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The First Sunday
of the
Season of Advent

November 29, 2015

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Guest Column

Are We Willing To Be Changed by God?

We begin this Church year as we left the last one – with a description of the signs that will come before Christ appears. But where Mark warns of the coming judgment for the enemies of God, Luke, with great subtlety, shifts the nuance so that people will hear the hope of salvation. “Stand erect and raise your head,” he calls out.

At the end of the Church year, we meditate on Christ’s coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the beginning, we remember the Incarnation: God’s emptying himself to become fully human and to come into the world. Both events are heralded by and will mean great change for us and for the world.

Change happens when God breaks into the world, regardless of the time. In account after account in the Bible, we watch as God visits people and changes their names (Abraham and Peter), their lives (Jeremiah, the apostles, the woman at the well), and heals their separation and brokenness (the blind man, the paralytic, and Lazarus). Also, sinners are punished (Dives and Jezebel) and landscapes are altered (Isaiah’s vision of valleys lifted up and mountains laid low).

This saving action continues throughout history, especially within the Church and among the saints. Advent is a time to remember that Christ came to change the world and each of us. Have we allowed ourselves to be changed? Are we willing to be shaped by the hand of God, called by a different name, and given a place in Christ’s mission? Let’s hope so because, ready or not, here he comes.

– Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Mass  *for the Intentions Week*

Nov. 28 – Dec. 5, 2015

	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Nov. 28	5 p.m. Harvey Aldal †	Mary Aldal
Sunday, Nov. 29	8 a.m. P.J. Palumbo †	Margaret Palumbo
	9:30 a.m. Tokotu'u Lasalo †	Tongan Community
	11 a.m. Mary Huang †	Huang Family
	12:30 p.m. Pedro Leoligao †	Reyline Artiaga
	6 p.m. St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
Monday, Nov. 30	8 a.m. Russ Blair †	Blair Family
Tuesday, Dec. 1	8 a.m. Antonio A. Carrico †	Delcina Mota
Wednesday, Dec. 2	8 a.m. Luis Torres †	Ann Torres
Thursday, Dec. 3	10 a.m. Jose & Maria Ferreros †	Menci & Family
Friday, Dec. 4	8 a.m. Nenita Lopez †	Estela Manila
Saturday, Dec. 5	8 a.m. Gregorio & Petrona Atienza †	Asuncion Family
	5 p.m. Severo Bonomi †	Mary Aldal

Stewardship

The collections for Nov. 21-22 and Nov. 28-29 will be reported in the Dec. 6 bulletin.

Next Weekend: Parish & School Development

Please remember St. John's in your will.

A Thought To Live By

I shall pass through this world but once.

Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Message of Stewardship

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

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, Helene Wulbern.

Food Collection Next Sunday

Our monthly First Sunday Empty Basket Collection for the poor will be next Sunday, Dec. 6.

Please bring canned or dry food and put it in the basket near the announcement stand.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.



Margaret Gonzalez

Special Upcoming Services

Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception
Masses at 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Adoration 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Confessions 11 to 1 and 5 to 6:45
Benediction 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11 –
Communal Penance Service
7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15-23 – Simbang Gabi
Christmas Novena
Mass at 7 p.m.,
except Dec. 19 (5 p.m.) & 20 (6 p.m.),
followed by a light meal

Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. – Christmas Concert
5 p.m. – Mass with Presentation
8:30 p.m. – Christmas Concert
9 p.m. – Mass

Friday, Dec. 25 – Christmas
Masses at 8 and 10 a.m.
Brazilian Mass at 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 1 – Mary, Mother of God
Masses at 8 and 10 a.m.

First Saturday Services

With next Saturday being the first Saturday,
we will have:

- Anointing of the Sick after the 8 a.m. Mass
- A Charismatic Praise & Worship service starting at 7 p.m., followed by a reception.

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. 1: El Cerrito Council Member
Janet Abelson:

“Affordable Housing for Seniors in El Cerrito”

12:30 p.m.: Lunch, followed by Bingo

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

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life.

A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. – (§23)

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!

More Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed for all Masses at St. John's.

You can continue coming to your Mass of choice. Join a fellowship of current ushers and be part of a very rewarding ministry.

Men and women are invited. For details, please contact Geraldine Judt, at 233-1960.

Recruiting Altar Servers

We are looking for more altar servers. We welcome youths, starting in the fourth grade and up, who have made their First Communion. This is a wonderful learning experience for the young members of our parish.

Frances Renty Williams 384-8203, Lota Bautista 928-4861

Confessions Added to Dec. 8 Adoration Schedule

St. John's will open the Year of Mercy on Tuesday, Dec. 8, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 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.

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 the 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 at St. Callistus Church in El Sobrante in connection with the Year of Mercy proclaimed by our Holy Father.

