

# Welcome

To our communities of faith

## Our Divine Saviour Catholic Church

12<sup>th</sup> Street and Love Avenue  
Tifton, GA

And

St. William Catholic Church  
807 S. Merrimac Dr.  
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

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**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 7, 2025**

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*Pastor*

*Rev. Peter Oyenugba, MSP*

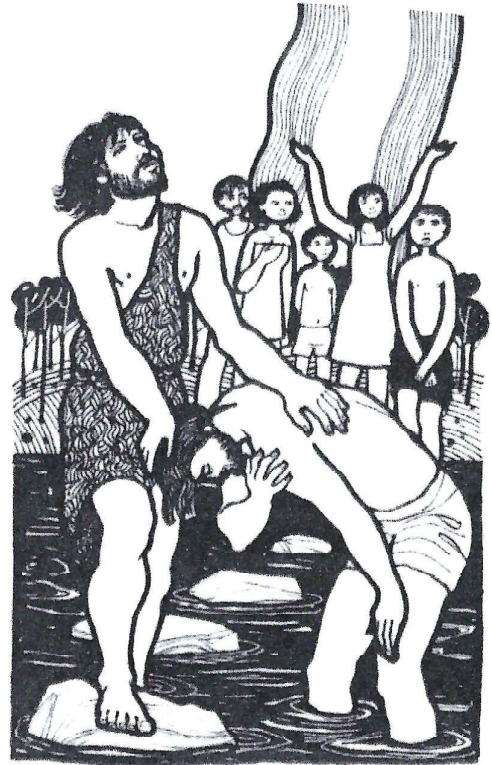
*Deacon*

*J. Brian Bergeron*

*Deacon*

*Eric Windmoller*

***Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.  
Psalm 72***



*In the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist is introduced preaching a message of conversion: "Reform your lives! The reign of God is a hand."*

*John the Baptists' preaching demanded a radical conversion of the whole person to God.*

*On this Sunday, we focus on preparation for Christ.*

## Our Divine Savior

Office phone: 229-382-4600

Fax: 229- 382-7611

Email: [ods@friendlycity.net](mailto:ods@friendlycity.net)

Website: [odstifton.org](http://odstifton.org)

Office Address: 211 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Church Address: 1205 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 212, Tifton, GA 31793

### Office Hours

**Monday – Thursday.....10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday.....Closed**

**Any new parishioners who would like to register,  
Please call the parish office**

|                               |                                                                                        |          |      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|
| Pastor                        | Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP                                                                | 382-4600 | X109 |
|                               | <a href="mailto:father_peter@odsparishtifton.org">father_peter@odsparishtifton.org</a> |          |      |
| Parish Secretary              | Nayelly Balderas                                                                       | 382-4600 |      |
| Parish Secretary              | Joann Prostko                                                                          | 382-4600 | X101 |
|                               | <a href="mailto:ods@friendlycity.net">ods@friendlycity.net</a>                         |          |      |
| Bookkeeper                    | Kevin Frizzell                                                                         |          |      |
| Finance Committee             | John Wyatt                                                                             |          |      |
| Knights of Columbus           | Gary Burtle                                                                            | 386-4330 |      |
| Council of Catholic Women     | Carolyn Slade                                                                          | 238-2510 |      |
| CCW Cabinet Merchandise       | Diana Balderas                                                                         | 472-3819 |      |
|                               | Carolyn Slade                                                                          | 457-0873 |      |
| Liturgical (liturgy)          | Margo Martin                                                                           | 402-0741 |      |
| Grupo Guadalupano             | Margarita Zermeno                                                                      | 326-5352 |      |
| CCD Coordinator               | Jackie Beals & Mayra Moreno                                                            |          |      |
| EDGE Youth Ministry           | Jackie Beals                                                                           | 382-4600 |      |
| Hispanic CCD Coordinator      | Mayra Moreno                                                                           | 382-4600 |      |
| Parish Activity Center rental | Office                                                                                 | 382-4600 |      |
| Choir Contact                 | Clare Jarboe                                                                           |          |      |

