

# First Sunday of Advent– December 1, 2024



Jesus said to his disciples:  
“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

## **St. Francis Xavier Pray For Us – Feast Day Dec. 3rd**

In today’s Gospel reading we see Christ’s call for hearts and minds to be set on eternal things; that which the lives of the saints demonstrate so beautifully for us. Like St. Francis Xavier, they consistently act in ways that are pleasing to God and are likewise prepared for Christ’s coming. Christ wants us all to be saints.

In the life of St. Francis we see someone so in love with God that he is consistently thinking and acting from a prayerful life on fire with the love of Christ and fellow human beings. He could not imagine others deprived of the knowledge of God and undertook the mission of evangelization on a worldwide missionary scale. His life began in affluence (His father was a privy counselor and finance minister to King John III of Navarre. He was the youngest in his family and resided in a castle which still partially stands today and is in the possession of the Jesuit order) and in a privileged teaching capacity (In 1530, Francis Xavier earned his master's degree, and went on to teach philosophy at the University of Paris) surrounded by family and friends and ended on the distant shores of China alone, sick and impoverished for Christ. He said ‘yes’ when sent by his dear friend St Ignatius of Loyola, who sent him as a missionary to distant lands knowing that he might never return.

While Francis Xavier was becoming a priest, Portugal was colonizing India. The Portuguese settlers in India and elsewhere were losing their faith and Christian values. To restore these values, the King of Portugal asked the Pope to send missionaries to the region.

Pope Paul III asked the new Jesuit order to take the mission, particularly since they could not undertake their preferred mission to the Holy Land due to warfare there. Ignatius ultimately decided to send Francis.

Francis Xavier left for India in 1541, on his thirty-fifth birthday. As he departed he was informed that the pope appointed him to be the Papal Nuncio in the East. A Papal Nuncio is a diplomat who takes up permanent residence in another country to formally represent the Church there. He arrived in the region and colony of Goa, India on May 6, 1542.

Although Goa had churches and even a bishop in the Portuguese colony, there were few people to preach and minister to the Portuguese, especially outside the walls of the city.

A major problem Francis quickly recognized was the nature of the people and their intentions. Many sailors and settlers were former prisoners who had been recruited from Portuguese jails or were fleeing mistakes they made back home. None of them came to spread or live virtuous lives. Instead they came to escape Portugal, find adventure, or to make fortunes. Still, they settled and made families.

Xavier ministered first to the sick and the children. Then he learned about the native people of the Pearl Fishery Coast, which had been baptized a decade earlier, but were never taught their faith. Xavier began ministering to them. He spent three years among them, but was often embarrassed by the conduct of his Portuguese countrymen who were already Catholic, but frequently misbehaved. Xavier built 40 churches for the people of the Pearl Fishery Coast. Xavier encountered difficulty in his mission because he usually worked to convert the people first, instead of their leaders.

Xavier returned to Goa for about a year to attend to his official responsibilities, but in 1549, he departed for missionary work in Japan, arriving in July of that year.

An edict forbidding people to be Christians, the language and a disrespect for poverty were major obstacles in Japan. The animist Shinto and nothingness goal of Buddhist beliefs were in opposition to the Christian belief in free will, and human responsibility before a loving God who made humans to be in union with Him. Despite his efforts, the Japanese were not easily converted. Eventually, Christianity became the subject of great persecution, forcing many to go underground.

Xavier finished his work in Japan for the time and decided to return to India with a stop in Goa. During his voyage, he was petitioned to meet with the Chinese emperor and argue for the release of several Portuguese prisoners as a representative of their government. Xavier decided to make the trip to China. After a difficult trip Xavier died Dec. 3, 1552 on an island off the Chinese coast. Xavier was buried on the island until February 1553 when his body was removed and taken to Malacca where it was buried at a church for a month. In December, his body was moved to Goa. St. Francis Xavier, canonized March 12, 1622, remains buried in a silver casket enclosed in a glass case.

The decennial exposition of the sacred relics of Saint Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Catholic missions and Goa, began on Thursday (November 21, 24), and will go on till January 5 next year in Goa, India. -Catholic Online

