

THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC



You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.
-Saint Vincent Ferrer

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/3
Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY 12/4
Isaiah 11:1-10
Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY 12/5
Isaiah 25:6-10
Matthew 15:29-37

THURSDAY 12/6
Isaiah 26:1-6
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY 12/7
Isaiah 29:17-24
Matthew 9:27-31

SATURDAY 12/8
Gen 3:9-20 + Eph 1:3-12
Luke 1:26-38

Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials of the Week

Monday, Francis Xavier; Tuesday, John Damascene; Thursday, Nicholas;
Friday, Ambrose; Saturday, Immaculate Conception

December 2, 2012

First Sunday of Advent

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

This Saturday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **a holy day of obligation**. Because the holy day commemorates our national patroness, the obligation to participate remains despite occurring on a Saturday. We will observe a vigil mass at 7:00 PM Friday, December 7, in place of our customary First Friday celebration, but the 6:00 PM mass on Saturday will anticipate the First Sunday of Advent and not "count" for the holy day.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

For congregations of religious women confronting the dual challenges of caring for frail, elder members and trying to manage outdated congregational properties, there are no easy answers. The financial complexities of addressing property-related issues are intertwined with the emotional strain of an uncertain future. These are struggles religious sisters throughout the United States face each day as they try to function under the burden of unsecured retirement funds. The annual Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious taken up by all the Catholic parishes at this time of the year helps to ease the burdens of the sisters and help carry the load. Next Sunday we will join with the whole church in making our sacrificial offering in support of the sisters who supported us for so long and continue to support us. The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up next weekend after Holy Communion at all the masses.

WEEKDAY MASS

Weekday mass is celebrated in the Mammoth rectory on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings at 7 o'clock. Thursday morning there is a service of the Word with Holy Communion conducted by our lay ministry team beginning at 7:00 AM.

Walk right in and come up the stairs. Stay after for coffee and fellowship.

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, Glenn Inouye, Peter Mariniello, Consuelo Mendoza Aéyon, Brian Venneman, Gary Boyd, and the Blackburn Family.



And behold Joachim came with his flocks, and Anne stood at the gate and saw Joachim coming, and ran and hung upon his neck, saying: Now know I that the Lord God hath greatly blessed me: for behold the widow is no more a widow, and she that was childless shall conceive. And Joachim rested that day in his house.

Protoevangelium of James (c. 125)

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of the Blessed Virgin Mary **a holy day of obligation**

The mass schedule is

Mammoth: Fri 7:00 pm, Sat 7:00 am
Lee Vining: Saturday at 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Saturday at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Lee Vining:

Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM

Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH OF MONO COUNTY

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Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14–16

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the Lord.

Notice how last Sunday we wound up the liturgical year with an end-of-the-world scenario, and then this Sunday start off the new cycle with another one. Perhaps in the paradox of time and eternity, beginnings and ends are the same thing!

Jeremiah is definitely looking for an end of what's been going on in his world and a beginning of something—anything—new. Jerusalem is in a tight spot. The armies of Babylon are at the gates of the city and the prophet is stuck in jail, thrown there by an angry king Zedekiah. Evidently the king wasn't too happy with Jeremiah's prophecy that God

was handing Jerusalem over to the Babylonians and that Zedekiah was going to be captured and dragged off to Babylon. "You cannot win," Jeremiah told the king; surrender was the only option. So Zedekiah tossed Jeremiah in the hoosegow.

But Jeremiah was no liar. He gave the king good advice and the king should have listened to the prophet. As it was, things would get far worse for Zedekiah.

Jeremiah, meanwhile, felt justice coming on. He was being punished for telling the truth and he knew his God wouldn't stand for that. He knew, too, that Jerusalem's plight was not the fault of the people; they had been led by scoundrels. God would raise up a new king who would right the wrong.

SECOND READING:

First Thessalonians 3:12–4:2

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be

blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

In our sinfulness, can we ever be "blameless in holiness before our God?" Yes! It is proclaimed in 1John 4:17–18, "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. We must hold that truth in faith always, never allowing "the accuser" to drag us into doubt by pointing out all our sins. We are to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation frequently so that our consciences may be reassured and we may not despair. Jesus Christ has canceled the debt owed by our sins. Therefore we can stand before God with confidence on the day of judgment. Even if our hearts condemn us, 1John 3:20 points out, "God is greater than our hearts." What a miracle of forgiveness!

"I didn't come to condemn you," Jesus says in John 12:47. "I came to save you." Our consciences can sometimes be the victims of religious and social experiences that condemn us for our sins. Who hasn't been told at one time or another by parent or priest, that our sins are going to wind us up in hell? On the contrary, we have a Savior in Jesus Christ and we cling to him in faith.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken . . . When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

There are two kinds of people in this world: Those who believe, and those who don't. Those who don't believe in the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ, nor in the victory he won for us over sin and death, have only one thing left in which to believe: the passing world as we see it and experience it. Therefore unbelievers invest themselves in the world and all it has to offer. They understandably seek to gain worldly wealth, power and fulfillment. What else is there? God, of course, is faithful to the covenant of love and will give them opportunities to obtain all they desire. And then death will come and their world will end and everything in which they have placed their hopes and their dreams will pass away and there will be nothing left. Thus "the mighty are cast down . . . and the rich are sent away empty". (*Magnificat*)

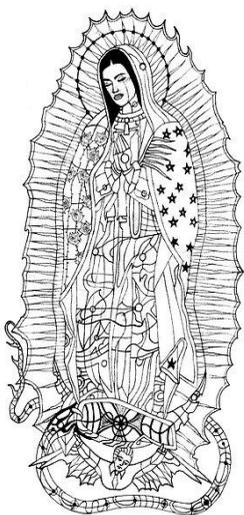
Then there are the true believers who wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Savior, who have believed the gospel, answering the call to invest themselves in the coming kingdom, using their gifts and the opportunities provided by God to join in communion with Christ to give their time, their energy, their resources, their money, their very lives in service to those in need. They will stand up and rejoice. They will go out to meet him and be taken up. This is the glorious coming for which believers await.

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Promesa y Profecía

Dos conceptos importantes en la liturgia de hoy son los que encierran las palabras "promesa" y "profecía". Para muchos, la profecía es el anuncio de un evento futuro. Para Dios, sin embargo, implica una transformación de lo malo en lo bueno, de la oscuridad en la luz. El Evangelio de hoy nos anuncia dicha transformación y nos invita a considerar nuestras vidas como terreno fértil en el que dicha transformación se realice cuando aceptamos la Palabra de Dios. Él, por lo tanto, se hace promesa permanente para nosotros; solamente tenemos que descubrirlo en nuestra jornada de fe.

Jesús anuncia que nuestra liberación está cerca, pero no sabemos ni el día ni la hora. Hemos escuchado este mensaje del cumplimiento de la promesa del Señor desde el tiempo de Jeremías. "Vivan como conviene, para agradar a Dios", nos recuerda el Apóstol; debemos estar dispuestos. Nuestra condición dispuesta se encuentra en la oración del Salmista al elevar diariamente nuestra alma al Señor y al caminar en su senda, conociendo su verdad, y nombrándolo como nuestro Salvador.



CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes from 5:30 to 5:45 on Saturday afternoons, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains mission in Lee Vining and Infant of Prague mission in Bridgeport. The "Act of Contrition" is available in the confession room.