

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10.
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

“Lord, come and save us.”



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 Lootsee Lustan

Mass Intentions

Sat	12/13	5:00 p.m.	(R) Don & Chris Larkin
Sun	12/14	7:30 a.m.	(B) Leslie Westbrook
		9:00 a.m.	(R) Brett Watson
		11:00 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		1:00 p.m.	(A) Juan Carlos & Sonia Carbonell
		5:00 p.m.	(T) Luke Shalz
Mon	12/15	6:45 a.m.	(R) Melinda Ruiz
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Fr. Walter Mayer
Tues	12/16	6:45 a.m.	(B) May Rubio
		8:15 a.m.	(B) Maria Nilfa Mirafior Oralde
Wed	12/17	6:45 a.m.	(P) Armand Tolentino
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Carmen & Juan Espinosa
Thurs	12/18	6:45 a.m.	(R) Tjin Kok
		8:15 a.m.	(A) Tim & Puring Rubio
Fri	12/19	6:45 a.m.	(P) Arnold Tolentino
		8:15 a.m.	(T) Emilee Rivera
Sat	12/20	8:15 a.m.	(R) Mark Anthony Meagher
		5:00 p.m.	(R) Rogelio Co
Sun	12/21	7:30 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		9:00 a.m.	(R) Mer Lacson
		11:00 a.m.	(R) Juan Espinosa, Jr.
		1:00 p.m.	(R) Melinda Ruiz
		5:00 p.m.	(R) Francis Meagher

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



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



Chai Notarte, Patrick Droszcz, Dennis Kolkebeck,
Anastasia Boomer, Steven Haigh, Kit Bulaon, Quinn
Larkin, Mike McDonald, Julien Sousa, Paul Sousa,
James Baldwin, Jill Gaul, Carlos Chulli Sandoval, Joe
Ogden, Albert Horvath, Greg Albright, Bill Telepak, Fred
Ayala, Adrienne Varin, Hau Thi Vu Nguyen, Rose Marie
Watterson, Elaine Paschal, Maria Bongco, Ramon Dela
Cruz, Francisco Gan, Dino Tan, Donna Wade, Michael
Raymundo Co, Christian Salcedo, Marsha Morse,
Rolando Cortez, Paul Cruel, Meredith Morrow, 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, Mark Nees,
Albert Tan Co, Ron Pearman, Patricia Weber, Bernice
Cure, Margaret Haddad, Monika Pangelinan,
Gladys Haddad, Julia Haddad, Peter Szabo, Sr.

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

Pure Swingleton, Kim Ron, Fr. Walter Mayer, Leslie
McDevitt, Rose Marie Watterson, John Dodd, Edward
Hewitt, Robert Samson, Charlie White, Maria Kim, Salud
Paderna, Renato Lumaban, Benjamin Santos, Charles
Bettencourt, Nathan Manzanares, Melita Domingo,
Felipe Llanes, Jr., Kenneth Hagar, Michelle Medeiros,
Johnny Napier, Andrew Siri, Antonio Rapolla
~names will be listed as space allows~



