



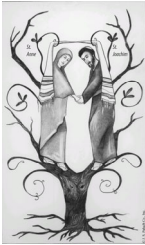
MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

December 8 - December 14

Mon.	6:30	Pietro Caturegli †
	8:30	Alex O'Neill (L)
	7:00	Giuseppe Natucci †
Tues.	8:30	Omari Mason †
Wed.	8:30	Mary Rozzano †
Thurs.	8:30	Bruno Cavaleri †
Fri.	6:30	Susie Caturegli †
	8:30	Norma Figone †
Sat.	8:30	Peter Quartaroli †
	5:00	Lou Romanello †
Sun.	5:00	Irene Maillard †

Rest in Peace

Ed Orr, Eugene Moriarity & Liana E. Giannelli Yates



Monday, December 8th is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** and a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 6:30, 8:30, 10:30am (School Mass) and 7:00pm.

Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is the patroness of the United States.

Sick Relatives and Friends

Please remember in your prayers: Isabel Lara, John Meany, Barbara Peters, Solly Catiis, Stan Mitchell, Yolanda Plut, Carmella Chellemi, Carmen Esquivel, Jim Mason, and Louise DeBarbrie.

Are you are ill or homebound? Would you like members of the parish to pray for you? Do you know of someone who is, and would like to receive the Eucharist? Contact Kathy Fagliano at 591-7349 ext. 28.

Sacramental Giving

Thanksgiving Offering for St. Francis ~ \$1,293
 Offertory Collection ~ \$10,190.50
 St. Vincent de Paul ~ \$6,011

Thank-you!

This weekend's special collection will benefit parish education.

We'd like thank all of you in the parish and at St. Charles School who helped make our annual St. Vincent de Paul Turkey drive for St. Matthew's successful once again. From donations of turkeys (80) and canned goods, to contributions of cash approximately \$1,500), we were able to feed 112 needy families. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness during this holiday season.

Your St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Stewardship by the Book: *John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US Bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live - the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."*

Santa Claus is Coming to St. Charles TODAY!

20TH Annual "Breakfast with Santa"
December 7, 2008 ~ 8:00am to 11:30am
in Borromeo Hall

Please join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the St. Charles Parish community at our annual pancake breakfast this Sunday. Catch the delight in the children's eyes as they have their photo taken with Santa or enjoy balloon twisting and coloring. Don't miss your chance to win one of the many prizes in our raffle (need not be present to win!). Prizes include SJ Sharks Tickets, \$150 Sundance Steak House Gift Certificate, John Bentley Gift Card, Wii Games Package, Avant Gard Gift Certificates, Wine baskets, Christmas Ornament and Book baskets, and Southern Living Products.

Tickets are available at the door!

Breakfast: \$7 per adult and \$5 per child
Raffle: \$1 per single ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.

Faith Formation

K-5th Grade: Classes will resume Sunday, January 11th beginning our second trimester. Enjoy the holidays!

St. Charles welcomes its newest members through the waters of Baptism:

Sullivan McDonald Cremer, Mathew Jonathon Silipin, Makaelyn Grace Kilgariff & Landon Kwang Kilgariff

Greg Walton in Concert at St. Charles, Friday, January 9, at 7 pm in the Church. Greg is a contemporary Catholic musician coming from Nashville to lead our Confirmation retreat, but first he's going to treat the whole parish community to a special concert. For more information on Greg and to hear samples of his music, go to <http://www.gregwalton.com>. Bring a friend! **Let's pack the house!**

This Christmas season, your St. Vincent de Paul Conference in conjunction with the San Carlos Rotary, is providing an opportunity for our parish to help meet the needs of struggling families and individuals residing in San Carlos. We are also helping the **St. Francis of Assisi St. Vincent de Paul conference** and the **Homeless Help Center**. Until December 14th, a **Christmas Gift Tree** bearing ornaments with gift requests for these families and individuals is available in the church vestibule for selection. Simply select a paper ornament with the requested gift item noted on it, purchase the gift and **return** it to the vestibule by **December 14, 2008**. For your convenience, written instructions are available in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas giving an opportunity to provide to those in need. Truly, in giving we do receive.

