

# Third Sunday Of Advent

December 15, 2024

Zep 3:14-18a  
Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.  
Phil 4:4-7  
Lk 3:10-18

*“Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.”*



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 Loostee Lustan

### Mass Intentions

Sat	12/14	5:00 p.m.	(R) Tom Gavin
Sun	12/15	7:30 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		9:00 a.m.	(R) Dan Macfarlan
		11:00 a.m.	(T) Rachel McDonald & Family
		1:00 p.m.	(T) The Gomez Family
Mon	12/16	6:45 a.m.	(R) Fabian & Dominga Lustan
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Peter Nguyen Duc Van
Tues	12/17	6:45 a.m.	(R) Juan & Carmen Espinosa
		8:15 a.m.	(P) Herrick Family
Wed	12/18	6:45 a.m.	(R) Francisca Villamor
		8:15 a.m.	(A) Tim & Rena Rubio
Thurs	12/19	6:45 a.m.	(R) Nicanor Putong
		8:15 a.m.	(T) Mr. & Mrs. Ultan & Maria Rhee
Fri	12/20	6:45 a.m.	(R) Rogelio Gan Co
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Norman Turley
Sat	12/21	8:15 a.m.	(R) Juan Espinosa Jr.
		5:00 p.m.	(R) Joseph Bettencourt
Sun	12/22	7:30 a.m.	(R) William Woods
		9:00 a.m.	(A) Peter & Gigi Lee
		11:00 a.m.	(B) Gregory Daly
		1:00 p.m.	(T) People of the Parish

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:

Neil Black, 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:

Stanley Mellor, Peter Boss, Carol Keating, Gladyne Mitchell, Brett Watson, Peter Szabo, Carol Burch, Robert (Bob) Haight, Barbara Peck, 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



Our evening caroling at the Benicia Holiday Open House on 1<sup>st</sup> Street was a delight and definitely, something we plan to repeat next year! I had to show up late because for the first half-hour or so of caroling, I was busy leading prayer at Family Eucharistic Adoration, which was very prayerful and important, I believe, for the children. Not only did

they get help learning how to pray in front of the Eucharist, but also how to live the liturgical season. As we prayed in front of the Blessed Sacramento, I had the kids meditate on different ways they could prepare a way for the Lord to come on Christmas. I encouraged them to think of ways they were falling short at home, in school, and at church. Then I had them ruminate on ways they could improve in those three settings. I love that at Family Eucharistic Adoration, the kids are also learning how to pray Night Prayer and chant the Salve Regina. At the end of Adoration, once we cleaned up the church, I

raced down to 1<sup>st</sup> Street to join the carolers. As we sang, we passed out mass schedule flyers and invited passersby to St. Dominic's for Christmas.



What struck me as the most important benefit of our presence out there, however, was the mere fact that we were promoting the Christian purpose of the season amid the rowdy, secular festivities. As we caroled, large groups of people would stop and listen. Families put their arms around each other, and I noticed an expression that appeared almost to be one of relief on many faces, certainly grateful appreciation as we sang about Christ and his coming birth. It was a powerful reminder of what Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest".



So many people in our regional community, I believe, our thirsting for Christ, even if they do not yet realize it. It often just takes planting the seeds of invitations to yield a larger harvest. Let us hope our parish's Advent outreach efforts produce just that! The growth in mass attendance we have seen here at St.

Dominic's has happened in a slow but steady way. If we keep at it, that harvest will grow! Make sure to thank parishioner Jeannie Hamann for allowing us to sing in front of her business, Hamann Real Estate & Property Management!

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

# Upcoming Events

## Parish Advent Reconciliation

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

## 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

## New Year's Eve (Vigil) Mass

Tuesday, December 31, 2024  
6:00 & 11:00 p.m.

## New Year's Day Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
9:00 a.m.



**ST. DOMINIC**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

**LAST WEEKEND!** TREE LOT **LAST WEEKEND!**

**OPENS THE 1ST  
SATURDAY OF DECEMBER**

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

**FRIDAYS 2PM-7PM**

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

**\*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST\***

**Saturday: Weather permitting**  
**Sunday: Rain or Shine**





# Advent

## Sing Christmas Carols

Did you know that many Christmas carols, like The Twelve Days of Christmas, actually have Catholic roots? Timeless classics like “O Holy Night,” “Silent Night,” “Away in a Manger” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” are all great options to sing with your family.

