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PRAYER LINE
 Know someone who needs a prayer, or maybe you need a prayer? Call the **St. Canice Prayer Lines** - Margie Wagner at 273-4397 or Patti Favetti at 432-0665. We're praying for you!

St. Canice Catholic Church
December 10, 2023
The Second Week of Advent



Alleluia, alleluia.
 Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
 All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
 Alleluia, alleluia.

- Gaudete Sunday Brunch and Crafting -

Please join us at St. Canice Center after Mass on Gaudete Sunday, December 17, for brunch and Christmas crafting. Sign up after Mass this weekend or contact Meghan Salter (salter.uhsd@gmail.com or 530.559.3417) or Brooke Blake (brookeblake13@yahoo.com or 530.273.7162) to reserve your spot. Your \$20 donation covers the cost of brunch and craft materials.

This event, started by Father Bob, is a wonderful way to spread Christmas cheer by socializing with fellow parishioners while creating a decorative gift to share with someone special. This year's event is being hosted by Aidynn Salter as part of her 8th grade community service. Come and share the joy!

PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA HOME VISITATION

The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue is looking for a home to visit over Christmas, just as Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay to bring Jesus into the world. Mary's statue represents Mary herself as she brings Jesus into the home to spread the message of Fatima and to bring peace. Our Lady of Fatima's statue will remain in the home for at least nine days so that a novena can be prayed. Is she asking to stay at your home? For information, please call Helen, 530-210-1721.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Dec 16-17, 2023	Ushers	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat @ 5:30 pm	Mike Cartan Mike Blake	Aidynn Salter	Meghan Salter	Patti Favetti
Sun @ 9:00 am	Scott McIntosh Ray James		Bob Glaeser	Lillian Glaeser, Doris Balog, Karen McDonald

✠ ALTAR LINENS ✠

Thank you Ladies Guild!	
Dec 10 & Dec 17	Karen Colwell
Dec 24 & Dec 31	Lillian Glaeser

317 Washington Street, Nevada City 95959
 Center: 236 Reward Street, Nevada City 95959
 (530) 265-2049
 www.stcanice.com
 secretary@stcanice.org

Staff:

Fr. Alexander Estrella	Pastor	Frestrella@stcanice.org
Fr. Jossy Vattothu	Parochial Vicar	Frjossy@stcanice.org
Ruth Collins Smith	Bookkeeper	Bookkeeper@stcanice.org
Maria Beltran	Secretary	secretary@stcanice.org
	Maintenance	
Cynthia Weir	Music	530-272-2203
Jeff Hebert	Cemetery	530-265-9510 or 916-508-5744 (c)
Frank Lang Sr	Immaculate Conception	530-289-3644
Fr. James McKnight	Pastor Emeritus	

Mass Schedule	Confession
Weekday (M-F) 7:30 AM	Friday 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM	Saturday 4:00 PM (or by appt)
Sunday 9:00 AM	
Immaculate Conception Church 11:30 AM	
	Eucharistic Adoration
	Fri 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
	Rosary
	Wednesday 8:00 AM

Mass Live-Stream
 Sunday 11:00 AM from St. Patrick Church

Our Mission, as the Parish of Saint Canice Catholic Church, is to proclaim the teaching and wisdom of Jesus Christ throughout our entire Community, by our life and participation in the Sacraments and Traditions of His Holy Catholic Church.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

One of my worst enemies as a child was the dictionary! If I wanted to know how to spell a word or what a word meant I was told "Look it up!" I will admit that it was a better lesson than simply being told what I wanted to know but it frustrated me. Today, as an adult, I belong to group chat with some priest friends, most of the time it's typically sophomoric boy behavior, many times we share the events of priestly life either rejoicing or seeking support or counsel. And yes, we often turn to each other to have questions answered. Even with the internet on that same phone, we turn to each other instead of following that sage advice from childhood, "Look it up!"

