



# *Our Lady Help of Christians*

*Roman Catholic Church*

*"The Heart & Soul of Midwood, Brooklyn"*

1315 East 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent



**1ST**

*Sunday of Advent*

**Administrator**  
Rev. Dwayne D. Davis

**Parochial Vicar**  
Rev. Joseph Gaspar D. Hugo

Kathy Arroyo: Administrative Assistant  
Mary-Cassandra Odenat: Director of Religious  
Education

Brandon Morel: Director of Youth Evangelization/Social  
Media

Nicole Compagnone: Music Director  
Brayam Bravo-Cruz: Sacristan  
Justine Manuel: Sacristan Emeritus  
Jeffrey Remulla: Maintenance

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Phone (718) 338-5242 Fax (718) 377-8092

Web Address: [www.olhcbrooklyn.org](http://www.olhcbrooklyn.org)  
Email: [info@olhcbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@olhcbrooklyn.org)  
Facebook @ourladyhelpofchristiansmidwood

For Emergencies Only 917-732-3349

**Mass Schedule**

Monday-Friday 8:30 am  
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am

**OLHC Church is Open:**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 am - after Mass  
Tuesday & Thursday: 8 am -12 pm  
Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

**Confession:**

Saturday at 4:30 pm before the 5:00 pm Mass

**Holy Days of Obligation**  
Holy Day 8:30 am

**Filipino Ministry Mass:**  
First Sunday of the Month 2:00 pm

**Scheduled Meetings:**

- ◆ Friendship Club meets Thursday in the Rectory Conference Room after the 8:30 am Mass
- ◆ Filipino Arts & Music Ensemble (F.A.M.E.) meets Friday in the Church Hall
- ◆ Rooted in Jesus Christ (R.i.J.C.) meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 2:30 to 4:45pm in the Church Hall.
- ◆ Rosary Altar Society meets the 3rd Sunday of the month (except for June, July & August) for 10:00 am Mass followed by a meeting in the Rectory Conference Room

**SUNDAY COLLECTION— November 24, 2024**

**Due to advanced printing of the bulletin,  
we do not have collection totals at this  
time.**

**The Readings for the Week of December 1, 2024**

**Sunday**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14(1b)  
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2  
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

**Monday**

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Ps 122:1-9  
Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17  
Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday**

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Ps 23:1-6  
Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday**

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a  
Matthew 7:21,24-27

**Friday**

Isaiah 29:17-24  
Ps 27:1-4,13-14  
Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday**

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26  
Ps 147:1-6  
Matthew 9:35—10:1,5a,6-8

**Consider Leaving a Legacy of Faith... Remember Our Parish in  
Your Will when you next update your estate plan, please consider  
continuing your lifelong stewardship by leaving a bequest to Our  
Lady Help of Christian Church.**

**'REGISTER' officially as a parishioner of Our Lady Help of  
Christians. It's easy to do, costs nothing, and has many  
benefits.**

**CALL THE RECTORY FOR REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION**

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE**

Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier

Wednesday: St. John Damascene

Friday: St. Nicholas, First Friday

Saturday: St. Ambrose

## THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, December 1st 10:00am

Eugenia Tolentino  
Virginia Sulit  
Deirdre Bergson  
Gladys Villorente  
Gaudencia Sedayao  
Alice McTighe  
Corazon Arce  
Ananias Francisco  
The People of the Parish

### Monday, December 2nd 8:30am

Josephine Iacullo ( Happy Birthday in Heaven)

### Tuesday, December 3rd 8:30am

Gaudencia Sedayao

### Wednesday, December 4th 8:30am

Gaudencia Sedayao

### Thursday, December 5th 8:30am

Margaret Carney

### Friday, December 6th 8:30am

Rita Rotiroti

### Saturday, December 7th 5:00pm

Theresa Telato  
The Members of Our Parish Purgatorial Society

### Sunday, December 8th 10:00am

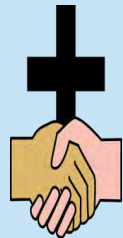
Eugenia Tolentino  
Virginia Sulit  
Deirdre Bergson  
Gladys Villorente  
Gaudencia Sedayao  
William Morrisey  
Phillip Pedrena (1st Anniversary)  
Living Intention: Sara Beleckis (prayers for healing blessings)  
Living Birthday: Daniel Lucas Mapua  
The People of the Parish



### HOST & WINE INTENTIONS

**Monday, December 2nd: Josephine Iacullo  
(Happy Birthday in Heaven)**

**Wednesday, December 4th: Living Birthday:  
Vivian Francisco**



### R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Do you wish to learn about the Catholic Faith? Are you a baptized Catholic who wishes to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation? Were you baptized in another faith but wish to consider your faith journey in the Catholic Church? Call the Rectory to speak to Fr. Dwayne or Fr. Josh.

