



CHURCH OF THE

# Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and  
Sharing the Love of Christ

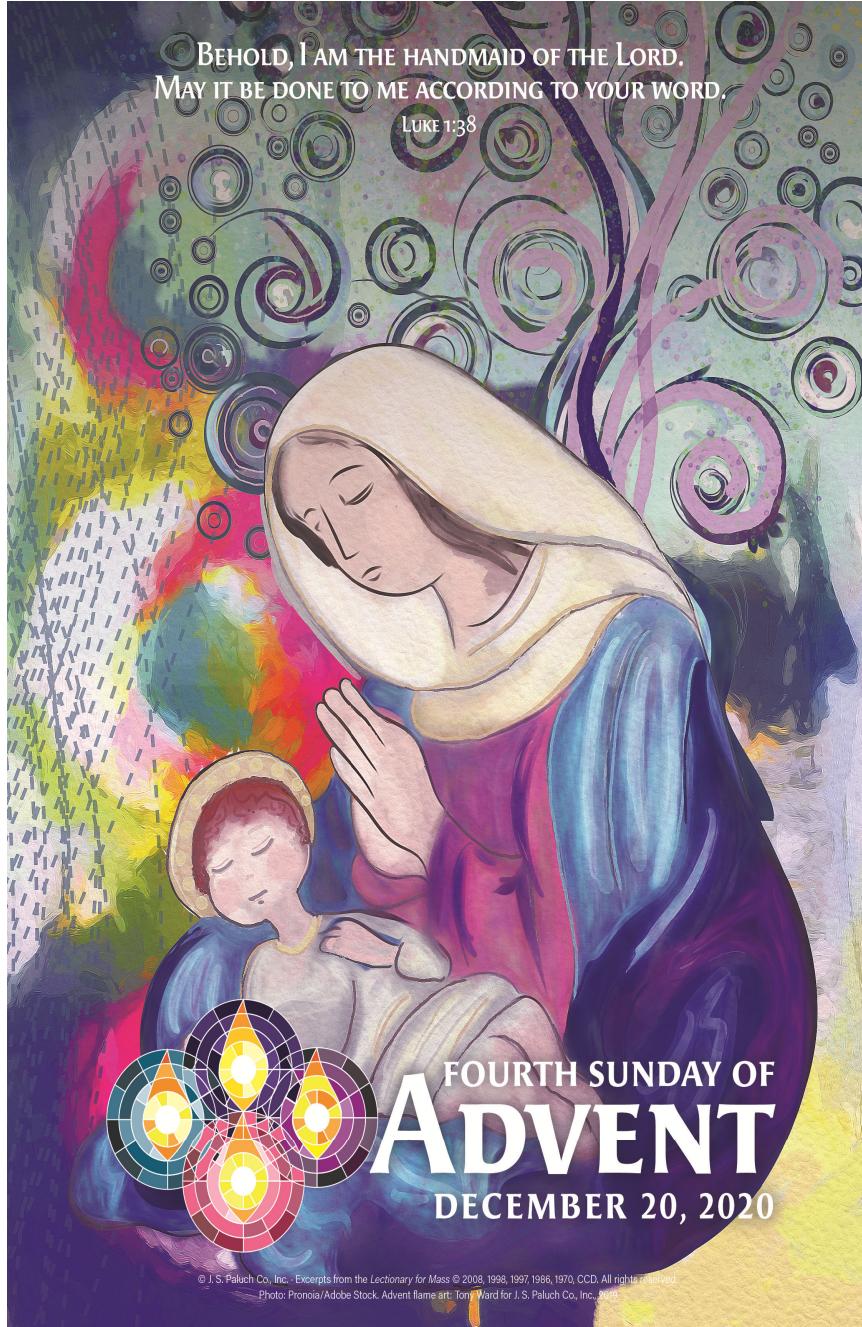
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