

# The Beacon

Newsletter of The Immaculata Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

*Keep FAITH Alive!*

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

-Psalm 126

Welcome to  
The Immaculata

## Everything You Need to Know About the Advent Wreath

by Francesca Pollio CNA

During the holidays, nativity scenes and Christmas trees decorate most Catholic homes, but what about Advent wreaths?

Advent wreaths are traditionally made from evergreen branches and have four candles. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent—three candles are purple, and one is a rose color.

The purple represents prayer, penance, and preparation for the coming of Christ. Historically, Advent was known as a “little Lent,” which is why the penitential color of purple is used. During Lent, we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter. Similarly, during Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, both on Christmas and at the second coming.



(continued on next page 3)

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# Catechesis of the Holy Father

by Pope Francis (November 3, 2021)

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our catechesis on Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we now turn to the Apostle's exhortation to "live by the Spirit". Paul uses the image of "walking" to describe the journey of Christian discipleship (Gal 5:16). The Holy Spirit guides us along the path of holiness; he teaches us to persevere in the new life we have received in Christ and to reject "the desires of the flesh" that are contrary to it (*ibid.*). Paul makes it clear that the journey of discipleship, which begins at baptism, is demanding; it requires constant struggle, not only in our lives as individuals, but also in the life of the community. Only by the grace and charity that are gifts of the Spirit can we overcome the ever-present temptations to anger, envy and selfishness. In this



sense, Paul urges us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2), to be gentle in correcting those who go astray and compassionate to those who are suffering. Let us ask for the grace to be confirmed in our efforts to live by the Spirit and to act in a way worthy of the calling we have received in Christ.

To read more visit <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2021>

## Saint of the Week

**Blessed Charles de Foucauld d. 1885 – 1916 Feast day: December 1**



...In early 1909, he visited France and established an association of laypeople who pledged to live by the Gospels. His return to Tamanrasset was welcomed by the Tuareg. In 1915, Charles wrote to Louis Massignon: "The love of God, the love for one's neighbor...All religion is found there...How to get to that point? Not in a day since it is perfection itself: it is the goal we must always aim for, which we must unceasingly try to reach and that we will only attain in heaven."

The outbreak of World War I led to attacks on the French in Algeria. Seized in a raid by another tribe, Charles and two French soldiers coming to visit him were shot to death on December 1, 1916.

Five religious congregations, associations, and spiritual institutes—Little Brothers of Jesus, Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Little Sisters of Jesus, Little Brothers of the Gospel, and Little Sisters of the Gospel—draw inspiration from the peaceful, largely hidden, yet hospitable life that characterized Charles. He was beatified on November 13, 2005.

To read more [www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day)

## Second Sunday of Advent

(“Everything You Need to Know About the Advent Wreath” continuation from page 1)

The rose candle is illuminated on the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. At Mass on the third Sunday, the priest will also wear rose colored vestments. Gaudete Sunday is a day for rejoicing and joy as the faithful draw near to the birth of Jesus, and it marks the midpoint of Advent. “The progressive lighting of the candles represents the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead,” says the USCCB.

During the Advent season, the faithful will also notice a common theme in the Gospel readings. The readings focus on preparation or “making straight the path of the Lord,” penance, and fasting. All of these things remind us of the importance of preparing our hearts for the Lord and making room for his presence in our lives.

### Did you know?

The Advent wreath originated from a pagan

European tradition, which consisted of lighting candles during the winter to ask the sun god to return with his light and warmth. The first missionaries took advantage of this tradition to evangelize to people and taught them that they should use the Advent wreath as a way of preparing for Christ’s birth, and to celebrate his nativity and beg Jesus to infuse his light in their souls.

The circle of the Advent wreath is a geometric figure that has neither a beginning nor an end. It reminds us that God does not have a beginning or an end either, which reflects his unity and eternity. It is a sign of the unending love that the faithful should show the Lord and their neighbors, which must be constantly renewed and never stop.

The green color of the wreath represents hope and life. The Advent wreath reminds us that Christ is alive among us, and that we must cultivate a life of grace, spiritual growth, and hope during Advent.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com>



A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in Father Joe’s Villages 5K on Thanksgiving. Our Parish Community had over 90 walkers and runners and several started their day attending a beautiful mass in the Park.

We also had several inquiries about our Parish and many commented on the beautiful words placed on the back of our team shirts:

**“A beacon of faith and a spiritual home to all who seek God”**



### Mission Statement of The Immaculata

Inspired and strengthened by the Sacraments, Scripture, and Liturgy, we are a vibrant, diverse Roman Catholic community called to serve as faithful disciples of Christ in our lives and ministries. With our Blessed Mother to guide us, we strive to be a beacon of faith and a spiritual home to all who seek God.

### MASSES

**Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.**  
(livestreamed)

**Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday 9:00 a.m.**  
(livestreamed)

**Sunday 11:00 a.m.**

### EUCARISTIC ADORATION

**Tuesdays: 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturdays  
3:30 p.m.– 4:15 p.m.**  
(in the church)

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Closed on Saturday**

**Sunday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
(619) 574-5700**

**theimmaculata@sandiego.edu**

## Mass Readings & Intentions

### Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

#### First Reading

Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy.

