



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

The Second Sunday
of the
Season of Advent

December 6, 2015

Grant us your salvation, Lord!

Guest Column

Are We Ready for the Lord?

One of the most memorable questions I have ever been asked came out of a conversation with a spiritual director. During my marriage-preparation retreat, he asked about the upcoming wedding. I told him about all the preparations and how I felt like I was on top of things. He gently said, “I know you are prepared, but are you ready?”

It was the first time I really thought about the difference. We were certainly prepared. The flowers had been ordered, the ceremony set, and the caterer knew exactly what we wanted. We were in control. But being ready for the great unknown of marriage, a lifelong vocation, was another thing altogether. Being ready suggested that we won’t always be in control and that, no matter what happens, we were in it for life and would face whatever comes together.

The prophet Isaiah describes John the Baptist as the one who prepares the way of the Lord. He will do this by preaching to and baptizing those who come to him. The preparation for the coming Messiah is in his hands. He poses the question, “Are you ready for the one who is to come?”

Thinking beyond our religious practices and Christmas preparations, what does that really mean for us? Maybe this year it means looking into our own hearts for the longing for Christ. Perhaps we will make a room for him in our busy lives and our busier thoughts. We might even stop our preparations long enough to remember just who is coming and invite him in. Are you ready?

– Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Mass for the Intentions Week

December 5 – 12, 2015

	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Dec. 5	5 p.m. Severo Bonomi †	Mary Aldal
Sunday, Dec. 6	8 a.m. Roger Barce †	Alice Barce & Family
	9:30 a.m. Woo & Dong Families †	Nancy & John Woo
	11 a.m. Laverne Parrish †	Mary Asuncion
	12:30 p.m. Eugenio Artiaga †	Reyline Artiaga
	6 p.m. Mary Ann Pinguelo †	Jose Pinguelo
Monday, Dec. 7	8 a.m. Mary Huang †	Huang Family
Tuesday, Dec. 8	8 a.m. Fr. Mario Matteucci †	Gina Lencioni
	7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving	Victoria Tannady
Wednesday, Dec. 9	8 a.m. Bernardino & Gorgonia Juat †	Juat Family
Thursday, Dec. 10	10 a.m. Louise Dellaflora †	Sandra Dellaflora
Friday, Dec. 11	8 a.m. Aladina Matteucci †	Gina Lencioni
Saturday, Dec. 12	8 a.m. Luis Torres †	Ann Torres
	5 p.m. Johnny Sia †	Myrna Panganiban

Stewardship

Dec. 21-22 Envelopes & EFT (125)	\$5,384
Loose Donations	<u>1,426</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$6,810
Campaign for Human Development	\$756
Dec. 28-29 Envelopes & EFT (104)	\$3,071
Loose Donations	<u>1,133</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$4,204
Parish Charities	\$1,576

Tuesday, Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception

Next Weekend: Christmas Flowers

Please remember St. John's in your will.

Message of Stewardship

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"



Zaniyah Catalan



Virginia Kennedy
Mercedes Vincent
Helene Wulbern

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Crisostomo & Virginia Alday, Jade Austin, Evelyn Baker, Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Barbara Brendlinger, Robert Britto, Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Jennette Cleadenger, Betty Cooper, Ernesto P. Cruz, Pablo de la Vega, Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas, Philomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan, Donna Heuken, Frances, Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Helen Holloway, Tamaya Hunt, Pat Jeffrey, Ann Jones, Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Marian & Michael Luoma, Angiolina Martini, Nancy McVey, Philip Moore, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Victoria Payless, Javier Ramos, Linda Schneider, Salvador Tejero, James Vaughn, Sarah Vidal, Jan Williamson, Masaru Yokoi.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

Special Guadalupe Mass



We will conduct a special bilingual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, at 12:30 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 13, at St. John's.

A reception will follow in the Conference Room.

All are welcome.

SVDP Christmas Toy Drive

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is registering parishioners to adopt one or more children for Christmas toy requests (one per child).

We have 170 requests and we need your help! Members will be outside the side entrance of the church this weekend and Dec. 5-6 to sign you up and provide information. Wrapped toys with the information slip for each attached are due the weekend of Dec. 12-13.

Celebrate the Advent season by helping our young neighbors in need!

The Catholic Church Today

What are the major trends in faith today? How are cultural patterns challenging faith? What does this mean for the future of faith?

Join Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries, for this important presentation about the Catholic faith and the internal and external forces that are shaping the Church today and into the future.

The Catholic Church Today: Where We Are and Where We Are Going will be presented at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish, 2700 Dwight Way in Berkeley.

Concerts at Cathedral

As the holidays approach, the Cathedral of Christ the Light will be filled with Christmas music. See ctlcathedral.org/calendar for details.

- 8:15 p.m. Dec. 12 – A Chanticleer Christmas Concert
- 5:30 p.m. Dec. 13 – Advent Lessons and Carols,
- 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 – S.F. Boys Chorus

Words from Laudato Si' (Excerpt from Pope's Encyclical)

Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. – (§23)

Solidarity With Refugees

In the wake of the tragic events in Paris on Nov. 13, Catholic Charities of the East Bay urges the community to stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of Syrians and others displaced by the violence in their homeland.

While this is a complex issue, we urge our community to avoid the impulse to blame all refugees for the actions of terrorist organizations.

They, too, are victims of violence and persecution and seek a place of safety and freedom. Instead, let us stand firm and serve the marginalized, just as we pray for continued healing and safety in our communities.

Teacher Excellence Awards

Help honor a great teacher in West Contra Costa County.

The Ed Fund is looking for public school teachers who inspire growth mindset, active learning and college and career readiness. Winners will receive a \$500 cash award.

