

Dear People of God,

We may have already heard the story of the little boy who was quite anxious and excited because his grandmother was coming to visit. He was up early on the day itself and at his parents' bedside. "Is she here yet?" "No, she'll be here after lunch." "Oh."

By breakfast he had a solution: "Let's eat lunch early!"

The season of Advent is a time of joyful expectation. The Lord is coming! Wake up! Get ready! We probably cannot hope to be as excited as this little boy, but the church puts us in touch with the eagerness of the early Christians at Thessalonica.

The Thessalonians who first read Paul's letter were only a few years removed from Jesus' ascension and were expecting him to return in glory any day. "Paul strongly encourages them "to increase and abound in love for one another and for all. . . . and to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones." With the passage of years, the church realized that it might be a long time before Jesus came a second time. That brought other problems. The delay could make us forget or become complacent about his coming.

That is where we are today. The First Sunday of Advent comes as a surprise in the humdrum of our daily lives. We are running around as usual, from one task to the next, one busy day to the next, when suddenly here it is again. What? Is it that time of the year again?

The church encourages us to slow down, to refocus, to wait for the coming of the Lord in quiet hope. The idea of the Lord's coming has expanded since the time of the Thessalonians. We still look forward to his coming in glory at the end of time, but we concentrate more now on preparing ourselves for his present coming in grace and we look back to his first coming, the Incarnation, to understand what it means for us.

The Novena to the Immaculate Conception begins Saturday, November 30th and runs through December 8th. Copies of the Novena are available at the back of the Church, or at the parish office. Pray it every day.

December 7th: Parish Advent Retreat Day = - 9:00am Registration 9:30am Rosary - 10:00am Mass - 11:15am Conference - 12:15pm Lunch - 1:30pm Adoration and Reconciliation

December 9th: Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation. 6:45am in GSC 12:10pm in GSC 7:00pm in MHC Church

As usual please remember to pray for all of the Salesians in our presence here at MHC . . . especially for those of our Salesian brothers at St. Philip Residence. Be assured we will be doing the same for you.

Peace and Joy Always!

Fr. Steve Dumais, SDB
Pastor

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pete & Mary Gallar, Janice Murphy, Vivian Diaz, Joe Brocato, Tom Costa, David & Rosie Gratz, Lisa Franz, Patti Capitano, Fran Johns, Betsie Welch, Laura Munoz, Bobby Ryder, David Netel, Larry Walsh, Fernando Romero, Akers family, Jay Samman, Rose Gabriel, Francis Briones, Julia Kelly, Barbara Dahl, Martha Catul, Elaine Jones, Barbara Robles. Ruth Maund, Patricia Hauser, Beverly Fernandez, Bob & Marge Fallon, Rene Zarte, Joe Branson, Kathy Cortez, Jean Nichols, George Hernandez, Victor Pichardo, David Schwaller, Ma-Kayla Jennings, Esther Savio, Lucy Clemons, Lauren Lynch, Clarissa Roberson, Katherine Conrad, Rosa E. Alvarez, Valerie Sieger, Georgene & Dennis Bender, Rae Godbout, Penny Love, Paytin Hampton, Daniel Wiles.

2024 Mass Intentions:

Nov. 30, 2024 to Dec.08, 2024

Sat, November 30, 2024 5:00pm: +Lillian Letourneau req. by Alan & Elaine Jones

Sun, December 01, 2024 8:00am : +Geronimo & Zenaida Torres req. by Antonio & Marilyn Cunanan

Sun, December 01, 2024 11:00am: Giving thanks for all Saints req. by Anonymous

Mon, December 02, 2024 6:45am : Health of Wadid ElMasry req. by Nadine Shelton

Mon, December 02, 2024 7:00pm: +Polly Say req. by Maggie Brown

Tues, December 03, 2024 6:45am: Healing for Modesta Wakefield req. by Anonymous

Wed, December 04, 2024 6:45am: +Diogo Pinto & family req. by Anonymous

Wed, December 04, 2024, 7:00pm: +Mary Brocato req. by Brocato Family

Thurs. December 05, 2024 10:00am +Della Sarsfield req. by Lorrie & David Anshutz

Fri, December 06 2024, 6:45am +John Thomas Shinko req. by Chet Shinko

Sat, December 07, 2024 5:00pm : +Francisco Cunanan req. by Marilyn & Antonio Torres

