



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church

DECEMBER 18, 2022



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

Sacraments

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:30 am
	6:00 pm

1st Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri.	6:30 am
	8:15 am

Holy Day Mass Times

6:30 am
8:15 am
12:00 pm
7:00 pm

Reconciliation / Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm
& by appointment

All Other Sacraments

Please call the office for information.

Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva

Pastor

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat

Parochial Vicar

William Goeke

Jim McFadden

Deacons

Fr. Ignatius Haran

Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm
307 Montrose Drive, Folsom
Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media:

@FolsomCatholic

Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

Bulletin Date	Ads Due by 5pm
Dec 25	Dec 12
Jan 1	Dec 19
Jan 8	Dec 20
Jan 15	Jan 5

Welcome to

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,
sacramental, loving and charitable.

Today's Readings

Is 7:10-14 / Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b] / Rom 1:1-7 / Mt 1:18-24

"Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory."

(Ps 24)

Gospel Meditation

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate.

Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change,

finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life?

We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed.

During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing!

We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing!

What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading

Isiah prophecies to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of Emmanuel, meaning "with us is God." When do you feel God's presence in your life?

Second Reading

Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul's opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are "called to be holy."

How has this season of Advent help you develop holiness?

Gospel

In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?



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At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we welcome all
as members of
the Body of Christ.

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Simbang Gabi 2022

Rosary Prayers & Novena Masses

December 15, 16, 19 - 23, 6:30pm

December 17, 9am, December 18, 6pm

Contact: Lili Rehwald, 916-220-2483

Please join us. Rosary starts 30 minutes prior to Mass. Reception to follow each Mass with the traditional Grand Fiesta Celebration on December 23 in Gallagher Hall. Please view the flyer available on the parish website for information as well as the list of celebrants.

Parish Office Holiday Closure

December 23 - January 2

The Parish Office will be closed beginning December 23. We will reopen on January 3.

The Knights of Columbus Council 6197

2023 Free Throw Championship

January 14, 2023, Saturday

9 am – 1 pm* (register @ 9am)

*Schedule subject to number of entrants
Gallagher Hall

Contact: Greg Sinclair
glsinclair@sbcglobal.net

The Knights of Columbus, Council 6197 Free Throw Championship is open to the public for all boys and girls, ages 9 - 14. Participants shoot 15 free throws against competitors of the same age and gender.

A copy of participant's birth certificate must accompany each entry form. Age group "cutoff date" is Jan 1. Forms require signature of parent or guardian. Forms available at the event or online:

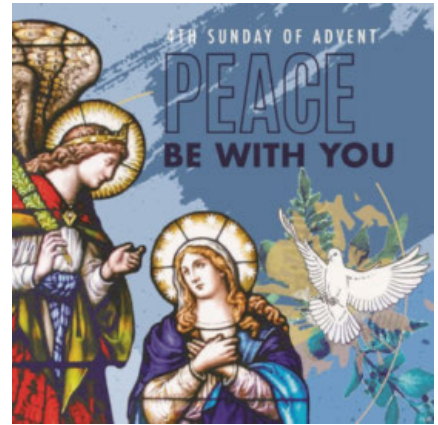
<https://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/programs/free-throw-championship/1598-free-throw-entry-form-score-sheet.pdf>

Volunteers needed:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. – Setup for the event

9:00 – 12:00 pm – Keep score, register applicants, and rebound.

This Knights event is "OPEN" to the public, SJND students, local schools, children attending R.E. classes at St. John, St. John's Youth Group, and children and/or grandchildren of Knights of Columbus.



St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 18th

7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am Billy Halloran+
Lydia Nagano+
11:30am Gilda Dannug+
Rose Marie Dannug+
6:00pm Lydia Nagano+
Francisco Aravjo+

Monday, December 19th

6:30am Sergio Rico, Jr. (healing)
8:15am Mary Mateo+
Connie Cabusas

Tuesday, December 20th

6:30am Sergio Rico, Jr. (healing)
8:15am Evelyn Lafferty+
Jerome, Christina & Samantha David

Wednesday, December 21st

6:30am Evelyn Barrera (healing)
8:15am Sergio Rico, Jr. (healing)

Thursday, December 22nd

6:30am Ximena Godinez (birthday)
8:15am Raul Martin+

Friday, December 23rd

6:30am Rita Swingle+
8:15am Sergio Rico, Jr. (healing)

Saturday, December 24th

4:00pm Henry & Conchita Enrado+
4:15pm Sonya Acevedo Perlas+
8:00pm Richard & Ron Smith+
Midnight

Observances We Celebrate This Week

Wednesday
St. Peter Canisius
Friday
St. John of Kanty
Saturday
Christmas Eve

December is Dedicated to: The Immaculate Conception

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for December

For volunteer not-for-profit organizations
We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Intercessory Prayers

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

Angeles Montemayor	Jonathan Pacheco
Antonio Matos	Joy Bryla
Chris Gohs	Kimanh Davis
Cora Gonzales	Kyle Pasterski
Danny Martinez	Lance Alameda
Debbie Finnegan	Margie Reilly
Denise Scanlan	Mary Ann Heinen
Dennis Brosterhaus	Michael Ort
Janine Martin	Sergio Rico
Jim Curry	Tess Beltran
Jim Reed	
Jody Park	

Prayers for Our Troops

We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families.

