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*The Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2016*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:  
Thursday, December 8: A Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Thursday, December 8. This day is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics, who are not otherwise properly dispensed by their pastors, are obliged to assist at Holy Mass on this day. On Thursday, December 8 Holy Mass will be offered at the cathedral at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

On Wednesday, December 7, vigil Masses will be offered at the following places and times in anticipation of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

St. Therese Mission in Halfway: 4:00 PM

St. Anthony Mission in North Powder: 7:00 PM

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the mystery of Almighty God's infinite mercy and love for mankind, as by a singular grace, He preserved the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the stain of Original Sin from the first moment of her conception in Saint Anne's womb. On this great and holy day we celebrate all of the wonderful things God has done for us through the cooperation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, most especially, conceiving in her womb and giving birth to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On this great and holy day we thank God for rescuing mankind from the grip of Satan, death and hell through our Blessed Mother's simple, profound yes to God's saving grace.

Under her august title of the Holy and Immaculate Conception Mary is the patroness of the United States of America. As we continue to find ourselves at war, we know that we need the mercy, love and guidance of our Blessed Mother now more than ever. We need Mary's intercession for our nation and for our world that all people might one day live in the peace of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*National Night of Prayer for Life: Thursday, December 8*

Our parish will take part in the National Night of Prayer for Life, Thursday, December 8. Our participation will begin with Adoration of our Blessed Lord at 9:00 PM and end with Benediction at 10:00 PM. During the Holy Hour of Adoration 20 Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed for the specific intention of asking Almighty God to mercifully bring to an end the anti-culture of death and for the triumph of the Gospel of Life in our nation and throughout the world. The National Night of Prayer links together the patronal feast day of the United States, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, with our celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas and of the Unborn.

