



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

We follow Christ by Living our Faith, Sharing Knowledge and Serving the Community.

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

## Celebrating Reconciliation

While reconciliation is what God does, receiving it and celebrating it are what we do. For Catholics, the sacrament of reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's reconciliation. We used to think of this sacrament as only about confession - it was like a dumping ground for our sins where we were forgiven and had to pay a toll. One of the great recoveries in our Christian history is the rediscovery of the meaning of this sacrament. It is God who forgives sins. God forgives us the very moment we realize we need forgiveness, which itself comes through God's grace. At that moment, we feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing, and we are reconciled with God. The reunion, the bond, the connection, and the joy are all there. Three more things remain: forgiveness and healing deep within our heart, celebration of that forgiveness, and participation in the healing process.



When God's forgiveness and love is experienced, a person is touched deeply. Experiencing compassion, patience, understanding, and forgiveness is itself transforming. If one fails to appreciate what they have just received freely and undeservedly, then they may take it for granted and risk moving on without real healing.

We need to celebrate the reconciliation we have received. In the sacrament of reconciliation - individually or in common - we have the wonderful opportunity to ritualize that celebration. In the sacrament, our personal journey is joined with the mystery of God's saving love, as seen in the Scriptures and in God's desire to save us all. This is deeply personal. There, in ritual form, even if it is just us and the priest, we step forward and admit that we are sinners, express our sorrow, and name the places in our life where God is shining a light into what we have done and what we have failed to do. Then God's forgiveness is proclaimed out loud for us to hear and rejoice in: "May God give you pardon and peace."

May our Lord grant us all the gift of reconciliation, and may we all receive it and celebrate it well as we continue our Advent journey. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 13th at 7pm** as we celebrate Advent Reconciliation as a parish.



## GIFTS of OPPORTUNITY DECEMBER 9 - 10 DECEMBER 16 - 17

Give the gift of lasting change this Christmas in your name or in the name of a family member, friend, co-worker, or company, and empower a child, a family, or even an entire community!

YOUR generosity and support will literally SAVE lives, and help provide a better future for the poor and neglected families of Nicaragua.

Choose from the following gift items:

- Chickens - \$12**
- Feed a Student for a Year - \$60**
- Pigs - \$100**
- Clean Air Kitchens - \$250**
- Modern Bathrooms - \$619**
- Water Systems - \$1000**
- Where We Need It Most - \$25 - \$5000**



Purchasing your gifts is EASY!  
 Visit the Gifts of Opportunity table outside of church after any mass on days listed above  
 OR FOR ONLINE PURCHASES visit <http://squareup.com/store/HSGO>. Corporate Matching Programs accepted. For more information please contact Laura Smith at [sargi8@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sargi8@sbcglobal.net).

## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Office /** 408-997-5101  
**24 Hour Emergency**

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408-997-5105

Rev. Angelo David, Parochial Vicar  
408-997-5107

Merry Reardon, Pastoral Associate  
408-997-5112

Penny Warne, Pastoral Associate  
408-997-5108

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Sacrament of the Sick 408-997-5110

Pastoral Care 408-997-5110

Social Ministries 408-997-5111

Youth Ministry 408-997-5106

Music Ministry 408-997-5121

Finance Office 408-997-5101

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mcc14arthy@gmail.com

### Holy Spirit School

1198 Redmond Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120  
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408-268-0794

Peggy Krewson, Co-Principal  
Bob Graves, Co-Principal  
Colette O'Bannion, Asst. Principal

## Question of the Week

What in my life do I need to  
"straighten out", to make way for  
the Lord?

## NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

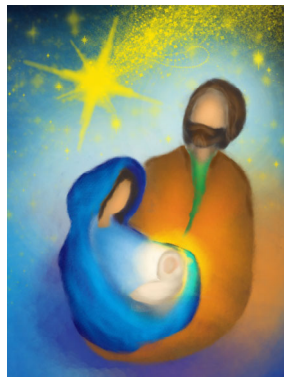


At Christmas, we celebrate the central mystery of our faith as Christians. In the incarnation, God became one of us as a human being. The profundity of that message can so easily be lost in the busyness of the preparation for the Christmas season. In the weeks of Advent before Christmas, is an opportunity for us to pause and examine this profound message.

The reality that God emptied Himself, taking on the form of slave and became a small, helpless baby is hard to comprehend in all its vastness. It is more common for us to look up to the skies and see God upward. In fact, most of our liturgical prayers lead us to pray like this...Our Father who art in heaven...Almighty God in heaven...We lift up our hearts to you...etc. We generally understand God to be "up."