Nomination forms are due by Friday, Dec. 18, at www.edfundwest.org/nominate. Robert Bunce at Robert@edfundwest.org or 233-1464 ext. 104.

St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys Ave., corner of Lexington

Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850

Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Dec.8: Dina McFarlane

Development Director of ARF

12:30 p.m.: Lunch

St. John's Opens Year of Mercy Tuesday, Dec. 8

St. John's will open the Year of Mercy next Tuesday, Dec. 8, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, Benediction and a special evening Mass.

The monstrance will be brought in procession from the Divine Mercy Chapel to the church following the 8 a.m. Mass, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar all day.

Everyone is urged to make use of this special opportunity to spend time with Jesus. To make sure we have coverage, individuals, families and groups are invited to sign up for an hour with Richard Keller (*Richard@sjtbc.us* or 734-1268).

In addition, Fr. Thuong will hear confessions from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 6:45 p.m.

At 7 p.m., we will have Benediction. The



monstrance will then be returned to the adoration chapel, and we will conclude with Mass at 7:30 p.m. on this holy day of obligation.

The Holy Year of Mercy was proclaimed by Pope Francis to help us become more effective witnesses of God's mercy. It will start on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the 50th anniversary of the start of Vatican II.

We will have a communal penance service at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11.

At 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, Bishop Michael Barber will celebrate Mass at Christ the Light Cathedral, inaugurating the Jubilee of Mercy.

That same day, he will open the Holy Door at the cathedral. It will remain open for pilgrims throughout the year.

Year of Mercy Enrichment

Margaret Turek, director of faith formation and evangelization for our diocese, and Patti Collyer, coordinator of faith formation for children and youth, will give a series of presentations in connection with the Year of Mercy.

This is being held as a deanery event by all the seven parishes in our deanery (including St. John's). The talks will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the St. Callistus Parish Hall in El Sobrante.

- Monday, Dec. 7 – *Spirituality of the Year of Mercy*
- Monday, Dec. 14 – *Merciful Like the Father*
- Tuesday, Dec. 15 – *Prayer as a Path to Mercy*

Please make use of this great opportunity to receive the grace of Mercy from our loving Father.

Simbang Gabi at St. John's

Once again, we will conduct our Christmas novena in the Filipino tradition. We are now accepting sponsors' names for this celebration. Please call Bernie Juat at 610-4702.

Masses will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 through 23, except 5 Saturday (19th) and 6 Sunday (20th).

Year of Mercy Website

For the Jubilee of Mercy, the Oakland Diocese has created a website devoted to the events and resources that share the tenderness and mercy of God.

The website features a calendar of events, theological and spiritual resources, and the Mercy Project video series, which captures inspiring video testimonials that highlight ways in which the faithful in our parishes are engaged in spiritual and corporal Works of Mercy.

See visit jubileeofmercy-eb.org.

Workshop on Holiday Blues

The holidays can be a painful time for those who have lost loved ones.

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services will host a grief workshop to help those who may need support during the holiday season, regardless of religious orientation. No registration is required.

The session, titled *Facing Holiday Blues with a Broken Heart*, will be conducted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19, at Cooper Chapel, 1580 Fruitvale Ave. in Oakland.

For further details, call 533-4114 .

Help Renew Our Church – Join One of Our Ministries

Pastoral Ministries

Finance Committee
Bruce Hartman 232-6280

Pastoral Council
Lea Aguilar 741-7415

Stewardship Committee
William Saner 237-6473
Sharon Ewen 412-9761

Church Ministries

Church Cleanup
Noreen Shaughnessy 235-6640

Office Volunteers
Art De Leon 232-5659

Church Decorators
Olivia Wong 233-1088

Church Linen
Corinne Drymon 417-6999

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers
Frances Renty Williams 384-8203

Ministers of Holy Communion
Tom Kennedy 501-3956

Ministry to the Sick
Diane Marin 237-3728

Lectors
Mer Engalla 669-9204

Liturgy Committee
Richard Keller 234-1754

11 o'clock Mass Choir
Andy Gutierrez 703-1076

Multi-Cultural Choir (12:30 Mass)
Ligia Britto 525-9066

Saturday Vigil (5 p.m.) Mass Choir
Marissa Bautista 502-5076

Youth Choir (9:30 a.m. Mass)
Andy Gutierrez 703-1076

Ushers
Geraldine Judt 233-1960

Ministries of Community Spirit

African American Committee
Barbarella Magloire 669-0177

Brazilian Community
Jose Freitas 232-4328

Lunar New Year Celebration
Olivia Wong 233-1088

Our Lady of Guadalupe Committee
Frances and Everado Martin 234-3152

San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila Group
Bernie Juat Jr. 526-5828

Young Ladies Institute
Ruth Vietti 235-7552

Religious Education Ministries

Adult Initiation (RCIA)
Christine Hickey 236-5872
John Houghton 526-1401
Richard Keller 234-1754

Baptism Preparation
Linda Crittendon 799-5374

Children's Religious Education
Lynne Castro-Evans 501-4894

Confirmation & Youth Ministry
Gina DeLaTorre 815-0050

Scripture Study
Richard Keller 234-1754

Vacation Bible Day Camp
Pam Vincent 507-8694

Ministries of Spiritual Growth

Morning Prayer (7:40 a.m.)
Tom Kennedy 501-3956

Ministries of Service

Natural Family Planning
Ron & Andrea Gronsky 526-5041

GRIP Souper Center
First Wed.: Margaret Doherty 233-2515
Third Sunday: Kathleen Keller 234-1754
Fifth Friday: Geraldine Judt 233-1960

GRIP Shelter & Harmony Hunger Walk
Joe Orr 237-5568

St. John's Seniors
Jan Duckart 527-3808

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Patrick Moran 323-5962