

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

DECEMBER 2021 – ADVENTIDE

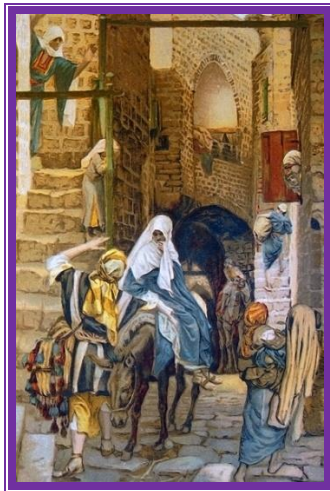
LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

AND when thy days shall be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his Kingdom. He shall build a house to My Name, and I will establish the Throne of his Kingdom forever. **II Kings 7:12 – 13**

OUR Lord is a God of joy, *Praise and magnificence are before Him: strength and joy in His place* (I Paralipomenon 16:27), and **Adventide**, the season when we await Him, is filled with renewed hope and joy. Two thousand years ago Our Lord Jesus Christ, God and Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, clothed Himself in our humanity and came to us as a Babe on account of His great and perfect love for mankind, *Emanuel*, God is with us!

God gave us the greatest example of humility and truth when He came to us and reminded us to always seek the good of others before self by His actions more than His words, as He taught His Disciples, *the Son of man came not be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a redemption for many* (S. Matthew 20:28). S. Thomas Aquinas, the *Angelic Doctor*, teaches us: **But the very nature of God is goodness, as is clear from Dionysius (*Div. Nom. i*). Hence, what belongs to the essence of goodness befits God.**

But it belongs to the essence of goodness to communicate itself to others, as is plain from Dionysius (*Div. Nom. iv*). Hence it belongs to the essence of the highest good to communicate itself in the highest manner to the creature, and this is brought about chiefly by "His so joining created nature to Himself that one Person is made up of these three—the Word, a soul and flesh," as Augustine says (*De Trin. xiii*). Hence it is manifest that it was fitting that God should become incarnate (*Summa Theologiae*, Part III, Question 1, *Respondeo*).



Such an exquisite explanation that on account of His goodness it was fitting that God should clothe Himself in the flesh of a creature, yet His divinity was not diminished by that, as the Apostle teaches: *For let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man. He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even*

to the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5–8).

We must always remember what the Incarnation truly means; the *fleshing* of God occurred so that He could pay back to the offended majesty of God for our benefit and our restoration. He purchased us back from sin in order that we could attain heaven. How do we repay such generosity? How can we become worthy of such generosity? By becoming holy; living the life of grace by avoiding sin and growing in grace. This is what the Lord wants from us, that we follow His example of holiness and generosity.

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord this Adventide let us remain in joy, even while we suffer the struggles of this sinful world; let us keep our joy for ourselves and let us witness our joy for others, holding in our hearts the words of the Apostle: *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost* (Romans 15:13).

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: Monsignor: For people who play card games, is it inherently sinful? Or is it only when gambling is at stake? I heard that a standard fifty-two card playing card deck was the original "tarot," from a number of sources. Does that make any use of playing cards pernicious in any way?

Thank you for your answer.
E.C., Woodland Hills, CA

A: In many western museums one can still find extant card sets from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and partial sets from even earlier: sets from ancient Asia also exist. The Church, at various times and places, did condemn the use of *playing cards* because of their association with divination and gambling; both sinful pastimes. They were also condemned as frivolous, especially in Protestant countries for the same. The Church later became more tolerant towards card games for simple entertainment. In and of themselves cards are not necessarily "evil," however they can be misused, like almost any inanimate object.

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

EMBER DAYS OF ADVENT

PLEASE remember that we observe the **Ember Days of Advent** on Wednesday the 15th of December, Friday the 17th of December and Saturday the

18th of December, The Holy Church devotes these days to prayer, penance and sacrifice. On these three days the faithful are bound, under pain of mortal sin, to abstain from meat and fast.

