

# Good Shepherd Catholic Church

## Mission Statement:

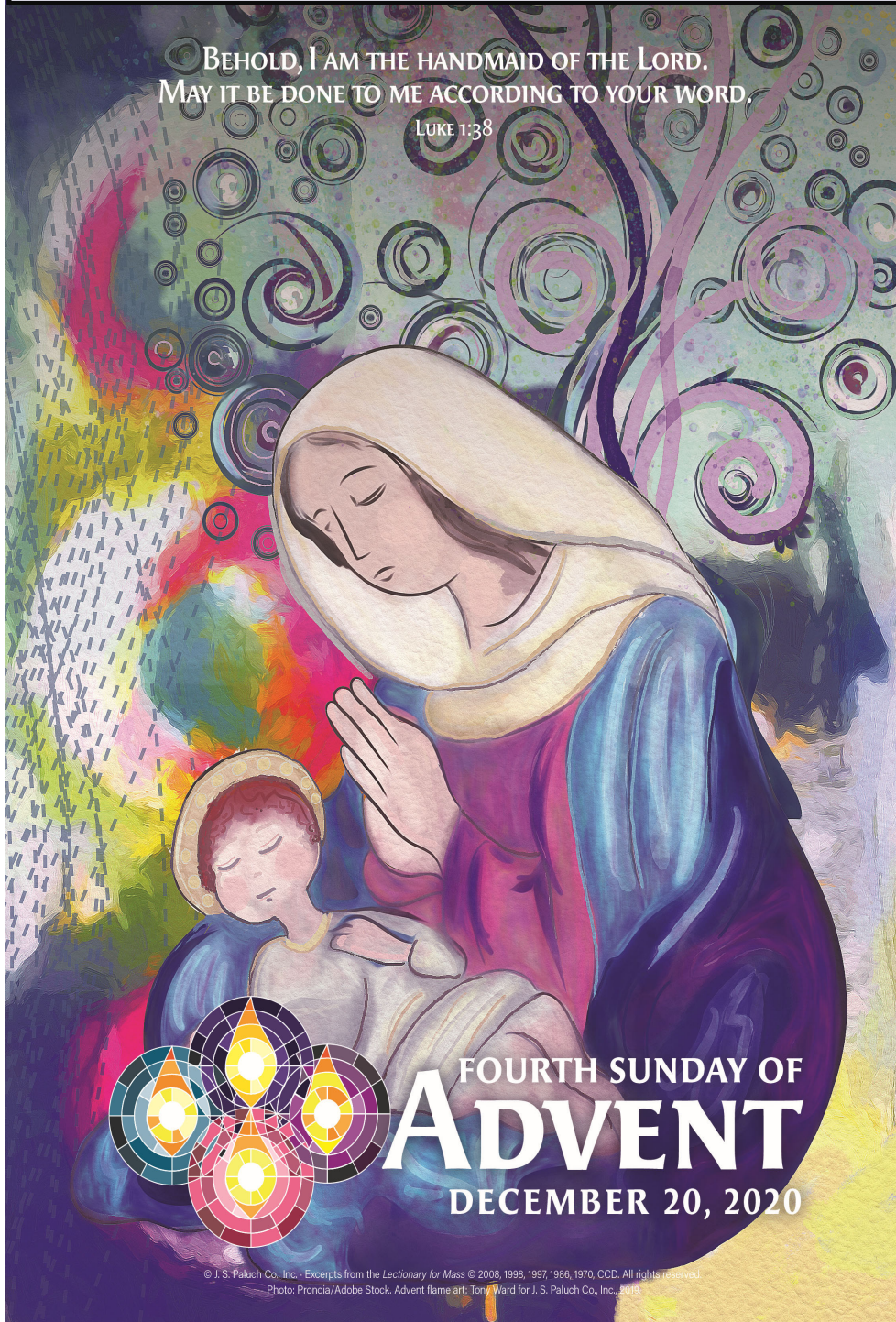
Good Shepherd Catholic Church is a diverse parish community; guided by the Holy Spirit into One Flock, following Jesus Christ, Our Good Shepherd to live and proclaim the Word of God.

