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# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A | DECEMBER 4, 2022

# CHRIST, CENTRE AND GOAL OF HUMAN HISTORY

Excerpts from St Oscar Romero, Homily on Second Sunday of Advent (Year A), 4 December 1977

The message of this Sunday in Advent, sisters and brothers, is a precious one. To begin I have here some words of the Council that are very important for us today. Ask yourselves whether these words do not reflect what each of us is experiencing in our conscience. Speaking to the world today, the Council says, "The imbalances under which the modern world labors are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man... No doubt many whose lives are infected with a practical materialism are blinded against any sharp insight into this kind of dramatic situation; or else, weighed down by unhappiness they are prevented from giving the matter any thought» (GS 10). Look at the two great evils of today. On the one hand, there are some people who live with great comfort and wealth; they are practically materialists; they give no time or importance to analyzing the dramatic situation of the country or their own conscience; they are happy in their golden cages. On the other hand, there are those whose extreme misery leaves them no time to reflect on what is

happening. What time does a poor person have who is wondering today whether he will find work tomorrow? Early in the morning he takes his bag and leaves home in search of work, but instead of finding work he ends up in prison or among the disappeared. These two extremes spoil this season of Christmas; neither allows us to see the Christ who comes among us. [...]

"...He will judge the poor with justice..."

Listen to the beautiful description you heard today: "Not by appearance shall he judge nor by hearsay shall he decide. He will judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked" (Isa 11:3-4). Another beautiful description follows. Using the poetic image of conflict among the beasts of the jungle, the prophet says that when people are converted to God and place their trust more in God than in earthly armies or unjust human laws. then «the wolf will reside with the lamb". And he continues to describe a situation that seems impossible: "The panther will lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion will graze together; a child will put his finger into the cave of a snake, and no harm will come to him» (Isa 11:6-8). These images, sisters and brothers. tell us that now the world appears to be a jungle where human beings are beasts for other humans. We beat one another, we bite one another, we eat one another. But when we are converted, when we let God's kingdom enter our hearts, then it won't be wolf against wolf nor lion against lamb. Rather, all of us, rich and poor, will be brothers and sisters who eat together. Then we will experience the fatherhood of the kingdom of God. This is the Christmas the church desires.

### **Mission Statement**

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



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# *FVOW* Fr. Byron Macias, CMF

The Gospel this weekend gives us a strong image: the One coming after John the Baptist is coming with "His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:1-12).

Yes, Jesus is coming with his winnowing hand. He is coming for you (the wheat) and will save you from the chaff that creeps in into your life. Yet, this takes some work on our part.

First, we do really have to pray. Pray for Jesus to help you get rid of all that useless chaff.

Second, we do really have to help Jesus do his thing. We can tell him about that chaff.

Third, we do really have to believe. After all, the faith is the art of the possible, because God is behind true faith.

You, yes you who are reading this, you are the most beautiful, healthy and holy wheat God has created. Be sure that Jesus will come time and again, with his winnowing fan in his hand, to save you from any chaff that creeps in into your life!

# Birthday

I will be 44 in December 13, and for my birthday, I would like to have 44 small stuffed animals (one per year of life) to be sent to the poor children in Ecuador. I could also use a suitcase to send them via airplane. They don't have to be new; then can be used. Just bring them to the office. The best gift you can give me is a smile of a child who will receive your stuffed animal. Talk to me for more information.

# Simbang Gabi

We will be celebrating this beautiful Philippine tradition with a special Mass on Thursday, December 22 at 6pm. Please join us!

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Night Mass") is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas.

There will also be amazing Pinoy food and fellowship afterwards!

### Mass at Fresno State

Pray for us (and join us if you can) tomorrow, Monday, December 5 at 12:00pm, for Mass at Fresno State. This is a dream come true and it's happening thanks to your prayers and support. Talk to Edgar for more information.

### **Immaculate Conception**

This Thursday we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have two Masses on that day: 8:00am and 6:00pm.

### **Community Anointing of the Sick**

We will celebrate a communal Anointing of the Sick during all the Masses on Gaudete Sunday: December 11.

# **Christmas Gift Wrapping**

Thanks for supporting our youth! Please, bring your Christmas gifts to church when you come to Mass today, December 4, and also on Sunday, December 18 and we will wrap them for you for a donation. Please contact me if you have any questions: frbyron@csufnewman.com

# Saintly Quote

There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers."-St. Teresa of Avila

### Have a Laugh

The church council met to discuss Fr. Byron's compensation package for the coming year. After the meeting the chair of council told the pastor: "We are very sorry, padre, but we decided that we cannot give you a raise next year."

"But you must give me a raise," said the priest. "I am but a poor preacher!"

"I know," the council chair said. "We hear you every Sunday."

# Knights of Columbus Membership Drive

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Our local council, *John Cardinal Newman Council 9445*, will be holding a membership drive after all Masses on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, 2022.

