



OUR LADY OF THE *Assumption* PARISH

5057 COTTAGE WAY
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608
(916) 481-5115
WWW.OLAPARISH.NET
PARISH@OLAPARISH.NET

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Bulletin for the 3rd Sunday of Advent



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
and 7:30 p.m.**

**8:00 a.m. daily Masses
(Monday-Friday and first Saturday)**

**Holy Days of Obligation:
8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

Confessions

**Confessions are heard inside the church on
Saturday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.**

You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pastor

Rev. Eduino T. Silveira – pastor@olaparish.net

Pastors Emeriti

Rev. Brendan McKeefry & Rev. Michael F. Kiernan

Office Manager

Stacie Nieves – officemgr@olaparish.net

Worship and Communications

Casey Oliver – worship@olaparish.net

Communications

Jane Ricci – communications@olaparish.net

Faith Formation

Tracy Urban – faithformation@olaparish.net

Parish Maintenance

Jake Benjamin – olamaint@olaparish.net

**Emails from OLA Parish staff will be sent from an
@olaparish.net email address or sent from OLA Parish via
Flocknote (mail@flocknote.com). Please check the sender's
email address if you receive any suspicious emails. Thank you.**

OLA PARISH SCHOOL (Preschool – Eighth Grade)

Website: school.olaparish.net

Principal

Robert Love

Admissions

Elisabeth Gustorf – advancement@olaparish.net

School Office

Donna Eaddy – eaddy@olaparish.net

OLA ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

*Provides assistance for those in need
within our parish boundaries.*

Please call: (916) 481-6352

Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Food Locker hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday
mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Visit our website and join Flocknote for more information
about our parish, ministries, and upcoming events.**

olaparish.net  flocknote.com/olaparish

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!

 facebook.com/OLAParish

 instagram.com/ola_parish_ca

 youtube.com/@OLAParishCA

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Love and Serve God. Love and Serve One Another.

The Mission of the parish community at Our Lady of the Assumption Church is to proclaim the Word of God more fully, to gain a more intimate knowledge of God through our Catholic traditions, and to serve the people of God, especially in our efforts to meet the needs of the poor in our community, and when possible, around the world. We strive to build a sense of community among our parishioners, with the entire family of God.

DONATIONS

Due to early printer deadlines the December 6th/7th collections will be in the December 20th/21st bulletin.

Donations are made by people with big hearts and kind intentions.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



HELP AGING RELIGIOUS

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. **Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more.** Please give generously to today's 2nd collection or go to: <https://www.scd.org/retiredreligious>.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS

Pastoral Council: Carmy Baca

Finance Council: Joe Selewicz

Buildings & Grounds Committee: John Blaschke

To reach out to any advisory council chairperson, please call the parish office or email parish@olaparish.net.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION INFORMATION

If you have an event to promote or news to share, please fill out the Communications Request Form on our parish website at <https://olaparish.net/communications-committee>. All communications requests are subject to approval by Fr. Eduino. We will do our best to accommodate your timeline. For general questions or bulletin requests, you may also send an email to communications@olaparish.net. *Due dates may be earlier due to Printer's Holiday Schedule.

Bulletin Weekend Dates

December 27th – 28th

January 3rd – 4th

January 10th – 11th

Article Due Date

*December 15th

*December 22nd

*January 2nd

WEEK 3
Advent OLPI

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



If you are attending Mass in person or online but not yet registered? Please register today! This will enable you to get more information about liturgical and social events. Access our online form by scanning the QR code or go to: <https://olaparish.net/community/register-us>.



FLOCKNOTE ONLINE GIVING COMMUNICATION & DATABASE

PLEASE JOIN OUR FLOCKNOTE ONLINE GIVING

If you have not already signed up for Flocknote Online Giving, we ask you to please take a minute and sign up for continued recurring giving. **Flocknote Online Giving is an integral component of OLA's comprehensive parishioner communication and database system.**

Using Flocknote Online Giving is more convenient for both parishioners and parish office staff. You will have the ability to support OLA with Flocknote Online Giving, and it will allow you to:

1. Make one-time donations.
2. Set up automatic recurring giving.
3. Choose which fund you specifically want to donate to.
4. Print your own tax records.



Sign up for online giving through your existing OLA Parish Carmichael Flocknote account or by visiting <https://olaparish.flocknote.com/give>.

