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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 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 5:30 PM  
 Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM  
 Vigil Mass for Christmas Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM  
 Mass of Christmas Day Monday Dec 25 9:00 AM

**MEN'S GUILD 12TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED**  
 RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED  
 Saturday, January 27th  
 See flyer in the vestibule in the church for more information or contact Jeff Hebert at 530-265-9510 or email [jkjhebert@comcast.net](mailto:jkjhebert@comcast.net) for further questions.

**Church Office Closed**  
 St. Canice's office will be closed from Dec 18, 2023, to January 1, 2024.  
*Have a blessed Christmas! May the blessings of the Lord be with you and your families. St Canice Office.*

LITURGICAL MINISTERS				
Dec 23-24, 2023	Ushers	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat @ 5:30 pm	Mike Cartan Mike Blake	Aidynn Salter	Christine Strohm	Lynn Forrete
Sun @ 9:00 am	Scott McIntosh Ray James		Doris Balog	Bob & Lillian Glaeser, and Sharon Seck

✠ ALTAR LINENS ✠	
Thank you Ladies Guild!	
Dec 10 & Dec 17	Karen Colwell
Dec 24 & Dec 31	Sharon Seel

**St. Canice Catholic Church**  
**December 17, 2023**  
**The Third Week of Advent**



Alleluia, alleluia.  
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
 because he has anointed me  
 to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
 Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Staff:**  
 Fr. Alexander Estrella Pastor  
 Fr. Jossy Vattothu Parochial Vicar  
 Ruth Collins Smith Bookkeeper  
 Maria Beltran Secretary  
 Cynthia Weir Maintenance  
 Jeff Hebert Music  
 Frank Lang Sr Cemetery  
 Fr. James McKnight, Pastor Emeritus

**Mass Schedule**  
 Weekday (M-F) 7:30 AM  
 Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM  
 Sunday 9:00 AM  
 Immaculate Conception Church 11:30 AM

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

**Confession**  
 Friday 8:00 AM  
 Saturday 4:00 PM (or by appt)

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Fri 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Rosary**  
 Wednesday 8:00 AM

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,

This week on Thursday we see a shift in our Advent Season, from the start of Advent until Thursday we have been focusing on Christ coming at the end of time and in the many small ways He comes in grace or in mystery. Thursday the gospel at Mass will be the genealogy of our Lord from St. Matthew's gospel, day by day we will read through events leading up to Christ's birth until we come to Christmas Day. But there is a change that is much more exciting than that, or at least I think so. The 17th of December begins the ancient "O Antiphons" at Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church. These antiphons are used to start and end the Canticle of Mary or the Magnificat from when our Lady visited St. Elizabeth in St. Luke's Gospel (1:46-55). The beautiful Hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel" is taken from these same antiphons. They are repeated the next day in the morning Mass before the Gospel is read.

December 17

**O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!**

December 18

**O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!**

December 19

**O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!**

December 20

**O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!**

December 21

**O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and  
in the shadow of death.**

December 22

**O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save the man,  
whom you formed from the dust!**

December 23

**O Emmanuel,  
our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!**

Each title by which the Lord is invoked comes from a reference to the Messiah in the Old Testament. What makes this fun is that the Latin letters, beginning with the last and ending with the first form the acrostic ERO CRAS, which is translated as "Tomorrow I will be (there)." For these 7 days leading up to the feast of Christ we cry out night and day for the Lord to come. Then on Christmas Eve we pray in the morning "Today you will know the Lord is coming and, in the morning, you will see His glory." And First Vespers of Christmas will tell us: When the Sun rises in the morning sky, you will see the King of Kings come forth from the Father." As Christmas draws near, let our preparation increase so that when He comes forth from the Father, we are made ready to welcome Him not only in the cribs of our manger scenes, but in our homes and our hearts.

