



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

*December 24, 2023*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### *Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church* Served by the Augustinians since 1926

185 St. Thomas Drive—Ojai, CA, 93023—(805)646-4338

[www.stacojai.org](http://www.stacojai.org)—[Facebook.com/stacojai](https://Facebook.com/stacojai)

#### Mass Times/Tiempos de misa

**Monday—Friday~ Lunes—Viernes**  
9:00AM

**Saturday—Sábado**  
8:00AM

**Saturday Evening**  
English 5:00PM

**Sábado Por la Noche**  
Español 6:30PM

**Sunday Mass**  
English 7:30AM & 9:30AM

**Misa Del Domingo**  
Español 11:30AM

#### **Pastor:**

**Father Kirk Davis O.S.A.**  
Email: [frkirk@stacojai.org](mailto:frkirk@stacojai.org)

#### **Associate Pastor:**

**Father Fernando Lopez O.S.A.**  
Email: [frfernando@stacojai.org](mailto:frfernando@stacojai.org)

#### **In Residence:**

**Father Emmanuel Isaac, O.S.A.**

#### **Deacon: Phil Nelson**

Email: [deaconphil@stacojai.org](mailto:deaconphil@stacojai.org)

#### **Office hours ~ Horario de oficina**

Monday - Friday ~ Lunes - Viernes  
9:00AM - 5:00PM

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ~  
SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACIÓN**  
Saturdays 3:30PM - 4:30PM

**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION  
EXPOSICIÓN Y ADORACIÓN**

of the Blessed Sacrament ~  
del Santísimo Sacramento

Thursday/Jueves 9:30AM-through  
Saturday/Sabado morning Benediction 7:45AM

**PRAYER LINE ~ LÍNEA DE ORACIÓN**

Contact Parish Office

Póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial  
(805) 646-4338

<https://stacojai.org/worship/prayer-line>

**WEDDINGS ~ BODAS**

Contact Parish Office

Póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial  
(805) 646-4338

**BAPTISMS ~ BAUTISMOS**

English: Dn. Phil Nelson

Spanish: Fr. Fernando Lopez OSA

**FUNERALS ~ FUNERALES**

Contact Parish Office ~ Póngase en contacto con  
la oficina parroquial (805) 646-4338

**PRIVATE PRAYER ~ ORACIÓN PRIVADA**

Chapel open Mon-Sat ~ Capilla abierta  
de lunes a sábado:

10AM-4PM



*Rosario en Español*

*Este Martes*

*A las seis de la tarde*

*Rosary in English*

*To the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

*Fridays after the 9am mass*

*Next Adult Faith Formation*

*January 7, 11AM English—1PM Spanish*

**INTENTIONS/INTENCIÓNES**

Monday: 12/25/23	9:00AM	<i>Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you He is Christ the Lord! Luke 2:11</i> 
Tuesday: 12/26/23	9:00AM	<i>Mary Kazmer (L) By: Linda Desch</i>
Wednesday: 12/27/23	9:00AM	<i>Charles Sehlke † By: Les &amp; Mary Baker</i>
Thursday: 12/28/23	9:00AM	<i>Julie &amp; Daryle Houska † By: The Quackenbush Family</i>
Friday: 12/29/23	9:00AM	<i>Michael Vugrinovich † By: Linda Desch</i>
Saturday: 12/30/23	8:00AM	<i>Josephine Nocero † By: Chuck Coscarelli</i>
Saturday: 12/30/23	5PM	<i>George Barrett † By: The Hickok Family</i>
Sunday: 12/31/23	9:30AM	<i>Fred Perez † By: Connie Rimpia</i>

**Family to Family**  
*Wednesday, December 27, 2023*

For I was HUNGRY  
and you gave me food,  
I was THIRSTY  
and you gave me something to drink,  
I was A STRANGER  
and you welcomed me.  
MATTHEW 25:39

303 N. Ventura Ave.  
Ventura, CA

(Next to Catholic Charities)

*Volunteers needed and appreciated*

*Call the parish office for more information*

*(805) 646-4338*

*For unto us  
a child is born,  
to us  
a son is given*  
Isaiah 9:6

## A Christmas Message From Father Kirk

In his Sermon 189,3, St. Augustine offered these inspiring words about the promise of Christmas:

And so let his mercy come to be in our hearts.

His mother bore him in her womb;  
let us bear him in our hearts.