The current Laws of Fast and Abstinence (for the United States) are absolutely binding (unless lawfully excused or dispensed) for *all* the faithful. All baptised Catholics, seven years of age or older, are bound to **abstain**. The two types of abstinence are **complete** and **partial**. *Complete abstinence* forbids the eating of meat, and soup or gravy made with or from meat is required all Fridays throughout the year, *Partial Abstinence*, which permits meat, and soup or gravy made from meat, to be eaten *only* at the main meal, is required on Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday.

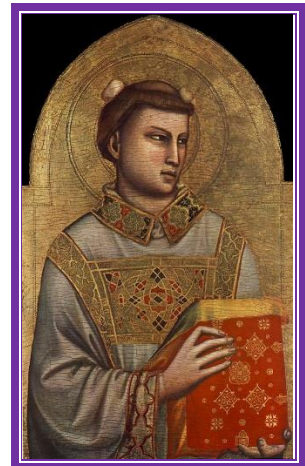
The laws of **Fasting** are for all baptised Catholics, from ages 21 through 59, inclusive. On the days of fast only one full meal is allowed (with meat, except on Friday) with two smaller *meatless* meals, which together do not equal one full meal. The eating of food or snacks between meals is forbidden; however the drinking of liquids, including milk and juice, are allowed.

For reasons of health one may seek the reduction or even dispensation from the fast from the Monsignor; one should never simply dispense one's self from these obligations; and should one be lawfully dispensed from these obligations, he should strive to find another type of *approved* penance that can be satisfactory to Almighty God.

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ADVENT NOVENA

HAIL and blessed be the hour and moment in which the SON OF GOD was born of the most pure VIRGIN MARY, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my GOD, to hear our prayers and grant our desires, through the merits of Our Saviour JESUS CHRIST, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



*S. Stephen, the First Martyr (26th of December):
Pray for us!*

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. George Porter, Mr. Kirk Lewis, Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. Jeff Michaels and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially **Father Patrick Perez†** and **Mrs. Joyce Zignego†**. *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.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

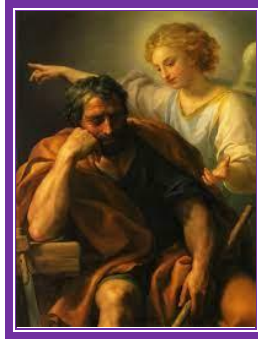
HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line or you can always be sent to our Post Office Box:
St. Francis of Assisi
PO Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a **Mass Card** to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The true Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!



But while he thought on these things, behold the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son: and thou shalt call His Name JESUS. For He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the prophet, saying: Behold a virgin shall be with Child, and bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. And Joseph rising up from sleep, did as the Angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took unto him his wife (S. Matthew 1:20 – 24).

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2021

8 December 2021 (Wednesday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

25 December 2021 (Saturday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

SUNDAYS OF DECEMBER: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for **December:**

5 December 2021:
Second Sunday in Advent:

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Commemoration of *St. Sabas, Abbot, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

12 December 2021:

Third Sunday in Advent:

Commemoration of *Octave of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

19 December 2021:

Fourth Sunday in Advent:

Commemoration of the *Blessed Virgin Mary and Against the Persecutors of the Holy Church* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, and *Last Gospel*.

26 December 2021:

St. Stephen, First Martyr:

Commemoration of the *Octave of Christmas* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

To correctly participate at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, i.e.: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And of course the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, i.e., Introit, Collect(s)(after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The

careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.



The Hiding Mass in Ireland



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:
*(please call or email for current
 Mass time and location)*
 (818) 786-2540
 e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B.: Our Mailing Address is:
 Post Office Box 8469
 Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



✿ 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

Saint Francis Exchange upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.traditio.com
www.traditioninaction.com
www.remnantnewspaper.com
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.