

*St. Mary's Basilica*  
*A Catholic Faith Community*  
*Franciscan Friars*

*First Sunday of Advent*

*November 30, 2008*

**PARISH STAFF**

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602-354-2072

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[www.saintmarysbasilica.org](http://www.saintmarysbasilica.org)

**PARISH CENTER HOURS**

Weekdays  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**BASILICA HOURS**

Monday through Saturday  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



*Parish Mission Statement*

As children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized. Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ. Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Weekdays 12:05 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.  
Sundays  
9:00 am and 11 a.m.  
Holy Days  
12:05 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 4 to 5 p.m.  
or by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF  
MARRIAGE**

Minimum of six months  
preparation  
602-354-2100

**SACRAMENT OF  
BAPTISM**

Celebrated monthly  
During Mass

**SACRAMENT OF  
THE SICK**

Please contact the parish  
for a priest.  
602-354-2072

**HOLY HOUR**

Thursdays  
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 pm

**VIA ASSISI GIFT  
SHOP**

Br. Tito Garcia, O.F.M.  
Manager  
602-271-0042

Thursday - Friday  
10:00 am. to 3:00 pm  
Saturdays  
10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Sundays  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends,

Peace and all Good!

Today begins the season of Advent and a new liturgical year. As we begin Mass today we pause at the Advent wreath to bless it and to light one purple candle. This circular evergreen with its four candles lit on each of the four weeks of Advent, reminds us that this is a time of solemn preparation, that during this season we are awaiting the Light of the World and the Dawning of Hope. According to Mark's gospel, nobody knows about "that day or hour" in which the Son of Man will return, neither the angels in heaven, nor Jesus himself, but only the Father (Mark 13:32) But, Jesus tells his listeners to "keep awake, stay alert" to highlight the urgency of the situation. This beautiful season makes it clear that Christ "will come again". The question for us is: "Are we ready for the coming of the Lord—each day, in communion, in the events of our lives, at Christmas, at the hour of our death, on the last day?"

These coming weeks are filled with many opportunities to "prepare the way of the Lord". I call your attention to our traditional Advent Giving Tree decorated with ornaments listing gift ideas for the poor. Please take an ornament off the tree and bring the wrapped gift back to church. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society members will then make sure that your thoughtfulness will reach those who could use a little joy this Christmas! This is a perfect way for those with children to form little ones in the true meaning of Christmas.

This year our Diocese of Phoenix will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The theme of our celebration will be "Honor Your Mother" because our diocese is under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the festivities begin at Immaculate Heart Church and then there is a procession to St. Mary's and finally a festive outdoor Mass with Bishop Olmsted as the presider. See today's bulletin for more details.

On Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation for us in the United States. This is also a special feast day for our parish—we are St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish. Our glorious rose window depicts the beautiful woman who gave birth to the savior! Solemn Masses will be celebrated at Noon and 5:15 p.m.

Over the last several years, there has been a growing awareness of the meaning of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. John Paul II. placed all the Americas under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each year we gather on December 12<sup>th</sup> for an outdoor procession in the plaza and then enter the church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. After the ceremony, we will continue the celebration with a potluck Mexican meal and mariachi music! You may sign up today in the vestibule to bring your favorite Mexican dish to share with others.

Our Christmas Carol Sing a Long has become a tradition here at St. Mary's. This year, there will be a live Christmas Creche added to the evening's festivities. Mark your calendars for 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, December 20<sup>th</sup> and bring you family and friends and usher in the Christmas spirit with carols and refreshments under the tent in the Friars Garden.

Finally, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ through the sacrament of reconciliation on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Several confessors will be available for our annual community celebration of God's peace.

I wish to thank all of you who made your new stewardship commitment to the parish last weekend. If you were unable to do so, there are pledge cards in the pews today for your convenience. "O God, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus."

Love,



***BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT***  
***First Sunday of Advent***

Advent is here once again and amidst all the Christmas decorations that are already up, we are asked to make use of this beautiful season to prepare us for the feast to come. It is a time for us to be mindful of God's ways. Sometimes in our everyday busy lives we might forget the real reason that we were put here on earth. Someone once suggested that perhaps we should be signed with clay at the beginning of this season to remind us that God is the potter. Advent should be a time of softening the clay, of gentling us. It is a time of allowing God to wedge us, to knead us until we are re-formed into the image of his Son.

Clay is nothing without the potter. Unless he works it, molds it, has a vision of what it will become it remains a formless mass. The potter can do nothing without the clay. We as that clay have to be ready and willing to be molded in the potter's way which may not be our way. Advent is a time to check on how we are living everyday awaiting the return of our Lord and Savior in the second coming. It may not be today or tomorrow or next week. It may not even be in our lifetime. But the fact remains that we should always await in readiness.

