

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

— *Mark 1:3*



NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:00 am	December 11 † Marietta B. Nacor
Tuesday 8:00 am	December 12 † Lydia Monce
Wednesday 8:00 am	December 13 † Josefina Flandez
7:00 pm	† Theodora Vinluan
Thursday 8:00 am	December 14 † Joseph I. Bosso
Friday 8:00 am	December 15 † Paul and † Theresa Vella
7:00 pm	† Atilio Paoli
Saturday 8:00 am	December 16 Jesusa Galang (L)
4:30 pm	† Rinaldo Schenone
7:00 pm	Wilfredo Nacor (L)
Sunday 7:30 am	December 17 † Zocimo and † Eugenia Flandez
9:30 am	† Simplicio and † Rosalina Castillo
11:30 am	The Maltese Society
7:00 pm	† Rev. Fr. Marcelito Paez

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Sunday Collection December 3, 2017

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 3,992.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,008.00
Religious Education	\$ 938.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check.

This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system. **We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)**

St. Elizabeth Parish
2017 Novena Masses before Christmas and
Advent Retreat December 15-23, 7:00 pm
Main Theme: "Praying the Our Father with Jesus"

December 15th Sub-Theme: Calling God, Father
December 16th Sub-Theme: God who is in Heaven
December 17th Sub-Theme: God's kingdom come
December 18th Sub-Theme: God's will be done
December 19th Sub-Theme: Give us this day our daily bread
December 20th Sub-Theme: Forgive us our sins.
December 21st Sub-Theme: Lead us not into temptation
December 22nd Sub-Theme: Amen
December 23rd Sub-Theme: God's calling

2017 Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 23	Confession 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm 4:30 pm Mass
Sunday December 24	Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am Christmas Eve Masses 4:30 pm Family Mass 11:30 pm Christmas Carols 12:00 am Midnight Mass (Bilingual)
Monday December 25	Christmas Day Masses 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 am
Saturday, December 30	Confession 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm 4:30 pm Vigil
Sunday December 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am Octave Day of Christmas Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 8:00 am
Monday, January 1	



As we prepare for the solemnity of Christmas, we look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ. We hope to express our joy by filling the church with a bountiful display of poinsettias. The Liturgy committee is asking parishioners to donate poinsettia plants to the Church. We will need a great number of them to beautify the sanctuary. Please bring them to the rectory by December 20th or directly to the Church on December 23rd. Please note that the rectory is closed on Fridays.

Offertory Gifts

In order to be welcoming to all parishioners if you would like to bring up the offertory gifts please see an usher before Mass so it can be arranged. If a Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of a particular person, or a special thanksgiving mass for the living, that person or person's family members may like to bring up the gifts at the offertory.

Raffle Tickets

Please remember when returning your raffle tickets to return the **stub** with your name, address and phone number with your payment.

On Saturday, December 16th Devotion to the Two Hearts -1000 Hail Mary's and Divine Mercy will be recited after the 8:00 am Mass until 3:30 pm in the Rectory Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. (Your attendance for any length of time will be welcome.)