

# WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

Parish Mission Statement: *To love God and our neighbor through worship in our Catholic tradition, committed witness, and good works.*

## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Fifth & W. Waldrip, Elma, Washington

Confession	Sunday	8:15 a.m.
Mass	Sunday	9 a.m.
Mass	Wednesday	6 p.m.
Mass	Friday	Noon

## St. John's Catholic Church

414 E. Broadway St., Montesano, Washington

Confession	Saturday	4:15 p.m.
Mass	Saturday	5 p.m.
Mass	Sunday	11 a.m.
Mass	Tuesday	6 p.m.
Mass	Thursday	Noon
Adoration	Wed. & Fri.	10 a.m. to Noon



### Holiday Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Vigil (12/24)

- 7 p.m. St. Joseph
- 9 p.m. St. John

#### Christmas Day (12/25)

- 9 a.m. St. Joseph
- 11 a.m. St. John

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1/1/2021)

- 10 a.m. St. Joseph
- Noon St. John

#### Confession Schedule

12/18 - 6-7 p.m. St. Joseph  
12/19 - 4-5 p.m. St. John

**Priest Administrator:** Father Arulanandu David

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**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Download the Online Giving app on your mobile device to make it easy to support your parish:  
<https://www.osvonline.giving.com/2942>



The Knights of Columbus meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Visit us online at [www.twosaints.us](http://www.twosaints.us)

*Second Sunday of Advent - December 6, 2020*

**December 8th** - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)  
Masses celebrated at **St. Joseph at noon** and **St. John at 6 p.m.**

**December 12th - Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Joseph's.**  
**Rosary at 6:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m.**

**Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Patrona de las Américas Ruega por Nosotros**

Oh Señor, Creador Nuestro. De tu mano bondadosa hemos recibido el derecho a la vida, a la libertad y a la búsqueda de la felicidad. Tú nos has hecho tu pueblo y nos has dado el derecho y el deber de venerarte a ti, único Dios verdadero, y a tu Hijo, Jesucristo. Por el poder y la obra del Espíritu Santo, nos llamas a vivir nuestra fe en el mundo llevando la luz y la palabra salvadora del Evangelio a todos los confines de la sociedad.

Te pedimos nos bendigas mientras cuidamos del don de la libertad religiosa. Danos fortaleza de mente y corazón para estar siempre dispuestos a defender nuestras libertades cuando son amenazadas. Danos valentía para que se escuchen nuestras voces en defensa de los derechos de tu Iglesia, y de la libertad de conciencia de todas las personas de fe. Te pedimos, Oh Padre celestial, que en esta hora decisiva de la historia de nuestra nación, y reunidos en tu Iglesia, des a todos tus hijos e hijas una voz clara y unida para que con cada prueba que encaremos, y cada peligro que superemos, —por el bien de nuestros hijos, de nuestros nietos, y de todos los que vengan después de nosotros— este gran país sea siempre “una nación, bajo Dios, indivisible, con libertad y justicia para todos”. Te lo pedimos por Jesucristo, Nuestro Señor. Amén.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas, Pray for Us**

O God Our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**St. Placid Priory has a new ministry: The Priory Arts Shop.**

This is an on-line site where you can find fine arts as well as handmade and hand-decorated items fashioned by the sisters and their friends.

Go to [stplacid.org/shop](http://stplacid.org/shop) to view the creations and make purchases. When you buy from this site you support the community of St. Placid Priory and its ministries. Christmas is coming and we



We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers at St. John's and St. Joseph's. The Alter Societies will be purchasing them.

**Important Dates**

**December 13 – Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious**

**December 17 – Pope Francis's Birthday**

**Baptism, Marriage, Other Services, Scheduling Appointments with Father David:**

Know someone who is no longer attending Mass? Do you need home Communion?

Call the office at 360-482-3190 to schedule a time.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Call parish office  
360-482-3190  
Or call Fr. David at  
307-723-0004

**Special Intention Mass**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your special intention. Contact the parish office to schedule a weekday Mass intention.

Deadline for items placed in the bulletin  
Wednesday noon  
[p hm.twosaints@gmail.com](mailto:p hm.twosaints@gmail.com)

