

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHEDRAL PARISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

Established 1982



December 1, 2024

1240 S. Espina, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

(575) 524-8563 • Fax: (575) 523-2252 • www.ihmcathedral.org • Email: frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org

## CLERGY

**Bishop:** Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, J.C.L.

**Rector:** Rev. Alejandro Reyes Cardenas

**Deacons:** Deacon Ed Fierro

Deacon Ruben Gutierrez



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Light the first candle of Advent: a season  
of anticipation, reflection and hope.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
*Advent*

Sunday, December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent



## SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES / MISAS

### WEEKENDS / FINES DE LA SEMANA

**Saturday Vigil/Vigilia los Sabados:** 5:30 p.m. (English)

**Sunday/Domingo:** 7:30a.m., 11:00a.m. (English)

9:00a.m. (*Español*)

### WEEKDAYS / DÍAS DE LA SEMANA

**Mon. to Sat.:** 8:15 a.m. (English)

**Tuesday:** 6:00 p.m. (*Español*)

**Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Holy Hour (*Español*)

**Friday:** 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (English)

**Baptisms:** Call office for information

**Confessions in Church:** Monday - Friday: 7am-8am

Sat.: 4pm-5pm

**OR ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS**

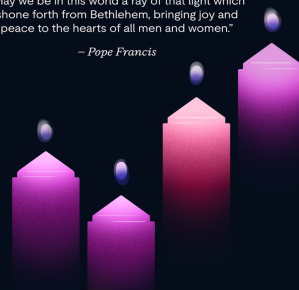
**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon Request

**Marriage:** Call Parish Office for Preparation at least 6 months  
in advance and before setting a firm date.

## ADVENT

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which  
shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and  
peace to the hearts of all men and women."

— Pope Francis



### FIRST SUNDAY

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope—the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrates the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gives us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

☐ Sunday, December 1

### THIRD SUNDAY

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On the third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

☐ Sunday, December 15

### SECOND SUNDAY

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the nation's destruction and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.

☐ Sunday, December 8

### FOURTH SUNDAY

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Purple Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

☐ Sunday, December 22

Registration: We welcome new parishioners, fall visitors and visiting friends to our parish. New members are encouraged to visit the IHM office to complete a registration form. We encourage you to use your envelope even if your donation is a modest one; this helps us to know that you are an active parishioner.



# RECENT EVENTS

1. San Jose Sanchez del Rio IHM youth group feeding the poor and our homeless this past Sunday. Going out!
2. Maunt Christo Rey pilgrimage and Mass
3. Redemptoris House retreat in Tucson, Arizona Priestly Retreat 2024



## THE ADVENT WREATH

### ORIGINS

The first missionaries in Europe took advantage of the pagan traditions to evangelize. One of them consisted of lighting candles during the winter, which represented the sun god.

### CANDLES

The four candles of the wreath are lit each Sunday of Advent. They represent the dissipation of darkness as we approach the birth of the Lord.



### CIRCULAR SHAPE

It represents God's eternal love for us and also speaks of our own love towards the Lord and others, which needs to be renewed constantly.

### BRANCHES

Green is the color of hope and life. Our biggest hope should be to achieve a close union with God as the tree and its branches.

## IHM Youth Group 2024 Silhouette Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals  
Tuesdays  
6pm – 7pm

Beginning  
Nov. 26  
In The School



Contact Omar in the IHM office for more information

## MONTHLY HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION

Thursday  
December 5  
6:00 to  
7:00 PM  
in the  
Church



Please join us for this beautiful hour of prayer!

**"Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand!"  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

Praise be the Lord Our Father, the God of Justice, the God of Love, who in Jesus has fulfilled the promises he made to us and our fathers. As a family of faith this advent season, let us ask the Lord to guide us in his way and—as Saint Paul says in the second reading—to teach us how we should conduct ourselves that we may be pleasing to him and blameless in his presence.

Today we listen, astounded, to the Lord's severe warning: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Be not afraid, the fullness of love drives out fear" Luke 21:26.

Yes, it sounds very intimidating but let us listen attentively what follows: "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" Luke 21:27-28. This is the best part! This is what will keep us faithful and strong.

Let me ask you this: Are you in need of redemption? I strongly believe that, yes, we do need to be redeemed. Sometimes it seems that the world is going in the opposite direction, and we become distracted by the ephemeral and temporal goods of this world. Therefore, we need to be awake! We must be vigilant, ready for the coming of the Lord. What great advice the Lord is offering to us today: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. Let nothing disturb you" Luke 21:34.

