is always perfectly recapitulated by the expression of S. Francis of Assisi: *preach the Gospel always...when necessary use words*. A smile or friendly greeting, always coupled with “God bless you,” will do more than standing on the corner with a “The End is Near” sign...something about honey and vinegar.

There are those who try and threaten conversion and sanctification...alas, the rack has never worked. I am often shocked when I am told by people who,

repeating what they have read on line, that so and so is an heretic, or this persona is in hell. To my knowledge, the Holy Church has never solemnly proclaimed a person is in hell (apart from the logical assumption of Judas), but only, after due diligence, proclaims who is in heaven! Alas, this is what happens when nothing logical, holy or good comes from NewRome: the central guiding authority of the Church is on hiatus...thank goodness we have two thousand years of constant teaching, doctrine and legislation to guide us during this time.

So as we begin this new Liturgical Year I exhort you all: *seek ye the Kingdom of God* (S. Luke 12:31)! Continue to invite (without threat) friends and family to our little Oratory Chapel; be examples of piety and modesty by your reverence and modesty, especially when in Chapel. Show them how good the True Faith is rather than lecturing them about it...as Father Anselm Marie is wont to say: the only one who wins an argument is the devil.

I will renew my pledge: for every new personal that you bring to S. Francis this year I will have an Holy Mass said for you *and* for them. Let’s see who takes advantage of that grace!

As always, I am most grateful for your prayers and support. Be assured of my paternal benediction and prayers, especially at Holy Mass. I remain,

In Christ the King,

**Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q:** Is there a reason to believe that the Jews are a “cursed” people because they rejected Christ and gave Him over to the Romans for execution? This would seem to make sense since they have been persecuted for thousands of years. What does the Church teach on this?

*Yours in Christ, FC, Lynwood, CA*

**A:** Thank you for your e-mail question – some early Church Fathers, especially S. Augustine, felt that the Jews had placed a curse upon themselves from the reasons you stated in your email. S. Paul, whom S. Augustine is basically following in his thought on this point, is not as determined to curse the Jews: *For you, brethren, are become followers of the churches of God which are in Judea, in Christ Jesus: for you also have suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they have from the Jews, Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and the prophets, and have persecuted us, and please not God, and are adversaries to all men (I Thessalonians 2:14-15).* The Apostle is condemning those who immediately harmed the Prophets and Our Lord and those who would not accept Our Lord as Messiah and God, including himself. Our Lord, when prophesying His own death in Jerusalem says: *Behold, I cast out devils, and do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I am consummated. Nevertheless I must walk today and tomorrow, and*

*the day following, because it cannot be that a prophet perish, out of Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent to thee, how often would I have gathered thy children as the bird doth her brood under her wings, and thou wouldest not? Behold your house shall be left to you desolate (S. Luke 13:32-35).* This is more about sinful men who reject those sent by God and do not convert themselves.

There is nothing in the Scriptures that speaks of an enduring or hereditary curse upon the former Chosen People of God, and certainly nothing in the Scriptures that would recommend, let alone condone, the persecution of the Jewish people.

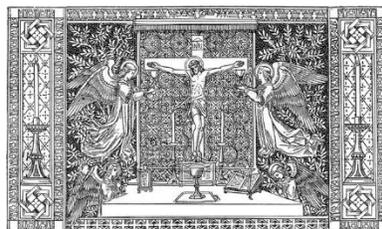
The persecution of them by Christians after Christianity became the main religion of Rome and Europe is an unfortunate and sinful use of vengeance, which belongs to God alone.

*If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:*

[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)



*The Lord Jesus Laments over Jerusalem*



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Mr. Joseph Bremmer, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Betty Schiermeyer, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call. If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call.*



**FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY**

**O**UR First Saturday devotions will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at 8:00 AM, followed by our First Saturday devotions. Our First Friday devotions, which include benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at 8:00 AM.





**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION:  
AN HOLY DAY  
OF OBLIGATION**

**S**ATURDAY the Eighth of December is the great feast of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**: an Holy Day of Obligation. The Faithful must attend Holy Mass and refrain from *unnecessary servile work*. Holy Mass will be offered at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

The Faithful are also reminded that the day before (Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>) is a day of **FAST** (those from age 21 – 59 may only have **ONE** full meal with two smaller meals) and **ABSTINENCE** (no meat for those over 7 years of age).