# The Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 6, 2020

## The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin.

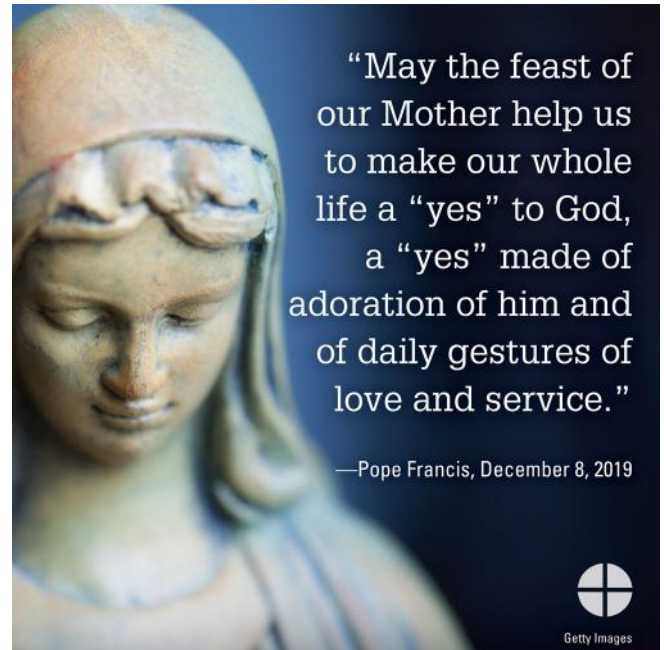
We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

### MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you we come. Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.—St. Bernard of Clairvaux



“May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a “yes” to God, a “yes” made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service.”

—Pope Francis, December 8, 2019



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Catholic  
Current

This article was an excerpt from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 141–143, 149.  
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BULLETIN



# Fact of Faith

## *Advent and Christmas Celebrations and Customs Around the World*

by Norma Montenegro Flynn

**C**hristmas is one of the biggest celebration around the world, as Christians from different cultures come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. God and King, yet so humble, he was destined to be born in a manger.

With shopping, gifts lists, sales and specials that lure people to spend more money, it is difficult to remain focused on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas and the opportunity it brings us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, to show kindness to others, to give to those in need, and to share time and memories with family and friends. A fun way to enjoy the Advent season is to learn about how countries around the world have unique customs and celebrations for the Advent season. Here are some:

The Feast of Saint Nicholas is celebrated on December 6. Children leave their shoes outside their bedroom door the night before and awaken that day to find a surprise treat in their shoes. Saint Nicholas was a fourth century bishop in Lycia, a province in Turkey. He became well known for his generosity. He is also considered the patron saint of brides and children and the precursor to Santa Claus.

**Saint Lucy:** The feast of Saint Lucy (Lucia) is celebrated on December 13, in Italy, Sweden, Scandinavia and Croatia. Her name means light. In Italy, children leave bowls of milk and carrots to attract the hungry donkey she travels on and make sure she stops by their house and leaves presents for them. In Sweden, the feast day is called *Luciadagen*. The oldest girl in the family wears a white dress, a red sash as a sign of martyrdom, and a wreath crown with lighted white candles. Other girls also dressed as Lucy walk in procession singing traditional songs and carrying

rolls and cookies that later on are shared with all those present.

**Fiesta de la Guadalupana:** December 12 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Mexican tradition has also been adopted by many people from Central and South America living in the United States. This is one of the most popular religious feasts among Hispanics in the United States. Many parishes throughout the country celebrate this feast day by doing reenactments of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego, praying a morning rosary dedicated to her, and bringing her the traditional “Mañanitas” with mariachi bands singing songs to praise her. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also considered the patroness of the unborn.

Posadas are celebrated in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and other Latin American countries. Usually neighborhoods get together to reenact the pilgrimage of Joseph and Mary before the birth



Bishops Jose Leopoldo Gonzalez Gonzalez of Nogales, Mexico, and Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., make their way with people along the international border fence during a “posada,” the commemoration of Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter, Dec. 20 in Nogales, Sonora.

of Jesus as a way to prepare their hearts for the nativity of our Lord. They go from house to house singing traditional Advent and Christmas carols or



villancicos, knocking on every door, but everyone turns them down until they find one house that gives them shelter. Some parishes in the United States also celebrate this tradition as a way to pass on this tradition to young children. They are celebrated starting December 16.

**Simbang Gabi or Misa de Gallo:** It is a novena of Masses celebrated in the Philippines at dawn starting on December 16 until Christmas Eve. Filipino communities throughout the United States also celebrate this tradition, from December 15 to December 23. It is considered a way to prepare for the coming of Jesus with fervor, joy and thanksgiving which are expressed in their faithfulness to attend the full novena Masses. After each Mass, families share traditional holiday sweets and desserts.

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 5, in many countries around the world,

like Mexico, Spain, Peru and in the island of Puerto Rico, where it's called the Feast of the Three Kings. In Puerto Rico for example, the town's mayor will visit impoverished neighborhoods and bring toys to kids. The kids receive the gifts from people dressed as the Reyes Magos. The night before the Feast of the Epiphany, children fill out a box or leave treats for the Wise Men (and their camels,) and the next day they find gifts or candy delivered to them while they were sleeping.

These feasts may be diverse in their celebrations and customs, but the center remains the same: they remind us of the beautiful miracle that Jesus was born unto us.

*Norma Montenegro Flynn is assistant director of Media Relations at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

