



Baptisms

Congratulations and welcome to our Catholic Christian faith!

Adrian Sebastian Ayala
Son of Jorge Ayala
& Brittany Pina

Isabella Marina Blake
Daughter of Benjamin
& Danitza Blaker

Dylan Oliver Kostelnik
Son of Jason & Emily Kostelnik

Jeffrey Allen Wilson, Jr.
Son of Jeffrey
& Nicole Wilson

Ruben Jorge Gamboa
Son of Jorge Gamboa
& Lyz Flores

**Tristan Marco
Calma Aguirre**
Son of Mark & Anna Aguirre

Octavio Rey Salinas
Son of Armando
& Gabriela Salinas

Julian Alden Hernandez
Son of Jonathan
& Cassandra Hernandez

Leo Dante Sanchez
Son of Jorge Sanchez
& Amanda Parish

Emma Janae Sills
Daughter of Damion
& Janette Sills

Ella Danitza Blaker
Daughter of Benjamin
& Danitza Blaker

Piercing Darkness

Advent is the time to prepare for Christmas. On this we are all agreed. Diving a little deeper we see that Advent is a season of desire. It is a time of waiting. Of anticipating. During these long days of a seemingly never-ending pandemic, our desire is smoldering. For some it has been snuffed out. We're numb. Who or what can shake us out of the doldrums?

Time and again, the scriptures tell that a time of intense turbulence is a wake-up call. Advent is such a time to wake up to God's promise: We will not be left comfortless.

We think that God is near when prayers are answered, when things go our way, when we and those we love are blessed with good health and prosperity. But God dwells in our dark days no less than in the light. And often against all odds, where and when we least expect, light pierces the darkness. God's presence and action, God's very life, is to be found between the cracks of a world and a life splitting apart. Christian spiritual guides throughout the ages advise: If you want to be sure of the path you tread, close your eyes and walk in the dark.

In these dark times, the eye must learn to see anew. How to look? Where to look?

All too often, we look in the wrong places. Advent is a wakeup call to see that God comes in the vulnerable, fragile human flesh of the Infant in that littlest town of Bethlehem at a time of unrest and uncertainty. But dare we imagine that God may be found in our own turbulent times? In our own dark days? In our own trembling flesh?

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Visit www.padreserra.org/advent





Angel Tags Christmas Gift Giving

Donations are accepted until December 12.

Help a child or adult have a special Christmas morning! This year, instead of the giving trees, we will be using SignUpGenius, where you will reserve your virtual "tag," find new instructions for wrapping (gift bags only), and new delivery dates.

Contact Geralyn Moody, (805) 491-2602.

For more information visit www.padreserra.org/news/angel-tags



Advent Awakenings Take the Time

A four-week small faith-sharing group opportunity to renew your experience of Advent.

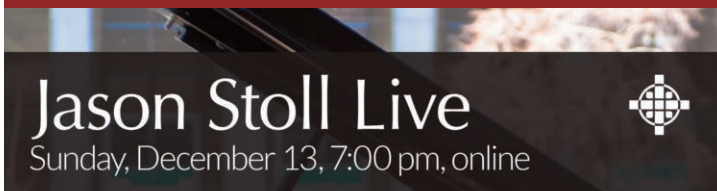
Tuesday Mornings
December 8, 15, 22
9:00 - 10:30 am

Wednesday Evenings
December 9, 16, 23
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday Evenings
December 8, 15, 22
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Through scripture, reflection, sharing and prayer, we will journey through the season together, preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas.

All groups will meet via Zoom. Please RSVP padreserra.org/news/advent-awakenings



Jason Stoll Live

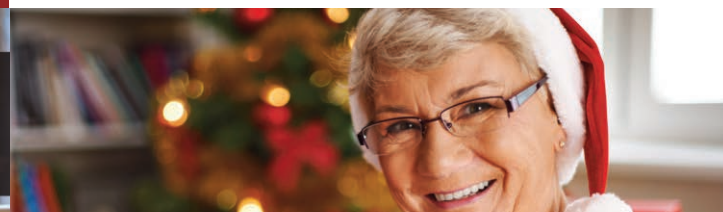
Sunday, December 13, 7:00 pm, online



The Music and Streaming Ministry present our very own Jason Stoll in a free livestream concert, visit www.padreserra.org/jasonstoll

Music by SCRIABIN, RAVEL, VILLEMEZ, SZCZEPANEK, KAPUSTIN and BEETHOVEN

No RSVP required.



