



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018



## Fr. Brendan's Christmas Message

I recently read an article about the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth written by Fr. Ron Rolheiser. It was striking and powerful. In the passage, he reflects upon the beginning of St. Luke's gospel: Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, both pregnant, meet. Mary is carrying Jesus and Elizabeth is carrying John the Baptist.

Luke goes to great length to tell us that both these pregnancies are biologically impossible; one is a virginal conception and the other is a conception that occurs far beyond normal childbearing years. When they first meet something extraordinary happens and neither Mary nor Elizabeth, much less anyone around them, were aware of the divine connection between the two children they are carrying. Each is carrying a child from heaven, one is carrying Christ and the other is carrying a unique prophet, the "cousin" of the Christ, John the Baptist. John leaps for joy in the presence of Christ. Even before he is born he recognizes the presence of Christ. While Christ is his cousin, he is more than that, he is the divine Son of God and John knows that already. In return, Mary gives her Magnificat about the child inside her.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser quotes Christian de Cherge, the Trappist Abbott who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, suggesting that "this image is the key to how Christians are meant to meet other religions in the world." Christian de Cherge sees the image as illustrating this paradigm:

"Christianity is carrying Christ and other religions are also carrying a divine 'cousin', who points to Christ. But all of this is unconscious; we do not really grasp the bond between what we are carrying and what the other is carrying. But we will recognize their kinship when we stand before another who does not share our Christian faith but is sincere and true to his or her own faith. In that encounter we will sense the connection: What we are carrying will make something leap for joy inside the other and that reaction will help draw the Magnificat out of us and, like Mary, we will want to stay with that other for mutual support."

This is a beautiful way to understand the visitation. We desperately need to have a new vision of how we see each other beyond the bounds of our own religion. We need a vision that is big enough for God, in all his magnificence, to operate in our world today with all of its divisions. We need a vision where we see the good of humanity as the divine presence of God in each other no matter what.

Now more than ever we need each other, "everyone on this planet, to understand God's revelation. Nobody understands fully without the other.



## A Christmas Prayer

Gracious God,

We turn to you in wonder and praise as we celebrate Christmas.

Remind us during this sacred season of our collective story. May our roots extend deep into the soil of faith and spread outwards to share the Good News of Christ's coming,

Focus our attention so that we remain attuned to the sights, sounds, and sensations of the season. May the presence of Christ be at the forefront of our thoughts and actions as we enact each holiday ritual.

Fill us with hope in the presence of Christ in our world. May we never lose sight of the promise of the Kingdom of peace and compassion that is both present and yet to be.

With gratitude in our hearts,  
we pray.

Amen

- From [sadlierreligion.com](http://sadlierreligion.com)

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## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Office /** 408-997-5101  
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Faith Formation 408-997-5112

Baptism 408-997-5115

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

Finance Council John McCarthy  
mcc1416arthy@gmail.com

### **Holy Spirit School**

1198 Redmond Avenue  
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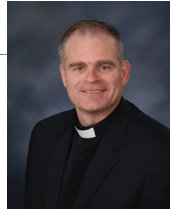
Maureen Christensen, Principal  
Greg Vohs, Assistant Principal

## Question of the Week

In what ways have I successfully prepared myself for Christ's coming this Advent?

## NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

*Continued from page 1*



Without recognizing that the other, too, is carrying the divine, Christian de Cherge asserts, we will be unable to truly release our own Magnificat."

My hope this Christmas is that we can come to recognize the good in others as the seed of God. That we can gently tend to that seed and nourish it helping it to grow into a deeper relationship with God. That we can come to appreciate that even though someone may not come to Church, they still have the image of God imprinted within them and every good action is pulling them closer to God. That we can make every action be an authentic call back to God. That we can celebrate the good in each other, now more than ever.

As I begin my fifteenth year as your pastor, I am very grateful. This year has been one of the most difficult of my priesthood and yet one of my most grace-filled as I came to grips with my own sexual abuse by a clergy member many years ago. Your response as parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish, was incredible. You showed me the face of God and his abundant love for me. You have been amazing as you supported me through my struggles with the new revelations of sexual abuse and how they were handled over the years. We have walked together in these last few months and have been strength to each other. Thank you for that gift.

For those of you who come here weekly, thank you for making this community an amazing refuge for all of us. We have relied on our prayer time to get us through and I am glad we have spent so much time over these last few years developing our prayer lives because we totally needed it.

Others of you come here only on Christmas and Easter or experience our community only at major occasions such as funerals and weddings. We are delighted that you are here. I am not sure now is the time to ask you to consider coming more often but I want you to know about the power of this community and the power of God's love. I do not know what to say to convince you but simply know you are welcome any time.

