



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12

On December 9, 1531 a poor Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, was walking by a hill near his village when he heard beautiful music. Suddenly there appeared a radiant cloud and within it a young Indian maiden dressed as an Aztec princess. The young maiden spoke to the 57-year-old widower in his native language and directed him to visit the Archbishop of Mexico with a request that a chapel be built where she stood.

The archbishop demanded a sign of authenticity, and the maiden instructed Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill where they met. Even though December was too late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego was surprised to find Castilian roses, not native to Mexico.

On December 12, Juan Diego opened his cloak before the archbishop, the roses fell to the floor, and in their place the image of the young virgin was miraculously imprinted on the fabric. News spread quickly, and shortly thereafter an estimated nine million Indians converted to Catholicism.

Our Lady's appearance to a poor, humble man is a compelling reminder that God's loving embrace is all-inclusive; and that our Church's preferential option for the poor is a Gospel imperative.

What Can Advent Mean for Me?

Each year we are offered this season of Advent. The prayers are often about the "coming" of Jesus and the culture around us clearly points to Christmas. So, Advent can seem like a time of remembering the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and become a time of Christmas preparation.

A deeper look can allow Advent to be about preparing my heart for Jesus to come to me more intimately during these four weeks. The exploration – the activity and the work of Advent – can be about discovering where I need Jesus to come, in my life. This is a process of examining the places in my heart where Jesus is missing, where his style, his way and his heart are not like mine. It is an opportunity to feel the absence, to feel the emptiness, or perhaps the shallowness of certain places in my heart. The beginning of the Advent experience is to allow myself to enter into an experience of missing something and of longing for something to replace it.

We don't want to skip over this step. To pray, "Come, Lord Jesus" without knowing what I'm asking for will ultimately not be the best way to make that prayer. One way to help ourselves be more concrete and specific, we can journal our preparations. For example, we can put pen to paper – or fingers to keyboard – to ask ourselves key questions: What is feeling "empty" in me? Where do I feel I've not let Jesus into my heart? In what areas might I have walled him out? Into what pain, loneliness, fear or anger have I not invited him?

When I start naming my responses, I can begin to feel a longing. I can let myself sense that I'm not going to be happy if I continue to live with resentment or sadness or any kind of darkness. I can imagine how much happier I'd be if I let myself express a desire to welcome Jesus into those spaces where I need him, where I need healing, where I need renewal, where I need his comfort and peace.

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ST. MONICA PARISH

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December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENECTION

(temporarily suspended)

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

WEDDING/HOUSE BLESSING/SICK CALL

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

Stay awake, for the day of the Lord is at hand.
The voice of God breaks into our world through sacred Scripture and the witness of modern-day disciples. Does it affect our thoughts, words and actions forming and shaping our lives? Or, is it dulled and dimmed our worldly ways? Now is the time to listen and to act, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah speaks for the Lord in giving comfort to his people, consoling Jerusalem that *her penalty is paid*. They are to *prepare the way of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed*. He will shepherd them with care. In the second reading, Peter writes to his community that *the day of the Lord will come like a thief*. Therefore, they ought to be in *leading lives of holiness and godliness*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist heralds the coming of Jesus as he exhorts his listeners to turn away from sin and be baptized.

Today's Readings:

1st: Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

Psalms: 85

2nd: 2 Peter 3.8-14

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8

Sunday Missal 2020 - 2021

The new liturgical year is here. You are encouraged to own a copy of the Missal for your perusal at home. \$5 a copy is a great investment for your faith life all year round. You can get your copy at the Office or in the church foyer. Thank you for keeping up your spiritual life with the Word of God.

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Youth Ministry Second Collection

This weekend's second collection goes towards supporting Archdiocesan youth programs. 50% is returned to your parish for youth programs where applicable. Give now at support.rcav.org/donate-second-collection

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Project Advance 2020 - Many parishioners have made your donation online via the RCAV.org website. THANK YOU for your support and generous response of our parish commitment to this year's appeal of the Archdiocese. Our share is \$13,000. Our total goal is \$40,000 plus expenses for the refurbished new floorings in the Parish Centre and classrooms. PA2020 continues until December 31. May the Lord bless you always!

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Advent Confessions – Day of Mercy

December 12, Saturday, the Day of Mercy. St. Monica Parish will be open for individual confession from 10am to 12 noon and 4pm to 4:50pm. Other parishes will also safely offer increased opportunities for Confession throughout Advent. You may find a priest near you at rcav.org/christmas

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Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Deacon Richard - There will be a diocesan novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Deacon Richard starting on Thursday, Dec. 3. The novena will conclude on the ordination day on Friday, Dec. 11, the day before the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sign up to receive daily prayers via email at rcav.org/ordination. Please pray for Deacon Richard that he may imitate Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep and that the Archdiocese of Vancouver may be united by this moment of hope during these challenging times.

A Stewardship Moment

Today's second reading is about Christ's coming again, "The day of the Lord," Peter calls it, but that day is not December 25th. It is that other day, that second-coming day about which Peter is concerned. He waits with great hope and anticipation for God to remake the earth into a place of perfect justice and peace. And he sets some demanding goals for the Christian community as it awaits that final day of accounting and reconciliation: strive to be at peace, without spot or blemish. Christian stewards work for peace. As we await the coming of Christmas, what can we do to promote peace in our homes, workplaces, community and world?

Christmas 2020: Jesus, Our Living Hope

This year's Christmas preparations will undoubtedly look different; the faithful of the Archdiocese will be challenged to make space intentionally in their hearts despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic. Our priests will be undertaking more work and some Christmas traditions will not be possible under current Provincial restrictions. As we journey through Advent to the joy of the Incarnation, may we, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, encounter Jesus, Our Living Hope. Learn more about this year's Christmas celebrations at rcav.org/christmas

What Can Advent Mean for Me?

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As I write this all out, during the early weeks of Advent, and hear the Isaiah's readings and their promises, I will begin to say "Come, Lord Jesus" in a new way – with genuine hope and expectation, with deep desire, with feeling and energy.

When our desire meets God's desire for us, something we call "grace" happens. The gift is given where we are most receptive to receive it.

Our desire for Jesus to fill us will make Advent a season that truly is about the Incarnation – the coming of Jesus, in the fleshy reality of our day to day life. And, it will get us to the manger and the reality of the fact that the one who came then, is here to come again – into the same poverty and with the same welcome with which Mary and Joseph received him with trust and hope.

"Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

Source: Creighton University's Online Ministries



**Knights of Columbus
59th Annual Charity Appeal**
Tickets only \$3 - WIN \$177,000 in prizes -

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1st Prize \$100,000

2nd Prize \$50,000

3rd Prize \$10,000

4th Prize \$5,000

5th Prize \$2,000

6th to 15th \$1,000 each

BUY YOUR Tickets ONLINE -

KofCDraw.net/C12861

Prizes will be drawn with the grand prizes and 12 consolation prizes on Saturday January 30, 2021

Mass Intentions

December 6 - 12, 2020

- Mon, Dec 7 - 9am, Jimenez, Mendoza, Alvarez Family (INT)
- Tue, Dec 8 - 9am, Marina Lo (INT)
- Wed, Dec 9 - Alice Leung (+)
- Thu, Dec 10 - 9am, Kirsten Festejo (+)
- Fri, Dec 11 - 9am, Christine Sooderman (INT)
- Sat, Dec 12 - Ver & Tel Decena (INT)
Deceased Fernades
Family & Friends (+)