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Mass Times:  
SAT. 4:00 PM  
SUN. 9:45 AM  
Spanish Mass/  
Communion Service:  
Sun. 11:15 AM



Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!  
ISAIAH 35:3-4

## Joy: A Sign of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**nce, as I was teaching a theology course to college students in their twenties, I made an offhand comment that the purpose of life is not to be happy. They were shocked. "What's wrong with being happy?" they protested. "Nothing," I said, "it's simply not the purpose of life." "But God wants us to be happy," they insisted. Of course, God wants us to be happy, but that's simply not what life is about.

Happiness is something that comes in the back door while we wait at the front door. If we go looking for happiness, we never find it, but if we forget about ourselves and seek to bring joy into the lives of others, then happiness seems to find us. It comes in the back doors of life. Curiously, that seems to be the dynamic of these Advent/Christmas days. We send cards, give gifts, think of making others happy, and overlook faults. In the process, there is a sense of joy that overtakes us without our realizing it.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that it is God who would crown them with everlasting joy; that they would meet with joy and gladness and sorrow and mourning would flee away (Isaiah 35:10). Joy is God's doing, not ours.

Leon Bloy, a French novelist in the nineteenth century, observed, "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." God is love, and God is also joy. Joy is so much more than happiness. Rather it is an inner quality—peaceful, serene, and nurturing—even when life may be unsettled. ●

### Reflect

**What brings you joy?  
Do something to bring joy  
to someone this week.**

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Parish Email: [annunciationcaliforniamo@gmail.com](mailto:annunciationcaliforniamo@gmail.com)

Website: <http://annunciation.diojeffcity.org>

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 3:15 – 3:45 PM and by appointment.

**BAPTISMS:** By appointment.

**WEDDINGS:** Please contact at least 6 months in advance.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please call any time or by appointment.

***Bishop McKnight's December prayer  
intention for our Local Church***

**During the holiday season, may our self-centeredness be replaced with generosity; our frustration with compassion; our anxieties with patience; and our intolerance with understanding. We pray to the Lord.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

Dec. 10	4:00 PM	Dan Vanderfeltz
Dec. 11	9:45 AM	Parish
	11:15 AM	Denisse Martinez Gallardo
Dec. 13	8:00 AM	Jerry Day, Jr.
Dec. 15	8:00 AM	Sr. Deborah Muenks
Dec 17	4:00 PM	Parish
Dec 18	9:45 AM	Gary Bardwell
	11:15 AM	Souls in Purgatory

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## LITURGICAL ROLES

### Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm

Lector:	Russell Anderson
Servers:	Need Volunteer
Greeter:	Joyce Ziehmer/Kay Pearson
Song Leader:	Larry Dahler
Organist:	Jo Pummill
Rosary:	Russell Anderson

### Sunday - December 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 am

Lector:	Mary Lou Porter
Servers:	Nicki Frank/Shane Bax
Greeter:	Shawn/Shawna Bax
Song Leader:	Marian Fleischmann
Organist:	Jo Pummill
Rosary:	Marian Fleischmann

### Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm

Lector:	Becky Bloch
Servers:	Need Volunteer
Greeter:	Russell/Lisa Anderson
Song Leader:	Rosemary Bardwell
Organist:	Ruth Ann Jobe
Rosary:	Vickie Schroeder

### Sunday - December 18<sup>th</sup> 9:45 am

Lector:	Jacob Hoellering
Servers:	McCumber Family
Greeter:	Bernie/JoAnn Bestgen
Song Leader:	Bev Kleffner
Organist:	Ruth Ann Jobe
Rosary:	Ruth Ann Jobe

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## PRAYER LIST

Please Pray for these and all who are in need of prayer. Call the office to add someone or take someone off.

*Pat Roll; Linda Rodick; Linda Reichel; Mary Jo Garnett; Liz Schlup; Tucker Clough (great-grandson Linda Bardwell); Steve Gerlt; Dylann Henley; Lanny Wingate; Baby Lillian (granddaughter of Lori Heather) Vickie Schroeder; Marilyn Durk; Cody Schmidt; Betty Pringer; Debbie VanDieren, David Strickfaden; Ruth Ziehmer, Brenda Irely; Joann Ponder; Jackie Anderson; Jamie Bax; Stephanie Marshall; Jim Imhoff; Barb Glenn; Darrell Bolin; Chris Schoenthal; Larry Hoback; Sister Leona Bax; Roger Borgmeyer; Carol Baker; Amanda Imhoff; Connie Sack; Jeff Johnson; Gary Fleischmann; John & Barbara Reichl (parents of Bill Reichl); Louis Forck (grandson of Tim & Pauline Forck); Terry Carlson; Bob Winkler; Special Intention; Rachel Frank; Abe Baepler; Andrea Tilbury; Carol Rackers; Keith Connell; Alfred Rhodus*

## THIS WEEK AT ANNUNCIATION

<b>Saturday, Dec. 10</b>	Our Lady of Loretto
̄Mass 4:00 PM	Dan Vanderfeltz
<b>Sunday, Dec 11</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
̄Mass 9:45 AM	Parish
11:15 AM	Denisse Martinez Gallardo
	Religious Education
	Confirmation
<b>Monday, Dec. 12</b>	Our Lady of Guadalupe
5:45 PM	Rosary
8:00 PM	AA-Alon
<b>Tuesday, Dec 13</b>	St. Lucy
̄Mass 8:00 AM	Jerry Day, Jr.
<b>Thursday, Dec 15</b>	
8:00 AM	Sr. Deborah Muenks
	Food Truck
<b>Saturday, Dec. 17</b>	BVM
̄Mass 4:00 PM	Parish
<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
̄Mass 9:45 AM	Gary Bardwell
11:15 AM	Souls in Purgatory
	Religious Education

## PARISH NEWS

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers this week are from Mary Jo Ballenger in memory of the deceased members of her family.

