



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas

December 24, 2017



Christmas Greeting from the Pastor

Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. is a Jesuit priest who has ministered to gang members in Los Angeles for decades and is renowned for his compassion and kindred spirit with these men and women abandoned by their families and society. He is an amazing man full of grace and I look up to him in so many ways. He regularly shares stories that are powerful and illustrate the power of God's love in the most desperate situations.

Initially, he took the ministry so seriously, he rarely rested and saw every crisis as an opportunity to bring God's grace. He remained on call 24/7. He wanted to save every gang member from danger, even save them from themselves, if necessary. He extended himself endlessly and without limit. Eventually, this would lead to burnout and wisely, his superior asked him to take a sabbatical to reset his ministry. He did and it gave him a new perspective on Christ's role in the world and his role within Christ's church.

To illustrate the lessons he learned, he shared a story about Pedro. Pedro was a greatly troubled kid filled with a measured rage and resentment he submerged beneath first heavy drinking and then crack cocaine. Fr. Greg reached out to him time and time again to enter into rehab as he was a likeable young man and Fr. G saw goodness in him. Eventually after much encouragement, Pedro went into rehab and began the long hard work of returning to himself. 30 days into recovery, Pedro's brother died. But Pedro was determined to stay his course and remained in rehab center until the funeral. Fr. Greg picked him up and promised to drop him right back after the funeral.

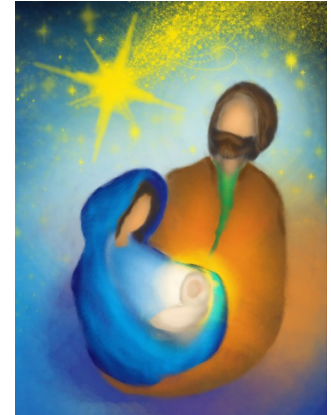


When Pedro got into the car, he told Fr. Greg that he had a dream the previous night and that Fr. Greg was in it. He recounted the dream in great detail. He said that they were both in a dark room with no windows and no doors. There was absolutely no light whatsoever. He told Fr. Greg that even though nobody was speaking and he could not see him, Pedro knew that Fr. Greg was there

and he was comforted by that knowledge. Then without any words, Fr. Greg turned on his flashlight and it pierced the darkness with its bright beam of light. The spotlight shined its beam onto the light switch. Again, no words. Pedro, in his dream, moved to the light switch and flipped the switch. Immediately the room was filled with light and everything could be seen. Pedro could now see Fr. Greg and the beauty of the room. Then the dream ended.

Pedro leaned over to Fr. Greg who was driving carefully and he whispered,

Continued on page 2



*The angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you
good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord.*

- Luke 2:8-11



*Wishing you a very
Blessed Christmas*

We are glad you are here!

- The Holy Spirit Parish Staff

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office / 408-997-5101 24 Hour Emergency

Rev. Brendan McGuire, Pastor
408-997-5105

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

Merry Reardon, Pastoral Associate
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Penny Warne, Pastoral Associate
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Faith Formation 408-997-5112

Baptism 408-997-5107

Initiation 408-997-5112

Marriage 408-997-5115

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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Holy Spirit School

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www.holyspirit-school.org
408-268-0794

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

Question of the Week



Where do I see Jesus most
in my life?

"You are right, Fr. G. the light is better than the darkness." And they kept driving. Pedro found his way back to the light!

Yes, the light is better than the darkness! Christ is the light of the world and today we come to shine our flashlight onto baby Jesus. But it is not that simple! As people of faith we acknowledge that Christ became one of us to show us the Father's love for us. We come to celebrate the birth of Christ as the Son of God and to accept the powerful message of God made flesh.

The challenge is that the world mostly remains in darkness. Most of the world do not accept this message of Christ. And for those of us who acknowledge the voice of God, we never turn on the light switch but choose to live in the darkness of our own desires and pleasures.

On December 31st, I complete thirteen years here at Holy Spirit as your pastor. Over these years, I have spent myself completely in trying to bring you to Christ. I have made myself available, determined to save whoever has been left in my care both here in the parish and also at the diocese as Vicar General. But I realized this last year, like Fr. Greg Boyle, I cannot save you; I cannot bring you to Christ. Christ is already here and he always has been. He is right here in the middle of our darkness. The only thing I can do for you is to shine my flashlight onto the light switch that allows you to turn on the light of Christ for yourself. Only you can turn on that light. Only you can accept Jesus as your personal savior. Only you can change your life's priority.

For those of you who come here weekly, you know that I have tried very hard to get you to pray daily and learn to listen to Christ each day in your hearts. Some of you have taken the challenge and your lives are shining examples of that change. Others of you continue to do what you have always done. Still others of you come here only on Christmas and Easter and only experience our community at major occasions such as funerals and weddings. We are delighted that you are here and you are most welcome. I do not know what to say to convince you to come more often. I do not know what to say to show you the power of God's love and the effect it can have on your life if you only allow his love into your heart. I do not know what to say to convince you to turn on the light in your life. The only thing I can do is to shine my light on the light switch that will lead you to turning on the light of Christ.

