



Come Fly with us



As we close this year, I want to give each of you and all those involved and have worked hard to grow ERCM a very special year end blessing. Christmas is not

about presents and shopping, but it is about the Love that God the Father has for us, that He gave us his only son as a simple little baby. I challenge you to invite baby Jesus into your homes and hearts. I hope to see you all at the December 20th Youth Night for a very special Christmas blessing. - Serviam-
~Fr Samy, Spiritual Director~

Advent
It's the most wonderful time of the year! We go through the holy time of Advent before we get to Christmas

What is it you say? Advent is the beginning of the Catholic Church's year. The word "advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival." Catholics celebrate not only the anniversary of Jesus' birthday but also Christ's second coming. Advent lasts for 4 weeks and this year it begins on Sunday, December 1st and lasts until December 24th. Each of the four Sundays leading to December 25th has a theme to help the faithful prepare for Christmas.

- 1st Sunday week 1 - Hope
- 2nd Sunday week 2 - Preparation
- 3rd Sunday week 3 - Joy
- 4th Sunday week 4 - Love

Pope Francis said, "Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world." Kinda sounds like our ERCM, right? Happy Advent!!

Advent Traditions and their meanings.



There are many traditions for Advent. Here are three popular ones.

The Advent Calendar carries a spiritual message of anticipation and hope. While we're counting down the days until Christmas, the calendar provides a spiritual reflection for each day. The tradition began in Germany.

The Advent wreath and candles were created by a Lutheran minister in Germany in 1839. He used a wheel and placed 20 small red candles and 4 large white candles. Red candles were lit on weekdays, white candles on Sundays. The wreath with its candles symbolizes Jesus, the Light, that broke into the darkness of this world.

OUR PRAYER

Lord, guide us to be of service to you and others. Inspire us to care for all your creation, especially the youth. Fill us with truth, hope and love in all that we do. Unite us to faithfully journey together with you, as we work to build Your Kingdom within our community.
~Serviam~

In Focus

- Celebrating Advent: A Season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace
- Youth Night Christmas Edition – December 20, 2024
- Sharing the Light of Christ This Christmas Season

Advent is a time of reflection, joy, and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us embrace the traditions of this season and carry the light of Christ in our hearts as we celebrate with family, friends, and our community



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Andrea



I love December, the chance of snow, all the lights and Christmas trees and as we prepare our hearts for baby Jesus. December is extra special to me because of the

special Feast on December 12th, Our Lady of Guadalupe or Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Here are some facts about the mother of Jesus, that appeared in Mexico City

The mother of Jesus, appeared to a humble peasant, an Aztec convert Juan Diego. A simple man who had no power to change anything. But Mary's image spoke volumes to Juan Diego and to all the people of Mexico. Her brown skin and deferential posture said that she came for both the Aztec and Spanish people. She unites the two. She wore a black belt, meaning she was pregnant. She stands on a black moon which is the Aztec symbol for Mexico. The moon is lifted by a winged angel which means that she is a heavenly creature.



In the pictographic language of the Aztecs, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe communicated that the child of her womb is true royalty, and He is more powerful and important than other gods of the Aztecs. The amazing story of Our Lady of Guadalupe continues. By 1541, just 10 years after her appearance to Juan Diego, a historian of the time wrote that 9 million people in Mexico had converted to Catholicism! In a non-bloody way, the people of an entire country were converted. They left behind their old gods, that demanded human sacrifices of men and children and discovered the truth of the Incarnation.

A few facts and truths about the image and her apparition.

-Her image as shown here, miraculously appeared on this tilma

-She made roses grow in the middle of winter

-Yes, she is pregnant when she appeared

-This image cannot be destroyed

-It is always 98.6F

-In her eyes, there is life

She is also special to me because December 12th is the day my husband and I got married in the Catholic church. I look forward to seeing all of you at the December youth night to find out more about her.

~Andrea, Chairperson~

A special year end message from our founder.



As 2024 ends and we usher in a new awakening in 2025, we reflect on the successful year that we put behind us and lay to rest.

Genesis 2:2 states that God rested on the 7th day from all his work which he had done. Hebrews 4:2 further affirms, "For good news came to us just as to them but the message did not benefit them because it did not meet the faith of the hearers." It means simply that for those who didn't 'surrender' to enter God's rest, they may indeed receive the good news, but that benefit may be lost because their faith just didn't quite match up.

Importantly, it also therefore means that despite being at 'rest', where there is perhaps a 'human loss' of productivity from our hands and mind, we continue to reap due benefits during God's rest; this is the reward of entering God's rest with faith.

Therefore, as we wind down our efforts, hopes and dreams of the year, and put work, earnings and perhaps, productivity aside for family, merriment and holidays, we must understand that it is all a necessary 'break' in our human routine, and we are entering a brief period of 'rest' - God's rest. As we boldly enter 2025 with assurance and faith, be assured that it will, therefore, only continue to reap the harvest of 2024 and just bring us much more in the year to come. Indeed, it is written in Scripture that even new wine needs to be put into a new wine skin.

We have had a great year of serving our youth with social programs, with job placement and training, with financial guidance, with prayers and spiritual direction, with the creation of a safe and welcoming atmosphere for our youth to reach out, participate, share as well as express the ways God has touched them and their ideas, while assisting other charities in our community to pave a secure working relationship with private and local community and borough initiatives.

While 2024 provided a wallop of a taste of what Eagle Rising with just a few humble people of God and a whole lot of imagination could achieve through sweat, toil and dedication, we just can't fathom what 2025 has in store for us - surely, the sky's the limit!

We do all this for God's Kingdom and for each of you reading this and those that are to come.

~Serviam~

~Vic Joseph, Founder~

Youth Corner

Last month, our youth brought the Bible to life with a moving reenactment of the story of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Through their engaging performance, we were reminded of the importance of gratitude and faith. The scene encouraged all of us to reflect on how we, too, can return to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives.



This December, join us for a special Christmas Edition Youth Night on December 20! It's going to be a night filled with joy, celebration, and the true meaning of Christmas. Bring a friend, and don't miss this festive opportunity to come together in faith and fellowship.

Let's make this season unforgettable—see you there!