### The Readings for the Week of December 8, 2024

#### Sunday

Baruch 5:1-9  
Ps 126:1-6  
Philippians 1:4-6,8-11  
Luke 3:1-6

#### Monday

Genesis 3:9-15,20  
Ps 98:1-4  
Luke 1:26-38

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Ps 96:1-3, 10ac,11-13  
Luke 1:26-38

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 40:25-31  
Ps 103:1-4,8,10  
Matthew 11:28-30

#### Thursday

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations  
11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab  
Judith 13:18b-19  
Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

#### Friday

Isaiah 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Matthew 11:16-19

#### Saturday

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11  
Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19  
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

Connie Marzella, Sarah Maldonado, Millie Ricciardi, Alice Sak, Eileen Lynch, Julia Friel, Sara Beleckis, Agnes Ford, Christina Kurland, Marva McDonald, Sarah Quigley, Laurette Champagne, Joseph Losinno, Joseph Bird, Doreen Jennings, Ingrid Jennings, MaryAnn Sayers, Sonia Graves, Patricia, Bea & John Pyatt, Christina Cosenza, McKenzie Paulino, John Marzella, Elacia Webb, Natale Collins, Jeanine Burke, Steve Hughes, Barbara Cabe, Ethel Tan, Alice Brillantes, Manny Quesada, Tom Tirino, Crisolago Padilla and Erlinda & Juanito Sulit

If you have a loved one who is sick and you would like us to pray for them, please contact the Rectory **no later than Mondays** for inclusion in the **Bulletin**

*"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die"*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

*We Remember in our Prayers all of our faithful departed*

### WEDDINGS AT OLHC

If you need to schedule a wedding, please contact the Rectory **at least six months** before the desired date



### BAPTISMS AT OLHC

We have made our Baptism schedule flexible to accommodate families. Our Baptism class will be on the **3rd Tuesday of every month**. If you need to schedule a Baptism, please contact the Rectory **at least a month** before the desired date



### COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you know a parishioner who is unable to attend Mass on the weekend, or are unable to attend yourself, please contact the **Rectory** to arrange an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** to visit on a regular basis. Homebound parishioners are very grateful to be able to receive communion in their homes.

*Please keep our homebound members in your prayers.*



Our Giving Tree is now available with tags suggesting a gift to buy for a needy boy or girl. Please return your **unwrapped gift** to the Church or Rectory no later than **Sunday, December 15th**.

DECEMBER 07, 2024

BROOKLYN, NY

## CATHEDRALS

MATT MAHER & SARAH KROGER

*the co-cathedral of st. joseph*



THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH 7PM  
856 PACIFIC STREET, BROOKLYN, NY  
MORE INFO: 718-638-1071



**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER OUR CHURCH'S SAINTS' SHRINES & VOTIVE CANDLES\*\***



### First Friday of the Month

**Benediction after the 8:30am Mass**



**Pray for the Men and Women in our  
United States Armed forces and their  
families**

STA & OLHC

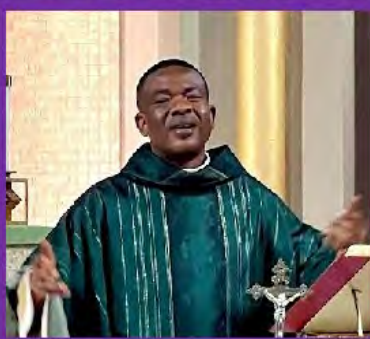
# Advent Retreat

## December 2nd

Praise & Worship begins at 7:15<sup>PM</sup>

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

1550 Hendrickson Street, Brooklyn, NY



Retreat Leader Fr. Kieran Udeze



## Our Lady Help of Christians



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AFTER THE 5PM MASS**

**IN THE CHURCH HALL**

Each family is asked to contribute a dish to our **POTLUCK /BYOB CELEBRATION**

Please tear-off and return to the Rectory or the Collection Basket no later than Monday, December 9th

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BRING THE FOLLOWING FOOD ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