We have many worries and anxieties, but one is the most important: The salvation of souls. One day, you and I will have to stand before the Lord. What are we going to say when he asks us what we have done? I hope our best answer can be Lord, I have loved you with all my heart and my soul and my neighbor as myself, etc. In a word, Lord I have done your will.

As your servant and priest, I invite you to live this season with open minds and hearts.

Remember Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. As followers of Christ, let us be careful with the marketing and with our modern society—which is focused on celebrating holidays in superfluous ways, forgetting what is most essential in life. The Lord has come, always comes, and will come again! May he not find us surprised, but vigilant doing what we are supposed to do: Loving!

Happy first Sunday of advent!

Sincerely,

Father Alejandro Reyes, Rector

**"Manténganse erguidos y levanten la cabeza ¡Porque tu redención está cerca! Lc 21:25-28, 34-36**

Alabado sea el Señor Padre nuestro, Dios de la Justicia, Dios del Amor, que en Jesús ha cumplido las promesas que nos hizo a nosotros y a nuestros padres.

Como familia de fe en este tiempo de Adviento pidamos al Señor que nos guíe en su camino y como dice San Pablo en la segunda lectura que nos enseñe cómo debemos comportarnos para serle agradables e irreprochables en su presencia.

Hoy escuchamos atónitos la severa advertencia del señor: "Habrá señales en el sol, en la luna y en las estrellas, y en la tierra las naciones quedarán consternadas, perplejo por el rugido del mar y las olas.

La gente morirá de miedo.

En anticipación de lo que vendrá sobre el mundo, porque las potencias de los cielos serán conmovidas. No temáis, la plenitud del amor expulsa el miedo.

Sí, suena muy intimidante, pero escuchemos atentamente lo que sigue: Y entonces verán al Hijo del Hombre.

viniedo en una nube con poder y gran gloria. Pero cuando estas señales comienzan a ocurrir, párate erguido y levanta la cabeza porque tu redención está cerca. ¡Esta es la mejor parte! Esto es lo que nos mantendrá fieles y fuertes. Déjame preguntarte, ¿necesitas redención? Creo firmemente que sí, necesitamos ser redimidos. A veces parece que el mundo va en dirección contraria, de lo distraídos que estamos por los bienes efímeros y temporales de este mundo. ¡Por eso necesitamos estar despiertos! Vigilantes, listos para la venida del Señor. Qué gran consejo nos ofrece hoy el Señor: "Mirad que vuestro corazón no se adormezca de la borrachera y de la borrachera y de las inquietudes de la vida diaria, y ese día os pille por sorpresa como una trampa.

¡Que nada te moleste!

Muchas son nuestras preocupaciones, nuestras ansiedades, pero una será la más importante: la Salvación de las Almas. Uno ellos tú y yo tendremos que presentarnos delante del Señor: Lo que vamos a decir cuando nos pregunte qué hemos hecho. Espero que nuestra mejor respuesta pueda ser Señor, te he amado con todo mi corazón y mi alma y a mi prójimo como a mí mismo etc. en unas palabras, Señor he hecho tu voluntad. Como vuestro servidor y sacerdote, os invito a vivir esta temporada con la mente y el corazón abiertos.

Recuerden que Jesús es la razón de esta y de la temporada navideña, como seguidores de Cristo tengamos cuidado con el marketing y con nuestra sociedad moderna que se enfoca en celebrar las fiestas a veces de manera superflua, olvidándose de lo más esencial en la vida. ¡El Señor ha venido, siempre viene y volverá! Que él nos encuentre no por sorpresa sino vigilantes haciendo lo que se supone que debemos hacer: ¡Amar!

¡Feliz primer domingo de adviento!

Atentamente Padre Alejandro Reyes Rector.

