

# SAINT CASSIAN PARISH

187 Bellevue Avenue Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 • (973) 744-2850 • stcassianchurch.org



## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:30PM

Sunday: 7:30AM; 9:30AM; 11:30AM

**Weekdays:** Tuesday through Saturday: 8:15AM

**Holydays:** 8:15AM and as announced

### Office Information:

#### Served by:

Rev. Steven D'Andrea, Parish Administrator  
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kulig, Weekend Assistant  
Deacon Roberto Demetillo  
Stephen Powers, Director of Music  
Keri Misurell, Director of Faith Formation  
Maria Llanes, St. Cassian School Principal

### Parish Phone Numbers

Parish Office .....(973) 744-2850  
Fax..... (973) 744-6187  
Email.....parishoffice@stcassianchurch.org  
Website .....www.stcassianchurch.org  
Religious Education Office.....(973) 744-2850  
Music Office .....(973) 744-7864  
St. Cassian School.....(973) 746-1636  
Fax.....(973) 746-3271  
Email.....info@stcassianschool.org  
Website.....www.stcassianschool.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00AM—3:30 pm

**OCIA** (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly RCIA) Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation? Call the parish office for details.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated one Sunday each month except during Advent, Lent and the summer months. In order to baptize your child at St. Cassian, the family must be registered parishioners. Parents, and godparents if available, must attend a preparation class (7:00 PM) prior to the date of baptism (1:00PM). Once registered, contact the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to make arrangements for the date of baptism. See schedule on the next page. Scan here to download Parish Registration Form



Arrangements to celebrate the **Sacrament of Marriage** must be made at least one year before the desired date. Do not make firm plans for the reception prior to speaking with a priest. Call the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to speak with a priest.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and courage. It is not necessary to wait until the point of death for anointing. Contact a priest through the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday between 4:15PM-5:00PM in the church or at another time convenient to the priest and penitent.



**For those who are ill:**

John Anderson	Leigh Major
Alesia Maria Andras	Sr. Idoia Martinez
Mary Blatz	John McCarthy
Leo Botwin	Patricia Melo
Penelope Brisco	Frank Mongioi
JoAnne Callahan	Thomas Nelson
Dominic Capella	Dr. David Pallotta
John Flynn	Rosemary Raleigh
Dennis Gannon	Ronald Rego
Virgilio Geulen	Dr. Lorraine Reyes
Dan Greiner	Jaxson Rivera
Steve Grube	Rhonda Sen
David Hogan	Elizabeth Smith
Noel Jordan	Olaf Stechow
Cassie Lopolus	Dennis Swanson
Marcia Mann	Lindsay Trembulak

**For those who have died:**

Michael Demaio

**THE ALTAR BREAD IS OFFERED IN MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH CONROY**

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH CONROY**

Please remember these names in your daily prayers.

**ROSARY INTENTIONS...**

<i>Monday</i>	For safety and freedom for the people of Ukraine
<i>Tuesday</i>	All military and protective services especially in areas of violence; protect them, grant peace to their loved ones
<i>Wednesday</i>	Respect for sanctity of life from conception to natural death
<i>Thursday</i>	Unity among churches and nations
<i>Friday</i>	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life; all parishioners living and deceased

**Baptism Schedule**

January 2024	Baptism	January 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	January 9 <sup>th</sup>
February 2024	Baptism	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	February 6 <sup>th</sup>
April 2024	Baptism	April 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	April 9 <sup>th</sup>

**Mass Intentions for the Week of December 10**

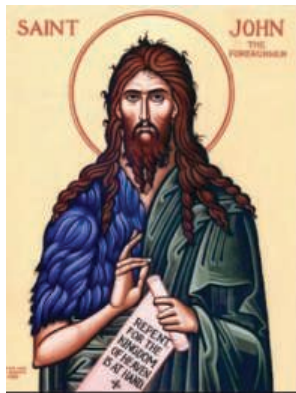
<b>Sunday December 10th</b> Second Sunday in Advent	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	People of the Parish James McHugh Rosa Rosario Rodriguez Joseph Conroy 35th anniversary
Tuesday - Saturday morning masses are celebrated at 8:15AM; Monday morning mass is private		
<b>Monday Dec 11th</b> St. Damasus I, Pope	Maria de los Reyes	
<b>Tuesday Dec 12th</b> <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	Rene, Perly & Ernie Cayetano	
<b>Wednesday Dec 13th</b> St. Lucy	Florence Penny Deceased Members of the Edward F. Gaffney Family	
<b>Thursday Dec 14th</b> St. John of the Cross	Protection of babies in the womb and their Families	
<b>Friday Dec 15th</b> Weekday in Ordinary Times	James Tracy	
<b>Saturday Dec 16th</b> Weekday in Ordinary Times	Thomas Saal	
<b>Sunday Dec 10th</b> Third Sunday in Advent	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	JoAnn McClear 20th anniversary James McHugh People of the Parish Linda Loverro

