



# Serra Mensajero

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Richardson, TX

December 2020



My dear Serrans,

Here we are in December anticipating the last two weeks of the season of Advent. With hope, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. But this is a good time, especially during these good weather days in Texas, to take time to reflect on the Church's readings.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also called Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice as the antiphon for the Mass indicates: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near! (Phil. 4:4-5)." The liturgical vestments are rose-colored, a joyful color, to remind us that we are now more than halfway to the celebration of Christmas and to step up our spiritual preparations. But this rejoicing is a sign also of our hope in Christ, Who, when He comes in glory, will free us from the bonds of sin and death forever.

Ember Days: This time of the year, the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following the feast of Saint Lucy (Dec. 13th) used to be observed as Ember Days. These days were set aside to pray, to fast, and to offer penance in thanksgiving to God, in reparation for sin, and to assist others. Often ordinations took place during Ember Days. So this is also a good time to pray for priests. While Ember Days are no longer in the Universal Roman Calendar, they are not abolished. They are still good days to voluntarily offer prayers for and with the Church. Let us give thanks to God on Wednesday the 16th, Friday the 18th, and Saturday the 19th of this month for God's mercy and benevolence. During this Third Week of Advent we can offer these days as a special time for prayer, fasting, and for spiritual renewal in our efforts to share the joy of the peace of Christ with one another.

Beginning December 17, Holy Mother Church makes use of the O Antiphons which are beautiful ways of reflecting on the long awaited Messiah. The "O" Antiphons are usually sung at Vespers (Evening Prayer). The hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on these antiphons. Each antiphon refers to a title of Our Savior as He is anticipated from of old. One might prayerfully meditate on an antiphon each day: Dec. 17th: "O Wisdom (Sapientia); Dec. 18th: "O Sacred Lord (Adonai); Dec. 19th: "O Flower of Jesse's Stem (Radix Jesse); Dec. 20th: "O Key of David (Clavis David); Dec. 21st: "O Radiant Dawn (Oriens); Dec. 22nd: "O King of all the nations (O Rex Gentium); and Dec, 23rd: O Emmanuel (Emmanuel) which means "God with us."

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we may realize that we are so close to the celebration of Christ's birth and yet we may still not be ready interiorly. Trusting in the Lord Jesus, let us put everything into His hands. Through prayer and quiet, allow the Holy Spirit to enter into your heart as well as your home. Then, the dawn of Christmas hope may be a sign of the love of God in your life.

I want to thank all members of our North Dallas Serra for the many prayers for us priests and for our seminarians. Those prayers help to sustain us in the good work that God has begun in us. I would like to extend to all of you my prayers and thanks during the blessed season of Christmas. May the light of Christ guide you in the coming year.

In Christ,

Fr. Guadañoli

## Upcoming Events

*Due to the current constraints on assemblies, our monthly meetings are replaced by a Zoom rosary.*

Meeting ID: 828 6523 4114

Passcode: 971947

*Serra Mensajero* is the monthly newsletter for North Central Dallas which reports activities, provides news to members, and supports Club goals.

Editor: Dawn Epping  
dawn.epping@yahoo.com

Visit these  
Serra web sites

North Central Dallas Serra Club  
[www.ncdserraclub.com](http://www.ncdserraclub.com)

Serra USA Council  
[www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org)

Fellow Serrans,

In spite of the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented to our world this year, we have so much to be thankful for, beginning with the friendships we have developed with each other. All of us are counting the days until we once again celebrate the first coming of our savior over two thousand years ago. While we cannot find him in a stable like the shepherds or bring him riches from afar like the Magi, we can surely honor him with a gift unique to each one of us. I am reminded of a poem by Christina Rossetti:

What can I give Him,  
 Poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd  
 I would bring a lamb,  
 If I were a Wise Man  
 I would do my part,  
 Yet what I can I give Him,  
 Give my heart.

And at the same time that we give Jesus our hearts, I'm thankful that we can also share a part of our hearts with each other through our newsletters, phone calls and praying the Rosary together each month. I truly miss seeing each one of you and hearing about all you have going on in your lives and look forward to the days ahead when we can be together face to face.

