



*Listen, my beloved son, have no fear or anxiety in your heart.
Do not try to do anything... about any... trouble of yours.
For am I not here with you, your mother?
Are you not safe in the shadow of my protection?
Am I not the source of your life and your happiness
Am I not holding you in my lap, wrapped in my arms?
What else can you possibly need? Do not be upset or distressed.*

Message of the Blessed Mother (Our Lady of Guadalupe) to Juan Diego
December 12, 1531

December 12, 2024 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of America

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's not the carols, or the decorations, or the presents, or (hard as it is to admit) the food. It's the most wonderful time of the year because we focus on Jesus Christ: Emmanuel, God with us, God Who comes to us! God, the great and all powerful King, empties Himself and comes to us with the vulnerability of a new-born child. And so we rejoice. Rejoicing, though, is not just about being happy or content, but about recognizing God's Presence in the midst of our world, even in the dark, cold night of our suffering. It was the message of our Blessed Mother to Juan Diego almost 500 years ago and it is the message of Christmas. What wondrous Love is this! I am so eager to celebrate this Love with all of you.

On the back of this letter is the schedule of Masses and services for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We've designed it that you might hang it on a bulletin board or place it on the refrigerator for easy and continued reference. Please review it and call if you have any questions. We're eager to welcome any and all who come. It may be a little crowded but, just like the family table at Christmas, there's always room for more. Included with this letter is a brief Guide for Reconciliation for those who have been away from the sacrament for a while. There's no better way to celebrate God's love than by receiving His mercy and forgiveness. Also, we've included an additional envelope for those who do not participate in electronic giving. Please remember that your generosity keeps us going. Your financial gifts to our Christmas collection, along with your regular offertory and donations allow us to share the joy of Christ with others. I know that you'll be as generous as your means allow.

As part of your Christmas preparations, please remember those who are struggling during this season: the homeless, the poor, the hungry; those hit hard by a difficult economy, the unemployed; the members of our military and all those who protect and defend us; those who are lonely, sick or fighting addiction or depression; married couples and families who face division and bitterness; those grieving the loss of a loved one. Please pray especially for these that they may know something of God's love and comfort even and especially in these difficult time. Perhaps you are among them; then, know of the prayers of our parish community.

Over these next few days, particularly for Christmas, I urge you to invite someone you know to join us as well. Perhaps they've been hurt by the Church or have simply drifted away from practicing the faith. Invite someone to come home at Christmas and join in sharing the love God has for us. With Fr. Paul, our deacons, and our whole staff, I pray that God bless you, your family, and all those you love with a peaceful Advent, a joyous Christmas and a healthy, happy, truly prosperous New Year.

Peace,

Our Lady of the Fields Roman Catholic Church

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Millersville, MD 21108
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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

DECEMBER 16, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 17, 2024
9:30am Mass 7:00pm Mass
Confessions 10:00am - 12 noon; 6:00pm –8:00pm

December 18, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass
7:00 Mass Simbang Gabi

December 19, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 20, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 21, 2024
9:30am Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2024 1:00pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass
December 22, 2024 8:00am Mass, 9:30am Mass 11:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Confessions 2:00pm –4:30pm (Last Confessions before Christmas)

December 23, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 24, 2024
No 6:00am Mass No 9:30am Mass

DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE
3:00pm- Mass (Church AND Parish Hall)
5:00pm- Mass (Church AND Parish Hall)
8:00pm- Mass (Church)

DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30am- Mass (Church)
11:30am- Mass (Church)

December 26, 2024 - Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
9:30am Mass **(No 7:00pm Mass)**

December 27, 2024 - Feast of St. John the Evangelist
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 28, 2024 - Feast of the Holy Innocents
9:30am Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

December 28, 2024 3:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass
December 29, 2024 8:00am Mass, 9:30am Mass, 11:30am Mass, 5:00pm Mass

December 30, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

December 31, 2024
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31, 2024 7:00pm Vigil Mass
January 1, 2025 **(No 6:00am Mass)** 9:30am Mass 7:00pm Mass

January 2, 2025
9:30am Mass 7:00pm Mass

January 3, 2025 - Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
6:00am Mass 9:30am Mass

*First Friday Adoration
6:30am Friday, January 3 - 9:30am Saturday, January
4 Check Bulletin for Further Details and full Schedule.*

January 4, 2025 - Feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton
9:30am Mass

Feast of the Epiphany

January 4,
2025 January
5, 2025
3:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass
8:00am Mass 9:30am Mass 11:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass

**Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24, 2024 thru Wednesday, January 1, 2025
On Monday, January 6, 2025, we return to the Regular Mass Schedule.**