

First Sunday Of Advent

December 1, 2024

Jer 33:14-16
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thes 3:12—4:2
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

**“To you, O Lord,
I lift my soul.”**



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic
Parish Inspired by Dominican
Spirituality Igniting the Faith
for the Salvation of Souls**



Altar Flowers For the Birthday of Harris Ingle

Mass Intentions

Sat	11/30	5:00 p.m.	(R) Luisa Da Silva
Sun	12/01	7:30 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		9:00 a.m.	(R) Eileen Lorain
		11:00 a.m.	(R) Larry Chen
		1:00 p.m.	(R) Catherine Melnyk
Mon	12/02	6:45 a.m.	(R) Richard Montgomery, Jr.
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Jane Gasper
Tues	12/03	6:45 a.m.	(R) Francisca Pasadilla
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Helen Sapp
Wed	12/04	6:45 a.m.	(R) Dorothy Morgan
		8:15 a.m.	(T) Fr. Javier Jeong Yeon Hwang, SJ
Thurs	12/05	6:45 a.m.	(B) Harris Ingle
		8:15 a.m.	(R) The Holy Souls of Purgatory
Fri	12/06	6:45 a.m.	(B) Noelle Ser Young Lee
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Artur & Lourdes Cardoso
Sat	12/07	8:15 a.m.	(R) Rolando De Joya
		5:00 p.m.	(P) Grace & Catherine Wildasin
Sun	12/08	7:30 a.m.	(R) Ventura & Nannie Lustan
		9:00 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		11:00 a.m.	(R) Margaret McClune
		1:00 p.m.	(R) Antonia & Carlos Barbosa

Legend:

(R) Repose of the Soul (H) Health (P) Prayerful Intention
(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving

January 2025 Intentions Opens December 3



**Please pray for the recovery of the sick
listed in our Book of Intentions
and the following:**

Maria Kim, Michelle Garcia, Dennis Kolkebeck, Adrienne Varin, Sandra K. Andrakin, Patricia Butler, Hau Thi Vu Nguyen, Pauline Soop, Rose Marie Watterson, Elaine Paschal, Maria Bongco, Ramon Dela Cruz, Carol Marsh, Francisco Gan, Dino Tan, Donna Wade, Jenny Quandt, Michael Raymundo Co, Christian Salcedo, Marsha Morse, Sean Salvatin, Rolando Cortez, Paul Cruel, Meredith Morrow, Laura Starkey, Maria de Fatima Pereira, Eileen Hayes, Barbara Donley, Cecilia Tan, Sherry Thomas, Barbara Helms, Colin Larkin, Jerry Schilz, Alma Johnson, Lisa Santini, Liz Thurin, Rosie & Don Klatt, Aurora Basilio, Leonor Cruel, Mark Nees, Albert Tan Co, Ron Pearman, Patricia Weber, Bernice Cure, Margaret Haddad, Monika Pangelinan, Gladys Haddad, Julia Haddad

**Please remember the following recently
deceased (and their families) in your prayers:**

Brett Watson, Peter Szabo, Carol Burch, Robert (Bob) Haight, Barbara Peck, Noelle Quesada, David Barnhardt, Jane Gasper, Renato Duey, Margaret McClune O.P.L., Fr. Donald Bramble, O.P., Helen Sapp, Cindy Tarantino, Dolores Franko, Nina Hurst

~names will be listed approximately 3 months as space allows~



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510
707.747.7220 www.stdombenicia.org
@stdombenicia #stdominicsbenicia #stdombenicia



