



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

December 15 - December 22

Mon.	8:30	Henry Dingli †
Tues.	8:30	James & Isobel O'Hearne †
Wed.	8:30	Louis Romanello †
Thurs.	8:30	Anna Giulinetti †
Fri.	6:30	Susie Caturegli †
	8:30	James O'Hearne Family †
Sat.	8:30	Shirley Verdino †
	5:00	Juliet Marnell †
Sun.	7:30	Deceased Members of the Borg Family †
	5:00	Arthur Gialdini †

Please pray for the faithful departed of St. Charles. †

Sick Relatives and Friends

Please remember in your prayers: Lisa Porter, 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

Offertory Collection ~ \$13,957
Parish Education ~ \$3,221 ~ **Thank-you!**

Retirement for Religious

This weekend we will take up a collection to help the religious in their retirement. These faithful servants of the Lord have given us many years of unrelenting service...can you help them in their "golden years?"

Stewardship by the Book: *All of the people in today's readings - the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist - seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?*

Advent Outreach to Our Sister Parish

This weekend in continuing our Advent outreach, we will be collecting non-perishable food, paper products and toiletries for our sister parish, St. Francis for Assisi in East Palo Alto.

During the fourth weekend of Advent, December 20th and 21st, there will be a monetary collection after Communion. All proceeds will support St. Francis's St. Vincent de Paul's efforts in providing food, clothing, utility payments, etc. for the poor in their area. Please consider supporting this critical activity. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness this season with all of St. Vincent de Paul's assistance requests for our local poor. St. Charles' parishioners' great generosity has never been more evident or more needed.

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

Giuliana Addison Giacomelli

Christmas Schedule...

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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 .*

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



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Little Angels Holiday Schedule

December 14 - open
December 21 - closed
December 28 - closed
January 4 - closed

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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 **today, 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

CHRISTMAS SEASON TV ON EWTN

Telecasts include Pope Benedict XVI offering Midnight Mass, December 24th at 3:00pm (live), with encores Dec. 25th at 7:00pm. The Pope's Christmas Message to the World airs December 25 at 7:00pm & December 26 at 12:00am & 2:00pm. All times are Pacific. EWTN is carried 24 hours a day on Comcast 229, Astound Ch. 80, DISH Satellite Ch. 261 & Direct TV Ch. 370.

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 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.

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.



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December 19 Friday
7:30pm 7th Annual Christmas
Concert in Church
(Children and Adults)

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!

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." Are we taking time to put the way of the Lord in our marriage? Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Contact Paul & Yvonne at 650-366-7093 or go to sf.lovemoredeeply.org. Next SF-WWME weekend: May 1-3, San Mateo.

Don't forget to pick up your offertory envelopes in the back of the church. If you don't know your envelope number just check the binder for your name.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Are you or someone you know interested in the prospect of learning more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of becoming Catholic? Please contact Linda Burns, 650-576-3105, or Nancy Farrant, 591-7349 x 27. R.C.I.A. is the process by which adults and children above age seven explore membership in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church warmly welcomes new members and tries to provide appropriate spiritual formation according to each person's needs. The Church offers individuals a process of formation in the Catholic Christian faith and way of life. This is a gradual process. After the interested person contacts our Church, he or she is invited to meet with our inquiry team and other people who are exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. You will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Church, to tour our church, and to hear the message of Jesus Christ and how it is lived out in our parish.

Third Sunday of Advent

“Gaudete Sunday”

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16



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*).



REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for Eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

Advent Prayer

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.