### Upcoming

**Christmas Eve** – December 24th

4 PM Annunciation      7PM Annunciation - Bilingual

**Christmas Day** – December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:45 am Annunciation

### Christmas Flowers

Denis & Enda Mae Hagedorn	Rose/Clem Distler
Herman & Sylvia Loehnig	Margaret Strickfaden
Joe & Mary Agnes Ernst	Susan Dumsday
John & Rosalie Hentges	
Mildred & Elliott McPherson	

**Bambinelli Sunday** – Please bring your nativity set Baby Jesus to be blessed at both masses the weekend of December 17-18. This is a wonderful experience for children but adults are also welcome to bring theirs.

<b>Finance Statement for November</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	
Weekend Collections:	\$27,262.50
Additional Income: Reimbursements, stipends, building improvement fund, bus fare, mustard seed, misc.	\$2,803.79
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$30,066.29</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salary, FCIA	\$4,059.21
Liturgy & Worship Exp.	\$ 630.98
Repairs, Utilities, Grounds Upkeep, (carpet cleaning – basement floor buffed and waxed)	\$3,986.11
School Tuition & PSR Expenses	\$6,234.27
Mustard Seed, Diocese Reimb, printing, envelopes, misc., van ins.,	\$4,773.24
New Equipment – air conditioners	\$62,501.40
<b>Total Expenses,</b>	<b>\$82,185.21</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>-\$52,118.92</b>

### Weekly Collections - December

1<sup>st</sup> week: \$ 8,009.41      3<sup>rd</sup> week: \$

2<sup>nd</sup> week: \$                      4<sup>th</sup> week: \$

Hispanic \$357.00      Cedron Reimb. \$750.00  
Candles: \$29.64      Christmas Flowers \$75.00

### Nominations

Parish Council Elections are coming up again. We are asking that you send nominations of 3 parishioners to the parish office or Parish Council President Evelyn Jobe at [ejobe88@gmail.com](mailto:ejobe88@gmail.com) or 573-301-4945 by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Decorating for Christmas – Volunteers Needed

We will be decorating the church on Tuesday morning December 20<sup>th</sup> after 8AM mass. We need lots of volunteers to help.

**Calendars** for 2023 are in the back of church for you to pick up.

**Ministry List** for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day is in back of church. Please sign up. We can use your help.

### Mobile Food Pantry – Dec. 15 4:30-6:30 pm

Our truck will be a week earlier than normal due to Christmas. Please notify Letitia if you will be able to volunteer so we can assure we have enough help if the weather is very cold. Deliveries are available by calling the parish office by Tuesday morning.

### FORMED – Seasonal Suggestions

Parishioners who have begun using FORMED are very pleased with the content! If you need help getting started on your TV, phone, or device contact Letitia for assistance. Here are some suggestions to get you started.

**Advent Week 1-4:** Lots of short (~15 min) audio clips for personal reflection.

**The Messengers** presented by The Chosen: Video of the Christmas story through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. (~40 min)

**Mary of Nazareth:** Epic motion picture of the life of Mary. (~3 hrs)

**The Story of Christmas** presented by Brother Francis: Children’s audio drama great for a car ride. (~27 min)

# Dear Padre,

*I struggle with depression, and sometimes it gets really bad during the holidays. When is it morally acceptable to use antidepressant medication?*

You are not alone. People who struggle with depression often find the holidays especially difficult. To answer your question, it is morally acceptable to use antidepressant medications when a medical professional judges them to be the best response to the condition of the patient. As we learn more about the causes of depression and other disorders that challenge the sense of equilibrium in people, we hope that the most reliable responses may be found and employed to restore a sense of peace to those suffering from these ailments.

Evaluation and treatment of depression must be done within the context of a person's whole life. Depression often involves a chemical imbalance in the brain, and some people respond quite well to antidepressants. For others, the best treatment might be counseling or psychotherapy. Or both medicine and therapy. As each experience of suffering is unique, so, too, must be the response.

Frequently people will be embarrassed to admit to suffering with depression or consider it a sign of weakness or inability to deal with matters in life. Such thinking is of little help in resolving the issue. People who experience depression need the love and support of family and friends to accompany them in the suffering and to assist in their healing. ●

*From Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews, © 2011 Liguori Publications*



SHUTTERSTOCK

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25 Lk 7:18b–23	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 54:1–10 Lk 7:24–30	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 Jn 5:33–36	December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	December 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Every yes to God gives rise to stories of salvation for us and for others. Like Mary with her own yes. In this Advent journey, God wishes to visit us and awaits our yes. Let's think: Today, what yes must I say to God?*

ANGELUS, DECEMBER 8, 2016