NEWSLETTER

# FCC Gouda & Surroundings

*Filipino Catholic Community of Gouda & Surroundings*

**Advent & Christmas**
November 2026
Volume 1 · Issue 001

**COME & JOIN US** · Every 4th Sunday of the month, 14.00–15.00 hrs · H. Josephkerk, Aalberseplein 2, Gouda

**Our first newsletter!** This is the very first newsletter of our community! We want to keep you informed about our masses, activities and news. Do you have a story or photos to share? Please email **fcc.gouda@gmail.com**.

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

## Waiting in hope this Advent

Advent is a time of waiting, a sacred season in which the Church prepares to celebrate the birth of the Messiah and to welcome once again the light of Christ into our world. It is also a time of hope. In a world often marked by uncertainty and anxiety, Advent reminds us that hope is not naive optimism, but a deep trust in God's faithfulness, a hope that takes root even in darkness and grows silently towards the light.

As Chaplain of our Filipino-Dutch Gouda Community, I have observed that most of us are **waiting** every day: waiting for test results, for the application to become a citizen of this country, waiting for a good job and salary, waiting for relief from pain, waiting to be loved and accepted by someone, waiting for peace with a strained friend or family member. Waiting can feel heavy, passive or lonely. However, Advent offers us a different kind of waiting. It is active trust. It is lighting one small candle in a room and believing the light matters even before the dawn arrives. Hope does not mean pretending everything is fine today; it means holding space for grace, healing, and presence to break through. This light is Jesus, our Saviour, who will be coming to us. He is the source of our hope and light in the coming days.

Let us journey together this Advent season by actively attending our December 2026 liturgical celebrations in the Church.

May we have a meaningful gathering this Christmas and a fruitful New Year 2027!

**Pastor Ernest Ken G. Ombrog III, O.Carm.**
Community Chaplain

COMMUNITY NEWS

## Donation Salvation Army

Last November 1, Sunday, FCC Gouda brought the donation of Winter Items to the ' Leger des Heils' (Salvation Army). It was welcomed and accepted by Wouter Boeschoten. Wouter serves as the pastor/commissioner of the faith community of the Leger des Heils. He wants to extend his big appreciation to FCC Gouda for this contribution.



*Wouter Boeschoten at left together with Mary-Jane Streefland and Herman de Wild*

The FCC Gouda Charity Drive will have its second collection after the mass on November 22, 2026. All donations will be highly appreciated.

## Christmas party

We like to invite you all for our yearly Christmas Party. This year it will be on Sunday December 27, directly after the Mass.



CALENDAR

**22 NOV**
**Christ the King**
Holy Mass, 14.00 hrs
**Children's Bible Corner**
During the mass, for the kids
**FCC Gouda Charity Drive**
2nd collection, after the mass

**17 DEC**
**Simbang Gabi FCCR**
19.00 hrs · Basilica Liduina Singel 104, 3112 GS Schiedam

**18 DEC**
**Simbang Gabi FCCNH**
19.00 hrs · Joannes de Doper Kruisweg 1073, 2131 CT Hoofddorp

**27 DEC**
**Feast of the Holy Family**
Christmas mass, 14.00 hrs
**Children's Bible Corner**
During the mass, for the kids
**Christmas Party**
After the mass, 15:30-21:00 hrs

**24 JAN**
**Holy Mass**
14.00 hrs · After the Mass presentation Annual Report 2026
**Children's Bible Corner**
During the mass, for the kids

## Diaconal work

Baptisms and weddings can be celebrated during the 4th Sunday mass. The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is offered before the mass. Know someone who is ill or grieving? Let us know and we will visit and pray with them.