If you are Catholic and strayed from the Church, I don't know what keeps you away, and I am sure there are many reasons added this year! I ask you to give us the Church another chance. Please find it in your heart to forgive the leaders of our Church who have failed us. We are here because we love the Lord. God loves us all and Holy Spirit is a community who believes in Christ and welcomes everyone.

I continue to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. I continue to experience God's love. I continue to lay down my life for Christ and his Church. I continue to love my priesthood. I continue to believe in the goodness of humanity and the divine within every single person.

I pray that one day all will experience the light of Christ and see for themselves the beauty of God's love. Until then please know that God loves every human being and welcomes every good deed done. And in every good person is something unconscious; we do not really grasp the bond between what we are carrying and what the other is carrying. I believe that God loves all of us no matter we are in our lives.

May God bless everyone this season and allow us to love one another with a new zeal. Merry Christmas to you.



### Christmas: More than Just a Holiday

The final days leading up to Christmas: family members traveling to together, frantic shopping for last-minute gifts, holiday parties full of laughter, fun, and Christmas Cheer. The joy, peace and love shared at the Christmas season is infectious.

Yet, once Christmas Day has come and gone, it almost seems like the whole world goes back to normal. However, this couldn't be further from the truth in the Catholic Church! Christmas in the Catholic Church isn't just a single day; Christmas in the liturgical calendar is an entire season, just like Advent, Lent, and Easter. The Christmas season lasts two weeks; the first day being the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, and the last day being the Baptism of the Lord, which usually takes place the second full week of January.

While the season lasts until the Baptism of the Lord, perhaps the most notable part of the celebration of Christmas is the Octave of Christmas. The Octave of Christmas consists of Christmas Day, and the entire week following leading up until New Year's Day, during which we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The word "Octave" was derived from the Latin *Octava Dies*, simply meaning, "The Eighth Day." The feast of the Nativity of the Lord continues throughout the eight days, during which there are several feasts that we celebrate. This year, we will celebrate the Feast of St. John the Apostle, to whom Jesus entrusted his Mother after his death, The Feast of Holy Innocents, which remembers and celebrates the young people who were martyred for the Church, and The Feast of the Holy Family.

This beautiful tradition of the Octave of Christmas and the Christmas season reminds us that the Joy, Peace and Hope brought to us by the Birth of Christ extends far beyond December 25th. The celebration of Christ's life does not just last through the Octave, nor the Season of Christmas, but persists throughout the entire year! As we celebrate this Christmas Holiday, let us remember to spread that same Joy and Love throughout the whole season, and indeed through the whole year.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- M 12/24 Is 9: 1-6, Titus 2:11-14, Lk 2:1-14
- T 12/25 Is 52: 7-10, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
- W 12/26 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- TH 12/27 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- F 12/28 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- S 12/29 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- SU 12/30 Sir 3:2-6, Col 3:12-21, k 2:41-52



### 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 12/24	4:00	Rahul Pinto † Maggie Cannon † Maddie Cannon †
	6:30	Pearl Jablonski † Valorino Testa † Helen Lisica †
TU 12/25	9:30 11:30	Rachel Martinez † Carol Magallon † Socorro Magallon †
SA 12/29	5:00	Rahul Pinto † Diane Crockett †
SU 12/30	8:00	HSP
	11:30	Felicia Quadrini †

### PRAYER REQUESTS

#### For those who are ill:

Gene Conry, Evan Grober,  
Katie Peckham

#### For those who have recently died:

Karen Griewing,  
Rose Marie Reres



## STEWARDSHIP



### Art and Environment

Our Art and Environment ministers need some extra help to transition the church and gym environment from Advent to Christmas and back again. Please consider helping on:

- **December 24th at 9:00 a.m. to set up the church for Christmas**
- **January 5th at 9:00 a.m. to clean up the Gym and ready the space for the student's return on January 7th**

Any time you can share will be much appreciated and Community Service hours are available if needed.

To volunteer contact Sue Schill at [sue@bobschill.com](mailto:sue@bobschill.com), or the Parish office at 408-997-5101.



### Survival Sacks

Holy Spirit parishioners are continuing to volunteer to distribute Survival Sacks at Sacred Heart Community Center. We gather on the first and third Thursdays of the month 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.

**Join us on January 4th and/or 18th.** The signup link can be found on the parish website. Volunteers must be 16 or older. We meet at Sacred Heart at 8:45 a.m. and finish up about 10:45 a.m. Signups for January will open on the parish website as of December 21st.