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*Reprint from the Summer*

## EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW

When S. Augustine penned these words in his *Confessions* he was lamenting how long it took him to see and appreciate the beauty of God. Since then the Church uses this term to describe things that contribute to the Church's idea of *Pulchritas*, and how God remains the Primary Mover, and object, of all things beautiful; and when man encounters or rediscovers that beauty it is, to him, *ever ancient, ever new*.

Dr. Mark Ruttle, a musician of much renown (and personally known to me) has taken hymns from the Church's treasury and given them new life through careful resetting; as Catholic composers have done for centuries. Dr. Ruttle began the *Lumen Hilare* sacred music project in 2016 and has created music for anyone who enjoys the *first art* meant to lift the soul and honour God.

It seems today most young people would rather "blog" than live their faith, but Dr. Ruttle has found remarkable young women of faith and talent who have used their time (and considerable talent) to record their performances of these songs and hymns of praise and devotion for our enjoyment, as well as for the exaltation of God's most holy Catholic Church. I highly encourage all to visit the website at

[www.lumenhilare.com](http://www.lumenhilare.com)

Saint Francis Exchange



*Images used with permission from  
[www.lumenhilare.com](http://www.lumenhilare.com)*

## GIFTS FOR THE CLERGY

**Y**OUR clergy here at S. Francis would like to remind you that if you wish to give them a gift for Christmas, or even better, for the Epiphany, please have Masses offered for them or make gifts to the Building Fund for them.



# MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2018

01 December 2018	<i>Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart</i>	8:00 AM	<i>Friends &amp; Benefactors</i>	
02 December 2018	FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
03 December 2018	S. Francis Xavier	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
04 December 2018	S. Peter Chrysologus	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Anonymous
05 December 2018	<i>feria</i>	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Anonymous
06 December 2018	S. Nicholas	8:00 AM	For the Children of the Oratory	Msgr. Sebastian
07 December 2018	S. Ambrose	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Anonymous
08 December 2018	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of BVM	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
09 December 2018	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
10 December 2018	<i>Within the Octave</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
11 December 2018	S. Damasus	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
12 December 2018	Our Lady of Guadalupe	8:00 AM	Mrs. Darlene Smith †	Msgr. Sebastian
13 December 2018	S. Lucy	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
14 December 2018	<i>Within the Octave</i>	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
15 December 2018	Octave of the Immaculate Conception	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
16 December 2018	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
17 December 2018	<i>feria</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
18 December 2018	<i>feria</i>	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
19 December 2018	<i>Ember Wednesday in Advent</i>	8:00 AM	<i>open</i>	
20 December 2018	Vigil of S. Thomas	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
21 December 2018	S. THOMAS, Ap.	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
22 December 2018	S. Frances Xavier Cabrini	8:00 AM	Mr. Charles E. McClusky	Msgr. Sebastian
23 December 2018	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
24 December 2018	Vigil of the Nativity	8:00 AM	Mr. Joshua Higginbotham	Msgr. Sebastian
25 December 2018	NATIVITY OF THE LORD	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
26 December 2018	S. STEPHEN, Protomartyr	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
27 December 2018	S. JOHN, Ap.	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
28 December 2018	HOLY INNOCENTS	8:00 AM	H.G. Msgr. John Simmons †	Msgr. Sebastian
29 December 2018	S. Thomas of Canterbury	8:00 AM	H.G. Msgr. John Simmons †	Msgr. Sebastian
30 December 2018	Sunday within the Octave	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
31 December 2018	S. Pope Sylvester I	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous



### Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am – Parochial Mass  
with Sermon

### Daily Mass Times:

Tuesday through Saturday  
8:00 am

First Friday 7:00 pm

*Confessions one half of an hour before Holy Mass*

16826 Saticoy Street

*Entrance and Parking around back*

Van Nuys, CA 91406-2776

(818) 786-2540

e-mail:

[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)

Be sure to visit our web site at:

[www.stfrancisoratory.org](http://www.stfrancisoratory.org)

✿ Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).

## MASS GUILD

Holy Mass is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!



## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

[www.traditio.com](http://www.traditio.com)

[www.traditioninaction.com](http://www.traditioninaction.com)

[www.remnantnewspaper.com](http://www.remnantnewspaper.com)

[www.traditionalmass.org](http://www.traditionalmass.org)

*N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information, and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.*