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MON.</b>	Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Lk 5:17-26
<b>TUES.</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>WED.</b>	Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 Mt 11:28-30
<b>THUR.</b>	Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab Mt 11:11-15
<b>FRI.</b>	Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Mt 11:16-19
<b>SAT.</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>SUN.</b>	Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

May 2024	Baptism	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	May 7 <sup>th</sup>
June 2024	Baptism	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	June 4 <sup>th</sup>

# Second Week of Advent



The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent focus on John the Baptist. He stands in the desert, roughly clothed, ascetic, stark, preaching a message of power. The One is coming, he says, Repent!

Advent resounds with the theme of reconciliation and the call to repentance. That call is not about dwelling on our sins and being even more burdened by them. Quite the opposite, reconciliation ( aka “confession”) is an opportunity to talk to God about the times we’ve messed up, made poor choices, have not been the best versions of ourselves, or turned our backs on God. Reconciliation is an opportunity for us to say sorry to Him and ask for forgiveness. It is also an opportunity for the priest to share some ideas about how we can do better in the future. Reconciliation is one of the ways God blesses us with the grace to become the best version of ourselves, grow in virtue, and live holy lives.

Despite this truth, it is common for people to feel nervous and/or resist confession. Yet, if we don’t go to Reconciliation, our hearts can become heavy, weighed down by the ways we’ve “messed up”. Please know that confessions are completely confidential and without judgment. Do not worry about “doing it right” and remember, practice makes progress. Do not deprive yourself of the gift of Reconciliation this Advent. In addition to the standard time for Reconciliation ( “confession”) on Saturdays at 4:15—5 PM, Reconciliation ( “confession “) will also be offered on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.

This Advent season, let us allow Reconciliation to bring us peace in our hearts, minds, and spirits, help us live with joy and share joy with others, and bring us into closer union with God.

For those of us who could use a refresher, please note the following steps of Reconciliation:

1. Prepare before you go. Examine your Conscience: Look inward and determine what things, thoughts or actions are keeping you from a closer relationship with Jesus. Consider instances when you were not the best version of yourself. Here are a few guides that may help: The Ten Commandments , Beatitudes, [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)., [relevantradio.app](http://relevantradio.app) ( confession helper). You should not simply just go to confession. But rather make the best confession possible.
2. Arrival at Church– Take a few minutes to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.
3. Upon entering the confessional, the priest will welcome you and you will make the sign of the cross.
4. Say: “Forgive me Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was ( insert). These are my sins ( state).”
5. The Priest will offer you counsel and give you an appropriate penance.
6. The Priest will invite you to make an Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.”
7. The Priest prays a prayer of absolution, to which you say “ Amen”. If the priest add “Go in peace” , you say “Thanks be to God”.
8. Do your assigned penance.

# Advent Customs around the World

One of the best things about celebrating a Catholic Christmas are the final days leading up to Christmas Eve. There are several long-standing Catholic cultural traditions that take us through these final days of Advent, heightened with anticipation in so soon welcoming the birth of the King of Kings.

## Latin America

The *Las Posadas* ("The Inns") celebrated in Latin American countries, and *Simbáng Gabi* ("Night Mass") in the Philippines are just two examples of nine-day celebrations beginning on December 16 and continuing until December 24. The Latin American tradition of *Las Posadas* dramatized the hope and expectation of Advent. Over the course of the nine nights from December 16 to 24, a man and a woman representing Joseph and Mary travel to neighborhood homes, bringing to life the search for a place for Mary to birth (*posadas* means "inn"). They and the crowd following them, sing hymns and carry candles. It is only the third house of the evening that finally lets them in. At that point, a celebration, often including praying the rosary, begins.

## Philippines

In the Philippines, *Simbang Gabi* entails nine very-early-morning Masses celebrated on those days, followed by community breakfast feasts. And, in Germany and some eastern European countries, it has been traditional to mark each night of those nine days with a procession carrying an image of either Mary or Joseph from house to house.

