



THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order (OFS)
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.

www.slr-ofs.org



Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 A
Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass
Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from 12:00-12:50 PM
General Meeting in the Luiseño Room from 12:30-3:00 PM

Upcoming Gathering on Dec. 3, 2017

Council Meeting after general meeting at 3:15 pm till?

Future Meetings:

Jan. 7, 2018, Feb. 4, 2018, Mar. 4, 2018, April 1, 2018 dates subject to change.

Thoughts on the Holy Season of ADVENT

1st Sunday of Advent: Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. **Watch**, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!**"

2nd Sunday of Advent: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: **"One mightier than I is coming** after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



3rd Sunday of Advent: A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?"

What do you have to say for yourself?" He said:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

4th Sunday of Advent: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, **you will conceive** in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, The **Holy Spirit will come** upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the **child to be born** will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Yes, we all know this/these Gospel stories, and hear it repeated every year, but do we think about what it is saying? We see references to waiting, preparing, straightening..., and just how are we going to prepare/straighten the way/road to our heart this advent? Yes this advent;

- are we going to attempt to say those prayers that we constantly forget?
- try to make it to Mass on more weekdays?
- incorporate more scripture and spiritual reading into our days?
- try to discipline ourselves in so far as our duties to God, country and family are concerned?
- etc., etc....

There are many things that a person can do as we wait, watch and prepare during this Holy Season of Advent.

The word "will" comes into sight, as we anticipate these things that are coming, yes coming in the next few liturgical weeks in this beautiful season of advent.

Read these Gospel stories, just what do you see in them, what are they saying to you? Bring your thoughts to our December gathering so that we can share them...

About Advent Wreaths

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. www.usccb

Have we taken the time to think of the simple signs of Christmas and our period of preparation here before the Sacred Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus?

Oh, one more, the word "Christmas." Have you thought about the origin of this term, well it comes from ancient times when the Christian world was mostly Catholic or Orthodox, and the main event on the Holy day was the solemn celebration of a sung/chanted "Solemn High Mass," entitled in the Missal of the period as "Christ's Mass," that over the passage of years became our common term of **CHRISTMAS**.

Not an event/celebration of, "I," but of "Him," Christ the Lord. When I say "I," it is because you constantly hear people saying, "This is what "I" want for Christmas..." or, "You want to make me happy, give me a ____ for Christmas." when we should think of the reason for the season first, and the reason for the season is Jesus who should be our first concern on this, one of the holiest days of our "Liturgical (Catholic) Year."

Yes, you are more than welcome to bring and share about your family's traditions about Christmas to our Advent Gathering... we can have the Joy of Christmas during this Holy Season with our reminiscing about the celebrations around Christmas in our families.
Editor.

Note of Interest:

We only have 3 weeks (22 days) in advent this year due to the 4th Sunday of Advent falling on Christmas Eve so be sure to check your parish bulletin for Mass times on the 24th of December... I know that OMSLR's has lots of changes for Christmas and New Year's. Your parish may also have lots of changes, so don't forget to check your parish bulletin.

Bethlehem - A Sacred Place

We tell stories to communicate who we are as a family and a community, to talk about great mysteries. In a Franciscan community, we tell the story of Francis at Greccio and how Francis shared the story of the Incarnation – of Jesus being born into the world. With the help of the local community, Francis set up a beautiful live enactment of the Christmas creche to bring the joy of Bethlehem to everyone a very real way. Francis shared this scene in the context of the celebration of the Mass.

Francis instinctively understood the centrality of the Eucharist in our relationship with God. Through Greccio, Francis was communicating to the people that God was not only transcendent in great exultation up in the heavens, but also amazingly close to us as the vulnerable little baby in Mary's arms. Francis was also showing us that Jesus is just as close to us in the Eucharist - that the Most High, glorious God of the Universe becomes something we experience directly in the form of humble bread and wine at each and every Mass. To Francis, Bethlehem was not only a physical place where Christ was born, but a sacred place in the human heart.



Giotto, represented this Incarnational theology in his art. Here is detail of Greccio from the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. In it, Giotto portrays St. Francis holding the Christ child and playing him in the manger. Just above to Francis's shoulder is the ambo from which Scripture is proclaimed, and above Francis to the right is the priest at the Altar with the Eucharistic bread to be consecrated. Giotto brings together these elements as did Francis – that our Most High, Glorious God comes to us in the form of a little baby, so does our become loving accessible to us in Scripture and the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist.

To Francis, and hopefully to us as well, the humility and poverty of the Incarnation are not just about Christmas

and the Christmas crèche, but are real and alive at each and every celebration of the Eucharist and welcomed with love in the hearts of the Faithful.

- *Laura Chun, OFS*

*MERRY
CHRISTMAS*



OMSLR Sanctuary, 2015



Christmas crèche from OMSLR 2016, image by editor

Reminders from our Formation Director



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting, please call Sandy for more information
God Bless,
Sandy Baden, OFS
Director of Formation

Anniversaries of Profession



12-10-2006 Penny

Memorials



December 4, 2002
December 29, 1998

Mary P. Ryan Molnar
Mae Coash

Birthdays



This month, we will think of the most important 'Birthday' Feast on the Church calendar, that of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25, as we have no known member birthdays this month.

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of Donna our Minister in her journeys during this busy time of year.
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, and all Diocesan Bishops for all of our pastors, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes.
- For the victims of war and terrorism throughout the world.
- For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, especially: our council, our brothers and sisters who are in formation, our elderly and or homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings.
- Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayers.

Remember to read the attachments, as we have an awesome one from Fr. Higgins TOR on 'social justice.' Along with the regional newsletter... etc.



Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you.

Or mail to: Eileen Costa, OFS

Fraternity Council



Minister
Donna Foley, OFS



**Secretary
Newsletter Editor,**
Carol Imhoff, OFS



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