

FAITH AND LIFE

Advent
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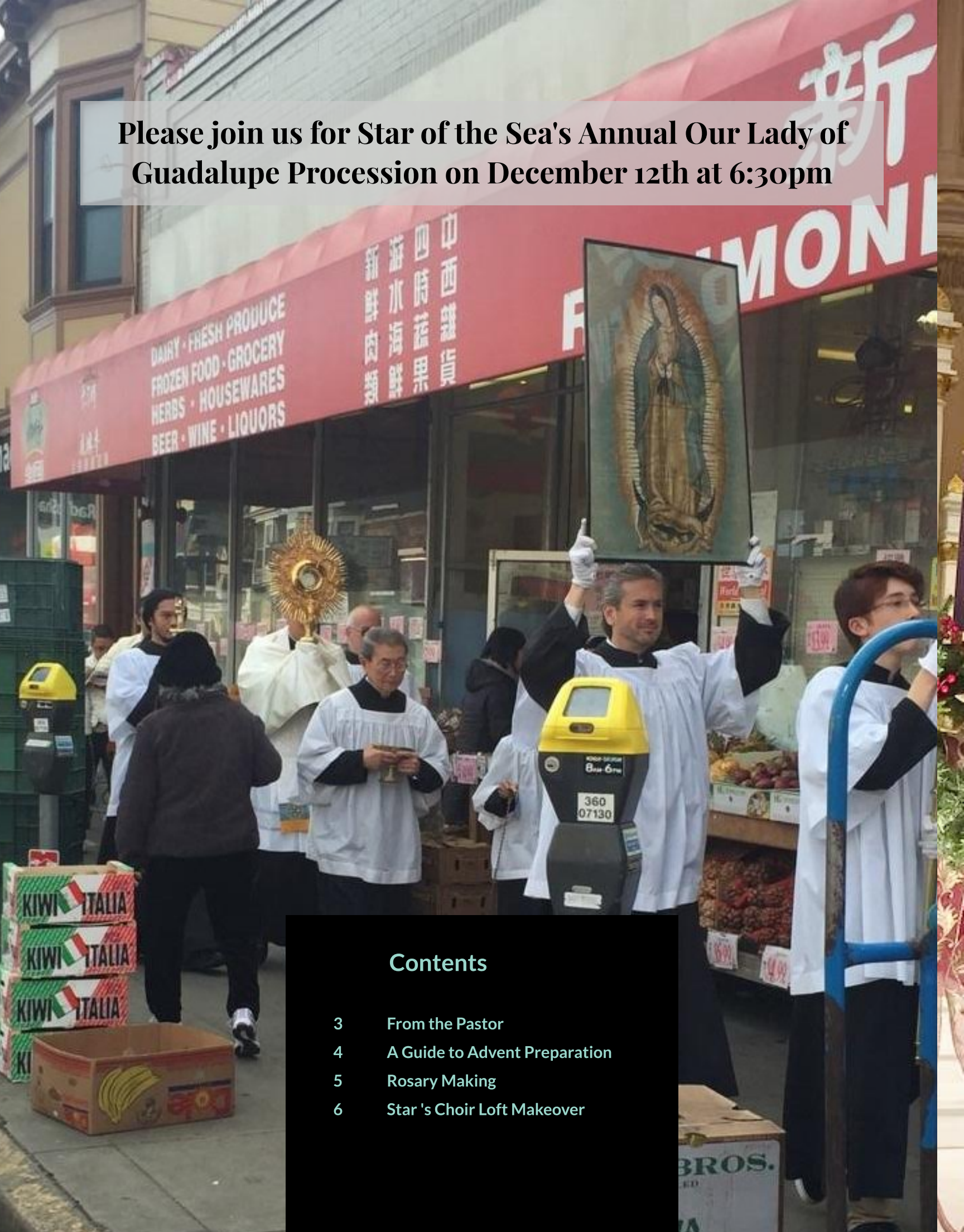
*A Practical Guide
to Advent -
Preparation for
the birth of Christ
on page 4*

A Publication by
STAR
of the **SEA**

A Catholic Stewardship Parish

Photo Credit: Joe Bouchey

Please join us for Star of the Sea's Annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession on December 12th at 6:30pm



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From the Pastor

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Dear Parishioners,

I wish you all a blessed Advent and Happy Christmas. We begin this holy season with a newly-installed organ and our lovely south rose window revealed for the first time since it was walled up in the 1940s. Sound and light will now pour in greater abundance from our choir loft on Sunday mornings! I hope you find our music program as inspiring as I do. Many thanks to our director of music, Lynn Kraehling, who funded the new organ installation.

