

# ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH

December 2 - 3, 2023



Sharing the Spirit  
Together in Christ



## MASS TIMES

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Saturday: 9:00am

**NEW\*** Wednesday: 6:00pm

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am; 10:00am;  
12:00pm & 4:00pm

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. John Gannon

Associate: Fr. JP Luxbacher

Vicar: Fr. Adrian Martens  
(Sundays)

Deacon: Patrick Woo

Admin Assist: Jenn Pashula

Sacraments: Linda Hengen

Communications: Sophia Nelson

Bookkeeper: Cindy Kreutzer

Resource: Connie Raz

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Saturday  
9:30am - 4:00pm

Closed for Lunch 12pm - 1pm

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“To be Missionary Disciples”

We invite you to encounter Christ deeply in the Eucharist within a vibrant Catholic Community where you can use your gifts and talents to spread the Gospel message with joy.

**Psalm 80. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We heard in the Diocesan Renewal “**You are called, you matter, you belong**” The fact that you matter to God is something incredible. God has something to say to you today. He is with you right now. In fact, he never stops thinking about you: You really matter to Him.

Savour that truth, that reality: God, the Creator of the universe, the Redeemer of the human family, is thinking about me right now, wanting to hear the thoughts of my heart, and He has something to say to me. Take a moment to let that sink in...

This week we begin the season of **Advent**. It is a New Year in the Church’s calendar year, a time of grace. It is a time when we are ever more greatly aware that God is coming to be close to us, to save us. If God is “drawing close” to us “at every time and in every place,” then that includes now, here. He is right now drawing close to you. If God is always calling us “to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all our strength,” then that includes right now — right now He is moving within your heart, stirring you to want to know Him better. Advent is about preparing our souls to celebrate Christmas worthily, as it should be celebrated.

Fr. John



### CONFESSIONS

Tuesday - Saturday:  
8:15am - 8:45am  
Saturdays: 4:00pm - 4:45pm  
or by appointment

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office at 403.275.2240  
When prompted  
Press 2 for Pastor  
Press 3 for Associate

1100 Berkshire Blvd NW Calgary, AB T3K 3M3

Phone 403.275.2240 | Fax 403.274.3969 | [www.ascensionparish.ca](http://www.ascensionparish.ca)

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Christmas Eve, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> : 4pm, 8pm and 10pm**  
**Christmas Day, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> : 8am, 10am and 12pm**



**SACRAMENTS**

Registrations for Sacraments at Ascension Catholic Parish 2024 / 2025 will reopen on June 1, 2024.

Thank you to all the families who continue to enrich their children’s faith by living the Sacraments.

**Baptism for Infants:** Preparation for Infant Baptism involves registering your child, submitting required paperwork and a Baptism preparation class. These classes are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Your child’s Baptism will be booked after submitting the required paperwork and your participation in the class. Baptisms are celebrated Saturday at 10am and Sunday at 2pm. To register please email [baptism@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:baptism@ascensionparish.ca).

**Marriage:** By appointment, 6 months in advance. Please contact the office.

**Marriage Convalidation:** This is a ceremony for Catholics who have had a civil marriage and want their marriage recognized as a Sacramental Covenant. Please call the office to begin this process.

**Marriage Preparation:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at the Parish or through the Diocese at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/marriageprep.html>.

**Adult Confirmation:** If you are over 18 years old and have been Baptized, you can register for our Adult Confirmation Sessions. For more information contact [sacraments@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:sacraments@ascensionparish.ca)

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. For more information contact the Parish office. [office@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:office@ascensionparish.ca)

**YOUTH GROUP - METANOIA**

Those in grade 5 to university are welcome to join our youth group called Metanoia. Please visit our website [www.ascensionparish.ca](http://www.ascensionparish.ca) to register.

**Confirmation Christmas Fund Raiser**

The Confirmation candidates are creating Christmas arrangements and ornaments to sell after the week-end Masses. All the proceeds from the sales will go to the principal on our mortgage.



**RORATE MASS - 2023**

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7am** – A candle-light Rorate Mass will be celebrated as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The candle-lit Mass in Advent signifies Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.



**BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE**

Our Building Fund committee is hosting an Online 50/50 Raffle from Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Join in the fun and excitement of an online 50/50 raffle.

**Last chance to purchase your raffle tickets!! Purchase ends on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.**

Just scan the QR Code to purchase tickets, or if you want to access the website go to:

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rcb-doc-ascension>

Once again, thanks to all our parishioners for their ongoing support of our Parish initiatives.



