

# HURCH OF THE



ST 1943

Our Mission: A Roman Catholic Community celebrating Christ's presence among us.

#### ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr. Francis Kim

#### IN RESIDENCE:

Fr. Jim Anguiano (Vicar General)

Fr. Timothy McGowan

#### RETIRED:

Msgr. Charles E. Hill

Msgr. James Forsen (Pastor Emeritus)

#### MASS TIMES

#### DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday: 8:00a.m.

(This mass is also live-streamed)

#### SUNDAY MASS

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 am., 9:30 a.m., and II:00 a.m.

(The Sunday Mass at 8:00 a.m. is also

live-streamed on our website)

#### DAILY ROSARY

Monday thru Friday following the 8 a.m. mass

HOLY HOUR (INSIDE THE CHURCH)

First Friday of each month:

8:30am-9:30am

#### CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

and by appointment

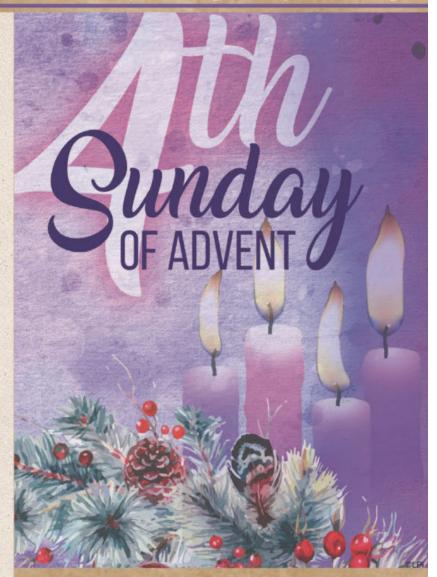
PRIVATE WORSHIP (INSIDE THE

CHURCH)

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Closed for lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00pm



**DECEMBER 22, 2024** 

#### **WELCOME TO VISITATION CHURCH!**

A special welcome to those who may be visiting us today, we are blessed that you are here to worship with us. If you are traveling, we hope you find this Catholic community welcoming. If you are new to this area, we hope to see you again and that you may consider joining this community.

6561 WEST 88TH STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

#### PRAYER BEFORE MASS

Dear Father in heaven, I come before your sacred altar to assist the divine sacrifice of your Son Jesus. Fix my mind on you and by his precious blood wash away all my sins as I repent of having offended you. Grant that we may celebrate this holy mystery with strong faith and devotion. Send us the Holy Spirit of love to ignite our hearts to receive devoutly the Holy Eucharist. Bless our family, our parish, and our community. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. / Amen.

#### PARISH REGISTRATION



Are you looking for a faith community to call home?Welcome to the Viz family!

You may register as a parishioner on our website or Scan the QR code now.



As a parish, we strive to be good stewards of our resources. Many families have moved away from envelopes and are now using Faith Direct to fulfill their generous stewardship commitments to our parish and the wider church through electronic

donations. Help us to reduce our envelope and postage expense and at the same time support us in a secure and convenient way by enrolling with Faith Direct.

#### It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to give:

- Visit faith.direct/CA772 or Scan QR code
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- Text \$ amount to GIVE Now! Or "ENROLL" for recurring donations 310-361-1262



### SCRAMENTAL PREPARATION



Please scan the QR code to get more information regarding Baptism, First Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Adult Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (OCIA), Marriage, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders.

#### WE SHARE YOUR GRIEF

Please check the Visitation website under Resources/Bereavement for a list of Grieving, Cancer, Hospice and Palliative Care note titles. These are very helpful and powerful small articles. Please contact **Candy Blankenship at 310-338-9043 or blank8840@gmail.com** and she will mail them to you at no charge." Such titles include Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One, Ten Ways to Honor a Deceased One at Christmas, Overcoming the Blues at Christmastime, Your First Christmas After a Loved One Dies, Giving New Life to Your Christmas Celebration, Rediscovering the Many Gifts of Christmas, and many, many more.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

#### SUNDAY - DECEMBER 22ND

4th Sunday of Advent

8:00am - Martha Hood †

9:30am - For the people of

Visitation Parish

11:00am - Mr. & Mrs. Walenty Naczynski †

#### MONDAY - DECEMBER 23RD

St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:00am - Michael Mayer †

# TUESDAY - DECEMBER 24TH Ch

Christmas Eve

4:00pm - Patricia Geiss †

6:00pm - For all the benefactors of

10:00pm - Visitation Parish Past &

Present

#### WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 25TH

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00am - For all the benefactors of 11:00am - Visitation Parish Past &

Present

#### THURSDAY - DECEMBER 26TH

St. Stephen, First Martyr

8:00am - Norma Arujo †

#### FRIDAY - DECEMBER 27TH

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00am - Tony Sales †

#### SATURDAY - DECEMBER 28TH

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

5:00pm - Norma Arujo †

To request a **Mass intention** please call the Parish Office 310-216-1145

#### PRAYER REQUESTS (SICK OR DECEASED):

email them to the following vizprayerrequests@gmail.com If you would like to join in praying for the requests received, please send an email to the prayer request email address.