Let us especially remember the power of prayer that joins us together in support of our Seminarians, priests and all those called to the consecrated life. If you have personal prayer requests, please let me know and I will share them with our Serra sisters and brothers so that we can be united in prayer for each other.

Saints and feast days for us to celebrate in December are St. Francis Xavier, St. John Damascene, St. Ambrose, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Juan Diego, St. Damasus I, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John of the Cross, St. Peter Canisius, St. John of Kanty, The Nativity of the Lord, St. Stephen, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, The Holy Innocents, St. Thomas Becket and St. Sylvester I. May we find grace and good example in them as we imitate their example of holiness.

Recently, Pope Francis said, "Advent is an incessant call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate end, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ."

In the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

In St. Junipero Serra,

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year,

Darwin

President  
 Darwin Hutchison

V.P. Programs  
 Kathi Thompson

V.P. Vocations  
 Mike Holmes

V.P. Membership  
 Will Alt

V.P. Communications  
 Dawn Epping

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 Meg Haerr

Trustees  
 Don Simoneaux

Peter Lobo

Jim O'Malley

Past President  
 Jim Duffy

Newsletter Editor  
 Dawn Epping

Chaplain  
 Fr. Michael Guadagnoli

### PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Tom Demarest	Leo Heiting
Mike Holmes	Ed Johnson
Mary LaFave	Pete LaFave
Lou Neeb	Katy Warren

### December Anniversaries

Bill & Kathy Crowley	4
Peter & Connie Lobo	15
Tom & Belle Marie Demarest	19

### December Birthdays

Margaret Haerr	3
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*Come. Let us Adore Him!*



*Presented by seminarians*

**LOCATIONS:**

ST MARY, SHERMAN	DEC. 13 @ 7PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CORSICANA	DEC. 17 @ 7PM
ST. AUGUSTINE, DALLAS	DEC. 18 @ 7PM
NUESTRA SENORA DEL PILAR, DALLAS	DEC. 20 @ 7PM



**Donation  
\$20**

**Reception immediately following the Concert!**

\* TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE PARISHES BEFORE THE CONCERTS AND AT THE DOOR.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT: 214-467-2255



**REDEMPTORIS MATER**  
DIOCESAN MISSIONARY SEMINARY – DALLAS, TX – USA

**31 Club**

*The 31 Club is a commitment by Serrans to attend Mass or say the rosary to pray for vocations on a specific day each month. If interested in participating, contact Dawn Epping (dawn.epping@yahoo.com).*

1 <sup>st</sup> Larry Montz	8 <sup>th</sup> Sylvia Windham	14 <sup>th</sup> June Cooper	19 <sup>th</sup> Barbara Johnson	26 <sup>th</sup> Dawn Epping
2 <sup>nd</sup> Barbara Johnson	9 <sup>th</sup> Peter LaFave	15 <sup>th</sup> Don Simoneaux	20 <sup>th</sup> Tony Schmidt	27 <sup>th</sup> Chris Taylor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bill Crowley	Mary LaFave	16 <sup>th</sup> Darwin Hutchison	21 <sup>st</sup> Will Alt	28 <sup>th</sup> Bill Larsen
4 <sup>th</sup> Meg Haerr	10 <sup>th</sup> Vicki Dean	17 <sup>th</sup> Rob Larriviere	22 <sup>nd</sup> Kathi Thompson	Dan O'Connell
5 <sup>th</sup> Bob Baillargeon	11 <sup>th</sup> Jim Duffy	Ann Larriviere	23 <sup>rd</sup> Kathi Thompson	29 <sup>th</sup> Kay Hogan
6 <sup>th</sup> John Fitzpatrick	12 <sup>th</sup> Dennis Epping	John Fitzpatrick	24 <sup>th</sup> Ralph Armstrong	30 <sup>th</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup> Bill Condon	13 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> Tom Demerest	25 <sup>th</sup> Mary McGraw	31 <sup>st</sup>