

St. Didacus Catholic Community

4772 Felton Street San Diego, CA 92116 • Phone: (619) 284-3472
Email us at: mainoffice@stdidacuschurch.org or go to our Church website: stdidacuschurch.org

**Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.**

A person stands in a field of tall grass and flowers, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, hazy glow. Birds are flying in the sky above. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and spiritual uplift.

**Estén siempre alegres en el Señor,
les repito, estén alegres.
El Señor está cerca.**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING ADVENT

Bring donation items to the Parish Office by THURSDAY



There is so much need this Advent that we will be collecting items and toys for several causes. Your donations will go directly to those in need.

Fr. Pat Murphy from Casa del Migrantes in Tijuana gave us this wish list of items: **MEN's** pants—sizes 28—34, **MEN's** winter coats or hoodies, **MEN's** gloves and knit hats, **MEN's** work boots Sizes 8-10.

For the past few years, the communities of St Didcaus and the Men's Prayer Group have teamed up to collect and distribute toys to the families of Tijuana and Tecate. Here is a list of those we are collecting items for: The Trinitarians of Mary, who minister to the poor of Tecate in many ways. Ejido El Hongo, a small village near Tecate whose families very much appreciate the gifts. Orfanatorio Rancho Nazareth, a small all boys orphanage run by Franciscan Nuns with 25-30 boys ages 5 to 16. And finally, Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana, an organization with a long and rich history of serving the poor of Tijuana with food, job training, clothing, medical services and more. Please join us again this year as we reach out to the poor and less fortunate by participating in the love and mercy of Christ shown to others through our generosity and prayers.

We are collecting unwrapped toys for boys and girls, all ages, as well as warm children's clothing and hygiene products for teenage boys and girls. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office by December 19th.



Many thanks from the Altar Society to those who made baked goods for their Bake Sale last weekend and also to those who shopped. They made \$986.25 that will be used for the needs of the Church.

4th Annual ADVENT TEA

Wednesday, December 18th 4pm in the Hall

This is a free event, but seating is limited. **Monday, December 16th is the last day to RSVP.** Please contact the Parish office to let us know if you are able to attend.



How will the people know that the long expected Messiah has come already? John the Baptist knows how. The key is "Isaiah 61." This particular passage from the book of Isaiah is echoed by the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 4), and in this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 11. Prophet Isaiah began by saying: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted..." For John the Baptist the fulfillment of this passage is the definitive mark of the Messiah. The core of Jesus preaching of the Kingdom of God is the realization of God's dream for all humanity. God wants all of humanity to be delivered from all kinds of afflictions and to receive the Good News and the Word, which is Jesus himself.



During this Advent we continue to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. Many of us suffer from different afflictions. We long to hear the Good news and become victorious against all evils. There is only one way to be ready and prepare ourselves, that is to embrace the spirit of true and lasting repentance. Jesus correspondingly recognizes John's role as someone who prepares the way of the Lord. The prophets in the Old Testament were great, but no one is greater than John the Baptist.

What do you think made John the Baptist the greatest?

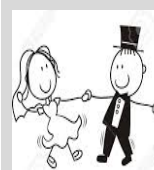
Fr. Rick

Parish Posada

Friday, December 20th 7pm starting at the Parish Hall



Come share in this reenactment of the journey Mary and Joseph took through Bethlehem seeking a place to stay. Parishioners dressed as Joseph and Mary knock on the doors of houses around the parish neighborhood. As the group processes through the neighborhood a traditional song is sung. At last, Mary and Joseph are welcomed and we conclude the evening back at the Parish Hall for hot chocolate, bread and several piñatas! This is a fun family event and everyone is welcome—dress warmly!



The Spanish Community is hosting a **Posada Dance, Saturday, December 21st at 6pm** in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$5 to attend. They will have food and drinks available to purchase. This is a fundraiser for the parish, so plan to attend! You can purchase your ticket at the door.

Help Us Build Up the Community of God

Collection (Envelopes & Cash) for Sunday, December 8 \$3,374
WEEKLY contributions NEEDED to cover general costs \$7,370
 (including salaries, administration, Faith Formation, utilities taxes, operating expenses)

This week's **SHORTFALL** —\$3,996

Total # of registered parish families/individuals 734
of envelope users this week (supporting a majority of parish expenses) 102
Registered parishioners NOT using envelopes to contribute 632

We appreciate your support of our parish!
 Please prayerfully consider how you may increase your giving to help us meet our commitments.