## MASS INTENTIONS / INTENCIONES DE MISAS

~ Readings of the Week ~

**VIGIL MASS/VIGILIA: Saturday/Sábado, November 23**

5:30 PM † Joshua Gonzalez (by Mom Sandra)

**SUNDAY/DOMINGO, November 24**

Jer 33:14-16/ Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14/ 1 Thes 3:12—4:2/ Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

7:30 AM Jazmin Medina for Spiritual Healing (by Bertha Burciaga)

9:00 AM(Sp) † Saul Burciaga † Manuel Burciaga (por Bertha Burciaga)

† Mercedes Flores (by Teo Rodriguez)

Almas del Purgatorio

11:00 AM † Patrick † Joe Madrid (by Cathy Madrid)

† Luis Garcia

† Jesus Burciaga (by Bertha Burciaga)

† Cruz Amalia & Felipe Mendoza (by Magdalena Mendoza)

**Monday/Lunes, November 25**

Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11

8:15 AM For Emotional Healing

**Tuesday/Martes, November 26**

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Lk 10:21-24

8:15 AM For the Souls in Purgatory

6:00 PM (Sp) Por los No Nacidos

**Wednesday/Miércoles, November 27**

Is 25:6-10a/ Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Mt 15:29-37

8:15 AM Healing Prayers for the Sick

**Thursday/Jueves, November 28**

Is 26:1-6/ Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ Mt 7:21, 24-27

8:15 AM Khyann Sky Morales (by Nana Morales)

6:00 PM Prayers for the Homeless

**Friday/Viernes, November 29**

Is 29:17-24/ Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ MT 9:27-31

8:15 AM † Don † Daryl Lithqow (by Gloria Lithqow)

Marco - Maritza - Nancy & Raul Cotto for Healing (by Mom)

**Saturday/Sabado, November 23**

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/ Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

8:15 AM For Holy vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life

## WHAT IS HAPPENING



Please Join us for our annual  
**Christmas Tree  
Lighting  
and Posada**  
On Saturday,  
December 21  
Following the 5:30 Mass



Is a holding a campaign for

**COATS  
2024  
for Kids**

Three donation types are acceptable: monetary donation, new coats, or used coats in good, clean condition.  
Note: Coat sizes should fit children between 1 & 17 years old  
Donations go to the **Las Cruces Coats for Kids Foundation**  
You can bring your money donation(s) to the IHM office.  
Please make any checks payable to Las Cruces Coats for Kids. Any used/new coat(s) donations can be placed in the Coats for Kids donation box located in the church foyer or dropped off at the church office.

**Donation Deadline:  
January 12, 2025**



Thank you for supporting this worth community program that is co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus organization.

Feast of  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**Thursday,  
December 12**  
*Not a Holy Day of Obligation*



**Schedule:**

**8:15AM – English Mass**

**6:00PM – Spanish Mass**

**4:00PM**

Procession with the Image of

Our Lady of Guadalupe

From St. Genevieve Parish

To the Cathedral

Followed by Cabalgata,

Music, and Folklore



The Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Building Project Fund Raffle

Tickets:  
**\$25**

**GRAND PRIZE  
\$10,000**

Two Second Place Prizes  
of **\$500** each

**Additional Prizes: Television, Ipad**

Drawing will be held following the Christmas Midnight Mass on  
**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

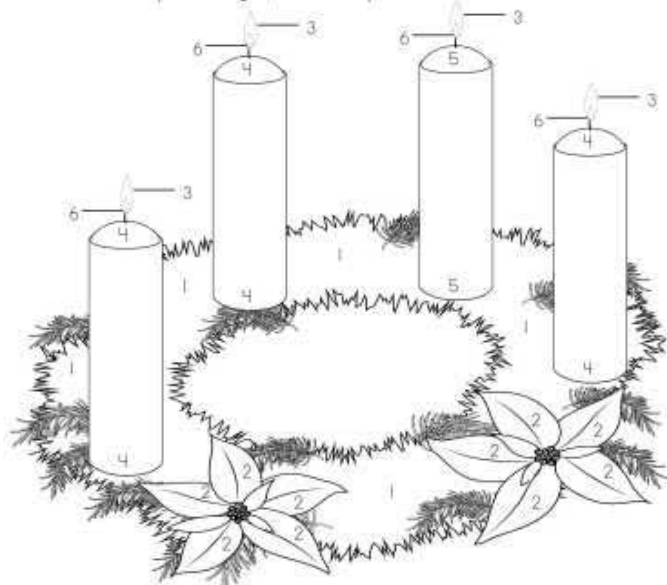
**Tickets on Sale in the Parish Office**

# The Advent Wreath

## Color-by-Number

- 1 - green
- 2 - red
- 3 - yellow
- 4 - purple
- 5 - pink
- 6 - orange

Using the color black, write the name of the Sunday (love, peace, joy, and hope) on each candle.