Merry Christmas from your St. Vincent de Paul Conference



The Environment Committee has been working for some time on plans for the Christmas season. We have purchased all the items that we will need for decorating the church and school auditorium and we are ready to go to work! We hope you will take the time to enjoy some of the changes we will be making. The Christmas flower envelopes will be available on all the small tables around the church. Any contribution you can make will be much appreciated.

The Environment Committee

Calling all Former Children's Choir Members:

Come sing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Did you ever sing in the Children's Choir? Would you like to sing with us at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve? This would involve **one rehearsal on Monday December 22 at 7:00 pm** in the Church and you would need to get to Mass @3:00 on Christmas Eve. Interested? Let Claire know you are coming at 591-7349 x32 or email at CGiovanetti@stcharlesparish.org.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Christmas Concert on December 19 at 7:30pm in the Church. Come and enjoy the adults and children as we celebrate the season with joyful noise!

ST. CHARLES 16TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT (Feb. 20-22)

Good News! We have a few double rooms available for the 2009 Women's Retreat. Linda Schubert, will be our guest speaker on the **Fruits of the Holy Spirit**. We offer parishioners as the opportunity to sign up first before we open registration to other women on January 1st. Registration Forms are available in the bookrack at the back of the Church. For more information, contact Lorie Boris (593-7339).

Junípero Serra High School An entrance exam will be given on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 8:30am to 11:50am. Applications for next Fall's freshman class are currently available on the school's website at www.serrahs.com. Junípero Serra High School is located at 451 West 20th Avenue in San Mateo.

VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER

December 31st—January 1, 2009

New Year's Eve Retreat! Welcoming in the New Year

Join us for our annual New Year's Eve retreat. Together we will remember and give thanks for the graces experienced in 2008. Looking ahead, we will reflect on the call, the plan and the promise of new beginnings. *Father Patrick LaBelle, O.P*

Please call (650) 325-5614 or visit our website at www.vallombrosa.org for information and to register for the above event.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

December 8 Monday

Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

6:30, 8:30am & 7:00pm Mass

December 12 Friday

Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 & 8:30am Mass

December 15 Monday

12:30pm School Advent Sing in Church

December 19 Friday

7:30pm 7th Annual Christmas Concert in Church

(Children and Adults)

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

4:00pm Family Mass in Church

**4:00pm Mass in St. Charles School Gym

7:30 & 10:00pm Mass in Church

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Mass at 8:30 & 10:30am

(No evening Mass)

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1

8:30am Mass

***We will be offering two Masses at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, as this is such a convenient/popular time for many parishioners. Please note that there will be extra parking in the upper school yard as well as the lower school yard.*

Getting Through the Holidays

For those who have lost a loved one, the holidays can be difficult. St. Pius Grief Ministry is offering a "Getting Through the Holidays" workshop, December 8th and 15th, 7:00pm, at the Parish Center. Presenters are Rich and Rita Morton and Sr. Suzanne Lassagne, RSCJ. For more information contact Grief Ministry at 650-361-0655 or e-mail grief_help@hotmail.com St. Pius is located at 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City.

MARRIED COUPLES, WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. It's the best gift you'll ever give to each other. Call Paul & Yvonne at 650-366-7093 or go to Sf.lovemoredeeply.org. Next weekend: May 1-3, San Mateo.

SEPARATED, DIVORCED & WIDOWED CATHOLICS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – Please join the **Divorced and Separated Catholics of the Archdiocese of San Francisco** as they celebrate the Christmas season with a potluck dinner and sing-a-long. On Saturday, December 20, 2008 at St. Dominic's Church, lower level, Bush and Steiner Streets in San Francisco, we will have a social hour starting at 6:30pm, followed by a potluck dinner. Please call for more information: Gail Castro at (650) 591-8452 or Vonnie McGee at (650)873-4236.

Second Sunday of Advent

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.

— Isaiah 40:4



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (*Psalm 85*).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (*2 Peter 3:8-14*).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (*Mark 1:1-8*).



*Like a shepherd
he feeds his flock*

NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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Thank you to all who came to the Advent Connection!

What a great time for us all! Fr. Tony entertained us and was able to challenge us at the same time. What an evening! The children had a wonderful experience as well and made some beautiful Christmas cards that will be appreciated by many. If you attended and were unable to stop by Fr. Tony's “table” for one of his books, DVD's, or bracelets (*or bobble heads*) you may order them from his website: www.fatherTony.com.