

Our Lady Queen of the World Church

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MERRY CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 24, 2023

Fr. Thomas Khue, Parochial Administrator
Deacon Loc Nguyen
Sister Elizabeth Diep Huynh, Bookkeeper
Maria Faye Dolor, Secretary

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm

Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (English)
7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon (English)
4:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Weekdays: Mon-Fri. 7:30am, Sat. 8:00am
First Friday: 7:30 am with Adoration after Mass

Devotions

Adoration & Benediction: Fridays 6:00pm- 7:30pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:
Wednesdays after morning mass
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy: Mondays to Saturdays
after morning mass
Exposition & Benediction : Fridays 6:00pm- 7:30pm

Confessions

Saturday 4:00pm—5:00pm or by appointment

Baptisms

Pre-Baptism classes for parents and godparents held every second Tuesday of the month. Contact the parish office.

* *Spanish Classes*, contact Gladys Giron 925-334-9873.

* *Vietnamese* baptisms, contact Fr. Thomas Khue at the parish office.

Marriage

Contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

Rene Asuncion, Director of Rel. Ed.

Tel:(925) 458-4574-Website: olqwre.olqw.org

Email:director@olqwre.olqw.org

• Religious Education

RCIA Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, or membership in the Catholic Church.

• St. Vincent de Paul

Food pantry opens Saturdays 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm in the Parish hall

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 25

7:30 am Ebias Thanksgiving
10:00 am Ngan Vu, Mai Dinh & Tinh Pham +
12:00 pm World Peace

4:00 pm (VN)

Tuesday, December 26

7:30 am Lamberto Bautista Jr. +

Wednesday, December 27

7:30 am Amanda

Thursday, December 28

7:30 am Adelaida Villaluz +

Friday, December 29

7:30 am Angelita Corrales +

Saturday, December 30

8:00 am John Michael Bautista

5:00 pm Lilia Catapusan +

7:00 pm (SP) Julio Lopez & Luzmilda Perez +

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am Aidan Lacanlale

10:00 am Ngan Vu, Mai Dinh & Tinh Pham +

12:00 am Maria Tran +

4:00 pm (VN)

MINISTRIES



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACTS

Filipino Association: Nerissa Riray,
President (nriray@comcast.net)

Hispanic Association Martha Hernández:
Coordinator (vimaen42@gmail.com) Contacto en
Español: Gladys Giron 925-334-9873

Columbiettes Leticia Rodrigues, President
925-339-8662

Knights of Columbus Kip Trombley
(gk7164@yahoo.com)

Regina Mundi Guild Leah Abejuela,
925-300-7081 (labejuela@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Danny Vu,
President (SYDPOLOW@gmail.com)

Legion of Mary: Danila Loquiao
(dnialoquiao@gmail.com; 925-864-1237)

Vietnamese Association: Hiep David Vu, President
(Davidvu207@gmail.com)

Portrait on the cover:
<https://getwallpapers.com/wallpaper/full/8/c/0/142647.jpg>

GOSPEL READING

Lk 1:26-38 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to

GOSPEL READING

Jn 1:1-5, 9-14 CHRISTMAS DAY



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12/24/2023

Here are Father Tom's scattered thoughts...

My Dear OLQW Parish family,

It is hard to believe that Christmas is upon us once again.

On that First Christmas, the angels praised God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and Peace on earth to men (and women) of good will." And Mary treasures all these things and reflected on them in her heart.

We need to pause and treasure the Gift of Christmas in our hearts. That Gift is Jesus Christ, who became human like one of us and lives among us. He came to renew perfectly God's love for each one of us—died and rose for our Salvation. He continues to be present to us in both Word and Sacraments. Treasure and reflect on this Gift of Jesus and the faith each one of us shares in Him as members of the Catholic Church.