Please contact us for assistance, at 481-5115 ext. 212 or flocknotesupport@olaparish.net.

Flocknote Fund It transaction fees are the industry standard amount and the same as WeShare.

FLOCKNOTE SMARTPHONE APP

Flocknote also offers an app for your smartphone where you can easily:

1. Check parish communications
2. Access educational videos through Flocknote Engage
3. Access Flocknote Online Giving to make a gift
4. View your giving history
5. Update recurring gifts

STAY CONNECTED BY SIGNING UP FOR EMAILS



Keep current with details of OLA parish activities by visiting our Flocknote website by scanning the QR code using your smartphone camera or by visiting <https://olaparish.flocknote.com>.

Once there, be sure to join the **OLA Parish Carmichael News** and the **OLA Parish Carmichael Faith and Catechesis email groups** to receive important updates from OLA, including the weekly bulletin.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th

5:00 PM **Thanksgiving for blessings received.**
by Tambornini family
(Sp) Vicky Blackwell
by Sid Curry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th

7:30 AM † **Tom Willow**
by Saint Vincent de Paul OLA Conference

9:00 AM † **Monica Hayes**
by Chambers family

11:00 AM †† **Bill & Ellen Hallerman**
by Marylee & Jerry Johnson

7:30 PM **All Parishioners (Missa Pro Populo)**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th

8:00 AM † **Ann Neuhaus**
by Eric Neuhaus

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th

8:00 AM **(Sp) John Ronkowski**
by Kannengeiser family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th

8:00 AM † **Helen Gregorio**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th

8:00 AM †† **Bill & Ellen Hallerman**
by Chambers family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th

8:00 AM † **Wesley Apker (death anniversary)**
by Cathy Apker
† **Margaret (Peggy) Ingram**
by Sid Curry
† **Guadalupe Crespo**
by Daughters

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th

5:00 PM **(Sp) Vicky Blackwell**
by Sid Curry
† **Carole Vercruyssen**
by Selewicz family
† **Sue Oliver**
by Murphy family

OBSERVANCES FOR WEEK OF DEC. 14th

Sunday: **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Next Sunday: **4th Sunday of Advent**

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PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 14th

Masses: 7:30 am – 9:00 am
– 11:00 am – 7:30 pm
10:00 am – 1:30 pm Santa's
Breakfast – Affinito Hall
12:00 pm Baptisms – Church

Monday, December 15th

8:00 am Mass
8:00 am – 10:00 am Giving
Tree Gift Distribution – St.
John's Hall
9:30 am Meditation Group –
Church
6:15 pm Contemplative
Prayer & Penance Service –
Church

Tuesday, December 16th

8:00 am Mass
8:00 am – 10:00 am Giving
Tree Gift Distribution – St.
John's Hall
7:00 pm Baptism
Preparation Class – St.
Paul's Room

Wednesday, Dec. 17th

8:00 am Mass
11:00 am Martha & Mary –
St. John's Hall
6:00 pm Catholics in
Recovery – St. Anne's Room

Thursday, December 18th

8:00 am Mass
6:00 pm OLA School
Christmas Concert – Church
7:00 pm Living the Word –
Affinito Hall Mtg. Rm. 3

Friday, December 19th

8:00 am Mass
9:30 am OLA School Encore
Performance – Church
Saturday, Dec. 20th
3:30 pm Confessions –
Church
5:00 pm vigil Mass

**The parish office will be
closed:** Dec. 24th, 25th, 31st
and Jan. 1st.

**To see a complete calendar
parish website calendar at:**
<https://olaparish.net/calendar>

Dear God,

*Bring new life! Your love
creates and cultivates.
Bring Your power into the
places I think of as "deserts"
and your grace to the
prayers I fear may be
"deserted." You can redeem
and restore, bring a new
song to my heart. Amen.* ©LPI

**To request a Mass Intention, please come by the parish office or
call (916) 481-5115.** Mass Intentions refer to the practice of offering
a Mass for a specific purpose, such as for living or deceased
individuals. **This practice allows us to pray for others, both the
living and the dead. This is a meaningful way for Catholics to
express their faith and support for others through prayer.** The "†"
means that a person is deceased. The "(Sp)" means that it is a
Special Intention for someone in need or an event like a birthday. A
suggested donation in the province of the Archdiocese of San
Francisco, which the Diocese of Sacramento is part, is \$10.00 but if
a person cannot afford it there is no need for a donation.