*Baruch 5:1-9*

#### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

*Psalm 126*

#### Second Reading

May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ.

*Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*

#### Gospel

John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*Luke 3:1-6*

#### Intentions:

7:30 a.m. For an end to the pandemic & for its victims

9:00 a.m. For the sick of the parish

11:00 a.m. For all parishioners

#### Monday, December 6

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

#### Intentions:

8:00 a.m. +Judith Misage

#### Tuesday, December 7

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

**Intention:** +Felipa Embalsado

#### Wednesday, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

#### Intentions:

8:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception

7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception

#### Thursday, December 9

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13; Mt 11:11-15

**Intention:** +Octavio Zenteno

#### Friday, December 10

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

**Intention:** Rev. George Aschenbrenner, S.J.

#### Saturday, December 11

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2, 3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9, 10-13

#### Intentions:

8:00 a.m. +Will Simpson

4:30 p.m. +Debbie Howell

## Ministries & Programs

### Councils

Finance Council

Pastoral Council

### Evangelization

New Parishioner Welcome

### Faith Formation

#### Adult

Adult Faith Formation

Becoming Catholic (RCIA)

Book Club

Immaculata Young Adults

Vocations

#### Youth

High School Youth

Infant Baptism

Middle School Youth

Family-Centered Faith Formation

### Family Life & Spirituality

Bereavement Ministry

Childcare

Divorce Support

Homebound Ministry

Knights of Columbus

Ladies of The Immaculata

Marriage Enrichment

Men's Chastity

Mental Health Ministry

Parent Faith Sharing

Parish Rosary

Witness to Love Marriage Preparation

### Liturgy

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Altar Linen Care

Altar Servers

Eucharistic Ministers

Kids Pew Krew

Lectors

Liturgical Environment

Music Ministry

Ushers/Greeters

Youth Music Ministry

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

### Parish Fellowship

Divine Diners

Donut Ministry

Parish Events

### Social Justice

Creation Care Team

Food Pantry

Give-Back Sunday Team

Safe Families for Children

St. Vincent de Paul

### Stewardship

Mailing Volunteers

Safe Environment

### Other

For more information on how to get involved in any of our parish ministries & programs contact the parish office (619) 574-5700 or visit [theimmaculata.org](http://theimmaculata.org) and click on the Ministries tab

# LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

## "Love One Another"

### Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation



*"We are earthly beings, who belong to Mother Earth, and we cannot simply live at her expense; our relationship with her is reciprocal...The goods and resources of the earth are meant for all. Fresh air, clean water, and a balanced diet are vital for the health and wellbeing of our peoples. Let us put the regeneration of the earth and universal access to its goods at the heart of our post-Covid future."* -Pope Francis; "Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future" (p. 128-129).

Care for the Earth is a requirement of our faith. Catholic social teaching calls us to be stewards and trustees. We are called to show respect for our Creator by caring for His creation. We are called to honor and protect our planet and its people—to live in relationship with all of God's creation.

The U.S. Bishops acknowledge that the Church has begun only recently to develop an emphasis on ecology and the integrity of creation in its social teaching. This evolution of a teaching is an example of the growth of the "living tradition" of the Church's teaching in response to developments in society. We personally witness that environmental disasters fall with greatest consequences on the disadvantaged. As the impact of humans on the ecology of our planet has become clearer, the Church has sought to shine the light of faith on the emerging issue.

A society that finds the earth disposable, too often finds people disposable as well. This is why the Church is so concerned about how the poor are affected by the environment. In this sense, "care for God's creation" circles us back to the first theme of Catholic social teaching, the 'life and dignity of the human person.' One reinforces the other.

Let us ask ourselves:

1. How am I living out my responsibility to care for God's creations?
2. In what ways am I proactive in my home, school, workplace, and community to better conserve the earth's resources for future generations?
3. Where do I see my care for creation connected to my concern for the poor and disadvantaged who are most at risk from environmental problems?



### Wisdom from Pope Francis

"Human Life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships with God, with our neighbor and with earth itself."

-Laudato Si -May 2015

Image Courtesy of Turelio



[Read now...](#)

### WATCH



We received earth as a garden to provide food, water, and air.

**How are we leaving it?** This short video on **Care for God's Creation** calls us to treat God's gracious gift with stewardship and reverence.

[Watch now...](#)

### PRAY



We hear frequent reports about the risk to our environment.

Let us join with Pope Francis in the "**Prayer for our Earth.**"

[Pray now...](#)

### WATCH



Pope Francis addresses us in his second encyclical, **Laudato Si** about

our current environmental crisis. This video tells us the "**Top ten things we need to know**" about Care for God's Creation.

