

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

DECEMBER 2023 – HOLY ADVENT

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**D**ROP down dew, ye  
Heavens, from above,  
and let the clouds rain the  
just: let the earth be opened  
and bud forth a Saviour.

– Isaias 45:8

**A**DVENTIDE is the most  
*joyful* of the Penitential  
Seasons of the Church, so much  
so that many even forget that it  
is indeed penitential in  
character. We are called to  
repentance and conversion in  
preparation for the  
commemoration of the Lord's  
Incarnation *and* for His return:  
He came to us as a Lamb and  
shall return as a Lion, *coming in  
a cloud, with great power and  
majesty* (S. Luke 21:27).

If the faithful could put  
aside all the decorations and  
*Christmas Carols* until at least  
**Gaudete Sunday**, and instead  
sing and listen to *Advent Carols*  
(O Come, O Come Emmanuel;  
Behold! Behold, He Cometh;  
Come Thou Long Expected  
Jesus – *originally a Protest-ant  
carol*; just to name a few) that  
reinforce that we are awaiting  
Our Blessed Lord and King.  
Our secular ideas of  
Christmastide have robbed us  
of so many fulfilling customs;  
the making of Advent Lamps,  
the preparing of the Crèche,  
leaving out the Christ Child  
until after Midnight Mass.  
Some additional  
considerations: on the 6<sup>th</sup> of  
December (or the nearest

Sunday) have your children  
meet S. Nicholas at your  
traditional parish or Mass  
Centre, and instead of a toy he  
will give out spiced oranges or  
apples, candy canes (bent to  
look like shepherd crooks and  
coloured white for Our Lord's  
Precious Flesh and red for His  
Precious Blood) and gold foiled  
chocolate coins. There are  
some images of our little  
Oratory Chapel doing just that  
at the end of this newsletter.

When we truly enter the  
penitential seasons of the Holy  
Church with great purpose and  
care the joy that awaits us will  
be even more fulfilling; the  
virtue of being abstemious  
during Advent makes the  
“treats and goodies” on  
Christmas Day all the more  
delectable!



The focus of traditional  
Catholicism is to, quoting S.  
Paul and S. Pope Pius X, *restore  
all things in Christ* (Ephesians  
1:10), and in order to do that we  
must *fully embrace what it means  
to be Catholic*. The preferences  
of the modernity of the past 125  
years must be replaced by what  
it means to embrace the life of  
grace. The greatest example of  
this is Advent and Christmas:  
Advent has been the

transformed into the time for  
shopping and secular pursuits  
rather than the preparation and  
conversion called by the Holy  
Church, and Nativity of Christ  
the King has been completely  
eclipsed by secular gift giving  
and parties (more like drunken  
revelries and excuses for  
impurity and luxury, *cf.*  
Galatians 5:19–21). You cannot  
be a true Catholic and a  
secularist at the same time,  
they are mutually exclusive.  
There is greater rejoicing and  
conviviality with those who  
share the faith: *Therefore,  
whilst we have time, let us work  
good to all men, but especially to  
those who are of the household of  
the faith* (Galatians 6:10)!

God is so good to us and  
gives us not merely what we  
desire, but *what we need: may  
my God supply all your want,  
according to His riches in glory  
in Christ Jesus* (Philippians  
4:19). Let us make this  
Adventide glorious,  
prosperous and efficacious for  
our exponential growth in His  
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:** Monsignor:

I have a relative who claims that Our Lord speaks to her; she insists that we believe her and adhere to what she says is being commanded by Our Lord otherwise I am in sin – am I bound to believe her?

*A.A.*

**A:** You absolutely are not. No one is bound by Private Revelation, even approved devotions such as Fatima and Lourdes do not have to be believed by the faithful. Divine Revelation, which must be believed for salvation, ended at the death of the last Apostle of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, only the Church, *i.e.*: her *lawful* authority, can determine the veracity of a so-called “vision,” and ALL self-proclaimed visionaries are either liars, possessed or mentally ill, it is as simple as that...if *anyone* tells you that “Our Lord said this...” or “Our Lady commanded that...” you must *not* believe them and advise them that they are putting their own soul in danger if they do not repent and seek guidance from their Confessor or Spiritual Director.

