



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22nd, 2019



DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE

The Christmas Mystery : ‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’
(Jn 1 :14)

I once heard a priest whom I deeply respected say something about Christmas that troubled me. He said that Christmas was really more for children, while Easter was truly for adults. This statement troubled me because while the Christmas mystery is more easily accessible to children than might be the Easter mystery, Christmas is neither superficial nor superfluous. On the contrary, the Christmas mystery is profoundly penetrating as it provides the foundation for understanding the key significance of the Easter mystery.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes St. Athanasius’ poignant expression: ‘the Son of God became man so that we might become God’ (CCC 460). This is sometimes referred to as the ‘great exchange:’ God enters the human condition to transform it, heal it, and elevate it, so that humanity might enjoy communion with God. Indeed, there is nothing superficial or superfluous about that aspect of the Christian mystery. This is the deep significance of the Christmas celebration: God enters our world, our humanity, so that we might enter his world, his divinity.

We might ask one more question in all this: why does God do this? He doesn’t have to. He humbles himself to enter our humanity freely, out of love – love for you and me. I invite us all to ponder that mystery of God’s boundless love during this Christmas Season. Let us take time to ponder the quiet serenity of Manger scene – Joseph and Mary in adoration of the new born Jesus. This scene speaks to us deeply of God’s quiet, but profound presence in the world, and if we allow him to enter, in our lives.

In this Christmas Season, I pray that the sacred mystery of Jesus’ birth penetrate our lives, our families, our relationships, our work and activity, that we might acknowledge the power of the Incarnation ever at work within us – transforming us, healing us, elevating us to communion with a God who loves us beyond our imagination.

Be assured of my daily prayers for you, especially in this Christmas Season !

Bishop Oscar Cantú

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office / 408-997-5101
24 Hour Emergency

Rev. Brendan McGuire, Pastor
408-997-5105 brendan.mcguire@dsj.org

Rev. Edgar Elamparo, Parochial Vicar
408-997-5107 edgar.elamparo@dsj.org

Merry Reardon, Pastoral Associate
408-997-5112 merry.reardon@dsj.org

Penny Warne, Pastoral Associate
408-997-5108 penny.warne@dsj.org

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 Beck
goya12string@yahoo.com

Pastoral Council Stephanie Kavanagh
stephaniekavanagh2@gmail.com

Holy Spirit School

1198 Redmond Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120
www.holyspirit-school.org
408-268-0794

Greg Vohs, Interim Principal
Maira Gutierrez-Folchi, Assistant Principal

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



Every week I visit the students in our school classrooms to answer their questions. These sessions are open-ended and allow the children to ask

whatever is on their minds. They are always unpredictable and always fun.



This week one of the children asked me what was my favorite season of the liturgical year? I immediately said it was **Christmas**. I explained why. It is not only because I love to decorate my house with lots of Christmas trees and lights but also because others love to do the same. It is not only because we give gifts to our family and friends but also because we think about those who have no family and friends and we give to them. It is not only because it is a joyful time for Christians who believe in Jesus but also because the rest of society joins in the joyfulness even if they don't share our faith.

Yes. I love Christmas and all the distractions it brings because no matter what the skeptics say, Christmas is still great news for the whole world. It seems that the whole world, if only for one day of the year, agree to be joyful and peaceful. I love Christmas and want more of what it brings.

The ultimate message of Christmas is that God loves humanity. In choosing to become human God wants us to know that our final destiny is to become divine. He chose to take on our human condition so we would know that he created all of us in his own image and all humans reflect a part of God. He wants us to love him by loving one another without exception. He came into the world as the Light of the world and assure us no matter how dark things get his light will always prevail. That is a beautiful and powerful message that can heal the whole world of all its wounds if we let in that love.

St. John of the Cross believed that only God could inflame the heart with love so deep that it penetrates every recess and heals every wound. God wants us to rest in his presence where he can love us and we allow him to do so. God's love transforms us from the inside out and then allows us to love others and transform others.

This Christmas, I ask us all to rest in Christ and share his love with others. Yes, with family and friends but also reach out to others beyond our family boundaries and be part of this healing love in our world. I promise it will change you as much as it changes the person you are trying to love. St. John of the Cross once said "Where there is no love put love and you will draw out love." Let's draw out love from one another.

Christ is the light of the world and at Christmas we come to let the light of Jesus shine. We come to celebrate the birth of Christ as the Son of God and to accept the powerful message of God made flesh. We come to share in that love with others and make Christmas everybody's favorite season!

Merry Christmas

Fr. Brendan

Question of the Week

How can the coming celebration of Christmas nourish your holiness?

Village House Shelter Opens



The Village House shelter for homeless women begins its 5th year on **January 3**. Our evening shelter will operate from 7pm – 7am seven days per week, **January 3 – February 3**. the Holy Spirit website Village House webpage; <https://holyspiritchurch.org/village-house>. Screening is required by the Catholic Diocese of San Jose for those volunteers in close contact with our shelter guests. For more information on volunteer opportunities or screening requirements, contact Frank Ricchio at frankricchio@sbcglobal.net.

Nicaragua Mission Trip 2020



Holy Spirit is planning two mission trips back to Nicaragua next summer; June 13-20 and June 20-27.

More information can be found on <http://holyspiritchurch.org/nicaragua-mission>.

