

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

DECEMBER 2022 – ADVENTIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

SINCE all men had lost their innocence in the sin of Adam, being made unclean and by nature children of wrath, they were servants of sin and under the power of the devil and death to such an extent that neither the Gentiles by the power of nature nor the Jews through the letter of the Mosaic Law could liberate themselves or rise from it.

Council of Trent, Session VI, Decree on Justification, 13 January 1547

THE necessity of a Redeemer is confirmed by the Holy Church; it is simply impossible that man could regain the friendship of God by his own work or act, no matter how good (the heresy of *Pelagianism*). The redemptive act by which man would be justified could only be accomplished by God Himself, and therefore He promised that the Messiah would be sent as Redeemer and King: *The sceptre shall not be taken away from Juda, nor a ruler from his thigh, till He come that is to be sent, and He shall be the expectation of nations* (Genesis 49:10).

The unending generosity of God can never be outdone, and His mercy continues after the Incarnation by the power of the Sacraments He Himself instituted, most especially through Holy Baptism and Holy Confession wherewith we are restored to the Life of Grace.

Holy Advent is a time of preparation, and we must take

this preparation with great seriousness and purpose: Our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ came as the Lamb, however, He will return as the Lion and *come to cast fire on the earth* (S. Luke 12:49)! We must be prepared for His return with a life of grace, truth and justice (*ibid.* vv. 43 – 48).

The Psalmist, S. King David, teaches us: *Who shall ascend into the mountain of the Lord: or who shall stand in His holy place? The innocent in hands, and clean of heart, who hath not taken his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully to his neighbour. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, and mercy from God his Saviour* (Psalm 23:3 – 5).



Our preparation for the return of the Lord must occupy our every activity, as the Apostle teaches us: *And that knowing the season; that it is now the hour for us to rise from sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The night is passed, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light* (Romans 13:11 – 12).

More and more people are seeing these *works of darkness* and rejecting them, most especially the work of the

NewChurch that rejects the truth of Christ Who is the *Light of the World* (*cf.* S. John 8:12). I fear for those that are leaving the NewChurch because many are not returning to Holy Tradition, but rather, they have simply lost the Faith. That leaves the work to us to welcome them home to the *True Mass* and the *True Faith*; we must do so with great charity and gentleness. We are all called to be missionaries, heralds of Christ the King, who point the way to the Lord with joy and confidence, not with fear and coercion.

On that same topic I must again plea for your assistance: we must work hard for a permanent home for our Chapel, which means we need your prayers and sacrifices. We need to raise close to \$100,000.00 that will serve as a down payment for a property and then we will need your commitment to assist monthly to sustain that property. If you can assist in this goal, *one time or monthly*, we will be grateful and can promise that God will surely bless you.

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:
Is the Advent Wreath actually Lutheran? If so, why is it used in the Catholic Church?

With much respect,
Anonymous

A: The Advent Wreath, also called the *Advent Crown*, has many forms historically. In many northern European countries it was originally worn as a "crown" to light one's way in the dark of winter, similar to the Jack-o-lantern that was similarly used. It eventually became used as an Advent and Christmas decoration, especially in the Germanic countries, hence it's association with Lutheranism. Since it is not a liturgical object its use as decoration is acceptable, most especially since the Church exchanged the original red candles for the purple, rose and white to symbolise the weeks of Advent and the pure Light of Christ.



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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially the Miss Alyssa Smith, Mr. Vern Fenimore, Miss Erica

Chapman, Mr. Charles E. McClusky, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. M. Gary Starr, Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. Jeff Michaels 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.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line (be sure to select *donation and not payment*) 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

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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!

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2022

8 December 2022 (Thursday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 December 2022 (Sunday)
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 September:

4 December 2022:

Second Sunday in Advent:

Commemoration of *S. Peter Chrysologus* and *S. Barbara* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

11 December 2022:

Third Sunday in Advent:

Commemoration of *S. Pope Damasus I* and *Within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

18 December 2022:

Fourth Sunday in Advent:

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

25 December 2022:

Nativity of the Lord:

No Commemorations.

³**T**o 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 Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Times:
 08:00 am & 10:00 am
(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



*S. Thomas the Apostle:
 Pray for us!
 21 December*



*S. Frances Xavier Cabrini:
 Pray for us!
 22 December*



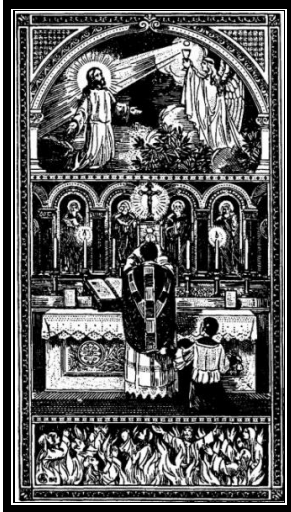
✿**Saint Francis Chapel** is staffed by the **Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR)**; properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman

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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*).

Various Images from S. Nicholas Day from previous years:





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
 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.

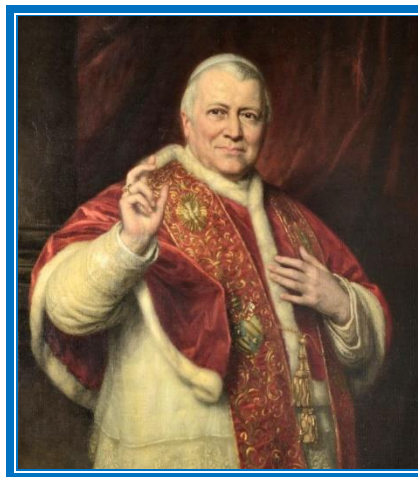


2023 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We again recommend that ALL the faithful purchase their 2021 Liturgical Calendar directly from:

The Roman Catholic Calendar
 2200 Smelter Avenue
 Black Eagle, MT 59414
 (406) 452-9021
<https://www.ihm-church.org/publications/church-calendar.html>

PETER SPEAKS:



ACCORDINGLY, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, for the honour of the Holy and undivided Trinity, for the glory and adornment of the Virgin Mother of God, for

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the exaltation of the Catholic Faith, and for the furtherance of the Catholic religion, by the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own: "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most **Blessed Virgin Mary**, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, 8 December 1854, *cf. Denz.*, n. 1641.)