Pastor's Corner



Here we are at the beginning of another Advent, the season of joyful anticipation of the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas. Given that Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, and the way we live as Catholics is meant to be rooted in how we pray at the liturgy, I

like to make Advent a time for formulating my 'new year's resolutions.' I try to think more deeply about the character flaws I want to focus on correcting and about the matters about which I am doing somewhat well in but nevertheless need improvement. One aspect of the good news of our Christian faith is that we do not need to pursue this sort of personal growth on our own. We have access to grace through the Holy Spirit dwelling within our souls, thanks to the Salvation the Son became man to provide us. In Matthew 5, Jesus tells his disciples that they are to be perfect as their Heavenly Father is perfect. The perfection he calls them to is not a perfection that they can obtain by their own power alone, but rather only with the help of Our Lord's grace. Christian perfection is something we have to work toward all of our lives, and we want to get as close to it as we can in this life before we face Judgment Day. That is one of the reasons the early mass readings of Advent put such an emphasis on the end times when Christ will come again for his Final Judgement. Allowing certain times of the year to be planned occasions for reflection on our need for growth can help ensure we continue to work toward that growth. If we are not reminded periodically to check in with God on such concerns we can end up letting many years go by without much growth on our part. This ends up being a waste of the precious time God has given us to become closer to him, which is sad for us. By comparison, if we strive continually toward growth in character and our overall faith, we can cultivate a deepening happiness, even as sad things happen around us. One of my favorite benefits of being focused on pursuing personal growth is that it makes getting older less bothersome than it otherwise might be. As the years mount, we may not enjoy seeing our appearance age in the mirror and in photos, but if we have been advancing in virtue, wisdom, and overall holiness, we can at least appreciate that in terms of character, we would never want to return to our younger years. In regard to our souls, life can only continue getting better if we allow Christ's grace to conform our souls to himself. And that process of transformation would not be available without his birth on Christmas. So, let us be joyful and anticipate the liturgical celebration of that sublimely holy day! Happy Advent, everyone!

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P. - Pastor
frandy@stdombenicia.org 707-335-4668

Upcoming Events

Advent Stations

Monday, December 2
6:30 p.m. - Church

Family Adoration

Friday, December 6
6:00 p.m. Church
Followed by Potluck in Ministry Center

Celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 7 (See Pg. 3)
Church & Parish Hall

St. Dominic's Cemetery Mass

Saturday, December 7
9:30 a.m. - St. Dominic's Cemetery

Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass

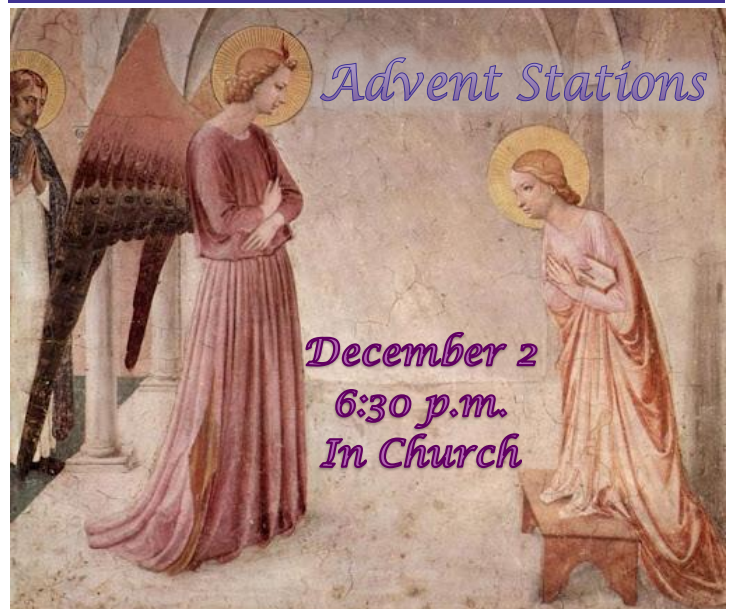
Monday, December 9
6:45, 8:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 14
10:00 a.m. - First Street

Parish Advent Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 18
9:00a.m. & 6:30 p.m.



The Advent Stations take us on a tour of the Old Testament. Like the traditional Lenten Stations of the Cross, these seven Advent "stations" or "stopping points" provide a way to ponder the mystery of how God prepared the world to receive his Son at the moment of the Annunciation. Each station contains an Old Testament foreshadowing of the incarnation, a meditation, the New Testament fulfillment in Christ, and then a prayer.

Advent

Celebrate the Saints this Advent!