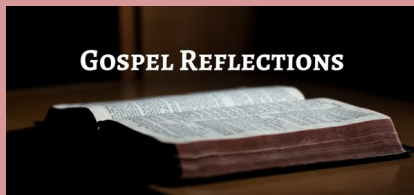
Moreover, we must not let Christmas just be gone like any other day. Live in Christmas spirit each day. Reflect on this gift of love and how to better share it with others. May your reflection on this Gift of Christmas, with God's grace, move you to an even more intimate relationship with God this coming New Year.

As your pastor, I treasure the gift each one of you, your love, dedication and the sacrifices you have made for our OLQW parish in particular. I am grateful to my staff and those who serve in various ministries and organizations. On behalf of Deacon Loc, Sister Elizabeth, Rene Asuncion, Faye Dolor and Tuan Nguyen, I wish each of you and your loved ones a grace-filled Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions as I celebrate Christmas Masses. May the Peace, Joy and Love of the Holy Family be with you and your families each day of 2024!

With a grateful heart and Christmas Blessings,

Father Thomas

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS



This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-advent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/> & <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/nativity-of-the-lord-christmas-mass-during-the-day/>

The word for Christmas in late Old English is Cristes Maesse, the Mass of Christ, first found in 1038, and Cristes-messe, in 1131; in Latin *Dies Natalis*.

Early Celebration

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Sts. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts, and Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial *Natalitia*, asserts that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday. Arnobius can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods.

The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. About A.D. 200, Clement of Alexandria says that certain Egyptian theologians "over curiously" assign, not the year alone, but the day of Christ's birth, placing it on 25 Pachon (May 20) in the twenty-eighth year of Augustus. The December feast therefore reached Egypt between 427 and 433.

In Rome the earliest evidence is in the Philocalian Calendar, compiled in 354, which contains three important entries. In the civil calendar December 25 is marked "*Natalis Invicti*." In the "*Depositio Martyrum*" a list of Roman or early and universally venerated martyrs, under December 25 is found "*VIII kal. ian. natus Christus in Betleem Iudæ*."

De Santi (*L'Orig. delle Fest. Nat.*, in *Civiltà Cattolica*, 1907), following Erbes, argues that Rome took over the Eastern Epiphany, now with a definite Nativity colouring, and, with as increasing number of Eastern Churches, placed it on December 25. Later, both the East and West divided their feast, leaving Epiphany on January 6, and Nativity on December 25, respectively, and placing Christmas on December 25 and Epiphany on January 6. The earlier hypothesis still seems preferable.

Origin of Date

Concerning the date of Christ's birth the Gospels give no help; upon their data contradictory arguments are based. The census would have been impossible in winter: a whole population could not then be put in motion. Again, in winter it must have been; then only field labour was suspended, but Rome was not thus considerate. Authorities moreover differ as to whether shepherds could or would keep flocks exposed during the nights of the rainy season.

Natalis Invicti

The well-known solar feast, however, of *Natalis Invicti*, celebrated on December 25, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date. For the history of the solar cult, its position in the Roman Empire, and syncretism with Mithraism, see Cumont's epoch-making "*Textes et Monuments*" etc., I, ii, 4, 6, p. 355. Mommsen (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 12, p. 338) has collected the evidence for the feast, which reached its climax of popularity under Aurelian in 274. Filippo del Torre in 1700 first saw its importance. It is marked, as has been said, without addition in Philocalus' Calendar. It would be impossible here even to outline the history of solar symbolism and language as applied to God, the Messiah, and Christ in Jewish or Christian canonical, patristic, or devotional works. Hymns and Christmas offices abound in instances; the texts are well arranged by Cumont.

Liturgy and Custom

The fixing of this date fixed those too of Circumcision and Presentation, of Expectation and, perhaps, Annunciation B.V.M., and of Nativity and Conception of the Baptist (cf. Thurston in *Amer. Eccl. Rev.*, December, 1898). Till the tenth century Christmas counted, in papal reckoning, as the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, as it still does in Bulls. Boniface VIII (1294-1303) restored temporarily this usage, to which Germany held longest.