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



Pastor's Corner



It was truly a festive night at the Benicia Tree Lighting and Holiday Open House on 1st Street this year. One of the benefits of living this close to that part of town was that the other brothers and I were able to walk to the event. Having reached 1st Street, we began our trek toward the large Christmas tree still yet to be lit down at the waterfront, and the entire way there we seemed to pass by people we knew calling out to us with good cheer. This being my third Advent in Benicia, I sure do feel like I have become a member of the community. I sort of doubt I will ever have this sort of experience in any other Dominican ministry site in the future. Living in Benicia really does make for a magical little time of small-town charm for those of us brothers blessed to be assigned here. I keep reminding myself to savor every day I get to be at St. Dominic's. Anyway, back to that night on 1st Street: I was looking forward to my first time actually seeing the tree lit, which I had missed witnessing the past two years. Someone told me the lights would go on at 6pm, and it was getting close to that when we arrived on 1st Street, so I did not stop for any lengthy conversations with anybody. When we arrived at the unlit tree, however, we knew we had been misinformed about the lighting time. The crowd was small, the stage dark, and the only entertainment being offered was an annoying recording of "All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth" on the loudspeaker. We checked the Internet and learned the lighting time was 6:30pm, which gave me and Brother Thomas Maria just enough time to zip back up 1st Street to Fox & Fawn Bakehouse for a slice of cheese pizza for dinner (their sauce is really good) and one of their excellent chocolate-chocolate cupcakes with Maldon Sea Salt on top. We made it back to the waterfront just in time to see the tree lit, and it was pretty thrilling! Afterwards, we headed over to join our carolers in front of Hamann Real Estate, owned, of course, by our beloved parishioner Jeannie Hamann. She and her husband Tim were so hospitable, having laid out cookies, decaf coffee, and hot cider for the carolers, not to mention a slick lighting device to illuminate our singers on the sidewalk. The other brothers and I had a blast belting out carols with them. We felt like we were singing with pros with all of their cool harmonies! The crowds that stopped by repeatedly appeared to appreciate the music and the message. All and all, a great night out in service of evangelization!



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

Upcoming Events

Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation

Monday, December 15
9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Roots of the Redeemer

Br. Thomas Maria

Wednesday, December 17
9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. - Church

Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays - December 18
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Church

Baking Sunday - Christmas is Coming!

Sunday - December 21
After 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday - December 24
4:00 (church & hall), 7:00 p.m. & Midnight
9:00 p.m. Vietnamese
Thursday - December 25
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
12Noon - Spanish/English

Ongoing Events

Women's Bible Study

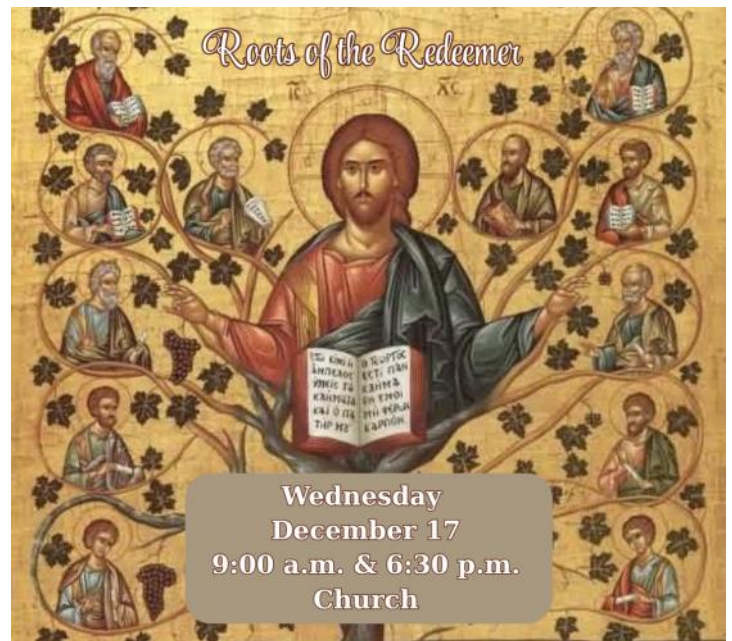
Monday - December 15th (Conclusion)
6:30 p.m. - Ministry Center Siena Room

Spanish Bible Study

Thursdays
6:30 p.m. - Ministry Center Siena Room

Men's Bible Study

Fridays
5:45 p.m. - Ministry Center Siena Room



Second Collection for December

DEC 13/14 Retirement Fund for Religious

Special Envelopes for December

DEC 07 & 21: Building Improvement
 DEC 08: Immaculate Conception
 DEC 14: SDS Tuition Assistance
 DEC 25: Christmas
 JAN 01: Solemnity of Mary

