

"Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care upon God for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone, for that would be to wrong Him." ~ John of the Cross

Busy Month!

We have so much going on this month! Please see the calendar for all of our events and send prayers for all of our students in the program, especially those that will be receiving sacraments. Also, please remember our Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Posters must be returned by December 15th. All entries have an opportunity to win a \$30 gift card or cash. If you can come to the December 17th 12:30 Mass, Santa will be here after Mass! Sponsored by Knights of Columbus.

This can be a difficult season for many reasons. As John of the Cross reminds us in the quote above, you are not alone and God has not forgotten you. You are his beloved son/daughter. If you need to, reach out this season, to friends, family, or others that you think can help you. Also, remember the blessings that you encounter every day, though sometimes life doesn't seem like a blessing. If you are fortunate this season, reach out to those who are not. We can all help make each other's lives just a little more beautiful.
Blessings to You and Yours,

Francesca

Important Dates



- December 2– Reconciliation and First Communion Family Advent Retreat 1 to 5pm; Nativities @ Nativity after 4pm Mass
- December 3 — Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest **Nativities @ Nativity after all Masses**
- December 5— Blue Christmas Mass (at 5pm) for those grieving this Advent/Christmas Season in the Church
- December 6– Optional Memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop
- December 8 — Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Offices Closed**
- December 10– Pam and David Class Mid-Year Interviews (bring journals), Youth Group Game Day after 12:30 Mass
- December 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 14— Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, **Youth Choir Rehearsals 5:30 to 7:30pm in Church**
- December 15— Advent Penance Service 6pm in church
- December 16-Reconciliation for Mrs. Eloisa, Mr. Houghton, and Mrs. Vange and Clerice's Combo Class @ 10am in Church, St. Vincent de Paul Food Distribution, Youth Group Adult Leader Meeting 10:30 to 11:30am in Pastoral Center, Liz & Kelly Class Mid-Year Interviews (bring journals)
- December 17– "O" Antiphons begin at evening prayer, Youth Mass @ 12:30, Santa makes an appearance after Mass! Sponsor Session Pam & David's Class in Parish Hall
- December 21– Memorial of Saint Lucy
- December 24– Christmas Eve, NO Class, Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm with Christmas Pageant
- December 25— Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), Offices closed
- December 26– Feast of Saint Stephen, Offices Closed
- December 27— Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
- December 28 — Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- December 31– New Year's Eve — No Class

"O" Antiphons-December 17-23

An antiphon is a short passage or verse, usually from Scripture, which is prayed before and after the Psalms and canticles in the Liturgy of the Hours. In the last days of Advent, from December 17 through December 23, the antiphons for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer call upon Christ under the many names used by the prophets in the Old Testament, and ask him to hasten his return. Each of these antiphons begins with "o" (hence their name). The first "O" Antiphon begins, O *Sapientia* (O Wisdom). The comes *Adonai* (Sacred Lord), *Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex gentium* (King of peoples), and finally *Emmanuel* (God-is-with-us). The favorite Advent carol, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, is actually John M. Neale's translation of these ancient antiphons.

Medieval poets loved intricacies of language, and the first letters of the titles by which Christ is addressed in the "O" antiphons — *Sapientia*, *Adonai*, *Radix*, and so on— form a reverse acrostic, spelling the Latin words that mean "I will be there tomorrow."

Introducing: Danette Montoya



Hello everyone! My name is Danette Montoya and I will be teaching Sunday 5th grade catechism. I was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM. I received my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Western New Mexico University this past May. I have been teaching the NM Pre-K for the last 6 years. I look forward to the catechist school year and teaching about the love of God.

Saint John of the Cross



December 14th
Patron of Mystics

John of the Cross grew up near Avila in poverty. His father died when he was young, and his widowed mother struggled to support the family. Shortly after his ordination in 1567, he met Teresa of Avila and was drawn into her reform of the Carmelites. The reform set Carmelite brother against brother, and John was even imprisoned but used the time to write the Spiritual Canticle. For this, and for his other great work, Dark Night of the Soul, he is considered one of the greatest poets to write in Spanish.

Reconciliation/First Communion



Our first Family Advent Retreat will be on Saturday, December 2nd at 1pm. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents and all family are invited!

Reconciliation for our Combo Classes (Mrs. Vange, Mrs. Clerice, Mrs. Eloisa, and Mr. Houghton) will be on Saturday, December 16th at 10am in the church. Practice will be done at the Advent retreat on December 2nd, so we highly encourage you to come!

Confirmation



Confirmation 1– Remember, we need your affidavits and saint reposts before the last day of class. If they are not turned in, you cannot register for the second year of Confirmation!

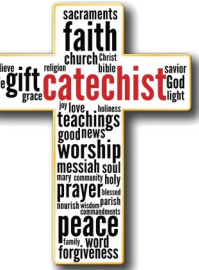
Confirmation 2–
December 10th— Mid-year interviews with Francesca and Kim for Pam and David's class. Please be sure to bring your journals.
December 17th-Sponsor Session for Pam and David's class. Please be sure that your Sponsor can make it to this session. If they cannot, a parent can come in their place. Mid-Year Interviews for Liz and Kelly's class, be sure to bring your journals.



Game Day Grades 6-12th join us Sunday, December 10th after 12:30 Mass until 3:30pm in the Pastoral Center. Come play games, Bingo and have popcorn.
Youth Choir Rehearsal Do you like to sing and are in Grades 6-12th rehearsal on Thursday, December 14th from 5:30-7:30 in the Church. The youth choir will be singing at our Youth Mass on Sunday December 17th at 12:30 Mass.
Youth Group Adult Leader meeting Saturday, December 16th at 10:30am-11:30am in the Pastoral center to plan for our youth group. If you are interested please attend the meeting or email kchavez@n-bvm.org.

Volunteer Opportunities:
St. Vincent de Paul Food Distribution – December 16th volunteers should arrive any time after 11:30, length of time varies but typically ends by 3.

Catechists



Catechists

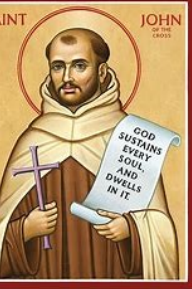
Just a reminder, if you are interested, the University of Dayton offers wonderful online classes to further your faith. They even have a Catechist Certification and they partner with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Feel free to take a look at their site below:
[VLCFF @ UD > Home \(udayton.edu\)](#)

Meaning of Advent



How do we prepare for Advent? What if we lived Advent as if we were to die on Christmas? How would our Advent look and feel different?

Stillness of Soul



O Blessed Jesus,
give me stillness of soul in You.
Let Your mighty calmness reign in me.
Rule me, O King of Gentleness,
King of Peace.
Amen

Interesting Links

- ♦ [St. John of the Cross: Doctor of the Church - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)
- ♦ [Saint John of the Cross \(c. 1542-1591\) | Loyola Press](#)
- ♦ [St. John of the Cross - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)
- ♦ [Search Results for "Advent" \(catholicicing.com\)](#)
- ♦ [What is Advent? | USCCB](#)
- ♦ [Definition of Advent - Advent & Christmas Season - Catholic Online](#)