December 6th marks the Feast of St. Nicholas, while December 13th celebrates the Feast of St. Lucy, and both days offer fun traditions. On the evening of December 5th, children often leave out their shoes or stockings, eagerly anticipating the arrival of St. Nicholas, who leaves candy or small gifts. Then, on December 13th, families can honor St. Lucy by having the oldest daughter (or a willing participant) serve a sweet treat to the entire family. Sharing the stories of these saints with your family is a wonderful way to learn about the inspiring individuals who came before us, embraced their faith and left lasting legacies. (Dynamic Catholic)

Prayer for First Week of Advent: December 1, 2024

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

*light the first purple candle

Scripture Reflection: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

Isaiah 9:2

*pause for reflection

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.



The Ruiz Family: Shaun, Kristina, Zoe (13) and Mya (10)

5 p.m. Saturday Mass

Lighting the candle for the First Sunday of Advent

"Advent and Christmas are definitely very special times for our family! To prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas, we enjoy volunteering at the parish with our Hospitality Ministry and the girls never miss going to church on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to offer roses in her honor. We pray that all families this Advent take the time to pray, reflect and joyfully prepare a very special place in their homes and hearts for He who brings peace to the world" - Ruiz Family



Celebration of
Virgen de Guadalupe

Saturday - December 7

6:00 a.m. Mañanitas
1:45 p.m. Mariachi & Procession
2:00 p.m. Mass & Dinner

Dinner Ticket Information Contact:
guadalupeana@stdombenicia.org



A D O R E
E U C H A R I S T I C A D O R A T I O N
F O R T H E F A M I L Y

Friday, December 6, 2024
6:00 p.m. Adoration Holy Hour - Church
Followed by Potluck Dinner - Ministry Center



Cemetery Mass

Please join us for the First
Saturday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

December 7, 2024

St. Dominic's Cemetery
5th Street & Hillcrest Ave., Benicia



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
TREE LOT**

**OPENS THE 1ST
SATURDAY OF DECEMBER**

**SAT - SUN 10AM-7PM
FRIDAYS 2PM-7PM**

**935 EAST 5TH STREET
BENICIA, CA 94510**

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST




**Christ is
Coming!**

Baking Sunday
December 15, 2024
After 9 & 11 a.m.

Masses



Christmas Youth Choir

Join the Christmas Youth Choir at St. Dominic's!

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation, and for our church musicians, it's also a time to prepare special music for the Christmas season. This year, St. Dominic's is inviting children ages 6 and up to join a special *Christmas Youth Choir* to sing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass!

Led by Ms. Maddie Burmann and accompanied by our parish music director, Luke Shalz, the choir will perform familiar carols, learn new music selections, and discover the joy of singing God's praise as part of an ensemble.

Rehearsal Schedule

Weekly rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30–4:30 p.m. in the church, starting December 4th and continuing through the week before Christmas. There will also be a final rehearsal on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m., before the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass.

If your child is interested in participating, please contact Ms. Maddie Burmann at MadelineBurmann@gmail.com



EMHC's Needed!

Call for **Extraordinary (Lay) Ministers of Holy Communion**. If you are a fully confirmed Catholic in good standing with the Church, have a love of our Eucharistic Lord, and ever felt called to participate more fully in the Sunday Mass liturgy, please consider this important ministry.

Call or text us with any questions.
Mike and Sara Monahan emhc@stdombenicia.org
707-771-1384 (Mike) or 925-876-3190 (Sara)

Global Holiday Faire

27th Annual Global Holiday Faire
December 7th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
at First Christian Church, Vallejo
1035 Indiana Street

FREE ADMISSION
Jewelry * Clothing * Plants
Ornaments * Nativities * Art
Purses * Scarves * Home Décor
Gift Baskets * Crafts * Baked Goods
Lunch in Person & To-Go * More!

Looking for gifts that make you feel good about giving this season? As part of an ecumenical group of Christian Churches, the Faire encourages alternative gift-giving by making available donation cards and merchandise made by third world artisans and non-profit social justice organizations. Proceeds support non-profit organizations.