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

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**YOUR** continued prayers are requested for the sick, continued prayers are

requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Norma Hernandez, Miss Erica Chapman, Mr. Charles Edward McClusky, Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. John Owen, Mr. Jeff Michaels and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Miss Sandra Davis†, Mr. Vern Fenimore† and Mr. Richard Dewerff†. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let the Monsignor know so he can arrange for a sick call.*



*Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!*

## HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

**D**ONATIONS 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



## Saint Francis Exchange

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!

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2023

8 December 2023 (Friday)

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

25 December 2023 (Monday)

*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:

3 December 2023:

**First Sunday in Advent:**

Commemoration of *S. Francis Xavier, Confessor* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

10 December 2023:

**Second Sunday in Advent:**

Commemoration of *Octave of the Immaculate Conception* and *S. Melchiades, Pope & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

17 December 2023:

**Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete):**

Commemoration of *Blessed Virgin Mary* and *Against the*



3  
*Persecutors of the Church* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

24 December 2023:

**Vigil of Christmas:**

Commemoration of the *Fourth Sunday in Advent* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

31 December 2023:

**Sunday within the Octave of Christmas:**

Commemoration of *S. Pope Sylvester I* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**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 Time:**

10:00 am

(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)

N.B.: Our Mailing Address is:

Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



*S. Nicholas:  
Pray for us!  
6th of December*



*Our little Oratory on the feast of  
Christ the King*

**Saint Francis Exchange**



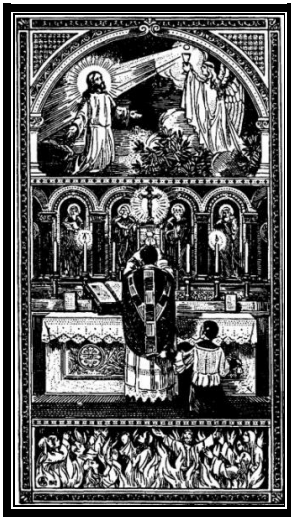
✿Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, 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*).



## 2024 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We again recommend that ALL the faithful purchase their 2024 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>



## 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

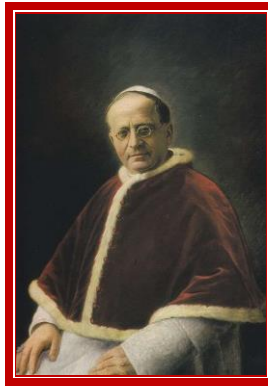
concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

## 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.*

## PETER SPEAKS:



**T**HE promise of a Redeemer brightens the first page of the history of mankind, and the confident hope aroused by this promise softened the keen regret for a paradise which had been lost. It was this hope that accompanied the human race on its weary journey, until in the fullness of time the expected Saviour came to begin a new universal civilisation, the Christian civilisation, far superior even to that which up to this time had been laboriously achieved by

Saint Francis Exchange  
certain more privileged nations.  
(*Divini Redemptoris*, no. 1,  
19 March 1937)



## VOCATIONS

**D**O you know a young man who is willing to sacrifice all for the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Priesthood? The Priestly Society of Christ the King (*Societas Sacerdotalis Christi Regis*) is looking for young men who wish to receive a fully traditional and proper formation for the **Catholic Priesthood**, if you are or know of someone who is willing to offer his life for the service and preservation of the Holy Catholic Church, and meet the requirements below, please forward them this information:

- ❖ At least 18 years of age
- ❖ High School graduate (some College studies are very helpful)
- ❖ At least of average intelligence
- ❖ Never Married
- ❖ Free from financial or familial obligations
- ❖ Able to pass a background check by Law Enforcement
- ❖ Free from any entanglements of the Modernist Vatican II sect

All serious candidates will be considered for acceptance to the *Christus Rex House of Priestly Formation*.