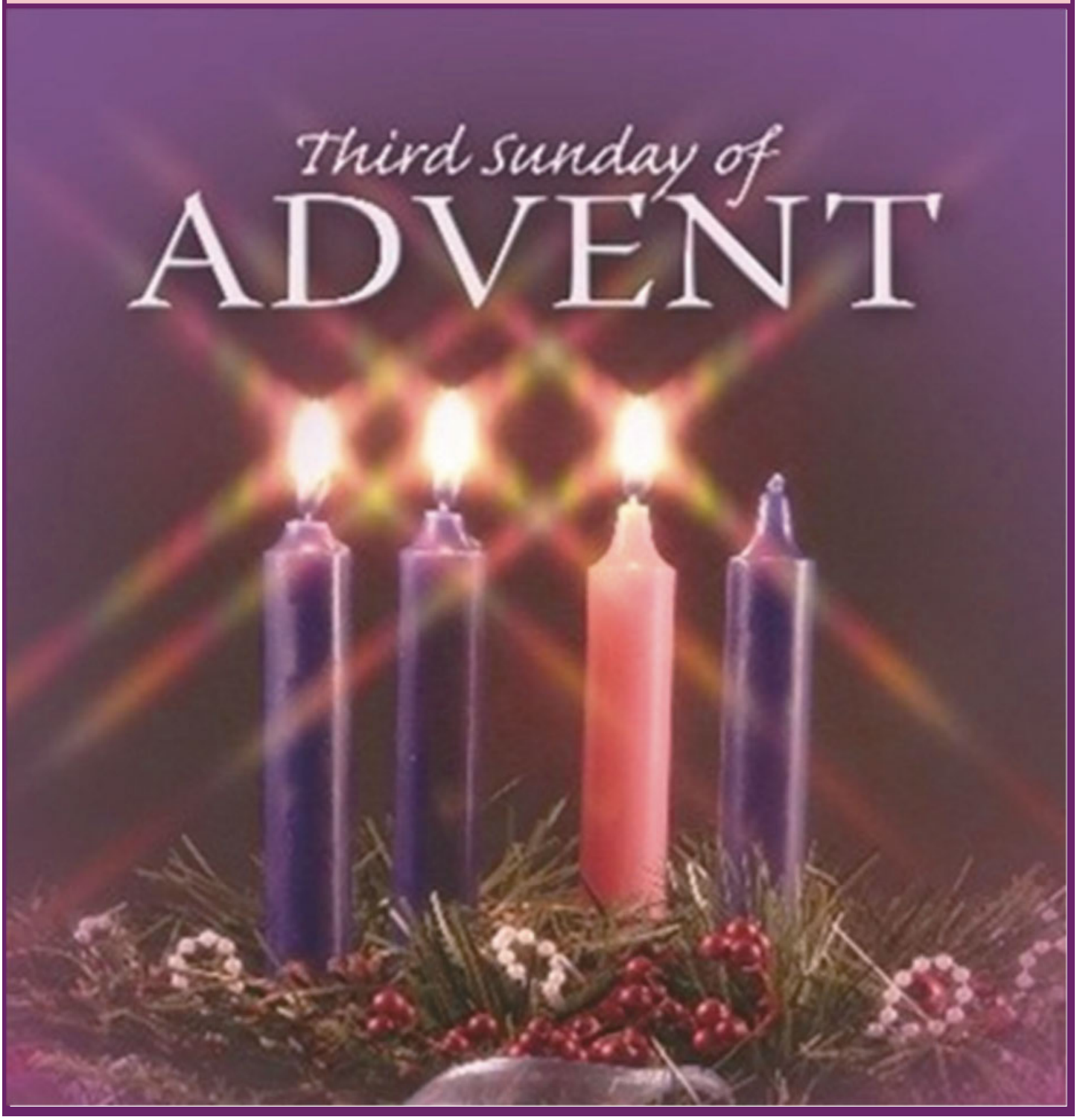
Saint Francis de Sales Church

December 15, 2024



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

13360 Valleyheart Drive South, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Telephone #: (818) 784-0105 • FAX #: (818) 784-4807
Website: www.sfdsparish.com • E-mail: church@sfdsparish.com

