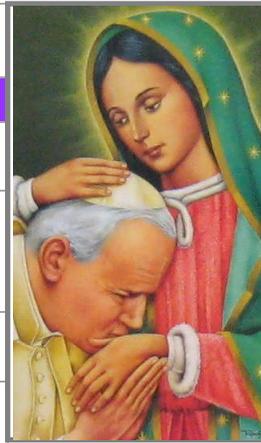


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 12, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 50 Vol. XXXVII

CALENDAR ~ August 7-15, 2021

Sat 11	5:00pm	Mass for The Gilbert Family
Sun 12	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Mass for ROS Moe Daigle by Claire Daigle Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 13	11:00am 7:00am	Funeral Mass for Joelyn Urban Men's Prayer Group
Wed 15	7:00pm 10:30am	Mass for a Private Intention Prayer Group
Thurs 16	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Ruth Geers by Ruth Connelly Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 17	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for the ROS Moe Daigle by the Daigle Family Men's Prayer Group
Sat 18	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Florence Hill by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 19	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Michael King by Jim & Joan King Mass for 100th Birthday of Margaret Hamlen by Robin & Bonnie Worcester Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information



From the Holy Father

"Under her motherly care I place the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born."

~ Saint Pope John Paul II ~

Wisdom of the Saints

"The soul that longs for divine wisdom chooses first, and in truth, to enter the thicket of the Cross."

~ Saint John of the Cross ~
Feast December 14



For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: reharrill@rcdoc.org.



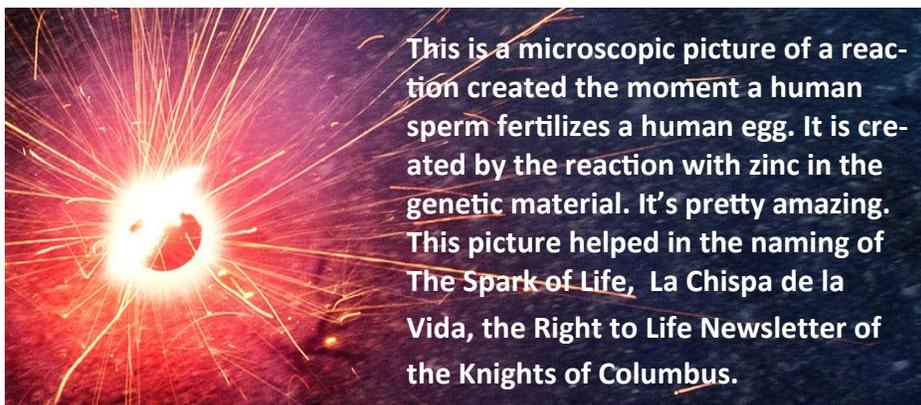
TODAY: Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

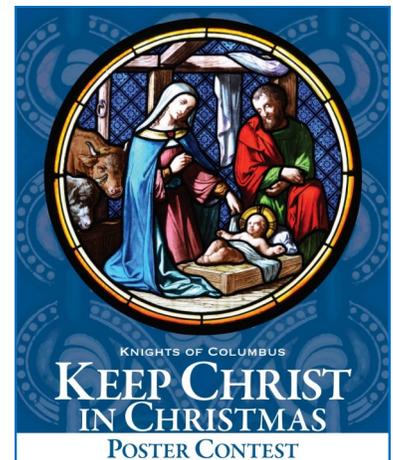
Parishioners have the option of making their contributions online through the following link:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

March for Life. January 21, 2022 : The bus for the 49th Annual March for Life, held in Washington DC on January 21st, 2022, has a couple of seats available. For more information please call Tim Will at 828 447 2660.

NEXT SUNDAY: Hands of Hope Sunday. Our item to contribute is children's diapers, any size. **And don't forget the Hands of Hope Tree** in the narthex is for gifts for babies and children up to 5 years old, or for a Mother. Do not wrap the gifts, but they may be put in a gift bag, and placed under the tree. The deadline is December 19.



This is a microscopic picture of a reaction created the moment a human sperm fertilizes a human egg. It is created by the reaction with zinc in the genetic material. It's pretty amazing. This picture helped in the naming of *The Spark of Life, La Chispa de la Vida*, the Right to Life Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus.



The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring it's annual poster contest for ages 5 to 14. Entry forms and instructions will be available in each faith formation class and in the Narthex. Posters need to be turned in at class on Sunday the 19th with the entry forms signed by a parent. Judging of posters will be performed at the January 9th council meeting. Good luck.

Contributions from December 5, 2021

Regular Collection: \$8,682.00



Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Blessed Virgin Mary revealed herself to St. Juan Diego 490 years ago near Mexico City in Mexico, and this apparition became known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. It happened on December 9, 1531, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception in the Spanish Empire during that time.

An indigenous peasant, Juan Diego, saw a glowing figure on a hill in Tepeyac, Mexico. The figure, a woman, said: *"I ardently desire that a temple be built for me here, where I can show and offer all my love, compassion, help and protection, for I am your merciful mother. Here I wish to hear and help you, and all who dwell in this land, and all the others who love me, and invoke and place their confidence in me, and to hear your complaints and remedy all your sorrows, hardships and sufferings."*

Afterwards, Juan Diego visited Juan de Zumárraga, who was Archbishop of what is now Mexico City. Zumárraga dismissed him in disbelief and asked that the future Saint provide proof of his story and proof of the Lady's identity.

Juan Diego returned to the hill and encountered Our Lady again.

Our Lady asked Juan Diego to gather roses that were growing on the hill and take them to the archbishop. Although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Juan Diego found an abundance of flowers of a type he had never seen before.

The Virgin bundled the flowers into Juan's cloak, known as a tilma. When Juan Diego presented the tilma of flowers to the bishop, they fell out and the bishop recognized them as Castilian roses which are not found in Mexico. What was even more significant, however, was that the tilma had been miraculously imprinted with a colorful image of the Virgin herself.

In the image Our Lady wears traditional Aztec garments of royalty and a black sash around her waist, which indicated pregnancy in the Aztec culture to which she was revealed. The local people immediately knew that the Lady on the tilma was not of this world. Their "reading" of the image brought whole tribes from all over Mexico, led by their chiefs and rulers, to be received into the faith. A mass conversion of millions of Aztecs to the Christian faith soon followed, ending the human sacrifices, especially child sacrifices, that they practiced. Her words to Juan Diego "I am the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God", her image on the tilma, and how the people "read" the image converted more than eight million natives within seven years.

A church was built on the Hill of Tepeyac to mark the apparition site and today it is one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. In this cathedral on display is the original tilma of Juan Diego that still displays the miraculous Our Lady of Guadalupe image. The image has been subjected to scientific testing to prove its miraculous authenticity.



"Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing of his glorious name; give him glorious praise. Say to God: "How awesome your deeds! Before your great strength your enemies cringe. All the earth falls in worship before you; they sing of you, sing of your name!"

~ Psalm 66 ~

Advent Prayer of Joy

Gracious God, we are called to be a joyful people, giving thanks for You and Your good gifts. There are times, however, when sin and sorrow grow, pushing joy to the side. We lose sight of Your grace, and instead fall into despair. We are consumed by loss, distracted by stuff, and crippled with fear. We focus on our lack, rather than Your love. Lift our eyes, Lord Jesus, and renew our joy in You. Remind us that: in Your sacrifice is our forgiveness, in Your death is our resurrection, in Your coming is our joy! Through Christ we pray,
Amen.