Camarillo Catholic Seniors Christmas Gathering

Wednesday, December 16
10:00 am, via Zoom

Christmas isn't canceled so let's gather safely and virtually to celebrate this joyous season, enjoy each other's company, music and entertainment and learn about Christmas traditions including those from Mexico, Hungary, Philippines, Italy and more. Special guest stories include our local pastors Fr. Patrick and Fr. Preston! If you have a fun family tradition, be ready to share. Wear your Christmas attire and have your favorite beverage to toast.

RSVP for Zoom link: www.padreserra.org/seniors



GATHERING**Ready the Way**

Curtis Stephan

Refrain

Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way
 of the Lord. of the Lord.

Verse 1

1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and
 1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole,
 1. and read-y the way of the Lord. *to Refrain*

Verses 2, 3

2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk
 3. Let us see your face; in our hearts we pre-
 2. in your truth, so we may love more like you
 3. - pare a place. Come bring this world your mer - cy and grace
 2. and read-y the way for you, Lord. *to Refrain*
 3. as we

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:3, 4a. Text and music © 2004, Curtis Stephan.
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PENITENTIAL RITE**Advent Wreath Service**

John Schiavone

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 (Lord, have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Chri - ste e - lei - son.
 (Christ, have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 (Lord, have mer - cy.)



Reading 1
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Reading 2
2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Reading
Mark 1:1-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85: Lord, Make Us Turn to You

Marty Haugen



Lord, make us turn to you, show us your face, and
we shall be saved.

1. Lord, we are present here, show us your kindness and love,
O speak your word of peace unto your people.
2. Lord, let salvation rain, shower down your justice and peace,
the earth shall bring forth truth, the skies your love.
3. See, Lord, we look to you, you alone can bring us to life,
O walk before us to light our pathways.

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The 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.

Prepare the way of the *Lord.*
make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the
salvation of *God.*

Luke 3:4, 6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Alleluia

Michael Joncas



Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia,
hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, ICEL.
Tune: Michael Joncas, b.1951, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

INTERCESSION RESPONSE**"Mass of the Father's Love"**

Divinum Mysterium, arr. Carol Browning



Hear us Lord, O hear our prayer.

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**PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS****Lead Us To Your Light**

Carol E. Browning

Refrain



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Verses



1. Lord, we a - wait your com - ing to our world;
2. Lord, you are hope and heal - ing for our world;
3. Come, O come, O come, Em - man - u - el.
4. Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slum - ber,
5. Child of the light and love be - yond all tell - ing,



bring us the gift of sal - va - tion.
 come, now, and bring us your good news.
 Come with us on earth here to dwell.
 ban - ish the dark - ness of night.
 fill our hearts with won - der and praise.

D.C.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

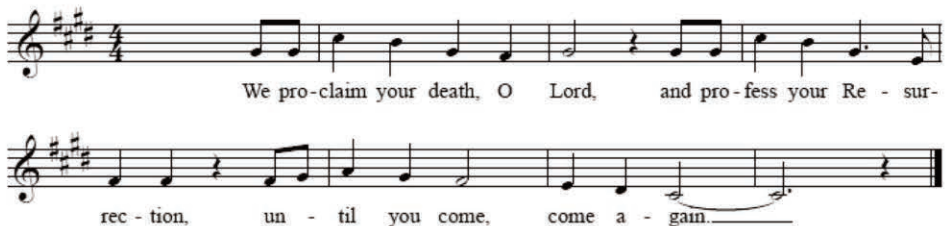
"Walking in the Air" Mass Howard Blake, arr. Dominic MacAller & Dan Houze

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly Lord God of
 hosts. heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est. *Fine*
 Bles-sed, bles-sed is he,
 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho

Memorial Acclamation A



We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Re-sur-
 rec-tion, un-til you come, come a-gain.