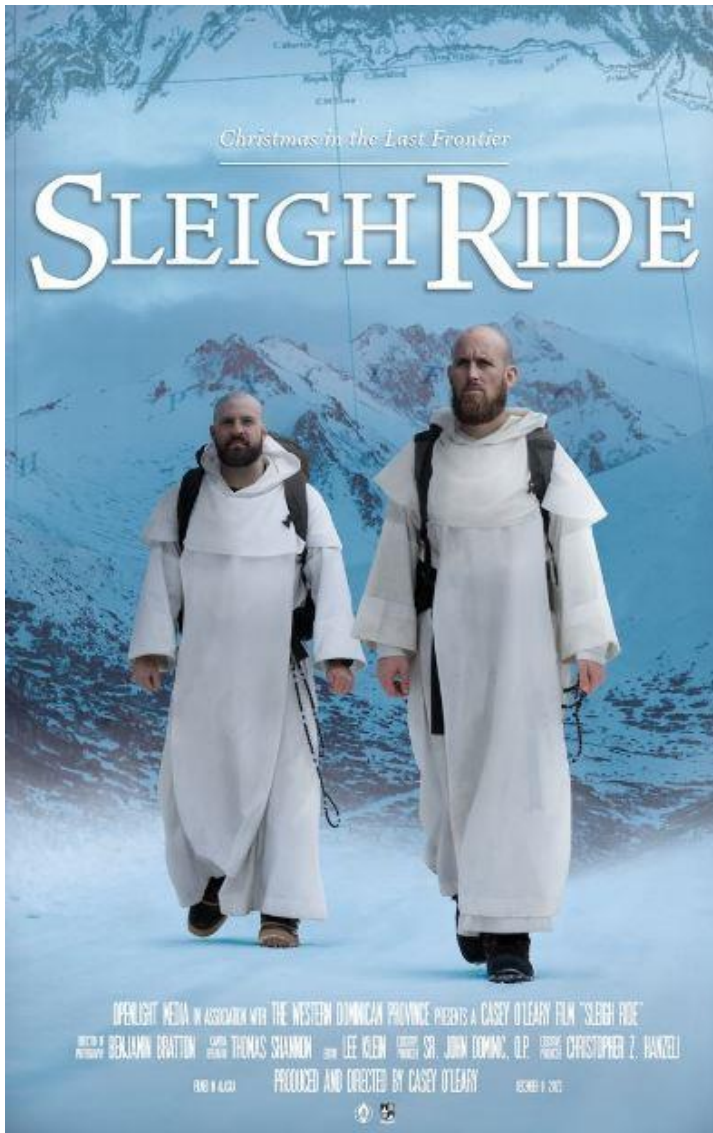
Questions or to help please
visit www.globalholidayfaire.org
www.facebook.com/GlobalHolidayFaire

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 p.m. (Church & Hall)
7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - Vietnamese Mass
12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses
Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. Spanish/English

St. Dominic's Catholic Church
475 East I St., Benicia, CA 94510
www.stdombenicia.org



Society of
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ST. DOMINIC'S CONFERENCE
 BENICIA, CA

The Giving Tree will go up on Saturday, November 30th! Please take an ornament and buy the gift, wrap it and bring it back by the deadline. Each ornament will have instructions. These gifts will be delivered to local families on December 21st.

Again, we will ask for your assistance in the delivery of Christmas to our neighbors in need throughout Benicia. Please watch the bulletin for details.



St. Vincent de Paul

Want more information?

St. Vincent de Paul ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and get involved this holiday season and beyond! To learn more about these events, our ministry, or to get involved contact svdp@stdombenicia.org

Please help us stock our pantry. We are in need of mayo, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups, beef stew, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, fruit cups, etc.

If you know anyone who could use St. Vincent de Paul's help, please have them call **707-746-1773**.

Christmas in the Last Frontier

December 17, 2024 | 7 p.m.

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St, Moraga, CA 94556

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

7 p.m. - Doors Open and Refreshments

8 p.m. - Screening Begins

8:30 p.m. - Q&A with

the Filmmakers & Dominicans

Advanced ticket purchase required. No tickets at the door.