Sun, December 08, 2024,8:00am : +Francisco Cunanan req. by Degezman Family

Sun, December 08, 2024 11:00am: +Dominic Murphy req. by Nicola & Janice Murphy

Margherita Occhiena was born on 1 April 1788 in [Capriglio](#) in [Asti](#), the sixth of ten children. At the age of 24 she married 27 year old Francesco Bosco, a family friend and widower whose wife and infant daughter had died shortly after childbirth, leaving him with a three-year-old son, Anthony. The family settled in Becchi, a hamlet of [Castelnuovo d'Asti](#) (today Castelnuovo Don Bosco). Francesco died of pneumonia in May 1817, leaving the 29-year-old Margherita a single mother with three sons: Antonio, Giuseppe and Giovanni (John).^[1] A strong woman with clear ideas, Occhiena raised her sons with a regimen of sober living, strict but reasonable. The boys were quite different in temperament. Still, Occhiena made sure she presented them with the beginnings of a Christian education. She gave them the example of faith, wisdom, and courage in facing the difficulties of life.^[1]



December 2024

- 12/04 Adoration 4-7pm silent/ Mass 7pm / 8-9pm praise & worship/ 7pm youth ministry**
- 12/05 Staff meeting 6:15pm / Parish Council 7pm**
- 12/07 1st Sat. /Advent retreat 9:30-2:30pm**
- 12/08 Faith Formation 9:15am / Adult 9:30am**
- 12/09 Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Masses 6:45am/12:10 GS chapel / 7pm Church**
- 12/11 Adoration 4-7pm silent / Mass 7pm / Parish Penance service 8-9pm / Youth Ministry 7pm**

Food Drive For Holiday

Please take an Orange bag in the back of church and fill it with the listed items. Return it back to church or office by Dec. 20th. **Place gift cards in the black locked box.**

PART TIME COOK NEEDED AT ST PHILIPS

St Philips is in need of a part time cook you can contact

Mary Sverko @ 813-297-4872 for more information

Weekly Gift Giving

Weekend of November 16, 2024 to November 17, 2024

Attendance	167	Envelopes	21
Mass Offertory	\$	1,986.00	
Loose Checks	\$	0	
Online Giving	\$	1,353.00	
Candles	\$	29.00	
Human Development	\$	610.00	
Total	\$	3,978.00	

CHRISTMAS POISETTIA'S

The Christmas season is a special time of the year! Flowers around the altar of Mary Help of Christians can mark the anniversary of a birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage or death, or may be used as an expression of joy, thanksgiving, or gratitude. This year please consider donating \$10.00 per plant to our Christmas flower fund. Simply list the names of your loved ones you'd like remembered at all our Masses during the Christmas Season and return it in the collection plate or send it to Mary Help of Christians via email to parish@mhctampa.org.

The Sheets are on the table in the back of church.



Don Bosco Festival—Feb. 2, 2025

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Festival. 2nd meeting on Dec. 19th @ 7pm in the conference rm.



GIVING THANKS

Each month, you as a parish fulfills the needs of the poor and needy through your generous giving to Outreach. It is amazing the number of items that we take out each month to these folks. We are small in number, but strong in deeds. We give thanks to all of you for your generous hearts. Happy Thanksgiving and many blessings.

Weekly Gift Giving

Weekend of November 23, 2024 to November 24, 2024

Attendance	200	Envelopes	22
Mass Offertory	\$	2,361.00	
Loose Checks	\$	0	
Online Giving	\$	1,731.00	
Christmas Flowers	\$	80.00	

TOTAL \$ 4,172.00

ADVENT RETREAT DEC. 7TH

9:30AM-2:30PM

Please come join us, this is a way to prepare yourself for the Birth of Jesus.