Great Amen



A-men, A-men, A- - -
 men. A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men.

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Lamb of God

Bob Hurd



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
 1-2. have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
 7 grant us peace, grant us peace.

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Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that
You are present in the
Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire you with
all my heart.
Since I cannot receive You
now sacramentally,
I ask You to come
into my heart spiritually.
I embrace You as if
You were already in my heart,
and unite myself
to You completely.
Please do not ever let me
be far from You.
Amen.

Suggested by Pope Francis



COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, Hope of the World

Paul A. Tate

Refrain

Je - sus, hope of the world, Je - sus, light in our
dark - ness, here we a - wait you, O Mas - ter Di - vine.
Here we re - ceive you in Bread and in Wine:
Je - sus, hope of the world.

Verses

All:
Come, Lord Je - sus!

Cantors:

1. Come to us, O Son of God!
2. Come to us, O Prom - ised King!
3. Come to us, O Ris - ing Sun!
4. Come to us, O Heart's De - sire!

All:
Come, Lord Je - sus!

Come to us, O Son of Man!
Come to us, O Prom - ised Peace!
Come to us, O End - less Light!
Come to us, O Sav - ing Love!

All:

All:

Come, Son of God!	Come, Son of Man!
Come, Prom - ised King!	Come, Prom - ised Peace!
Come, Ris - ing Sun!	Come, End - less Light!
Come, Heart's De - sire!	Come, Sav - ing Love!

All: D.C.

Shep - herd your peo - ple in love!
Come and be Lord of our hearts!
Shat - ter the dark - ness of death!
Ban - ish our doubt and our fear!

BE THE light

MATTHEW 5:14

SENDING FORTH

Be the Light

Ed Bolduc

We are waiting in the darkness.
Our souls still long for the light.
Your very promise is a candle
that leads us through the night.

As we await the birth of Jesus,
help our busyness recede.
Turn our dark days into brightness;
peace and joy the gifts we need.

Be the light — shin - ing bright. Turn our nights back
in - to day. Be the peace we want to know. —
Son of God, — Love Di - vine,
come in - to our lives and be the light. —

Meek and humble we await you.
Our hearts are open, we long to receive.
Come, Lord Jesus, dwell among us.
Guide us in the lives we lead.

Be the light...

O come, O come Emmanuel, the love of God Emmanuel.
Come, O come Emmanuel. Our God is with us.
O come, O come Emmanuel, the love of God Emmanuel.
Come, O come Emmanuel. Our God is with us.

Be the light...

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What Sort of Persons Ought We To Be?

Dear Friends,

The Advent season gives us some wonderful scripture readings and this weekend's seem particularly suited to the time in which we live.

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading may ring true or false depending on what our experience of 2020 has been, but when we hear it as part of the promise that the Lord would redeem Israel and in light of the reality of Jesus Christ's presence and action in the world, the truth of it rings clear.

Do you ever succumb to the temptation (as I do) to put off necessary work and growth because of a complacent reliance on God's mercy and patience? Today's second reading can help us properly realign. The first part is an encouragement to trust God and to be patient as he is patient: "Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

The next sentence deals decisively with the complacency I mentioned: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out." So, my friends, what we do and what we say matter: "Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be?" "... eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."

The mighty Advent figure John the Baptist we encounter in the gospel (this, year, Mark's) proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John has a healthy understanding of his own place in the scheme of things and so should we. He is content to be a creature, not the Creator; a messenger, not the Message; a humble servant, not the Master.

Jesus sent the apostles out to preach the Gospel and to baptize (a mission given also to us by our baptism). We are sent as they were to "give comfort to my people". May we embrace that call so that we can sincerely make the Advent cry "*Maranatha*," "waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God."

Siempre Adelante,



Dominic MacAller
Music and Liturgy Minister



Everyone

Advent Calendar ~ Sign Up Today

Our parish Advent calendar can help you fully enter into this season of holy waiting with daily inspiration, activity, prayer, and some fun to prepare you and your family spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. Sign up here to receive a daily email. Visit www.padreserra.org/advent

Children

12 months to Grade 8.