Please consider joining us for this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact either Patty or Tom at [tnburgei@yahoo.com](mailto:tnburgei@yahoo.com) or call 408-356-6773. Thank you.

### Special Collection for Village House Women's Shelter at Christmas Masses

A special collection will be taken at Holy Spirit Christmas masses to support the Village House Rotating Shelter for Women.

In addition to volunteers, the shelter network depends on financial support from parishioners throughout its 15 member churches to operate its system of evening shelters and day centers.

Last year 51 women spent an average of 4 months in the warmth and safety of churches throughout San Jose.

Please give generously to this program of compassion and love.



### Sandwich Ministry

Please consider joining us in an exciting way to serve others.

We meet in the Parish Hall to make lunches, then we drive to the St. James Park area of downtown San Jose to distribute them to everyone in the park. When everyone has been served, part of the group follows the light rail tracks into the center of the city and distributes sandwiches as they walk. The part of the group who remains in the park **cleans up litter**.

We invite ten families to join us **this January 5th at 10:30 a.m.** 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.



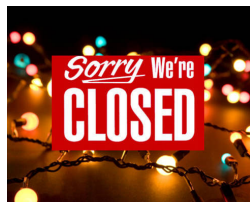


Each Advent/Christmas season, our children, staff, and volunteers are hard at work to bring the story of Jesus' humble beginning to life. The Christmas Pageant provides the children an opportunity to actively engage in the story and the Liturgy. We

hope you can join us in the Holy Spirit School Gym on **December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.!**

Every role in the story is important: Mary's "yes" fulfilled the prophecy and brought Jesus into the world. Joseph modeled obedience, courage, and sacrifice. The angels announced the good news to the shepherds while the star lead the three wise men with their offerings to our Newborn King. But have you wondered why the angels appeared only to the shepherds with the news of Jesus' birth?

One can only imagine that the shepherds are not the cleanest; sleeping in the fields and are constantly traveling with their flock. They are often looked down upon by others for breaking the Sabbath, since their flocks still need tending to. The angels appeared to them, invited them to come as they are to seek our Savior. This is an important reminder for us that God didn't seek out the kings nor Pharases to come to Him; the littlest ones, the sick, and outcasts have a special place in his heart and they are not forgotten.



**Nursery Closed**

Please note that the Nursery will not be open on the following Sundays:

**December 23rd, December 30th, January 6th**

YOUTH MINISTRY



**EDGE**<sup>®</sup>  
Catholic Middle School Ministry

**Christmas Holiday Break**

Merry Christmas! We hope you have a safe and wonderful Christmas Holiday.

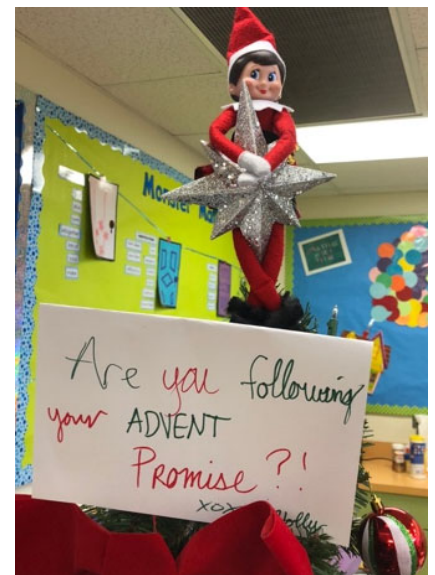
Youth ministry will be on a break until the new year.

Sixty resumes back on **January 6** and Edge on **January 9**.



**Advent at Holy Spirit School**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Elf on the Shelf has reminded our students to keep their Advent promises. Their promises include being kind to one another, helping out at home and sharing with those in need. It's just one way we live our faith on campus.



**Merry Christmas**

The students, teachers, parents and staff of Holy Spirit School wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. See you after the break! School will resume Monday, **January 7**.



**Holiday Stress Busters**

While it’s the season to be merry, for many of us, it’s also a season for stress and anxiety which leads us to unhealthy behaviors. Lean on effective relaxation and self-care techniques to avoid unhealthy stress.

**Take frequent calming breaks.**

Frequently throughout the day, close your eyes, take several deep breaths and pray. Quick mindful breaks can help when you’re feeling frustrated waiting in line.

**Practice gratitude.** Remember when people push unhealthy habits on you, they are likely trying to convey their love. Graciously decline and gratefully acknowledge their love.

**Get moving.** One of the best ways to overcome stress during the holidays is to exercise regularly. Activity boosts fitness, energy levels and elevates your mood.

