

St. Anne Catholic Parish

Cabello and Dyer St., P.O. Box 292, Union City, CA 94587

(510) 471-7766 ❖ (510) 487-6540 (fax)

<http://www.saintannecatholic.org> ❖ stanne@sbcglobal.net (email)

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2008

PARISH MISSION . . .

"We, the people of St. Anne will . . .

- seek unity in our diverse community
- establish a living Church where people practice their faith
- develop a compassionate communal leadership.

. . . To foster and preserve solidarity among God's people."



The Fourth Candle is lit this Sunday of Advent and reminds us of God's greatest gift.....LOVE.



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays	8:00am
Saturdays	8:00am; 5:00pm (Vigil Mass)
Sundays	8:00 and 10:00 am 12:00 and 6:00 pm
1st Fridays	8:00 am and 7:30 pm
Holy Days	As announced
	Confessions
Saturday	3:30 pm
	Baptism

Weddings

By Appointment. Call Rectory at least 6 months ahead.
Do not set any specific date without conferring with the Priest.

Funeral Arrangements

Should be arranged by Family, church and Mortuary. Normal Christian Burial consists of Vigil Service, Holy Mass and Burial in a Catholic Cemetery. any other arrangements should FIRST be discussed with Parish Priests.

ST. ANNE STAFF

Fr. Geoffrey Baraan	Pastor
Fr. Rick Boyle, O.S.M.	Parochial Vicar
Benigno Calub	Deacon
Carlos Rabuy	Deacon
Sydney Gargan	Office Administrator
Zella Yanos	Secretary
Jim Soltau	Youth Ministry Coordinator
Rico Monton	Liturgy & Music Coordinator
Helen Rojas	Children's Faith Formation Coordinator
Christine Suarez	Middle School Faith Formation Coordinator
Linda Canlas	Pastoral Council Facilitator
Helen Cabiles	Finance Council Chairperson

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANNE

CH:CHURCH, SH: SOCIAL HALL, CR: CLASS-ROOMS, PO: Parish Office, LO: Liturgy Office

Monday, December 22

5:30 & 8:00 am - Mass, CH

9:00 am - Legion of Mary, CR #103

7:30 pm - Lectors, CR #102

Tuesday, December 23

5:30 & 8:00 am - Mass, CH

7:30 pm - Facilities Committee, CR #103

7:30 pm - Schola Cantorum Choir, CR #106

Wednesday, December 24

5:30 & 8:00 am - MASS, CH

Wednesday, December 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:00, 8:00 pm and 12:00 midnight - MASS,CH

Thursday, December 25 - **CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:00, 10:00 am, & 12:00 pm - Mass, CH

Friday, December 26

8:00 am - Mass, CH

5:00 pm - Wedding Rehearsal, CH

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary, CR #103

7:00 pm - Charismatics, CR #105

7:30 pm - Divine Mercy, CR #102

8:00 pm - 8:00 am Choir, CR #106

8:00 pm - Knights of Columbus, CR #104

Saturday, December 27

8:00 am & 5:00 pm - Mass, CH

10:00 am - Individual User, CH

11:00 am - Individual User, SH

12:00 pm - Wedding, CH

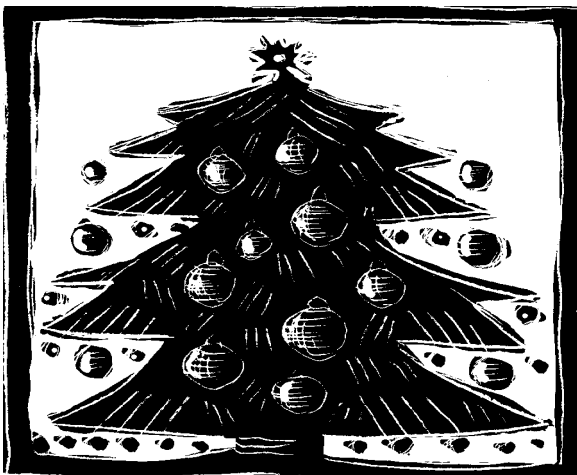
4:00 pm - Sacred Voices, CH

6:15 pm - Charismatics, CR #104

Sunday, December 28

8:00, 10:00 am, 12 & 6 pm - MASS, CH

1:00 pm - Children's Choir, CR #106



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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128 or Ps 105; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent;