Little Church ~ December 6

Age 3 through kindergarten. Ms. Soraya is putting together a video for Little Church families. Children will have so much fun learning through Bible stories and songs. Spaces still available to join Little Church. To receive videos, please contact soraya@padreserra.org

Spark! ~ December 7

Grades 1 to 5. This week the children will learn about "Make Straight the Way of the Lord." Send your Spark! at Home images in "Actual Size" or the largest size available to photo@padreserra.org or use #pspsparkathome and tag @padreserra on Instagram. Visit the gallery at www.padreserra.org/spark-at-home

Three: Sixteen ~ December 16

Middle School Ministry. No sessions this week; enjoy your week off. Sessions resume via Zoom on December 16. [If you missed the Jr. High Retreat, catch up here.](#)

Advent Activities

- **Nativity Advent Calendar:** He is coming! Celebrate this beautiful time of the year with your children day by day by creating together this **Nativity Advent Calendar**. Then share it, embrace it! Send your pics to photo@padreserra.org or share them on Instagram; use #pspAdvent and tag @PadreSerra. Visit the gallery here www.padreserra.org/advent-gallery
- **Advent Wreath Coloring Page:** See page 13.

High School

Everyone 14 to 18 is welcome! youth@padreserra.org

4:12

Join Brett and peer leaders for fun and fellowship via Zoom. Ask brett@padreserra.org to add you to our GroupMe to keep you updated.

Confirmation Y1 ~ December 6

This week teens will learn about the gift of Right Judgment. Zoom gathering begins at 1:00 pm; please contact youth@padreserra.org for more information.

Adults

Advent Opportunities

Visit our Advent page for opportunities to participate and give, prayers and blessings, daily and weekly inspirations, and Advent Conspiracy: www.padreserra.org/advent

Our Lady of Perpetual Help ~ December 9, 16, 23, 30

Join us online for prayer and devotion to our Mother Mary. Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Contact: Madel omphnovenapsp@gmail.com

Men's Ministry December 9, 30

Illuman is a ministry for men, by men, to honor the uniqueness of male spirituality. Bimonthly group gatherings are designed to help guys become better, more authentic men. 7:00 pm online. Contact Dave dave.mccormick.mba@gmail.com

PAX Christi ~ December 17

Grounded in the gospel and Catholic social teaching, our PAX Christi ministry seeks to model the peace of Christ in our witness to the nonviolence of the cross through an evening of prayer, study, and action rooted in justice for the common good of all God's children. 7:00 pm, via Zoom. www.padreserra.org/news/pax-christi

Women's Ministry ~ December 21

Seeds of Faith, our women's faith sharing group, will complete the study of the pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts" with the final chapter Walk Humbly with God. The bishops affirm that such "walking" leads us "to press forward without fear in rebuilding our relationships, healing our communities and working to shape our policies and institutions toward the good of all, as missionary disciples." This is an aspect of evangelization in our Church and the witness it requires. 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Cynthia cjonescampbell@yahoo.com

Blood Drive ~ December 29

Give the gift of life and donate blood. Appointments are still available between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Serra Center. www.padreserra.org/news/blood-drive

Open Hearts

A fellowship ministry where individuals and families of the LGBTQ community are welcome to share experiences, strength, support, and hope. Sue (805) 390-2824, openhearts@padreserra.org

Virtual Catholic Conference ~ February 2021

The Los Angeles Congress is going virtual February 19 - 21. For \$35, you will experience keynote presenters, dynamic workshops, entertainment, intercultural prayer experiences, and more ... all from the comfort of your home. Mark your calendars today and learn more: <https://recongress.org>

Faith Sharing Question

Reflection questions for every gathering around any table

Mark 1:1-8 ~ Prepare the Way of the Lord

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. With the great news of Jesus' coming, how are you going to share this joy and happiness with others you encounter in your day-to-day lives? How are you, or can you be, like John the Baptist and invite others to know someone greater: your Lord Jesus Christ?

Giving

Hospitality Ministers Needed

Matthew 22:39 - Love your neighbor as yourself.

