Advent Season - As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, let us reflect on the deeper meaning of this time of waiting...

First Sunday of Advent

Word of the Day: Simplify

Meditation: A simpler lifestyle can be a way to share with those who have less and a way of returning to them what is usurped by unjust social and economic structures. Assuming a stance of under-consumption can be a provocative invitation to others into a conversation about affluence, poverty and social justice. -Br. Robert L’Esperance, SSJE

Second Sunday of Advent

Word of the Day: Animate

Meditation: The Spirit of God animates us, but it all happens in the flesh: every deed of kindness, every act of generosity, every word of encouragement happens in the flesh. Every embodiment of Christ's grace or truth or love happens in the flesh—or it doesn't happen. -Br. Mark Brown, SSJE

Consecration to Mary

As we conclude our 33 Days to Morning Glory on December 9 and 10 with our Diocesan-wide Consecration to Mary, let us take a moment to recall the stories of Our Lady of Fatima and of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Our Lady of Fatima - This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Mary to three young children in a mountainous region at the center of Portugal. Mary appeared six times to three young children - Lucia Santos (age 10), Francisco Marto (age 9) and his sister Jacinta (age 7). Elsewhere on the continent the “Great War” raged, that would cost Europe an entire generation, over 37 million lives. Portugal was in political chaos at home with a dizzy succession of governments following a revolution in 1910. Not long after the last apparition of Our Lady both Francisco and Jacinta died from the worldwide flu pandemic in 1919. In May 2017 they were canonized as saints by Pope Francis. In time Lucia grew into adulthood and entered the convent where she served faithfully until her death in 2005 at the age of 97. She was beatified in 2008 and in all likelihood will be canonized in due time. Near the end of her life, Sister Lucia said that it appeared ever more clearly to her that the purpose of all the apparitions was to help people to grow more and more in faith, hope and love—everything else was intended to lead to this. Learn more at https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/index.asp.

Our Lady of Guadalupe - The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story of a poor indigenous man named Cuauhtlatohuac, who was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, on his way to a nearby church to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady, Juan Diego walked by a hill called Tepeyac and he heard beautiful music. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an indigenous maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The Lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the Bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. Her only request was that the Bishop build a chapel in the place where the Lady appeared. The bishop asked Juan Diego to have the Lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan Diego’s uncle became seriously ill. This led Juan Diego to avoid the Lady’s path. Nevertheless the Lady found Juan Diego, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan Diego to carry to the Bishop in his cape, or “tilma”. On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his “tilma” in the Bishop’s presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the Bishop sank to his knees. On the “tilma” where the roses had been, appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. Learn more at http://blog.franciscanmedia.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe.

Faith and Community Survey

We are gratified by the wonderful response to the Faith and Community Survey conducted in September and October. We received over 1,500 surveys! Final tabulation of the results is now complete, a formal report is in progress and will be provided in January. Here is an initial sketch of the survey outcome: Approximately 73% of the returns were from those who attend Spanish Masses. Based on survey results, we can report that overall satisfaction with the parish and our clergy is high; the bulletin and announcements are by far the primary modes by which people receive information about what is happening in the parish; people would like to come together more often for social events and to a lesser extent for spiritual enrichment (“bible study” and “retreats” were often mentioned); and our parishioners have an interest in doing more for the youth.

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Next PPC Meeting: December 19, 7pm - 9pm, Rectory Office, 2nd Floor