Winter begins

Monday: Hanukkah begins

Tuesday: St. John of Kanty

Wed.: The Vigil of Christmas

Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Friday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

Saturday: St. John

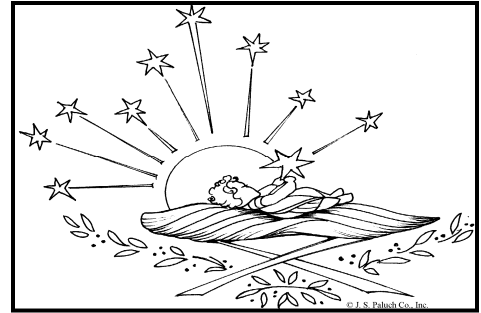


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Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2008

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son
of God.

—Luke 1:35



My dear friends in Christ,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

In his Parable of the Birds, Louis Cassels tells of a man who refuses to go with his family to the Mid-night Mass because he cannot understand the Incarnation. Left alone at home, he finds a flock of birds in his backyard. Caught in the storm, the little creatures are desperate for shelter. He tries to usher the birds into the barn by sprinkling bread crumbs along the way. When this fails, he tries to invite them in by walking around them, waving his arms in the air. But the birds still do not understand. Finally, he realizes the problem: the birds find him a strange and terrifying creature. They do not trust him. He murmurs, "If only I could be a bird for a moment, perhaps I could save them." At that moment, *he hears* the church bells ring *the good news of Christmas*. He sinks to his knees, saying: "**Now I see why God has to become one of us.**"

I share this story to help us understand the meaning of Christmas. In the mystery of the Incarnation, God becomes like the creatures he loves. In Jesus, he becomes a child wrapped in swaddling clothes. In his love, he chooses to experience what it is to be human. *In the Prologue* of the Gospel of the John, we read, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**"

The Word, who is God for all eternity, chooses to become flesh and to dwell among us. Flesh evokes not only humanity but also weakness and mortality. It connotes being human and mortal rather than being divine.

Throughout human history, in various times and in many different ways, God reveals himself to the people of Israel through signs and wonders. *He reveals himself in power and transcendence.* But in time, God reveals himself in weakness: he becomes human. He accepts the limitations of human nature and the risk of hostility and rejection. **But at the end, God gave our mortal nature an immortal value.**

I hope that we spend time reflecting on the wonder and the beauty of this mystery. How about getting a little bit crazy! After all, God did! God became human to share his divine life with us. Don't you think that's pretty crazy? **He is so crazy in love with us.** In Jesus his love is revealed.

In a world that has been struggling with many challenges, we need Christ to be in our hearts. He needs to be born anew in our hearts! He is our hope in times of despair, our strength in times of difficulties, our peace in times of troubles, and our light in times of darkness.

On behalf of Fr. Rick, Deacons Ben and Carlos, the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, I would like to wish you all PEACE and JOY this Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*In Christ,
Fr. Geoffrey*



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**St. Anne Youth Ministry
St. Anne Confirmation**

St. Anne Youth Ministry and Confirmation are now on their Christmas break. The Confirmation candidates will meet on Sunday, January 11th and the Youth Ministry group will meet on Monday, January 12. Please have a most Holy and Blessed Christmas and New Year!

**ATTENTION LECTORS:
The new schedule can be picked
up from the Liturgy Room.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANNE

MASS INTENTIONS

December 20, 2008 December 27, 2008

Saturday, December 20

5:00 pm + Mr. & Mrs. Joachim Mesquera

Sunday, December 21

8:00 am + Joakim Nhat

10:00 am + Juliana Tayco

12:00 pm + For the People

6:00 pm + Reginald Castanares

Monday, December 22

8:00 am + Carolina Lorenzana

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am + Jesus Cruz

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 am + Christopher Lacson

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 pm

8:00 pm

12:00 midnight

Thursday, December 25

8:00 , 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

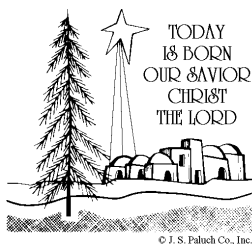
Friday, December 26

8:00 am Spe.Int.– Christensen Lugtu

Saturday, December 27

8:00 am + Victor Galang

5:00 pm Spe.Int. - Katrina Carpio



CHRISTMAS BREAK

DECEMBER 15 - JANUARY 3

NO CLASSES - SCHOOL IS CLOSED.

