



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

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Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



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PRAY & WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass (Saturday) | 4:30pm
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am
& 12:00pm

Daily Mass

Monday thru Saturday | 8:30am

Confession

Saturday | 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Other | By Appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday | 9:00am - 12:00pm
Saturday | 3:00 pm- 4:00pm

Daily Devotions

9:00am after Mass

Mon - Sat | Holy Rosary
Mon | Holy Spirit
Tues | Saint Joseph
Wed | Mother of Perpetual Help
Thur | St. Therese of Lisieux
Fri | Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat | Our Lady of Assumption

SACRAMENTS

**Call the office for Baptism, Marriage
and Faith Formation Classes**

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. -1 Thessalonians 5:23-

SUNDAY GOSPEL Reflection

Today's Gospel, John 1:6-28, tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptizer, who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

We need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light only by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion, and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

(Source: <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

THANK YOU

Sunday Collection, December 10, 2023
Retired Religious

\$5,560.00
\$2,183.00

Sign up for **ON-LINE GIVING** through **VANCO**.



MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30am Lolita Pimenta+
Evelia Ramos+
4:30pm Ricky Rivera+
Mary Pacini (Healing)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:30am Ruth McDonnell+
Marnelle Vieira-Ducey+
10:00am Martha Perez (Health)
12:00pm Mary Pacini (Healing)
Evelia Ramos+

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30am Adam Perez (Health)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30am Jim & Bonny Hulsy+

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30am Melinda Ferrer (Birthday)
Leonara Ambrosio+

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30am Rosalinda Pineda De Ala+

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30am Carol Anne D'Mello+

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30am Teresa Rocha+
4:30pm Martha Perez (Health)

Please Pray for Healing

**Julie Richardson, Dennis Kuzmicky,
Baby Shiovonne Mullins, Juan Garcia,
and Virginia Riveria**

In Loving Memory

Siervo Barrios

MASS INTENTIONS & PRAYERS REQUESTS

Let your Assumption Community offer prayers for your special intentions for a family member, a friend, a deceased love one or a special occasion.

Email info@assumptionsanleandro.org or visit the Rectory Office. Forms are available at the back of the Church.

UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS

Sunday, December 17:

Breakfast with Santa -

8am-12pm in the gym. Come and have photos with Santa Claus, eat a delicious pancake breakfast, hot chocolate bar, crafts for children and mimosas for adults.

Children & Seniors \$10. / Adults \$12. Tickets available at door by cc, check & cash.

Blessing of Nativity Creche at all masses on Gaudete Sunday

You are invited to bring the Baby Jesus from your family Nativity scene

Assumption University

11:30am will be in Small Hall

Thursday, December 21:

School Christmas Pageant 10:00am

Sunday, December 24:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 4:30pm & Evening Mass 8:00pm

Monday, December 25:

The Birth of Our Lord - Christmas Day

Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL 8217

Support our Knights of Columbus "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" fundraising raffle. The drawing will be held on the Feast of the Epiphany. Tickets are available for ten dollars apiece.

Maintaining cleanliness and order

in our church is essential to create a welcoming and serene environment for both our parishioners and visitors. We ask that you please do not leave pamphlets or articles. We are grateful for your cooperation in preserving the sanctity of our place of worship.

SIMBANG GABI December 15-23

Join us and our Filipino Community in celebrating nine day Novena Masses as we prepare ourselves and our Church for Christmas - which starts tomorrow evening December 15 and continues thru December 23 at 6:30pm every night. During mass, the Filipino Choir will fill the church with Filipino Christmas songs and carols. After every Mass, the faithful gather for food and fellowship at the rectory.

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

Simbang Gabi is a pre-dawn celebration of the Mass observed by Filipinos for centuries to affirm their faith. This tradition dates to 1587, when the Spanish conquistadores introduced the practice to symbolize the birth of Jesus Christ. Ringing church bells, singing Filipino Christmas carols, and displaying the starshaped parol lantern signal the start of the pre-dawn celebration among Filipinos. The farmers and fishermen took time to hear the Gospel and asked for a good harvest from the fields or a good catch while at sea before they head to work.

In San Leandro, there are no fields to till or sea to catch fish, but former Filipino immigrants in San Leandro still attend Simbang Gabi. To many, Simbang Gabi is an opportunity to open and prepare their hearts as the manger where Jesus would be born. It is such an amazing grace and blessing that Filipino parishioners who originated from different regions of the Philippines and speak different languages and dialects work together and speak the word of LOVE—God's word. Members of the group assist one another: they are dedicated to support the mission of Church of the Assumption, that is, to see Christ in each person.

In the Philippines, the parol is used to light up people's homes and is carried by parishioners attending Simbang Gabi Mass, or "Mass before dawn."

Through Simbang Gabi, the Filipino community of Church of the Assumption aims to take the journey in reaching out to others through faith and tradition. Through working hands, willing hearts, and motivated minds, we hope to join our pastor Father John, Father Julius, our Bishop Michael, and Pope Francis have a Christ centered faith, having Mary, the blessed Mother as a role model of obedience to God's will.

Blessing of an Advent Wreath

Advent Week 3: Joy

The third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday” because the Mass for today begins with the opening antiphon: “Gaudete in Domino semper” –“Rejoice in the Lord always.” To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day’s Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

Pray Around the Advent Wreath:

Leader: Come Holy Spirit! In this third week of Advent, we ask You to fill our hearts with joy as we prepare for Jesus, who is coming soon!

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Family member lights the first and second purple, as well as the rose candle.

Leader: Lord, as we journey closer to Christmas, center our joyful anticipation on Jesus’ coming. Of course You know that we are excited about gifts, decorations, gatherings, and treats. Let all of these passing joys point us toward the unending joy that we find in knowing and loving Jesus.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord, as we joyfully look forward to Christmas, guard us against worry, stress, and unnecessary obligations. Help us clear out whatever busyness distracts us from Jesus or steals our joy. Give us clear eyes and hearts so that, without distractions, we might joyfully prepare for Jesus’ birth.

All: Fill our hearts with hope, peace, and joy! Amen.

(source:<https://kcascension.org/advent-week-3-joy/>)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

(Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - <https://wecreate.4lpi.com/lpi/vibrantchurches>)

Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Phillippians 4:4