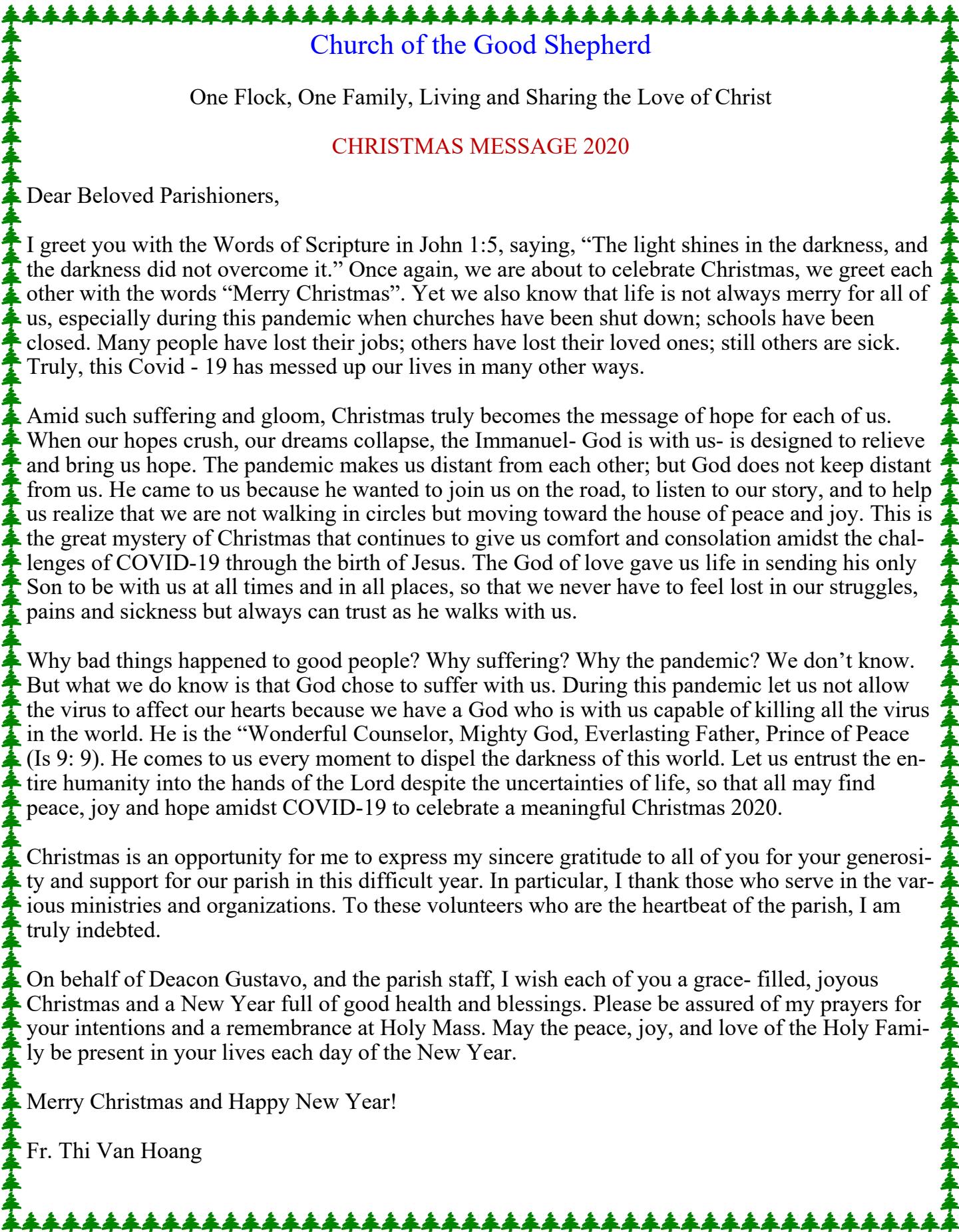
[www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org](http://www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org)