Created by Elena & © The Schmitts © 2014

# "Surviving the Holidays"



Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Whether it was very recent or many years ago, the Christmas Holidays can be one of the most difficult times for people in grief. This special session, "Surviving the Holidays," offers strategies and perspectives to help the bereaved manage their emotions.

**We are offering two sessions of the program:**

- **Saturday, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm** at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at 1240 S Espina. Please call Lisa Maldonado at (575) 430-6786 or Margarita Padilla at 575-332-8011 to register.
- **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4pm** at Holy Cross parish at 1327 N Miranda. Please call the parish office at (575) 523-0167 or call Marilyn Kerschen at (575) 642-0281 to register.

There is no cost for this 1½ hour program however you must register to attend.



# Advent Penance Service



**Friday,  
December 6  
6pm**

### PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL

- |                       |                      |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Hortencia Butler      | Fatima Aguilar Ortiz | Isaiah Jimenez       |
| Juanita Mendoza       | Donna & Jimmy        | Nayhem Jimenez       |
| Pat King              | Graham               | Jesus Frieze         |
| Ernestina Rodriguez   | Yolanda Salas        | Samuel Gutierrez     |
| Freddy Castaneda, Jr. | Marko Artem          | Martha Legarreta     |
| Benjamin Mendoza      | Virginia Mike Ortega | Rena Carson          |
| Dylan Wilson          | Deacon Ed Misquez    | Tammy Martinez       |
| Daniel Telles         | Sylvia Briseño       | Linda Salaiz         |
| Merlinda Moreno       | Ralph Cadena         | Vicki/Peter Alvarez  |
| Pat Villines          | Liz Garcia           | Sandra Lucero        |
| Tim Thomas            | Alicia Romero        | Marissa Madrid       |
| Alice & Carlos Castro | Jimmy & Josh         | Mary Benavidez       |
| Emanuel & Micaela     | Mary Mayers          | Melissa Benavidez    |
| Frieze and Family     | Oscar Rico           | Jacob Villa          |
| Edward Frias          | Mary Moyers          | Christopher Villa    |
| Nellie Rigales Vigil  | Arcadio Garcia       | Terri Villa          |
| Mike & Inez Frieze    | Jimmy Martinez       | Bertha Lucero        |
| Leo Alirez            | Josh Willhite        | Sandra Ramirez       |
| Michael Rodriguez     | Ethel Vigil Ebner    | Danny Rivera         |
| Roni Trevillo         | Caesar Lopez         | Toni Frieze          |
| Gabriel Granillo      | Sally Lozano         | Mary & Tony Gallegos |
| Ed Fragoso,           | Raymond Telles       | Cassie Hamilton &    |
| Mother Maria & Family | Richard Duran        | Melinda Moreno       |
| Raymond Matlak        | Lewie Chavez         | Cassi Hamilton       |
| Matilda Evaro         | Gabriel Rodriguez    | Melinda Moreno       |
| Briana Telles         | Gabriel Gomez        | Josh A Lucero        |
| Arturo Serna          | Albert Medina        | Jim Hirschy          |
| Angel Baker           | Silas & Bea Garcia   | Manuel Garcia        |
| Danny Gamboa          | Jeannie Lucero       | Mr. and Mrs. Gino    |
| Frank Jimenez         | Priscilla Serna      | Delvillar            |
| Felicia Krynitz       | Lorraine D Matteo    | Bill Chubb           |
| Everardo Meza         | Les Flores Jr.       | Carlos Armendariz    |
| Blanca Echevarria     | Albert Chavez Sr.    |                      |
| Jose Ignacio Garcia   | Msgr. Juan Moreno    |                      |
| Amparo Espinosa       | Daniel Jasso         |                      |



## The Archdiocese of Santa Fe PILGRIMAGES for VOCATIONS to CHIMAYÓ

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**FOR OUR MAY (5/10) &  
100-MILE JUNE PILGRIMAGES  
(6/8 - 14)**



**REGISTER AT**

[pilgrimagesforvocations.org](http://pilgrimagesforvocations.org)



**BY DEC 12<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**THE 50+ YEAR TRADITION CONTINUES**

### Collections: 11-24-2024

Sunday Collection: \$4,477.00  
Second Collection: \$545.00 UIM

### Upcoming 2nd Collections:

December 8: Retirement Fund for the Religious - Provides funding to religious institutes in the US

Ongoing for the Month of December: orders for Christmas Luminarias in memoriam of loved ones who have passed.