Ron Rolheiser reminds us that, "The movement of God in Jesus Christ is a **downward one**...it invites us to enter into the experience of powerlessness; it invites us to look down, to investigate the small. It invites us to look for God in the baby rather than in corporate magnate, the president, the prime minister, the rock star, the star athlete, the brilliant writer, the Nobel Prize winning scientist, or the Hollywood god or goddess."

That is not to say that God cannot be present in all these wonderful, powerful people. It is just that, the movement of the incarnation, the movement of Christmas is to look more closely at the below! That is why we focus on the homeless, visiting the elderly, visiting the sick, of course our extra attention to the children in our families. We look at everything small.



Christ was born in poverty, in humility and in obscurity given that he was born in a stable in a small town in the middle of nowhere. God deliberately chose smallness in his entrance into this world and we are called to notice that by looking downward.

This weekend, we take up our annual 2nd offering for the religious retirement fund. Most of the religious sisters and brothers devoted their entire lives to serving the small and insignificant ones among. Now that they are retired they have largely been forgotten. Please do not forget them. Please support them in their retirement. They need our help. We continue to walk in their footsteps and minister to the needy in different ministries from schools, to homeless shelters, to social justice issues of every kind.

This week look around you and look down. See Christ in those who serve us, those who are homeless, those who are hurting, the elderly in care homes, the sick in hospitals, the children playing in the yard. There should be no delusion. The Christ-movement is downward.

## LIVING THE LITURGY

### The Scripture Readings During Advent

The first Scripture readings at Mass for the first few weeks of Advent are taken from the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah lived in the 8th century BC. He preached during a time of crisis for the Israelites. The Assyrians had invaded the northern and southern kingdoms and ruled over the people. During the rule of the Assyrians, many of the Israelites were absorbed into the culture of the Assyrians and were losing their identity. Isaiah wondered what would become of the promises of God. How could the chosen people survive in this captivity? Like many of the other prophets of the Old Testament, Isaiah condemned the people of his day for not following the Law of Moses but rather following the pagan beliefs of the Assyrians. Isaiah reminded the people of the need to keep God's covenant if the Israelites were going to remain God's chosen people, but his words fell on deaf ears. He also foretold the fall of the temple of Jerusalem and the captivity of the Israelites by the Babylonians one hundred years later. All of these events happened, he told the people, because of their unfaithfulness to God.

There were other prophets that spoke about the difficult times ahead. The message of Isaiah is different because unlike the others, he also spoke about hope. Isaiah speaks about the coming of a Savior; the promised Messiah. He would come and remove the wickedness and injustice in the world. Isaiah envisioned the future of the world, when the Messiah, God's anointed, would bring about an everlasting peace among men. God would then establish the golden age, a time of peace and prosperity. He would bring Israel back to a position of prominence in the world.

In the first readings for Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise of the coming of the Messiah. During Advent we look back at Christ's first coming and at the same time look forward to the second coming of Christ when he returns once again in glory.

In the liturgical year, the Church reveals the entire mystery of Christ. Advent recounts the beginning of that mystery. Every new year we begin with a renewed sense of purpose, of hope and expectation. Advent tells us that the reason for our hope is that Christ has come, that he is present in the world today, and that he will come again.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

M	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
T	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
W	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
T	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
F	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
S	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
S	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.

### Daily Mass / Communion Service

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.

### Daily Holy Hour

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.

### Daily Rosary

Monday - Friday 9:15 a.m.

### Holy Days of Obligation

8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

### Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation

First Friday of the month  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

### MASS INTENTIONS

M	8:30	Sue Wah Wong † Esther Francis †
T	8:30	Kathy Moritz †
W	8:30	Rich Benedetti †
Th	8:30	Jack Shaughnessy † Patricia Mezo † Miguel Mezo †
F	8:30	Maggie Cannon † Maddie Cannon †
Sa	5:00	William Sinnott † Vnette Paslaqua † Bob Tomasello †
Su	8:00 9:30 11:30 6:00	Holy Spirit Community Robert Wirth † Rich Benedetti † Rahul Pinto † William Loeffler †

### PRAYER REQUESTS

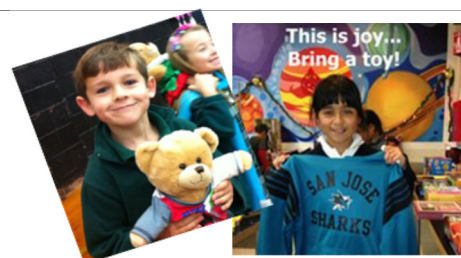
For those who are ill:  
Jeri Kazmierczak, Bob Jardine,  
Joanne Kezer & Anna Lilly  
For those who have recently died:  
Bernard Becker, James Patrick  
McCarthy, Zaki Qutami &  
Robert Wirth, Jr.

