



# CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

Phone: 510-352-1537

E-mail: [info@assumptionsanleandro.org](mailto:info@assumptionsanleandro.org)

Website: [assumptionsanleandro.org](http://assumptionsanleandro.org)

**December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent**

## Rejoice! Third Sunday of Advent

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The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The word "*gaudete*" is derived from the Latin words "*gaudium*," joy, and "*gaudeo*," to rejoice or be glad. The nearness of Christmas is reason for great joy. *The joyful rose color used this week* offers us to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

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*Gaudete* is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

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There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

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In an *Angelus* address for *Gaudete* Sunday Pope Francis he encouraged us to remain joyful "even when things do not go according to our desires. Anxieties, difficulties and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resounded, as the Gospel of today recalls."

As Henri Nouwen says, "Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." Luckily, *Gaudete* Sunday provides us a perfect opportunity to do just that as we head toward the end of Advent, culminating in the perfect joy of Christ's birth.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.-Is 12:6.

## Second Degree Relic of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a unique and privileged way thanks to the extreme generosity of the Knights of Columbus courtesy of Deputy Knight Carlos Gutierrez.

It is a joy for Assumption to host a rare pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are so grateful and honored to have this image inside our church.

The photo of the tilma was touched to the original, sealed with the soil of the original Church at Tepeyac, and blessed by Pope Benedict XVI. His Holiness imparted his Apostolic Blessing from the Vatican in July of 2011.

There are only 50 of these images in existence. One for every state in the Union. Having touched the original "Tilma" at the Basilica in Mexico City, this image is a second degree relic. We invite you to join us this weekend and take a moment to approach & touch the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to receive her powerful intercessions of your prayers.

*Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Mystical Rose,  
make intercession for our Holy Church,  
protect the sovereign Pontiff,  
help all those who invoke you in their  
necessities,  
and since you are the ever Virgin Mary  
and Mother of the true God,  
obtain for us from your most Holy Son  
the grace of keeping our faith,  
of sweet hope in the midst of the  
bitterness of life,  
of burning charity,  
and the precious gift of final perseverance.*

## **Lector Training and Commissioning** **December 11 & 12, 18 & 19**

Last month new and returning Lector Ministers gathered for training. Thank you, Deacon Chuck Grover, member of the Board of Deacons, as our speaker and to Cathy Ralphs for being such a dedicated lector leader.

There will be an *Order of Commissioning* during all Masses this weekend. This presentation of the Candidates will be after the homily. Lectors at Church of Assumption have the awesome privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the Word of God during the celebration of Mass. The Vatican II document *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* brings home the importance of the reader's task by insisting that the proclamation of the word is one of the ways in which Christ is present during the liturgy: "He is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church" (CSL #7).

Being a Lector is one of the most important apostolates in the Church. By generously responding to God's call of service, our Lectors are our visible signs of faith, hope and love to us all. Let us then continue to pray for all our ministers that they may remain faithful and committed in this mission that God has entrusted to each one of them.

*Let us pray for our lectors, that with deep faith and confident voice they may announce God's saving word, we pray to the Lord.*

### **Get FORMED! Be in FORMED!#**

Assumption Faith Formation is reaching out for help to renew FORMED, our parish online platform for all things Catholic. If you can help with the cost, please go to our giving page on our website or write a check to "Church of the Assumption" with the word FORMED in the memo. During this season of Advent, aka Little Lent, we recommend the series FORGIVEN as an excellent resource to the understanding of God's mercy and preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Children will also love 'The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello'.

## **Simbang Gabi December 15-23** **A 9-day Novena Masses in preparation for Christmas**

Join us and our Filipino Community in celebrating 9-day Novena Masses as we prepare ourselves and our Church for Christmas - December 15 at 6:30am and December 16-23 at 6:30pm Food and Fellowship will follow every Mass.

We welcome your support and attendance at Simbang Gabi. Please invite your family and friends to any and all of the nine days. We pray that, the first Simbang Gabi novena mass at Church of the Assumption will be a memorable celebration of Christ's birth.

*Merciful and loving God, we await your coming, and open our hearts to receive Jesus. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **Blessing of Nativity Scene** **December 18-19**

The blessing of the Nativity Scene will happen during masses on December 18th and 19th. We are inviting all of you to also bring in a piece of your Christmas Creche so that it too can be blessed.

*God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.*

## **Giving Tree**

A reminder that if you took a tag from the Christmas trees in the back of the church **Wrapped gifts must be brought in by December 12th.**

## **DECEMBER 11—DECEMBER 18, 2021**

*\*We Remember at the Eucharist\**

### **Saturday 11**

8:15a.m. Tomas Estrellan, Jr +

4:30pm Leticia Grajeda+

### **Sunday 12**

8:00am Earl & Eita Sequeira+

10:00 am Laurie Voisenet (Living)

Tekestebirham G Micheal+

12:00 noon.

### **Monday 13**

8:15a.m. George P Aguiar Sr.+

Jozeppi DiSantis Ricconi (Living)

### **Tuesday 14**

8:15a.m. Marcella Vieira-Ducey+

### **Wednesday 15**

8:15a.m. Jerome Gann+

### **Thursday 16**

10:00am Lolita Pimenta+

### **Friday 17**

8:15am Respect for the Dignity of Life

### **Saturday 18**

8:15am Lois Norberg+

4:30pm Leticia Grajeda+

***Please think about remembering the Church  
of the Assumption in your will.***

## **One of the most famous Advent traditions is the Advent wreath**

There is much rich symbolism to be found in this beautiful tradition.

The Advent candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Each Sunday of Advent we light another candle as we get closer and closer to Christmas - the moment Jesus brought light into our darkness.

Three of these candles are purple and one is pink (or rose). The dark purple also reminds us of darkness and marks a time for prayer and waiting. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent which is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning 'Rejoice' for the time of Christmas is near.

The circular shape of the wreath reminds us of our God, who has no beginning or end, as well as His endless love for us. The evergreen leaves that make up the wreath remind us that God gives us the gift of everlasting life through Jesus.

## **Prayer for Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

*O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Dad's Club Tree Sale**

**Give Live Fruit Trees as Christmas Presents - A gift that keeps giving**  
The Assumption Dads Club is selling an assortment of fruit trees, as well as ornamental, and California native varieties! Most trees are available in both 5 gallon and 15 gallon sizes, and they both have the option for free delivery within a 10 mile radius of Assumption School, or installation with an additional charge. Orders must be received by **of**, installation and delivery of the trees will take place on the weekends between 1/8-1/15/22.

## **Assumption St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Food Drive**

Please return the filled bags by December 12<sup>th</sup>. The SVdP Society is deeply grateful for the prayers and generosity of the Assumption Community. Together we do the Lord's work.

*God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.*

**Please pray for all those who are ill especially:**  
*Geraldine Montoya, Mary Melton, Don Rezente, Mary Croak and Erma Mader*

**THANK YOU for your generosity!**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

**Week of December 5, 2021**

**\$6,217.00**

**Weekly Goal \$7,000**

513057

Attention: Martha

510-352-1537

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

Message:

Please send 250 bulletins