## China

**China might not immediately come to mind when you think of Advent, but roughly 5.1% of the population of 1.41 billion is Christian, according to the CIA World Factbook. That's almost 72 million people. Chinese Christians light up their homes with colorful paper lanterns during Advent, and you might find red paper pagodas cut out and placed in windows. They follow many of the traditions that were brought by Western missionaries. An emerging Christmas tradition is the giving of apples, sometimes sold in stores wrapped in colored paper.**

## Martinique

In the French Caribbean island of Martinique, *la ribote* is a longstanding tradition where families visit their neighbors during Advent and on New Year's Day bearing holiday food like yams, *boudin créole*, *pâtés salés*, and pork stew. They sing Christmas carols together into the early hours of the morning, adding their own creole verses to traditional lyrics.

## Switzerland

Swiss families make their own advent calendars for the holiday season. These calendars are either given to children as a surprise or made together as a fun activity. Each day's bag reveals a new surprise or treat, with the biggest gift on Christmas Eve.

## Columbia

On December 7 Colombia honors Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with *Noche de las Velitas* (Night of the Little Candles), an enchanting celebration that marks the start of the holiday season. Colombians light up their homes and streets with millions of white and colored *velas* (candles) in patterned paper lanterns. The Night of the Little Candles was once a small-scale, family-centric affair, but over the years the decorations have become more creative and sophisticated, and electric lights are often used. Celebrations have become increasingly public too, with music and fireworks as well as food markets. You can see something similar in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the beloved Christmas Eve *Farolito Walk* up Canyon Road. Here the tradition calls for simple paper bags filled with a bit of sand and a tealight.



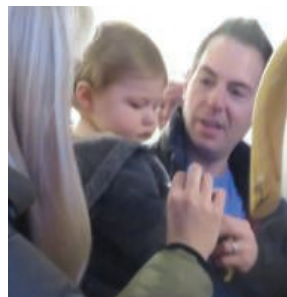
# Advent Customs around the World cont'd

One of the traditions here at St. Cassian is the making of an Advent wreath . While a formal one is used in the church proper , a fun activity is to make one for the home. Traditionally, Advent wreaths have four candles that represent the four weeks of the season. The subsequent lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope of our Lord's coming into the world at Christmas, as well as the anticipation of his second coming at the end of time. Advent wreaths are traditionally made of evergreen branches. There are four candles: three violet and one rose colored. Each of the candles has a specific meaning. The Advent wreath is a beautiful way to enter into reflection alone or with your family. Over 30 families participated. A good time was had by all.



## A Visit from St. Nicholas

Father Steve received a phone call from St. Nicholas . St. Nicholas was checking up on him. Fr. Steve told St. Nicholas that St. Cassian was the "best". So St. Nicholas came to visit at all the masses on 12/2 & 12/3 and gave candy to "all good boys & girls".



# NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**Mass Schedule for the 4th week of Advent and Christmas**  
**4th Week of Advent**  
 Saturday, December 23, 2023 @ 5:30 pm  
 (followed by Children's pageant)  
 Sunday, December 24 @ 7:30 & 9:30 am  
 (No mass at 11:30 AM on Dec. 24)


**Christmas**  
 Sunday, December 24 4:00 pm Children's mass  
 6:00 pm  
 10:00 pm Choir Carols  
 10:30 pm Mass

Monday, December 25 7:30 am  
 9:30 am  
 11:30 am

## Parish Calendar

December 10 Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30 AM  
 Parish Carol Sing 5 pm  
 December 12 Confessions 6-8 pm  
 December 13 Advent Book Club 7:30 pm—8:30 pm  
 December 16 Breakfast with Santa 9-12 school gym  
 Register online or from the bulletin  
 December 19 Confessions 6-8 pm  
 December 20 Advent Book Club 7:30 pm -8:30 pm  
 December 23 Children's Christmas pageant  
 after 5:30 pm Mass

*Giving Tree activity on-going now through 12/10*



*Please drop off unwrapped gifts with the child's name (tag) to the Parish Office by the tree.*

**Advent Book Club**

We will be reading "God is in the Manger Reflections on Advent & Christmas" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The discussion /meeting dates are:  
 Wednesdays 12/13 & 12/20  
 at 7:30—8:30 pm  
 Larkin Hall  
 Contact the parish office for more details

