



CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

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

3200 Harbor Street ~ Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: 925-432-6404

Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org

www.facebook.com/goodshepherdpittsburg



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

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday

7:30am - Livestream Only

Saturday

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

Sunday

8:00am - Relivestream of 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

Second SUNDAY of Advent

December 6, 2020

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

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



There are three great biblical figures that we cannot miss in Advent. These people have worked so hard to prepare for the coming of our Lord. They are **Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mother Mary**. The readings of this 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B, introduce us to two of them: **Isaiah and John the Baptist**. They both call us to repent, prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths.

What is true repentance? Repentance does not mean staying there to cry for our sins. It means to make decision to change. It means to think again, to let go of our past and turn to God. It means to renew the way we think, the way we act, the way we love. There is no better way of doing this than entering the desert. In the desert, there are no cellphones, no footballs, no movies, no games, no shoppings, no entertainment, therefore no distractions. What is the main focus when you are in the desert? Life, or how to survive. In the desert, we face ourselves and ask these fundamental questions: Who am I? What am I here for? And what must I do?

The readings of this 2nd Sunday of Advent invite us to return to the principles. If you have ever attended an AA meeting, you would know there is a program called “The Twelve Step Program.” You are invited to join the program. The first step is to ask yourself to acknowledge your own weakness: not to say you are Ok, but admitting something is wrong in you. Every participant is asked to be honest, to dig out the problem done to them. Everyone is asked to open up their wounds so they can be healed.

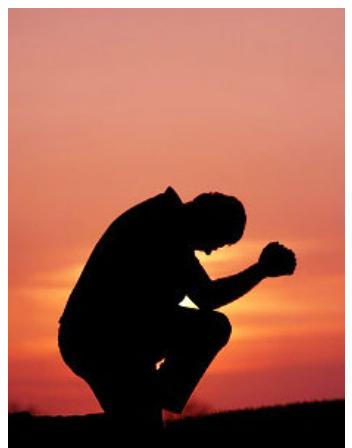
In the same way, Advent calls us to dig out what prevents us from coming to God. Isaiah singled out the hindrances to be eliminated from our lives. The mountains must be leveled. We can see them as the high peaks of selfishness and greed, which hem us in, and cut off the view of God and of all whom we want to love more faithfully. We can blast away our selfishness with prayer and generosity. The valleys of neglected duties can be filled in by acts of faithfulness and love. The rough ways of wasted time and excess TV, internet chatting, and all the junk-activities we have admitted into our lives can be replaced with a smooth path of a new schedule to allow the Lord to enter into the activities of our lives.

The culture says: I am Okay, you are Okay. Everyone does it. But deep down we know that we are not okay. We are sinners that need repentance. Advent is a great time to confess your sins. It is time to dump the trash to make room for Christ. It is time to remove tumors in our bodies and souls: hatred, violence, resentment, inability to forgive, racism, etc. All this stuff in us must be removed to allow God to come, to sanctify, to give us the Joy of Christmas. Christ wants to live in us. But what is the obstacle? Our sins. The door of our soul is locked from the inside. Only when we open it, can Christ enter. All we need is to repent from our sins. A negative past does not disqualify us from having a bright future. No sin we commit is too much for the mercy of God. God is not looking for perfect people. He is looking for people who have hearts that are right. Our God is a God of another chance.

So let's repent and open our minds and hearts for the Lord to come in to change and renew us. Advent is our reminder that God has not forgotten about us, no matter how we may feel. In fact, he never stops thinking of us, and he is leading us with care to our everlasting happiness.

Advent Blessings,

Fr. Thi Hoang



Tres grandes figuras bíblicas que no podemos perdernos en Adviento. Estas personas han trabajado tan duro para prepararse para la venida de nuestro Señor. Ellos son **Isaías, Juan Bautista y la Madre María**. Las lecturas de este segundo Domingo de Adviento del Año B nos presentan a dos de ellos: **Isaías y Juan el Bautista**. Ambos nos llaman al arrepentimiento, a preparar el camino del Señor y enderezar sus sendas.

¿Qué es el verdadero arrepentimiento? El arrepentimiento no significa quedarse allí para llorar por nuestros pecados. Significa tomar la decisión de cambiar. Significa volver a pensar, dejar ir nuestro pasado y volvernos a Dios. Significa renovar la forma en que pensamos, la forma en que actuamos, la forma en que amamos. No hay mejor forma de hacerlo que entrando en el desierto. En el desierto, no hay teléfonos móviles, ni balones de fútbol, ni películas, ni juegos, ni compras, ni entretenimientos, por lo tanto, no hay distracciones.