I continue to believe in Jesus as the Son of God with all my heart. I continue to experience God's love and know it to be true and real. I continue to lay down my life for Christ and his Church. I will continue to keep shining the light onto the light switch in your rooms. I will continue to be there when you are sick or dying and I will shine the light. I will continue to be there when you question the darkness and the presence God. I will continue to be there when you struggle with life's challenges and pains. I will continue to shine that light onto the light switch in your darkened life.

I pray that one day you will turn on the light of Christ and see for yourself the beauty of God's love and why love changes everything for the better. Until then please know that God loves you and welcomes you back no matter what. He loves you and we love you. I don't know what keeps you away, but maybe you can find it in your heart to forgive. Please do not allow the messenger to spoil the message. God loves you and Christ's presence in the world was a demonstration of that love. That light cuts through the darkness of pain, wounds, sin, loneliness and doubt. Let the light of Christ shine. Merry Christmas to you all.

LIVING THE LITURGY



4th Sunday of Advent or Christmas Eve?

Every year, the anticipatory nature of Advent points to the joy, peace and celebration that comes not just from Christmas day, but the entire Christmas season. The Advent liturgies, full of consistent and hopeful reminders to “stay awake,” transition with watchful anticipation into the joyful celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. This transition is especially noticeable during the days between 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas, during which our Church community begins its annual Christmas transformation; new lights appear across the outside of buildings, traditional Christmas trees and white poinsettias make their annual appearance in the church, and our nativity scene is carefully decorated and assembled. There’s a lot that happens between the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve! All that being said, this year presents a conundrum for our Art & Environment teams. This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day!

So what happens to the 4th Sunday of Advent? And what does that mean for our preparations for Christmas? Luckily for us, the 4th Sunday of Advent doesn’t just disappear. We still have the opportunity to celebrate together the 4th Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Christmas Eve mass is, according to the Roman Missal, to be celebrated as the vigil mass for Christmas Day. Because it is an anticipatory celebration, Christmas Eve does not take up a full day on its own; just an evening (starting at 4pm, as the Roman Missal states). This is why the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve happen on the same day once every few years.

When the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day, there are mere hours between the final celebration of Advent and the first celebration of Christmas. During this time, the entire church will undergo a complete change of scenery. All of the violet used to decorate the sanctuary will be replaced with white and gold, our advent wreath will be transformed into a Christmas wreath, and our traditional Christmas trees and poinsettias will be put in place and decorated. And if you’re vigilant, you might notice the changes for Christmas happening before Advent is over. This season will truly be a full anticipation of the joy of Christmas!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

M	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
T	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
W	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
T	1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
F	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
S	1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
S	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5

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	8:00	Ron Grow † Elizabeth Solis †
	9:30	Vinette Palasqua †
	11:30	Holy Spirit Community
W	8:30	Monica & Catherine Nguyen
Sa	5:00	Holy Spirit Community
Su	9:30	Clarisse Flanagan †
	11:30	Rahul Pinto † Mark Ronen †
	6:00	Angela Gutierrez † Lucila Ruiz †

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill:
Bob Jardine, Howard LeBas &
Peggy Narron

For those who have recently died:
Sarah Elliott, Rita Pacheco,
Stephen Popovich & Carlos Vargas





“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

If you are visiting today, we want to welcome you in a special way.

If you are local and would like more information about our parish, please complete the form on page 7 and return it to the Ambassador table or mail it to 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. For immediate info, visit www.holyspiritchurch.org.

If you are from out of our area and enjoyed your Mass experience today, you can request that Father Brendan’s homily be sent to you each week by indicating this on the Welcome Card.

Advent Angels Toy Drive

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TOYS! Holy Spirit Church and Holy Spirit School collected over 500 gifts, which included bikes, skateboards, puzzles, books, art supplies, dolls, trucks, and much, much more!

All gifts were delivered to Sacred Heart Community Service by Middle School students and parent volunteers who stayed and helped sort another 4000 toys there

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children in our community!



THANK YOU!

Our Holy Spirit Parish Community has once again responded with incredible generosity and compassion to this year’s Gifts of Opportunity Program! Your gifts will change the lives of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters forever! Thank you so much for your support!!



There is still time to make a purchase in the Parish Office during working hours, or online through January 31, 2018 at <http://squareup.com/store/HSGO>.

Don’t forget to double your impact as many companies big and small, match gifts to non-profit or educational organizations. Donations can be applied to Holy Spirit Church or Amigos For Christ.

For more information, please contact Laura Smith at sargi8@sbcglobal.net.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Survival Sacks

Holy Spirit parishioners gather on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Sacred Heart to distribute Survival Sacks, organize supplies, make hygiene kits, and fill backpacks. Sacks are provided to those who are homeless and living on the streets of San Jose, usually about 50 on

each distribution day. We have the privilege of looking for the face of Christ in each of our clients.

Consider joining us on the **first or third Thursday of January (1/4 and 1/18)**. We meet at Sacred Heart at 8:45am and finish up about 10:45am. Sign ups for January are now open on the parish website.