In fairness, one has to be sure an internet answer is trustworthy. I recently saw some old information that I wanted to be the center of my article and spent more time trying to find that information than writing this actual bulletin column. Some of what I saw even made me rethink my own position. As Christmas draws closer arguments for and against December 25th as the date of our Lord's birth surface. Each person can decide which he or she finds most compelling. I personally believe our Lord was born on December 25th. I'll explain why. St. Luke's gospel begins with Zechariah being told that his wife, Elizabeth, in her old age will bear a son. This is during his time serving as priest in the temple. From the Book of Chronicles we know the rotation of priestly service, and so Zechariah would have most likely served around the time of the Day of Atonement which is roughly September in our calendar. We also know from St. Luke's gospel that our Lady received her annunciation when Elizabeth was in her sixth month. Further, our Lady left Nazareth to attend to Elizabeth and stayed until John was born roughly for three months. From September to March is 6 months, from March to June (When we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist) is 3 months and again, from June to December is 6 months. So this makes sense for the birth of our Lord to be in December.

Some will make the argument it was too cold for shepherds to be out in the fields but this famous observation from 1967 by Dr Harry Mulder speaks to that. "During the brief Christmas vacation my wife and I traveled from Beirut to Jerusalem . . . On Christmas Eve in Shepherd Field a crowd had gathered to sing Christmas carols. We joined this crowd and took part in the singing. Right near us a few flocks of sheep nestled. Even the lambs were not lacking. It was a moving sight. It is therefore definitely not impossible that the Lord Jesus was born in December."

One of the most famous objections, that the Church appropriated the pagan Roman celebration of Saturnalia only arose nearly 1,000 years after the Church had been celebrating Christmas. Other similar arguments are made. But there are answers to those arguments as well. Is it a matter of faith that Christ our Lord was born on December 25th? No, what matters is we know, believe, celebrate and find hope in that second person of the Blessed Trinity, the eternal Son of the eternal Father was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin and was made man, living among us, teaching us, and ultimately redeeming us.

Your Father in Christ,
Father Estrella

Readings for the Upcoming Week

Mon,	12/11	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26 (181)
Tues,	12/12	Is 11:1-10	Lk 1:26-38 (182)
Wed,	12/13	Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30 (183)
Thurs,	12/14	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15 (184)
Fri,	12/15	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19 (185)
Sat,	12/16	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)
Sun,	12/17	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 (8)

CULTURE OF LIFE

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the dignity of the Human Person



Father Paul Schenck shares his insights as a Priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA and founding Director of the National Pro-Life Center on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

"Luke tells us that Mary was full of Grace. For the Church throughout the

ages this meant that she possesses every aspect of God's Grace, all the moral and theological virtues, all the extraordinary gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. And Luke says that she was blessed among women. The Church embraces Mary as unique and unrepeatable. Among women she is singular. As daughter, virgin, wife and mother, she is the supreme example of woman and the fulfillment of every woman's aspirations. The Immaculate Conception teaches us that everything that Mary would become she already was in the first moment of her conception. Mary was not less than Mary before her birth. She possessed, albeit in a hidden way, all the Grace and spiritual attributes granted her by the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer, from the first moment of her conception. What does this teach us about ourselves? That we possess our full potential - our full personhood - from the first moment of our conception. (...) Everyone of you has always been who you are today. You have grown in knowledge, experience and even faith - but you have never been anyone but yourself, you have never been anyone other than you, you have never, ever been anything less than a unique, unrepeatable, human person. The Immaculate Conception demonstrates that God created each one of us with a unique purpose and plan for our lives, and that plan began the first moment of our conception."

"If any human being can be deprived of the right to life, then all human beings can be deprived of life."

Diaper Drive for LivingWell / Dec. 16 and 17

A clean diaper is a basic health need.