Through these songs, you can deepen your family’s understanding and appreciation of the true meaning of Christmas.

## Prayer for the Third Week of Advent: December 15, 2024

Light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle

Read from Scripture: “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:20)

Prayer: “Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.”



## The Mangano Family

Joe, Therese, Gianna (8), Anthony (6), Chiara (4), and Siena (1)

Setting up Nativity scenes throughout the house, hanging lights, and filling our bookshelves with our favorite Christmas stories are some of our family’s favorite ways to celebrate this season of preparation. Advent is a time for our family to not only decorate our home, but also our hearts and souls through acts, prayer, and the sacraments. We begin each day by reading a daily Advent Bible story and praying the St. Andrew Christmas Novena. The kids love to add straw to our miniature manger each time they make a sacrifice, which shows us how acts of love prepare our hearts for Jesus just as the manger becomes ready to welcome Him.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:emhc@stdombenicia.org)  
707-771-1384 (Mike) or 925-876-3190 (Sara)

# 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](http://www.stdombenicia.org)

## Legacy & IRA Giving

You can remember St. Dominic's, Benicia in your estate plans through your will, retirement plan or other assets. Legacy gifts are used for capital projects that may otherwise not be possible and are never used for day to day expenses. For example the parish hall renovations! You can even designate your gift to a specific fund (i.e. building fund).

If you own a traditional IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, the IRS requires that you take yearly distributions (MRD's). But did you know you can designate the MRD to St. Dominic's Church and you don't have to pay taxes on the distribution? For more information, visit the IRS website or contact your tax or financial consultant.

**For more information or to explore your options please contact**  
**Teresa Stone at**  
[tstone@stdombenicia.org](mailto:tstone@stdombenicia.org) or  
**707-335-4672**



# HANDEL'S MESSIAH

featuring  
Sacramento Baroque Soloists  
Capella Antiqua Orchestra  
The Cathedral Choir

An Epiphany Concert  
**HANDEL'S MESSIAH &  
RAMIREZ'S NAVIDAD  
NUESTRA**

MESSIAH SUNG IN ENGLISH  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

MESSIAH SUNG IN SPANISH  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025

# NAVIDAD NUESTRA

Concerts begin at 7:30 pm.

CATHEDRAL OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
1017 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



[www.sacramentobaroque.org](http://www.sacramentobaroque.org)

# Advent Parish Reconciliation

**Weekly: Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.  
& Saturdays 3:30 p.m.**

**Reconciliation with Visiting Priests:  
Wednesday, December 18th  
9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

*at St. Dominic's*  
475 East I Street, Benicia



## Part-Time Employment Opportunity

**Cemetery Crew**

**Ground maintenance part-time  
position is available.**

**To learn more, please contact  
Danny Cesena at 925.550.5967**

## VOTIVE MASS

*Mahal na Poong Sto.  
Nino de Tondo  
Maawa Ka sa amin!*

In honor of the Divine Infant Jesus  
Mahal na Poong Santo Niño

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025**  
**MASS AT 10:00 A.M.**

Followed by Reception in the Hall

Please bring all your  
images of the Santo Niño  
for a yearly blessing after  
the Mass.

St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
475 East I St., Benicia, CA 94510  
[www.stdombenicia.org](http://www.stdombenicia.org)

## Our 35th Season! FOUR EASY WAYS TO RECYCLE YOUR TREE

- Drop Off  
Benicia Community Park or  
First Baptist Church | 1055 Southhampton Road  
(Across from Middle School)
- Pick Up  
Call the Recycle Hotline 707-551-4520  
and leave your information.

- Pick Up  
Visit [beniciascouts.org](http://beniciascouts.org)  
to register your tree online or  
by scanning the QR Code
- Pick Up  
Send this buckslip to: Christmas Tree Recycling  
P.O. Box 485 | Benicia, CA 94510



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Hours 9AM - 4PM | Suggested Donator \$22 | Tree Pickup in Benicia Only  
SAT DEC 28 2024 SUN DEC 29 2024 SAT JAN 4 2025 SUN JAN 5 2025 SAT JAN 11 2025





# Help St. Vincent de Paul during the Holiday Season!

## SVDP's Holiday Giving Tree

This year SVdP will be providing our neighbors with food vouchers instead of Christmas dinner boxes. Our parishioners were very generous this year in achieving our goals to provide Christmas gifts to the less fortunate in and around town. Thank you for your continued support!



