



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2009

Be strong and fear not,
our God will come with glory!

John answered them saying

**THERE IS ONE
TO COME THAT IS
MIGHTIER THAN I.
HE WILL BAPTIZE
YOU IN THE SPIRIT
AND IN FIRE.**

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Advice From Our Patron: Share

Friends,

In the Gospel today, the people asked John the Baptist what they should do. He told them: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." That is tremendous challenge to every one of us. We all have a surplus of clothing and food. We all have a lot of things. God has blessed us with plenty, and then our patron ruins everything by telling us to share. We have a hard time sharing because we treasure and hold onto our things. I am just like you. I have too much. I must hear the words of John and let go of some of my stuff. The chill of winter is a great time to give some of our stuff away to the poor.

Here is a little poem that fits this theme:

"They may see the good you do as self-serving.
Continue to do good.
They may see your generosity as grandstanding.
Continue to be generous.
They may see your warm and caring nature as a weakness.
Continue to be warm and caring.
For you see, in the end,
It is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway."

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

Fr. John

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column and all of Father John's previous columns are available on our parish Web site. Just go to www.SaintJohnTheBaptistChurch.org and click on the picture of the church.

Mass for the Intentions Week

December 12 – 19, 2009

		Intention	Requested By
Saturday, Dec. 12	5 p.m.	Simeon Ignacio & Maria Amparo †	Eulalia McEntire
Sunday, Dec. 13	8 a.m.	Renaldo Marin †	Marin Family
	9:30 a.m.	Judy Goss †	Robert Jewett
	11 a.m.	Eugenio Artiaga	Reyline Artiaga
	12:30 p.m.	Nnamdi Uche †	Uche Family
	6 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Brazilian Community
Monday, Dec. 14	8 a.m.	Jack Warren †	Noreen Littleton
Tuesday, Dec. 15	8 a.m.	James Rapella †	Rapella Family
	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Simbang Gabi Sponsors
Wednesday, Dec. 16	8 a.m.	Gloria Caldas † & Joe Pereira †	Daughter
	7 p.m.	Sr. Helen O'Neill †	Sisters of Mercy
Thursday, Dec. 17	8 a.m.	Intention of Jean Coppock	Jean Coppock
	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Simbang Gabi Sponsors
Friday, Dec. 18	8 a.m.	Leonor F. Tiongson †	Uncle Benny & Aunt Perla
	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Simbang Gabi Sponsors
Saturday, Dec. 19	8 a.m.	Charles Beevers †	Noreen Shaughnessy .
	5 p.m.	Nick Bolla †	Gina Brusatori

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (200)	\$8,080
Loose Donations	<u>2,004</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$10,084
Parish & School Development	\$1,831

Please remember your parish in your will.



Mariano Rodriguez



John Albino

Louise Torres

Advent Penance Services

7:30 Monday, Dec. 21 – St. John the Baptist
 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22 – St. Jerome
 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 – St. David of Wales

At each church, there will be a short penitential service, then priests will be available to hear your confession, face-to-face or in the confessional.

Message of Stewardship

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Josephine Abbissinio, Dorothy Alexander, Terry Barber, George Blair, Barbara Brendlinger, Elizabeth Brown, Jeffrey Chavez, Isabella Kristine Cruz, Deloris Davis, Lou Encalada, Narte Estrellas, Michael Fleming, Madeline Gaines, Emilio Gallegos, Ann Gerletti, Irma Ghirlone, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Frances Haynes, Margaret Hicks, Steve Jeffre, Eric Lubrano, Fr. John Maxwell, Deanie McGowan, Evelyn & John Miche, Bob Moore, Lolita Parafina, Stephen Pellingra, Evelyn Phillips, Dina Pieroni, Leola Richardson, Sr. Mary Soong, Jo Sudall and Marilyn Sutton.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

Our Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena Starts Tuesday, Dec. 15



Please join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi, our parish's Christmas novena, starting Tuesday evening, Dec. 15, through Wednesday, Dec. 23. We will attend evening Mass, then enjoy a community meal in the Conference Room.