SERVED BY:

Rev. Michael Wakefield, Pastor
Ms. Lisa Sanders, Office
Ms. Tess Lumague, Office

Religious Education
Mr. Jack Lathuras - JLathuras@sfdsparish.com

Little Church/Sunday Pre-School
Ms. Rachel Munyaradzi - RMunyaradzi@sfdsparish.com

St. Francis de Sales School & Pre-School
13368 Valleyheart Drive South, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Telephone: (818) 784-9573 - FAX: (818) 784-9649
Ms. Myra Goethals, School Principal
Ms. Jerri Ford, Pre-School Director

SFDS PARISH REGISTRATION FORM

New parishioners registration or to update your existing information, please complete this form & place it directly in the Collection Basket, hand-it to an Usher, mail-it to or drop-it off at the Parish Center.

You may also call with updates, so we may keep your records current. Or you may Register on-line at our website: **sfdsparish.com**

Personalized envelopes will be mailed to you from the printing company in about 8 to 12 weeks, after your registration has been processed.

FAMILY NAME: _____

FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME: AGE:

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____)_____ E-MAIL: _____

If you use the envelopes in the pews, please make sure to **write your envelope number (if known), your first & last name.**

Thank you.



St. Francis de Sales ~ Pray for Us

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Zephaniah3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

MASS Times

Daily: 8:15 AM, Monday thru Friday

Saturday: 8:15 AM and
5:00 PM → Sunday Anticipated Mass

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12-Noon

Confessions: 4:00 PM on Saturdays

Baptisms and Weddings:
Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY **December 14**
8:15 AM *In Memory of Leo Smithson*
In Memory of Barbara Courtney
In Memory of Colin Sean Smithson
In Memory of Rose Ryan
5:00 PM *In Memory of Alicja Walak*

SUNDAY **December 15**
8:00 AM *In Memory of Louis, Beulah and Maria Casale*
10:00 AM *In Memory of Loretta Wade*
12:00 PM *In Memories of Lucille C. & John Gaudioso*

MONDAY **December 16**
8:15 AM *In Memory of Barbara Kozinski*

TUESDAY **December 17**
8:15 AM *In Memory of Catalino Punzalan*

WEDNESDAY **December 18**
8:15 AM *In Memory of Sarah Welsh*

THURSDAY **December 19**
8:15 AM *In Memories of Yew P. and Wilton Ong*

FRIDAY **December 20**
8:15 AM *In Memory of Bill Kozak*

SATURDAY **December 21**
8:15 AM *In Memories of Elena Romero, Carlos Romero, Eddie & Catherine Lample*
5:00 PM *In Memory of Kevin Martin*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially:

Olga Oshiro, Trese Gmyr, Maria Berreondo, Tanya Valazquez, Catherine Crews, Deana Domsten, Jennifer Ormsby, Mary Ann Blees, Kerry Wyse, Louise Brancale, Charlie Ho, Johnny Lopez, Jackie Ward-Smith, Ann Murcia, Rosemary Schreiber, Deb Marsdale, Linda Lucas, Vickie Council, Joan Gore, Victoria Taylor, William Moulprie, Rose Bann, James Armstrong, Sr., Catherine Mwamba, Kathy Polk, Pat Yahnke, Linda Mauleon, Sandra Mitchell, Sharon Crigler, Samiee Nejad, Mary Bailey, Eric Duran, Tina McConnell, Patrick McDougall, Tish Mc Daniel, Nina Barnes, Jana Rattigan, Audrey Rattigan, Jezebel Todd, Lauren Britton, Jen Welch, Bob Dixon, Tony Guadagno, John Proscetto, Dexter Gray, Annie Salazar, Jim Earnhart, Joseph Stockert, Marianne Karibian, Rose Ang, Lisa Miranda, Sheila van der Veen, Leonila Siga-an, Jonathan Jacobs, Sammi Petri, Brett Good, Georgina Nicoletti, Lindsay Dean, Saverio Barbieri, Davis Weld, Kevin Hogan, Rose Pernice, Catherine Sweeney, Jeffrey Paynton, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Doris McNary, Marilyn Sidley, Karin Quinn Forward, John Knight, Susan Maria, Kevin Patrick, Sean Kevin, Virginia Johnson, Fran Hurton, Arnaud Gregori, Mary Henriksen, Dominic Mantei, Edith Reeves, Stefanie Gabler, Jake Patterson, Rose Rios, Anita & Austen Canzano, David Bell, Marie Schewe, Tom & Judy King, Jonathan Masse, Steve Dee, Darya Williams, Gus Calderon, Robert Willing, Josue Meza, Thomas Oliver, Philip Graber, and Blake Cline