The Nativity of the Lord - December 25th

The Crib (creche) or Nativity Scene

Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223 originated the crib of today by laicizing a hitherto ecclesiastical custom, henceforward extralitururgical and popular. The presence of ox and ass is due to a misinterpretation of Isaias 1:3, and Habakkuk 3:2 ("*Itala*" version), though they appear in the unique fourth-century "*Nativity*" discovered in the Saint Sebastian catacombs in 1877. The ass on which Balaam rode in the Reims mystery won for the feast the title *Festum Asinorum* (Ducange, op. cit., s.v. *Festum*).

Hymns and Carols

The degeneration of these plays in part occasioned the diffusion of noels, pastorali, and carols, to which was accorded, at times, a quasi-litururgical position. Prudentius, in the fourth century, is the first (and in that century alone) to hymn the Nativity, for the "*Vox clara*" (hymn for Lauds in Advent) and "*Christe Redemptor*" (Vespers and Matins of Christmas) cannot be assigned to Ambrose. "*A solis ortu*" is certainly, however, by Sedulius (fifth century). The earliest German *Weihnachtslieder* date from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the earliest noels from the eleventh, the earliest carols from the thirteenth. The famous "*Stabat Mater Speciosa*" is attributed to Jacopone da Todi (1230-1306); "*Adeste Fideles*" is, at the earliest, of the seventeenth century. These essentially popular airs, and even words, must, however, have existed long before they were put down in writing.

PARISH EVENTS

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 2023 : FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be no classes from December 19th to January 5th, 2024. Classes will resume Saturday, January 6th with a CCD Family Mass at 9:30 am.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25th
8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00
noon English
4:00 pm Vietnamese

NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, January 1 2024
10:00 am English

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Victoria Lapid, Danilo Henson, Eduardo Sahulga, Eva Panugaling, Lisa Jott, Betty Tecson, Eleccion Elevazo, Victor Mendoza, Rosalina Masangcay, Adolfo Miguel Jr., Proceso Beleza, Patricia Diokno, Mario & Emma Dolor, Jovita Domingo, Elizabeth Zamora, Julie Hansen, Xander Saavedra, Carmenchu Saavedra, Marlon Serna, Lois Belmessieri, Jonah Hansen, Faye Dolor, Chad Thompson, Viechel Hunter, Logan Kenney, Father Tom, Jasmin Toledo, Carlo Lagarejos, Faye Dolor, all those in the Parish who are sick and all those listed in the Book of Intention.

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the rectory 458-4718.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, December 25
Merry Christmas!!!

Tuesday, December 26
7:00 pm Hall: Knights of
Columbus

Wednesday, December 27
11:30 am P#2: Legion of Mary

Thursday, December 28
7:00 pm P#2: SP Divine Mercy
Prayer

Friday, December 29
7:00 pm P#1: Hispanic Choir

Saturday, December 30
12:00 pm Hall: St. Vincent de Paul

Sunday, December 31
1:00 pm Hall & P#3-4: Vietnamese
School
2:00 pm P#2: Vietnamese Choir

HALL EXPANSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Building Fund 2nd collection will be for the Hall Expansion Capital Campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

Sunday Plate December 10: \$ 5,661.00

Religious Retirement: \$ 2,210.00

2023 Insurance: Total: \$19,534.00 Paid: \$ 19,534.00

2023 Assessment: Total: \$43,805.00 Paid: \$ 48,805.00

Thank you for your contribution support to sustain the ministries & ongoing needs of our parish.

Please make all checks payable to either "OLQW" or Our Lady Queen of the World for both first and second collections. Also please put your envelope number on the Memo line.



***SANTO
NIÑO
NOVENA &
FESTIVAL***

**JANUARY
5 - 13,
2024**

**THE FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF OLQW
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE NINE DAY
NOVENA & FESTIVAL TO THE SANTO NIÑO
HELD WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY AFTER THE MORNING
MASS; ON SUNDAY, AFTER THE 12 NOON MASS
FESTIVAL MASS AT 5:00 PM FOLLOWED BY A
RECEPTION IN THE PALIS HALL**