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Here's a short prayer to begin your day with God:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I arise. May he bless, preserve, and govern me, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.



Mass Intentions

Saturday.....December 14
 5:00PMJean Woody, Spec. Int.
Sunday.....December 15
 8:30AM.....Linda Buckmiller, Spec. Int.
 10:00AM.....People of St. Didacus
 11:30AM.....†Gerardo Lopez, †Francisco Islas
Monday.....December 16
 7:30AM.....Those enrolled in Christmas Novena
Tuesday.....December 17
 6:00PM.....Those enrolled in Christmas Novena
 Linda Buckmiller, Spec. Int.
 Gail Cedercrans, Spec. Int.
Wednesday.....December 18
 8:30AMThose enrolled in Christmas Novena
Thursday.....December 19
 7:30AM.....Those enrolled in Christmas Novena
Friday.....December 20
 7:30AM.....Those enrolled in Christmas Novena
Saturday.....December 21
 5:00PMThose enrolled in Christmas Novena

Welcome to St. Didacus Parish!

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am & 10:00am
 11:30am in Spanish

Daily Mass

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 7:30am /Tues. 6:00pm/ Wed. 8:30am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wed. 7:30am—8:30am / Saturday 3:30pm—5:00pm
 First Fridays 8:00am—9:00am

Confessions—Saturdays 3:30pm or by appt.

Baptisms: English: 1st Saturday each month. **Spanish:** 4th Saturday each month. Arrangements must be made 3 months in advance. Contact the Parish Office for information.

Weddings: Arrangements must be made at least 9 months in advance. Please contact the Parish Office.

Mental Health Ministry Direct Line: For emergencies call 911. For non-emergencies please call 619-940-6193.

Pastor, Rev. Enrique Fuentes

The Parish Office is open 8am-noon, 1-5pm M-F
619-284-3472

Weekly Events at St. Didacus

Sunday, December 15		Location
Monday, December 16		Location
Spanish Men's Prayer Group	6:30pm	Hall
Tuesday, December 17		Location
School Christmas Program	9:00am/6:30pm	Hall
Pray the Rosary	5:30pm	Church
Wednesday, December 18		Location
Advent Tea	4:00pm	Hall
Choir	7:00pm	Church
Encuentro Matrimonial	7:30pm	Hall
Thursday, December 19		Location
Divine Mercy Group	7:00pm	Hall
Friday, December 20		Location
Posada	7:00pm	Hall
Saturday, December 21		Location
Altar Server Training	10:00am-1:00pm	Hall/Church
Confessions	3:30pm	Church
Eucharistic Adoration	3:30pm-5:00pm	Church
Posada Dance	6:00pm	Hall

Parish Office will be Closed December 25—January 1

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, our Parish Office will be opened for a half day on Tuesday, December 24th and then closed Wednesday December 25th through Wednesday, January 1st. Our Office will reopen at 8:30am on Thursday, January 2nd.



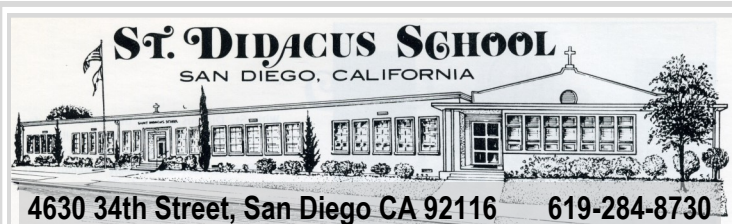
Tony Allen
 Tessa Anderson
 Diann Bauer
 Dan Bauer
 Martha Becerra
 Bob Bellesi
 Herminia Brignoni
 Gail Cedercrans
 Fred Cepeda
 Irene Davis
 MaryLou De Luca
 Bob Demers
 Josie Demers
 Mick Donahue
 Cecelia Dueber
 Carlita Durand
 Daniel Galvan
 Susan Guenzel
 Anthony Flores
 Stan Hammack

