

Dear Parishioners and Friends,  
Peace and grace in the Holy Spirit!

The wreath with four candles in the sanctuary of the church and the violet vestments the priest use when celebrating Mass tell us that Advent is a special season and a reminder that, during Advent, the Christmas season hasn't started yet. During Advent, we are supposed to be preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. I invite you to join me in saying the Christmas Novena prayer, one of my favorite Advent devotions. It is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. ~ Amen.*

Advent is also a time of hope. We have two beautiful Marian feasts during Advent, the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8<sup>th</sup> which is a Holy Day of Obligation, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will also have the Posadas in the last week of Advent. Below is our schedule for these celebrations.

#### **The Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8**

Masses: 6:30am; 8am, 6:30pm. There will be Holy Hour from 5-6pm to conclude the Year of St. Joseph.

#### **The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 11 and 12**

A Mass on Saturday December 11 at 5:30pm at Santa Cruz Church followed by a procession to the Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st St.) Mass at the Capilla upon arrival and Mass at 11pm.  
December 12 - regular Sunday schedule.

#### **Posadas:**

December 20-23 at 6:30pm; locations to be announced.

#### **Christmas Masses:**

December 24: 5:30p.m. and 9p.m.  
(Confession is available on December 22 from 4-6 p.m.)  
December 25: 6:30a.m.; 8a.m. at Capilla de Guadalupe, 10a.m. (live streamed) and 12 p.m.—with safety protocols.  
(There will be no Mass in the evening of Christmas Day.)  
December 26 Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday Obligation, regular Sunday schedule.

May the light of Christ guide us to the fullness of life and our destiny as sons and daughters of God, our Father. May your Christmas be truly merry and blessed.

~Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D. & Fr. David Costello, O.C.D.