¿Cuál es la principal fuerza cuando estás en el desierto? La Vida o cómo sobrevivir. En el desierto, nos enfrentamos a nosotros mismos y nos hacemos estas preguntas fundamentales: ¿Quién soy yo? ¿Para qué estoy aquí? y que debo hacer?

Las lecturas de este segundo Domingo de Adviento nos invitan a volver a los principios. Si alguna vez ha asistido a una reunión de AA, sabrías que existe un programa llamado "El Programa de Doce Pasos". Estás invitado a ingresar al programa. El primer paso que hacen es pedirte que reconozcas tu propia debilidad: no para decir que estás bien, sino admitir que algo anda mal en ti. Se le pide a cada participante que sea honesto para desenterrar el problema que se les planteó. A todos se les pide que abran sus heridas para que puedan sanar.

De la misma manera, el Adviento nos llama a desenterrar lo que nos impide llegar a Dios. Isaías señaló los obstáculos que deben eliminarse de nuestras vidas. Hay que nivelar las montañas. Podemos verlos como las cimas del egoísmo y la codicia, que nos encierran y cortan la vista de Dios y de todos aquellos a quienes queremos amar más fielmente. Podemos destruir nuestro egoísmo con oración y generosidad. Los valles del descuido de los deberes los podemos llenar con actos de fidelidad y amor. Las formas ásperas del tiempo perdido y el exceso de televisión, el conectarse en las redes y todas las actividades basura que hemos admitido en nuestras vidas pueden ser reemplazadas por un camino suave de un nuevo horario para permitir que el Señor entre en las actividades de nuestras vidas.

La cultura dice: estoy bien, tú estás bien. Todos lo hacemos. Pero en el fondo sabemos que no estamos bien. Somos pecadores que necesitamos arrepentimiento. El Adviento es un gran momento para confesar tus pecados. Es hora de hacer muda la basura para dejar lugar a Cristo. Es hora de remover tumores en nuestro cuerpo y alma: odio, violencia, resentimiento, incapacidad para perdonar, racismo, etc. Todas estas cosas en nosotros deben ser removidas para permitir que Dios venga a santificarnos, a darnos la Alegría de la Navidad. Cristo quiere vivir en nosotros. Pero, ¿qué es un obstáculo? Nuestros pecados. La puerta de nuestras almas está cerrada por dentro. Solo cuando la abrimos, Cristo puede entrar. Todo lo que necesitamos es arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados. Un pasado negativo no nos descalifica para tener un futuro brillante. Ningún pecado que cometamos es demasiado para la misericordia de Dios. Dios no busca personas perfectas. Busca personas que tengan el corazón correcto. Nuestro Dios es un Dios de otra oportunidad.

Así que arrepintámonos y abramos nuestras mentes y corazones para que el Señor venga a cambiarnos y renovarnos. El Adviento es nuestro recordatorio de que Dios no se ha olvidado de nosotros, no importa cómo nos sintamos. De hecho, nunca deja de pensar en nosotros y nos conduce con cuidado hacia nuestra felicidad eterna.

Bendiciones de Adviento, Padre Thi Hoang

THANK YOU!

The parish is attempting to purchase camera and projection equipment in order to livestream mass during the pandemic and into the future for our homebound brothers and sisters.

We will also be using this equipment to assist with Mass participation once we are back to normal. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this project thus far and especially to Theresa Navarro and Family and Edgar and Melecia Ramirez for their recent generous donations toward this endeavor!



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/99548711202?pwd=T0VpTjZVVW9saXRXWHRkNVhsaVhCQT09>
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>

Virtual encuentro para compartir “Frattelli Tutti”

El pasado 4 de octubre en la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís, el Papa Francisco firmó su nueva encíclica “Frattelli Tutti” “Sobre la Fraternidad y la Amistad Social”. La encíclica nos llama a todos a amarnos y a cuidarnos unos a otros como una familia humana. La encíclica tiene 8 capítulos. Vamos a abrir un foro en línea virtual para leer y compartir ideas sobre esta carta encíclica del Papa. Nos vamos a reunir una vez a la semana los lunes a las 7pm, comenzando el 23 de noviembre. No necesita inscribirse.

