

FROM THE RECTOR...

THERE WILL BE SIGNS...



Advent Sunday commences a New Church Year and with it a renewed spirit of hope and expectation. The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which is translated from the Greek *parousia*. Both words mean "arrival or coming". During Advent we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the First

Coming of Jesus on Christmas Day and his Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is also the Season we consider Last Things First...death, judgment, Heaven and Hell.

Saint Luke records Jesus' own words about his Second Coming in vivid detail in the 21st Chapter of his Gospel:

Jesus said, "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

"Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven."

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

We have seen lots of signs lately that have caused many Christians to ask, "Is this it?" A global pandemic, spectacular lighting strikes rarely seen in California, heat

waves and uncontrolled forest fires, twin hurricanes, locust plagues, and civil and political turmoil.

On Wednesday, September 9, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout much of Northern California awoke to orange-red skies and darkness throughout most of the day. Between the hours of 12:00PM and 3:00PM it got darker! Street Lights remained lighted, driving with car headlights on was mandatory and people wondered if "Apocalypse Now" was happening.

Are the global pandemic and weird weather punishments from God to a world increasingly out of order...or can everything be explained through science? God created science and the scientists diligently working to find a vaccine for Covid-19. If pumpkin-colored skies can convince people to turn away from selfish and destructive actions...and embrace God's love and forgiveness...then the message has gotten through.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24.36 and Mark 13.32, "No one knows" when he will return, then how do we interpret the social, political and civil unrest we are witnessing around us every day? How do we interpret weather that even shocked the experts on The Weather Channel? We must go back to what Jesus tells us in Luke 21, "**There will be signs**"....and it will not be a guessing game.

We have been in the End Times for centuries and will likely be in it for a while longer. How do we prepare ourselves for the First Coming of Jesus on Christmas Day and for his Second Coming at some unknown time in the future? How do we know we will **not** "faint from terror"?

Let's start by reading the Advent Collect every day during the Advent Season, as directed by the rubric on Page 90 in the *Book of Common Prayer*:

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

Happy Advent! Happy New Year! And blessings as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts on Christmas Day.

Father Craig Looney+

NOTICE

On Tuesday, November 17, San Mateo County moved from the less restrictive Orange Tier 3 back into the more restrictive Red Tier 2 due to an uptick in Covid-19 cases. For now...we are still able to meet in person for Sunday Mass. The Christmas Mass Schedule below could change. Please check your e-mail and the Parish website and Facebook Page for updates.

Christmas 2020

December 24 – Christmas Eve
5:00 PM – Blessing of the Crèche
Low Mass and Sermon

December 25 – Christmas Day
9:00 AM – Low Mass and Sermon

December 27 – Saint John Apostle and Evangelist
First Sunday after Christmas Day
9:00 AM – Parish Mass and Sermon



Contributions toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the Altar and Church for Christmas are due by Sunday, December 20. Contributions may be for any reason with thanksgivings and memorials being the most common.

CANS FOR GOD...



We have restarted our "Cans for God" aluminum can and plastic bottle (**no glass bottles**) recycling program. You may once again bring your crushed aluminum cans and plastic bottles to the Parish for recycling. Please keep cans and bottles separated. The proceeds from the recycling is used where needed within the Parish.

2021 ORDO KALENDARS...



We still have some 2021 Ordo Kalendars available. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the *1928 Book of Common Prayer* and *Anglican and American Missals*. It contains useful information on the Church Year, the Liturgical colors, and a List of the Dates of Easter through the Year 2050. Please pick up your copy after the Sunday Parish Mass. We will also be happy to mail one to you...just e-mail the Rector or leave a message on

the Parish Office answering machine.

VESTRY MINUTE...



The Vestry met after Mass on Sunday, November 22. A quorum was present.

Marcia Rayher presented the Minutes of the Virtual Vestry Meeting of September 13. The Minutes were approved as amended.

Candycy Francis presented the Financial Report as of October 31. Pledge Income is on target. Plate Income is substantially higher than budgeted amount. Net Expenses are slightly lower.

Father Looney addressed the matter of deferred building maintenance. He said we will have to get professionals involved to resolve some of the issues.

Jarry Mc Donnell has met with a company regarding the elevator. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

A Vestry Nominating Committee was formed to solicit nominations to serve on the Vestry to replace the two Vestry Members retiring at the Annula Parish Corporation Meeting.

The date for the January 2021 Executive Session Vestry Meeting was set for the 17th. The Annual Parish Corporation Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31. Both may be virtual meetings should San Mateo move backward into the most restrictive Purple Tier 1. We may rely on proxy voting for a Virtual APCM.

THE REAL SANTA CLAUS...



Yes, there really was a Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas of Myra, was the Christian bishop of the martime city of Myra in Asia Minor (modern day Demre, Turkey). He was born on March 15, 270 and died on December 6, 343. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, prostitutes, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students. The Dutch *Sinterklass* is the presumed progenitor of *Saint Nicholas* and the familiar man in the red suite...*Santa Claus*. His feast day, December 6, falls on the Second Sunday in Advent this year.

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tithes & offering

a seed you sow, not a debt you owe.

We thank all who have been regularly mailing their pledges and offerings to the church during this time of uncertainty. The Parish's expenses continue even during the times we have been unable to meet in person for Sunday Mass.

SPEAKING OF TITHES AND OFFERING...



The 2021 Every-Member Canvass letters will be mailed to all Parishioners during the week of December 13. The Biblical standard for giving since Old Testament times is the Tithe. Jesus places a higher standard on us: "To those to whom much has been given, much is expected; to those to whom much more has been given, much more is expected." (St. Luke 12.48)

Please give prayerful consideration when making your pledge for 2021. Please return your signed Pledge Card by Sunday, January 17, 2021.

2021 PARISH DIRECTORY...

The 2021 Saint Joseph Parish Directory will be distributed after the Parish Mass on Sunday, January 17, 2021. It's important we have your accurate contact information. Please notify the Rector...in writing...of any changes, additions or deletions to your address, telephone or e-mail.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting of Saint Joseph Parish, will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass.

Annual reports will be given by the Senior and Junior Warden and the Rector. Financial reports for 2020 will also be given. The Proposed Budget for 2021 will be presented for approval by the voting members of the Parish. New Vestry members will be nominated and elected.

Parishioners who have pledged to support the Parish financially for 2021 and have returned a signed and dated Pledge Card are entitled to vote at the meeting. Proxy voting is permitted. We encourage voting members of the Parish who cannot be present at the meeting, to complete a Proxy Voting Form and return it to the Parish Office prior to commencement of the meeting.

Prayer and Intercessions

We continue to pray for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces, that they may be brought home safely to their families and loved ones; for police departments throughout the country; for First Responders; for those searching for a vaccine and cure for COVID-19; and for peace in our Country, our State and our City. If you have someone you would like prayed for during the Intercessions at Sunday Mass...please give the name(s) to the Rector in writing.



SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT
THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

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