Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

The readings for the third Sunday of Advent have a thread of rejoicing. This emphasis came to be when Advent was focused more on the first half of repentance, namely, an undue emphasis on sins rather God’s abundant mercy. Pope Francis continues to encourage us to put the priority on God’s compassion because the only hope for improving our lives and reducing our sinfulness comes not from putting the primary emphasis on sin which can lead to negative thoughts about ourselves but on the awesome goodness that God extends to us. It is a gift we do not have to beg for because God gladly makes all His gifts available for the taking.

Our second reading was chosen because the first word of the text is “rejoice”. Some might wonder how we can rejoice given all the disorder in the world at large. But without the ability to rejoice and the habit of rejoicing we would soon become burdened and depressed. So we are encouraged to give thanks because doing so helps us to realize who we are in God’s eyes, which in turn prompts us to be all the more thankful. As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we certainly are glad for the most spectacular gift God could offer, His beloved Son.

The poem for today is the great prayer the Gospel writer Luke put on the lips of Mary when she was visiting her pregnant, elderly relative. This is stated in this way because Luke was expressing the devotion that the early church celebrated when they thought of the mother of Jesus. They were quite certain that all generations would call Mary blessed. Most of the other sentiments expressed in today’s psalm could very well express how Mary felt about her precious role in the birth of Jesus.

We pray that we, like her, would recognize and express how the greatness of God blesses our lives, and that we too would rejoice in the healing grace of God brought to us through Jesus. Regardless of the hardships of life, let us always be aware of how God on a constant basis does great things for us. We look to the wisdom of God to do our best to fill the hungry and encourage the rich to share their wealth so that others can experience the promise of God’s mercy for all people. We are never left to our own devices. Our first reading states clearly that the spirit of God is not only upon us but within us.

Parish Announcements

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass
4:00pm-Mass of Christmas
6:30pm-Families & Children
all ages welcome

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 24th 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 24th. Extra chairs will have already been set up so there will plenty of room for a larger than usual gathering for that Mass.

Year over Year Plate Collection Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>2017-2018 YTD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$23,673</td>
<td>$363,856</td>
<td>$16,310</td>
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Have you checked out Divine Savior’s Facebook page? You can find us at facebook.com/divinesaviororangevale. A summary of Fr. Roman’s bulletin message and pictures from the weekend masses are updated weekly. If you attend a Divine Savior church event, share the pictures via emailing Divinesavior@socialmedia@gmail.com and we will review them to post on our Facebook page.

Be on the Look Out! Vehicle Burglaries
Vehicle burglaries are crimes that occur often. Taking extra safety precautions decrease your chances of becoming a victim of this crime. Please remember:
- Lock and secure all windows and doors when leaving your vehicle.
- Do not leave items of value in your vehicle such as GPS, laptops, cell phones, purses, briefcases, etc.
- Do not leave personal identification documents in your vehicle such as title to your vehicle, bank statements, social security cards, pay stubs, etc.
- Park in well lit areas during night
- Use anti-theft devices
- NEVER leave your keys in your car

Pray for our Military Personnel wherever duty calls them to serve, their homeland or overseas.

If your loved one is out of the military please call Mary to have them removed.

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December 17, 2017

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A HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

On behalf of our parish staff, I wish for all a joyous time as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us in the birth of our Divine Savior. I pray that all gatherings of family and friends over this holy day will be refreshing times in which loving connections are strengthened and relationships are solidified with the grace and wonder of this sacred time.

I thank all those who helped make the families who received Christmas Baskets a little more like this season ought to be. I pray that the kindness shown to our neighbors will do a great deal to help us grow together as we find more and more ways of taking care of each other.

Because of our on-going Capital Campaign, I will not be offering a Christmas Wish List for the parish. However, any special gifts to the pastor's discretionary fund will be greatly appreciated. Given that Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, I strongly encourage envelope users to use both the blue envelope for the Fourth Sunday of Advent as well as the special Christmas envelope.

I am very grateful for all those who have been spending special time in preparing in various ways for the celebration of Christmas here at Divine Savior, our children, our various music groups and combinations thereof, our church environment folks, as well as all who do so much behind the scenes to help us celebrate well.

Again, abundant blessings to all from our ever-generous and all-loving God.
Fr. Roman Mueller, S.D.S.

**Ministry Opportunities**

**Ministry Happenings**

**Readings for the Week**

**Catholics Returning Home**

An Open Door for Returning Catholics

Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore? Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Please join us for six informal sessions beginning Thursday January 11th, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. The sessions will include sharing, and updates on the Church today. For additional information, contact Kathleen Hass at the church office, 989-7400.

**Ministry to the Homebound**

We welcome new people in this ministry where we take communion to those who cannot get to Mass for an extended period of time. Please note this new email mthbrnyk@outlook.com. The time commitment is minimal and at times flexible.

**Around the Diocese**

Defe Ministry Christmas Gathering

You are invited to join Fr. Paul Zirimenya, Sacramento Diocese’s Defe Chaplain, on December 23rd, 2017 for ASL Interpreted Mass and the Defe Ministry Christmas Gathering. Join us at the Sacramento State Newman Center, located at 5900 Newman Ct. in Sacramento, at 4:30pm for Mass, followed by a special Christmas celebration. For more information, please contact Jo Clark at (916) 733-0139 or via email at jclark@scl.org.

**Christian Brothers High School Placement Exam**

For Incoming Freshmen – Saturday, January 20, 2018

Eighth graders interested in attending CB in the 2018-19 school year are required to take the placement exam on Saturday, January 20 from 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Online applications are due by January 19, 2018. Please contact the Admissions Office for more information at (916) 733-3690 or visit the CB website at www.cbhs-sacramento.org.