**9:30 am** in the School Cafeteria — Use the Parking Lot Entrance

All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group & the World Youth Day Fund

Please return to: Rectory or Religious Ed by Wednesday, November 27th



Cost : \$15



**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Filipino Diocesan Apostolate of Brooklyn

invites you to join our

# Simbang Gabi

December 15-23, 2024

Nocturnal Rosary starts at 7:00 pm

Holy Mass at 7:30 pm



Reception on December 23, 2024 after the mass at the lower church (potluck of Filipino Delicacies)

Our Lady Help of Christians  
1315 E28th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11210





# Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> December</p> <p>Light the first violet candle in the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on God's faithfulness and the hope of salvation. (See 1 Peter 3:15 for inspiration.)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>How will you draw closer to Christ during Advent? Will you deepen your faith through intentional prayer, heartfelt penance, generous almsgiving, or a renewed focus on the Sacraments?</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Practice the Heroic Minute as proposed by St. Josemaría Escrivá. Get out of bed immediately when you wake (don't press the "snooze" button) and offer the day to God.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Set out the stable and the empty manger from your Nativity scene. Slowly add the figures throughout Advent.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Advent is a busy time for Catholic parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can help.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. Pray, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet. Read Luke 2:1-7.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Immaculate Conception</b></p> <p>God preserved Mary from sin to be Jesus' mother. Attend Mass and pray a Rosary in her honor.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>A loving gaze is one of the kindest gifts we can offer. Today, Look at everyone through eyes of compassion and kindness, letting love illuminate each encounter.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Ask Jesus to heal whatever keeps you from experiencing God's bountiful love.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b></p> <p>To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase and pray for expectant mothers.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>St. Francis de Sales said, "Have patience with all things, but... chiefly with yourself." Practice patience with everyone today, especially yourself.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Gather friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Gaudete Sunday</b></p> <p>Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy to mark the halfway point of Advent.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Reach out to your parish office to find out how you can make Christmas brighter for a family in need. Your kindness could be their Christmas miracle.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Today, offer a small sacrifice out of love, just for God.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus promises to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Renew your faith in His steadfast love.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Refusing to forgive can destroy our interior peace. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>The King is coming! Tidy up your home and prepare to welcome Him.</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Light all four candles in the wreath, including the last one for peace. Remember we are awaiting Christ and the peace He brings to those faithful to Him (Luke 2:14).</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:1-19 and decide how you can make room in your heart for Christ. What steps will you take to welcome His presence and live out His love each day?</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Meditate on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary or pray Evening Prayer tonight to ready your heart for the birth of the Messiah.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Rejoice!</b></p> <p>Place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!</p>	<p>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</p>		

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2024

Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church

Fr. Dwayne D. Davis, Administrator

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.



### Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem...Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem...stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"*  
(John 1:14).



## The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

**The gift of love.** God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

**The gift of hope.** Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope

renews us and promises a better path forward.

**The gift of family.** Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God" (1 John 3:1).

**The gift of Heaven.** The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel —



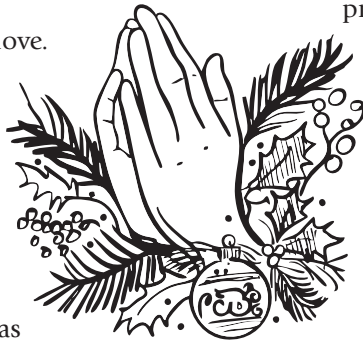
complete with donkey and ox. He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that "the

*Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*(John 1:14).

## Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas

Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

**Do the one thing needful:** Pope Francis encourages us to “waste time” with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully



present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

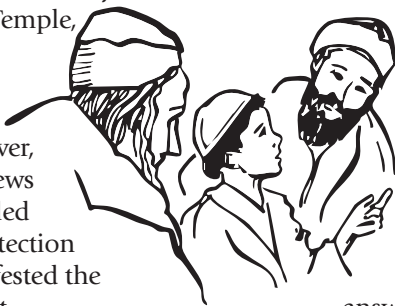
**Go in haste to love:** Just as Mary went “with haste” (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

### from Scripture

### Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn’t surprising that His parents didn’t miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.



On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was

questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, “Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?”

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

### Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God’s eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet’s Candle, is lit to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.



The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel’s Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 1 - First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ’s birth and His coming on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 4 – St. John Damascene (749).** A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

**December 9 – Immaculate**

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it’s still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

**December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).** Today, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



**Our Mission**

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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