The virgin was big with the incarnation of Christ;  
let our bosoms grow big with the faith of Christ.  
She gave birth to the Savior;  
let us give birth to praise.

We mustn't be barren; our souls must be fruitful  
with God.

I wish abundant Christmas Blessings upon you,  
your families, and all your cherished friends.  
May this season be rich with love, mercy and compassion.  
God's peace,  
Fr. Kirk

## Un mensaje de Navidad Del Padre Kirk

En su Sermón 189,3, San Agustín ofrece estas palabras inspiradoras sobre la promesa de la Navidad:

Y así su misericordia venga a estar en nuestros corazones.

Su madre lo llevó en su vientre;  
llevémoslo en nuestros corazones.

La virgen estaba grande con la encarnación de Cristo;  
Que nuestros pechos crezcan con la fe de Cristo.  
Ella dio a luz al Salvador;  
demos a luz la alabanza.

No debemos ser estériles; nuestras almas deben ser fructíferas con Dios.

Deseo abundantes bendiciones navideñas para ustedes, sus familias y todos sus queridos amigos. Que esta temporada sea rica en amor, misericordia y compasión.

la paz de Dios,  
Padre Kirk



Child's Name:

Catechist's Signature:



*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the Highest  
and Peace to his People on Earth.”*

**YOUTH CHOIR**  
*Sing Joyfully unto the Lord!  
The youth choir will sing  
at the Christmas Eve masss*  
**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**What did you learn in Mass today?**

# O Come, Let Us Adore Him



©LPI

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day,

Monday, December 25, 2023

*Mass in English 9:30AM*

*Mass in Spanish 11:30AM*

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday & Sunday

December 30 – 31, 2023

*(Regular Sunday Schedule)*

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, January 1, 2024

**Mass in English 9AM**

*(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)*

Epiphany of the Lord

*Saturday & Sunday*

*January 7 & 8, 2024*

*(Regular Sunday Schedule)*



# Fourth Sunday of Advent



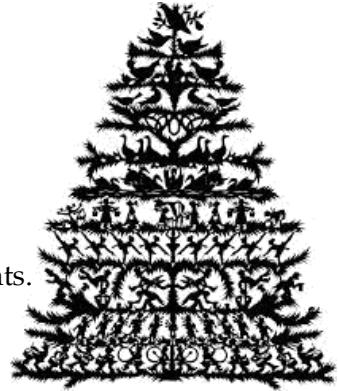
On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to **mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior**. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

This year (2023) Advent is very short with Sunday being the only day in the fourth week. In the General Roman Calendar, today is the last day of Advent, Christmas Eve, and also (beginning with the vigil Mass) is the first day of Christmas time. The liturgical texts express wholehearted confidence in the imminent coming of the Redeemer. There is much joyous expectation. Most families have their own observances, customs that should be preserved from generation to generation.

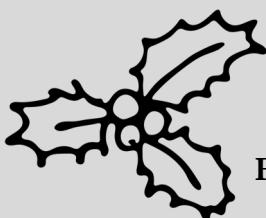
The time of preparation before Christmas is called Advent. Catholics celebrate the Christmas season from Jesus' birth, December 25, until the day before the Epiphany (January 6). The Epiphany is the celebration of when the three wise men visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Since the Church is still celebrating it's a great opportunity to leave your Christmas decorations up a little longer!

The religious wars in sixteenth century England made it dangerous to be a Catholic. Many people practiced their faith in secret. As the legend goes, Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith onto their children, like "The 12 Days of Christmas." The well-known song was used to teach children about the Catholic Church. Although the lyrics may sound like nonsense, the song actually contains hidden references:

- The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.
- The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.
- The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.
- The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.
- The 7 Swans A-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.
- The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

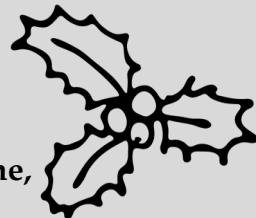


## A Christmas Prayer



Lord,

For Food in a world where many walk in hunger,  
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,  
For Friends and Family in a world where many walk alone,  
We give you thanks, O'Lord,  
On this Christmas Day.  
Amen



## Fourth Sunday of Advent



## Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours.

### Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

### Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday:	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve
Monday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Sunday:	The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

### Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Dear Lord,  
Visit our homes!  
Visit our families!  
Bring your goodness and light  
to every broken heart we've met  
on this journey of life.  
Your presence brings healing and rebirth.  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

### INSPIRACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

Los planes de Dios no siempre son lo que imaginamos. A veces nos hacen dudar. Sé como María. Di "Sí, Señor," y Dios te mostrará que Su imaginación es mejor que la tuya.

### Las lecturas de la semana del 24 de diciembre de 2023

Domingo:	2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16/Sal 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27. 29/Rom 16, 25-27/Lc 1, 26-38
Lunes:	Vigilia: Is 62, 1-5/Sal 88, 4-5. 16-17. 27. 29/Hch 13, 16-17. 22-25/Mt 1, 1-25 o 1, 18-25 Noche: Is 9, 1-6/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13/Tit 2, 11-14/Lc 2, 1-14 Matutina: Is 62, 11-12/Sal 96, 1. 6. 11-12/Tit 3, 4-7/Lc 2, 15-20 Día: Is 52, 7-10/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6/Heb 1, 1-6/Jn 1, 1-18 o 1, 1-5. 9-14
Martes:	Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59/Sal 30, 3-4. 6 y 8. 16 y 17/Mt 10, 17-22
Miércoles:	1 Jn 1, 1-4/Sal 96, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12/Jn 20, 2-8
Jueves:	1 Jn 1, 5-2, 2/Sal 123, 2-3. 4-5. 7-8/Mt 2, 13-18
Viernes:	1 Jn 2, 3-11/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 5-6/Lc 2, 22-35
Sábado:	1 Jn 2, 12-17/Sal 95, 7-8. 8-9. 10/Lc 2, 36-40
Domingo siguiente:	Eclo 3, 2-6. 12-14 o Gn 15, 1-6; 21, 1-3/Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5 o Sal 104, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9/Col 3, 12-21 o 3, 12-17 o Heb 11, 8. 11-12. 17-19/Lc 2, 22-40 o 2, 22. 39-40

### Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 24 de diciembre de 2023

Domingo:	4º Domingo de Adviento; Nochebuena
Lunes:	La Natividad del Señor
Martes:	San Esteban, el primer mártir
Miércoles:	San Juan, apóstol y evangelista
Jueves:	Día de los Santos Inocentes, mártires
Viernes:	San Tomás Becket, obispo y mártir
Domingo siguiente:	La Sagrada Familia Víspera de Año Nuevo

### Oración por el Adviento 4

Querido Señor,  
¡Visita nuestros hogares!  
¡Visita a nuestras familias!  
Trae tu bondad y tu luz  
a cada corazón roto que hemos conocido  
en este viaje de la vida.  
Tu presencia trae sanación y renacimiento.  
¡Ven, Señor Jesús!  
Amén.

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Bereavement	(805) 646-4338 x101	office@stacojai.org
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Finance Council, Dan Reid	(805) 646-4338 x102	ojaireid@gmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul	(805) 646-4338 x104	
Food Pantry	(805) 646-4338 x112	



## Did You Know?



**December 23-24**

### What is a trial balloon?

One of the best ways safe adults can help children who are suffering from abuse is to recognize and listen to their disclosures — even if they are done in stages or in subtle ways. A child may float a “trial balloon” disclosure, meaning he may use a single sentence or phrase to see if a safe adult will respond appropriately. Be on the lookout for sudden disclosures like, “I don’t want to go to So-and-so’s house anymore,” and try responding in a way designed to let the child continue to open up: “Do you want to tell me why?” or “Let’s talk about that,” for example. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” at [lacatholics.org/did-you-know/](http://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/). Read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons”

### ¿Qué es un globo de prueba?

Una de las mejores maneras en que los adultos confiables pueden ayudar a los niños que sufren abuso es reconocer y escuchar sus revelaciones, incluso si se hacen en partes o de manera sutil. Un niño puede revelar un “globo de prueba”, lo que significa que puede usar una sola oración o frase para ver si un adulto confiable responde apropiadamente. Esté atento a revelaciones repentinas como: “Ya no quiero ir a la casa de Fulano de tal” e intente responder de una manera diseñada para permitir que el niño continúe abriendose: “¿Quieres decirme por qué?” o “Hablemos de eso”, por ejemplo. Para obtener más información, lea el artículo en inglés de VIRTUS® “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” (Globos de prueba) en [lacatholics.org/did-you-know/](http://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/). Lea el artículo en inglés de VIRTUS® “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” (Globos de prueba) aquí