### Parish Council

|                      |                                                                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Claudia Mejia        | <a href="mailto:Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com">Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com</a> |
| Martha Solis         | <a href="mailto:marlettfol@gmail.com">marlettfol@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Tania Bautista       | <a href="mailto:Tbautista122898@gmail.com">Tbautista122898@gmail.com</a>       |
| Debbie Blakey        | <a href="mailto:deborahblakey@hotmail.com">deborahblakey@hotmail.com</a>       |
| Juan Carlos Diaz     |                                                                                |
| Gary Burtle          | <a href="mailto:gburtle@uga.edu">gburtle@uga.edu</a>                           |
| Bob Kemeraït         | <a href="mailto:pkemeraït@gmail.com">pkemeraït@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Amalia Ramirez Silos | <a href="mailto:Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com">Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com</a>       |

### Requests for Prayers

Please pray for the sick and those who have requested our prayers:

Maria Alanis, Allison Brannan, Rachel Brantley, James Brown, Mary Brown, Brady, Patricia Busby, Erica Carroll, Mary Carroll, Tommy Carroll, Sean Winn Carampatan, Laurie Creel, Margarie D'Souva, Tina DeWees, Curtis Esmel, Carlos & Carrie Fletcher, Lauren Judy Fraelich, Rodolfo Herandez-Labastida, Chloe Kendrick, David LaForest, Isaac Lindsey, Randy Long, LaVonia Mathis, Raeleigh Jane McCartha, Bob McDuffie, Andrew Meredith, Susana Melgar, Thomas Norris, Butch Parker, Charles Phenicie, John Potlanus, Katy Podagrosi, Miller Blake Prostko, Nancy Quynn, Marian Robinson, Jaxen Roberts, Rosalie Rohrer, Arlene Ruse, Josephine Sehmanski, Marlena Smith, Sterling Saunders, Robbi Scarbrough, Wayne Scarbrough, John B. Sherlock, James Smith, Kaylon Spurlock, Jamie Thompson, Jennifer Unis, Dowson Bedore, Debra Vazquez, Sonia Webb

### Please Pray for our Military:

Andrew Byrd, Anthony Caucci, Jonathan Elder, Clayton F. Gibbs, Terry Jones, James Olands, Angel Olivos, Bong Tanesco, Aurelio Tovar, Gregory Camargo, Michael Gibbons, Jackson Bergeron

*December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of  
Advent*

### Readings:

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Romans 15:4-9**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

### Theme:

*God's kingdom is  
at hand – it is here.*

### Question of the week:

**Name one thing in  
your life which  
you must “move  
out of the way” in  
order to make  
room for Christ.**

*December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of  
Advent*

### Readings:

**Isaiah 35:1-6**

**James 5:7-10**

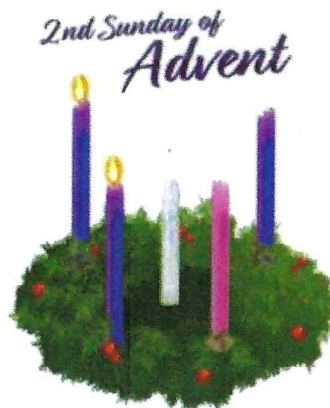
**Matthew 11:2-11**

### Theme:

*God's kingdom is  
close – it is Jesus.*

### Question of the week:

**What is there in  
this promise from  
Isaiah that gives  
you hope?.**





## Announcements: December 6 and 7

### Activity Center Rental Fee:

As of January 1, 2025 the fee to rent the Activity Center will be \$800 plus a \$200 deposit which will be returned if there is no damaged to the property.

### CCW News:

The CCW is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery fundraiser effective immediately. RADA sells reasonably priced cutlery items, along with soup mixes, dips, cheese ball mixes, gourmet popcorn, cookbooks and more. Catalogs will be available in the Church vestibule. You may also order on-line at:

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5276229.0684f0>. This will take you right to the ODS site. 40% of the proceeds are paid to the OCS CCW. Thank you

The Religious Items Cabinet will be open this weekend for Advent candles, Calendars and more. Check it out.

The Christmas Wish Tree is a tradition in our parish. The Tree is in the church vestibule with tags attached. You can bring Christmas joy to an individual or family by selecting one or more Angel tags from the tree. Purchase your gift. Attach the Angel Tag to your gift and place under the Christmas Wish Tree. All gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal:

ODS target goal for 2025 ACA is \$25,278 and St. William is \$1,770. We thank you to everyone that can give to our appeal. ODS has given \$6,883.00 towards our goal. We will also be starting the Harvest of Hope Capital Campaign with the Diocese in August and more information will be shared later this year. See Bishop Parkes' latest video on the diocesan website for more information.