Second Collection December 13/14

Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous. To donate online, <https://www.scd.org/retiredreligious>

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

07/1/25-10/31/25

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	+ / - <u>Budget</u>
Sunday Offertory			
Online donations	\$ 163,313		
Sunday/Mail-in donations	\$ 174,403		
	\$ 337,717	\$ 369,333	\$ (31,617)
Second Collections:			
Building Improvement	\$ 11,812	\$ 13,333	\$ (1,521)
Faith Formation	\$ 9,055	\$ 3,567	\$ 5,488
Total Operating Income	\$ 423,405	\$ 457,667	\$ (34,262)
Operating Expenses	\$ 484,746	\$ 480,506	\$ 4,241
Net Income/Loss	\$ (61,342)	\$ (22,839)	\$ (38,503)

Women's Bible Study

Mondays - 6:30 p.m.

This Series Concludes December 15
 Ministry Center Siena Room



Series Available Online at [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org)

Advent Reconciliation

Weekly

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.
 Saturdays 3:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation

With Visiting Priests:
Monday, December 15
 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Here at
St. Dominic's Church
 475 East I Street
 Benicia, CA 94510



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We need you!

Would you like to serve the Lord?
 New to serving? We will train you!

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion email: Mike & Sara
emhc@stdombenicia.org



Christmas Schedule



Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
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
Thursday, December 25, 2025
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. Spanish/English



Advent

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Light two purple candles and the pink candle and sit for a moment in silence. Read from Scripture Luke 2:7-15. Reflect: The angels sang a message of JOY! What “message of joy” can you proclaim this Advent Season?

Prayer: Christ our Joy, Brighten our homes with your presence. Clarify our vision so that we might see you in the people we cherish. Make every holiday activity an opportunity to spread your light and love. We await your arrival with delight. Amen.

Advent Angels

Similar to the tradition of “Secret Santa”, Advent Angels is a way for your family to grow closer to one another especially through service and prayer. You will write out the names of all those in your family and then secretly draw each other's names. Then during the season of Advent you will perform kind gestures, pray for, and maybe even give them special gifts along the way. At the end of Advent, you can reveal who was your Advent Angel!



In our home, we try to live our faith in the everyday moments - sharing conversations and stories that connect us, choosing kindness and laughter, and offering unconditional support. As we light the advent candle, we are reminded to let His light shine through us in all that we do as Christmas approaches.

Jennifer and Craig Calkins
Celina 28, Layla 11,
Alyvia 13, Sofia 23



Dear St. Dominic Parishioners,
We cannot thank you enough for your incredible generosity

throughout the year, but especially in November and December. Thanks to your kindness and compassion, we received nearly \$4,000 in donations to help us deliver groceries to our neighbors who lost their SNAP benefits. You also made it possible to deliver 190 Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes to families struggling with food insecurity. And we know in December you will be right there taking Christmas ornaments from our Giving Tree and returning gifts for our Benicia families in need. Due to your wonderful financial support, we opted not to conduct our 5th Sunday collections the last weekend in November. We certainly don't want to overdue our requests. Wishing you and your family's wonderful and blessed Advent and Christmas seasons!

SVdP's Holiday Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree gift drive has been a great success thanks to the generosity of the people of St. Dominic's parish. If you would like to help deliver those gifts and food vouchers please come join us on Saturday December 20th after 9:00am at the Parish Hall. SVdP will provide the food vouchers, the gifts and the addresses. With a vehicle and a smiling face you can bring some real Christmas cheer to our neighbors in need. This is a wonderful family experience.



Merry Christmas from Your friends at St. Vincent DePaul!

A Neighbor's Story – Collaboration Kept His Family Housed

A neighbor let us call Noah; his wife left him and their children in November, leaving him as the sole caregiver. She worked full-time, while “Noah” worked part-time and managed the household. Suddenly, “Noah” found himself struggling to cover rent with only one income, facing uncertainty and stress about providing a stable home for his kids.

