Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and Our Cherished Visitors:

Today and next Sunday are unique in that Jesus is only alluded to in our Gospel passages. The focus, to some extent, is on John the Baptist, who prepares the way for Jesus. This underscores our role as helping one another to keep our heart ready at all times as a suitable home for Jesus. Also, a considerable amount of attention is devoted to the prophet Isaiah. This is highly appropriate because much of Jesus’ teaching and ministry is inspired by this prophet.

During this special time of preparing our hearts and souls to celebrate the birth of our Lord, we should consider the lessons we can apply to our lives, particularly in this challenging time when our outward actions often appear different from our inner beliefs. Just as Jesus is portrayed as a good shepherd, we, too, affirm our commitment to be good shepherds in our communities.

We are reminded of our responsibility to help those who are in need, to care for our weaker brothers and sisters, and to extend compassion to all. This is a time to reflect on our own actions and to consider how we can make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Christmas Schedule

Advent Communal Reconciliation Service
December 13th, 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass
4:00pm-Mass of Christmas
6:30pm- Families & Children, all ages welcome
10:00pm- Candlelight Mass of Christmas in the dark of night beginning with Las Posadas

Christmas Day Mass,
10:00am-Mass of Christmas

December 24, 2017-4th Sunday of Advent
Masses at 7:45 & 9:30, NO 11:30 Mass

This Sunday is unique because we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in late afternoon and evening. We encourage everyone to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent as a way of participating in the fullness of the Advent Season as we prepare liturgically on this last Sunday of Advent for the celebration of Christmas. For those who wish to celebrate Christmas the evening of December 24 and would prefer a bit of space between that Mass and the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we encourage you to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent by joining in the 4:30 Mass on December 23rd. Extra chairs will have already been set up so there will plenty of room for a larger than usual gathering for that Mass.

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Ministry Happenings

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated during the 9:30 am mass Today, December 10th. Please join us in song, worship and fellowship on this day to reflect on the apparitions of the Virgen (“Our Lady of the Americas”) witnessed by St. Juan Diego and her miraculous gift of the incredibly beautiful image that she left on his tilma nearly 500 years ago. Parishioners are asked to bring roses or other flowers to present to the Virgen on the December 10th. Divine Savior’s Our Lady of Guadalupe Society is also pleased to invite you to the Hospitality Room after the 9:30 mass for a bowl of posole.

Ministry Opportunities

Food Drive for Christmas Basket Ministry
How about a couple of pantry foods to get them through the rest of the holiday season? We will be having a food drive to supplement our Christmas Basket Ministry this year! Suggested food items include: canned fruits and vegetables, boxes or small bags of rice or pasta, spaghetti/marinara sauce, cup of soup or ramen, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, juice boxes, applesauce, boxed/bagged cereal or oatmeal, hamburger helper, OR ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT NEED REFRIGERATION. Food will be collected this weekend, December 9-10, and then redistributed the following Saturday, Dec. 16. Any extra food will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you so much!!!

Walk for Life
St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom is hosting a bus with 3 neighboring parishes to the Walk for Life. Our group will then walk to the Civil Center. Our group will do the “Walk” then depart at 7am so that we are able to attend the Mass for Life in San Francisco at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Our Parish Respect Life Ministry will be meeting today, Sunday, December 10th, at 1pm in portable Y-2. Everyone is warmly welcomed! Parish contact: Sally at (916)849-0533.

Around the Diocese

On Thursday, December 28, Bishop Jaime Soto will lead the annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Candelight Rosary Procession and Mass. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the steps of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (11th & K) and pray for the sanctity of life as we walk to Our Lady of Guadalupe (7th & T) for Mass at 7:00 p.m. This March for Life commemorates those male infants of Bethlehem who were killed by decree of King Herod, as well as those innocent unborn babies lost by abortion today. Bring your family and walk to Mass praying the rosary. Candles will be provided. Carpools will shuttle people back to their cars. Dress warmly and bring umbrellas if needed. For more information, please call Leticia at (916) 519-0417.

Parish Reconciliation Service
Wednesday, December 13th, 6:30pm
Please join us for a special evening of prayer, reflection, and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During this hurried season, let us take a few moments to pause from the busy preparations of family gatherings, shopping, and decorating the house to also prepare our hearts. This is truly one gift of the season that is a “must have” for all.

Ministry Happenings

Is God calling you? Interested in becoming a Catholic?
Have you been coming here and want to know more about the Catholic faith? Never been baptized? Want to make your First Communion? Contact Sharon at the parish office, 989-7400 or sharon@divinesavior.com. She will explain the process called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), which provides a safe place for you to explore your spiritual desires using the scriptures and receiving support and guidance from the parish community.

Looking for sponsors to walk with seekers of the Catholic faith
People come to Divine Savior seeking to become full members of the Catholic faith, but often need a sponsor. Adults of all ages and walks of life are needed, if not now, then in the near future. On the list of possible sponsors, there is a shortage of men. If you are interested, or would like to learn more about what is involved in this uplifting and enriching ministry, call Sharon Latienen (1989 -7400) or Jim Bennett (715-7077).

Reflections of the Word
Every Tuesday evening at 6pm, we Break Open the Word for the following Sunday. We share and reflect upon the stories and thoughts of the disciples of Christ, and relate them to our own life and times. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, in preparation for the upcoming weekend, for fellowship with one another and continuing to weave the tapestry of our faith. Please join this informal gathering at 6:00pm in the St. Cecilia room of the church (near the Sacristy). For further information please call Elaine at (559)307-4216 or email her at elaine@divinesavior.com

Manna, Food from Heaven!
Manna Ministry is a pastoral care outreach that was begun by 11 women when the parish was founded in 1987. Some of the founders are still preparing loving meals. Manna provides temporary, supplemental meals, when there is a newborn in the home, or when someone is down and out due to an illness, an injury, or the death of a loved one. Please tell anyone you know who could benefit from this service about Manna. Encourage them to call or offer to call for them. For more information, a meal request, or to volunteer, please call Denise Verbeck at 967-5110 or the parish office at 989-7400.

Vocations Cross
Sunday, December 10th at the 7:45am Mass, Duke & Linda McAlpine will take home the Vocations Cross to pray daily for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1-4, 9-15ab; Mt 11:15-16
Friday: Is 48:1-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15, 16-18, 19-20; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; I Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28