Dolores Hansel
 Joseph Hastings
 Jennifer Hughes & Family
 Al Hunt
 Joanne Hunt
 Ponciano Jimenez
 Emily Johnson
 Paul Kasha
 Meri Kerekanich
 Kerekanich Family
 Marilyn Kober
 Elizabeth La Costa
 Irene Lazo
 Juanita Lopez
 Paul Mansell
 Terrence McCabe
 Emma McPherson
 Dolores Mediano
 Peter Napolitano
 Lupita Plascencia

Judith Pratt
 Antonia Raya
 Betty Rios
 Dolores Robertson
 Victor M. Sanchez
 Shirley Scinocca
 Carol Schmidt
 Beverly Stemper
 Phillip Sturock
 Maria Winters
 Jean Woody
 Helen Yturralde
 Joan Venverloht
 Anna Zarate

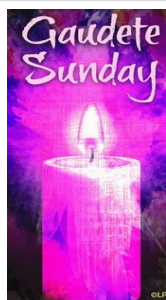
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*And the special intentions
 in our Book of Needs*



Don't Miss it!
This Tuesday is the
St. Didacus School's Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 17th
Performances are at
9am and 6:30pm at the School

Spend this special time with the children of St. Didacus School and be reminded of the real reason or the season—Jesus!



The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, "Rejoice: the Lord is near." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing near when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Rose vestments are worn today to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

Christmas Novena of Masses

Remember your loved ones at Christmas time by enrolling them in our Christmas Novena of Masses—December 16th through December 24th. Please return your Novena envelope to the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Donations are needed for our FLOWER FUND

Help us pay for Advent and Christmas flowers! Use the special FLOWER envelope that comes with your weekly collection envelopes, or put a donation into an envelope marked "Flowers." Thank you!

Help us decorate the Church for Christmas!

NEXT SUNDAY
12:30pm following
the Spanish Mass



Stock and IRA Charitable Gift Donations

A gift of your securities, including stocks, mutual funds and IRA Charitable Rollover Distributions are an easy way to make a gift to the Church. By making a gift of your appreciated securities or retirement account, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that may otherwise be due if you sold these assets. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. There are no transaction fees or other costs and the full value of the sold securities benefits the parish, school or other Catholic charities you select.



For more information on making a gift please visit the diocesan website at www.sdcatholic.org and click on Giving – Stock Donations at the top of the screen. Or, call Merrill Lynch, the diocese's broker, at 800-844-0720.

Readings for the week of December 15, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Altar Server Training

Saturday, December 21st 10am—1pm in the Parish Hall

This is a mandatory training for current Altar Servers and an invitation to those who would like to serve. The requirements to serve are: *must be in at least 4th grade, registered at St. Didacus Parish, must have received 1st Holy Communion and be responsible to commit to this ministry.*

We will also have a potluck after the training. Please feel free to share a family favorite dish with all your fellow Altar Servers. For more information, contact Carmen Leon at 619-733-6172 or leon.carmen@att.net.





Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. "What did you go out to the desert to see?" There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes

— some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?"

It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. "Go and tell John what you hear and see."

God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin "regain their sight." People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God?

©LPi

The Church teaches that, through our baptism, we are made priest, prophet, and king like Christ. What

does it mean for us to be prophets in the world today?



We are indeed sharers in the threefold mission of Christ. We live our "kingship" when we serve others in justice, work for the common good in society, and overcome sin in our own lives. Our "priestly" mission is lived when we unite our lives to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, offering them up as a gift of love. We are also called to be prophets. Our lives may not look like Isaiah and Jeremiah of old — and perhaps desert living and locust eating like St. John the Baptist might feel out of reach — but this doesn't nullify our invitation and obligation.

As baptized Christians, we have accepted the Gospel in faith. We're also called to proclaim the Gospel as well. This may mean by giving Christ-centered advice to another person or defending truth when it's threatened. It also means living our faith in deeds.

St. John Paul II writes that we are "called to allow the newness and the power of the Gospel to shine out every day in [our] family and social life" (On the Lay Members of Christ's Faithful, 14). A prophet points to a higher truth beyond himself or herself. We live prophetically when we treat others as Christ treated people and when we arrange our schedule to prioritize those to whom we have the greatest obligation, including our families, as well as the poor and vulnerable around us. We live prophetically when we think critically about the culture around us and we allow our faith to inform our public life. ©LPi

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00pm Family Mass — English

6:30pm Choir Concert

7:00pm Bilingual Mass

Wednesday, December 25th

9:00am Mass — English



REST IN PEACE **† TONY MARTINEZ**

We will have a funeral Mass for long-time parishioner, Tony Martinez on **Monday, December 16th at 11am**. There will be a viewing in the Church at 10am and a Rosary at 10:30am before the Mass. Please keep Tony and his family in your prayers this week.