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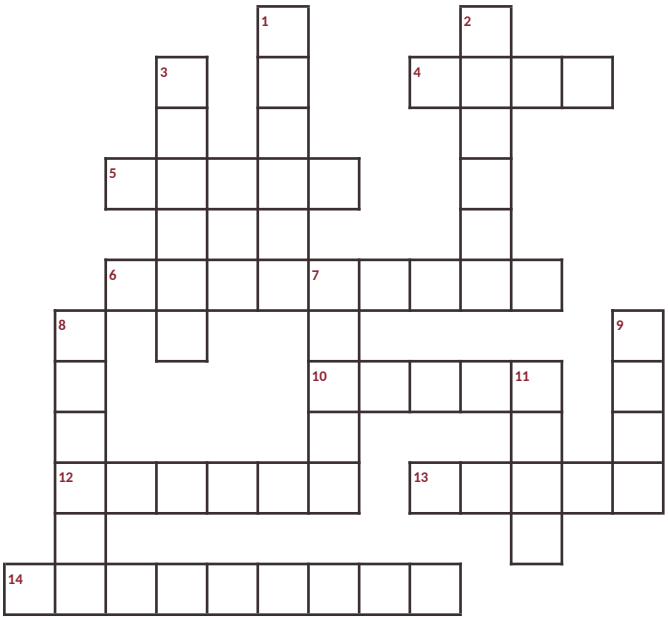
CROSSWORD

# The Advent crossword

All the answers have to do with Advent and Christmas. Fill in the grid, one letter in each box.



### ACROSS

**4** Mother of Jesus (4)
**5** Gabriel was one (5)
**6** Town where Jesus was born (9)
**10** Gold, frankincense and myrrh (5)
**12** The four weeks before Christmas (6)
**13** '... on earth', sang the angels (5)
**14** They watched their flocks by night (9)

### DOWN

**1** Husband of Mary, a carpenter (6)
**2** We light one more on the wreath each Sunday (6)
**3** Baby Jesus was laid in a ... (6)
**7** Jesus is the ... of the world (5)
**8** Round ring of greens with four candles (6)
**9** Advent is a season of ... (4)
**11** It guided the Wise Men (4)

*The answers will be in the next newsletter.*

FOR THE KIDS

# Colour the Advent wreath!

Every Sunday of Advent we light one more candle. Which candle will you light this week? Colour the wreath, the candles and the stars, and bring your drawing to the mass!



**Would you like a bigger version? Ask for the large A4 colouring page at the mass on Sunday!**

DONATIONS

# Support our work

Would you like to support the work of FCC Gouda? Every gift is warmly welcome. You can transfer your donation to:

**Filipijnse Katholieke Gemeenschap Gouda**
**NL62 INGB 0000 7003 11**

Or scan the QR code with your phone (or tap here).

FCC Gouda is a registered ANBI (RSIN 857067539), so your donation is tax-deductible for Dutch income tax, under the rules of the Belastingdienst. Thank you!

# Our board

**Mary Jane Streefland** · Chairwoman
**Herman de Wild** · Chairman
**Susan Horn** · Secretary
**Hans Oosterwijk** · Treasurer
**Marlyn Rontal** · Auditor
**Nnamdi Blessing Ogochukwu** · PRO
**Irene Hameete** · PRO
**Fr Ernest Ken Ombrog** · Chaplain

BIRTH DAY CALENDAR

**November** · *Happy birthday!*

**1** Esmee Schuurhuis
**3** Theo Hameete, Lennard Horn
**6** Bjorn van Ginkel
**9** Amor van Os, Margie Zwanenburg
**11** Geraldine Roemburg, Goud Ezugutu
**13** Henk Boswinkel Sr, Alex van Rhijn, Wilma Mostard, Beverly Maloloy-on
**17** Marivic Alapag
**18** Lyron Santiago
**20** Ton Lich
**21** Jaimy van Os
**22** Elbert Hartman, Daphne Streefland
**28** Sarinah Kerkhoeven, Piet Hoogendoorn
**30** Djerico Binnendijk

**Wedding anniversary**

**9** Carlos & Lea Kramer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