## A CALL TO SERVICE

### MISSIONARY DISCIPLE SPOTLIGHT



Hi, I'm Daniele Penna. I have been serving as a lector for three years, a Knight of Columbus for two, and recently an organizer for That Man Is You.

I am a lector because, having an aptitude for expressive reading and recognizing that God wants us to use our talents for His glory, I want to honour the Lord by proclaiming His Word with passion. I joined the Knights because a Knight gave me a personal invitation and I saw the Knights as an opportunity to serve. Recognizing a need for Christian fellowship, I was happy to be asked by Father JP to help start the "That Man Is You" program, where I feel strengthened and supported by my fellow male parishioners to be a better husband, father and Christian.

My experience is that the more I do for others, the more serenity and fulfillment I feel myself. One of my favourite Gospel verses is, "But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me." (Luke 19:27) Jesus is loving and merciful, but He is also just. Those who oppose Him will be judged and held accountable. Jesus Christ is Lord and King.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, is the first day of Advent and the start of the new Liturgical calendar. This begins the four-week period of preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent Season focuses on reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of Christ.

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Our Parish will hold the "Simbang Gabi" or "Night Mass". Carolling will start at 6:30pm and Mass will be at 7pm. This lovely Filipino tradition allows us to join together in prayer and contemplation, as we mark the nine days leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. Everybody is encouraged to attend.

### ADVENT MISSION

Please join us for a mission talk presented by Fr. Kenneth LeBlanc.

**Tuesday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00pm: Talk | 6:30pm: Adoration**

### PENITENTIAL SERVICE

**Wednesday Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00pm: Mass | 6:30pm: Reconciliation Service**

### FINANCIAL NEWS

This weekend marks the beginning of **Advent**. Have you considered planning an act of kindness and charity for yourself and your family during this season? Catholic families often engage in traditions like having an Advent wreath, using an Advent calendar, or contributing to a favorite charity. Perhaps you could incorporate giving a little extra to your Parish each week during Advent.

We would also like to provide a financial update. As of **November 24<sup>th</sup>**, we have successfully raised **\$44,684.44** towards our 2023 Together in Action goal of **\$50,348**, leaving an amount of **\$5,663.56** to reach our target. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Angel Tree program for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is now underway. We are asking for donations of gifts or gift cards for the children, for a value of \$25 to \$30. We kindly ask that any gifts be placed under the tree by December 10<sup>th</sup> and any cash donations or gift cards be put in the donation box in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

### MASS INTENTIONS DEC 2 - 3, 2023

Dec 2	5pm	For the soul of Bernardita Salamat
Dec 2	7pm	Mass for Parishioners
Dec 3	8am	For the special intentions of Dr Zamarino Jaramillo
Dec 3	10am	For the soul of Alizah Lewis
Dec 3	12pm	For the soul of Olympio Viernes
Dec 3	4pm	Mass for Parishioners
Dec 4	9am	For the soul of Pa Lucky Daniel Ivagere
Dec 5	9am	For the souls of Joseph & Mary Sequeira
Dec 6	9am	For the soul of John Fernandes
Dec 6	6pm	For the special intentions of Andrea Griffin Family
Dec 7	9am	For the special intentions of Ehizele Okodugha
Dec 8	9am	For the soul of Cristin Garcia
Dec 9	9am	For the souls of Jonathan, Regina & Ronald Chia

## MINISTRY CONTACTS

Administrative Assistant: Jenn Pashula | [office@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:office@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Communications: Sophia Nelson | [communications@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:communications@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Volunteer Resource: Connie Raz | [resource@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:resource@ascensionparish.ca)

### SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Linda Hengen | [baptism@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:baptism@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Sacramental Preparation: Linda Hengen | [sacraments@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:sacraments@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Marriage Prep: Ferdie Gayos | [marriageprep.ascension@telus.net](mailto:marriageprep.ascension@telus.net)  
 RCIA: Rob Kehrig | [robkehrig@gmail.com](mailto:robkehrig@gmail.com)