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WE  
WISH  
YOU A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2021

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706-ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE 925-432-6404—Ext. 25



## Church of the Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and Sharing the Love of Christ

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I greet you with the Words of Scripture in John 1:5, saying, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Once again, we are about to celebrate Christmas, we greet each other with the words “Merry Christmas”. Yet we also know that life is not always merry for all of us, especially during this pandemic when churches have been shut down; schools have been closed. Many people have lost their jobs; others have lost their loved ones; still others are sick. Truly, this Covid - 19 has messed up our lives in many other ways.

Amid such suffering and gloom, Christmas truly becomes the message of hope for each of us. When our hopes crush, our dreams collapse, the Immanuel- God is with us- is designed to relieve and bring us hope. The pandemic makes us distant from each other; but God does not keep distant from us. He came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation amidst the challenges of COVID-19 through the birth of Jesus. The God of love gave us life in sending his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles, pains and sickness but always can trust as he walks with us.

Why bad things happened to good people? Why suffering? Why the pandemic? We don't know. But what we do know is that God chose to suffer with us. During this pandemic let us not allow the virus to affect our hearts because we have a God who is with us capable of killing all the virus in the world. He is the “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is 9: 9). He comes to us every moment to dispel the darkness of this world. Let us entrust the entire humanity into the hands of the Lord despite the uncertainties of life, so that all may find peace, joy and hope amidst COVID-19 to celebrate a meaningful Christmas 2020.

Christmas is an opportunity for me to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your generosity and support for our parish in this difficult year. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. To these volunteers who are the heartbeat of the parish, I am truly indebted.

On behalf of Deacon Gustavo, and the parish staff, I wish each of you a grace- filled, joyous Christmas and a New Year full of good health and blessings. Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr. Thi Van Hoang

Iglesia del Buen Pastor, Un Rebaño, una Familia, Viviendo y Compartiendo el amor de Cristo

## MENSAJE DE NAVIDAD 2020

Queridos Feligreses Amados,

Los saludo con las Palabras de la Escritura en Juan 1: 5, diciendo: ?La luz brilla en las tinieblas, y las tinieblas no la vencieron? Una vez más, estamos a punto de celebrar la Navidad, nos saludamos con las palabras? Feliz Navidad?. Sin embargo, también sabemos que la vida no siempre es feliz para todos, especialmente durante esta pandemia cuando las iglesias han sido cerradas; las escuelas han sido cerradas. Mucha gente ha perdido su trabajo; otros han perdido a sus seres queridos; otros están enfermos. En verdad, este Covid-19 ha arruinado nuestras vidas de muchas otras formas.

En medio de tanto sufrimiento y tristeza, la Navidad se convierte verdaderamente en un mensaje de esperanza para cada uno de nosotros. Cuando nuestras esperanzas se aplastan, nuestros sueños se derumban, el Emmanuel, Dios está con nosotros, está diseñado para aliviarnos y traernos esperanza. La pandemia nos aleja unos de otros; pero Dios no se mantiene alejado de nosotros. Vino a nosotros porque quería acompañarnos en el camino, escuchar nuestra historia y ayudarnos a darnos cuenta de que no estamos caminando en círculos, sino avanzando hacia la casa de la paz y la alegría. Este es el gran misterio de la Navidad que continúa dándonos consuelo y consuelo en medio de los desafíos del COVID-19 a través del nacimiento de Jesús. El Dios de amor nos dio vida al enviar a su único Hijo para que esté con nosotros en todo momento y en todo lugar, para que nunca tengamos que sentirnos perdidos en nuestras luchas, dolores y enfermedades, sino que siempre podamos confiar en su caminar con nosotros.