# MESSAGE FROM FR. FRANCIS

Dear Parish Family,

As we approach Christmas, we're reminded that Christmas is not only a celebration of Christ's birth; it is also an invitation to transformation. T.S. Eliot's The Journey of the Magi beautifully captures the profound change that occurs when we truly encounter Christ. Reflecting on the Magi's return home, Eliot writes: "We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation."

The Magi's journey did not end at the manger—it marked the beginning of a new way of life. Their encounter with Christ left them forever changed, unable to return to the comforts and certainties of their former ways. This same challenge is presented to us at Christmas. The birth of Christ calls us to step out of the familiar, to leave behind selfishness, complacency, and yes even sin, and to embrace a life transformed by His presence.

As we gather to celebrate the Nativity, let us ask ourselves: How is Christ inviting us to change? What are we being called to leave behind so that His light may shine more fully through us? Christmas is not just the memory of a moment in time but the beginning of a lifelong journey—a journey to align our hearts with the heart of Christ-a heart of love, compassion, and understanding.

May this Christmas season inspire us to live as people transformed, bringing the light of Christ into a world longing for change.

With blessings for a joyous Christmas,

Fr. Francis

Would you like to receive our weekly "Parish Post" via email? It's sent every Sunday with a different spiritual message from Fr. Francis. If so, please email aservidea@visitationschool.org to be added. God bless.



We are deeply grateful for your incredible generosity on Giving Tuesday!

Together, we raised \$20,000 toward our \$40,000 goal to enhance our parish's \$40,000 goal to enhance our parish's

worship space by replacing outdated sound equipment and making major repairs and updates to our ethernet infrastructure for livestreaming. Your support reflects the love and commitment that makes our parish so special.

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your continued prayers and generosity, we are confident we can reach our goal and bring these projects to life for our community.

May God bless you abundantly this Advent & Christmas season!

In gratitude. Fr. Francis

#### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

"In his gospel St John teaches that the person of faith must be 'of the truth' and truth is conceived of as something growing and dynamic. It is not enough to think of accepting the faith once and for all. Faith is not a static condition. The indwelling Spirit of Truth continually influences and forms us. The importance of our daily return to meditation is that it deepens our openness and responsiveness to the Spirit's vivifying and enlightening presence. In meditation we are constantly being refreshed by the power of the Spirit as it teaches us how to commit ourselves and dedicate ourselves to the truth. This is the truth that God is, that God is one and that our meaning is to be one with Him. John describes Jesus telling us that only the person who abides in the Word can fulfil this meaning and come to a genuine knowledge." Fr. John Main.

If you're interested in Christian Meditation, please join Fr. Francis on Wednesdays, 8-8:30pm via zoom. Email fkim@laarchdiocese.org for the link.





Visitation Church Goal: \$590,000

Pledged: \$874,100 (correction from previous bulletins)

Total Paid: \$379,393.28

"It is not how much you give, but how much love you put into giving."

- St. Theresa of Calcutta

To pledge/ donate please go to: https://calledtorenew.org/parishes/visitation

Questions about your pledge?

Need to update payment information?

Please contact Called to Renew Campaign

Office for Pledge Fulfillment Specialists

Phone: (213) 637-7555 (select option 1)

or Email: CTRFulfillment@la
archdiocese.org

If you are interested in paying your pledge via stock, please visit https://lacatholics.org/stock

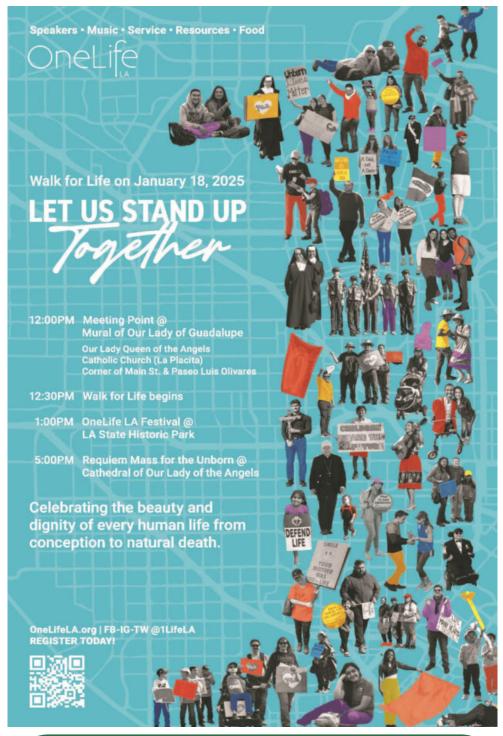
NOTE: As we approach Christmas and New Year, December 31st is the IRS deadline for yearly tax deduction eligibility. Therefore any donations/gifts should be sent out for processing no later than December 28, 2024 and this will ensure that you receive tax credit for gifts made during the 2024.