Parish groups, families and individuals are sponsoring each day of the novena. Please call Bernie Juat at 526-5828 or Zeny Miguel at 222-1375 if you would like to help sponsor St. John's Christmas novena.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Partial List of Sponsors</u>
Dec. 15	Tuesday	7 p.m.	Lucas Family (more welcome)
Dec. 16	Wednesday	7 p.m.	Maria Lozada Family
Dec. 17	Thursday	7 p.m.	Bugarin Family (more welcome)
Dec. 18	Friday	7 p.m.	Stewardship Committee, Phillips and Peralta families
Dec. 19	Saturday	5 p.m.	5 p.m. Choir and Co Family
Dec. 20	Sunday	6 p.m.	St. John's Brazilian Community, together with Jabson, Vistan, Resetz, Speir and Domantay families
Dec. 21	Monday	6 p.m.	Lina & Patrick Conway (more welcome)
Dec. 22	Tuesday	7 p.m.	Christine Hickey, the Kellers and Linda Crittendon
Dec. 23	Wednesday	7 p.m.	San Lorenzo Group, Russ Irwin, Randall Family and Ruth Vietti

Christmas Concert at Priory

St. Albert Priory in Oakland will present its Christmas concert, "O, Holy Night," at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

The Schola Cantorum of St. Albert Priory will be joined by the Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble in a concert of music for the Christmas season.

The priory is located at 6172 Chabot Road in Oakland. Admission is \$20 general, \$10 students and seniors. For more information, please contact Fr. Chris Renz at 596-1800.

What's Happening at St. John's

Saturday, Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration, 5 p.m. Mass and reception.

Sunday, Dec. 13 – San Carlos Foundation craft sale in Conference Room.

Sunday, Dec. 13 – Parish Blood Drive, 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in Community Center.

Sunday, Dec. 13 – La Posada, starting at 5:30 p.m. in Community Center.

Dec. 15 through 23 – Simbang Gabi Parish Christmas novena (evening Mass and community meal). See schedule above.

Monday, Dec. 21 – Communal Penance Service, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24 – Children's Christmas Mass; concert at 5:30 p.m., Mass at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24 – Midnight Mass, preceded by Christmas concert at 11:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Masses same as Sunday (8, 9:30, 11 and 12:30).

Friday, Dec. 25 – Brazilian Christmas Mass at 6 p.m. and reception in Community Center.

Thursday, Dec. 31 – 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Friday, Jan. 1 – 11 a.m. New Year's Day Mass

St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys St., corner of Lexington

Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850

Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays

Tuesday, Dec. 15:

11:20 a.m.: Fourth graders from St. John's School will share some Christmas music.

12:45: Roberta Koski and Line Dancers will perform a holiday program

This Sunday at St. John's

La Posada for Youth

Join our parish Youth Group in joyful anticipation of Our Lord's coming and in commemoration of the cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem that prepared His way.

St. John's Youth Ministry invites all the youth to join us for one night of La Posada, an early Latin church tradition involving a singing re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for shelter.

Please join us in the Community Center at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, from which we will process in song to the 6500 block of Hill Street in El Cerrito. We will visit three to four homes, "seeking shelter," and finally be granted admittance by Sean and Patty Kelley at the last home, where we'll share a small potluck reception. The entire evening's festivities should conclude by 8:30 p.m. at the Kelleys' home.

Please feel free to contribute a dish for the reception if you are able. For more information, please contact Fr. Bart at 232-5659.

Join Parish Blood Drive

Be a hero this Sunday, Dec. 13, and give blood at our Parish Blood Drive from 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Community Center.

All blood types are needed at this busy time of the year. Give a gift that really matters to the ill and injured. Giving blood saves lives.

