



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK December 1 - December 7

Mon.	8:30	Mark Severi †
Tues.	8:30	Kezia McBrady †
Wed.	8:30	Gregory Bachli †
Thurs.	8:30	Robert Windle †
Fri.	6:30	Susie Caturegli †
	8:30	Elizabeth Missel (L)
Sat.	8:30	Harry Knapp †
	5:00	Bictor Conreras †
Sun.	7:30	Deceased Members of the Borg Family †
	5:00	Kay Bigot †

Please pray for the faithful departed of St. Charles

Sick Relatives and Friends

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

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

November 23rd Offertory Collection ~ \$10,856.17
CCHD ~ \$2,023

Thank-you!

Next weekend's special collection will benefit parish education.

St. Vincent de Paul

This Weekend's Special Collection

San Mateo County's unemployment rate jumped to 5.3% in October, up from 4.1% a year ago. This year, the county has seen losses in jobs primarily in sectors that impact our lower income neighbors. For instance, hospitality lost 700 jobs and construction is down by 500 jobs.*Inflation is at a 27-year high while personal incomes are down 1.6% from last month. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference depends on your donations in order to support individuals and families desperately affected during this difficult economic climate. Next weekend, November 29th and 30th, is the last of the four 5th Sunday St. Vincent de Paul collections for this year. We strive to assist many families and single adults by providing such things as food, clothing and furniture, rental assistance and utilities payments. We help anyone in need regardless of race, creed, age, disability, or gender, and 92% of our county's St. Vincent de Paul tax-deductible donations go back into services for the poor. Your generosity and kindness will be appreciated and put to great use. Please consider a donation this weekend. Thank you.

Stewardship by the Book: *We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.*

**Little Angels will be closed today.
See you on December 7th!**

TOMORROW!!

THE ADVENT CONNECTION

"Come, Lord Jesus... Come"

Monday evening, December 1, 2008

St. Charles will once again offer a free program for the **WHOLE PARISH COMMUNITY!**

For **EVERYONE:** Dinner in
Borromeo Hall starting at 5:30pm

Adults and Teens: *Father Tony Richard
presentation in the Church, 7-8:30pm
and at the same time

Children 5th grade and under:
Advent Celebration in the St. Charles Gym

*Fr. Tony is a nationally known, dynamic speaker from New Orleans. He is well-loved by adults and teens...a regular at LA Congress and at youth conferences across the country. Check out his website: (KnightTimeMinistries) www.fathertony.com

Please R.S.V.P. ASAP to the parish office or contact Barbara O'Rourke: Barbara@stcharlesparish.org or (650) 591-7349 ext. 34 and let her know how many in your family are coming plus names and ages of any children. This helps us to plan the celebration for the children and also the amount of food we'll need. **Thank you and don't forget to RSVP!**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the first Friday of each month in the chapel at the Parish Center. It starts with Benediction at 9:00am and continues until midnight. Parishioners commit to being present for one hour (*on the hour*) because the Blessed Sacrament cannot be left alone. New prayer partners are welcome for all hours and we especially need men for the nighttime hours. Please join us.



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**. From November 29th through December 14th, a **Christmas Gift 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 14, 2008**. For your convenience, written instructions are available in the vestibule starting November 29th. 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



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO ST. CHARLES!

20TH Annual "Breakfast with Santa"
December 7, 2008

8:00am to 11:30am ~ Borromeo Hall

Reserve your spot to join the St. Charles Parish Community in welcoming Santa at our annual pancake breakfast. This event is guaranteed to put you in the Christmas spirit with music, a raffle, photos with Santa and a yummy breakfast served by St. Charles kindergarten parents. Ticket order forms are available at the Church exits today. Questions? Contact Mary Rees at maryrees@sbcglobal.net or (650) 365-7337.

St. Charles School is excited to announce a full-day Kindergarten program beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. We are welcoming all interested families to join us for a school tour on December 2nd and 4th. Each tour is about 45 minutes. To register for a tour, please call 593-1629.

St. Charles School, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. St. Charles School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, gender or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs.

Junipero Serra High School will be holding its Annual **Open House** Program for elementary school students, parents, and friends on Thursday, December 4th, 2008 at 7:00pm. The 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. Junipero Serra High School is located at 451 West 20th Avenue in San Mateo.

Prospective students and parents are invited to attend an Open House at Woodside Priory School, on Saturday, December 6. Please make reservations by calling 650-851-8223. The planned program starts at 10am. The Priory is a Catholic, Benedictine school serving middle school grades 6th through 8th and high school grades 9th through 12th, located at 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Applications are now being accepted for both sixth grade and freshman year of high school. The application deadline is January 15, 2009.

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.

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.

Faith Formation

K-5th Grade: Check this bulletin for information on the Advent Connection December 1st. We hope you and your family will attend the dinner and celebration. Classes will resume Sunday, January 11th beginning our second trimester.



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 CGiovannetti@stcharlesparish.org.

FISH VOLUNTEERS - Please pick up your calendars at church before Dec 1st. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Ranken, 593-3721.

YOUR PRAYERS HELP SAVE THE UNBORN: All are welcome to join our group as we pray quietly in front of Planned Parenthood, 1230 Hopkins Ave., in RWC. We will meet Saturday, December 6th at 8:50 AM. This is an on-going prayer vigil for "every" First Saturday of the month. Questions: Vicki at 365-5718.

VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER

December 6 - **Advent Day of Prayer** - 9 am-4 pm
Prepare the Way of the Lord! Silence, guided meditations and contemplative prayer sessions will help you deepen your longings for Christ's coming and prepare you to receive Him anew with open hearts and minds.

Carmen de la Vega Neafsey, M.A.

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 events.

First Sunday of Advent

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.

— Mark 13:33



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands
(*Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (*Psalm 80*).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (*Mark 13:33-37*).

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

December 1 **Family Advent Connection**

5:30pm Dinner, Borromeo Hall

7:00-8:30pm, Fr. Tony Ricard Presentation in Church for

Adults, Teens & Middle School Students

Children 5th grade and under:

Advent Celebration in the St. Charles Gym

December 3 **Advent Parish Reconciliation Service**

7:00pm (*Confession*)

December 7 **Santa's Breakfast**

8:00am – 11:30am Borromeo Hall

December 8 **Solemnity of Immaculate Conception**

Holy Day of Obligation

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