Determined to find help, “Noah” contacted FIT (Families in Transition), who agreed to consider his case and provided him with our phone number for additional support.

After evaluating his situation, FIT generously agreed to pay half of December's rent.

Next, he contacted SVdP. After we conducted a home visit with “Noah” to better understand his needs, we agreed to pay the remaining half of December's rent.

Finally, “Noah” reached out to his landlord and secured permission to add a roommate—a practical step, since he was renting a three-bedroom home, with one room for himself, one for his children, and now one for a future roommate to help share the financial burden.


This collaborative effort meant that “Noah” and his children could remain housed during this critical period, until his work hours increased and a roommate could be found.

The outcome was only possible because FIT, SVdP, and the property owner worked together to find solutions, demonstrating how community partnerships can change lives. Thanks to this teamwork—and your generous support—this family has a place to live for **Christmas** and hope for a brighter future.

Families In Transition
of Benicia, California




&

Flowers in Loving Memory of Cecilia Cadet

Feast Day of St. Cecilia - November 22



Flowers Offered for the Birthday of Lina Dacio & Holy Souls in Purgatory

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - December 8

Register Here!



Respect Life Conference – In place of the gathering that was cancelled in September, the annual Respect Life Conference has been rescheduled for **January 3, 2026**, and will be held at the Pastoral Center.

Join us for the **2025 Respect Life Conference, “Life, Our Sign of Hope”** on January 3rd, from 9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center. Be inspired and equipped to uphold the dignity of every human life with talks from Auxiliary Bishop Rey Bersabal and Fr. Larry Toschi, O.S.J. Free event, lunch is provided, and all are welcome.

Sign up using the QR code or link <https://forms.gle/zLSczPXK2SyUuBjx8>

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 (livestreamed), 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,
1:00 (Spanish/English) & 5:00 p.m.

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

Team - 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

◆ OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Brianne Dela Cruz - bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org

◆ St. Joseph's Ministry

Ed Stone - Stjosephministry@stdombenicia.org

◆ St. Vincent de Paul

Michael Munn - svdp@stdombenicia.org

◆ St. Dominic's Cemetery

Lisa Sarnicola - lsarnicola@opwest.org

Join a Ministry Today!

Are you feeling called to serve your church community in new ways? Reach out to one or more of our ministry leaders above and explore all the blessings these ministries have to offer! We look forward to hearing 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

Fr. Dominic DeLay, O.P.

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Mike Scafani

mscafani@stdombenicia.org

Br. Thomas Maria Johns, O.P.

tmjohns@stdombenicia.org

Teresa Stone

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Luke Shalz

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Lori Telepak

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Brianne Dela Cruz

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Teresita Dumanig

tdumanig@stdombenicia.org

Debi Thurin

dthurin@stdombenicia.org

Justin Reyes

jreyes@stdombenicia.org

Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.

Fr. Anthony Rosevear, O.P.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Deacon

Resident Student Br.

Business Manager

Music Director

**Community Relations /
Media & Ministry Coor.
Dir. of Faith Formation**

Coor. of Religious Ed.

Children's Sacraments

**Liturgy Coordinator /
Weddings & Quinces
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) Principal

pogden@sdschoolbenicia.org

Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK)

Preschool Director

tsanchez@sdschoolbenicia.org

IRA Giving

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 or 707-335-4672

**Please support the following businesses owned by members of our parish community.
Their contributions each week underwrite our Parish Bulletin. Thank you!**

