

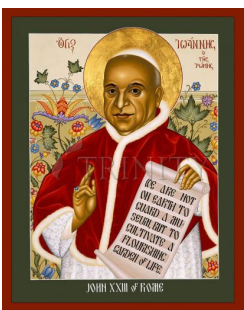


Dear [Parishioners],

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1, 1-5*

Christmas is a celebration of God becoming one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. Because God’s love for us is so deep and immeasurable, God chose to be part of our humanity and to become a light in our lives. During these few past years, we have experienced darkness, despair, and doubt. The collateral consequences of Covid19 were so deep that it has been difficult to get back on our feet. The ravage of wars in Ukraine, Ethiopia and many parts of the world brings to us a sense of loss and discouragement. It is in this moment that we are once again preparing to welcome the Word becoming flesh so that we might experience life and its light. Nothing can overcome the Light of Christ. Therefore, we need to renew our hope in God’s promise of divine abiding presence in our lives. Be not afraid!

Advent season is a time of hope and conversion so that we make room in our hearts for Jesus, the Son of the Living God. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, brothers, and sisters to Jesus. Let us allow ourselves to be wrapped with the white linen of love, hope, mercy, compassion, and friendship as one people of God, St. John XXIII Parish. Our unification is a tangible sign of our belonging to God as one people. We are all called to make every effort to build this new reality as one parish, having one mind and heart. We should not be afraid of mistakes we will make but being hopeful that God is with us, Emmanuel.



St. John XXIII counsels us:

*“Consult not your fear but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustration, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”*

Christmas is the season of joy, of gift-giving, and of families coming together. Peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day. He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year to you and your families!

Fr. Jean-Philippe

Rev. Koudjo Kunegbodzi Jean-Philippe Lokpo, MCCJ

Pastor

# Advent – Christmas Schedule for St. John XXIII Parish

## First Sunday of Advent—November 27, 2022

Taizé for Young Adults, November 27

In the UCYM Center at 6:30 p.m.

St. Nick's Fest – December 2-4

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Begins –December 3-11, 2022

In St. Nicholas Church at 7:00 p.m. (except December 8, which starts at 6:00 p.m.)

## Second Sunday of Advent—December 4, 2022

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena – Continues December 3, 2022 – December 11, 2022

In St. Nicholas Church at 7:00 p.m. (except December 8, which starts at 6:00 p.m.)

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – December 8

Mass at St. Mary Church, 8:00 a.m., Noon, and 7:00 p.m.

Mass at St. Nicholas Church, 8:15 a.m. school mass and 7:00 p.m. bilingual

## Third Sunday of Advent—December 12, 2022

Gaudete Sunday Musical Reflection at St. Mary Church

A Choral Meditation on Peace, Scripture readings and original music by Don Colleton at 3:00 p.m.

Annual Lessons & Carols, at 4:15 p.m. in the Church followed by Our Holiday Party

## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12, 2022

Las Mañanitas at 5:00 a.m. at St. Nicholas Church

Mass at 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church

Mass at 8:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church

## Advent Reconciliation Service, December 13

St. Nicholas Church at 7:00 p.m. (bilingual) – confessors available in English, Spanish, French and Italian

## Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18, 2022

## The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Eve—December 24, 2022

St. Mary Church

5:00 p.m. Mass, includes the Children's Nativity Story

9:00 p.m. Mass, Hymns & Carols at 8:45 p.m. with the Traditional Choir

St. Nicholas Church

3:00 p.m. Mass, includes the Children's Reenactment of the Gospel Nativity Story

5:00 p.m. Mass, bilingual

10:00 p.m. Mass, choir music begins at 9:30 p.m.

## The Nativity of the Lord—December 25, 2022

9:30 a.m. Mass (Contemporary Choir); 11:00 a.m. Mass (Traditional Choir) at St. Mary Church

10:15 a.m. (English); 1:00 p.m. (Spanish) at St. Nicholas Church

## Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God—January 1, 2023

St. Mary Church

Mass Schedule: Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.; January 1 at 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (French)

St. Nicholas Church

Mass Schedule: Saturday at 4:30 p.m. (English) including Kwanza Celebration

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (Spanish), 10:15 a.m. (English), and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)