There will be tables at each end of the doors with brother knights to answer your questions. Becoming a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way If you would like to join today, simply go to <u>www.KofC.org/joinus</u> and enter our council 9445 for local information. You may also visit our local Council webpage at <u>www.9445.org</u>

# WORLD YOUTH DAY UPDATE

# **Christmas Gift Wrapping**

Bring your Christmas gifts to Church to let us help you... Sunday, December 4 Sunday, December 18

Let us wrap them for you when you come for Mass for a donation to raise funds for World Youth Day! Also, please donate new gift bags, end rolls or ribbons. Save the dates and help us by allowing us to help you.

### Please help send our Youth and Young Adults to World Youth Day in August 2023





Monday, December 5 7:00pm in the Chapel

An evening to remember and honor our loved ones who have died. The evening offers a time of quiet, prayerful reflection, inspiring readings and peaceful music. There will also be a candle-lighting ritual as we say the names of those who have died. All those who have lost loved ones and their friends are invited.

# Advent Lectio Divina

During the weeks of Advent, you are warmly invited to join a circle of parishioners as we spend an hour together with the Sunday Gospel. We will meet on Wednesday mornings, through December 21 from 8:45am to 9:45am after morning Mass in the Community Room. The group will be facilitated by Lynn Baker.

### Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends is the Newman Center's Religious Education and faith formation program for EVERYONE of all ages - Children, HS Youth & Adults.

Faith, Family & Friends meets Tuesday evening December 6 at 6:00pm to 7:00 pm for an Intergenerational Group meeting on Catholic Traditions and Rituals. This week will be the history of St. Nicholas.

Individuals and families are invited to gather in the Grassy Courtyard by 5:45pm to pray before being released to attend classes. All classes begin at 6:00pm.

Joy of Love Moms: The Joy of Love Moms Group invites families to the west playground after 9:30am Mass for an opportunity for children and families to meet, socialize and play together. Please join us!

Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group: This ministry meets on Monday mornings at 8:30am in the Library after our 8:00am morning Mass.



Giving Tree Angels are due this weekend! If you haven't already, please return them with your gift cards by NOON on Sunday December 11.

The following communities benefit from your gifts: Orange Cove, Mendota, San Joaquin, Tranquility, Laton, St. Alphonsus, Mt. Carmel, St. Anthony Claret and Stone Soup.

If you have any questions or need more information, call the Parish Office.

# NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

2021		2022	
November 7	\$33,116.51	November 6	\$23,504.21
November 14 ACH	\$19,381.96	November 13 ACH	\$18,433.32
November 21 ACH	\$17,019.36	November 20 ACH	\$14,638.50
November 28	\$10,815.29	November 27	\$9,901.64
NOVEMBER 2021 TOTAL	\$80,333.12	NOVEMBER 2022 TOTAL	\$66,477.67

# PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

For the week of December 4- December 10, 2022

### • Sunday December 4

1963: 2 Vatican II Documents Promulgated: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy <u>https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/</u> library/view.cfm?id=5723

Instruments of Social Communication

Prayer Service for Christian Unity Celebrated at Vatican I 1969 Fred Hampton and Mark Clarke Murdered by Chicago police

### • Monday, December 5

5-17 COP 15 UN Summit on Biodiversity in Montreal, Canada

https://www.unep.org/un-biodiversity-conference-

#### Tuesday, December 6 Wednesday, December 7

1965: Four Last Vatican II Documents Promulgated Religious Freedom https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\_councils/ ii\_vatican\_council/documents/vatii\_decl\_19651207\_dignitatis-humanae\_en.html

Church's Missionary Activity https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\_councils/ <u>ii\_vatican\_council/documents/vat-ii\_decree\_19651207\_ad-</u> gentes\_en.html

Ministry and Life of Priests

Church in the Modern World

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\_councils/ ii\_vatican\_council/documents/vatii\_cons\_19651207\_gaudium-et-spes\_en.html

### Thursday, December 8

1965: Vatican II concludes Proclamation of a Jubilee Year to Familiarize Church with Documents

### • Friday, December 9

5:30pm to 6:30pm Food Recovery Program in the Cafeteria. Join us this week to see the good food we share with those who break bread with us each week (see Matthew 25: 31-46)

Saturday, December 10 1948 International Human Rights Day Local Celebration at Fresno State Library "Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples" 9:30am to 12:00 noon

### For so much more, visit the SPCNC website: CSUFnewman.com/ministries

and scroll down to "Peace and Social Justice"

