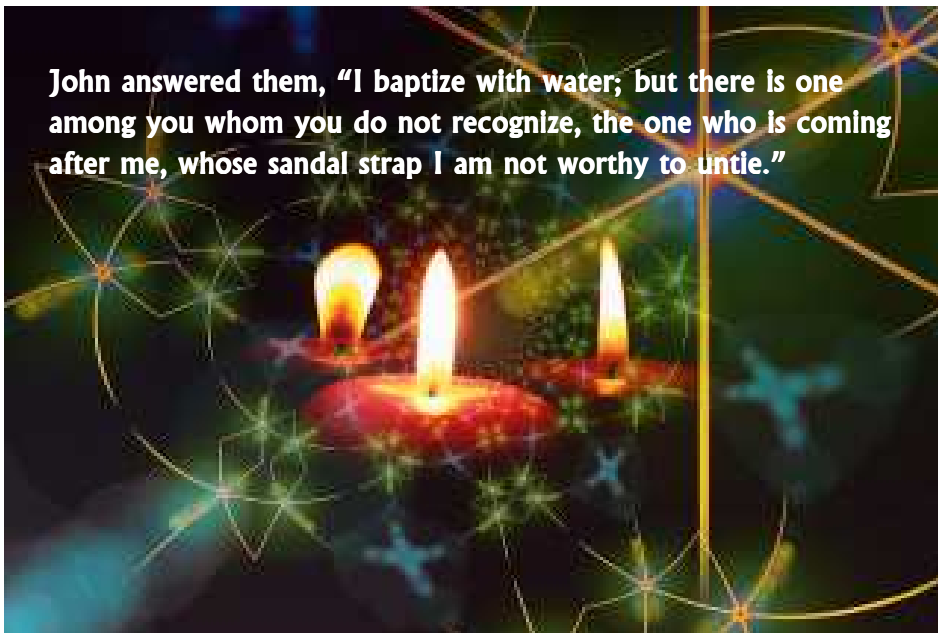


St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Bill Fisher, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020



Holiday Mass Schedule

Several Masses will be available to celebrate Christmas on Strawberry Hill. Please follow safety guidelines, including:

- 🎄 Wearing a mask - and keeping it pulled up over your nose.
- 🎄 Maintaining space in the pews and while walking to Holy Communion
- 🎄 Not lingering after the Mass to talk and visit with friends.

For those who will stay at home because of COVID-19 concerns, our parish's Midnight Mass (*sign-up required*) with music by Hrvatski Obicaj will be recorded. Stay tuned for information on when it will be posted to our church Facebook page.

Christmas Eve - December 24

4 p.m. Mass, St. Mary-St. Anthony's, 615 N. 7th St., KCK. No sign-up required.

5 p.m. Mass, St. John the Baptist, 708 N. 4th St., KCK. No sign-up required.

6 p.m. Mass, St. Mary-St. Anthony's, 615 N. 7th St., KCK. No sign-up required.

Midnight Mass, St. John the Baptist, 708 N. 4th St., KCK. Limited space - registration required. Call (913) 281-4448, or email OurCroatianParish@gmail.com.

Christmas Day - December 25

9 a.m. Mass, Holy Family, 274 Orchard St., KCK. Limited space - registration required. Call the church at (913) 413-0022.

New Year's Eve - December 31

4 p.m. Mass, St. John the Baptist, 708 N. 4th St., KCK. No sign-up required.

New Year's Day - January 1

There will be no Masses at St. John the Baptist or Holy Family.

Parish News

Food Kitchen

"It was like the loaves and the fishes..."

That is what Phyllis Hampton said about your generous donations for our Dec. 14 Food Kitchen.

Due to the increasing number of hungry people in our community, our little group of parishes were going to TRY to make 700 sack lunches, as requested.

THANKS to the kindness and giving spirit of our contributors, all 700 people will have a meal on Monday.

We appreciate your giving spirit, not only for the Christmas season, but for all of 2020.

St. John's Calendars

Like many other things during the pandemic, our church calendar schedule is a bit off.

There was a delay in printing. We will let you know when they arrive and how the calendars will be distributed.

Weekly Collection

Nov. 29, 2020

Envelopes:	\$ 6,842
Maintenance:	\$ 305
Candles:	\$ 45
Catholic Charities:	\$ 55
Immaculate Conception	\$ 140
Christmas flowers	\$ 145
Christmas offering	\$ 135
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 45



Prayers for the lighting of the Advent Wreath

(All the candles should burn throughout the evening meal.)

Third Week

*Light two purple candles
and one rose candle.*

Leader: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Fourth Week

Light all four candles.

Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

St. Lucy's Wheat

The tradition of planting wheat on St. Lucy's Day, Dec. 13, comes from Croatia and other European nations.

Plant wheat grains in a round dish or plate of soil, then water the seeds. Place the container in a warm spot. If the planting medium is kept moist (not sopping wet), the seeds will germinate and the shoots will be several inches high by Christmas.

These new green shoots remind us of the new life born in Bethlehem. You may tie the wheat with a ribbon and place a candle nearby as a symbol of the Light of Christ.

Place the sprouted wheat near the Nativity set. This signifies Christ, the Bread of Life, was born in Bethlehem, whose name means "House of Bread."

The wheat recalls the Eucharist which is made from wheat.



Prayer

St. Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve this light in my soul so that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and of sin.

By your intercession with God, obtain for me perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of all men.

Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen.

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Instagram: OurCroatianParish

Prayer Line

(913) 281-4448

Prayer for Christmas

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.



First Reading

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in

God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."

So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

So they said to him,

"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Mass Readings for December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: usccb.org Photo: CatholicLivingToday