CLASSES RESUME MONDAY, JANUARY 5

***WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009!!***

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

- Kiana Giron.....Gave \$.25 cents
- Angelique Esclamado.....gave \$1.00
- Sheyanne Villamor...Recycles, being green.
- Annalisa Abarquez....Took care of my dog.
- Isabelle Ronquillo....Help Mommy cook.
- Taryn Noriega.....Gave a present to a friend.
- Zoe Inciong....Helped my little brother with homework
- Megan Santos..Helped Mom wrap Christmas presents.
- Phillip Cabales...Helped Mom dry dishes.
- Mikail Alejandro..Helped clean friends toys.
- Michael Manzano...Helped decorate Christmas tree.
- Bianca Batancila...Thankful for toys her parents gave

SEE'S CANDY SALE

It is **not too late** to order your See's Candies and give that special someone a sweet thought. It will also help our CCD teachers get to the Religious Education Congress. If you order this week, it will be delivered before Christmas.

Won't you please help our CCD teachers?

Pls. call the CCD office, 471-7766 ext. 21, for more information or if you want to help!



BULLETIN SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, ITEMS FOR THIS
BULLETIN NEED TO BE IN OFFICE BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT 9:00 AM**

Sunday, December 21, 2008



Collections

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Dec. 7, 2008	Dec. 14, 2008
Parish Collection	\$12,555.65	\$10,173.82
Building Fund	\$1,908.00	\$1,075.00
Immaculate Conception 12/8/08		\$2,236.08
Stewardship/Religious Retirement		\$1,130.00

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Je_íšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



Simbang Gabi/Dawn Masses

December 16 thru December 24, 5:30 am, church. Refreshments after mass, Parish Hall.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 5:00, 8:00 pm and 12:00 midnight, Church

Christmas Day

December 25, Church, 8:00, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

NO 6:00 PM MASS

New Year's Day

January 1, 2009, 10:00 am, Church

REMINDER:

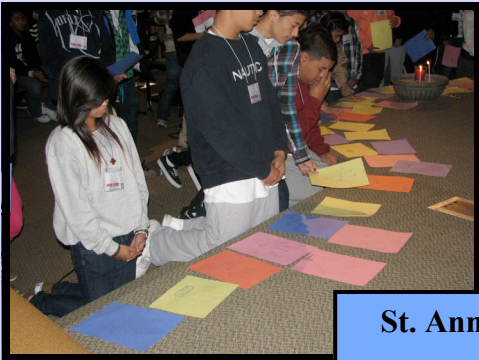
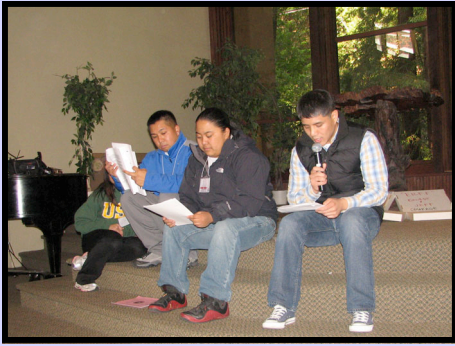
**DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR
CARS AND KEEP ALL VALUABLES OUT
OF SIGHT.**

(We have had several cars broken into during Masses and parish meetings.)

Tired of the usual New Year's Eve Parties?

Want to start 2009 in a more meaningful way?

Join the Dominican Sister of Mission San Jose and friends who will gather for a fourth year to "Welcome the New Year!" We'll share a Reflective Evening beginning at 8pm, time to be with all that 2008 has held, time to bless 2009, time to pray with Taize, time to faith share on the scriptures, time to celebrate our faith together with a Mass starting at 11:30pm followed by a potluck celebration. Come for any part or all of the evening at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose 43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont CA , 94539. For more information or to RSVP call S. Beth Quire, O.P. @ 510 -449-7554 or e-mail beth@msjdominicans.org



**St. Anne CONFIRMATION Group Retreat
Dec.15, 2008**