If you have questions or would like to receive updates about this trip, please email hs.amigos@yahoo.com.



This Christmas, we invite you to share joy by giving opportunity in rural Nicaragua by gifting a modern bathroom, a clean air kitchen, two daily meals for a student for a year and many other options. Your generosity and support will bless a child, family, and an entire community. Whether it is the health of a family, their economic development, or education, your support will have a lasting impact.



How it Works:

1. Purchase gifts online for your loved ones, friends, co-workers or company by visiting <http://amigosforchrist.org/gohs/>.
2. Your recipient receives a beautiful card and keepsake ornament that explains the impact of their gift.
3. Families or communities in Nicaragua receive opportunities that will change their lives.

Don't forget to double your impact as many companies match gifts to non-profit organizations.

Join us for:

Christmas Carols Sing-Along Event



December 22nd

after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

Come and gather around the Christmas tree in the courtyard for caroling, fellowship and a warm drink!

Caroling will be followed by light hospitality in the courtyard.

Christmas Mass Schedule



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

**The Parish Office Will Be Closed
Dec. 24th thru. Jan. 5th
For the Christmas Season**

School News



Waiting is so hard for our first graders! Our classrooms are covered with reminders that Jesus is the greatest gift we are waiting for this season.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of all the students, teachers and staff we wish Hope, Peace, Joy and Love today and always.



Holy Spirit School is closed through January 6, 2020 for Christmas Break.

See you in the New Year!

3sixty High School Ministry



Last Sunday, we had a wonderful evening in praise and worship to bring our 2019 year to a close.

Please note that 3sixty will be on a holiday break. We will resume back on **Sunday, January 5, 2020!**

Edge Middle School Ministry



The next Edge night will be on **Wednesday, January 15th.**

We will take a look at the 2019 year and reflect on what we can look forward to for the 2020 year.

Have a Merry Christmas



A Refresher Why We do What We do! Part 8

Why do Catholic Churches always have a cross with Jesus' body on it?

We call the Cross with Jesus' body (a corpus) on it a Crucifix.



For Catholics, our appreciation of the Cross is not just the Cross itself, but what Jesus

did for us on the Cross. Yes, Jesus is resurrected—he's not still dead on the cross—but it's important for us to enter into the experience of the crucifixion. It wasn't sterile—and it can't be sterile in our memory. Jesus; 100% God, 100% human, really suffered and really died on the Cross. We believe that it is this action (paired with the resurrection) that offers us salvation. We also believe that because of Jesus' suffering, our suffering has meaning, too.

When we look at the crucifix, we are reminded that God knows our suffering. We are also reminded that, just as Jesus wasn't alone in His suffering, we aren't either. And, finally, just as Jesus' suffering wasn't the end of the story; neither is ours. God never lets suffering go unchallenged; and the crucifix is our banner for God's ultimate conquering of sin and death through His own suffering.

How Holiday Memories Can Bring Healing



Advent and Christmas and grieving don't seem to fit together. Or do they? The reality is that when you have lost a loved one, grieving becomes an inseparable part of your holiday experience. Whether this is the first year or any subsequent year you face without your loved one, Christmas has been changed forever by your loved one's passing. But the beautiful fact is that within Christmas itself lies a powerful way for you to move through your grief. Here are some suggestions for using your memories to heal your grief:

- ◆ Accept the memories as they come. If the loss is recent, there will be pain beneath the surface either way. Allow yourself to sense how your loved one remains a part of you by cherishing his or her continuing presence in your heart.
- ◆ Share your memories with others and listen to theirs, through photos, videos and storytelling. Sharing tears and laughter helps us honor our loved ones most endearing qualities.
- ◆ Remember your loved one by maintaining your holiday traditions, remembering your loved one as you share them together.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MON 12/23	3:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal No Faith Formation Classes Music Rehearsal Men's Faith Group AA Meeting	Church Parish Hall Church Classroom 2 Classroom 3
TUE 12/24	4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 12:00 a.m.	Office Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 5 Christmas Eve Mass/Children's Pageant Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass Midnight Mass	Gym Church Church Church Church
WED 12/25	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</i> Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass	Church Church Church
THU 12/26		Office Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 5	
FRI 12/27	9:30 a.m.	Al-Anon Meeting	Parish Office
SAT 12/28	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Music Rehearsal NO CLOW	Church Parish Hall
SUN 12/29	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal NO Nursery NO CLOW Music Rehearsal NO Faith Formation Classes Music Rehearsal No 3Sixty	Church Parish Hall Parish Hall Church Parish Hall Church Parish Hall

- ◆ Find consolation and wisdom in the meaning of Christmas which provides eloquent and powerful symbols for those who are grieving. While grief can feel as if winter has overtaken your soul, the deeper significance of Christmas can give consolation and wisdom to your spirit. Let its message of love fill your heart and reveal to you what matters most.

Memories point us forward as well as back. Let your remembrances give you hope that someday you will move through your grieving and know joy once more. Be comforted by the Thanksgiving message of gratitude and the Christmas message of life and grace, and know that your loved one's spirit endures forever.



**A Passion Play Journey to
Poland, the Czech Republic & Germany**
Under the Spiritual Direction of Rev. Brendan McGuire
Holy Spirit Parish in San Jose, California
Group Coordinator: Ms. Mary Longaker
12 Days: September 6 to September 17, 2020