Mass Intentions Weekday: \$10.00 • Weekend: \$15.00 • Prayer Request: Free

**\*\* Please request Mass Intentions at least 2 weeks in advance. \*\***

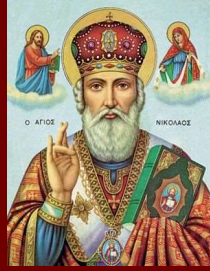


## Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

Patron Saint of: Children, Sailors, Victims of Human Trafficking, Brewers

**Feast Day: December 6**

When he was orphaned at a young age, Nicholas, remembering the rich young man in the Gospel, used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the poor. He was elected Bishop of Myra, and under the emperor Diocletian was exiled and imprisoned. After being freed, he attended the Council of Nicea.



He helped anyone and everyone who needed it. One of the most famous testimonies of this involves a man with three daughters of marriageable age. The family was poor, and the young girls were in danger of being forced into prostitution, because their father could not afford to offer a suitable dowry. One night, Nicholas went to the family's home, and threw a bag of coins through the open window, then fled before he could be identified. With the money, the father was able to procure a marriage for his eldest daughter. Nicholas returned twice more, always at night so that he could not be identified. But the third time, the father rushed out of the house to identify his mysterious benefactor. Nicholas begged him not to tell anyone what he had done.

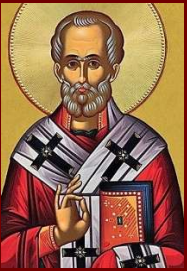
Nicholas could bilocate. While in prison, Nicholas heard about a young boy, Basileos, who had been kidnapped from his home in Myra, and forced to serve as a cup-bearer for a foreign potentate. While his parents prayed for his safety, Saint Nicholas appeared to Basileos, and miraculously restored him to his family - still holding the potentate's golden cup.

Saint Nicholas died in Myra on 6 December 343. After the death of Saint Nicholas, his tomb at Myra soon became a place of pilgrimage.

## San Nicolás, obispo de Myra

Patrón de: Niños, Marineros, Víctimas de Trata de Personas, Cervecedores

**Día festivo: 25 de diciembre**



Quando quedó huérfano a una edad temprana, Nicolás, recordando al joven rico del Evangelio, utilizó su herencia para ayudar a los necesitados, los enfermos y los pobres. Fue elegido obispo de Myra y bajo el emperador Diocleciano fue exiliado y encarcelado. Tras ser liberado, asistió al Concilio de Nicea.

Ayudó a todos y cada uno de los que lo necesitaban. Uno de los testimonios más famosos de esto involucra a un hombre con tres hijas en edad de casarse. La familia era pobre y las jóvenes corrían el peligro de verse obligadas a prostituirse porque su padre no podía permitirse ofrecer una dote adecuada. Una noche, Nicholas fue a la casa de la familia, arrojó una bolsa de monedas por la ventana abierta y luego huyó antes de que pudieran identificarlo. Con el dinero, el padre pudo conseguirle matrimonio a su hija mayor. Nicholas regresó dos veces más, siempre de noche para que no pudiera ser identificado. Pero la tercera vez, el padre salió corriendo de la casa para identificar a su misterioso benefactor. Nicolás le rogó que no le contara a nadie lo que había hecho.

Nicholas podría bilocarse. Mientras estaba en prisión, Nicolás se enteró de un joven, Basileos, que había sido secuestrado de su casa en Myra y obligado a servir como copero de un potentado extranjero. Mientras sus padres oraban por su seguridad, San Nicolás se apareció a Basileos y milagrosamente lo devolvió a su familia, todavía sosteniendo la copa de oro del potentado.

San Nicolás murió en Myra el 6 de diciembre de 343. Después de la muerte de San Nicolás, su tumba en Myra pronto se convirtió en un lugar de peregrinación.

## Pope: Church seeks to strengthen bonds of family and marriage

*Pope Francis urges Catholic universities to research how different cultures view marriage, saying the Church seeks to accompany families on their path to holiness.*

By Devin Watkins



Meeting with professors and staff of the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences on Monday, Pope Francis upheld the centrality of the family in the Church's

life.

"We know how decisive marriage and family are for the life of peoples: the Church has always cared for them, supported them, and evangelized them," he said.

The Pope lamented that there are countries where public authorities "do not respect the dignity and freedom to which every human being has an inalienable right as a child of God."

