

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH

Father Ben Tapia, Pastor / Father Arjie Garcia, Parochial Vicar
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Parish Website: fatimacatholic.com

Sunday Mass: 10:00 am Daily Mass: Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 am

Confessions: Sunday at 9:15 am Rosary: 40 minutes before Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2017

November 26 Collections: \$1780.

FROM FR. BEN TAPIA:

As we continue our Sermon Series on the Mass this week we will be exploring the Liturgy of the Word.

The Liturgy of the Word is made up of three readings and the Responsorial Psalm. Most of the year, the first reading is taken from the Old Testament, except for during Easter time it is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The first reading is followed by the Responsorial Psalm. The Psalm helps us to meditate more deeply on the Word of God. Following the Psalm we listen to a reading from the New Testament. During the readings the people are seated, listening actively as we receive God's Word. At the conclusion of each of the readings we give thanks to God for what we have received; the Lector says, "The Word of the Lord" and the people respond, "Thanks be to God".

Following the second reading, we stand as the King of Kings proclaims Himself to us through the Gospel by the Deacon or Priest. During most of the year, we sing "Alleluia" as the Book of the Gospels is processed; "Alleluia" is derived from a Hebrew phrase, meaning, "Praise the Lord!" The preacher processes with the Book of the Gospels from the Altar to the Ambo, then making the Sign of the Cross on the Book, announces, "A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to..." to which the people, tracing a Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart, respond "Glory to You, oh Lord." At the conclusion of the Gospel the preacher says, "The Gospel of the Lord." To which the congregation responds, "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ".

Following the Proclamation of the Gospel, all are seated for the Homily, in which the priest or deacon draws lessons from the day's Scripture to help us live lives more faithful to Christ. After the homily, the congregation stands to profess together the Creed.

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Prayers of the Faithful, in which the congregation entrusts our needs to God, it is an opportunity for us to make a concrete response to what we have just received in the Word.

Christmas is a time for sharing of our bountiful blessings with others less fortunate. There are many needy families in the upper Rogue as well as the entire Valley. We offer you the opportunity to share whatever amount of money you wish to give, or a Wal-Mart gift card. There are envelopes that you can place your donation of cash or gift card in the Vestibule along with a box marked "Gift Cards." Please place your donations in the Gift Box. Remember the words of Christ, "whatever you do for the least of my brethren you do unto me." Thank you for your participation in this corporal work of mercy.

Father Arjie is continuing the **Bible Study** December 12th in the church hall at 5pm. All are invited.

Daily reflections for Advent Books are available in the vestibule. Please pick one up.

Second Sunday of Advent

Originally, **Advent** was celebrated over forty days, just like the Lenten season. This has now been shortened to four weeks, but the symbolism remains. You may notice another similarity to Lent when you attend Mass; although we still sing the Alleluia before the Gospel reading, we no longer sing the song of the angels – the Gloria. We will sing this song anew with the angels on Christmas day – just as they did over 2000 years ago.

The Scripture readings during Mass remind us of all the prophecies that point to the Lord's coming. We are called to keep watch and to leave behind our sinful ways. We also hear the recurring theme of a light shining through darkness. In Isaiah 60:19 we are reminded of this promise:

"The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory."

From: www.catholiccompany.com

Mark your calendars for upcoming Holy Days and Feast Days:

Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, Mass at Shepherd of the Valley, Central Point, will be at 7 pm. not a holy day of obligation.

Reconciliation Service, December 19th at Shepherd of the Valley, Central Point **7:00 p.m.**

Christmas Vigil, December 24, Mass 7 pm

Christmas Day, December 25, Mass 10 am holy day of obligation

Solemnity of Mary, January 1st, Mass 9am, not a holy day of obligation