¿Por qué le sucedieron cosas malas a la gente buena? ¿Por qué sufrir? ¿Por qué la pandemia? No lo sabemos. Pero lo que sí sabemos es que Dios eligió sufrir con nosotros. Durante esta pandemia no permitamos que el virus nos afecte el corazón porque tenemos un Dios que está con nosotros capaz de matar a todos los virus del mundo. Él es el Consejero Maravilloso, Dios Fuerte, Padre Eterno, Príncipe de Paz (Is 9: 9). Viene a nosotros en todo momento para disipar la oscuridad de este mundo. Encendemos a toda la humanidad en las manos del Señor a pesar de las incertidumbres de la vida, para que todos encuentren la paz, la alegría y la esperanza en medio del COVID-19 para celebrar una significativa Navidad 2020.

La Navidad es una oportunidad para mí de expresar mi más sincera gratitud a todos ustedes por su generosidad y apoyo a nuestra parroquia en este año difícil. En particular, agradezco a quienes sirven en los distintos ministerios y organizaciones. A estos voluntarios que son el corazón de la parroquia, estoy realmente en deuda.

En nombre del Diácono Gustavo y del personal de la parroquia, les deseo a cada uno de ustedes una Navidad Feliz y llena de gracia y un Año Nuevo lleno de buena salud y bendiciones. Tenga la seguridad de mis oraciones por sus intenciones y un recuerdo en la Santa Misa. Que la paz, la alegría y el amor de la Sagrada Familia estén presentes en sus vidas cada día del Año Nuevo.

¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!

P. Thi Van Hoang



**Fr. Thi, Deacon Gustavo and the staff of Church of the Good Shepherd wish all of you a grace filled Christmas and prosperous New Year.  
May the peace, joy and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year.**

*In order for our priests and parish staff to enjoy the holidays with their families the parish office will be closed from Tuesday, December 23, 2020 to Sunday, January 3, 2021.  
It will be reopened Monday, January 4th, 2021.*

**The Parish Office is operating virtually during the pandemic.  
We will answer your phone calls and emails as soon as possible.**

#### **ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO THE DIACONATE?**

Classes will be starting in the Diocese of Oakland. For more information, interested men and their wives are invited to attend one of the following information meetings on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8745798692>

or by phone at 1-408-638-0968, Meeting ID: 874 579 8692#

Tuesdays from 7-8 pm on January 19 or 26, 2021

or

Saturdays from 11 am-Noon on January 16, 23 or 30, 2021



#### **Christmas Hospitality**

We, the family of Church of the Good Shepherd, warmly welcome you to our church. If you are visiting us for the first time, we thank you for your loving presence. We hope you will visit us again. We hope you will feel at home in our community.

We wish you a joyful Christmas with your loved ones.

**Hope to see you again!**

**Christmas Blessings!**

**Christmas Eve –Thursday – all Masses will be held in the garden if it is not raining.**

4:00 p.m. Children Family Mass; 6:00 p.m. English Mass; 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day-Friday- all Masses will be held in the garden if it is not raining.**

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon & 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)



**New Year Eve –Thursday**

Vigil Mass: Mary, Mother of God, Mass @ 5:30 p.m. – Livestream

**New Year Day – Friday**

Solemnity of Mother of God– Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: 8:00 a.m.- livestream  
& 10:00 a.m. (in the garden & livestream)

Hello Everyone,

We are selling this Bible Diary 2021 for \$20 each. This book can become your spiritual companion for the whole year 2021, each time you go to Mass or pray at home. It has almost everything needed to enrich your faith. It features all traditional Catholic prayers. It has family prayers, prayers before and after meetings... It has a liturgical calendar, and especially it has daily readings and reflections on the readings.

This book is a perfect Mass Companion for you. We have around 70 books left. Please buy one for you or buy one as a Christmas gift for your loved ones and support our parish.

Books will be on sale at 10am and 12pm Mass on Sundays. or contact Tammy Vo at 925-698-4559 to order any time.

