

CONSOLATA SHRINE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29TH NOVEMBER 2026



FIRST READING **Isaiah 63:16d-17: 64:1, 3b-8**

"O that you would rend the heavens and come down."

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from old is your name. O LORD, why do you make us err from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. O that you would tear the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence! You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet him that joyfully works righteousness, those that remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one that calls upon your



name, that bestirs himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquities. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; We are all the work of your hand.
The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16a, 18-19 (R.4)

R. O God, bring us back;
let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. ***R.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. ***R.***

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. ***R.***

SECOND READING — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

"We wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians



Brethren:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge- even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord

ALLELUIA — Psalm 85:8



Alleluia
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation,
Alleluia.



GOSPEL **Mark 13:33-37**

"Watch therefore - for you do not know when the master of the house will come."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark



At that time:
Jesus said to his disciples: "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."
The gospel of the Lord.

<u>Reflection: Watch for Him *by Scott Hahn, Ph. D*</u>

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people. Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant,

their inability to save themselves. And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love. In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8–9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11–15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

Announcements

1. Divine Mercy Group will animate the Rosary on Saturday 05th December after the 5.00pm Mass. All are welcome.
2. Consolata Shrine Justice and Peace Department (CJPD) invites all Parishioners to the Inaugural Mass for all Persons with Disabilities, today during the 11.00am Mass. CJPD is pleased to announce that we will have a Sign Language Interpreter during the Mass. All are welcome
3. Next Sunday 6th December we will have the blessing of your tithe and family. Kindly pick an envelope at the entrance of the Church.
    - Children's Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday school.

- The Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament after 1 p.m. Mass

4. The Christian Education Committee invites you to an interactive session on '***Rediscovering our identity in Marriage: becoming who we are called to be'*** on Sunday 6th December 2026, at 9.30am, at the Auditorium, Allamano Centre. All are welcome
5. We welcome you to The Consolata Shrine Christmas Concert to experience the worlds' most beloved masterpieces: '*The Handel's Messiah, featuring a Symphonic Orchestra, Choir and soloists'* on 20th December from 2.00pm at the Auditorium, Allamano Centre. Tickets are on sale at the tent outside the Church and at the Parish office during the week. All proceeds from the concert will go towards the gate project. All are welcome
6. As we prepare to celebrate the joyous Season of Christmas, we are reminded of the true meaning of this special celebration: love, kindness, generosity and sharing with those in need. Every year, Consolata Shrine spreads the cheer of Christmas to more than 100 families drawn from our Shrine and outstation, Deepsea, by distributing Christmas food packages. This year, we invite you to donate your supermarket loyalty points by using them to purchase and present gift vouchers to us. We shall use them to purchase the foodstuff. Contributions in cash and in kind are also welcome. Please visit the blue tent outside the Church for more information.
7. The construction of **New Gate and Gatehouse Project** is on - going. This project is intended to enhance the safety and security of our Parish community. We humbly appeal for your generous financial support towards our project. To pledge or contribute, kindly visit the desk in the blue tent, outside the Church, or send your contribution through The Allamano paybill

804877; Account: ***'Gate project'***. We appreciate your continued support

8. The 2027 Bible diaries are now available for sale at the Church bookshop. Please get yourself a copy.
9. We invite you to support the Sisters of the Holy Angels Novices, by purchasing Rosaries and bangles at Ksh 100 each. The proceeds will go towards the construction of their kitchen. Kindly visit their desk in the blue tent outside the Church

Wedding Banns

There is a promise of marriage between:

1. ***Christopher Mwenda Mbogo and Irene Nyambura Gitau (2nd* Announcement)**

Kindly visit the parish notice board for more information. If anyone has an objection, please notify the Father in-charge.