This attitude, he added, results in restrictions that weigh most heavily on women, often confining them to subordinate roles.

Rather than erasing the difference between man and woman in response, said the Pope, the Church teaches that there can be no discrimination between the two, since all belong to Christ and are part of God's plan of salvation.

Accompanying those who struggle with past wounds

Pope Francis went on to note that the Gospel of the family is founded on the Sacrament of Marriage, which provides a path for people of all cultures to grow in holiness.

"The Church today does not close her doors to those struggling on their journey of faith," he said. "Instead, she opens them wide because 'all require merciful and encouraging pastoral care.'"

Citing his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the Pope invited pastoral workers to accompany people "who cohabit while indefinitely postponing their marital commitment," as well as those who have divorced and remarried.

"Their presence in the Church testifies to their desire to persevere in faith, despite the wounds of painful experiences," he said.

The Church, noted the Pope, excludes no one but constantly promotes the family, seeking to strengthen the bonds of marriage in love.

Studying culture and perception of marriage and family

Culture, said Pope Francis, is closely linked to people's view of marriage and family, saying the Gospel must be inculcated while still evangelizing culture.

"Our ability to address these challenges determines the extent to which we can fully carry out the Church's evangelizing mission, which involves every Christian," he said.

The JPII Pontifical Theological Institute can contribute to this mission by helping the Church understand how different societies and cultures view marriage and family, said the Pope.

"May the Institute support spouses and families in their mission worldwide, helping them to be living stones of the Church and witnesses of fidelity, service, openness to life, and hospitality," concluded Pope Francis. "Let us walk together in the footsteps of Christ!"

## National Prayer Vigil for Life

WASHINGTON – “I enthusiastically invite Catholics from all around the country to join me in-person or virtually, in praying for an end to abortion and building up a culture of life,” said Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The faithful are invited to observe a nationwide prayer vigil from Thursday, January 23 to Friday, January 24, 2025, and encouraged to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life in post-Roe America.

In 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision *Dobbs vs. Jackson* which overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide. Since the *Dobbs* decision, abortion policy is now determined at the state and federal levels. Some states have increased access to abortion and others are working to ensure stronger policies to protect preborn children and their mothers.

“Together, we must pray to change hearts and build a culture of life as we advocate for the most vulnerable. I look forward to opening our Vigil with Holy Mass together with many other bishops, hundreds of priests, consecrated religious, seminarians, and many thousands of pilgrims,” said Bishop Thomas.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life is hosted each January by the USCCB’s Pro-Life Secretariat, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and The Catholic University of America’s Office of Campus Ministry. The vigil has always taken place on the eve of the March for Life, which marks the date of the historic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

The Opening Mass will take place in the Great Upper Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. from 5:00-7:00 PM on Thursday, January 23. The principal celebrant and homilist for the Opening Mass will be Bishop Thomas.

After the Mass, there will be a Eucharistic Procession immediately followed by a National Holy Hour for Life, which will include Recitation of the Rosary and Benediction. The Opening Mass and Holy Hour of the National Prayer Vigil for Life will be broadcast on various Catholic networks and will be livestreamed on the Basilica’s website at [www.nationalshrine.org/mass](http://www.nationalshrine.org/mass).

The vigil concludes at 8:00 AM on Friday, January 24 with the Closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Brooklyn.

The full schedule of the 2025 National Prayer Vigil for Life is listed below. (All times are in Eastern Time.)

Thursday, January 23:

4:45 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
5:00 PM Opening Mass with Bishop Thomas  
7:00 PM Holy Hour for Life

Friday, January 24:

8:00 AM Closing Mass with Bishop Brennan

The live television broadcasts on January 23 from 5:00-8:00 PM and on January 24 from 8:00-9:00 AM will be provided by the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and will be available via live-stream on the Basilica’s website.