### MINISTRIES

Parish Pastoral Council: Rodel Cenabre | [rodelcenabre@gmail.com](mailto:rodelcenabre@gmail.com)  
 Finance Council: Christina Dao | [c\\_dc\\_d@hotmail.com](mailto:c_dc_d@hotmail.com)  
 Building Fund: Mark Holland | [markholland@shaw.ca](mailto:markholland@shaw.ca)  
 Special Events Fundraising: Holly Davidson | [hollyd@telus.net](mailto:hollyd@telus.net)  
 Ex-ord. Min. of Holy Communion: Nadia Oliverio | [nadia.oliverio23@gmail.com](mailto:nadia.oliverio23@gmail.com)  
 Liturgical Ministries: Andrew Harich | [harich0307@gmail.com](mailto:harich0307@gmail.com)  
 Lectors: Andrew Harich | [harich0307@gmail.com](mailto:harich0307@gmail.com)  
 Choirs: Maryna Szojka | [music@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:music@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Sacristans: James Chuah | [jameschuah10248@gmail.com](mailto:jameschuah10248@gmail.com)  
 Ushers: Vinay Parmar | [vparmar@flyht.com](mailto:vparmar@flyht.com)  
 Greeters: Eneyo Eyo | [eneyo.eyo@gmail.com](mailto:eneyo.eyo@gmail.com)  
 Mass Participation Tracker: Flor De Souza | [flordes18@yahoo.ca](mailto:flordes18@yahoo.ca)  
 Weekday Masses: Connie Raz | [connieraz@gmail.com](mailto:connieraz@gmail.com)  
 Ascension Communication Team (ACT) | [office@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:office@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Pastoral Care: Connie Raz | [resource@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:resource@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Youth: | [youth@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:youth@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Art and Environment: Maria San Miguel | [let@shaw.ca](mailto:let@shaw.ca)  
 Altar Serving: Adewole Ajayi | [server@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:server@ascensionparish.ca)  
 RSVP: Lucy Reyes | [Lucy.reyes@me.com](mailto:Lucy.reyes@me.com)  
 Landscaping Ministry: Vinay Parmar | [vparmar@flyht.com](mailto:vparmar@flyht.com)  
 Property Management Team: Russell Todd | [property@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:property@ascensionparish.ca)  
 Vocation Chalice Coordinator: Violeta Romero | [violy1416@yahoo.com](mailto:violy1416@yahoo.com)

### LAY ASSOCIATIONS

Catholic Women's League: Sheryl Bennett | [cwl.ascension@gmail.com](mailto:cwl.ascension@gmail.com)  
 Knights of Columbus: Chris Rappel | [gk10065@kofc.ab.ca](mailto:gk10065@kofc.ab.ca)  
 Legion of Mary: Mary Shu | [mary.dp.shu@hotmail.com](mailto:mary.dp.shu@hotmail.com)  
 Regnum Christi: Eileen Coady | [calgaryregnumchristi@gmail.com](mailto:calgaryregnumchristi@gmail.com)  
 St. Vincent dePaul : Grant Dusyk | [president.ascension.ssvp@gmail.com](mailto:president.ascension.ssvp@gmail.com)  
 Ssvp: Hamper Request | 587.755.3855 | [ssvp.ascension@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.ascension@gmail.com)

### 2024 Donation Envelopes

The 2024 weekly donation envelopes are ready for pick up. They can be collected from the office during office hours. They will be available after weekend Masses on December 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the Narthex. If you no longer wish to use the donation envelopes or are unable to pick them up, please contact the Parish or email [finance@ascensionparish.ca](mailto:finance@ascensionparish.ca) as soon as possible. We are grateful for your generous financial contributions to our Parish.

### THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them in praying the nine day Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A special rosary with a slide show will be prayed before the Sunday 4pm Masses and before the daily 9am Masses through to December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Novena culminates in a feast day celebration to Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on December 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Mexican themed feast in the hall. Please join us to pray and celebrate Our Lady's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego in 1531. Vivat Jesus!

### EMAIL SCAMS AND FRAUDS

Have you received text messages, emails, or messages through Facebook messenger from someone claiming to be your Pastor or Associate Pastor and asking for money or gift cards, indicating it's an emergency? Many parishioners in the Diocese of Calgary have been targeted by this fraudulent behavior.

Don't fall for it!

- Emergency requests for cash or gift cards will never be made directly to parishioners.
- Official communication channels of the Parish or Diocese will be used for requests for assistance.
- If uncertain about a text or email, refrain from engaging and contact the Parish office immediately.
- Neither the Parish nor the Diocese will sell or give away personal information of parishioners. Verify the legitimacy of email messages by checking the sender's email address for recognition.