## STEWARDSHIP



### ADVENT ANGELS TOY DRIVE

Help fulfill the holiday dreams of thousands of children and families in need! Please consider donating a new game or toy for a child between the ages of 0-17 (there is a need for teen gifts).



Visit the Gold Angel located at the entrance of Holy Spirit Church, or the Advent Angel Tree located in the School Office, and:

**Pick up a gift tag describing a child's wish, or choose your own new Toy or Game. Return new, unwrapped donations on December 9th & 10th to the Altar during Offertory at all Masses or through December 13th to the bins inside the Parish Office or outside the School Office.**

Thank you for your generosity and for giving back this Christmas! Toys will be donated to the Sacred Heart Community Service Holiday Toy Box Program.

For more information please contact Laurie Brant at [lauriebrant@earthlink.net](mailto:lauriebrant@earthlink.net)



### Sacred Heart Christmas Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to the many parishioners who volunteered for Sacred Heart's Thanksgiving program. Your generous hearts helped put bountiful food on the tables of our neighbors.

Many of the shifts for their Christmas programs are filled. However there are two dates where sign ups are still especially needed:

**Monday, December 18th**

**8:00-11:30am**

**Tuesday, December 19th**

**8:00-11:00am**

Please go to the parish website at [holyspiritchurch.org/sacred-heart-community-service/](http://holyspiritchurch.org/sacred-heart-community-service/) to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Vitkovich at [mjvitkovich@hotmail.com](mailto:mjvitkovich@hotmail.com)

**"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Peter 4:10**



The Village House will move from Temple Immanuel to Holy Spirit Church on **Wednesday, January 3, 2018**. Please remember, to ease the operation of this year round shelter, we have replaced the concept of a Clothes Closet for our guests with a way to meet the individual needs of each woman. This will preclude the need to transfer a large quantity of clothing from site to site. Please consider making a donation at [www.villagehousesccca.com](http://www.villagehousesccca.com) which will allow us to purchase specific items in desired sizes and styles.

If you have clothing donations to share, please keep in mind that Sacred Heart Community Service on Alma Avenue and Transfiguration Parish on Jarvis Avenue are always in need of your generosity.

Please contact Courtney Kaefer if you have any questions regarding clothing for our guests at 703-340-0100 or [courtneyckaefer@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyckaefer@gmail.com).

**Volunteer signups are now open at [holyspiritchurch.org](http://holyspiritchurch.org).** If you are interested in serving in the shelter, please go online and find a shift that suits your schedule. We have many opportunities available for individuals and groups. Thank you for your commitment to Village House.

### SECOND OFFERINGS

December 25 Village House

**Celebrating Advent With The Family**



**Week Two Of Advent Proclamation**

The Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah. How will we prepare?

**Advent Wreath Prayer**

Light the second candle and say...

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:1).

*God of salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.*

**Family Advent Activity**

Adopt a family this Advent season through your parish, Catholic Charities or other local organization. Bring your kids along to help select the gifts. Remember the basics are always needed: coats, hats, mittens, socks, undergarments and pajamas.

**Reflect**

The candles on the Advent wreath remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. How might we reflect the light of Christ to others this season and beyond?



**Winter Blood Drive**

Thank you to those who came and donated at the blood drive. Blood is in high demand during the cold winter months and your donation helps alleviate the shortage.

**3sixty High School Ministry**



After the 6pm Mass, 3sixty will be having a praise night. With the Advent season in full swing, we will take time to prepare ourselves in the stillness for the physical presence of our Lord. Youth are not to miss this faith-filled night!

Next **Sunday, December 17th will be our final 3sixty youth night** for the 2017 year. Our Christmas social will include a fun craft activity. It will be a fun night in fellowship and celebrate the ministry.

**Edge Middle School Ministry**



Our next Edge night will be on **Wednesday, December 13th**. This night will have various activities to get us in the Christmas spirit and also some reflections to prepare ourselves for what this special holiday entails. All middle school youth are welcome to attend.

**Little Acts of Kindness**



Our school stage is now adorned with a beautiful yellow garland! Together with their buddies, students wrote one small act of kindness on each strip of yellow paper. At a recent assembly, teachers spoke about the power of combining these small acts to make big change, every one of us can contribute to the chain!