We have begun offering Solemn High Masses on Holy Days, thanks to Fr. John Chung, our parochial vicar, and Fr. Alvin Yu, the Archbishop's Master of Ceremonies. I hope you can join us for the Church's most solemn expression of musical worship on December 8 at 6:30pm, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Our Lady's Immaculate Conception is our nation's patronal feast, marked by the great basilica in Washington, DC, and so we must "pull out all the stops" to celebrate this feast.

This year, we will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, another highlight of Advent, on her actual feast day, December 12th. In fact, Our Blessed Mother first appeared to St. Juan Diego on December 9th, 1531, as he was on his way to Mass for the Immaculate Conception. Our Mass for December 12th will be at 6:30pm, with a mariachi band and Mexican dinner following in the auditorium, to mark the day he unfurled his tilma to reveal the divine image of God's Holy Mother carrying His Son, surrounded by stars.

Another event to which I invite you this Advent is a national consecration to Our Lady on December 9th. You may have heard that Poland consecrated herself to Our Lady of Fatima this year, the centenary of her visit to the three children in Portugal in 1917. Millions congregated on Poland's borders to pray the rosary, ringing the country around in prayer, so to speak. Our own Archbishop consecrated our local church on October 7th of this year, and now a grassroots movement is afoot to consecrate the entire United States to her Immaculate Heart on December 9th at 12noon. We have been invited as a parish "near the coast" named for Our Lady Star of the Sea, to represent a westernmost community in prayer for our continent. Please join me for Mass on December 9th at noon, followed by a rosary.

Finally, I've purchased several dozen beautiful little Advent prayer books, the "Magnificat Companions," which have scripture readings and spiritual stories each day of the Season. If you would like one please come by the office. I use this little booklet every Advent to enrich my interior life.

You can look forward to our Christmas mailing in a week or so, which will list our Christmas concert and Masses. See you at Star!



**Carmen Smith, the head
of our Guadalupanas,
with a mariachi musician**

A GUIDE TO ADVENT PREPARATION

By Fr. John Chung

In order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas and of His Second Coming, here are the things that we should consider doing during this Advent:

- Set aside time for silence at home
- Go to Confession (available before every Mass)
- Attend weekday Mass
- Adore the Blessed Sacrament
- Pray the Rosary daily
- Read the Scriptures daily
- Attend Vespers (evening prayer, 5:15pm, M-F)
- Do some spiritual reading
- Keep a spiritual journal
- Make an examination of conscience every night
- Set up an Advent wreath and learn what it is
- Go on a retreat
- Visit the elderly and sick
- Volunteer at a local shelter (call the office)
- Pray in front of an abortion clinic (7pm, Thurs)
- Fast from a favorite dish/dessert

The origins of Advent may go back to the fourth century in Spain and Gaul. It generally lasted six weeks or forty days before Epiphany on January 6th, a time for baptism, a preparatory time of fasting and penance for baptism. But by the fifth century, Advent became a time of preparation for Christmas on December 25th. Pope Gregory the Great in the sixth century reduced the number of Advent Sundays from six to four. It was during the Middle Ages that Advent started to have an additional eschatological theme. Advent is not just a remembrance of the waiting for the first coming of Christ, but also a joyful expectation of Christ's Second Coming. In principle, the eschatological emphasis runs from the first Sunday of Advent to December 16th, and the incarnational emphasis from December 17th to the 24th. But both aspects of incarnation and eschatology may coexist. These two main themes of Advent are reflected in the lectionary readings for the four Sundays: vigilance in preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord (1st week), preparing the way of the Lord (2nd week), the joy of the Messianic times (3rd week), and preparing for the birth of the Savior (4th week). The themes are also developed in the readings for the weekdays: the first phase with the emphasis on the Second Coming of the Lord (weeks 1-3) and the second phase with the emphasis on the birth of Jesus (week 4). The twofold character is also expressed by the corresponding preface of the Eucharistic prayer: the watchfulness of God's people looking forward to the time when Christ will come again in glory (First Sunday to Dec 16) and the celebration of the birth of our Savior (Dec 17-24), heightened by Marian character and the "O" Antiphons.

Making Rosaries

A NEW MINISTRY

By Connie Arnaldo

After the Holy Mass, the rosary is the most practiced prayer by Catholics all over the world. Since Our Lady appeared in different apparitions requesting the recitation of the holy rosary, it is a devotion that I hold dear and encourage to be part of a daily routine. It brings down many blessings on the family and for those for whom you pray. I learned to make rosaries about 30 years ago with my husband; He also made a wheel to cut string and tools for knots.