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, 12/15 *3rd Sunday of Advent*

Saturday, 12/21 *St. Peter Canisius, Priest and doctor of the Church*

CONTRIBUTIONS to the CHURCH

Weekend: 12/06 - 12/08/2024

Collections: $11,932.00
Faith Direct: $ 3,625.00
Total: $15,457.00

Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious, $3,039.00.

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Your Giving Brings Hope to Your Parish

Use SFDS Parish's online giving platform, ***Faith Direct***, to deepen your commitment to our parish. Your re-occurring gifts will sustain our parish month after month. You will also help our parish by cutting costs for envelopes and paper, allowing our staff to spend less time processing cash and checks. It's easy to get started.

Here are different ways to sign-up:

- Visit: **Faith.Direct/CA 882**
- E-mail: **info@faithdirect.net**
- Scan: **QR Code**
- Call Faith Direct's **Customer Service**: **1-866-507-8757**

Did You Know?

"No" is a complete sentence.

A critical boundary to learn for yourself and for your children is the word "no". Saying "no" to something you are uncomfortable with, or that you know is wrong, is sometimes the hardest thing to do, but it is so important. "No" is a complete sentence and should be honored by anyone listening. This is a great way to teach children how to listen to their friends and respect what they hear. This teaches children personal autonomy, which can extend to a child saying "no" to unwanted toucher or behavior and potentially protect them from abuse and harm.

For more information, read the VIRTUS® article *"When Boundaries Abound, Our Lives Can Flourish"* at: **lacatholics.org/did-you-know/**

Parish	Advent Penance Service	Time	City
Our Lady of Grace	No Penance Service		
Our Lady of the Valley	Monday, December 16	7:00 PM	Canoga Park
St. Francis De Sales **@ St. Cyril of Jerusalem**	Monday, December 16	7:00 PM	Encino
Our Lady of Lourdes	Tuesday, December 17	7:00 PM	Northridge
St. Mel	Thursday, December 19	7:00 PM	Woodland Hills
St. Bernardine of Siena	Friday, December 20	7:00 PM	Chatsworth

St. Francis de Sales Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th

Mass at 4:00 PM,
Carols begin at 3:30 PM.

Mass at 6:00 PM,
with Cantor and Organ.

Mass at 10:00 PM
with SFDS Choir;
Carols begin at 9:15 PM.

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th

Mass at 8:00 AM,
with Cantor and Organ.

Mass at 10:00 AM,
with SFDS Choir.

Mass at 12-Noon,
with Cantor and Organ.

New Year's Day

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1st
Mass at 8:15 AM.

St. Francis de Sales Church

Our Parish Simbang Gabi will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 22nd at 4:00 PM