PRAYER FOR OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

**O Blessed Virgin Mary, Assumed into Heaven,
You reign with your Son in glory.**

**We ask for your intercession,
that we may one day join you in the heavenly Kingdom
We thank you for watching over our parish
named in your honor.**

**Help us to continue to do the work of your Son.
Loving Mother, intercede for us in our needs,
and help us to live lives that are pleasing to God. Amen.**

GOSPEL MEDITATION

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
 Mathew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting – that which points to Christ?

– Fr. John Muir

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THANK YOU

Many thanks to Peggy & Dale Stradford who once again took on the daunting task of bringing Christmas to the needy families in our community! They, along with their "elves" (parish and school families and staff), gathered information, coordinated, double and triple checked lists, stored, bought, wrapped, and distributed gifts for 106 FAMILIES! They are truly inspiring.

FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY...

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May the souls of all the faithful
 departed, through the mercy of God,
 rest in peace. Amen.*
All Souls



PRAY FOR OUR SICK BROTHERS & SISTERS

BULLETIN SICK LIST POLICY

To ensure the privacy of people who are sick, please make sure you have their permission before submitting their name to the list.

The names will be added in alphabetical order. Once a name is added, it will be removed either when requested OR after six months, *unless there is a specific request to keep the name on the list for longer.*

To add a name, remove a name, or if a name has been removed that needs to be added back, you may call the parish office at (916) 481-5115 or email:

communications@olaparish.net.

Thank you.

Doug Abbes
 Cathy Apker
 Shannon Armstrong
 Doreen Baldwin
 Donna Blaschke
 Ryan Daniels
 Yolande De Forge
 Robert DeAnda
 John DeSouza
 Aaron Esselman
 Bobbie Hall
 Kathy Harreld
 Dorothy Heimbichner
 Matthew Holmes
 Christine Jansen
 Sheila Johnson
 Baby Kiyan
 Michael Kyalwazi
 Michael and Shannon Langer
 John Lemieux
 Kathleen Lemieux
 David DeLeonardis
 Dave Levin
 Elaine Lyons
 Delilah Macfal
 Bennett Mattingly
 Armie Mauricio
 Langford Metzger

Margaret Mongeau
 Jessica Montgomery
 Nguyen Family
 Kathleen Nolan
 Jane Osborn
 Dave Palmer
 Maria Passarelli
 Camille Peter
 Adam Peter
 T.J. Rapozo
 Rob & Teresa Reavis
 David Rider
 Guadalupe Rodriguez
 Mary Roy
 Marie Schuring
 Hannon Sulochana
 Emily Tuazon
 April Valencia
 Linda Vaughan
 Wesley Villariza
 Rachel Wann
 Tomasa Washington
 Charlie Wetherall
 Jack Wetherall
 Cole Miller Whitney (baby)
 Lawrence Wilhelm
 Pat Wood

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Distribution of the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners is available.

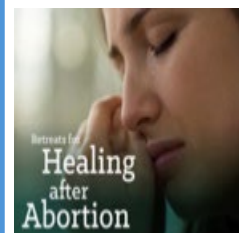
Eucharistic Homebound Ministers are dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners by bringing Christ to them and keeping them connected to our community. **Leave a message for Peggy Vellanoweth at the parish office if you would like to receive the Eucharist.**

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE THE GABRIEL PROJECT



**Pregnant? Worried?
 Need Help?**
Call (800) 910-0191
The Gabriel Project

FINDING HEALING AT RACHEL'S VINEYARD



**Call
 (916) 733-0161
 or email
projectrachel@scd.org.**
 All messages are confidential.

PARISH AND SCHOOL NEWS

OLA CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

This year, Christmas falls on a Thursday.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Wednesday, December 24th

at *4:00 PM (family Mass) and 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

Thursday, December 25th

at 12:00 AM (midnight)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Wednesday, December 25th

at 8:00 AM and *10:00 AM

*Masses with an asterisk will be livestreamed.



OLA YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHOIR AND ENSEMBLE



We need singers and instrumentalists for the OLA Youth Christmas Eve Choir and Ensemble at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass (3:00 pm arrival time).

Open to youth in grades K – 12.

There will be one in-person rehearsal: Monday evening, December 22nd, at 6:00 pm.

Sheet music and a preparation video will also be provided.