Celebrating Advent with the Family

Fulfillment: The Fourth Sunday of Advent



"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High'" (Lk 1:30-32).

Advent Wreath Prayer

Light the fourth candle and say...

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

God of wisdom, bless us with Mary's "yes" as we welcome Emmanuel into our hearts and homes. Amen.

Family Advent Activity

Spend time at the Crib – Encourage each member of your family to spend some quiet time in prayer near the Nativity scene at your home or parish. What does the manger teach us? How could God allow his Son to be born in a stable? Give thanks for the gift of Christ and the joy of the Christmas season to come.

Reflect

Like the angels, how might we be witnesses of God's miraculous love?



Merry Christmas!

Christ is born! Merry Christmas to all. We are indeed blessed here at Holy Spirit to have such a supportive community that makes youth ministry a priority. The ministry has seen much success throughout the years. So thank you! Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and a wonderful new year.



3sixty High School Ministry

Last Sunday, 3sixty had their final youth night of the 2017 year. On that night we had a Christmas social with a fun activity decorating wooden crosses. It's a nice gift and reminder of the reason for the holiday.

3sixty resumes back on Sunday, January 7th.

Edge Middle School Ministry

The next Edge night of the 2018 year will be on **Wednesday, January 10th**. Enjoy the holiday break!



SCHOOL NEWS

Merry Christmas

The students, teachers, parents and staff of Holy Spirit School wish you a very Merry Christmas!



Ten Ways to Honor a Deceased Loved One at Christmas



Whether your loved one is recently deceased or passed away many years ago, the following ideas are ways for you to honor your loved one at this time of year.

1. Give a gift to a special cause in the name of your loved one.
2. Contribute to the parish Christmas environment with flowers or a plan in honor of your loved one.
3. Make simple holiday ornaments that symbolically represent your loved one, and give them to family and friends.
4. Hang a holiday welcome wreath on your front door and keep plants or flowers in your home.
5. Lay a place setting for your loved one at your main holiday meal.
6. Honor your loved one by creating a joyful video of fond memories or a scrapbook.
7. Share an inspiring story about your loved one with a friend or acquaintance.
8. Send thank you notes to those who were special to your loved one.
9. Give to someone an item that belonged to your loved one.

Week at a Glance

Dates subject to change. View our complete calendar at: www.holyspiritchurch.org.

Monday		Christmas Day	
Tuesday		No Daily Mass	
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Al Anon Meeting	Parish Hall
Saturday			
Sunday			

Saturday Lunch Ministry

Please consider joining us in an exciting way to serve others. We meet in the Parish Hall at 10:30 a.m. to make sandwiches and pack lunches to distribute in the St. James Park area of downtown San Jose and along the light rail tracks into the center of the city.



Part of the group remains in the park cleans up litter. Even litter that isn't part of the Holy Spirit lunches will be cleared away.

We invite ten families to join us each month. We ask for a one to one ratio of adults to students as parents need to be with their child especially during the distribution in St. James Park. Student participation is limited to sixth grade and older. A donation of \$10 is asked from each family to cover the cost of food and supplies.

Our next Saturday Lunch Ministry is January 6th. Sign up at www.holyspiritchurch.org/sandwich-ministry/.

10. Make a New Year's resolution that will honor your loved one throughout the coming year (e.g. give blood, mentor a child, volunteer your time or skills).
11. Share your honoring activity with others so that others who also loved your loved one may share in the joy as a family affair.

At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of God to dwell in our midst in the birth of Jesus Christ, the one who passed through death to new life. Our loved one has gone through this same passage. Honoring our deceased loved one at Christmas helps us to keep them and what we loved about them always in our hearts, and to see and touch the power of life beyond death.

(Derived from CareNotes #21593 by Kass Dotterweich)

PARISH ACTIVITIES



Village House Opens January 3rd at Holy Spirit Church

Village House is a network of interfaith organizations working to provide shelter to medically fragile women in Santa Clara County. **We will take a special offering on Christmas Weekend in support of Village House.** \$24 supports one

woman for 24 hours. Please give generously – your gift makes a big difference. You can also make an online donation at www.villagehousesccca.com.

If you would like to volunteer in our Village House program, please go online and see the many shifts available. **Sign-ups are now open on the Holy Spirit website at www.holyspiritchurch.org/village-house.**



**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT JOSEPH**

2:00 PM, FEBRUARY 03, 2018

Couples celebrating their 1st through 5th, 25th, 40th and 50th (or more) wedding anniversaries are invited to the celebration.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – JANUARY 15, 2018

(RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED,

REGISTER EARLY DUE TO LIMITED SEATING)

For information, call Annie Bui (408) 983-0126

Register online www.dsj.org/weddinganniversarymass



Please note the parish office will be closed from **Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st**

Welcome to Holy Spirit Parish! We are so glad you joined us today.



Welcome

Would you like to register or learn more about our community? We would love to connect with you.

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Preferred method of contact:

Phone: _____

Email Phone

Please drop this card in the collection basket, hand it to any usher or hand it to the presider on your way out.

For more information about Holy Spirit Parish, please visit www.holyspiritchurch.org