To make sure that we are all as safe as possible at Mass, we need ministers who are as lovingly assertive as they are welcoming. Responsibilities are to ensure that people sanitize as they arrive, wear their masks properly, and maintain a six-foot distance from those outside their household. We especially need people willing to serve at the 4:00 pm Masses on Saturday and Sunday. If you'd be comfortable in this role, please contact dominic@padreserra.org

Religious Retirement Fund

In good and difficult times, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for our hurting world. Yet, years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. The Sisters of Notre Dame wish to thank the parishioners of Padre Serra Parish for their support for this annual national collection. Info: www.sndca.org or Sr. Lisa Megaffin lmegaffin@sndca.org.

Safeguard the Children

Deck the Halls Safely

As we continue under Covid-19 restrictions, many families will celebrate Christmas entirely in their own homes this year, in place of parties and traditional holiday outings. Keep basic safety guidelines in mind as you decorate. Use surge protectors and outlet strips for extra lights around the house and tree, and make sure to cover unused sockets to keep little hands and fingers out. Inspect your lights and any battery-operated decorations to ensure they are working properly; frayed light strands and old batteries could be fire hazards. For more tips on decorating safely, read the VIRTUS article "Creating a Safe Christmas Celebration" [here](#).

Becoming Catholic

Advent and Catholic Inquiry

Invite your non-Catholic friends and relatives to attend Mass on the Grass or watch it online with you. It may refresh your sense of this meaningful time of year. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, please contact Catherine Shaddock at (805) 482-6417 x331 or catherine@padreserra.org

Prayer Life

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the courtyard, Mondays, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 5:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. We decorate our homes for Christmas. Even more important is readying our hearts, both for the Lord's return at the end of time, and to celebrate His birthday. Examine your life. Confess your sins. Trust the Lord's mercy. Celebrate with joy.

Pray for Our Sick

Casey Allen, Lisa Alonzo, Shirley Brown, Michele Burger, Katie Ceurvorst, Thomas Collins, Liesa Comeau, Lori Conley, Baby Wyatt Davis, Dora Doles, Kalei Durand, Noelani Durand, Claire Estes, Joe Flores, Sharon Garcia, Tawfik Haddád, Tish Hearne, Art Hernandez, Stephanie Hooper, Mary Hopple, Mary Ann Kratochvil, Barbara Layton, Sue Leahy, Rosemary Maldonado, Glenn Mingay, Jeff Paoella, Lou Ann Paoella, Lolita Reyes, Connie Rigney, Mike Robles, Joseph Scordamaglia, Jackson Soyster, baby Penelope Swartz, Francisco Tapia, Sara Tapia, Linda Vesey and Tom Vesey. *(Names are refreshed monthly.)*

Remember Our Dead

Prayers for family and friends of those who have died recently:

Jaime Estabillo, RIP

Evelyn McMillion, RIP

Beloved wife of Richard McMillion

May they enjoy peace in their life with Christ Jesus.

Prayer Opportunities

Daily Readings: bible.usccb.org

Parish Book of Intentions: www.padreserra.org/intentions

Prayer Chain: Prayers anytime

Bette (805) 482-0067 bette_church@hotmail.com

Shirley (805) 482-2617 brownshehorn@gmail.com

or visit www.padreserra.org/prayer-requests

Stations of the Cross: www.padreserra.org/stations

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: www.padreserra.org/news/olph

Blessed Sacrament Chapel: www.padreserra.org/prayer

In the Community

Virtual Advent Retreats

Families ~ December 13, 5:30 pm. Bring your family to the manger! This free mini-retreat offers families a fun and meaningful way to prepare us for Jesus' birth. Each family will receive a kit with all the items needed to participate. [Register here](#)

Individuals ~ December 11, 6:00 pm or December 12, 10:00 am.

Draw nearer to our Lord Jesus through presentations, time for quiet prayer, faith sharing, and more. [Register here](#)

The Birth of Jesus in Art and History ~ December 16

Join Dr. John Madden for a virtual tour of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, together with an illustrated exploration of the origins of the feast, the earliest representations of the Nativity, and the sources of the traditional elements of the Christmas Story. 7:00 pm, via Zoom. [Info/register here](#)





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