*Christmas Tree  
Lighting*  
**Children's Choir**

Rehearsals will take place on  
**Wednesday,  
December 11 and 18**  
from 5:15-5:45pm  
(before Catechism  
classes in the school)

Email:  
[AGriffith@IHM Cathedral.org](mailto:AGriffith@IHM Cathedral.org)  
For more information or to join

*The Immaculate Conception*  
*because December 8 falls on the  
Second Sunday of Advent, it is observed*  
**Monday, December 9th**

English Mass:  
**8:15am, 12:10pm,  
5:30pm**

Spanish Mass:  
**7PM**



*Holy Day of Obligation*

*Jesus*  
**THE REASON  
FOR THE  
SEASON**



# Important Dates at IHM

## Season of Advent

Sunday, December 1 –  
Tuesday, December 24, 2024

## Advent Penance Service

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024  
6:00pm

## Immaculate Conception

*Holy Day of Obligation*  
Observed Monday, Dec. 9, 2024  
English Masses: 8:15am.  
12:10pm, 5:30pm  
Spanish Mass: 7pm

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation*  
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024  
English Masses: 8:15am  
Bilingual Mass: 6PM  
Procession: 4PM

## Christmas Tree Lighting and Posada

Saturday, December 21, 2024  
Following the 5:30 Mass  
Join us for a community event  
which includes an  
IHM children's choir Performance  
and Youth Group Nativity Play

## Christmas Masses

*Holy Day of Obligation*  
Tuesday, December 24  
Children's Mass – 5:30pm  
Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25  
English Mass\*: 11am  
Spanish Mass: 9am

\*Other Masses May be Added

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces requires that all clergy, employees, and volunteers undergo a **background check**, participate in a **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Training Module**, and sign a **code of conduct** every 5 years.

For questions in complying with these requirements please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Mary Frances Garcias for Assistance. mgarcia@rcdlc.org

## IHM Catechism Announcements:

**Next Parent Meeting** December 11 – Holy Hour  
**Tree Lighting Choir** Performance Dec. 21–6:40pm  
Rehearsals Dec. 11 and 18 – 5:15pm-5:45pm

## IHM Youth Group

**Nativity Play Rehearsal** Dec. 3 – 6pm-7pm  
**Next Meeting** December 6, 2024  
**Luminaria Sales** all Sun. in Dec. After Masses

## Support Our Supporters



Terry W. Getz, CFSP

(575) 526-2419 1410 E. Bowman Ave.  
Fax: 526-7944 Las Cruces, NM 88001  
www.GetzCares.com

**JADA**  
CONSTRUCTION LLC

New Construction  
Remodels & Additions  
Commercial & Residential

Jorge Mireles  
OWNER

Free Estimates  
**(575) 805-0243**  
mirelesjorge28@gmail.com

In God We Trust

**GENESIS TRUCKING SERVICES, LLC**  
ELODIA ALVAREZ - ZUK, OWNER

Trucking Permits • All States • Inter-Intra State • 25 Years Experience  
2407 W. PICACHO AVE, SUITE A110  
LAS CRUCES, NM 88007  
PHONE: 915-491-8472 • FAX 575-222-4091  
e-mail: genesistruckingservices@gmail.com

*Piano Lessons*  
Clases De Piano

**Zoila Luz Garcia-Salas**  
**813-898-3320**

**Garza Art Studio**  
Academia De Arte Garza

Anton F. Milavec, D.D.S.  
Christopher J. Thomas, D.D.S.  
Dominic L. Marketto, D.D.S.  
Drew E. Marketto, D.D.S.  
Alyssa Ramirez, D.D.S.

2980 North Main Street 575.524.3722  
Las Cruces, NM 88001 575.524.9826  
gentlecaredentistry@gmail.com

www.gentlecaredentistry.org

**Baca's**  
FUNERAL CHAPELS  
AND SUNSET CREMATORY

Full-Service Funeral Home Offering  
Burial & Cremation Services  
Advanced Planning Options to Suit Your Needs  
300 EAST BOUTZ ROAD (575) 527-2222

**Local Bank.**  
**Local Deposits.**  
**Local Mortgage.**  
**Local Impact.**

**CITIZENS BANK**  
www.citizenslc.com

**LA PAZ-GRAHAM'S**  
FUNERAL HOME

Family Owned  
Established 1912

Eberth Chavez  
Preneed Agent  
555 West Amador Avenue  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Office: (915) 433-2610  
eberthpreneed@outlook.com  
www.lapaz-grahams.com

**YOUR AD HERE!**

Call our office  
to advertise in our weekly bulletin  
**575-524-8563.**

**Reach Thousands of Customers by Advertising in Our Weekly Bulletin**

- Grisell Gonzalez, Office Manager • Emma Galvan, Receptionist
- Victor Hernandez, Maintenance • Wilman Oliveros, Custodian • Ana Baltodano, Part-time Custodian