



1002 L Avenue • La Grande, Oregon 97850 • 541-963-7341

COME, LORD JESUS, COME...

Dear Friends in Christ,

With Advent we start a new Liturgical Year; a new beginning with Jesus as the center of our lives. We begin preparations for Christmas, the most celebrated birthday of the One and All in the universe.

The prayer for the season is, '*Maranatha*', an Aramaic word that means '*Come, Lord Jesus, Come!*'

It is a time to reflect on this scriptural passage of the season, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" (John 3:16)

Each week a new Advent candle is lit to remind us to prepare ourselves in hope, enjoying the peace of Christ and to love God and our brethren. (Hope, Peace, Joy and Love).

During this season, the Little Babe of Bethlehem motivates us to sacrifice our ego and pride and to fill our hearts with the love of God.

It is a time to slow down from a fast-paced, materialistic lifestyle and to concentrate on personal prayer and reflection; to make sacrifices, to read and listen to the Word of God and practice His teachings in life and to make these things a daily habit.

Advent is also a time for the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Priests, which will take place on December 11th and 12th in our Diocese. It is a wonderful way to thank our many priests who have given their lives throughout the years for Christ and the People of God. I urge you to support this important and necessary collection.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Fill our hearts with the power of your love!

Fr. Saji Thomas, CMI, Pastor

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00am Mass – Our Lady of the Valley

Nativity Crib Lighting: 6:45pm – Our Lady of the Valley

Mass following Crib Lighting: 7:00pm – Our Lady of the Valley

December 14th Advent Reconciliation Service 6:45pm – Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

December 24th Christmas Eve: 4:30pm Carol Singing – Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

5:00pm Children's (Vigil) Mass – Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

****NO MIDNIGHT MASS****

December 25th Christmas Day: 8:00am Mass – Sacred Heart, Union

10:00am Mass – Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

12:30pm Mass – St. Mary's, Elgin

****NO VIGIL MASS****

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26th 8:00am – Sacred Heart, Union

10:00am – Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

12:30pm – St. Mary's, Elgin