



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



*And suddenly there
was a multitude
of the heavenly host
with the angel,
praising God and saying:*

**“GLORY TO
GOD IN THE
HIGHEST.”**

Luke 2:13-14

December 25, 2022 • Christmas

Christmas Reflection

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Lk. 2:15

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. This only happens on average every seven years. It won't happen again until 2033. (This is on account of the 2028 Leap Year which bumps Christmas to Monday that year.) The important thing is that Christmas is always December 25 and the entire world knows it. Despite secularism and the general disregard for Christianity, people will continue to celebrate, if not Christmas, then the Christmas holidays. This holiday is universal. We are familiar with the exhortation that appears on signs and in sermons to "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS." Of course, we hope and pray that all will know the true meaning of Christmas. Just about everyone you ask can tell you it is the day Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. That is good. It is a start. But that Jesus is the Messiah, the Beloved Son of God, born to save us and reconcile us to God, few today seem to believe or give thought to. The Christmas holidays may be fun, charming, and heartwarming, but faith in Christ is another story. Christians believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In other words, Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary and born by her. What's more, Christians believe that what Jesus taught is God's truth. "Truth has truly spoken, or there's nothing true." Finally, Christians do their best to live according to the teachings of Jesus. It is up to Christians to keep Christ in Christmas. Let us strive to be more centered on Christ.

The presence of the shepherds in the story of Christmas has great appeal. Why should the heavenly host appear to these shepherds? What was it about them that attracted the attention of the angels and the Lord of angels? Were they especially known for their devotion and faith? There is nothing to show that they were holier and more enlightened than other good people who waited for the consolation of Israel. There is no reason to think that they were better than others. God fearing and simple men, yes, but not exemplar in virtue and religious habits. Why then were they chosen? For their poverty and obscurity. Almighty God looks with a special love and affection on the lowly.

Seeing the Eternal Word, the Son of God, take on the humble condition of a newborn child, let us be humble and lovingly approach this child, putting away our self-reliance and self-interest, becoming little, seeing before us the Divinity weak by taking our "coat of skin."

Let us be grateful for what God has done for us in sending His beloved Son to take on our flesh and live among us. "What the Lord has done for me; I cannot tell it all."

It was as if God the Father sent upon the earth a purse full of His mercy. It was only a small purse, but it was very full.

-St. Bernard

Merry Christmas! May you know God's love for you.

~ Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.

Welcome Fr. Julius Ntalo
of the Nativity of Mary, O.C.D.
Born on April 22nd, 1984, was
ordained last August 2022.

Fr. Julius will be joining us here at
Santa Cruz for the next year. Please
make him welcome.



Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31st, 2022

(Confession is available on December 31st
from 3:30pm to 5:00pm)

5:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Vigil Masses

Adoration and Benediction following
the 9:00 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1st, 2023

6:30am • 8:00am (Spanish Mass at Capilla)

10:00am (live streamed) • **12:00pm**

There will not be Mass in the evening of
New Year's Day.

THANK YOU!

The Guadalupano Group of Santa Cruz would like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated and supported the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special thank you to Tony's Auto Glass & The Knights of Columbus who made it possible to have beautiful fresh roses for distributing and decorating, thank you. We especially are so grateful for Our Guadalupano Group, they do so much from planning, fundraising and decorating. We truly are blessed to have them. May God bless all your generosity.



¡GRACIAS!

El Grupo Guadalupano de Santa Cruz desea agradecer a todos los que donaron y apoyaron la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Un agradecimiento especial a Tony's Auto Glass y los Caballeros de Colon hicieron posible tener hermosas rosas frescas para distribuir y decorar, gracias. Estamos especialmente agradecidos por Nuestro Grupo Guadalupano, que hacen mucho desde la planificación, la recaudación de fondos y la decoración. Realmente estamos bendecidos de tenerlos. Que Dios bendiga toda su generosidad.



The Annual Catholic Appeal –

Our parish goal is \$40,340, currently we have collected \$23,456 that is (58% of our goal). The **Deadline is December 31st**. Please prayerfully consider making your tax deductible donation to help us meet our parish goal.

To give use your smart phone and Text ACA to 41444 ~ OR ~ visit www.cathfnd.org/donate
 Thank you and God bless you Fr. Stephen.



Our Parish Offices will be closed starting Friday, December 23rd through Tuesday, January 3rd for winter break.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Grieving during the Holidays

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bereavement Group at Santa Cruz Church has developed a video on the topic: "How to cope during the holidays while grieving"
 If you are interested in viewing this video here is the link:
<https://youtu.be/DgMM1IK1AvY>

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
 In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24th

8:00am Mike Bravo & Manuela Lopez/R.I.P.

5:30pm Eydie Rivera/R.I.P.

Sunday, December 25th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners

8:00am Oscar & Olga Leon & Frank Leon/R.I.P.

10:00am Special Int./Amaro & Martinez Families

12:00pm Ignacio & Hilda Vega & Walter Vega/R.I.P.

6:00pm In Honor of the Nativity of the Lord/
 Int. Carlos & Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Monday, December 26th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Antonio Amado & Deceased Family Members
 of the Armenta Family/R.I.P.

Tuesday, December 27th

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.

8:00am John Christ/R.I.P.

Wednesday, December 28th

Antonio & Manuel Amado & Deceased Family Members
 of the Armenta Family/R.I.P.

8:00am Armando C. Audelo/R.I.P.

Thursday, December 29th

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.

8:00am Bernard Lonergan/R.I.P.

Friday, December 30th

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.

8:00am Eva Anaya/100 Birthday/R.I.P.

Visit our Website

santacruzchurchtucson.com

Facebook **Stephen Watson**

Please sign us for

Flock Notes to be

informed of parish events

Flock Notes text **santacruzaz** to **84576**

or go online to

santacruzchurch.flocknote.com

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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Day 2: Mass & Graveside Committal



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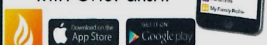
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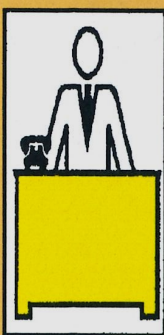
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