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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.  
 Administrator, Saint Alexander  
 Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay



### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9am  
 Saint Alexander

Saturday Vigil at 4pm  
 (Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)  
 Saint Mary of the Bay

Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm  
 Saint Mary of the Bay

Monday-Friday 8am  
 Saint Mary of the Bay

Holy Days as Announced



### TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee  
 John Saviano, Trustee  
 Patricia Dugan, Auditor  
 John Flynn, Auditor

## Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin a new liturgical year, I'd invite you to consider the following reflection:

*We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."*

*While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come.*

*Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.*

I pray that this short but holy season of Advent will bring the grace of attentiveness, not only so that we can welcome Christ generously at Christmas, but everyday of our lives.

Until next week,

*F. Joe*

## ∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

November 27, 2022

9am: Anna Mattes

*Requested by her family*

Deceased Members of the Ranieri Family

*Requested by Jean & Jim Baxter*

December 4, 2022

9am: Nancy Threadgill

*Requested by her daughter, Alli*

## ∞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ∞



Saint Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, along with his brother, Peter, when they were called by Jesus to leave their boat and become fishers of men. John's Gospel also places him as a follower of John the Baptist before he came to be one of Jesus' twelve Disciples. Beyond the scant references in the Gospels, not much is known of Saint Andrew's life.

According to Christian tradition Saint Andrew, like many of his fellow Disciples, went out into Greece and Turkey to preach the Good News. A 4th century account of the saint's life tells of his martyrdom by crucifixion in Patras. Medieval accounts describe the cross used as X-shaped because Andrew said he was not worthy to die on the same style of cross as Jesus.

Famously, Saint Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, the country's flag bearing the X-shaped cross associated with him. Legends claim that the saint either traveled to Scotland to spread the Gospel or that his relics were brought there by St. Regulus who had a vision telling him to take the bones to the end of the earth. Regulus set out and was shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. Today relics of St. Andrew which had been held by the Vatican are now at a shrine in Patras.

## ∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/  
Mt 24:37-44

From today's First Reading:

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Is 2:4)*

Consider: **The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when all nations would unite in peace over their common belief and worship of Israel's God. What do you think a world totally at peace looks like?**

From today's Second Reading:

*It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. (Rom 13:11-12)*

Consider: **Paul taught the believers in Rome that salvation and the end of time were closely connected. Thus, he encouraged avoiding immoral behavior such as drunkenness, promiscuity, envy, or jealousy. What motivates you to live a moral life?**

From today's Gospel:

*"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Mt 24:42)*

Consider: **Jesus taught his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return to earth, so "be prepared" at all times. As we begin the season of Advent, how might you be better prepared for welcoming Jesus into your life?**

