ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

360 Park Ave., Cayucos, CA, 93430 | Office: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Mass Times | Sundays at 10 a.m. | Saturdays at 5 p.m. | Weekdays at 9 a.m.
Spanish Mass at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays | Rosary at 8:30 a.m. on weekdays
Adoration on First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass | Reconciliation on First Saturdays at 4 p.m.

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December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun.	**14**	+Matthew Fatooh
Mon.	**15**	+Carmelita Callejo
Tue.	**16**	St. Joseph's Parishioners
Wed.	**17**	+Zaven Adrouny
Thu.	**18**	For All People
Thu. Sp.	**18**	Las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio
Fri.	**19**	+Jan Campanella
Sat.	**20**	+Tony & Pat Bakos
Sun.	**21**	Claire Andre

MASS READINGS

Dec. 14, 2025

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10

Psalm 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10
(Isaiah 35: 4)

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Message from a Priest

Dear Parish Community,

This Sunday, the Church invites us to pause in the middle of Advent and breathe in the gift of joy. We call this Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word meaning "Rejoice." The rose candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that even as we wait, God is already near and at work.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist is in prison, and he sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" It is notable that even John, the great prophet who prepared the way for the Lord, had questions and doubts. Jesus does not respond with theories. Instead, He points to what is happening around Him: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the Good News proclaimed to them. In other words, "Look at the fruits. Look at what God is doing."

Many of us carry our own questions as we come to Mass. Some worry about health, family tensions, finances, loneliness, or the state of the world. Gaudete Sunday does not pretend that these concerns disappear. Instead, it reminds us that Christ steps into the middle of our reality. Joy in the Christian sense is not a passing feeling. It is the quiet confidence that the Lord is near, that He has not forgotten us, and that His grace is already at work, even when we do not see it clearly.

Saint James, in the second reading, invites us to "be patient until the coming of the Lord," like a farmer waiting for the precious fruit of the earth. Advent is that patient time. We prepare, pray, repent, and trust. God is working within us and in our parish, even in hidden places. Our role is to stay close to Him, walk in faith, and let our lives produce the fruits of His presence: kindness, mercy, forgiveness, service, and peace.

Here in our parish, Christ continues to come to us in the most humble way, especially in the Eucharist. On the altar, the same Jesus who healed the sick and lifted up the poor offers Himself to us through the simple symbols of bread and wine. As we receive Him, we are not only comforted; we are sent. We are sent to be signs of His joy for others, especially for those who feel forgotten or burdened in this season.

As we enter the final days of Advent, I invite you to do three simple things. First, take a moment each day to thank God for a specific sign of His goodness in your life. Second, if there is a relationship that needs reconciliation, consider making the first move. Third, set aside time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, so your heart can be prepared to welcome the Lord at Christmas.

May this Gaudete Sunday bring you a deeper joy that isn't dependent on circumstances but on the faithful presence of Christ. Let us walk together in hope as we prepare to celebrate His birth.

With prayers and gratitude,

Fr. Martel

Pray for Father Pedro

Please keep praying for Father Pedro. Send get-well cards to 360 Park Ave., Cayucos, CA, 93430, to be given to him.

Posada on Dec. 14

The Posada Celebration with a dinner, gifts for kids, and Mass is at **4 p.m. Dec. 14.** All are welcome — Spanish and English speakers alike — to this special gathering!

Food Pantry Closures

The St. Joseph's Free Food Pantry will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26 for Christmas and on Jan. 1 and 2 for New Year's.

The free pantry will reopen on **Jan. 8** after 6:30 p.m. Spanish Mass and on **Jan. 9** at 10 a.m. in the Community Room.

Homilies by Father Russ

Father Russ Brown has compiled a book of his homilies related to sacred seasons including Advent and Christmas. Copies will be available in the church with instructions folded inside on how to purchase.

Bingo Night on Dec. 17

The next Bingo Night is set for Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. Entry packs are $15, with free snacks such as chips and popcorn.

Proceeds will benefit St. Joseph's. All participants must be 18 or older, please.

Quilt Raffle Results

Congratulations to Bill Sharbrough for winning the quilt donated by the Central Coast Quilt Guild! The raffle on Dec. 7 raised $621 to be donated by the group to the parish in thanks for offering its facilities.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND INJURED

Robin Matthews
Narisorn Bognuda
Joanne Tobias
Anne & Glen Bennett
Eleanor Murphy
Vera Palmer
Frank Hlavaty
Bonnie Bowman
Donna Pett
Paul Georghiou
Mallory Hisler
Darlene Kelly
Terry Mulhall
Bill Planansky
Stan Piwowarski
Shanda Bogue
Enid Palk
Joe & Maria Pascoal
Gary & Bonnie Nelson
David Boggs
George Bellinno
Linda Pearson
Rita Marie Ayoob
Alba and Allen Beltrametti
Innette Starkenburg
L. Iacobellis Schantz
Ernie Gambellin
Cassey Schoening
Butch Rambaud
Elvira Camacho
Linton von Beroldingen
John and Mickey Bruno
Tom and Finn Israel
Father Pedro Espinoza
Joanne Gregg
Bill Wetherford
Bill Thomas
Saichai Smith
Jerri Fife
Judy Preuss
Justin White
Plato Sterios
Olivia Chance
Gary Chance
Heidi MacRae
Gertrude Cannon
Marilyn McCurdy
Eric Solum
Keith Hart
Glen Hodges
John Fabiano