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St. Pius X, Jamul, CA

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WE ARE GOD'S
INSTRUMENTS

and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us. Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©LPi

**Felipe & Anita
Pedroza
Jackie Connolly
Stephen Sawyer
Marilynn Nienalt
Ciprie Powell
Chris Sauer
Maria Valenzuela
Cheryl Mattas
Diane Mattas
Brittany Groom
Caroline Hendrickson
Hanna Jappaya
Maya Flores**

**Michael
Gloria Lynch
Jose Trujillo
Kennedy Haytasingh**



Baby Jesus' Wish List

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

The Year of Grace

December 2021		Immaculate Conception				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ABBREVIATIONS: K of C- Knights of Columbus MMLG - Mother Mary's Ladies Guild			1 Grupo de Oración 7:00pm	2 Adoration 5:30am - 6:00pm	3 Youth Group Cookie Baking Service at Santa Sophia	4 Men's Gathering 7:30am First Saturday Mass 9:00am Reconciliation 4:00pm
5 Hispanic Group Breakfast After all Masses	6 Bible Study Join us! 7:00pm	7 Join the Youth Group K of C Meeting 7:00pm	8 Mass 7:30am Grupo de Oración 7:00pm	9 Adoration 8:30am - 5:00pm MMLG General Meeting 6:00pm	10 BINGO Dinner 6:00pm Bingo 7:00pm	11 Mass 10pm
12 Hispanic Group Breakfast After all Masses	13 Bible Study Join us! 7:00pm	14 6:30p Join the Youth Group	15 Misa de Sanación 7:00pm	16 Adoration 8:30am - 6:00pm Advent Penance Service	17 Hispanic Group Shophite and Play FACTORELA	18 Reconciliation 4:00pm
19 Youth Group Breakfast After 8:30am Mass	20 Bible Study Join us! 7:00pm	21 Youth Group Christmas Party Healing Mass 7:00pm	22 NO Grupo de Oración	23 Adoration 8:30am - 6:00pm	24 Mass 5:00pm Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas Mass times 9am English 11am Spanish
26 THE HOLY FAMILY	27 Bible Study Join us! 7:00pm	28 Join the Youth Group	29 NO Grupo de Oración	30 Adoration 8:30am - 6:00pm	31 Mass 5:00pm New Year's Eve	

WEEKLY STEWARSHIP	
December 12, 2021	
Envelope Giving	\$1,735.00
Plate Giving	\$3,202.00
Immaculate Conception	\$279.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe (Vigil)	\$340.00
Online Giving	\$652.39
Total	\$6,208.39
Weekly funds needed for church operations	\$5,000.00
Overage/Deficit	+\$(\$1,208.39)



DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN:

On January 22, the Church in the United States observes the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the respect of human life during the 9 Days for Life. Sign up to receive daily intentions from January 21st through the 29th at respectlife.org/9-days.... For questions, please contact mvalencia@sdccatholi....



STOCK AND IRA CHARITABLE GIFT DONATIONS

A gift of your securities, including stocks, mutual funds and IRA Charitable Rollover Distributions are an easy way to make a gift to the Church. By making a gift of your appreciated securities or retirement account, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that may otherwise be due if you sold these assets. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. There are no transaction fees or other costs and the full value of the sold securities benefits the parish, school or other Catholic charities you select. For more information on making a gift, please visit the diocesan website at www.sdccatholic.org and click on Giving – Stock Donations at the top of the screen. Or call Daniel Pritchard at Merrill Lynch, the Diocese's broker, at (760) 930-3122.

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Complaints about Sexual Abuse by a member of the Clergy, a parish Catholic Employee or a Volunteer can be made at <https://www.safeinourdiocese.org/> or call (858) 490-8353 misconduct@sdccatholic.org.

RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS

From Catholic schools and hospitals—to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Please be generous. **TO MAKE YOUR DONATION**, go to <https://giving.diocese-sdiego.org/pages/general-donation-form-retirement-religious> or use the envelope provided at your parish.

SPRING FORWARD 2022 CONFERENCE

"United in the Breaking of the Bread": Everyone involved in parish catechesis and other parish ministries as well as others who may be interested are invited to our annual Spring Forward Conference as we partake in song and prayer with nationally renowned presenter, ValLimar Jensen, and reflect on the Gift of the Eucharist. The event will be held on **Saturday, January 22, at Holy Trinity Parish, El Cajon, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm**. Registration cost is \$25. For more information and to register, visit www.sdccatholicdisciples.net/events/san-sf22

DATE NIGHT SERIES FOR MILITARY COUPLES

Join military couples from around the country for an enriching date night! Because of the sacrificial nature of their lives, military couples have a unique perspective on suffering, endurance, and hope. This date night series seeks to affirm those special gifts, and help strengthen military couples and families especially those struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The Military Date Night Series will feature the powerful witness of three military couples on the topics of interpersonal relationship, family and community, and prayer and faith. Fr. Michael Murphy of Sacred Heart Church, Coronado, will also be presenting. Register at www.witnessstolove.org/militarydatenight/.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Question: Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer: Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them. Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text. Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact? ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Micah prophesied a Messiah ("ruler") would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace and harmony. In what ways does the upcoming birth of Christ bring you comfort?