**Bible Diary 2021**      **Daily Gospel 2021**

**FEATURES**

- Messages from REV. FR. JULIUS JOSE A. COCHING, CMF, Executive Director of the Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc. and MOST REVEREND LEO M. DALMAO, CMF, DD, Bishop of the Prelature of Isabela, Basilan, Philippines
- Catholic Daily Prayers
- Liturgical and Sanctoral Roman Catholic Calendar
- Prayers for the Family (for husband, wife, children and family issues) and Prayers for Meetings
- Scriptural Rosary
- The Way of the Cross
- Guide in Praying with the Bible
- Biblical Prayers for a person in Danger or Very Sick
- A Guide to the Sacrament of Penance
- A Guide to the New English translation of the Roman Missal
- Table of Movable Dates of the Liturgical Calendar
- An Introduction and Explanation on the Liturgical Seasons by (+) REV. FR. ANSCAR CHUPUNGCO, OSB
- Illustrations by REV. FR. ANTONINO "NICK" EUCAPOR, CMF
- An Invitation to the readers to Lectio Divina on Sundays using the Four Simple Steps of READ (Lectio), REFLECT (Meditatio), PRAY (Oratio), and ACT (Actio)
- Weekday and Sunday Reflections by REV. FR. JONATHAN A. BITOY, CMF, author of *heart to Heart: A Collection of Traditional and New Prayer Conversations with God*, a booklet that contains prayers for different times of the day, prayers to the Triune God, prayers to Mary and the Saints, prayers for different situations and occasions, prayers for the family, prayers of different professions and callings.
- A QR Code linked to YouTube presenting the reflections by REV. FR. FERNANDO ARMELLINI, an Italian missionary and biblical scholar
- Hardbound covers are available in 3 colors (blue, red, and yellow)

**HARDBOUND COVER**  
5.5 x 8.43 IN

**PAPER COVER**  
4.5 x 5.75 IN

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**ZOOM MEETING DISCUSSION ON FRATELLI TUTTI**

As you know, on Oct 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis, our Holy Father issued the new encyclical called Fratelli Tutti— All Brothers. The encyclical calls us to love and care for one another as a human family. There are 8 chapters in the encyclical. We, Church of the Good Shepherd, are going to open an online forum to read and discuss this papal letter via the ZOOM Meeting format.

We will meet once a week on Thursdays at 7pm, starting Nov. 19. Here is the ZOOM link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/98655845021?pwd=UnhxT2V0Vjh4VHRLczhKbGpwUUF6QT09>

There is no need to register for the forum.

Make sure you read the encyclical. Here is the link. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-news/2020-10/pope-francis-fratelli-tutti-introduce-angelus-fraternity-friend.html>

**Join us for our Simbang Gabi mass livestreamed daily at 7 pm until December 23 on our YouTube channel.**

**For more information contact:**

**Cecille Perez at 925-300-6234,**

**Cynthia Auza at 925-427-0778,**

**or**

**Leilani Andes at 925-212-8408.**



**Engage your family with  
The Bible Challenge over Christmas break  
to see how much you know about the  
Scriptures!**

**Go on this website to try it.**

**It has a Spanish  
version as well.**

**<https://familybiblechallenge.org/>**



**FAMILY BIBLE CHALLENGE**

Encounter Scripture • Encounter Christ



## BEAUTIFUL CLOTH MASKS FOR SALE JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

*Donated by the Padre Pio Ministry*  
**Wouldn't you love a colorful mask that  
expresses your faith or celebrates the  
season? Masks are on sale for just  
\$10 each or 3 for \$25 outside of mass today.  
Buy one for yourself or give one as a gift!**

## A CLASSIC IMAGE

When we think of today's Gospel, the image of this meeting between the Angel Gabriel and Mary by Fra Angelico (1440–1445) likely comes to mind. In this fresco, Gabriel and Mary are outside sitting among the columns, and Gabriel, with his big wings and hands crossed, gazes upon Mary and gestures towards her. She is well dressed in a traditional blue garment, and though her face shows shock, her folded hands model submission and humility. This work of art is so beautifully executed that we can miss some of its finer details. Similarly, because the Gospel scene is so familiar, we can forget to take in its small details. A few years ago, this author found a children's book called "The Nativity" illustrated by Julie Vivas. Because her drawings were so fresh and charming and simple, she invited new perspective on the story.