Religious Education students and their families joined together to learn more about the season of Advent. Many thanks to our Director of Religious Education, Elena Platas, for organizing the event and to those who helped: Fr. Rick, Elsa Terrell, Nicolas Peters, Guille Delgado, Marka Herrera and Helen Anton-Stohrel. **Religious Education classes will resume on January 8th.**



¿Cómo sabía la gente que el esperado Mesías ya ha venido? Juan el Bautista lo sabía. La clave es "Isaías 61". Este pasaje particular del libro de Isaías se repite en el Evangelio de San Lucas (Lucas 4), y en este Evangelio, Mateo 11. El profeta Isaías comenzó diciendo:

El espíritu del El Señor Dios está sobre mí, porque el Señor me ha ungido; me ha enviado para traer buenas noticias a los afligidos... Para Juan el Bautista, el cumplimiento de este pasaje es la marca definitiva del Mesías. El núcleo de la predicación de Jesús del Reino de Dios es la realización del sueño de Dios para toda la humanidad. Dios quiere que toda la humanidad se libere de todo tipo de aflicciones y reciba las Buenas Nuevas y la Palabra, que es Jesús mismo. Durante este Adviento continuamos preparándonos para la venida del Señor. Muchos de nosotros sufrimos de diferentes aflicciones. Anhelamos escuchar las Buenas Nuevas y salir victoriosos contra todos los males. Solo hay una manera de estar listos y prepararnos, debemos abrazar el espíritu de arrepentimiento verdadero y duradero. Jesús reconoce el papel de Juan como el que prepara el camino del Señor. Los profetas en el Antiguo Testamento fueron grandes, pero nadie es más grande que Juan el Bautista. ¿Qué crees que hizo que Juan el Bautista, fuera el más grande profeta?

HAGA LA DIFERENCIA ESTE ADVIENTO



Los grupos que están en necesidad de donaciones, son , el P. Pat, de la **Casa del Migrantes en Tijuana, Las Trinitarias de María**, que tienen el **Orfanatorio Rancho Nazaret**, ellas tienen entre 25-30 niños de 5 a 16 años. Y finalmente, la **Casa de los Pobres en Tijuana**, una organización de servicio a los pobres de Tijuana con comida, capacitación laboral, ropa, servicios médicos y más. Vea el boletín en ingles para ver sobre lo que necesitan.



Novenario de Misas Recuerde a sus seres queridos en el Novenario de Misas de Navidad, inscribiéndolos, a las misas, del 16 al 24 de diciembre. Por favor devuelva su sobre a la oficina parroquial lo antes posible.

Posada Comunitaria Viernes 20 de diciembre 7 PM comenzando en el Salón Parroquial



La comunidad de la misa de español, está organizando un **Baile - Posada**, el **sábado 21 de diciembre** a las 6 PM en el Salón Parroquial. El costo es de \$ 5 por persona. Tendrán rica comida, habrá rifas y mucha diversión. Este es un evento para recaudar fondos para la parroquia. Puedes comprar su boleto en la puerta.

Ayúdanos a decorar la Iglesia para Navidad

**EL PRÓXIMO DOMINGO
12:30 PM después de la misa**



MUCHAS GRACIAS



A TODOS LOS QUE HICIERON POSIBLE NUESTRA CELEBRACION DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE EL JUEVES, GRACIAS POR LAS BELLAS DECORACIONES Y LA RICA COMIDA.

Muchas gracias a la Sociedad del Altar por su venta de galletas y pastelitos el fin de semana pasado y también gracias a quienes compraron, ellas hicieron **\$986.25** que se usarán para las necesidades de la Iglesia.



La oficina parroquial estará cerrada del **miércoles 25 de diciembre al 1 de enero**. En celebración de las vacaciones de Navidad y Año Nuevo, nuestra oficina parroquial estará abierta durante medio día el martes 24 de diciembre y luego cerrará. **La oficina se abrirá el jueves 2 de enero, a las 8:30 AM.**

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both the ones who give it
and the ones who receive it."

- Dr. Karl Menninger ♥

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