<p>A & S Chem Dry, Anthony & Shelly Trevino Serving St. Dominic's Parish for over 25 years! (707) 748-7726</p>	<p>Richard Joyce, O.D. Optometrist Exams, Glasses, Contacts (707) 745-6266, 874 Southampton Rd.</p>	<p>Olson Realty, Inc. Kathleen McInerney Olson/Broker (707) 745-3602</p>
<p>A & S Chem Dry - Drier. Cleaner. Healthier. Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning (707) 748-7726 Tile & Stone Clean & Seal</p>	<p>Kindred Spirits Pet/House Sitting Dorothy Doscher (707) 334-3776</p>	<p>Passalacqua Funeral Chapel John Passalacqua/Greg Silva/Joe Talken (707) 745-3130</p>
<p>All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center FD2286 Funeral, Mortuary, Cremation & Burial. (707)-644-5209 cfcsSacramento.org</p>	<p>Law Offices of Barnum & Avila Employment Law (707) 745-3747, www.rmblaw.com</p>	<p>Reyes Electric Co. & Design LIC#32877 Residential/ Commercial (707) 747-6818</p>
<p>Amso Healthy Chiropractic 310 Military West (707) 752-2990</p>	<p>Law Offices of Thomas R. Healy Wills/Trusts/Estate Planning/General Practice (707) 553-7360</p>	<p>Shutters and More Bill Simpson, Parishioner (707) 746-8187</p>
<p>ATS Tax & Financial Solutions Tax Angels to your rescue! Returns/ QB (707) 745-1040</p>	<p>Minuteman Press Copy, Print, Posters & Banners (707) 647- 1000, 812 Tennessee St, Vallejo</p>	<p>St. Dominic's Cemetery Lisa Sarnicola, Sales Manager (707) 751-0527</p>
<p>Crane Station, Inc. Rex Sevilla–Crane and Electrical Services (707)333-6287</p>	<p>Mr. Lawn Landscape Service Landscaping, Maintenance & Installation (707) 747-5273</p>	<p>Teresa Stone - Notary Services tstone@stdombenicia.org (707) 330-0773</p>
<p>Culligan Law Firm - Estate Planning Inheritance Litigation & Conservatorships (707) 492-5566, Benicia</p>	<p>Napoli Pizza and Pasta Chris & Lisa Guerrero- Owners (707) 746-8906, www.napolibenicia.com</p>	<p>Up2Code Plumbing Owner Mike Pitta - 24 hour service (707) 751-1714</p>
<p>Hamann Real Estate, 513 First Street Tim and Jeannie Hamann/Broker-Owners (707) 246-6567 DRE01348061</p>	<p>N C Home Improvement Inc General Contractor Lic#1114460 (707) 712-4727 Jorge Munguia</p>	<p>Warring & Assoc. Realtors Bill/Diane Brokers/Owners, 829 First St. (707) 746-6990</p>
<p>Tim & Jeannie Hamann Foundation fightcancer@hamannfoundation.org Tax ID#47-2189766 hamannfoundation.org</p>	<p>North Point Pest Solutions Inc. Pest Control Services (707) 621-0003 BENICIA</p>	

Bulletin, E-mail Submissions, Advertising, Ministries, Scheduling, or Promotion please send to: ltelepak@stdombenicia.org

Adoration Chapel
Hourly Needs

Monday: 11:00 p.m. alternating wks.
Tuesday: 1:00 a.m. - weekly
or shared, 10:00 a.m. - wks. 4&5,
& 3:00 p.m. - weekly
Thursday: 6:00 a.m. - weekly
5:00 p.m. - weekly
Saturday: 12:00 a.m. - wk. 4
& 1:00 p.m. - wks. 1&3
Sunday: 12:00 a.m. - wk. 4, & 12:00 noon

Adoration is Open to the Public
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Can you spare an hour for our Lord?
Contact: adoration@stdombenicia.org

Giving Just Got Easier...

We are pleased with the launch of our new giving platform, Pushpay, and want to share other ways that this new platform makes it easy to give a one-time gift (i.e.: candles, Sacramento Diocesan campaign) or recurring gifts. Giving can be from your smartphone anywhere and anytime!

For more information: Visit our website at
www.stdombenicia.org/give/ or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, be sure to contact



Teresa Stone at 707-335-4672 or
tstone@stdombenicia.org
Thank you for your continued generosity!