Luke says that Mary "was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." She asks, "How can this be?" These questions don't fit with how Fra Angelico positioned Gabriel and Mary. In the Vivas illustrations, the Angel Gabriel sits down with battered wings and a balding head and has a cup of coffee with Mary as the two of them try to figure it out together. The text is the same, but the message conveyed is different. There is a different degree of comfort and familiarity to these illustrations.

This "having a cup of coffee" is something we need to learn to do with the scriptures and with our lives. After this event, pregnant Mary traveled into the hill country to be with Elizabeth; an older, wiser, mentor—a mother figure. She spent three months there reflecting and preparing for the birth of her child. In this final week of Advent, take a few moments to find a Gabriel/Mary or an Elizabeth/Mary moment and read the Christmas readings again to see what you might have overlooked, and to find a new way for Christ to dwell in you.

Today's Readings: 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25–27; Lk 1:26–38

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12/20/2020

## Mass Intentions

December 21-27

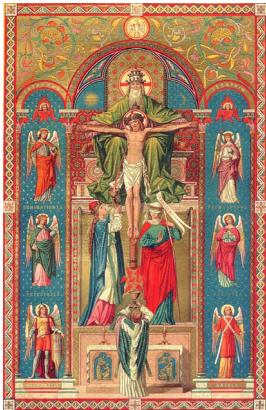
# Mass Intentions For The Week

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Mon	7:30 am	Temistocles Abad † *
Tue	7:30 am	Capupus Family *
Wed	7:30 am	Capupus Family *
Thu	7:30 am	Capupus Family #
	4:00 pm	Alphonse & Genevieve
	6:00 pm	Cappucini † *
		Deceased Members of the
		Miller, Orozco & Montez
		Families † *
	Midnight	Sal "Tudi" Bruno &
		Carmella Aiello † *
Fri	8:00 am	Capupus Family #
	10:00am	Esposito & Sorci Families *
	12 Noon	Robert Calone Family *
	3:00pm	For the People of the Parish^
Sat	8:00 am	Birthday of Maxima Navera
		Robert Navarro †*
Sat	5:30 pm	Teresa Masturzo † *
Sun	8:00 am	Frances Ferrante Thomas † *
	10 am	Death Anniversary of
		Aresenia Viloria † *
	12 pm	Francisco E. Escobar Sr. † *
	3 pm	For the People of the Parish^

\*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Helmut ^=Fr. Arturo Cadenas



## Parish Staff

**Fr. Thi Van Hoang, Parochial Administrator**  
925-432-6404 Ext. 11  
frthihoang@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**Deacon Gustavo Escrueria**  
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Deacon.gustavo@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**Grace Yvette Ripoli, Business Manager**  
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**Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary**  
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**Dina Russell, Religious Education Coordinator**  
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dina@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**Aylin Gonzalez, Faith Formation (Spanish Speaking)**  
925-432-6404 Ext. 20  
aylin@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

## Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country, let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*

*Amen.*

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**GENESIS 15:1-6, 21:1-3,  
HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19,  
LUKE 2:22-40**

## NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

**BISHOP'S APPEAL**

## NEW REGULAR WEEKDAY & WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

### Monday - Friday

7:30am - Livestream Only

### Saturday

8:00am; 5:30pm Vigil – Livestream Only

### Sunday

8:00am - Relivestream 5:30pm Mass

10:00am (in the garden) - Livestream

12pm (in the garden) - Livestream

3pm (Spanish) - Livestream Only

### Communion

Drive through communion after each Mass in front of the church.

### Adoration Livestream

Fridays 8am – 9am

### Confession

Tuesdays 6-7pm (During Advent Only)

Fridays 8am-9am

Saturdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm

or by appointment

**ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd, Pittsburg, CA**



**Our Spiritual Garden is ready for Christmas Masses. Come and Join us!**