

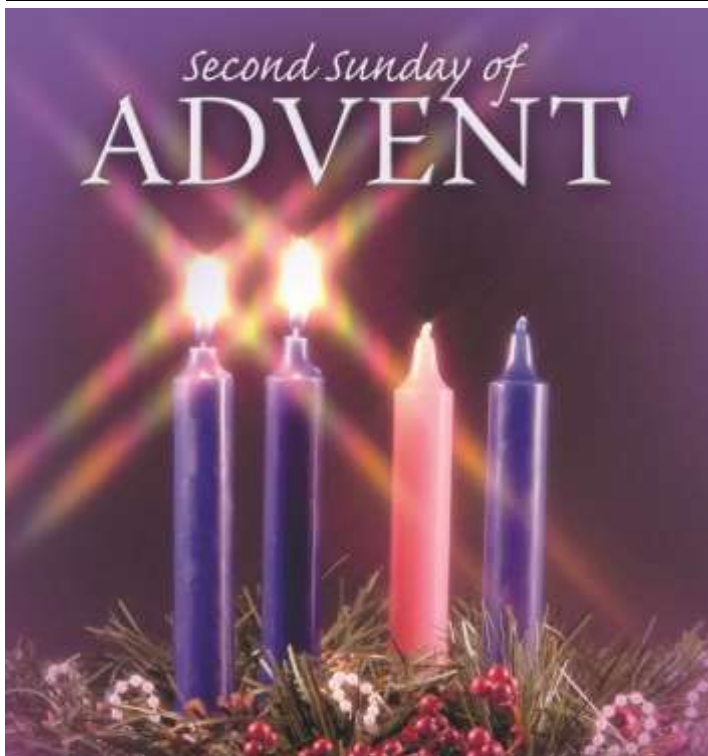
St. Anne's Catholic Church

1600 Rossmoor Parkway
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
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www.stanneswc.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



Parish Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am — 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Friday—Sunday: CLOSED

Masses in Church

Monday - Friday 8:15 am
Saturday 8:15 am & 5:00 pm (Vigil)
Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Sacrament of Confession

Tuesday 9:00 am—9:30 am
Saturday 3:30 pm—4:00 pm

Library Hours

Wednesday 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Sunday's Readings/Music:

1. Readings begin on page 34.
 2. Hymns on page 338 (after the grey tabbed pages.)
 3. Psalms follow the readings or may be noted with a Psalm # that can be looked up in the missal past the hymns.
- Gathering: #39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 - 1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
 - Responsorial Psalm: 25 #743
R: To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.
 - 2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9
 - Gospel Acclamation
 - Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
 - Presentation of the Gifts: #43 People, Look East
 - Sanctus: #839
 - Communion: #68 Maranatha
 - Sending: #39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Over the weekend I was decorating my living room while listening to Christmas music on the radio and the Christmas Carol, the “Twelve Days of Christmas” started playing. As I was listening to the lyrics it suddenly dawned on me for first time that I never really stopped to hear and understand these lyrics and their deeper symbolism; did you know that this Christmas song is full of Catholic symbolism? I didn’t either. I was quite surprised and I thought what a great topic to write about and to share with you.

The song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church.

Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is it that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The “True Love” we hear in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, “Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals”, the phrases below will give you a very good explanation of what each of those symbols actually represent in association with Christ and His Birth. For example:

- The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testament.
- The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man’s fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity].
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles’ Creed.

Whilst researching the lyrics above I come to understand with greater joy and a newer and better appreciation of what this Christmas carol is truly about. I now understood the deeper meaning of its content with a love and appreciation I never knew before.

Next time you hear this Christmas Carol stop for a moment, sit back, close your eyes and meditate on this truly remarkable Carol. It’s all about Christ and His Church. Happy Advent.

Fr. Leonard L. Marrujo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 8th
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our
Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am

Tuesdays, December 9th & 23rd
2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month

10:00 am

Men's Ministry

Wednesday, December 10th
Last Bible Study of 2025
Resumes 1/14/2026

Every Wednesday

Bible Study

10:30 am—11:30 am

Parish Hall

Friday, December 12th

***NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 16th

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month

11:00 am

Grieving Ministry

St. Anne's Library

Wednesday, Dec 24th—Friday, Dec 26th

Christmas Holiday — Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 31st—January 1st

New Year's Eve/Day — Parish Office Closed



A warm and hearty
welcome to our
newest parishioners!

Karen Redwood

Mollie Redwood

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12/6	5:00 PM	Parishioners and Benefactors
Sunday 12/7	9:00 AM	† Art Grimesey † Elliott Bartholomew
	11:00 AM	† Lorraine Wachowski
Monday 12/8	9:00 AM	Special Intention: Lynn Alison Martinez
Tuesday 12/9	8:15 AM	† Carole Zimmerman
Wednesday 12/10	8:15 AM	† Rita Da Roza † John Overgaard
Thursday 12/11	8:15 AM	† Michael Otten
Friday 12/12	8:15 AM	† Cirilo Roman
Saturday 12/13	8:15 AM	† Patrick Falconer



Missing anything? Check our Lost & Found
Monday—Thursday during office hours.

*Let us pray for all
those who have
recently passed*

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| † Josephine Cardaci | † Raymond Gorski |
| † Edward Emil Rinne | † Irene Gorski |
| † Elizabeth Jane Wydner | † Donna Tucker |
| † Bunk Sicotte | † Ida Castillo |
| † Francis Carion | † Dick McLean |
| † Barbara Schurhoff | † Jim Stevens |

GROCERY CARDS STILL NEEDED

Grocery store gift cards for the St. Vincent De Paul food bank at St. Mary's in Walnut Creek are still needed. Gift cards can be dropped in the rectory mail slot near the front office. **PLEASE INCLUDE the dollar amounts** on the gift cards. Thank you for your generosity!



GRIEF MINISTRY

Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion, and sadness.



Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when a loved one is gone.

This ministry provides spiritual, emotional & practical support to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is December 16th at 11 am.

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What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!




An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrea Puccini	Karen Goldman
Sheila Wilkins	Christina Dwyer
Annette Burns	Michelle Sinchak
William Egan	Michael Dunn
Jeanette Egan	Kathleen Rose
Robert Fiore	Charles Krystofiak
Joann Holbrook	Jim Gschwend

Names are on the list for 4 weeks. If you wish to be included, removed or continued for another 4 weeks, please contact Fran Long at 925-939-5151.



ADVENT 2025
Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 16
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Father Leonard and Father George will be hearing confessions after the 8:15 am daily mass.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The following non-perishable items are needed at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on a regular basis and are usually in short supply. Please place these items in the St. Anne's collection bin located outside the courtyard entrance.



Cleaning Supplies:	Hygiene/Toiletries:
Toilet Paper	Hand Soap
Paper Towels	Toothpaste
Kleenex	Toothbrushes
Laundry Detergent	Dental Floss
Liquid Dishwashing Detergent	Body Wash
Dishwasher Detergent	Deodorant
	Shampoo/Conditioner
Food Items:	Hand/Body Lotion
Cup of Noodles/Ramen	Cleansing Wipes
Small bottles of Mustard/ Ketchup/Mayo	Combs
Coffee / Tea	Small brushes
Bottled Water	New Socks