For the Weekend of November 29, 2026

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 Rome.

The early Church had to deal with some extremes. Why work if the end is near? 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 St. Paul. 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 as we look back to his first coming, the incarnation, to understand what it means for us.

The Novena to the Immaculate Conception begins today and runs through December 7th. Copies of the Novena were available at the back of the Church, or at the parish office. Pray it every day.

December 5th: Parish Advent Retreat Day = - 9:30am Rosary - 10:00am Mass - 11:15am Conference - 12:15 Lunch - 1:30pm Adoration - (Reconciliation during Adoration will be available.) 2:30pm - Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

Please take the time to sign up for Parish Christmas Pot Luck Dinner on December 17th from 5:30p – 8:00p in MHC Hall. A good time will be promised for one and all.

As usual please remember to pray for Br, Georges Marquis, SDB (still in rehab) and all the Salesians in our presence here at MHC . . . especially those 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, Tom Costa, David & Rosie Gratz, Lisa Franz, Betsie Welch, Laura Munoz, Rose Gabriel, Elaine & Alan Jones, Barbara Robles, Ruth Maund, Dan & Beverly Fernandez, George Hernandez, Victor Pichardo, David Schwaller, Mary Hodge, Lauren Lynch, Rosa E. Alvarez, Georgene & Dennis Bender, Eduardo Sanchez , Mike Kelly, Victor Fernandez, Paul Gabriel, Joseph Marecki, William Villegas, Anthony Marte, Jaquelin Nunez, Liam Newcomb, MaKayla Jennings, Cheryl Christensen, Diane Desmond, Don Allen, Susana, Mckenzie, Stephanie, Mark Spencer, Michelle Simpson, Heaven Watts & her family, Juan Rangel, Choe. Rachel Curz, Trinity Maraman, Michele Eastman,
For those who have asked you to pray for them.

2026 Mass Intentions:

November 28, 2026 – December 06 , 2026

Sat, November 28, 2026, 5:00pm: +Bob Fallon req. by Maria Cloutier & Janet Richards
Sun, November 29, 2026, 8:00am +Walter Shinko req. by Chet Shinko
Sun, November 29, 2026, 11:00am: +Joseph & Dolores Anctil req. by Deacon Ed & Lorraine
Mon, November 30, 2026, 6:45am: James, John and Andrew Von Drake req. by Diana Kinnee
Mon, November 30, 7:00pm: Birthday blessings for Elisa Espinosa req. by Dean Family
Tues, December 01, 2026. 6:45am: +Barbara Livington req. by Grace Horvath
Wed, December 02, 2026, 6:45am: +Janet Martin req. by Grace Horvath
Wed, December 02, 2026, 7:00pm: +Polly Say req. by Maggie Brown
Thurs., December 03, 2026, 10:00am: Living & deceased members of the Shinko's family & friends req. by Chet Shinko
Fri. December 04, 2026, 6:45am For all grandparents' souls req. by Susanna George
Sat, December 05, 2026, 5:00pm : +Octavio Valdez & Lita Posada req. by Cynthia Spano
Sun, December 06, 2026, 8:00am: Nathaniel Doromal & family req. by Rey & Eleanor Doromal
Sun, December 06, 2026, 11:00am: +Angel Usher req, by Julie & Jody Fameree

MARGARET OCCHIENA (1788-1856)- known lovingly as "Mamma Margaret," was the mother of St. John Bosco and the quiet heart of the early Salesian work. Born in Capriglio, Italy, she was widowed at 29 and raised her sons- including young John – in faith, prayer, and hard work. In 1846, at age 58 she left her village home to join her son at the Oratory in Valdocco, Turin, where for ten years she cooked, mended, nursed and mothered the poor and abandoned boys Don Bosco gathered, turning the oratory into a true family home. She was Don



Bosco's first and foremost co-worker, bringing her motherly presence into his Preventive System of reason, religion, and loving kindness, and is remembered as a co-founder of the Salesian Family. She died at Valdocco on Nov. 25, 1856, and was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI I 2006.

November

11/29 **No Faith Formation & Adult / OCIA 9:15am / Commemoration of St John Bosco**

December

12/01 **Outreach team meeting 7pm**
12/02 **Adoration 4-7 pm Silent / Mass 7pm/ Praise & Worship 8-9pm Youth Ministry 7pm**
12/03 **Staff meeting 6:15pm / Parish Council 7pm**
12/05 **1st Sat Marian Devotions 9:30 / Advent retreat 9:30-2:30pm**
12/06 **Faith Formation & OCIA 9:15am / Adult 9:30am**
12/07 **Immaculate Conception Vigil 7pm**
12/08 **Immaculate Conception – Holy day of obligation 7pm**

Funeral for Fr James Aloysius McKenna, SDB will be on Monday November 30th at 10:30 in the church. Burial is at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clearwater Fl.
Fr Jim McKenna was a professed Salesian of Don Bosco for 55 years and a priest for 46 years, He did practical training as a teacher at Mary Help of Christians School in Tampa from 1974 to 1976. He was also the treasurer for the community in Tampa from 1990-1991. Please keep his family and the Salesian community in your prayers.