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.

- 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 Saturday (19th) and Sunday (20th).

Year of Mercy Website

In preparation for the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy, the Oakland Diocese's Jubilee of Mercy east Bay Committee has created a website devoted to the events and resources meant to share and express the tenderness and mercy of God.

The website will feature 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. For any updates about the Jubilee of Mercy, visit jubileeofmercy-eb.org.

Retreat in Spanish

A retreat in Spanish about God and Mary's love in our lives will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Community Center.

The theme is *Love Changes Our Lives*

There will be two sessions and one class:

1. The love of God the Father.
2. Mary teaches us how to love.

The class will be on the Five Languages of Love.

Donation is \$10 to \$15 per person, lunch included. Questions: Rosa Walle at 672-5536

December 2015

CC – Community Center CC-2 – Community Center Upstairs CH – Church CR – Conference Room DR – Dining Room MR – Music Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 7 pm: Brazilian reception (CR)	30 <i>St. Andrew</i> 7:30: Brazilian prayers (CR)	1 9 am: Seniors (CC) 6:30: Charismatic Choir rehearsal (CH) 7 pm: SVDP (CR) 7:30 pm: RCIA (CC)	2 8:30: Perpetual Help (CH) 6:30: 8 am Choir (MR) 7 pm: YM/Confirmation 7:30: Scripture Study (CR) 7:45: Youth Instruments	3 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 12:30 Choir (MR) 7:30: <i>Laudato Si'</i> (CR) 7:45: 11 am Choir (CH)	4 8:30 am: Benediction 9:30: School Liturgy	5 8:30: Anointing of Sick 9:30: Pastoral Council 10 am: SVDP Pantry 10:30: Youth Choir (MR) 4 pm: Confessions 7 pm: Charismatic 9 pm: Reception
6 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9-3: Spanish Retreat (CC) 10:30: CRE classes 7 pm: Brazilians (CR)	8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i> 9 am: Seniors (CC) 9 am-7 pm: Adoration 7 pm: Benediction 7:30: Mass	9 8:30: Perpetual Help (CH) 12: Women's Covenant 6:30: 8 am Choir (MR) 7 pm: YM/Confirmation 7:30: Scripture Study (CR) 7:45: Youth Instruments	10 10 am: EC Royale Mass 7:30: <i>Laudato Si'</i> (CR) 7:30: 12:30 Choir (MR) 7:45: 11 am Choir (CH)	11 7:30: Penance Service	12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 9:30: Liturgy Mtg (CR) 10:30 Youth choir (MR) 4: Confessions (CH)	
13 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30: CRE Party (CC) 12: RCIA Pot Luck (CC) 12: Secular Carmelites 12:30: Guadalupe Mass & Reception (CR) 7 pm: Brazilians (CR)	15 9 am: Seniors (CC) 7 pm: Simbang Gabi 7 pm: SVDP 7:30: RCIA (CC) 7:45: 11 am Choir	16 8:30: Perpetual Help (CH) 12: Women's Covenant 6:30: 8 am Choir (MR) 7 pm: YM/Confirmation 7 pm: Simbang Gabi 7:45: Youth Instruments	17 7 pm: Simbang Gabi 7:30: 12:30 Choir (MR)	18 7 pm: Simbang Gabi	19 9: Finance Cmte (CR) 9-12: Opus Dei (Chapel) 10: SVDP Pantry 10:30: Youth Choir (MR) 4 pm: Confessions (CH) 4: Tongan Pot Luck (CC) 5 pm: Simbang Gabi	
20 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30: CRE Practice (CC) 6 pm: Simbang Gabi 7 pm: Brazilians (CR)	22 7 pm: Simbang Gabi 7:30 pm: Brazilian Choir 8 pm: Christmas practice	23 8:30: Perpetual Help (CH) 4: Youth Choir practice 7 pm: Simbang Gabi 7 pm: YM/Confirmation	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 2: CRE rehearsal (CH) 4:30 pm: Concert 5 pm: Mass 8:30: Concert 9 pm: Mass	25 <i>Christmas</i> 8 am: Mass 10 am: Mass 6 pm: Brazilian Mass	26 <i>St. Stephen</i> 4: Confessions (CH)	
27 <i>Holy Family</i> 7 pm: Brazilians (CR)	28 <i>Holy Innocents</i> 7:30: Brazilian prayers (CR)	30 8:30: Perpetual Help (CH) 7 pm: YM/Confirmation	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Mary, Mother of God 8 am: Mass 8:30: Benediction 10 am: Mass 7:30: Brazilian Prayers	2 9:30: Pastoral Council 10: SVDP Pantry 4: Confessions (CH) 7 pm: Charismatic 9 pm: Reception	