[Watch now...](#)

# Immaculata Announcements

## Sunday Live-stream Mass Update

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass is being live-streamed instead of the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Look for the live-stream button in the top menu at [theimmaculata.org](http://theimmaculata.org)

## The Book Club

Stay tuned for the selection of our next book. We meet via Zoom on the first and third Thursday of the month and will reconvene on Thursday January 6, 2022. Please contact [lynne.m.howard@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.m.howard@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

## Immaculata Advent Mini-Retreat

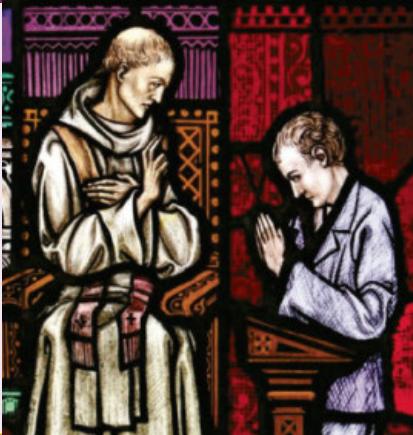
 "O Radiant Dawn: Welcoming the Light of Christ in the Midst of Darkness" Join us Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in The Immaculata Church. Lunch Provided from 12:00-1:00 p.m. (in the USD Ministry Center). Breakout Session for Children in Solomon Hall. Scan QR Code above for more location/details. Email Laura at [lmartinspencer@sandiego.edu](mailto:lmartinspencer@sandiego.edu) or call the Parish office at (619) 574-5700 for more information.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Every Saturday**

**3:30 p.m.– 4:15 p.m.**  
in the church

You can also make an appointment by calling the parish office at (619) 574-5700.

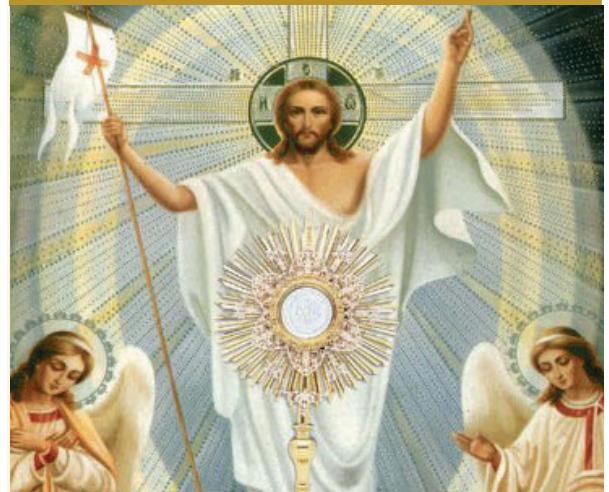


## Courtesy Announcements

### Surviving the Holidays

Experiencing the holidays if you are separated or divorced can be a challenge. Join us on Saturday, December 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Pastoral Center (3888 Paducah Drive San Diego, CA 92117) for the "Surviving the Holidays" workshop. This will be a morning of prayer, conversation and encouragement as we look ahead to Christmas and to the New Year. To RSVP, please email Janelle at [jperegoy@sdcatholic.org](mailto:jperegoy@sdcatholic.org)

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



"Adoration is homage of the spirit to the 'King of Glory,' respectful silence in the presence of the 'ever greater' God. Adoration of the thrice-holy and sovereign God of love blends with humility and gives assurance to our supplications."

-Catechism of the Catholic Church (2628)

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

in the Immaculata Church  
**Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. &**  
**Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

## Stewardship of Treasure

*For where your treasure is, There also will your heart be. -Matthew 6:21*

### Week of November 28 , 2021

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# The Last Word

## Advent Schedule

### Advent Mini-Retreat

"O' Radiant Dawn: Welcoming the Light of Christ in the Midst of Darkness"

**Sunday, December 5, 2021  
from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

All are welcome to join us for lunch, age specific activities, and prayer service.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Parish Patronal Feast

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
Mass at 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

Procession of the Image of the Blessed Mother and coffee and dessert reception after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

### Celebration of Our Blessed Mother

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**

**4:30 p.m. Mass**

5:30 p.m. Reception - Food, Fun, & Fellowship on the East Lawn

### Advent Stations

**Sunday, December 12, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### Advent Penance Service

**Monday, December 13, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.**

### Greening of the Church

**Sunday, December 19, 2021  
from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Come help decorate The Immaculata for Christmas!  
Pizza, Hot Cocoa, Hot Apple Cider and  
Goodies Provided

## Keep in Your Prayers

*Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly father.*  
*Matthew 18:19*

## Healing

Alma Church  
Lucia Yandell  
Sandy Perretti  
Bruce Perretti  
Riley Manahan  
Leonard Hayden  
Dawn Pathman  
Marion Griffin

Michael Ebipane  
Gina DeLapa  
Marian Oddo  
Rita Winrow  
Millie Prior  
Bruce Boorman  
Guy Riddle

The sick list is updated on a monthly basis. Please call the parish office to add a parishioner to the list.

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## Words of Wisdom

### FORGIVENESS

**God forgives like a mother who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.**

—Henry Ward Beecher