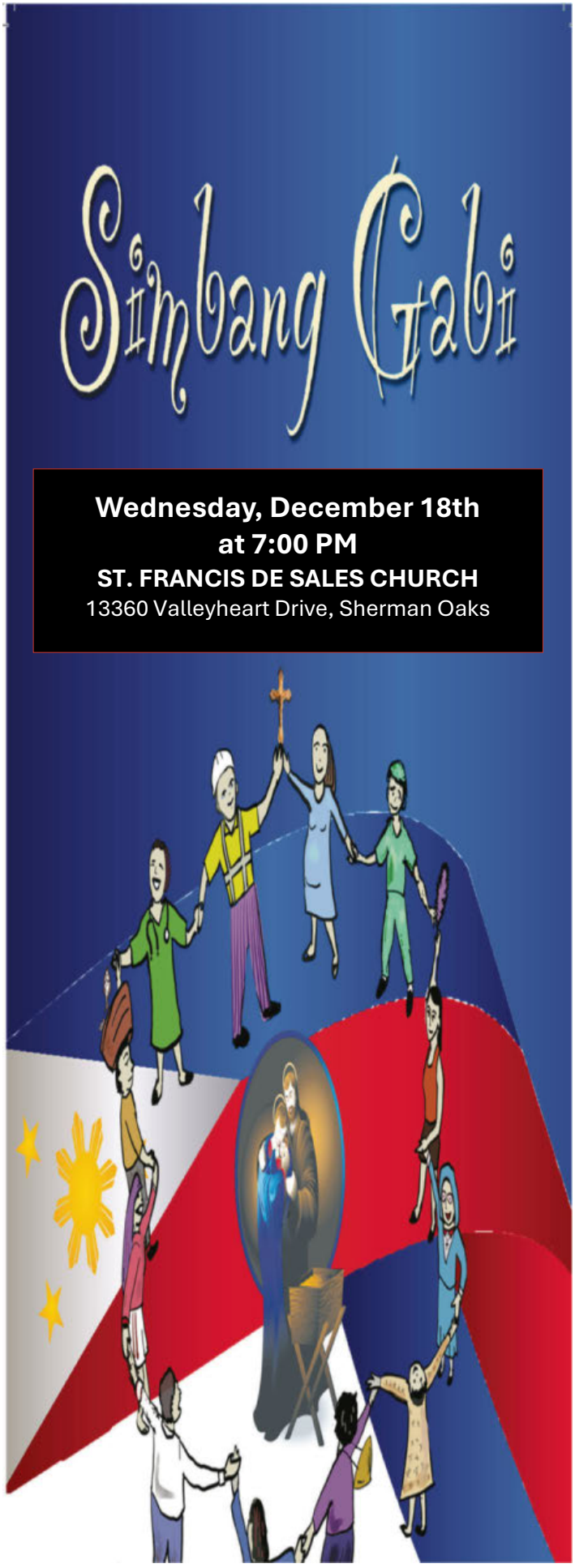
Wagner Ensemble Presents

"A German Christmas"

The Wagner Ensemble, under the direction of Jeannine Wagner, presents *A German Christmas,* featuring Christmas Oratorio by Schütz, Bach Cantata BWV 36 Schwingt freudig euch empor, and a festive selection of German carols guaranteed to put some Gemütlichkeit in your holiday spirits.

The concert will be held in the beautiful St. Francis de Sales Sanctuary, renowned for its acoustic excellence.
Accessible seating is provided.
Ample parking is available in the Church parking lot.

Ticket Prices: $20 General Admission — $15 Seniors & Students
Buy tickets online: **https://wagnerensemble.eventbrite.com**
Send your check to: Wagner Ensemble
1204 Manzanita Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90029
For more Information, call: **(310) 339-2488**



Hanukkah, The Festival of Lights

December 25, 2024 – January 2, 2025

Hanukkah begins with the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC, at the age of 32. Alexander the Great left no successor. His generals divided up Alexander's empire from which emerged: the Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt, the Seleucid Empire in Asia and the Antigonid Kingdom in Macedonia.

The Seleucid Empire was a major center of Hellenistic culture, which maintained the pre-eminence of Greek customs and manners over the indigenous cultures of the Middle East. A Greek-speaking Macedonian aristocratic class dominated the Seleucid state throughout its history, although this dominance was most strongly felt in the urban areas.

When the Seleucid Antiochus III (223--187 BC) won control of Judea, he affirmed the right of the Jews to live according to their ancestral laws in his Charter of 200 BC. His son, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, would tear up the Charter and usher in the first religious persecution in the history of the world.

In 171 BC, Antiochus had deposed the High Priest Jason and replaced him with Menelaus, who had offered Antiochus a large bribe to secure the office. In 168 BC, when Antiochus was campaigning in Egypt, a rumor spread in Judea that he had been killed. Jason gathered a force of 1,000 soldiers and made a surprise attack on the city of Jerusalem. Menelaus was forced to flee Jerusalem during the ensuing riot. But Antiochus was very much alive and returned from Egypt enraged by the reverse he had suffered at the hands of the Romans and by the Jews' rejection of his chosen candidate for High Priest.