Gift are due back **today!**  
**December 15th!** All parishioners are welcome to help with delivery of gifts and food vouchers at 9:00 a.m Saturday, December 21st in the Parish Hall.

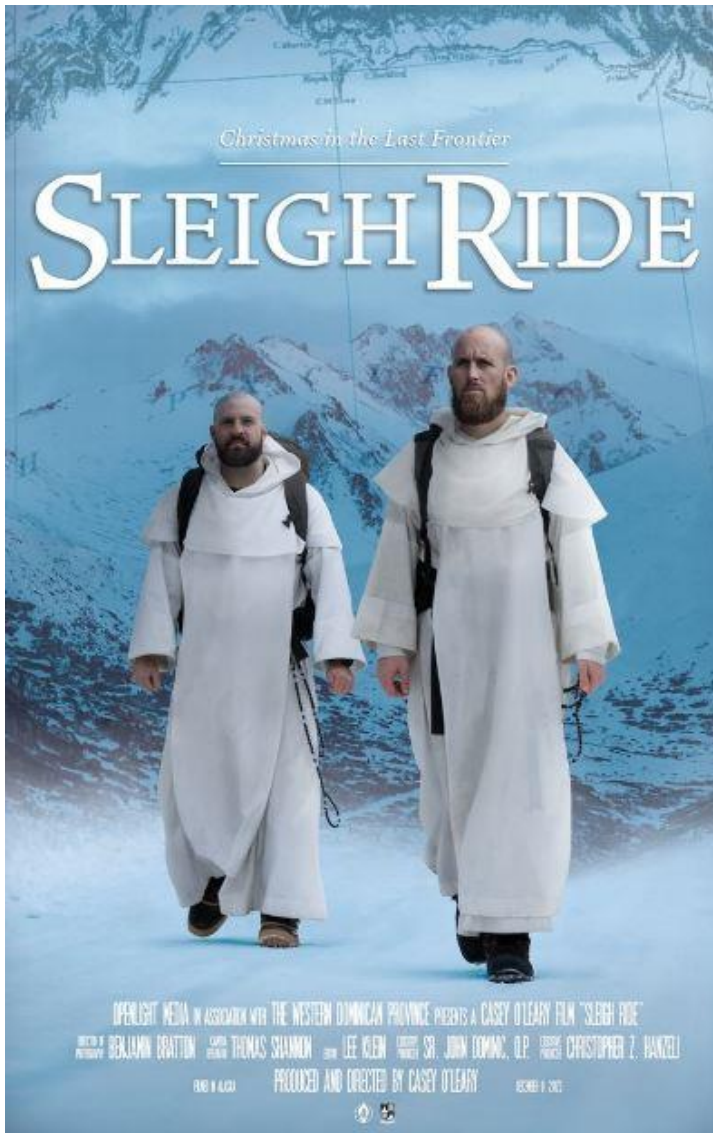


## Want more information?

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! To learn more about these events, our ministry, or to get involved contact [svdp@gmail.com](mailto:svdp@gmail.com) or [svdp@stdombenicia.org](http://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/>

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

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

# St. Dominic School

935 East 5th Street, Benicia  
[www.sdschoolbenicia.org](http://www.sdschoolbenicia.org) 707.745.1266

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

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT			
07/1/24-11/30/24			
	YTD	YTD	+ / -
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Sunday Offertory</b>			
Online donations	\$ 176,053		
Sunday/Mail-in donations	\$ 235,025		
	\$ 411,078	\$ 420,000	\$ (8,922)
<b>Second Collections:</b>			
Building Improvement	\$ 18,586	\$ 16,667	\$ 1,919
Faith Formation	\$ 4,686	\$ 4,458	\$ 228
Total Operating Income	\$ 525,659	\$ 516,679	\$ 8,979
Operating Expenses	\$ 618,349	\$ 554,727	\$ 63,623
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$ (92,691)</b>	<b>\$ (38,048)</b>	<b>\$ (54,643)</b>