With all my love,  
Your Father in Christ,  
Father Estrella

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Our Return to God

Last week Reg collection \$ 3,067

Immaculate Conception \$ 759

Retirement for Religious \$ 1,032

### Upcoming Collections

Dec 17 School of Religion

Dec 24 No 2nd Collection

Dec 25 Christmas



## Readings for the Upcoming Week

Mon,	12/18	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25 (194)
Tues,	12/19	Jgs 13:2-7	Lk 1:5-25 (195)
Wed,	12/20	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38 (196)
Thurs,	12/21	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45 (197)
Fri,	12/22	Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56 (198)
Sat,	12/23	Mal 3:23-24	Lk 1:57-66 (199)
		2 Sm 7:1-5	Rom 16:25-27
			Lk 1:26-38 (11)

## CULTURE OF LIFE

The Third Week of Advent:

JOY

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all the people."

Luke 2: 10-11

How wonderful to hear those words year after year. But do we take them to heart when we face challenges, when we experience failure, hardship, illness, unexpected life-changing events? Women and couples who learn of an unexpected pregnancy may focus on the fear that they may be robbed of their joy, that their life and plans will be disrupted yet they miss the message that joy is to be found in the wonder and awe of the unique child they have conceived.

Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy...

There are those who may experience illness, old age, or misfortune. When it comes into their lives fear can take center stage. Fear of the unknown, fear of misery, pain, loss of control or even fear of death can silence the message of joy. But there is joy in the news that a helpless, poor, vulnerable child born in a humble stable might wipe away every tear from their eyes. That through him "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things have passed away." (Rev. 21:4) They may miss the message that the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes is more than the child who advanced in wisdom, age and favor before God and man, more than a prophet mighty in word and deed, but that JESUS IS LORD!

Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy ...

Let us remember those who due to the unexpected, fear rather than find joy in the good tidings of Christmas. Let us lift up in prayer those with difficulties and burdens, illness and loneliness. Let us share where we can the tidings of great joy which shall be for all people.

## Mass Intentions

Mon.	12/18/23	7:30 am	Dorothy and Morris Obligen (D)
Tues.	12/19/23	7:30 am	Dieter Bayer (SI)
Wed.	12/20/23	7:30 am	Dorothy Churchill (D)
Thurs.	12/21/23	7:30 am	Barbara Scoble (SI)
Fri.	12/22/23	7:30 am	Carolina Rosales (SI)
Sat.	12/23/23	5:30 pm	Mike Oliver (D)
Sun.	12/24/23	9:00 am	Bill Roach (D)

## Reflecting on the Gospel



The prophet Isaiah announces a year of the Lord's favor in today's first reading and it could not have come at a better time for the Israelites. Still reeling from their experience of exile, the Israelites longed for signs of the

steadfast love promised by God. Isaiah declares that God's vindication will shine forth in a time of jubilee. The poor will receive glad tidings. The brokenhearted will be healed. Liberty will go to the captives and release them to the prisoners. God's generosity blooms in the face of sorrow. God's justice grows before all the nations. Such is cause for great rejoicing for the Israelites then and for us now.

Imagine a jubilee happening today. How might God's blessings transform lives? What might God do to relieve the sorrow and suffering of creation? We need not wait passively for a jubilee to happen. The prophet Isaiah paves a way for dreaming of a year of favor from the Lord. We too can imagine the freedom of jubilee time and work to make it happen. In ways big and small, we can be people of jubilee. We can tend to the needs of people who are vulnerable and hurting. Through our words and actions, we can bring about rejoicing in the name of God. Much of the northern hemisphere is in a time of extended darkness due to movements of the sun. Communities all over are also facing the darkness of injustice and sin. John comes to testify to the light. We too are called to reflect the light of Christ to the world. Where will you shine in these days leading up to Christmas?

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The Christian steward is characterized by a spirit of Joy.



In our First Reading, Isaiah writes, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God. This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. Rather, we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. With this spiritual understanding in mind, we begin to cultivate Joy and Peace in our lives.

As the season of Advent quickly comes to the end and Christmas is almost here, remember, when God Himself is the source of our Joy, it cannot be taken away from us. Remain detached of the things that distract you from your Spiritual Joy.