**We Value:** Life Long Faith Formation | Sacramental Devotions  
Evangelization | Community Service | Social Justice



BEHOLD, I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD.  
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

LUKE 1:38



FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**  
DECEMBER 20, 2020

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## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Christopher Frazer  
Parochial Vicar:  
Rev. Julius Kiogora Kaburu  
Deacon: William Sousa  
Deacon: Rommel Declines  
Deacon: Al Llenos  
Business Manager: Denise Wesleder  
Receptionist: Monica Goodale  
Communications and Development  
Coordinator: Diane Marcotte

**Office of Religious Education**  
Coordinator, Religious Education:  
Menchie Cabrera  
ONE EIGHT/EDGE Confirmation  
Preparation Coordinators:  
Elizabeth Pott & Scotia Burrell

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

**K-8 Principal:** Marci Greene  
(916) 684-7903  
mgreene@stelizabetheg.org  
**Preschool Director:** Tammy Babich  
(916) 691-4825

## Schedule

**Mass Times:**  
Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Vigil  
Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11 a.m. and 1:00  
and 5:00 p.m.  
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.

## Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 3:30 to  
4:30 p.m. in the John Paul II Room.

**Baptism:** Parents and godparents  
go to [www.gscccg.org/sacraments/  
baptism](http://www.gscccg.org/sacraments/baptism) for more information.

**Marriage:** Engaged couples begin  
preparation at least six months before  
wedding date. Schedule with parish  
office.

**Church, Office & School**  
9539 Racquet Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95758

(916) 684-5722  
(916) 683-2963 (Rel. Ed.)

Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8am - 3pm  
Closed for lunch 12-1pm  
Closed Wednesdays

[goodshepherdchurch@frontiernet.net](mailto:goodshepherdchurch@frontiernet.net)  
[www.gscccg.org](http://www.gscccg.org) — (916) 684-4472 Fax

## THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	<u>Vigil:</u> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] <u>Night:</u> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <u>Dawn:</u> Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 <u>Day:</u> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday:	Winter begins
Wednesday:	St. John of Kanty
Thursday:	The Vigil of Christmas
Friday:	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday:	St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa



We will have outdoor Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Attendance will be limited to 100 people per Mass. You will be able to sign up online beginning on December 21st at noon. The sign-ups will close on December 23rd at 10:00 am. YOU MUST SIGN UP ONLINE TO ATTEND. THERE WILL BE NO WALK-INS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES.

#### The Mass schedule is as follows:

##### Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve):

Mass at 2:00pm, 4:00pm, and 6:00pm

*(There will be Mass at 8:30 am on Thursday morning.)*

##### Friday, Dec 25 (Christmas Day):

Mass at 10:00am, 12:00pm, and 2:00pm

##### Special "Midnight Mass" Recording

If you are unable to get a reservation or choose not to attend Mass in person, we invite you to watch our recorded "Midnight Mass" which will be available for viewing on our YouTube channel.

#### Attending Mass

Since our county has been moved back into the purple tier, we are again restricted to outdoor gatherings only. At this time, our Masses are scheduled to be outside under the tent. PLEASE be mindful that due to inclement weather, things can change very quickly. If there is a change, an email will be sent to all who have signed up to attend Mass. Our website will also be updated. It's a good idea to always check your email and/or our website before coming to Mass.

Remember that due to spacing issues, not everyone will be seated under the tent. You should bring a lawn chair and an umbrella just in case you need it. The worship space is not heated so dress appropriately!

#### Evangelus Communication Tool

We are testing a new communication tool called "Evangelus" in the next few weeks. It will be used to send email and possibly text messages to parishioners when we have important information to communicate. If we have your email on file, you should have already received something. If you haven't, please contact us at [gscdevelopment@frontier.com](mailto:gscdevelopment@frontier.com) to be added to our email list.