If your child would like to participate, please confirm his/her participation by emailing Casey Oliver, Worship Director, at worship@olaparish.net.

Thank you to all of our youth musicians and their families for sharing their time and talent!



ADULT FELLOWSHIP

OLA adult parishioners are welcome to a fellowship of Sunday prayer and a pickup Basketball game in Affinito Hall. Come to the church as early as 5:00PM if you like. There will be a group rosary at 5:30PM followed by basketball in Affinito Hall. Basketball will wrap up in time for those attending 7:30PM Mass. All players and spectators must be 18yrs or older and a registered parishioner. **Our next meeting is Sunday, December 28th!** Please contact Catherine Olguin at 916-223-1257 or catharina.936@gmail.com for questions.

JOIN US FOR SANTA'S BREAKFAST TODAY



Please join us for OLA's Santa's Breakfast on Sunday, morning, December 14th, from 10 am – 1:30 pm in Affinito Hall. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 for a family. Credit card or pre-pay with Givesmart only. No cash. **The shoppe will be open for the children. All gifts are \$1 each, gift-wrapping included. Children can drop off their letters to Santa, pose with Santa for photos, and shop for gifts while parents can shop for baked goods!**

WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS

John the Baptist is truly an intriguing figure in history. Hew was a cousin of Jesus and literally prepared all those who would listen for this new way of life ushered in by a Messiah. He lived differently and stood out among the status quo.

How do you stand out? What separates you from the crowd? God has created each of us completely unique and with a combination of gifts like no one else. How can you uncover and understand your unique gifts? First, reflect on what makes you happiest in life. **We are happiest when we are using the talents God gave us.** Next, think about what comes naturally to you, whether it is a skill, task, or emotion. Recurring patterns in our behavior and experiences provide clues to our giftedness. Finally, what do other people see in you? The communities we live in, whether it is our family, parish, school, or workplace are filled with people who can provide clues to us by their observations. After these steps, can you say what makes you special? **Now, let's start to grow that, lean on it, and stand out in a way that brings glory to God.** ©LPi

SCHOOL PROJECT



On November 15th, the school had a workday and as one of its projects, installed two steel canopies covering two of the school's picnic tables. The tables are used for lunch. The school has been using temporary cloth canopies, which quickly deteriorate and get damaged during heavy winds. **The parish and school would like to purchase three more of the steel canopies to cover its picnic tables. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of three steel canopies, they cost around \$1,000 dollars apiece.** Any donations would be used for purchasing the canopies. We will let you know when we have reached our goal of \$3,000 for the purchase. Thank you.

PRAYER AND FORMATION AT OLA

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**There will be no exposition on
December 16th, 18th, 23rd, and 25th.**



***Make time to pray
in the peaceful presence
of our Lord.***

***All are invited to pray a
Holy Hour if you have the
time to do so.***

To sign up for an Adoration time slot, please contact
Don Thamer at don.nprz6@gmail.com
or (916) 549-7195 mobile/text.

OLA MEDITATION GROUP

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" This group meets weekly on Mondays at 9:30 am in the church and follows Christian Meditation practice to help participants to grow in relationship with Christ. For more information, E-mail blrider2808@sbcglobal.net.



LIVING THE WORD SCRIPTURE STUDY

All are welcome for Living the Word Scripture Study on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Affinito Hall Meeting Room 3. At Living the Word, we discuss the Sunday scripture readings and how they apply to our daily lives.

RETURNING TO YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

If you are returning to your Catholic Faith, we would like to offer an informal conversation with a member of the parish staff to help facilitate a comfortable active return to our church community by sharing information on topics that may have changed in your absence: Sacraments, Explanation of Mass, Church Terminology, Divorce/Annulment, etc. as well as discussing the many OLA ministry options. Interested? Please leave a message for Casey at (916) 481-5115 ext. 212 or send an email: worship@olaparish.net. We are very excited to have you join our faith family!

CHOIR IN THE PEWS MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir in the Pews is a volunteer ministry that is open to all ability levels. We need prepared singers in the pews who are willing to sing out during Mass to support and encourage the singing of others. If you have been interested in participating in music ministry, but have never had the time, this ministry is for you! **Please email Casey Oliver at worship@olaparish.net to learn more.**

ADVENT CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AND PENANCE SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

**Advent Contemplative Prayer at 6:15 PM and
Advent Penance Service at 6:30 PM.**

Several priests will be present to hear confessions, and there will be live Advent instrumental Music.