Schedule : 9:30 Rosary

10:00 Mass

10:45 Break-coffee & donuts served

11:15 Talk by Fr Steve

12:00 Lunch & reflection time

1:30 Reconciliation & Adoration

2:30 Safe travels home

Cost: Donation –Lunch is included

Sign up in the back of church / or email @ parish@mhctampa.org by Dec. 2nd.



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NOTARY PUBLIC

Mary Help of Christians Foundation, INC.
Helping the needy is our goal!

Bill Palmisano, Executive Director
Office 813-620-1225
Cell 813-294-2894
Email bpalmisano@mhcfoundation.net

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Kathy Celeiro

Direct: 813-918-2003
Email: kathyceleiro@gmail.com

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Now is the time to join. Ask any brother for application information or email: cassidy9031@gmail.com



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Contact the Admissions Office at Admissions@cristoreytampa.org or 813-621-8300 ext. 109



MAMA MARGARET WOMEN'S GUILD

Contact Julie Fameree at Juliefam@aol.com

For information on joining the Mama Margaret Women's Guild.

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Robert Schoppman, www.brandonbodyshop.com
Parishioner, Alumnus



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH
6400 E. Chelsea Street, Tampa, FL 33610
813 626 7588
Email: Parish@mhctampa.org
Website: www.mhcptampa.org



Administered by the Salesians of St. John Bosco

Fr. Steve Dumais, S.D.B. Pastor
Fr. John Serio, S.D.B. MHC Center Director
Fr. Francis De Sales La, S.D.B. Korean Ministry
Deacon Edmond Anctil

First Sunday of Advent
December 01, 2024



Staff Directory and Ministry

Office: Pam Brewer: parish@mhctampa.org
Altar Servers/Readers: Deacon Ed: eanctil@mhctampa.org
Knights of Columbus: Cassidy Simpson: cassidy9031@gmail.com
Korean Catholic Mission: Michelle Anderson : hyonsuk67@yahoo.com
Livestream/Website: parish@mhctampa.org
Mama Margaret Guild: Julie Fameree: juliefam@aol.com
Music: Susanne Hathaway: susanne.cellist@gmail.com
Outreach: Deacon Ed, eanctil@mhctampa.org-Marge and Bob Fallon
Phone Ministry: JoAnne Johnson Parish@mhctampa.org
RCIA: Tony Marincovich: MarincovichTony@gmail.com
RCIA: Mary and Peter Gallar PGallar@tampabay.rr.com
Religious Education: Ann Marie Brummett : CRE@mhctampa.org
Young Adult: Choima Okoye, Cokoye@mchctampa.org
Youth Ministry: Steve Jarosz: sjarosz@mhctampa.org
Christmas Committee: Maggie Brown; Parish@mhctampa.org

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday
6:45am(Chapel)
12:00 Noon (Chapel)
Monday & Wednesday
7pm (Church)
Saturday Vigil
5pm-(Church)
Sunday
8am (Church)
11am (Church) *livestreamed*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Wednesday
◇ 4:00pm-6:45pm Silent Adoration
◇ 8-9pm Praise/Worship Adoration

Sacrament of Reconciliation
30 minutes prior to Weekend Masses
Korean Ministry
Sun 9:20am Mass

Contact the parish office 813 626 7588 for information Annulments, Baptisms, Weddings, Home Visits, Hospital Visits. Sacrament of the Sick or Reconciliation. We are available Mon thru Friday, from 9am to 4pm. Call for appointments.

For information on the various venues, use of the Church and any areas of our property available contact Mary Sverko at 813 297-4872

MISSION STATEMENT
Our Parish here in Tampa, FL, is a Catholic Church dedicated to the Mother of God under her title as Help of Christians, is a place of joy, worship, welcome, evangelization and reconciliation. As a Salesian Parish in the Diocese of St. Petersburg we commit ourselves to having a deep-seated preference for working with the young especially those who are poor, while striving to minister to the corporal and spiritual needs of all our members and visitors as well. We pray and work for peace, love, truth, and social justice through active stewardship and service notably with the assistance of our advocate Mary Help of Christians, and her great devotee St. John Bosco. We hope to provide an opportunity for everyone who worships with us to be transformed into people courageously living the Gospel.