### Stay Connected!

There are several ways to stay connected and aware of what is going on here at Good Shepherd.

- The best way is to check **our website, [www.gscccg.org](http://www.gscccg.org)**.
- Download **our app, My Parish**.
- **Our YouTube channel**. Search for "Good Shepherd Catholic Church Elk Grove" and subscribe.
- **Our Facebook page**. Search for "Good Shepherd Catholic Church" and like our page.

### **St. Vincent de Paul News**

Thank you for all you do to support SVdP. Due to the Covid-19 virus, SVDP will NOT be accepting clothing, small appliances or personal items until further notice. We also ask that the following items NOT be placed in the wagon in the narthex: fresh food, expired canned goods, partially consumed foods, or medications of any kind. We are now on our winter schedule, with food distribution on Mondays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. **For assistance please call (916) 647-1243.**

### **Catholics Returning Home**

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

As baptized practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons.

Here at Good Shepherd, we have a special program to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church and it's entitled "Catholics Returning Home." The series begins on **Thursday February 11th**. To participate in this program for the 2021 Lenten season, please pick up a brochure and a registration form and pass it on to anyone you know who might be interested. Or you can download a brochure and registration form from our website. Registration ends on February 4, 2021. For more information, please call Verne Bowers at 916-479-3930.



Dear Parishioners of Good Shepherd Catholic Church,

Greetings as we enter the blessed season of Advent, a time set apart from all others, offered to God as he works within us in our waiting.

Already a year of untold waiting and yearning to leave this pandemic behind, we long to return to some semblance of normalcy. Can these four weeks of Advent be any different? A resounding YES! Jesus calls us to venture beyond normal, beyond the ordinary, and beyond what the mind can see. Ever-watchful as we prepare our hearts for His coming,

- We can imitate the innkeeper who made room for the Holy Family
- We can emulate the shepherds committed to seek and find their Lord
- We can model ourselves on the Magi who traveled the distance to recognize, honor and adore the true King
- We can offer our gifts of charity, patience and mercy to each other in Christian fellowship
- We can joyfully repent giving up who we were yesterday for our "new self" tomorrow

Yes, Advent has the power to wake us to our faith, jolt us to the promise of eternal salvation and stir us as we journey to the baby Jesus lying in a manger. It is a pathway paved with hope, peace, joy and love. And along the way, Jesus transforms our waiting into rejoicing!

Even as Covid-19 continues to keep us distanced, masked and limited in gathering, the Holy Spirit leads us in new and creative ways to unite us as a community and strengthen our faith. I am grateful to you for your patience, perseverance and generosity throughout this difficult time. As you share your gifts with Good Shepherd Catholic Church, your heartfelt stewardship perpetuates Christ's love and affords the parish the means to continue its mission and ministries.

Two thousand years ago on that most holy night when Christ was born, kings and shepherds felt the magnitude of his welcoming love for all. How beautiful it will be to recreate that celebration with the people of Good Shepherd at our Christmas Masses.

My steadfast prayer is that God will bless you beyond what the mind can see; that the light of Christ will inspire you and shine brightly in you, dispelling the darkness so that others around you may encounter Christ through you; and that the joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons will fill your hearts and souls.

In love of Christ our Savior,

Father Christopher Frazer, Pastor



## Praying For Our Community

*We lift up their names in our prayers of the faithful*

### Saturday, December 19, 2020

**5:00 pm**

Brianna Uzoh (SI)  
Sydney Uzoh (SI)  
Lina Pavisic de Harasic (+)  
Al Howenstein (+)  
Raul "Lito" Melendez (+)

### Sunday, December 20, 2020

**7:00 am**

Jerome Enrique Gacula (+)  
Conrado & Estela Gunabe (+)  
George Inigo (+)  
Deacon Edward Smith (+)