**Stay up to date by visiting our Social Media**

[www.facebook.com/ascensionparishcalgary](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionparishcalgary) <https://twitter.com/RCAscensionYYC> <https://www.instagram.com/ascensioncatholic/>

# ADVENT CALENDAR 2023



BRING YOUR FAMILY CLOSER IN WELCOMING JESUS!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary 	<b>9</b> 
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Sunday</b> 	<b>4</b> St. John of Damascus 	<b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe 	<b>13</b> St. Lucy 	<b>14</b> St. John of the Cross 	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> 
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday</b> 	<b>11</b> St. Damasus 	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> St. Peter Canisius 	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> St. John of Kanty 
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday</b> 	<b>18</b> 	<b>25</b> Nativity of the Lord 	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b> YOU ARE CALLED. YOU MATTER. 			

- SHOW AFFECTION**  
Express what it is you love or admire in one another
- WORK AS A TEAM**  
Grow closer through learn work and by sharing household chores
- HAVE FUN**  
Have fun as a family, be a source of joy for one another
- LISTEN**  
Listen more, and learn how to take better care of one another
- CELEBRATE**  
Celebrate Mass as a family; read, draw together, or talk with one another about stories in the Bible
- GIVE THANKS**  
Thank Jesus for daily blessings; bless one another before each new activity with the sign of the cross on the forehead
- BE OF SERVICE**  
Do something good for others as a family; help care of the poor, lonely and isolated

# Advent is Here! Jesus is coming!



Advent is here! It's time to begin preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Jesus came the first time long ago in Bethlehem. Now He comes to us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. But we celebrate Jesus' coming in a special way at Christmas time.



Advent is the time to get ready for Christmas. We get our houses ready by cleaning and decorating. We get our souls ready by cleaning out our sins when we go to confession, and by learning and thinking about Jesus.

## Here are some things that will help you get ready for Christmas:

~ Light a candle on an advent wreath when you say your prayers every day.

~ Read a book about Advent or Christmas.

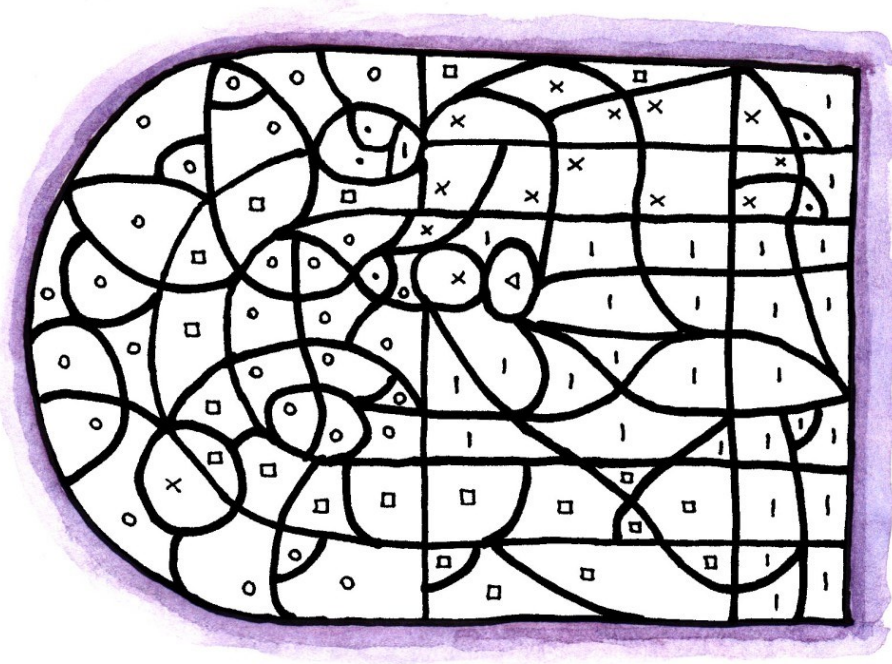
~ Go to Confession before Christmas.



~ Do nice things for people. Remember that anything you do for someone else you do for Jesus!

# The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent  
December 3rd, 2023



*In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to always be ready.  
Here's someone waiting  
for his master to return...*

*Use this code to colour the picture in:*

- DARK BLUE      ◻ GREY      - BROWN
- SKIN COLOUR      × WHITE      ▲ RED

Answers to Cross-word: Across: 1.she 5.saw 7.immaculate 10.over 11.preserve 15.pure 17.man 18.lamb 20.ready 22.am 23.original. Down: 2.hin 3.you 4.hate 5.save 6.were 8.Mary 9.love 12.soul 13.baby 14.Adam 16.Eve 18.laws 19.born 21.Anne

# SAINT JUAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 9

CUAUHTLATHUAC WAS A NATIVE OF MEXICO, BORN IN THE 1400'S. WHEN HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN, HE TOOK THE NAME JUAN DIEGO, WHICH IS 'JOHN JAMES' IN ENGLISH.