We have been distributing rosaries in the gift box we give to new members and visitors at Sunday Mass since September 2017. Each month we'll have a new design and color. At present, Elizabeth Ing has recruited several friends to make rosaries, and I am very grateful for her support and encouragement. The hard-working volunteers are producing many rosaries every week to prepare for the next delivery date.

We introduced rosary making to the Junior Legion of Mary in September, and on November 5th of this year we had the privilege of working with seven and eight year olds in the Parish School of Religion. With some guidance, they were able to complete their own rosary to pray with. It was a great experience working with the youth, to pass down the prayers of the rosary that is much needed today.

This Rosary Making Ministry opens doors to a more spiritual life. We are inviting anyone who has interest to learn to make rosaries to contact us. This labor of love is done all for the Glory of God

Connie Arnaldo is head of our rosary making ministry



STAR'S CHOIR LOFT MAKEOVER

By Lynn Kraehling

How an organ builder's service call to fix a sticky note led to an organ transplant.

A couple of months ago I was playing the organ for Mass and noticed that an organ key I had pressed was still sounding after I released it. Fixing that problem led to my being invited to an "open house" organ demonstration where everyone in attendance could hear and play a pipe organ that dated from 1889 and that was available for donation to a recipient (church). The very next day, Martin Ford, our parish business manager, mentioned to me that one of many parish goals was to eventually open up the rose window behind the current organ facade in order to admit more light into our beautiful church.

That particular goal gave me an idea, and after some discussion it was decided the existing organ would be

removed and replaced by the organ that was available for transplant.

The organ was built in 1889 by the Boston firm of Woodberry and Harris. Eight or nine of the thirty organs the company produced between 1888 and 1893 still exist in a condition that is representative of classic 19th-century American organ-building. Star now has one of them, and it was restored 20 years ago by the Los Angeles area organ builder, Manuel Rosales, who designed and voiced the Disney Concert Hall organ.

Although about the same size of usable ranks as the previous organ, the tone quality of the "new" organ will be remarkably different - a warmer, richer sound, versus the neo-classical brilliance of the previous organ.

Our new organ was blessed by Fr. Illo at the 9:30am Mass on November 25th.

Lynn Kraehling is the Music Director at Star of the Sea

The rose window was walled up sometime in the 1940s when a new organ was installed. In 1958 capital campaign included plans to reconfigure the organ and reveal the window. This never happened, but on Oct 27 the sun once again poured through our south window after being dark for more than 60 years.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec 3** Advent Wreath Making, 10:30am, Auditorium
- Dec 5** Simbang Gabi (Traditional Filipino Advent Mass), 7pm, St. Mary's Cathedral
- Dec 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Solemn High Mass, 6:30pm
- Dec 9** Consecration of California to the Immaculate Heart, 12pm Mass and Rosary
- Dec 12** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 6:30pm, Mass, Procession, and Feast
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Masses: 4:30pm Children's Choir, 10pm Choral, 12 Midnight Latin
- Dec 25** Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 9:30am Choral, 11:30am Latin
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve Holy Hour 11:30pm - 12:30am, Party following, Auditorium
- Jan 27** Walk for Life West Coast, 12:30pm, downtown Civic Center
Free BBQ, 5:00pm, Auditorium of Star of the Sea
Sisters of Life Presentation, Star Speaker Series, 6pm, Church



Lynn Kraehling, our music director, next to the new organ



STAR
of the
SEA

4420 GEARY BLVD.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94118
415-751-0450
WWW.STARPARISH.COM

Have you been Confirmed? Want to know more about being Catholic?

Star of the Sea is blessed to have an active RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*) program. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, please email us and we'll be happy to put you in touch with a priest who can guide you through your journey. claire@starparish.com / 415.751.0740

Classes are every other Monday, 6:30 pm – 8:00pm, at the Parish Office.

Sunday Mass Times	Weekday Mass Times	Confessions
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8am Family Mass: 9:30am Latin Mass: 11:30am, 5:00pm Candlelight Mass: 7:30pm	Latin Mass: 7:30am English: 12 noon	<i>15 minutes before every Mass</i> Saturday: 3:15 - 4:15 pm
	Eucharistic Adoration	Tuesday: 7:00- 8:00pm
	Tuesday 8am to Saturday 4pm	