



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK December 14 ~ December 20

Mon.	8:30	John Giacomini †
Tues.	8:30	Stan Mitchell †
Wed.	8:30	Dr. & Mrs. Donald Petrick †
Thurs.	8:30	Bruno Cavaleri †
Fri.	6:30	Nick & Josephine Haloski †
	8:30	Tony Trotter †
Sat.	8:30	Joan Stratton †
	5:00	Catherine McCabe †
Sun.	7:30	Robert Windle †
	5:00	Arthur Gialdini †

Please pray for the faithful departed of our  
St. Charles Community

### *Sick Relatives and Friends*

Please remember in your prayers: Larry Panozzo, Charlie Lloyd, Eddie Beaudreault, Noreen Baker, Betty Cirigliano, Dawn Crecy, Joe Vassallo, Barbara Peters, Carmella Chellemi, Carmen Esquivel and Jim Mason.

*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 - \$11,435.67  
Parish Education - \$2,634

**Thank you**

### **Retirement for Religious**

**Next Weekend's Second Collection**

**Religious face rising costs.** Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection. [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

**Stewardship by the Book:** Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."



### **Outreach to our Sister Parish Next Weekend**

We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods, paper products, and toiletries next weekend in outreach to our sister parish, St. Francis of Assisi. Thank you for helping to meet the needs of our East Palo Alto neighbors.

### **2010 Offertory Envelopes**

The 2010 offertory envelopes are available for pick up in the back of the church. If you do not know your envelope number please check the listing pamphlets for your name. If you are not a regular envelope user and would like to be, please call the parish office at 591-7349 ext. 15.



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### **Christmas Eve**

Thursday, 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**

Friday, December 25

Mass at 8:30 & 10:30am

(No evening Mass)

### **New Year's Day**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Friday, 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 31st.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



As the **Environment Committee** and their helpers are working to carry out the plan for the Christmas season, we want to let you know that envelopes for donations are available at all the entrances to church.

We thank you for your past generosity.

Wishing you a holy and happy season,

**The Environment Committee**

### **ST. CHARLES' WOMEN'S RETREAT (Feb. 26-28, 2010)**

**Balance due JANUARY 7TH**

Double Room balance \$150.00 (each)

Single Room balance \$175.00

Registration forms are available in the bookrack at the main entrance of the Church

Make checks payable to St. Charles Church. Mail to:  
Lorie Boris, 1828 Carmelita Drive, San Carlos, 593-7339.

### **LIGHTEN UP! CELEBRATION THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all those who shared their time and talents in bringing our Lighten Up! Whole-Community Celebration to life! Your work is greatly appreciated!

Thanks also to all of you who attended the celebration. We hope that the Lord's grace will continue to Lighten Up! our minds, bodies, and souls! The memories that were made will be treasured forever.

To stay in touch with Doug and his characters, visit [www.dougbrummel.com](http://www.dougbrummel.com). He would love to hear from you!



### What's up with the landscaping?

As you may have noticed the Landscape Team is continuing to work on key areas of our Church and School. There are many challenges in this landscape redesign, including steep slopes, very hungry deer, heavy clay soils, drought-related water restrictions, and a budget for long-term maintenance. All of these factors dictate the kinds of plants we can install and where we plant them. Thus, you'll notice that the new plantings do not include the roses and hydrangeas and cottage garden-type plants that you've see planted here in the past. Instead, you'll see more low-water, low-maintenance, Mediterranean-type plants along with many of our California natives. These types of plants put on their best show in the spring-fall months, so you'll see things start to come alive early next year.

We're working our way around the grounds in stages, as time and Capital Campaign funds permit. We're finishing up the plantings on the Belle side of Church, including some very magnificent Deodar Cedars. Landscape renovations for the rest of the Church periphery, raised brick planter boxes, Rectory, and school grounds will continue and coordinate with the structural work on the Church and parking lot as it gets underway next year. In the meantime, we're brightening up the front of the Church a bit for the holidays with a bunch of flower bulbs and a few temporary plants until the front plaza has been repaired. We also sowed some beds with rye grass as an organic approach to soil enrichment. Many thanks to all who have donated their time, resources, and even some of their own home grown garden plants and trees!

Feel free to contact Bill Hollywood ([bhollywood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhollywood@sbcglobal.net)), Karen Hunt (*San Carlos GardenWorks* 650-302-5379 or [kahunt@speakeasy.net](mailto:kahunt@speakeasy.net)) or Joe Raccanello ([jraccanello@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jraccanello@sbcglobal.net)) if you have any questions or suggestions.



A pro-life walk honoring **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn**, will begin **today**

December 13 at 2:00pm from St. Gregory's Church.