## **Readings for First Sunday of Advent**

Reading 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

## **Readings for Second Sunday of Advent**

Reading I: Baruch 5: 1-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

## **FINANCE**

**1st Collection =**

**Next Week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection = Building/Maintenance**

**Eureka Holy Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday, November 30**

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church

4:00 pm +Diane Tognetti St. Joseph Church

**Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am +Msgr. Gerard Brady St. Joseph Church

9:00 am +Louise Y. Russo Sacred Heart Church

10:30 am Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church

12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

**Monday, December 2**

12:15pm +Lowell Allen St. Bernard Church

**Tuesday, December 3**

7:30 am +Ernie & Lisa Domingo St. Joseph Church

**Wednesday, December 4**

12:15 pm Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church

Followed by Confession & Adoration St. Bernard Church

6:00 Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church

7:00 pm No Intention Sacred Heart Church

**Thursday, December 5**

7:30 am +Ernie & Lisa Domingo St. Joseph Church

9:30 am No Intention (Bilingual) Sacred Heart Church

**First Friday, December 6**

12:15 pm +Henry Case St. Bernard Church

1:00 pm Adoration St. Bernard Church

4-4:45pm Confessions St. Bernard Church

4:45 pm Benediction St. Bernard Church

**First Saturday, December 7**

**8:30 am Marian Devotion** Sacred Heart Church

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church

4:00 pm Mass for the People St. Joseph Church

**Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am +Betty Lutje St. Joseph Church

9:00 am +Louise Y. Russo Sacred Heart Church

10:30 am No Intention St. Bernard Church

12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

**Please Pray For:**Family of Sharon and Husband, Len Guglielmina, Clare Corridori, Fred Avelar, Antonio Vieira, Barbara Madaras, Eain Graham, Dusty Lange, Therese Grella, Tate Naylor, Sharon Rose Cranford, Jeff Slack, Sharon Cranford, Cleenewerck Family, Mary Antolini, Jeremy, Leia and Cindy, Mary Murphy, Obdulia Walters, Paul Windham, Stephen, Tate, Kayden and Naylor Family, Teri McNamara, Lily Ennis & Family, Caroline Brooks, Santos and Basil Mainus, Judy Weber & Family, Hinton Family, Colleen Huddleston, Caden Naylor, Diane Kerr, Jim Mowery, Sharon P, Stormie C. Myers, Amber, Stella, Sandra, Martha Fosnaugh, John Hinds, Marian Griffin, Margaret Knight, & Millie Perrone

**Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:**

Barbara Clement, Julie James, Jeff Osborne, Sharon, David Martinez, Mary Walsh, Donna Domingo, Jan Guglielmina, John Francis Lehane, Janelle Roberts, John Dixon, Don Cloney, Clare, Gary Krietsch, Donald Burghart, Robert McCauley, Saturnina Tetrault, Patricia Lee Silva, Marilyn Zibilich, Lee Berning, Marie Giampaolo, Stella's Siblings, John Conant, Maryanne Elise Biesecker, Bettie Albright, Deacon Frank Weber, Robert Kerr, Merle Myers Jr, Dave Silverbrand, Betty Lutje & Chet Branum.

**The Knights of Columbus of Eureka Council 1067 will be celebrating their 119th anniversary on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.**

**St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line** For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan / Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed...only the will to love" ~ St. Teresa of Avila

**St. Bernard Rosary Program Report: 7,365!!!**  
**Rosaries prayed this week =57 Cumulative = 7,365**  
Please pray the Rosary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays before the 12:15pm Mass. Thank you.

**Eucharistic Adoration-Friday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>-1-5pm**

Will you come sit with our Lord Jesus Christ for an hour or more from 1-5pm. You do not need to sign up but at least two volunteers, who sign up and commit, are needed every hour. Please sign up on clipboard in front of the sanctuary on table. May God bless and keep you.

**Call to Help With Christmas Pageant Please**

Dear Parents/Guardians... Sacred Heart and St. Bernard will have a children's choir for the Childrens Christmas Mass. We invite the children to come join the choir. Rehearsal will start on December 3rd at St. Bernard Academy School from 6pm to 7pm. During the children's Christmas Mass the children from both English and Spanish religious education classes will be putting on a Christmas Pageant. We need students to fill the roles of Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and Wisemen. We also need parents to help with costumes, props, and rehearsal. Please call Marian Baker 707-498-1052 or Maria Romo to volunteer 707-443-8429. Thank you.

**Cath. Detention Ministries Donations Due Dec 1st**

From Oct 27<sup>th</sup>-Dec 1<sup>st</sup> donation boxes were placed in the churches for Catholic Detention Ministries. They are requesting donations of Christmas cards and small individually wrapped candies. Please only unused Christmas cards with envelopes for the use of the inmates of the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. The facility requests that candies remain in their unopened store packages in which they are sold for safety reasons. This is a combined effort of the local Catholic churches to put together 300 packages, one for each inmate. This has been much appreciated by the inmates in the past. These people do not have a source of cards to send to their families, so these cards are very welcome. The candies provide a little something nice for these people who find little joy on Christmas. Please leave donations at the church or church office **no later than Sunday Dec 1<sup>st</sup>**, when they will be for picked up. For info or questions call or email St Mary Church-Arcata

**TODAY - Portuguese Beans & Liguica Dinner**

Portuguese Beans & Linguica Dinner -also includes salad and french bread on Sunday, December 1, 2024 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Portuguese Hall - Ferndale Benefits: Portuguese Hall Repairs Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$7 Children (ages 5-12) at the door, take out available The City of Ferndale also lights its Town Christmas Tree on this evening. Please come and enjoy a family fun evening. Should you have any questions, please feel

free to contact Katherine Lourenzo at 707-834-0668.  
Thank you very much for your continued support to our  
non-profit organization.