ADVENT RETREAT: Saturday December 05, 2026
Theme:
Advent Waiting: What's It all about?



Join us for a day of prayer and reflection as we explore the meaning of waiting in Advent and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.
All are welcome to attend this special day of retreat.

9:30-Rosary/ Mass
10:45-11:15 -Coffee break
11:15-12:15 – Talk by Fr Steve
12:15-1:30 – Lunch and reflection
1:30-2:30 – Adoration/Reconciliation/Benediction

Immaculate Conception



December 07, at 7pm Vigil Mass
December 8 at 7pm
Remember this is a Holy Day of Olbigation

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WED. DEC.9TH 7:30PM



Join us for our Advent Penance Service as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Christmas season.
All are welcome to attend this evening of prayer, reflection, and reconciliation.

Angel Tree is up! Take as many ornaments as you Like, then place the unwrapped gifts under the Tree or drop them at the office by December 13th.

Please no clothes or guns.

Knights of Columbus News

October
Knight of the month – Congratulations to Fr Steve Dumais, SDB
Knight Family of the month – Congratulation to Tom & Mary Lou Shersty

Knight of Columbus Chicken Dinner



Weekly Gift Giving

Weekend of November 07, 2026, to November 08, 2026
Attendance 189 Envelopes 25

Mass Offertory	**$ 2,636.00**
Loose Checks	**$ 250.00**
Online Giving	**$ 2,165.00**
Candles	**$ 36.00**

Total $ 5,087.00

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Honor or remember your loved ones this Christmas with a beautiful poinsettia.
Poinsettias will be displayed in the church throughout the Christmas season- a lovely way to honor someone special or to remember a loved one who has gone before us.



Names must be turned in to the office by Monday, December 21st. You can call at **813-626-7588** or email, **parish@mhctampa.org** or drop in the collection basket. The forms will be in the bulletin this weekend or on the table at the back of church,

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- Administrative
- Project/Program Management and more...
AUTHENTIC CADENCE
Career/Business Coaching & Support
www.authenticcadence.com

Robert Schoppman,
www.brandonbodyshop.com
Parishioner, Alumnus

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

OUTREACH Every third Week of the month meet at the basketball ct. at 8am. Have a youth that needs service hrs. this is a great way for them to earn them.

Knights of Columbus
ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL 12746
Now is the time to join. Ask any brother for application information or email: eanctl@mhctampa.org

SOUTH CEDAR REAL ESTATE
PARISHONER
MARYCHRIS DEAN
Real Estate Consultant
813.310.1193
mdean@southcedarre.com
217. S. Cedar Ave. Tampa, FL 33606
SouthCedarRE.com

DA MIHI ANIMAS
SALESIAN Cooperators

For information on how to become a cooperator, please contact Chris Yarnold at: yar-noldc7@gmail.com or call the center: 813-626-6191

HomeXpress Realty, Inc.
Realtor Kathy Celeiro
Direct: 813-918-2003
Email: kathyceleiro@gmail.com
Parishioner



MAMA MARGARET WOMENS GUILD

Contact Julie Fameree at Juliefam@aol.com

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

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MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH

6400 E. Chelsea Street, Tampa, FL 33610
813 626 7588
Email: Parish@mhctampa.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. John Jaejun Chong, S.D.B. Korean Ministry Fr. Bill Keane, S.D.B. Assisting Priest

Deacon Edmond Anctil

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026



Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday 6:45am(Chapel)
12:10 (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 on Annulments, Baptisms, Weddings, Home Visits, Hospital Visits. Sacrament of the Sick or Reconciliation. We are available Mon thru Friday, from 9am to 3pm. 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

Staff Directory and Ministry

Adult Faith Formation: Deacon Ed: eanctil@mhctampa.org
Altar Servers/Readers: Deacon Ed: eanctil@mhctampa.org
Knights of Columbus: Deacon Ed: eanctil@mhctampa.org
Korean Mission: Ok Kyung Kim or Eunmi Park: kcmt1981@gmail.com.
Livestream: See website
Mama Margaret Guild: Julie Fameree: juliefam@aol.com
Music: Susanne Hathaway: susanne.cellist@gmail.com
Office: Pam Brewer: parish@mhctampa.org
Outreach: Deacon Ed : eanctil@mhctampa.org-Marge Fallon
Phone Ministry: JoAnne Johnson:parish@mhctampa.org
OCIA: Tony Marincovich: MarincovichTony@gmail.com
OCIA: Mary and Peter Gallar: PGallar@tampabay.rr.com
Faith Formation: Alicia Newcomb : CRE@mhctampa.org
Youth Ministry: Steve Jarosz: sjarosz@mhctampa.org
Christmas Committee: Maggie Brown;parish@mhctampa.org

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.