Video links:

English: <https://youtu.be/0tWljZwg8HQ>

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/-9D78ewalE4>

### Harvest of Hope Campaign:

If you are writing a check to the Harvest of Hope Campaign, please make your check out to Harvest of Hope and not Our Divine Saviour. Thanks for your generosity.

**There will be NO Mass on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

### 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:

If you will be celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2026 you are invited to the Gold and Silver Jubilee Anniversary Mass which will be held on February 15, 2026 at the Cathedral in Savannah. Please RSVP by January 31, 2026 by calling the Diocese at 912-201-4068 or register online at: [diosav.org/gold-and-silver](https://diosav.org/gold-and-silver).

### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass schedule on December 8<sup>th</sup> :

St. William: 12:00 pm noon

Our Divine Saviour: 6:00 pm English Mass

8:00 om Spanish Mass

**Protecting Our Youth.** Diocesan policy requires all diocesan Adult employees and every volunteer and employee who minister to the youth of the diocese attend VIRTUS (safe environment) awareness training undergo a background check, and read and sign the Diocesan "Code of conduct for working with minors" prior to commencing their ministry. The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People, toll free reporting hotline: (888) 357-5530.

# Dear Padre

December 7, 2025

## **Do non-Catholics go to heaven?**

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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# Querido Padre

7 de diciembre

## **¿Los no católicos van al cielo?**

Sí, gracias a la gracia de Dios que obra en su pueblo. Sugerir lo contrario implicaría que los católicos tienen de alguna manera un «boleto dorado» o algún tipo de derecho que simplemente no existe.

La encarnación de Jesús sanó la división entre el cielo y la tierra, una división establecida por el «pecado de Adán» y confirmada por nuestras propias vidas de pecado. A través de su pasión, muerte y resurrección, todo ha sido restaurado a la forma en que el Padre lo concibió originalmente a través de su Creación. La división era entre la humanidad y la divinidad, no entre las prácticas religiosas y la divinidad. Los católicos creemos y celebramos que Dios acepta a todas las personas de buen corazón y buen espíritu. Dios no está cegado por las etiquetas que a veces ciegan a su pueblo ante la realidad más amplia.

Cuando los católicos, o las personas de cualquier religión, proclaman la exclusividad y la singularidad, especialmente cuando se trata de la vida eterna, todos deben ser muy cautelosos con lo que dan por sentado. Asumir un cierto tipo de arrogancia —hacia uno mismo, hacia la propia creencia y hacia la vida de fe— que excluye a los demás o los separa como «no uno de los nuestros» simplemente no tiene cabida en el reino de Dios. ●

P. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR

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# Good News!

December 7, 2025

*Second Sunday of Advent (A)*

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

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# Buenas noticias

7 de diciembre de 2025

*Segundo domingo de Adviento (A)*

Isaías 11, 1-10 / Romanos 15, 4-9 / Mateo 3, 1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

La primera lectura de hoy, del profeta Isaías, nos ofrece una imagen familiar del Adviento: el brote que surge del tronco de Jesé. Los versículos inmediatamente anteriores hablan de Dios caminando por el bosque con un hacha: «Los altos serán derribados y los altivos serán humillados» (Isaías 10, 33). Pero ahora, en medio de toda la destrucción, surge un pequeño signo de nueva vida, y el Espíritu de Dios descende sobre él, trayendo muchos dones: sabiduría, entendimiento, consejo, fortaleza, conocimiento, temor y alegría.

A menudo, cuando leemos las noticias, nuestra atención se ve capturada por la violencia y la guerra y los «poderosos» que hacen mucho ruido cuando caen. «Ya está puesto el hacha a la raíz de los árboles», repite Juan Bautista en el evangelio de hoy. Sin embargo, si buscamos dónde se encuentra el Espíritu de Dios, Isaías nos recuerda que tendremos que mirar en otra parte. Tendremos que prestar atención a las resurrecciones silenciosas y frágiles que tienen lugar bajo la superficie cuando parece que todo se ha perdido. Si buscamos sabiduría, comprensión, consejo, fuerza, conocimiento, asombro y deleite, tendremos que mirar donde se encuentran los pequeños de la tierra. Debemos tener los ojos abiertos para ver los brotes.

Los evangelios enfatizan que Jesús era uno de esos pequeños. Aunque los días de gloria de su pueblo parecían haber llegado a un abrupto final, no fue así. En él vislumbramos la verdad de que la vida es más fuerte que la muerte. Vemos que el futuro no ha sido borrado, por terrible que sea el pasado. En él encontramos nuestra esperanza. ●

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