**Saints Play**



At a school Mass, Fr. Angelo asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" One second-grader immediately responded, "A saint!"

Each year second grade researches a special saint. They learn about their saint's life, write a report, draw a portrait and then present the story of these saints to family and friends in the annual Saints Play. The entire school also attends and as the older students fondly recall their 2nd grade saints play, they clap along to the final song, "When the Saints Go Marching In."

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Schedule**

**Advent Reconciliation**

Wednesday, December 13th  
7:00 pm in the Church

There will be no 11:30 am or  
6:00 pm masses on  
December 24th,  
The 4th Sunday of Advent

**Christmas Eve Masses**

Sunday, December 24th  
4:00 pm Vigil Mass - Church  
(Adult Choir)

4:00 pm Vigil Mass - Gym  
(Children's Choir -  
Pageant Mass)

6:30 pm Vigil Mass  
(Traditional/Contemporary  
Cantor Mass)

9:00 pm Vigil Mass  
(Contemporary Choir)

Midnight Vigil Mass  
(Contemporary Cantor Mass)

**Christmas Day Masses**

Monday, December 25th  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 am

*The parish office will be closed  
from Tuesday, December 26th  
through Monday, January 2nd*

<b>Week at a Glance</b>			
Dates subject to change. View our complete calendar at: <a href="http://www.holyspiritchurch.org">www.holyspiritchurch.org</a> .			
Monday	9:15 a.m. 3:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Small Community Of Faith Children's Choir Practice Faith Formation Classes Domestic Church Meeting Music Practice ESL at OLR Parish Council Meeting Men's Faith Group AA Meeting	Parish Hall Library Church Parish Hall Church Church OLR Parish Office Parish Hall Room 4 PK1 & Parish Hall
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.  7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Women's Faith Group Watercolor Workshop Domestic Church Meeting Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Out of the Wilderness Suicide Bereavement Group 3sixty Core Team Meeting Women's Faith Group ESL at OLR	Parish Hall Parish Hall & Rm 4 Church Gym Parish Hall Library  Parish Hall Room 2 Parish Hall OLR
Wednesday	6:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Men's Faith Group Scripture Study First Reconciliation Advent Reconciliation Edge Youth Nigh ESL at OLR	Parish Office Parish Hall Library Church Church Parish Hall OLR
Thursday	8:45 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart Survival Sacks Scripture Study Music Practice Growing Our Friendship With Jesus: Angel's, God's Messengers ESL at OLR	SHCS Parish Hall Library Church Parish Hall  OLR
Friday	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Small Community of Faith Al-Anon Meeting	Parish Hall Library Parish Hall
Saturday	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Food Packing Small Community of Faith Winter Wonderland Dinner	Sacred Heart Parish Hall Library Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Children's Liturgy of the Word Nursery Faith Formation Classes Christmas Toy Box Setup Village House Training 3sixty Youth Night	Parish Hall Parish Hall Parish Hall Sacred Heart Parish Hall Parish Hall



## *Winter Wonderland Dinner 2017*

*Seniors 55+*

*Saturday, December 16 after the 5pm mass  
in the Parish Hall.*

*(Drinks and appetizers at 6pm,  
Dinner at 6:30pm).*

*Enjoy holiday decorations, delicious food,  
unforgettable tunes from the 30's, 40's, 50's and  
60's, and warm fellowship  
with parish friends.*

*Cost is \$18 per person for a magical night out.  
\$10 for 79 years and over.*

*You must RSVP to Leah Harris  
at lharris@dsj.org or 408-997-5110  
by December 10<sup>th</sup>.*



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SPECIAL GIFT  
THIS  
CHRISTMAS:**

Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day! The **next Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 9-11, 2018** in San Jose. For more information visit our website at: [sanjosewwme.org](http://sanjosewwme.org) or contact Ken & Claranne at [applications@sanjosewwme.org](mailto:applications@sanjosewwme.org) or 408-782-1413.

**Early Morning  
Alpha Is Coming  
to Holy Family**



Mark your calendars and save the date, **Wednesday, January 10, 2018** will be the introduction session, 8:15 am-10:15 am. Come have breakfast with us and check it out. Holy Family Parish, 4848 Pearl Ave, San Jose. Alpha is all about Jesus, Who **is** the Alpha and the Omega. For more information please contact Christina Fenn at 408-265-5374.



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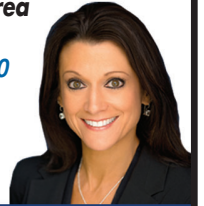
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