**Choose real foods.** You’ll be tempted with empty-calorie “treats”. Eat healthy meals, fruits, vegetables, lean protein. Benefits include more energy and patience!

**Prepare “Nice For Me” and “Need to Do” lists.** Writing down all that you have to do will help you realize how realistic your tasks are. Tackle one item from each list, alternating shopping or baking with exercise or rest for you.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Dates subject to change. View our complete calendar at: [www.holyspiritchurch.org](http://www.holyspiritchurch.org)

MON 12/24	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 11:55 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass AA Meeting Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break	Church Church Classroom 3 Church Church
TUE 12/25	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break	Church Church Church
WED 12/26		Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break	
THU 12/27		Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break	
FRI 12/28	9:30 a.m.	Al-Anon Meeting Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break	Parish Hall
SAT 12/29		Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break No CLOW	
SUN 12/30		Parish Office Closed-Christmas Break No Nursery	



**Merry Christmas**

**The Parish Office will be closed from December 21st through January 1st.**

**Christmas Eve Schedule**

- 4:00 pm in the Gym
- 4:00 pm in the Church
- 6:30 pm in the Church
- 9:00 pm in the Church
- 12:00 am in the Church

**Christmas Day Schedule**

- 8:00 am in the Church
- 9:30 am in the Church
- 11:30 am in the Church

**Be generous.** One of the best ways to stay calm, and cheerful is to act generously with others. You don’t need to spend money to be generous. Write a poem or a handwritten card. When you are creative with your gifts and thanks, people will appreciate your real, heartfelt sentiments.



The year-round rotating shelter for women **opens on January 4th at Holy Spirit through February 6th.** This will be our fourth year of opening the church to women who would otherwise be homeless this winter! It's only through your participation that this ministry is possible in providing a warm, safe and loving environment for our women guests!

During 2017-18 Village House, a temporary shelter for medically fragile homeless women, sheltered 51 women. Women stay in the program an average of four months while they attempt to stabilize their lives. Here they have a safe place to sleep each night, shower, and have three meals every day, seven days per week. Most of all, they will be surrounded by people who give them unconditional love and support.

In the past year 76% left the program for another safe and stable environment. 35% were discharged to permanent housing, either a rental or living stably with family or friends.

There are **volunteer opportunities** with preparing meals, towels and linen laundry, intake and registrations, transportation, set-up and take down, medical and overnight supervision. Our volunteer sign-up page is now open at [www.holyspiritchurch.org/village-house](http://www.holyspiritchurch.org/village-house).

For volunteers who are over 18 and serving in overnight, intake or transportation positions, contact Katie Metzger at 408-997-5115 for info on requirements.

## Christmas Message from Bishop McGrath and Bishop Cantú

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From Christ who was, who is and who is to come, grace light and peace be with you!



The coming of the end of the year coincides with our annual observance of Advent and Christmas. As we look back to a year that in so many ways has been terribly sad and disappointing, still we are full of hope in view of what is yet to come. This hope is founded in Who is to come: our Lord Jesus Christ.

The weeks leading to Christmas encourage us to be one with the prophets who foretold the Lord's coming as they fervently hoped for an end to the bondage and captivity that so often marked the life of the people of Israel. Even now, we live in this same hope as we so often sing "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel." We rejoice, for we are confident that, in spite of all things, God is with us.

Advent also serves to help us prepare to celebrate the Lord's Birth, surrounded by the love of Mary and Joseph, the song of angels and shepherds' witness. We look fondly to that first Christmas as the reason for our celebration so many years later.

These weeks before Christmas challenge us to see and welcome the Lord who breaks into each of our lives as surely as He entered the life and history of humanity long ago in Bethlehem.

Where do we recognize the Lord today? Do we allow ourselves to hear His voice speaking to us through the Scriptures? Do we encounter His loving care for us in the sacraments, most especially in the Eucharist? Do we know Him in one another and in the poor and needy who knock on the doors of our lives? Today, in December 2018, parents and young children, not so unlike the Holy Family, are seeking asylum from the violence that threatens them. They come to the borders of this nation in the hope that just as the Holy Family found safety in Egypt, so these families will find the welcome that we might reserve for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Looking forward to Christmas and the New Year, we cannot erase the mistakes and tragedies of the past, but we can surely recommit ourselves and our Church to a renewed faithfulness to the Lord Whose Birth we prepare to celebrate with joy and love.

May this ancient prayer be on our lips and in our hearts: "Jesus, living in Mary, come and live in us."

With every best wish and kind regard, We remain,

Sincerely yours,

Patrick J. McGrath  
Bishop of San Jose

Oscar Cantú  
Bishop of San Jose