



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

Marian Messenger



Advent, the Holy Family and the Divine Will

The joyful season of Advent begins with the solemn warnings of Jesus Christ:

“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 heaven will be shaken. 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 21:25-28)

If we spend this Advent living in the Divine Will; being vigilant at all times and praying always, we will stand before the Son of Man and escape the tribulation.

On the way to Christmas, we will be with Saints Anne and Joachim on December 8th as we celebrate the event of the Immaculate Conception. In the womb of Saint Anne, at the Easter Gate of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin at the moment of her conception. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a reminder for us that God’s redeeming love is outside of space and time. In the Divine Will, Our Lady is already the **Mediatrice of All Graces** – communicating the **fruits of the Redemption** to her own holy parents Saints Anne and Joachim.

Jesus Christ is the one and only Mediator and Source of divine grace; but He bestows on His Mother the gracious role of Mediatrice from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception. When the Immaculate Conception appeared to Saint Catherine Laboure, giving her the mission of making know the **Miraculous Medal**, graces poured forth from the out-stretched hands of the Blessed Virgin. **O’ Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!**

During Advent, live in close union with Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Anne, and Joachim.

Advent and Christmas take on a whole new meaning when we join the members of the Holy Family in all the sacred mysteries of the great work of redemption from the first moment of Mary’s conception in the womb of Saint Anne, through the Hidden Life, the Public Ministry of Jesus, the Sacred Passion and Death on the Cross, the glorious Resurrection and Ascension of the Savior, to the Dormition and Assumption of Mary into Heaven.

To be with the Holy Family in the Divine Will is to become like the Holy Family in the practice of virtue and interior silence and prayers. Do you want to grow in humility, charity, purity, patience, long-suffering and all the other virtues? **Move in** with the Holy Family of Nazareth. Breathe in the odor of sanctity and the sweet incense of prayer rising from their Holy House. Participate in Eucharistic Holy Hours during this special time. I can’t think of a better way to keep Advent than in a spirit of prayer and silence; accompany the Holy Family to the Stable of Bethlehem during the Christmas holy days.

I recommend the mystical writings of Blessed Anne Catherine Emerich, Saint Bridget of Sweden, and Venerable Mary of Agreda as excellent spiritual reading during Advent and Christmas. Their revelations will assist you in entering into a **mystical union** with the Holy Family. I especially encourage you to meditate on Venerable Luisa Piccarreta’s **Hours of the Passion** to strengthen the practice of living in the Divine Will, and forming the habit of doing everything – praying, working, resting, eating, sleeping, thinking, breathing- with Jesus Christ, His Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph. Cultivate, too, in your spiritual life devotion to Saint Anne and Saint Joachim. They were God’s Grandparents! Jesus received His human nature from them! To honor Saints Joachim and Anne is to honor Jesus and Mary.



Father John's Journal continued...

May God bless all of you in this holy Advent and Christmas season by bringing you into His own beloved Holy Family!

Merry Christmas!

Father John



Join us for Mass
First Friday, December 3rd at 7pm

First Saturday, December 4th at 8am

First Friday, January 7th at 7pm.
 Note: There will not be a First Saturday Mass in January as it lands on New Year's Day.

Rosary and Confessions
 30 minutes before First Friday and First Saturday Masses

Monthly Mass Schedule
 First Friday at 7pm and First Saturday at 8am

7pm Mass on the 13th of each month during May-October

St. Joseph Bookstore Hours

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and before and after Masses.

The Chapel will be open for private prayer during these hours. Come and visit our Lord!



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is funded solely by your donations. One hundred percent of our work to operate Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is done by an all-volunteer staff. We can't do this work without you! Please use the envelope in this newsletter to mail in your donation to keep our mission alive. Thank you for your support!

As this beautiful year of St Joseph ends, I want to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support to help us lead souls to Jesus at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. I am truly grateful and wish you to know that without your help, our "all volunteer" team wouldn't be able to continue teaching and spreading Our Lady of Fatima's messages.

Please consider giving a year-end tax-deductible donation. Our Lady of Fatima and good St Joseph will not be out-done in their blessings to you for your generosity.

Our ceiling fund campaign is still underway, and I plan to update you on our exciting plans in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in receiving the graces from volunteering, please get in touch with us. We need help from cleaning, outreach, and working in our St Joseph bookstore. A friendly reminder, the Shrine, and the St Joseph bookstore are now open on Mondays, Wednesday's and Saturday's 11 am to 4 pm. Contact Bill Lipchick at 734 771 3522 or email him at fatimashrine@yahoo.com if you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Give as little or as much time to the Shrine as you're able; as my mother used to say to me, "many hands make for light work!"

On behalf of our Rector, Father John Hedges, I pray that you and your families have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Leonard St. Pierre



Guests visit the St. Joseph Book Store following the dedication Mass.



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine Dedication Mass, October 2021, with our Rector Father John Hedges.

Guests gather for refreshments following our October 13th dedication Mass.