This prayerful walk will proceed to the Planned Parenthood facility at 2211 Palm Ave., San Mateo, where a rosary will be prayed by those participating. The distance is one mile."

**We all want to be warm on frosty nights and dry when the rain pours.** Think of how the homeless in San Mateo County feel on these cold nights. They are sleeping in their cars, on friends' couches, under buildings or on a park bench. **You can change this dire situation by donating \$25 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Sleeping Bag Appeal. Your \$25 will purchase one new bag** rated for very cold weather to be distributed at 1 of our 3 Homeless Help Centers in South San Francisco, San Mateo, and Redwood City. **Last year we gave away 786 of these camping grade bags and served 105,000 meals to the homeless and hungry in San Mateo County.** Anything you can give to support SVdP's Homeless Services is greatly appreciated. If you can help, please donate online at [www.svdP-sanmateo.org](http://www.svdP-sanmateo.org) or mail a check to: SVdP Sleeping Bag Appeal, 50 North B St. San Mateo, CA 94401. *Our taxpayer ID# is 94-1375833.*



December 18 Friday  
**7:30pm 7<sup>th</sup> 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 21 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](mailto:CGiovanetti@stcharlesparish.org).

**Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Christmas Concert on December 18 at 7:30pm in the Church. Come and enjoy the adults and children as we celebrate the season with joyful noise!**



Because of the great success of our inaugural Giving Tree program and thanks to your generosity last year, this Christmas season your St. Vincent de Paul Conference in conjunction with the San Carlos Rotary, is again providing an opportunity for our parish to help meet the needs of local struggling families and individuals. We are also helping the St. Francis of Assisi St. Vincent de Paul conference and the Homeless Help Center. From November 28th through December 20th, a Christmas Giving Tree bearing ornaments with gift requests for these families and individuals will be 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 20, 2009. For your convenience, written instructions are available in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas giving an opportunity to provide for those in need.

*Merry Christmas from  
 your St. Vincent de Paul Conference*

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING THE HOMELESS?

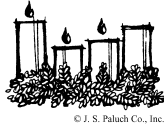
The Interfaith Hospitality Network provides shelter, meals and support to homeless families. St. Charles currently has teams volunteering on Tuesdays and Fridays, 4-6 times during the year. We prepare and serve dinner for families housed for the week at a nearby church. The time commitment is approximately 6-8pm plus the time to prepare a dish or two. Each night we also need someone to "sleep over" with the families. We need additional help from parishioners to supplement existing teams and expand our effort. If you think you would like to help and for more information please contact:

Kevin Philpott  
 369-3443

or Fred Koehler  
 593-3085

[Kevin.philpott@cpii.com](mailto:Kevin.philpott@cpii.com)

[Hfkoehler@yahoo.com](mailto:Hfkoehler@yahoo.com)



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## REJOICE!

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This is the Advent Sunday of joy. Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading call us to express joy in three ways. We are summoned to "shout for joy" (Zephaniah 3:14), to "cry out with joy" (Isaiah 12:6), and to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Expressing Christian joy is quite distinct from the kind of joy we express, for instance, when our favorite sports team wins an important game. That kind of joy is fleeting. Christian joy is an inner peace and spiritual happiness that is developed throughout our lives and sustains us even when we struggle. It is the kind of joy that is infectious. Others can tell that there is simply something different about us. Let us rejoice this day, for to us shall come Emmanuel.

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### AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace make us completely holy.  
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Forever faithful is the One who calls us—God our Father!  
Expectant, let us live in joyful hope  
for the revelation of the glory  
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!  
To him be glory forever!

Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 127

**Are you curious about the Catholic Church or are you thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you a baptized Catholic but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation or Eucharist? INQUIRY SESSIONS for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) are held on Sundays after the 9:00am Mass. For more information, please call Nancy Farrant, 650-591-7349 ext. 27, or Linda Burns, (650)576-3105.**

### Vallombrosa Center

250 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park

**Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Vallombrosa Choir**, Sunday, December 20th at 2:00pm in the Vallombrosa Chapel.

For information contact Catherine Wolff at [catherine@Vallombrosa.org](mailto:catherine@Vallombrosa.org) or 650-325-1597

**Please join the St. Raymond Parish** community for an evening of prayer to the music of *Taize* on **December 15, 7-8pm** in St. Raymond's Chapel. Admission is free and all are welcome. St. Raymond Church is located at 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. For more information, please call (650) 323-1755 or visit [www.straymondsparish.org](http://www.straymondsparish.org).

"Children and those who are dependent on us due to disability or age, offer us the opportunity to grow in patience, kindness, and love. They teach us that life is a shared gift, not an encumbrance. At the end of life, we will be judged on love alone."

-Cardinal Justin Rigali, for *Statement for Respect Life Sunday*, Sept. 29, 2009