Michael Dalupan

Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have recently died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.

Bob Ely	Katherine Springer
Carol Flack	McLaughlin
Elaine Sharp	Patrick Warholic
Janice Crawford	Rita Swingle
Janine Martin	Tristen Williams

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. Names will appear for two months.

Mass Intention Requests

The 2023 Mass Intention Book is open and ready for scheduling. Scheduled Mass Intentions are being accepted for the first quarter of the year (January - March only). Limit of 5 intentions. Please visit the Parish Office with your request.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

“TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY
AND COURAGE. AMEN.”

POPE FRANCIS

At St. John the Baptist Parish, time in conversation with our Lord is at the center of our lives.



The Adoration Chapel

Chapel hours are: Mon-Thu 9am - 8pm,
Sat 9am - 5pm and Sun 7am -11am
Friday Adoration is in the church: 9am to 7pm

On Friday, December 23, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be at 5:30pm.
The Chapel will be closed December 24 & 25 and December 31 & January 1

The Adoration Ministry has immediate need for dedicated adorers for these hours

Monday:	9 - 10 am	10-11 am	11-12pm	12 - 1 pm	4 - 5pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm
Tuesday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm				
Wednesday:	12 - 1 pm	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm			
Thursday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	3 - 4 pm	6 - 7 pm				
Friday:	6 - 7 pm							
Saturday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	12 - 1 pm	1-2 pm	2 - 3 pm	3 - 4 pm	4 - 5 pm	

To sign up please contact Veronica Thomas at thomas_vera@yahoo.com

Confession

Saturdays: 3 - 4:30 pm & by appointment

Confessions at this time are offered outside of the confessional. We will continue a face to face format in a larger setting.

Respect Life Ministry

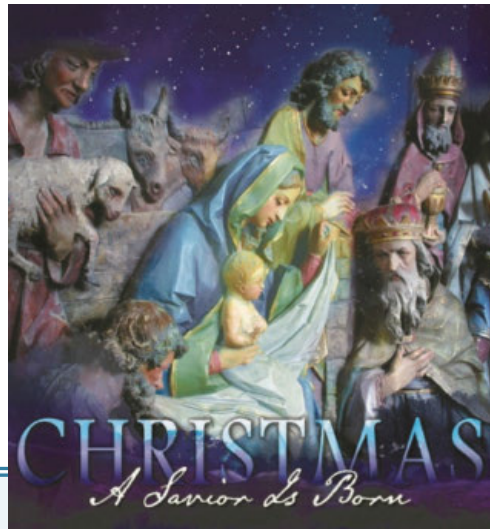
"365" Days for Life

Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8am-2pm
Planned Parenthood
201 29th St, Sacramento
Contact: Joanne Dudgeon
916-607-2228

We praise God for the **540 babies saved**, **6 abortion workers converted**, and **12 abortion facilities closed**. These are the outcomes that we know of during this past "40 Days for Life" campaign nationwide. There may even be more babies saved because moms don't always share this news with people outside the clinic. Thank you all for your prayers, fasting, and being a witness for life.

Our focus now are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, which are late term surgical abortion days.

Prayer and help continue throughout the year so if you can come out to pray, bring a folding chair and come with us on a Wednesday leaving St. Johns at 10:30am staying from 11:00am-1:00pm. Call Joanne.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve*

4pm (Church)

4:15pm (Gallagher Hall)

8pm (Church)

12 Midnight (Church)

*music begins 30 minutes before start of Mass

Christmas Day

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

(No 6pm Mass)

New Year's Weekend

**Normal Saturday/Sunday
Mass schedule**



At St. John the Baptist Parish,
time in conversation with our
Lord is at the center of
our lives.

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At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we foster a
commitment to lifelong
spiritual growth.

11-Day Catholic Pilgrimage to Italy

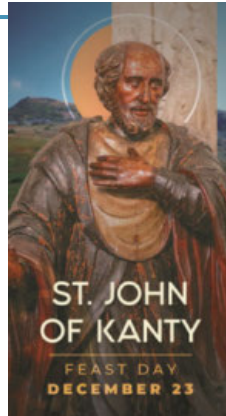
Join Fr. Jovito Rata & Fr. Renier Siva

May 29 - June 8, 2023

\$3,995

Including: Assisi, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Pietrelcina, Rome & the Vatican.