About the Film

With beautiful cinematography, this inspiring short film chronicles the experiences of two Dominican Friars as they spend 28 hours crossing the frozen Alaskan landscape to bring Christmas Mass to the faithful.

Please do not contact the theatre regarding tickets or event details. This is a private event, and tickets can only be purchased through this website.

<https://www.sleighridefilm.com/>

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Messages

- Helpful parish updates
- Easily reply to requests
- Connect with our parish throughout the week

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 7:30 (livestreamed), 9:00 11:00 a.m.
 & 1:00 p.m. (Spanish/English)
 First Sunday of month Vietnamese Mass – 3:00 p.m.
Daily Mass
 Monday – Friday: 6:45 a.m.
 Monday – Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

Confession Times

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Ministries at St. Dominic's

- ◆ **Adoration**
 Euly Legro - adoration@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Altar Servers**
 Theodore Diepenbrock - altarservers@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Choirs**
 Luke Shalz - lshalz@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Consolation/Grief**
 Patti Erickson - grief@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Dominican Laity**
 Dirk Fulton - domlaity@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
 Mike & Sara Monahan - emhc@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Gabriel Project**
 Maria Padrones - gabriel@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Guadalupana Association**
 Patricia Chavez - guadalupana@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Hospitality**
 Kristina Ruiz - hospitality@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Knights of Columbus**
 Dan Swienton - beniciaknights@gmail.com
- ◆ **MOM's Ministry - Magnificence of Motherhood**
 Jamaila Pasternack - mothers@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Lectors Ministry**
 Amar Lagrimas - lectors@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Lazarus Ministry**
 Amar Lagrimas - lazarus@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Parish Pastoral Council**
 Kaitlin Demers - ppc@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**
 Brianne Dela Cruz—bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **St. Vincent de Paul**
 Michael Munn - svdp@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **St. Dominic's Cemetery**
 Lisa Sarnicola - lsarnicola@opwest.org
- ◆ **Ushers**
 Tom Sarnicola & Manny Roldan – usher@stdombenicia.org

**Our ministries are open to
 all parishioners.
 Please contact our ministry leaders
 and join one today! We can't wait to
 hear from you!**

Parish Office

475 East I Street, Benicia
Current Office Hours
 Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 707.747.7220
Religious Education Office Hours
 Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Parish Staff

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P. frandy@stdombenicia.org	Pastor
Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P. gliu@stdombenicia.org	Parochial Vicar
Mike Scafani mscafani@stdombenicia.org	Deacon
Teresa Stone tstone@stdombenicia.org	Business Manager
Luke Shalz lshalz@stdombenicia.org	Music Director
Lori Telepak ltelepak@stdombenicia.org	Communications
Brianne Dela Cruz bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org	Dir. of Religious Ed.
Debi Thurin dthurin@stdombenicia.org	Children's Sacraments
Delores Rodriguez drodriguez@stdombenicia.org	RE Admin. Assistant
Justin Reyes jreyes@stdombenicia.org	Liturgy Coordinator
Scott Schilz sschilz@stdombenicia.org	Weddings & Quince's
Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.	Maintenance
Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.	In Residence / Retired In Residence / Retired

St. Dominic School
 935 East 5th Street, Benicia
www.sdschoolbenicia.org 707.745.1266

Penelope Ogden (K-8th grade) pogden@sdschoolbenicia.org	Principal
Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK) tsanchez@sdschoolbenicia.org	Preschool Director

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT			
07/1/24-10/31/24			
	YTD	YTD	+ / -
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Offertory			
<i>Online donations</i>	\$ 141,288		
<i>Sunday/Mail-in donations</i>	\$ 192,437		
	\$ 333,725	\$ 336,000	\$ (2,275)
Second Collections:			
<i>Building Improvement</i>	\$ 14,859	\$ 13,333	\$ 1,526
<i>Faith Formation</i>	\$ 3,997	\$ 3,567	\$ 430
Total Operating Income	\$ 433,902	\$ 414,043	\$ 19,858
Operating Expenses	\$ 477,891	\$ 444,281	\$ 33,610
Net Income/Loss	\$ (43,990)	\$ (30,238)	\$ (13,752)