SIGNS OF STEWARDSHIP	Gift of Treasure 11/18—11/19
<i>Minimum weekly needed</i>	\$16,250
<i>Regular Weekly Collection</i>	\$4,442
<i>Faith Direct Average</i>	\$6,765
<i>Weekly Total</i>	\$11,207

## Ministers for the Weekend of December 16/17

	5:30PM	7:30AM	9:30AM	11:30AM
<b>Altar Servers</b>	O & E Zaccone	C. Grube	J. Imbesi J. Misiukewicz N & C Horvath	M & L Gimelli A. Paloma
<b>Lector</b>	Lisa Higgins	Hector Zayas	Charles Meyer	Ozzie Llanes
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Tom Higgins Patrick O'Neill Barbara Gregory Marguerite Giustina	Joanne & Michael LaQuaglia John Rogers	Jerry & Eileen Fasanella Tom Johnson Marie Meyer	Betty Ann & David Connolly Linda Davidson Maria Llanes
<b>Hospitality</b>		Irena Gaspri Kathy Carney Dee Dee McCoy	A. Tantillo Mary Byra 1 needed	Marion Turek Dwyer Family

# Order Flowers & Decorations for our Church



**Memorialize a Loved One**  
with a Christmas plant around the Altar  
during the Holiday season.

**Return completed form to Parish Office by 12/20/23.**

.....

# Plants \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 per plant \_\_\_\_\_

# Decorations \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 per decoration \_\_\_\_\_

Print Clearly Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of**  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requested by** \_\_\_\_\_



25th Annual

Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, December 10, 2023 5:00PM

Mark your calendar

# Children's Christmas Pageant



December 23, 2023



after 5:30 pm Mass

Please join us!

## An Advent Carol

Presented by *the Xavier Company*

A musical drama celebrating the Advent Journey



DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER: CAROL FERRONE  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GERARD DeMAN, JR.  
PLAYWRIGHT: J.S. Pecorella

FEATURING: Pasqualino Beltempo, Nikki Casseri\*, Annie Lewis, Leo Grinberg,\*  
Rebekah Rawhouser,\* Brandon Schraml\* Tony Bartoli, Percussionist  
\*Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

FREE ADMISSION:  
FAMILIES WELCOME!!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th  
4:00 PM

LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING:



Donations Welcome

CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
88 RIDGE STREET  
NEWARK, NJ 07104  
973-484-4600

## The Cathedral Concert Series Fifty-Second Candlelight Carol Sing

Cathedral Choir and Instrumental Ensemble  
John J. Miller, conductor  
Kristin Johnson, organist

Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
and  
Thursday, December 14, 2023

Performances Begin at 8 PM  
Doors Open at 7 PM  
Ramped Entrance on Ridge Street

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
Park and Clifton Avenues, Newark

For more information call 973-484-2400  
[www.cathedralbasilica.org](http://www.cathedralbasilica.org)





**Saturday December 16**

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**St. Cassian School Gym**

**Registration Required by Wednesday 12/13**



**Return a paper registration to the parish office**

**or**

**Register on the website under Events**

Sponsored by Knights of  
Columbus Council  
#1277

**Adults \$8.00 Children \$5.00**

**Family \$20**



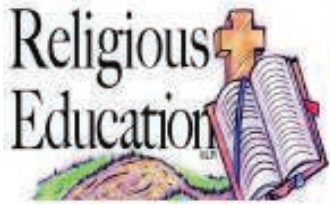
**Registration for Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday December 16, 2023**

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Payment taken at door . \$8.00 per adult \$5.00 per child \$20 Family



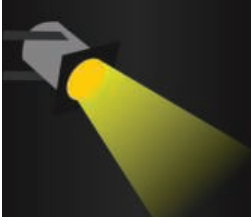
**Classes this week**  
Sunday 10:30AM—11:30AM  
Monday 5:00PM - 6:00PM  
Tuesday 5:30PM - 6:30PM

For information regarding our Faith Formation Program please contact

Keri Misurell or Judy Nash at 973 744 2850



## Spotlight on Faith Formation



Across grades one through eight, students have been busy exploring important questions such as “How does God share his life with us?”, “How do we praise and thank God?”, and “How do we celebrate God’s forgiveness and healing?”.