Lea la encíclica aquí: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Este es el link para participar: <https://zoom.us/j/98655845021>

3RD SUNDAY 10AM YOUTH MASS DECEMBER 20

All, especially our youth, are invited to attend our Youth Mass at 10am each Sunday of the month.

SIMBANG GABI NEWS!

We will celebrate our yearly tradition of Simbang Gabi masses on December 15-23, 2020 with some changes. The mass will start at 7 pm and follow current guidance and protocols for indoor masses and it is also going to be livestreamed. There will be no reception after the mass, only mass sponsorships. Sponsorships forms with intentions are due two (2) days before your requested mass date. No sponsorships will be taken after December 23.



For inquiries, please contact:

Cecille Perez at 925-300-6234,

Cynthia Auza at 925-427-0778, or

Leilani Andes at 925-212-8408.



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! We're pretty sure this is Fr. Thi's favorite one!



ADORATION

As a reminder, Adoration is on the first Friday of every month from 8 AM to 6:45 PM, followed by a Mass for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 7 PM.



**THANK YOU TO THE
DELTA ADVOCACY FOUNDATION
FOR THEIR \$1,000 TO
SHEPHERD'S CLOSET!!!!**

**Horario de Misa Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
12 de diciembre a la 1pm**



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Tuesday, December 8
 Livestream Masses at
7:30 am and 7 pm

Engage your family with
 The Bible Challenge
 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/>



Giving Tree 2020

Christmas is the time of giving and this year it feels more important than ever to extend a helping hand.

Please consider purchasing gift cards for distribution to our families in need this Christmas.

Any gift card will be gratefully accepted, however the ideal gift cards will be from stores that provide clothing, toys and food.

In addition cash/check or online donation may be made to Good Shepherd to purchase gift cards.

Simply place gift cards in second collections or drop off at the parish office. **DEADLINE to donate gift cards is December 13th.**

Arbol de Dar de Navidad 2020

La Navidad es el momento de dar y este año es más importante que nunca extender una mano de ayuda.

Considere comprar tarjetas de regalo para distribuirlas a nuestras familias necesitadas esta Navidad.

Cualquier tarjeta de regalo será aceptada con gratitud, sin embargo, las tarjetas de regalo ideales serán las de las tiendas que ofrecen ropa, juguetes y comida.

Además, se puede hacer una donación en efectivo / cheque o en línea a Good Shepherd para comprar tarjetas de regalo.

Simplemente coloque las tarjetas de regalo en la segunda colección durante la misa o déjalas en la oficina parroquial. **La fecha más tardar para donar tarjetas de regalo es el 13 de diciembre.**



SHEPHERD'S CLOSET CHRISTMAS GIVE-AWAY

Due to the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus, Shepherd Closet participants do not feel it is safe to have our annual Christmas Give-away this year. To prevent disappointment to the families who depend on us each year, we will give Shepherd Closet gift cards to our clients. We'll give cards to the many families who are registered with Shepherd Closet throughout the year.

Shepherd Closet families must have a registration card on file. Families receiving gift cards from Shepherd Closet are not the same families as those being served by the 2020 GIVING TREE, but we will use the same method to distribute gift cards to our families. Our goal is to provide families enough cards for them to purchase gifts for their children.

We are asking for donations to purchase gift cards for each family we help. We ask that you make your donation to Good Shepherd Church, second collection (memo: Shepherd's Closet). You can also use online donations, or purchase your own gift cards, and drop them off at the parish office. If you purchase a card separately, please write Shepherd Closet on the front of the card or envelope.

The last date to deliver gift cards to the office is Thursday, December 9th. Participants must register for Shepherd's Closet gift cards, please email abitztravel@att.net or call Ann Abitz at (925) 432-3995 or text messages to Bill Abitz (925) 872-5852. Please include your full name, card number and phone number. Gift cards will be distributed on December 15th. The last date to register for Shepherd Closet is December 1. (Information to follow.)

We know that you are the best parishioners in the world. When we call for help, you're always there. This pandemic has hurt so many families. We need your help to give hope to hopeless families. Let's make it a "Merry Christmas" for those families. Give what you can to either ministry. If possible, don't choose one ministry over the other. Both ministries need your help!

REGALO DE NAVIDAD

Debido a los altos casos del virus Covid-19 en nuestra área, los participantes de Shepherd 's Closet sienten que no es seguro tener nuestro obsequio anual de Navidad este año. Para evitar decepciones a las familias que dependen de nosotros cada año, entregamos tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet a nuestras familias. Daremos tarjetas a las familias que están registradas en Shepherd 's Closet durante todo el año.