\*Please keep in mind you're your local post office hours.

Checks should be made payable to:

Called to Renew Campaign and mailed to:

Called to Renew Archdiocese of Los Angeles PO Box 486 Kensington, CT 06037-0486





The parish Office will be CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec. 24th &
Wednesday, Dec. 25th
so our parish staff may have the
opportunity to enjoy the holiday
with their families!
The parish office will re-open
Thursday, Dec. 26th

8:00AM - 4:00PM

# Why do we do that?

# **Catholic Life Explained**

#### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

### **QUESTION:**

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

#### **ANSWER:**

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

#### DAILY BRIEF FOR ADVENT

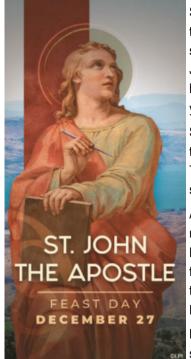
The Daily Brief for Advent is a series of short Advent meditations on the readings of the day by all of our very own priests at Visitation. Each 4-5 minute reflection is accompanied by piano underscore and beautiful nature photographs. Consider making The Daily Brief your 5 minutes a day

for Advent. <a href="https://www.visitationchurch-la.com/dailybrief">https://www.visitationchurch-la.com/dailybrief</a>

Our **WOMEN's CORNERSTONE** ministry is happy to announce that plans are underway for our retreat weekend next year: **Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2025.** 

If you have previously attended and have not heard from us, please let us know. If you are interested in attending, please email: vizcornerstoneforwomen@

gmail.com



Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the emperor Trajan.

# **Prayer**

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

# Mission for the Week

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"

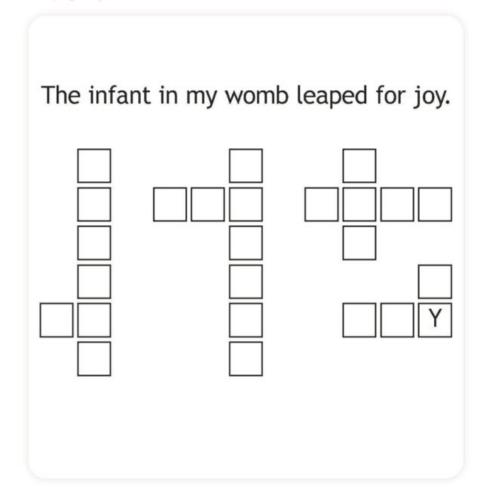
# **Sharing the Gospel**

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin. Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

Now color the picture!



Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below:







#### **APOSTLES CREED**

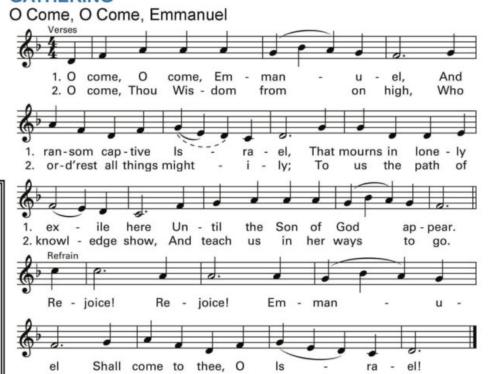
I believe in God. the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified. died and was buried: He descended into hell: on the third day He rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven. and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

# MASS PARTS MASS OF HOPE

# MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save Us, Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

#### **GATHERING**



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#### PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Have Mercy (Stephan)

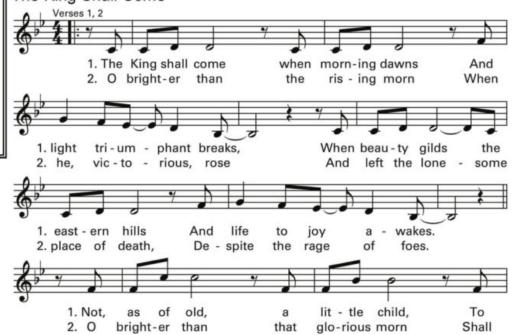
PSALM Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (Hart)

#### PREPARATION OF THE TABLE AND GIFTS

The King Shall Come





#### COMMUNION

#### Holy is His Name



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## SENDING

# Soon and Very Soon



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#### CHURCH OF THE VISITATION

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