DONATE TODAY

There is an ongoing need for diapers and basic children's necessities at the LivingWell Embracing Families Boutique. In this season of giving please join the Culture of Life Ministry in helping our local moms in need by donating to our DIAPER DRIVE on Dec 16 and 17.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our Return to God
Last week Reg collection \$3,717

Upcoming Collections
Dec 10 Retirement for Religious
Dec 17 School of Religion
Dec 24 No 2nd Collection



Mass Intentions

Mon.	12/11/23	7:30 am	Geraldine Mangerie (D)
Tues.	12/12/23	7:30 am	Debbie Prackitas (D)
Wed.	12/13/23	7:30 am	William Harman (D)
Thurs.	12/14/23	7:30 am	Carmella Mangerie (D)
Fri.	12/15/23	7:30 am	Eddie and Samuel Seegar (D)
Sat.	12/16/23	5:30 pm	Ladies Guild Members Past & Present
Sun.	12/17/23	9:00 am	Joseph Aragona (D)



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



Today's readings on this Second Sunday of Advent can be summed up as equal parts comfort and warning for the Christian steward. We serve a merciful and patient God — in His kindness and Love for each of us, He gently warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

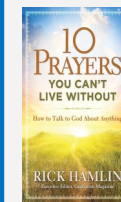
How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion". In addition, our gospel from Mark reminds us that we Christian Stewards must make good use of the gift of Time: Prayer, Mass, Confession, Daily reading of Scriptures, and Service.

Let us take time from our busy schedules to use this gift of Time to help us prepare for most precious gift He has given us - His own Son, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate in a few short weeks.

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Parish Book Club Gathering

Monday, January 22, 2024



All Parishioners are invited to a meeting of the St. Patrick and St. Canice Book Club on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 1:30 P. M. in St. Patrick's Small Hall. We will be discussing 10 Prayers You Can't Live Without: How to Talk to God About Everything by Rick Hamlin. The book is not about learning new prayers, but about how to pray. The discussion, which will last about an hour and a half, will be led by Michael Moreland. The book is available at your favorite book store or online. In addition to stimulating conversation, coffee, tea, and cookies will be served.

Reflecting on the Gospel



For the next two Sundays, the gospels encourage us to encounter Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist. The great prophet, clothed in camel's hair and munching on locusts, prepares the way of the Lord with a singular focus.

John does not worry about his appearance. He does not worry about upsetting those in power as evidenced by his eventual beheading at the hands of Herod. As the son of a priest, John could have proclaimed his message from the ritzy steps of the temple. Instead, John humbly preaches from the banks of the Jordan River. He goes to the place where the Israelites made their journey into the Promised Land and made another promise: the Mighty One is coming. Prepare your hearts.

John exemplifies humility. Mark notes that "people of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him," yet John never loses his focus on Jesus. He knows God did not call him to preach the good news of John. Rather, the Baptist uses his popularity to point the way to Jesus the Christ, whose good news will bring salvation to the world.

The prophet Isaiah assures the returning exiles of God's faithfulness in today's first reading. The people suffered greatly and even lost faith that God would rescue them. Hard times can do this to people. Difficulties can lead to doubt. Yet Isaiah promises that God will carry the people to safety and lead them with care like a shepherd who tends to their sheep.

St. Canice Christmas Schedule



Confessions:

Wednesday, December 20 - 4-5 PM
Friday, December 22 - 8-9 AM and 5-6 PM
Saturday, December 23 - 9:30-10:30 AM.
There will be no Saturday afternoon confessions in either parish this day.

Masses:

Saturday, Dec 23 Vigil Mass 4th Sunday of Advent
5:30 PM
Sunday Dec 24th 4th Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM
Vigil Mass for Christmas Sunday Dec 24th
5:30 PM
Mass of Christmas Day Monday Dec 25
9:00 AM



Opening Doors Ministry meets on Sundays 9:30-10:30 am at Mt Saint Mary's School in the library.

Thank you, Helen Albano, (530)210-1721