Las familias de Shepherd 's Closet deben tener una tarjeta de registro en el archivo. Las familias que reciben tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet no son las mismas familias que reciben el servicio de 2020 GIVING TREE, pero usaremos el mismo método para distribuir las tarjetas de regalo a nuestras familias. Nuestro objetivo es darle a cada familia suficiente tarjetas para que puedan poder comprarle los regalos de navidad a sus hijos.

Estamos solicitando donaciones para comprar tarjetas de regalo para cada familia que vayamos a ayudar. Les pedimos que hagan su donación a Good Shepherd Church, durante la segunda colección (memo: Shepherd 's Closet). También pueden hacer donaciones en línea o comprar sus propias tarjetas de regalo y entregarlas en la oficina parroquial. Si compran una tarjeta por separado, por favor escriban Shepherd 's Closet en frente de la tarjeta o sobre.

La última fecha para entregar las tarjetas de regalo en la oficina es el día jueves 9 de diciembre.

Las familias que quieran registrarse para las tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet, por favor llamen a Ann Abitz al (925) 432-3995 o envíe un mensaje de texto a Bill Abitz (925) 872-5852. Incluya su nombre completo, número de tarjeta y número de teléfono. Las tarjetas de regalo se distribuirán el día martes, 15 de diciembre. El último día para registrarse en Shepherd 's Closet será el día martes, 1 de diciembre (información a continuación).

Sabemos que son los mejores feligreses del mundo. Cuando pedimos ayuda, siempre estás ahí. Esta pandemia ha afectado a tantas familias y necesitamos su ayuda para dar esperanza a familias desesperadas. Hagamos que sea una "Feliz Navidad" para esas familias. Da lo que puedas a cualquier ministerio. Si es posible, no elija un minis-

Mass Intentions

December 7-13

Mass Intentions For The Week

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Mon	7:30 am	Capupus Family *
Tue	7:30 am	Capupus Family
	7:00 pm	Tecla Paghunasan †
Wed	7:30 am	Jaime Sagayap †
Thu	7:30 am	Antonio Sagayap †
Fri	7:30 am	Frank Bustillos † *
Sat	8:00 am	Rene Gutierrez † Melquiades Family Thanksgiving *
Sat	5:30 pm	Sancho Alesna Sr.† *
Sun	8:00 am	Lupe Aceves †*
	10 am	Ramona Noon † *
	12 pm	Grant Lawrie †*
	3 pm	FOR THE PEOPLE

*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Helmut, ^=Fr. Salvador

Parish Staff

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Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary
925-432-6404 Ext. 19
carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Dina Russell, Religious Education Coordinator
432-6404 Ext 21
dina@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Please help contribute to the smooth operation and services of our parish, especially during this most difficult time. You can give your donations to any staff member or place in the mail slot in the ministry building door. We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Fr. Thi



*We thank these
two wonderful
families who
helped us trim
bushes in
around the
church and the
hall.*

*The Reyes' (left)
and the
Toribio's (right).*

God is good!



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**ISAIAH 61:1-2A, 10-11,
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28**

NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2020



Mass

Monday - Friday 7:30am - Livestream

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

Sunday 8:00am - Re-livestream of 5:30pm Mass

10:00am (in the garden) - Livestream

12pm (in the garden) - Livestream

3pm (Spanish) - Livestream

Communion

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

Adoration

Fridays 8am – 9am; First Friday 8am-6:45pm followed by the Sacred Heart Mass at 7pm

Confession

Tuesdays 6pm-7pm (During Advent Only)

Fridays 8am-9am

Saturdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm

or by appointment

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception- Holy Day of Obligation

Masses at 7:30 am & 7:00 pm – Livestream

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day – Saturday

Mass at 1:00 pm (Spanish) in the garden and Livestream

December 15 - 23 Nine Simbang Gabi Masses at 7pm (Filipino Tradition) - Livestream



December 24: Christmas Eve:-Thursday
4:00 p.m. Children Family Mass
6:00 p.m. English Mass
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass



December 25: Christmas Day-Friday
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon & 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

December 31: New Year Eve - Vigil Mass: Mary, Mother of God, Mass @ 5:30 p.m.

January 1, 2019: Solemnity of Mother of God- Holy Day of Obligation
Masses: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.