**9:00 am**

Chinedu Ozioko (BD)  
P. Thomas (SI)  
Luis Alberto Mendez (+)

**11:00 am**

Scott Avis (+)  
Albaro Meraz (DA)  
Deacon Ed Smith (+)

**1:00 pm**

Angel Bacerra (BD)  
Shawn Michael Bacerra (BD)  
Deceased members of  
the Do family (+)  
All souls in purgatory (+)

**5:00 pm**

### Monday, December 21, 2020

**8:30 am**

P. Thomas (SI)  
Nestor & Rose Camerino (TG)  
Julio & Margarita Millare (+)  
Joao Silva (+)

#### Key:

*Deceased (+) Thanksgiving (TG)*

*Death Anniversary (DA) Birthday (BD) Special*

*Intention (SI) Wedding Anniversary (WA) (SI-H)*

*Special Intention for healing*

### Tuesday, December 22, 2020

**8:30 am**

P. Thomas (SI)  
Teotonio Martins (+)

### Wednesday, December 23, 2020

**8:30 am**

Celeste Bocade (BD)  
P. Thomas (SI)  
Mildred Dela Cruz (+)  
Brenda Dizon (+)  
Leoneza Martins (+)

### Thursday, December 24, 2020

**8:30 am**

Abraham T. (SI)

#### Christmas Eve

**2:00 pm**

Emabertha Magana (+)  
Remedios Miranda (DA)

**4:00 pm**

Norman & Lynette Chavez & family (TG)  
Zenen & Vicky Magtoto & family (TG)  
Joao Mendes (+)

**6:00 pm**

**Midnight (Recorded Mass)**

### Friday, December 25, 2020

**10:00 am**

Conrado & Estela Gunabe (+)

**12:00 pm**

Chachy Korah (SI)  
Francisco & Conceicao Nunes (+)

**2:00 pm**

Eugenio O. Alejo Sr. (+)  
Joe Avis (+)  
Scott Avis (+)  
Domingos Fagundes (+)  
Maria Fagundes (+)

## Stewardship at Good Shepherd

Weekly collection total for Dec 5/6: \$18,414.86

*(includes contributions made through Faith Direct)*

Thank you for your support of our parish. COVID-19 has changed many things this year. Unfortunately, it has even impacted the finances of our parish and we need your help. As you plan your end-of-year charitable contributions, please keep us in mind and consider making a donation or setting up a recurring gift using our online giving provider, Faith Direct.

**Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/CA688](https://faith.direct/CA688), or text 'Enroll' to (916) 439-8801.**

**Thank you for your continued support!**



# Together IN CHRIST

## Responding to Coronavirus

Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19, families have been faced with the challenge of establishing a 'new normal' in their daily lives. The disruptions that families experience with the closure of schools, child care centers, workplaces, as well as many other services, can be a cause of tension and distress.

Whatever your family situation, there is an opportunity to find grace in the midst of this crisis. Families can use this time as an invitation to focus on our relationships and on building strong family bonds. Here are a few suggestions on how to use this time well:

### Pray Together

- Visit your local parish: some churches are still open for private visits. Spend time as a family before Jesus in the tabernacle. He is waiting for you!
- Pray the Rosary — Try starting with just one decade and offer it for an intention important to your family.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross — do this at home with a simple cross or crucifix.
- Meditate on the Scriptures

### Build and Fortify Your Relationships

- Set aside time to pray with your spouse
- Consider using extra time to enrich your marriage
- Be Kind
- Write a mission statement for your family.

### Have Fun Together

- Do something fun as a family — bake a pie, bring out a board game, get creative with craft supplies, or take a nature walk at a nearby trail.
- Plan a family celebration for upcoming feast days honoring the saints.
- Start building a family photo album or photobook. Organize your photos and plan some home videos.



### Parish Registration and Change of Address

New to Good Shepherd Catholic Church Community?

Recently moved or changed contact information?

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide weekly offering envelopes  Yes  No

**Please fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!**

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