Recent lessons have included “God is my Good Shepherd”, “Thankful Trees”, and “Ten Commandment Hopscotch”. Eighth graders have also been helping second graders prepare for the Sacrament of First

Reconciliation in January by practicing the Act of Contrition with them. Outside of the classroom, families gathered recently to create Advent Wreaths to take home to center their faith.

Across grades, the students are learning that **prayer is a conversation with God, not just something we do before meals, at Church, or before bed.** These are important ways to pray, but God wants us to talk to him throughout the day. We have an opportunity, as children and as adults, to develop the healthy habit of turning to God in prayer at any moment of the day and asking him to guide us to make the best decision possible. To reinforce this, we match 2nd and 8th grade sacramental candidates as prayer partners and distribute bookmarks with the prayer partners’ names. All are encouraged to try the following Prayer Process, based on Examen and dynamiccatholic.com (prayer process wallet cards are available in the Church lobby- please take one):

- Gratitude – Thank God for whomever and whatever you are most grateful for today.
- Awareness – when were you and were you not the best version of yourself in the past 24 hours?
- Significant Moments – What is God trying to say to you today?
- Peace – Ask God to forgive you and fill your heart with peace.
- Freedom – Talk to God about a way he is inviting you to change and grow.
- Others – Pray for the other people in your life by asking God to guide and watch over them.
- Pray the Our Father.

May God continue to bless you, your families, and the families of the parish.

Keri Misurell  
Director of Faith Formation





### St. Damasus I, Pope— Dec. 11

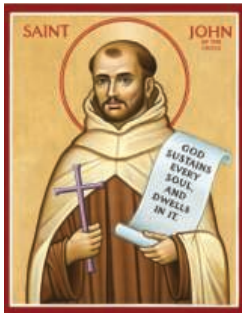
Damasus, a Spaniard, was born around 305. He joined the Roman clergy and in 366 was elected bishop of the Roman See. He convoked synods to combat numerous schisms and heresies and did much to promote the cult of martyrs, on whose tombs he inscribed verses he himself composed. He died in 384.



### St. Lucy—Dec 13 Patron Saint of the Blind and Eye Disorders

A disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed at Syracuse, Sicily, probably during the Diocletian persecution, and her cult soon spread throughout almost the entire Church. Her name is included in the list of names in the Roman Canon of the mass. She is the patroness of eyesight. Lucy, whose name can mean “light” or “lucid”, is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden place holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is the symbol of victory over evil.

A Scandinavian custom celebrates the light of her Christian witness in the tradition of a young woman of the house wearing a wreath with lit candles upon her head. St. Lucy (sometimes referred to as Lucia) is a widely celebrated Catholic saint and martyr whose feast falls on the 13th of December. A key part of this feast includes the making of St. Lucy Cakes, also known as Lussekake, which are sweet buns threaded with delicate saffron.



### St. John of the Cross—December 14

John was born at Fontiveros , Spain, around 1542. After some years in the Carmelite Order, he was persuaded by Saint Teresa of Avila in 1568 to initiate a reform; in this laborious task he persevered until his death at Ubeda in 1591. His reputation for sanctity and wisdom is confirmed by his spiritual writings.



On the weekend of December 9-10, participating dioceses will take up the annual collection that benefits approximately 24,000 elderly religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the United States. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), the collection provides qualified religious institutes with financial aid to address retirement necessities.

Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to Church ministries such as parishes, schools and health-care institutions, usually with little to no compensation. Consequently, a significant number currently have insufficient retirement funds, combined with escalating health-care costs. Numerous religious communities in the United States are experiencing challenges with providing for their elderly members and are confronting a sizable disparity between available funds and the costs of care.

Per the 2023 statistics collected by the NRRO, a mere 6% of religious communities that shared data with the NRRO reported having sufficient retirement funding. Since the fund's inception, U.S. Catholics have graciously contributed more than \$975 million, with almost \$842 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. From 2009 onwards, the annual expenses of supporting senior women and men religious surpassed \$1 billion.







## Our Lady of Guadalupe—Dec 12 Patroness of the Americas, Mexico and the Unborn

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story. A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led

poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared there was an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

We have a tiny picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church's stained glass windows. Can you find it?

### The Image as Pictograph

The Image of Our Lady is actually an Aztec Pictograph which was read and understood quickly by the Aztec Indians.