Jim Grant, Volunteer, Social Justice Advocate jimgrantbc@gmail.com

# **PRAYERS:**

**+** For those who died this week: .Marcia Falk, Alice Lopez and David Sutherland

Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers: Antonia Cobarrubias, Roxanne Castillo, Joan Renner, Margery Toll, Kristal Lowe Limon, Abigail Love, Linda Alvarez, Julissa Moiarras, Estefania Medina, Mary Garr, Kathy Papagni, Michael Vienna, Issac Orozco, Diana Mock, Sandra Barrie, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Dick and Jan White, Sr. Joanne Bauer, JoAnn Myers, Monica Baker (Lucido), David Toll, Susan Olson, Mary Yoakum, Maria Coronel, Clara Marrone, Penny Mull, Judy Marchi, Raymond Ram, Nacho Flores, Walt Whelan, Martin Zapata, Carl Britto, Hannah York, Lexi Leon, Sally Caglia, Camila Carousso, Michelle Coyle, Fr. Kevin Bray, Diane Decker, Tommy Estep, Jeri Maxwell, Eugene Benavidez, Peter Mai, Javier-Maria Alonso, Teresa Sandoval, M.J. Abella, Marilvn Schutt, Chris Wicklund, Hillarv Lockard and baby, Susan Yokum, Clemente Eustaquio, Mary Peterson, Grace Peterson, Andres Silva Haro, Magdalena Lovejoy, Roxanne (Roxy) Castillo, Koleen Madrigal, Daniel Flores, Matt Payne, John McConico, John Alvarez, George Baeza, Judy Gendron, Kathleen McConico, Macia Falk, Julia Joaquz, Joe Koontz, Luz Capalad Marchiones, Ricardo Magdaleno, Charlie Prasad, Alan Demascus, Antonia Cobarrubias, Mary Fasi, Anita Torre, Theresa Wilson, Lorraine Chavez, Clem Louie,

To better serve our Faith Community we try to update our list of prayers regularly. Therefore, we have the following policy: <u>Names for the sick / special intentions will remain in the bulletin</u> <u>for one month then removed unless otherwise notified</u>. If deceased, names are only published the week they died. If you have someone who is in need of prayers please contact the office at 559-436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "Prayer Requests" tab.

# Parish Information

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am | 9:30am | 11:30am | 7:00pm

### જ્રષ્ટ

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday / Wednesday | 8:00am

First Friday (of the month) | 8:00am Thursday | 6:00pm

COMMUNION SERVICES: Tuesday / Thursday | 8:00am Friday (Except First Friday) | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION:

Thursday | 4:00pm to 5:45pm or call for an appointment

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday | 9:00am to 3:00pm CLOSED FRIDAY

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 11:1-10/Romans 15:4-9/Matthew 3:1-12

7:30am	Mass for Faustino and Lupe Pineda	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for August Short	Chapel
11:30am	Mass for Adela Mullooly	Chapel
11:30am	RCIA Dismissal	Community Room
6:30pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena	Chapel
7:00pm	Mass	Chapel

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Isaiah 35:	1-10/Luke 5:17-26	
8:00am	Mass for John Brechmann	Chapel
8:30am	Men's Morning Scripture Stu	idy Library
6:00pm	Adult Confirmation Class	St. John XXIII, Student Lounge
	Young Adult Bible Study	St. John XXIII, Student Lounge
6:30pm	RCIA - Catechumen	Cardinal Newman Hall 101
7:00pm	Creation Care Team Meeting	g Zoom
7:00pm	Evening of Remembrance	Chapel
	Social	Cafeteria

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 40:1-11/Matthew 18:12-14 8:00am Communion Service Chapel 6:00pm Faith, Family & Friends (K-8) Cardinal Newman Hall (High School Youth) St. John XXIII, Student Lounge

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 40:	25-31/Matthew 11:28-30	
8:00am	Mass for Dixie Sutherland	Chapel
8:45am	Advent Lectio Divina	Community Room
6:00pm	College Night	Cardinal Newman Hall 101
7:00pm	RCIA Inquiry	

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8**

#### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holyday of Obligation

Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38

8:00amMass4:00pmConfessions6:00pmMass of Peter Mai7:00pmOur Lady of Guadalupe Novena	Chapel Chapel Chapel Chapel
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#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Isaiah 48:17-19/Matthew 11:16-19

8:00am	Communion Service	Chapel
5:30pm	Food Recovery Network	Cafeteria
6:30pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena	Chapel

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (Saturday Weekday)

Collection - Domestic Needs Adult Confirmation Retreat	John XXIII
I-6a, 10/James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	
Mass for Jesse Cerda Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena	Chapel Chapel

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Isaiah35:1-6a, 10/James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 Second Collection - Domestic Needs

7:30am	Mass for Cataleya and Clayx Hurtado	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for Dan Chambers	Chapel
	Baptisms	Chapel
11:30am	Mass for Naomi and Jack Patrick	Chapel
	RCIA Dismissal	Community Room
6:30pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena	Chapel
7:00pm	Mass	Chapel





POR FAVOR APOYE A ESTOS ANUNCIANTES