Second Reading: As the season of Advent draws to a close, the author of Hebrews reminds us that as disciples of Christ, we must strive to do God's will above all else. How do you stay focused on such an important task?

Gospel: Luke is the only Evangelist to record the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth and only a portion of their conversation was preserved. What else do you imagine they talked about? ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known. ©LPi



Join Us for Advent Reflections Mondays during Advent Waiting for Jesus Christ



Join us for as we prepare for the birth of Christ through a short presentation and reflection on a different spiritual gift for each week of Advent, followed by small group discussions in Spanish and English, and ending with singing a favorite Christmas song.

Dates: December 20, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:00 PM

Place: St. Pius X Jamul - Keenan Hall



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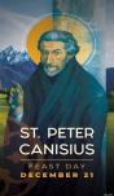
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SHAWN CARNEY
Author & CEO, President and Co-Founder of 40 Days for Life

DECEMBER 19, 2021 TV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Masses 8:30am 11:00am 12:30pm (Spanish) Faith Formation 10:00a-10:55a	Bible Study 7:00pm	Daily Mass 7:30am Youth Group 6:30pm	Daily Mass 7:30am	Daily Mass 7:30am Adoration 8:30am - 5:00pm	Parish Office Closed Christmas Eve Mass 5:00pm	Christmas Day Masses 9:00am (English) & 11:00am (Spanish) Sunday Vigil 5:00pm
Pray for: Rev. Charles Anthony Maria Louis	Pray for: Rev. Daniel Anyanwu	Pray for: Rev. Alexander Aquino	Pray for: Rev. Ruben Arceo	Pray For: Rev. Dominic Asare, SVD	Pray for: Rev. Ronald Bagley, CJM	Pray for: Rev. James Bahash
Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5 -6/Lk 1:26-38	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Ps 33:2-3, 11- 12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6- 7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56	Mal 3:1-4, 23- 24/Ps 25:4- 5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57 -66	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2] Lk 1:67 -79	Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16- 17, 27, 29/ Acts 13:16- 17, 22-25/

MASS Intentions

Dec 19	Sun	8:30am	+Sandy Altomare
Dec 19	Sun	11:00am	+Margie Toland
Dec 19	Sun	12:30pm	For the Parishioners
Dec 20	Mon		NO MASS
Dec 21	Tues	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Dec 22	Wed	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Dec 23	Thur	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Dec 24	Fri	5:00pm	For the Parishioners
Dec 25	Sat	9:00am	Christmas Day-English
Dec 25	Sat	11:00am	Christmas Day-Spanish
Dec 25	Sat	5:00pm	(SI) Hanna Jappaya & Family



St. Peter Canisius - Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus. St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great. A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

Observances for the week of December 19, 2021

Tues: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Thur: St. John of Kanty, Priest
 Fri: Christmas Eve
 Sat: The Nativity of the Lord

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” – Lk 1:43-45

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2021 (28 Nov - 24 Dec 2021)

	Date	Time
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	21-Dec-21	7:00 PM

Reconciliation 4:00pm



ADORATION THURSDAYS 8:30am - 5:00pm

DECEMBER 19, 2021 TV SUNDAY OF ADVENT



From the Bishop's office ...

in response to the latest state mandate regarding indoor mask-wearing. Starting December 15 and at least until January 15 (subject to change) Everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask while indoors in all public places, regardless of your vaccination status. We ask all parishioners, out of concern for the personal health risk due to the Omicron variant and the general concern for the health of others, to comply with these requirements. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Save the date for an Adult

Confirmation Class

January 9, 2022 and concluding February 27, 2022
12:10pm until 1:00pm



ST PIUS X JAMUL YOUTH MINISTRY

DECEMBER

19: Sun 7:30–10:00am
Breakfast, After 8:30 Mass.
21: Tue 6:30pm-8:00pm
Christmas Party



Faith Formation

DECEMBER

25: SAT
The Nativity of the Lord-Christmas Mass
26: SUN
Christmas Break—NO CLASSES

JANUARY

02: SUN
Christmas Break—NO CLASSES
09: SUN
Faith Formation Resumes