



# The Orb

Weekly Announcements of

## Church of the Advent of Christ the King

*An inclusive parish of the Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition*

261 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 431-0454 [www.advent-sf.org](http://www.advent-sf.org)

24 December 2017

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Welcome to all our visitors & newcomers.**

Please sign our guest book and join us after Mass for refreshments in Lathrop Hall and Hardcastle Garden. If you are new, please make yourself known to the clergy and the greeters.

### Ordo ~

#### Sunday, 24 December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Low Mass, 9am (Episcopal Sanctuary & Church)

Confessions, 10:30am (Br Jude Hill, SSF)

High Mass, 11am

Vigil & High Mass of Nativity, 11pm

#### Monday, 25 December

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Procession & High Mass, 11am

#### Tuesday, 26 December

ST STEPHEN, *Deacon & Martyr*

Evening Prayer, 6pm & Low Mass, 6:30pm

#### Wednesday, 27 December

ST JOHN, *Apostle & Evangelist*

Low Mass, 8:00am & 6:30pm

Evening Prayer, 6pm

#### Thursday, 28 December

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Evening Prayer, 6pm & Low Mass, 6:30pm

#### Friday, 29 December

*Abstinence observed*

Thomas à Becket, *Archbishop of Canterbury & Martyr*  
+1170

Evening Prayer, 6pm & Low Mass, 6:30pm

#### Saturday, 30 December

Weekday after Christmas

*Vigil Mass of morrow*

Latin Chant Mass, 5pm

#### *Riders on the Storm* ~ Fr. Paul Allick

The Christmas story is always presented as such a calm sweet event. But in the story according to Matthew this is not true. Joseph and Mary find themselves in an emotional, political and religious storm.

Joseph is a religious man. Mary tells him that she is already pregnant. And so begins the storm.

Joseph decides to quietly end the legal contract they have to be married. He could have reported her and shamed her family but he wasn't that kind of person. Then the storm intensifies. An angel of the Lord comes to Joseph in a dream. Just like his ancestor Joseph, the son of Jacob, this Joseph pays attention to his dreams. He finds out in his dream that he does not get to opt out of this storm; he is called to go into it.

By the time we see Joseph and Mary at the manger with the baby, they've only made it to the middle of the storm. From there they will flee to Egypt to hide. Like his ancestor Joseph, this Joseph will also end up in Egypt. And Jesus, just like the whole people Israel, will come out of Egypt to bring freedom to the homeland.

In this Season of Advent, in these weeks where we light candles on the wreath, slowly letting the light in, we acknowledge that we are living in a storm. It is called the human experience. But we hope. We wait for Jesus to be born again in our hearts.

Every time we look at a manger scene we should remember the storm that Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are sitting in the middle of. But also notice Jesus there fast asleep. His quiet presence gives us hope.

As he awakes hold him close to your heart. Ask him to calm the storm. And even more importantly, ask him how to weather the storm.

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**The Annual Parish Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2018, following High Mass. There are three open seats on the Vestry: one 1-year term and two 3-year terms. Please convey your interest to Tom Veitch, Senior Warden. Thank you!

Several years ago now, I was asked if I could provide a matrix for preparing to celebrate privately the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**. Since then, I have been searching and finally found something that seem appropriate and helpful. There are two booklets, both by the then Father Superior SSJE (Cowley Fathers). One is a way to think about and approach the sacrament and the other is a direct preparation. One I edited fairly heavily, the other is a private reprint for our parochial use. For those of you who asked about this and for any was wishing to make a perhaps more thorough preparation, I sincerely hope these will be helpful to you. ~ Fr John Porter

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**Parish-sponsored hospitality:** contributions of food & drink, plus help with set-up and clean-up are needed for several upcoming occasions: for tonight's Midnight Mass; for tomorrow, Christmas Day; for next Sunday, December 31 (a Fifth Sunday); and for Saturday, January 6 after High Mass. **Thank you all in advance for your help.**

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#### **Celebrating Anniversaries This Week:**

24 Dec...Patrick Russell (confirmation)  
26 Dec...Fred Hansen & Luran Pifke + (marriage)  
28 Dec...William Ray Branson, Jr (birthday)

*Note: If you think we don't have your anniversary information (birth, baptism, marriage, confirmation, reception or ordination), or if corrections need to be made, please send all information to [news@advent-sf.org](mailto:news@advent-sf.org) or provide written information to one of the clergy. Thank you.*

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**Please submit news items to [news@advent-sf.org](mailto:news@advent-sf.org) by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's edition of *The Orb*. With thanks!**

I invite you to join me on **Wednesdays in January** after Low Mass (7:15 p.m.) for **Gospel Based Discipleship**. Gospel Based Discipleship is not a program. It is not Bible Study. It is an encounter with the Gospel, designed to engage people with the Gospel appointed for the day. It depends on participants being willing to share responses to the three questions: What words or phrases did you hear? What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you? What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do? All one needs to participate is to be living the human experience. We will meet in the Pitman Room. Please bring your Bible. ~ Fr. Paul Allick

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**All pledge contributions for 2017 need to be submitted to the office before 10:00am on Friday, December 29,** in order to be counted for 2017, as Church Windows, the parish accounting software, will then be closed out. Pledges received after 10:00 am will be posted for fiscal year 2018. Please contact Josh Kelley, our bookkeeper, at [adventbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:adventbookkeeper@gmail.com) if you have questions or concerns.

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**Ordo Kalendars for 2018** are now available for \$5.00 each. We are grateful to Br Marshal for providing the photo. Please see Sally Schweikert, Junior Warden, to purchase your several copies. Thank you!

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:25-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

**Sunday Confessions:** December 31, 10:30am:  
(Fr Paul Allick)

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“O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*”

~ *Holy Women, Holy Men*, page 135