All-inclusive from San Francisco, CA. Daily Mass at the holy sites. A detailed brochure is available for pickup in the Parish Office.



St. John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow.

He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well. He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. St. John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up, his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them. After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. St. John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility. St. John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron and the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, was formed in Chicago, Illinois.

Inspiration For the Week

"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!



A seminary professor of mine once said, "Don't confuse enthusiasm for a virtue with the virtue itself." How easy it's been in my life as a priest to talk about the

greatest of virtues — love — and totally fail to live up to its concrete demands!

Fortunately, our religion is not mainly about ideas or virtues but about persons. The angel of the Lord says to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Mt.1:20). We don't know exactly why Joseph was scared to receive Mary and therefore Jesus. We do know the solution: take Mary home. It's so concrete. Look at her. Listen to her. Talk to her. Protect her. Help her. Laugh with her. Eat with her. Rest with her. Christianity begins here for Joseph, so it must with us, too.

New year challenge: This week I challenge you to choose a concrete way to "take Mary into your home." Praying a weekly or daily Rosary is a proven way. Perhaps for you it's making a little shrine with a statue or image. Maybe it's praying a weekly Litany of Our Lady on Saturday night. Whatever it is, make sure it is a concrete action and do it. She will be there. Soon her virtues will follow, especially love.

~ Father John Muir



At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we bring Christ's light to all
through service to others.

Divine Mercy Ministry

Loaves and Fishes Breakfast Feeding

December 28, Wednesday

Contact: Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

The Divine Mercy Ministry continues to be grateful for the generous response received. The collection cart remains in the church vestibule for dropping off your donations. Items most requested:

- cup-of-soups, raisins, nuts
- peanut butter or cheese crackers
- hot chocolate packets, juice boxes
- oatmeal packets, bottled water
- breakfast bars, fruit cups
- creamy peanut butter, disposable bowls

Fresh fruits should be dropped off the day before during church open hours.. **We are in need of peanut butter and disposable bowls.** Bibles, holy cards, rosaries and religious reading materials are also appreciated. We are also collecting: hats, scarfs and blankets. If you would like to drive or hand out food please contact Greta or Catherine.

Prison Ministry

Christmas Card Collection

Catholic Chaplain Greg Mellor is collecting Christmas and holiday cards for the prisoners at California State Prison, Sacramento (New Folsom). Cards can be placed in the labeled boxes in the narthex. **Please make sure that donated cards meet the following requirements:**

- NO ribbon
- NO Mass cards, novena cards, etc. from religious orders and retreat centers
- NO glitter
- NO writing in cards

The Knights of Columbus

"Coats For Kids" and "Food for Families"

Saturday, Oct 22 - Sunday, Jan 8, 2023

Contact: SK Hugo Schmidt

916-813-0843, hugoschmidt@gmail.com

We are collecting new or gently used(*washed*) children's winter coats and accessories - gloves, scarves, beanies, hats, heavy socks and sleeping bags. We also accept winter items for teens and adults.

Most requested food item: canned meats, stews, vegetables, beans, pasta and sauce. rice, cereal, peanut butter, baby food & formula, whole turkey and/or ham with all of the "fixings" for the Fall & Winter Holidays. Please leave items on the Knight's cart in the vestibule after all Masses or drop off at St. Vincent de Paul on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9am-Noon.

Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

Weekly goal: \$25,529.00

Weekly Offerings:

December 3/4	\$ 17,815
2nd Collection for RE & SJND	\$ 2102

2nd Collection

This weekend our second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

St. Vincent de Paul

Contact: Mercy Knight

916-985-4630 or 916-402-4104

*Your support of those in need is apparent,
we are so grateful for your continued support.*

Christmas Dinner Collection

We will continue to collect food donations so that we can provide ham and sides (stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, etc.) for Christmas dinners. They can be brought to St. Vincent de Paul on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9 to noon, or left on the Knights of Columbus food cart in front of the church doors. If you need another option for your donations, please call Mercy.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree gives us an opportunity to ensure that the families in need in our community will have Christmas gifts. The tree has ornaments for children ranging in age from 1 to 12 years old. Red ornaments are for the boys, green ornaments are for the girls.

Select an ornament (or two), and place your unwrapped gifts in the Christmas barrels behind the Giving Tree. The ornament can be taped to the gift, but it is not necessary. A gift can be put in the barrel even if you did not select an ornament.

We hope to distribute all gifts by December 20th. We will still take gifts after the requested due date. Gifts that are not given out for Christmas will be used for children's birthdays.