In today's gospel it was made clear to us that we need God. We are the servants in charge, each with his/her own task. Be constantly on watch! Stay awake, we are told! Be constantly on the watch for the potter's hand reaching to mold us. Be sensitive to his touch. This Advent as we seek to be formed anew, may we be ready to help form each other as well. This gospel is an invitation to remind us to be prepared for the Lord's return. We know that the Lord comes in the everyday events of our lives, in our families and communities. Sometimes we are blind to his presence but sometimes we are able to shake off the sleep and awaken to the reality of Emmanuel in our midst. What is our Lord asking of us at this time, at this season? Today's gospel is a clarion call to be attentive to those moments – to listen, watch, and be ready. Perhaps this Advent we can focus in living every day in readiness.

Advent should prepare us to enter more fully into the mystery of the incarnation. Jesus dwells among us as we remember and celebrate his historical coming and anticipate his second coming at the end of time. Whether that final day comes in our lifetime or in the future makes no difference. Our lives are to reflect prayerful diligence and attentiveness to the task of waiting in joyful hope. Let's not let Advent pass us by. May we make time for prayer and silent preparation and open our hearts to the real meaning of the beautiful feast ahead.

—Sr. Anthony Poerio, IBVM

***Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception***  
***of the Blessed Virgin Mary***  
***Monday, December 8, 2008***  
***Solemn Masses Noon & 5:15pm***



Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated at Noon and 5:15pm on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. While the privilege that Mary had been born without sin had always been believed, the dogma of The Immaculate Conception was pronounced and defined by the Church on December 8, 1854. At Lourdes in 1858, Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette as The Immaculate Conception. Let us come together to celebrate Mary as the patroness of our country and of our parish.

**St. Mary's Basilica  
Celebration of  
The Feast of Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
December 12, 2008**



Join us for  
a Festive Mass at Noon  
And  
Rosary Procession  
and Liturgy of the Word  
At 6:00 p.m.

A Mexican Potluck Supper  
will follow in the Social Hall with.  
Mariachi Music

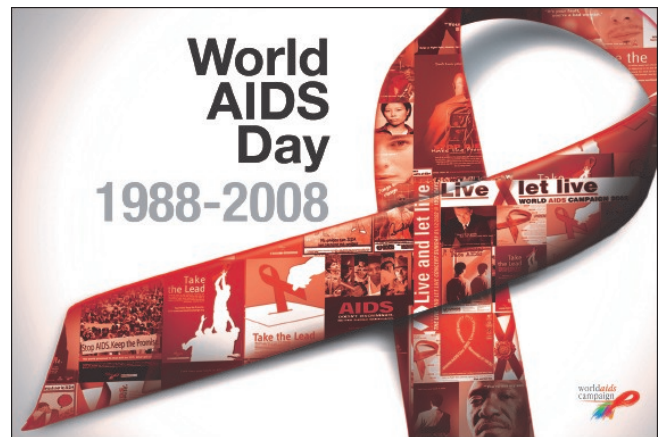
**So bring your favorite Mexican dish to share  
with the community!**

**Sign up in the Vestibule Today!!!!**



**Looking for a few gifts for  
family and friends?  
Visit the Via Assisi Gift Shop for  
this great Holiday Sale Event!**

Get 20% off any item over \$20  
beginning Saturday 11/28 through Christmas.



2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day and the focus is on leadership under the 2005-2010 campaigning slogan, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise."

"Lead – Empower – Deliver" highlights the leadership theme for 2008. It emphasises that people have offered their leadership – now it is time to deliver. Promises must be kept and people must feel empowered to act.

World AIDS Day, 1 December, is one of the most recognised international health days and a key opportunity to raise further awareness in communities and across the world about the state of the pandemic and critical next steps that must be taken to halt its spread.

Please take time and read the information from the American Bishop's Conference we have put in the bulletin this week to see how you can help, learn and pray about this epidemic that effects us all. It is never to late to learn.



The Legion of Mary is the largest lay organization of Catholic men and women in the world.

Meetings are held at the Parish Office, Thursday evenings at 6:30PM.

Please join us!

For more information, Please come and meet with representatives after all the Masses on Sunday,

November 30th!

Or call Catherine at (602) 956-6474



**St. Mary's Basilica  
Weddings  
God's Blessings upon**

**Freddy Olaya Jr. and Danielle Quiñones  
November 29, 2008**

**Please pray for this couple and for  
all preparing for marriage**



**The Christmas  
Giving Tree  
A St. Mary's  
Tradition**

Each year, the Christmas Giving Tree has been a highlight for our preparation for Christmas. This tree which is set up in the church is decorated with ornaments, each of which is labeled with a gift item for the poor and the needy. Some of these gifts are for children and others for men and women. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society visits hundreds of individuals and families each year and they know the desperate situation of these brothers and sisters of ours. And so, we are all invited to get into the true Christmas spirit by taking one or more of these ornaments off the tree and bringing back to our "Giving Tree" the gift as marked. This is an excellent opportunity for us to think of others at this time of year. This is also a "teachable moment" for children as they go shopping with parents to provide these gifts for the poor. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for others.



