

First Sunday of Advent

Jer. 33:14-16; 1Thess.3:12-4:2; Luke 21:24-36

“O Come Emmanuel”



Advent is a short season to prepare for Christmas. It is a time to find quiet moments, to reflect on the bible stories, to pray and to celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promises. It is a time of hope that we experience the presence of Jesus in our life, and hope for lasting peace among nations. The business world is competing with our Christian belief and promises us bargains, savings, the very things that we need to make us happy. To fulfill his plan God needs our collaboration as He needed Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph. Like Zechariah we too can’t believe that God is calling us to be part of his plan. Advent is a time to reorient our personal lives. “Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now”. We are now the new John the Baptist who proclaims Jesus’ presence among us and we show how his presence has changed our life.

The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth

In the days of King Herod there was a priest named Zechariah, and his wife Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, but they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

One day Zechariah was assigned to serve in the temple to offer the incense in the Holy of Holies, and the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. An angel of the Lord appeared to him by the altar. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified. The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You and Elizabeth and many others will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will turn the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare the people for the Messiah. "Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is true? For I am an old man, and so is my wife." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, you will become mute, unable to speak, until your son is born.." In the meantime people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. His wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people." (Luke 1:5-26:Abbreviated)



House of Zechariah & Elizabeth
Birthplace of John the Baptist



Church of the Magnificat: Mary meets Elizabeth

The Zechariah complex

During this “year of priests” I reflect and pray for priests and people who are good and work and pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Many cannot believe that God has chosen us to be part of his plan. We know our limitations, they are real, but we are not sure that God can empower us to do what seems impossible to us. Please, God, don’t punish us... make us believers.

CHÚA NHẬT THỨ I MÙA VỌNG

Jer. 33:14-16; 1Thess.3:12-4:2; Luke 21:24-36

“Kia Chúa Cứu Thế đến”

Mùa Vọng là thời gian ngắn để chuẩn bị cho mùa Giáng Sinh. Đây cũng là thời gian tĩnh lặng, để phản ánh những câu chuyện trong phúc âm, để cầu nguyện và cũng để đón mừng lời hứa của Thiên Chúa. Đây là lúc chúng ta hy vọng sự hiện diện của Chúa Giêsu ở giữa chúng ta



sẽ mang đến một nền hoà bình vĩnh cửu cho nhân loại. Nền thương mại thế giới thì cạnh tranh với niềm tin của người tín hữu và hứa hẹn với chúng ta bằng thương lượng, tiết kiệm để được sống hạnh phúc. Để làm tròn sứ mệnh, Thiên Chúa muốn chúng ta phải hợp tác với Người như sự hợp tác của ông Zêcharia và bà Êlizabét, hay Đức Mẹ Maria và thánh Giuse. Cũng giống như ông Zêcharia, chúng ta không tin là Chúa đã gọi chúng ta là thành viên để hoàn thành sứ mệnh với Người. Mùa Vọng là mùa để chúng ta chinh lại hướng đi trong đời sống chúng ta. “Hãy để bình an bắt đầu trong tôi, ngay từ lúc này”. Trong mùa Vọng chúng ta đón mừng sự hiện diện của Chúa Giêsu trong đời sống chúng ta. Bây giờ chúng ta như là thánh Gioan Phép Rửa, hãy công bố sự hiện diện của Chúa Giêsu trong chúng ta, và chúng ta hãy chúng tỏ sự hiện diện của Ngài làm thay đổi đời sống chúng ta.

Bánh cookies Giáng Sinh đang tiến triển...

Thứ Hai, 30 tháng 11 sẽ bắt đầu nướng bánh cho lễ Giáng Sinh. Chúng ta đã bán được 214 khay bánh hay 1070 tá bánh. Chúng ta dự trù 5 ngày để nướng bánh nếu cần có thể thêm vài buổi chiều. Giáo xứ hoan nghênh tất cả mọi người đến tình nguyện làm; không cần phải chuyên nghiệp, nếu không biết chúng tôi sẽ hướng dẫn. Xin anh chị em hãy đến hội trường Scalabrini sáng thứ Hai lúc 9 giờ sáng. Giáo xứ rất cần sự góp sức của anh chị em.

Rectory Work Donations

I like to thank the families who made generous donation for the work done at the rectory. So far we collected \$5,712. Your contribution is appreciated. God bless your generous hearts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28	
4PM	Dugan & Margaret Maxwell by dau. Madeline Agrusa & Family
Sunday, November 29	
8AM	Salvatore Rinaldo by Family
11AM	John Sebbeto by Friends
Monday, November 30	
11AM	All Faithful Departed
Tuesday, December 1	
8AM	For all the ill and sick parishioners
Wednesday, December 2	
8AM	Eileen Schrader by Sal & Florine Arnone
Thursday, December 3	
8AM	For Service men and women
Friday, December 4	
8AM	Jake Farrentelli by wife Fannie
Saturday, December 5	
4PM	Mary, Tony and Joey Fasone by Family
	Johnny George Ciocciaro by daughters, sister & families
Sunday, December 6	
8AM	Betty Conrick by Victor, Lucy & Jenni Stasi
11AM	Peter J. Cuezze by Family

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

December 12 & December 13

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
4PM: M.Workman	Brian Bui
8AM: M. Mancuso	Triston and Fantasia Ta
11AM: L. Venable	Yen and Long Bui

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

4PM:	L.Roccaforte
8AM:	Q.Tran
11AM:	A.Cascone

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collections:	\$34634.00	Other Income:	\$1161.00
TOTAL:	\$4595.00		

Christmas Cookies rolling...

The count down is 0 and we are ready to go. We sold 214 Christmas trays, at five dozens per tray it means 1070 dozens, namely 12,840 cookies. It is a lot of cookies. We have 5 days to bake them and we may work a couple of evenings and the weekend if we need. We count on a good participation of all available helpers. All volunteers, women and men, young and old are welcome; you don't need a baking diploma, but just good will to help. Baking starts Monday morning, November 30 at 9 AM at the Scalabrini Hall at 910 Pacific. No appointment needed, just show up. This is a parish project and the proceeds will be used to help pay for the recent work done at the rectory. Your help is needed and much appreciated.

Christmas trays pick up time: Wednesday & Thursday, December 9 and 10