Antiochus erected a statue to Zeus in the Temple. He ordered the Jews to build shrines to idols and to sacrifice pigs and other unclean animals and had forbidden circumcision—essentially prohibiting, on pain of death, the practice of the Jewish Law. This persecution of the Jews and desecration of the Temple sparked the Maccabean uprising beginning in 165 BC. (The name Maccabee was a title of honor given to Judas, a son of Mattathias and the hero of the Jewish Wars of Independence, 167 – 160 BC.)

The Maccabees captured Jerusalem from the Seleucids in 164 BC. Hanukkah commemorates the Maccabean re-dedication of the Temple. They found oil to light the Temple Menorah sufficient for one-day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days when new oil could be prepared under purification rituals.

Hanukkah, the Festival of Light,
is a story of persecution
and the fight for religious freedom.
It is yet another time in which the LORD
came to the aid of the LORD's people.
Anything with light and oil
is used to celebrate Hanukkah:
lighting the menorah,
playing with the dreidel, gifts and
enjoying fried foods,
such as latkes and jelly doughnuts.



Men of Exodus 90

Exodus 90 assists men to be uncommonly free.

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

It is normal for men to be distracted, addicted, and enslaved by so many things today. Alcohol. Pornography. Social media. Sports. Gambling. Work. Comparison. Achievement. Wealth. Legacy. It is so normal, in fact, that society's stereotypes of men are often associated with the very idols that plague them.

What is uncommon in our time is men who are free. A free man is not a perfect man but one who remembers who he is: A son of God whom God has called forth for love. And the free man knows how much more he can become by the power of grace unfolding in his life over time.

Through contemplative prayer, men open up to a vulnerable relationship with God. Through asceticism, men grow in the power to say "no" to the common things of the world that hold them back. Through fraternity, men have the essential support, encouragement, and mercy of other men striving after the same uncommon ideals.

The freedom of the uncommon man, the Exodus man, is not for its own sake. The world defines freedom as the ability to do whatever you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want. True freedom is for commitment, sacrifice, and love. Like Jesus on the Cross, the free man takes up his life and then lays it down for others. What is returned to him is a life of meaning, integration, and eternal satisfaction.

It is for this reason that God brought forth Exodus to serve men today.

Exodus 90 begins on January 20th
We will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center ,
located at 13360 Valleyheart Drive, Sherman Oaks 91423.
For more information, reach out to either
Andy Wright (andy.c.wright@me.com) or Brian Campain (briancampain@gmail.com) or Miguel Diaz (mickd70@yahoo.com)

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please contact: Norma Cano, Client Service Director
Telephone #: **(818) 895-2500**
E-mail: **norma@pregnanthelp.org**

Christmas Gift Cards

Our St. Francis de Sales Knights of Columbus, Council # 4956,
collects gift cards for the moms and children
at the **Good Shepherd Shelter**
for Battered Women with Young Children.

These gift cards allow the moms at the Good Shepherd Shelter to select Christmas gifts for their children.
Some suggested gift cards are: Target, Wal-Mart, or any gift card without an activation fee.
Please bring the gift card(s) for Good Shepherd Shelter for Battered Women with Young Children to the Parish Center by Thursday, December 19th.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of SFDS Parish is asking for your support.

The Holidays is upon us and we are in great need of Gift Cards for our Friends in need, to help with food instability and provide some welcome respite for families especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gift cards from Ralph's, Target and Walmart are very welcome.
Please place them in an envelope marked with "SVDP Society" and drop them off at the Parish Center.

Also, we depend on SFDS for our work, so please use the SVDP envelopes that are quarterly, for financial support.
All donations stay here, in our Parish Community.

This year we have saved 30 household from homelessness.
We do this primarily, by rental assistance, or by assisting with utility bills.
We also have provided emergency assistance for vehicles, for those that need transportation for their livelihood.
And, we sent three SFDS families to Circle V Ranch Camp this Summer.

***Thank you* in advance for your kind support.**

If you know someone who is in need of assistance, here is our contact information.
Helpline: **818-784-8825** SVDP E-mail: **svdp@sfdsparish.com**

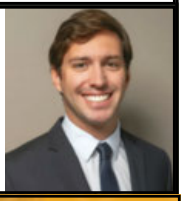
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