**All are welcome to attend this prayerful event to help us
prepare our hearts for Christmas**

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Question: If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

Answer: **There is a popular expression that says, "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet!"** Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God's grace, we will succeed. ©LPI

OLA MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about ministry at OLA, visit our parish website: <https://olaparish.net/community/ministries>.

Do you wish to learn more about our parish ministries and/or sign up to become involved? Our Worship Director, Casey Oliver is here to help! **Please reach out to Casey via email at worship@olaparish.net. You may also call the parish office at (916) 481-5115 ext. 212.**

LEADING THE WAY

John the Baptist didn't have any modern technology in his toolbox as he was preparing the way for the Messiah, Jesus. **He moved people with a profound message and by the way he lived his life.** People questioned whether he was the One who was to come, but he assured them that he was not the One. Instead, all he did was to prepare people for Jesus' coming.

You and I can either lead people to Jesus by our words and actions, or we can lead them away from him. Our stewardship can be a powerful witness to how Jesus has changed our lives. Unfortunately, if we are not changed and instead act in ways that are contrary to a mature disciple, we can lead people down the wrong path. During the Advent season, there is much to be done in our homes and with our families to get ready for the celebration of Christmas. However, this is not about a day; it is about Jesus. May our actions and words bear witness to the transformative power of Jesus Christ in our lives, not just during this season, but all year long. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

LOVE AND SERVE GOD, LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER

GABRIEL PROJECT

Our newest mom is due December 30th. She and her husband have a two-year-old and a one-year-old. We have spent a lot of time with Miriam, her husband, and their new baby boy, helping them navigate parenthood, doctor's appointments, etc.

Rositha and her son are doing well. Next week, we hope to have an update on Paola and her baby's birth. For info. contact Sharon at skropf@winfirst.com or Rose at jross2331@att.net.

CATHOLICS IN RECOVERY

Join Catholic in Recovery Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. in St. Anne's Room. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected. We welcome those recovering from any addiction, compulsion, or unhealthy attachment.: For details: **Bill B. at (561) 827-0624 or bbefort@bellsouth.net or www.catholicinrecovery.com.**

PASTORAL COUNCIL INFORMATION PART 3

"Specifically, the purpose of the Pastoral Council is to enhance the process of pastoral planning, developing pastoral programs, improving pastoral services, and evaluating the pastoral effectiveness of various programs and services." – Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines, Diocese of Sacramento

The Pastoral Council meets monthly. Every parishioner should feel free to express thoughts and concerns to any member of the Pastoral Council at any time.

For details contact Pastoral Council Chair, Carmy Baca directly at cbaca_929@yahoo.com or by leaving a message with the parish office at (916) 481-5115.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Question: I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

Answer: While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is *Mary's* conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" – the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

©LPI



St. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OLA CONFERENCE

For those who need assistance and live within our parish boundaries, the OLA SVdP Food Locker is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

SVdP had 7 service days in November and served:

Total Households:	455	Total in Family:	1,697
Adults 18-62yrs.:	620	Seniors 63+yrs.:	329
Children 4-17yrs.:	557	Children 0-3yrs.:	191

The continued generosity of this parish made it possible to serve so many in need this month. **THANK YOU!**

DRIVERS are NEEDED to pick up Food for SVdP! A driver/s is urgently needed to pick up food from Winco every Wednesday between 8-9am. The person should be able to lift 50 pounds and have an SU V or small truck for transport. **We are also looking for back up and part-time drivers.** Please contact Dale Stradford at dstradford@ymail.com or at (910)471-8527.

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Join us for the 2025 Respect Life Conference, "Life, Our Sign of Hope" on January 3rd, from 9:30am – 3:00 pm at the Pastoral Center. Free event, lunch is provided, and all are welcome. Sign up using the link <https://forms.gle/zLSczPXK2SyUuBjx8>.

THE SEASON THAT GIVES BACK

I don't have anything left to give. You can't pour from an empty cup. All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons – seasons of the year but also seasons of life – that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability – maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life. – Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

Students: Please cut out the brick and bring it to school on Monday to add to your class board and help your class "build" their faith!

December 14, 2025



LYON
REAL ESTATE
DRE# 00443547

Nancy Arndorfer

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