**Won't you join us?  
Taize Evening Prayer  
Sunday Evenings at 8:30 pm.**

You are invited to come together in our beautiful Taize Prayer experience and in the midst of flickering candles, beautiful chants and the icon cross of Christ. After the service, we will gather in the social hall for light refreshments.

**Diocesan Celebration of the Feast of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Sunday, December 7, 2008**

**Join Bishop Olmsted and the many  
parishioners of our Diocese in  
celebration of  
Our Patroness of the Americas.**

Pre-Procession Activities begin at 10:30 am at Immaculate Heart Parish with Music and Dancing

Procession from Immaculate Heart to St. Mary's begins at 12:30 pm.

Blessing from Bishop Olmsted at 1:30 pm followed by a Festive Outdoor Mass at 2:00 pm.



**All are welcome to join in this  
wonderful celebration!**

**First Fridays at St. Mary's**



**Respect Life Rosary**

After the  
Noon Mass

**Music and Basilica Tours  
7:30 p.m.**

**December 5, 2008**



**Christmas Caroling  
and Live Christmas Creché  
at St. Mary's  
Saturday, December 20th  
at 6:00 p.m.**

Bring Your Children, Family and Friends to this delightful evening of Christmas cheer! Everyone is invited to gather in the Friars' Garden to sing traditional Christmas Carols and share in some refreshments to help us usher in the Christmas Season! Remember to dress warmly and bring a candle or flash light! Come sing of "Tidings of Comfort and Joy!"



## What's Happening At St. Mary's

### Saturday, November 29th

Feast of All Saints of the Franciscan Order  
 Ordination of Br. Joe Schwab 10:00 am Basilica

### Sunday, November 30th—First Sunday of Advent

Franciscan Mission Special Collection All Masses Basilica

### Monday, December 1st—World Aids Day

Count Team 6:30 pm Parish Center  
 Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Friars Chapel

### Wednesday, December 3rd

Memorial of St. Francis Xavier Noon Basilica

### Thursday, December 4th—Feast of St. Barbara

Holy Hour 11:00 am & 5:00 pm Basilica  
 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Parish Center  
 Choir Practice 7:00 pm Basilica

### Friday, December 5th

St. Mary's Basilica First Friday 7:30 pm Basilica

### Saturday, December 6th

CRYS Christmas Dance 8:00 pm Social Hall

### Sunday, December 7th—Second Sunday of Advent

Guadalupe Procession 12:30 Immaculate Heart

### Monday, December 8th—Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
 Of the Blessed Virgin Mary Noon & 5:15pm Basilica  
 Count Team 6:30 pm Parish Center  
 Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Friars Chapel

### Thursday, December 11th

Holy Hour 11:00 am & 5:00 pm Basilica  
 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Parish Center  
 Choir Practice 7:00 pm Basilica

### Friday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Noon Basilica  
 Rosary Procession & Benediction 6:00 pm Basilica  
 Pot-Luck Reception & Mariachis 7:00 pm Social Hall

### Sunday, December 14th—Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Joseph Schwab O.F.M. Celebrates  
 A Mass of Thanksgiving 11:00 am Basilica  
 Reception Noon Social Hall

### Monday, December 15th

Count Team 6:30 pm Parish Center  
 Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Friars Chapel

## Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5  
 Mt 8:5-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10  
 Lk 10:21-24  
**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a  
 Mt 15:29-37  
**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6  
 Mt 7:21, 24-27  
**Friday:** Is 29:17-24  
 Mt 9:27-31  
**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday 5:00 p.m.**  
 The Espinoza Family  
**Sunday 9:00 a.m.**  
 People of St. Mary's  
**Sunday 11:00 a.m.**  
 Ramon Maglalang (Deceased)  
**Monday 12:05 p.m.**  
 Georgia Blake (Deceased)  
**Tuesday 7:30 am**  
 Joseph Schneider (Living)  
**Wednesday 12:05 p.m.**  
 Stanley Bereis (Deceased)  
**Thursday 12:05 p.m.**  
 Fr. E. Fitzpatrick (Deceased)  
**Friday 12:05 p.m.**  
 Helen Montgomery (Deceased)

## Sanctuary Candles For

**Deceased Franciscan Friars  
 And  
 Franciscan Friars suffering from  
 illness**

## Weekly Offering November 22, 2008



Due to the Holiday Schedule of the printers, the weekly offering will be listed in next weeks bulletin.  
 Thank you very much!!!

## Donate Your Vehicle

### St. Mary's Basilica

The Mother Church of Phoenix

Helping those in need within our Community for over 100years.

**(602)252-1128**

All proceeds to benefit St Mary's Basilica an Arizona Treasure at the center of downtown Phoenix

- Free Pick Up
- Tax Deductible
- We Will Complete All IRS & Title Docs
- Any Condition, Running or Not
- All Proceeds Benefit Our Local Community