1. THE LADY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SUN - She was greater than their dreaded sun-god "Huitzilopochtli".
2. HER FOOT RESTED ON THE CRESCENT MOON - She had clearly vanquished their foremost deity, the feather serpent "Quetzalcoatl".
3. THE STARS STREWN ACROSS THE MANTLE - She was greater than the stars of heaven which they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on December 12, 1531, for the stars that she wore are the constellation of stars that appeared in the sky that day!
4. THE BLUE & GREEN HUE OF HER MANTLE - She was a Queen for she wears the color of royalty.
5. THE BLACK CROSS ON THE BROOCH AT HER NECK - Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her son.
6. THE BLACK BELT - She was with child for she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt.
7. THE FOUR-PETAL FLOWER OVER THE WOMB - She was the "Mother of God." The flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity - the center of the universe.
8. HER HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER - She was not God but clearly there was one greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross on her brooch.
9. THE DESIGN ON HER ROSE-COLORED GARMENT - She is the "Queen of the Earth," for she is wearing a map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place. Source: catholiceducation.org



# Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?

YOU'RE BEING SUCH A GOOD HELPER!



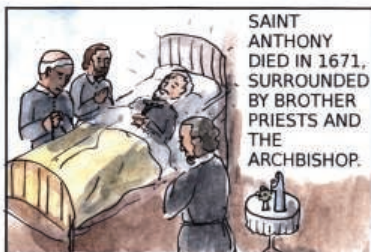
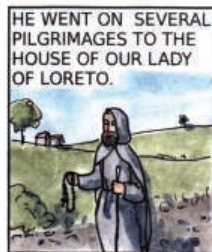
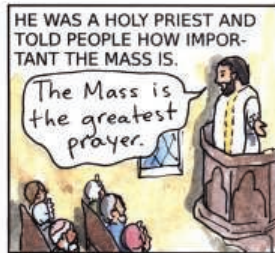
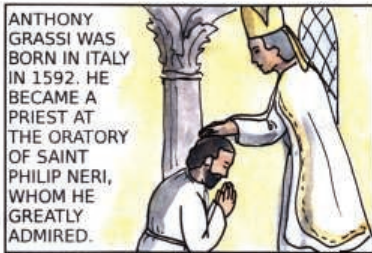
First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our

sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"

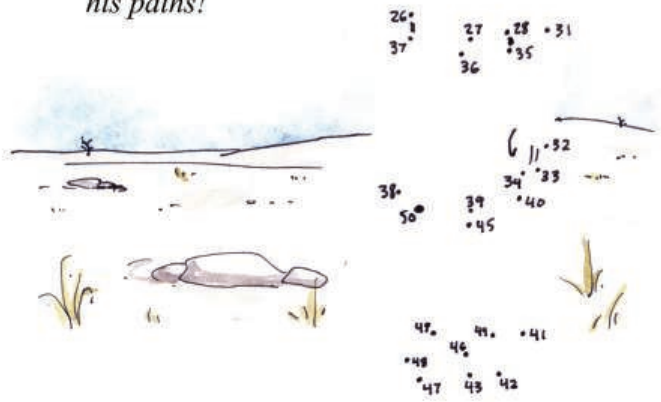
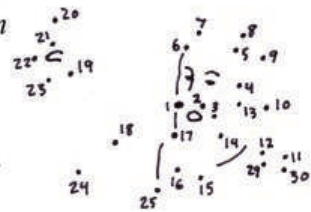


Answers to front page: Saint John the Baptist. Answer to Isaiah 40 Word Find: The Messiah is coming!

## Blessed Anthony Grassi December 13



I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!"



What did God send before Jesus to prepare the people for His coming?  
Connect the dots to find out!

## ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

A Z I O N B O S O M T H  
R T E S O E L M L O R D  
M I G H T H A E R U S J  
S D R E C O M P E N S E  
S I S P I L B S W T F R  
T N A H H D S A A L U  
R G G E N T L Y R I O S  
E S A R I F E E D N C A  
N S T D C C A R R Y K L  
G O H M J U D A H I N E  
T B E F O R E H I G H M  
H G R U L E S Y O U N G



Find the words in CAPITALS in today's first reading in the puzzle. Then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end!

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.





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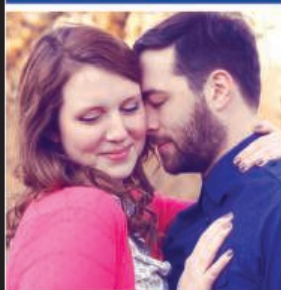
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