San Carlos Craft Sale

The San Carlos Foundation will conduct a craft sale after all the Masses this Sunday, Dec. 13, in St. John's Conference Room.

Support the humanitarian work of the San Carlos Foundation! Stop by their tables after Mass to check out the beautiful fabrics, crafts and devotional objects offered for sale.

Find lovely gifts and support San Carlos' work with the poor in Central America and the Caribbean. Cash and checks will be accepted. Sorry, they cannot take credit cards. For further information, please see www.sancarlosfoundation.org.

Let's Be Good Stewards

I would like to extend my sincere "Thank You" to those people who signed up for our ministries here at St. John's during our Stewardship Weekend. I would like to congratulate each one of you who volunteered to give of your time, talent and treasure.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to Betty Brown for stepping up again to keep the Stewardship Committee going. As many of you know, I am very ill. To Bill Saner, Sharon Ewen and Betty Brown, congratulations for their wonderful testimonials about stewardship.

We will begin our monthly meetings in January. With my present health condition, we are looking for a new Stewardship coordinator to lead the group. We need more volunteers at St. John the Baptist Church. Signup sheets are available at the rectory.

— Evelyn Phillips
St. John's Stewardship Committee

Serving Meals at GRIP Shelter

St. John's parishioners will prepare and serve dinner for guests at the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's (GRIP) Homeless Shelter from Monday, Dec. 14, through Friday, Dec. 19, and will provide hot breakfasts there on Dec. 19-20.

If you would like to buy food, cook or serve the meals at GRIP, please contact Joe Orr at home, 237-5568, or at work, 450-7933. Each dinner will cost about \$200. Please contribute money for food to Joe Orr or leave it at the parish office. Checks should be made out to Joe Orr or to St. John the Baptist Church, not to GRIP, for these meals.

With enough support, our parish should be able to select a day each month of the year to serve a dinner to the GRIP residents.

Salesian Application Deadline

The deadline for freshman applications to Salesian High School for fall 2010 is Monday, Jan. 4. You can apply online at www.salesian.com.

Who Started Christmas, Anyway?

Editor's Note: Thanks to Evelyn Phillips for passing this story along:

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable. And after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we

respond to everyone who sent us a card. Finally, the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry; we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did that, just think of how different this whole world would be.

Help With Tax Returns

Volunteers are being recruited to provide free tax preparation to low and moderate-income individuals and families in Contra Costa County.

Last year, 153 volunteers helped prepare 2,493 tax returns that resulted in more than \$3.5 million in total federal refunds.

Volunteers will receive free training from the IRS, and you will be linked you to one of 18 sites throughout the county. Volunteer positions include tax preparer, screener, interpreter and greeter.

For more information or to volunteer, see www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org or call Carol Perez, Contra Costa EKS coordinator, at 412-9290.

Concerts at Cathedral

Upcoming concerts at the Cathedral of Christ and Light in Oakland:

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6 – Three Cathedrals Choir Festival. General admission \$25, tickets available in the Cathedral Gift Shop.

8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23 – Head-Royce School Choir. Tickets available at the door, \$10 adults, \$5 students. Advance tickets available at choir@headroyce.org.

Christmas Concerts

Christmas concerts at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Berkeley:

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 – The adult and children's choirs of St. Mary Magdalen's Music Ministry will perform Christmas music from the medieval period to contemporary gospel music.

7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20 – Italian Baroque music sung by Christmas Schola Cantoruma and played by Christmas Consort of period instruments.

Charismatic Mass at Cathedral

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office invites you to celebrate Jesus at a Charismatic Mass with Bishop Salvatore Cordileone from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St. in Oakland.

Plan to attend with your family prayer group and friends.

For a tour of the new cathedral prior to Mass, meet at the front door at 12:15 p.m. For tour reservations and number in your party, call (925) 828-6622 or e-mail ccro@lafpdl.com.

There will be a pot luck after Mass in the parish hall (no desserts, please).