Juan Diego, I baptize you...

JUAN DIEGO WAS A HUMBLE AND SIMPLE MAN WHO LOVED GOD.



HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO MASS WHEN OUR LADY APPEARED TO HIM.



Juan Diego!

She wants a church built there.

That's nice.

SHE TOLD HIM THAT SHE WANTED A CHURCH BUILT THERE, BUT THE BISHOP DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM.



HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HER AGAIN, BUT HIS UNCLE WAS SICK...

I can't stop now - my uncle needs a priest before he dies!

Your uncle is cured.



These will help the bishop to believe you!



THEN HE SAW SPANISH ROSES GROWING THERE - IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER!

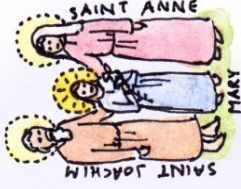
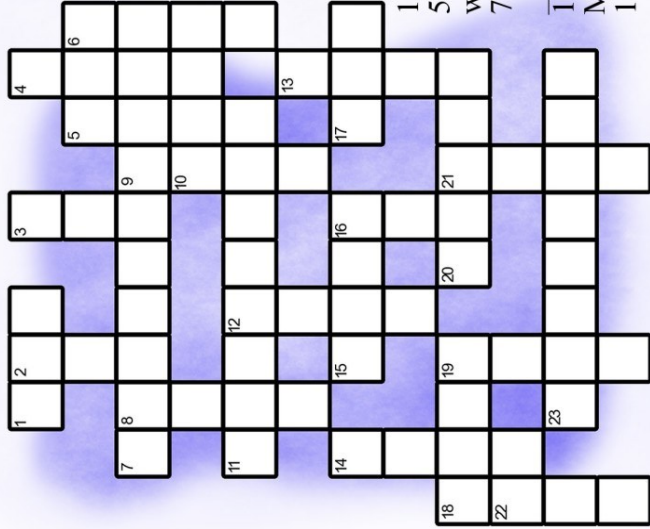
Look, Roses!

WHEN HE SHOWED THE FLOWERS IN HIS TILMA TO THE BISHOP, A PICTURE OF OUR LADY APPEARED ON IT. THE BISHOP BELIEVED HIM THEN AND HAD THE CHURCH BUILT.



SAINT JUAN DIEGO LIVED A LONG AND SIMPLE LIFE TEACHING THE FAITH. MARY CHOSE HIM, BECAUSE HE WAS HUMBLE, TO BRING HER MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT THAT TIME. WHEN THE NEW CHURCH WAS BUILT, MILLIONS OF THE PAGAN PEOPLE IN MEXICO BECAME CHRISTIANS. JUAN DIEGO DIED AT AGE 74.

# Immaculate Conception Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks to do this puzzle about Our Lady.

ACROSS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was without sin.
5. God \_\_\_\_\_ that Mary would do His will.
7. She was the \_\_\_\_\_ Conception.
10. God watched \_\_\_\_\_ Mary.
11. God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ her from sin.
15. Mary's soul was not stained- it was \_\_\_\_\_.

17. God's Son become \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  18. He is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  20. When the time was \_\_\_\_\_, the angel came to Mary.
  22. She said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ the handmaid of the Lord.
  23. She had no \_\_\_\_\_ sin, so she was always ready to obey.
- DOWN:
2. Whatever God wanted she would do for \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. She brought the Saviour into the world for \_\_\_\_\_ and me.
  4. She teaches us to love God and \_\_\_\_\_ sin, which offends Him.
  5. God had decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Mary from all sin.
  6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ God, how would you make your mother?
  8. The name of God's mother is \_\_\_\_\_.
  9. She did every single thing out of \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
  12. He had preserved her \_\_\_\_\_ from every stain of sin.
  13. Before she was even a little \_\_\_\_\_ she was chosen by God.
  14. We all have original sin because of \_\_\_\_\_.
  16. ... and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, who committed the first sins.
  18. They had chosen to disobey God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  19. Since then, every other person\* was \_\_\_\_\_ with original sin.
  21. Mary was the daughter of the holy saints, \_\_\_\_\_ and Joachim.

\* Except Saint John the Baptist, who, according to tradition, was freed from original sin - 'filled with the Holy Spirit' when his mother was greeted by Mary, who was expecting Jesus.