 Read the Gospel and Color

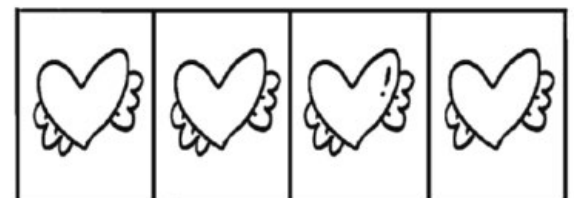
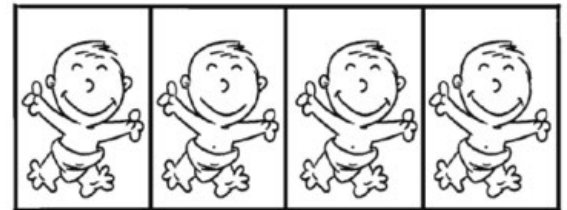


Mt 1:18 - 24

God brought Jesus into the world as a tiny baby. Jesus was God's Son. He was so powerful that he could have gotten anything he wanted. But Jesus did not come to earth to be a rich, selfish ruler. He did not need a palace or fancy clothes. Jesus came to show you that God is with you all the time. He was born to be the king over your life. He gave up his own life to rescue you from your sins, so that you could be close to God forever.

 Puzzle

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details.



 Mission for the Week

Tonight after dinner, ask your family to light some candles, turn off the lights, and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs about Jesus.

 Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me.



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"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Our parish is enriched with many ministries, please consider learning about and engaging in one or more of our ministries. Call the contact listed .

Welcoming Ministries

New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

Greeter Ministry

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

Prayer Ministries

Companioned Prayer

Dcn. Bill Goeke, 916-673-7996

Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*

-*Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass*

-*Cenacle* - Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

-*Cenacle-Spanish* - Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas_vera@yahoo.com

1st Friday of the Month - 9am - 7pm (church),

Sign Up for adorers is in the vestibule

Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle)

-*English* - 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am

Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411

-*Spanish* - Every Saturday

Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Our Lady of Fatima

Henry Altamirano, 925-899-7769

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Adult Scripture Study

Lee & Teresa Weider, 916-983-8065

Couples for Christ

Myrah Empleo, 661-993-4721

Praise & Worship

David Brauer, dabrauer@hotmail.com

Religious Education

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, 916-985-2065

WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

Parish Committees/Councils

Finance Council

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

Pastoral Council

Shannon Frazier, 916-761-2912

Outreach/Charity Ministries

Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

Gabriel Project

Debbie Sultan, 916-337-5786

Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Grupo Pastoral Hispano

Rommel Hernández, 530-387-1009

Knights of Columbus

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday

Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 x 4206

-CSP Sacramento - Greg Mellor,

Catholic Chaplain, 916-985-8610 x6425

School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

Senior Visitation

Charlene Agles, 916-984-9602

St. Vincent de Paul (311 Montrose Dr.)

Mercy Knight, 916-985-4630

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Children's Liturgy during Mass

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion

Steve & Maryanne Ashley, 916-479-2214

Lectors

Patti Midtlyng, 916-837-8322

Liturgical Environment

Arlette Peterson, 916-220-5968

Music - See choir director after Mass.

Additional Ministries

Children's Babysitting at Mass

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Family Fellowship

Rachel Marsh, 916-945-6992

Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

Women's Game Day

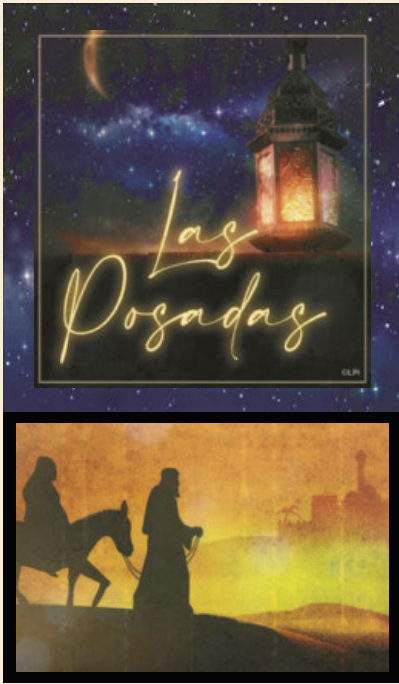
Every Wednesday, Garden Room, 11am - 4:30pm.

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

MINISTRIES

"Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will."

What is the Hispanic Advent custom of “Las Posadas”?



“Posada” is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. “Las Posadas” refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our “posada.” As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

Funeral • Mortuary • Cremation • Cemetery



916-452-4831

Stephen Ruch
Family Service Advisor



 **CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES**
OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center (10225) Citrus Heights, CA



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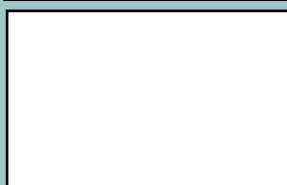
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