

# St. Anne Catholic Parish

32223 Cabello St., Union City, CA 94587

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Geoffrey Baraan Pastor  
Benigno Calub Deacon  
Carlos Rabuy Deacon  
Bernard Liwanag Deacon  
Jim Soltau Youth Ministry Coordinator  
Brandon Akiona Liturgy & Music Coordinator  
Helen Rojas Children's Formation  
Coordinator  
Christine Suarez Middle School Faith  
Formation Coordinator  
Debbie Nunes Adult Faith Formation Coordinator  
Sydney Gargan Office Administrator  
Zella Yanos Secretary  
Helen Cabiles Finance Council Chairperson  
Linda Canlas Pastoral Council Facilitator  
Bengil Ranillo Bookkeeper  
Rev. Solomon Farinto In Residence

### Liturgical/Sacramental Information

#### +Sacrament of Matrimony

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

#### +Christian Funeral

*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.*

#### +Sacrament of Baptism

*Call the Parish Office to make arrangements.*

### Parish Mission

We, the St. Anne Catholic Community, a transformed body of Christ with many parts, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will proclaim and spread the word of God:

- by creating an environment that welcomes all;
- by being faithful stewards of our time, talent and treasure;
- by celebrating God's love committed to giving food to the hungry, water to the thirsty,
- clothing to the naked, shelter to the homeless and
- by being the sign of unity and peace in the kingdom of God.

### Holy Mass Schedule

Weekdays	8:00 am
Saturdays	8:00 am 5:00pm (Vigil Mass)
Sundays	8:00 and 10:00 am 12:00 and 6:00 pm
First Fridays	8:00 am and 7:30 pm
Confessions	Saturdays @ 3:30 pm

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2015

O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see;  
take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand  
has planted.  
— Psalm 80:15–16



*My dear friends in Christ,*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*We are now in our last Sunday of Advent* before the feast of the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. *Are you still with us in our journey?*

*In my homily last Sunday* I shared with you the things that we can do to prepare for *the feast of Christmas*. Pope Francis in his homily on the opening of the Year of Mercy said *“that we need to put mercy before judgment.”* Bishop Barber echoes this challenge as well in his letter to the diocese by saying *that we need to bring the experience of God’s mercy to the whole world, reminding us that the mystery of God’s mercy has reached its summit in Christ.*

*Reflecting on this*, I proposed things that we should. These are some of the things that I mentioned just in case you have forgotten: **Resist or avoid sarcasm, Call someone who is lonely, Write a letter of forgiveness, Focus on the qualities of a person, not the bad, Make a list of your enemies and every day, pray for them, Visit the imprisoned—not just behind bars but also those imprisoned because of fear and addiction, Give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked.**

*As Christians*, we really need to put back the sacredness of the celebration. Years ago there was an experience that awakened my weary soul. That experience happened when I was at Target. I greeted someone, *“Merry Christmas!”* That someone responded by saying, *“Happy Holidays, Father!”* *This made me realize that somehow we have lost the true meaning of Christmas. During the last three decades we have become a society so immersed in the secularism of this event that the religious aspect of this celebration has become secondary. The focus now is about making profit and not what prophets proclaimed.* They proclaimed a new dawn in the kingdom by the coming of the Messiah. *The prophet Isaiah said that on the day of salvation, God will make the blind seen, the cripple walk, the mute talk, the deaf hear and those who are in darkness will see light. In Christ the dead shall be raised.* So Christmas is really about the messenger of hope and peace. *It is about Jesus Christ who came to tell us about the kingdom of God.* It is about our salvation! *So the last time I checked, Christmas is about the GIFT, Jesus Christ! In the mystery of Incarnation, God became like the creatures he loves in Christ.*

*My friends, we cannot remove Christ from this celebration, from Christmas! If we removed Christ from Christmas, then we will have only Mas. It means--- Many Are Sad (Mas).* I don’t think we want this to happen that way. *When we are separated from Christ, there will be a lot of sadness. The mystery of the Incarnation is a great moment for humanity. 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.*

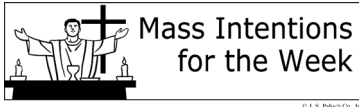
*I hope that we spend time reflecting on the wonder and the beauty of this mystery.* How about getting a little bit crazy! After all, God did! God became human to share his divine life with us. Don’t you think that’s pretty crazy? *He is so crazy in love with us.* In Jesus his love is revealed. *In a world that has been struggling with many challenges, we need Christ to be in our hearts. He 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, Solomon, Deacons Carlos, Ben and Bernard, the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, the Facilities Committee, I would like to wish you all PEACE and JOY this Christmas.*

**It is not Happy Holidays but it is---MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*In Christ,*  
*Fr. Geoffrey*





Mass Intentions  
for the Week



**December 19, 2015 - December 26, 2015**

**Saturday, December 19**

5:30 am Simbang Gabi/Dawn Mass  
5:00 pm + Pedro Cudiamat

**Sunday, December 20**

5:30 am Simbang Gabi/Dawn Mass  
8:00 am + Robert Armijo  
10 :00 am + Rosalina Cabardo  
12:00 pm Spe.Int. - Jason Cachola  
6:00 pm For the People

**Monday, December 21**

5:30 am Simbang Gabi/Dawn Mass  
8:00 am + Elisa Tolentino

**Tuesday, December 22**

8:00 am + Victoria Dominguez

**Wednesday, December 23**

5:30 am Simbang Gabi/Dawn Mass  
8:00 am Spe.Int. - Mary Yip

**Thursday, December 24**

5:30 am Simbang Gabi/Dawn Mass  
8:00 am + Emilio Carmelo, Sr.  
5:00 pm  
8:00 pm  
12:00 midnight



**Friday, December 25**

8:00 am  
10:00 am  
12:00 pm

**Saturday, December 26**

8:00 am Spe.Int. - Katrina Carpio  
5:00 pm + Helen Salisi

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1□4a).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5□10).

**Gospel** — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39□45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11 -14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

*Please pray for the sick...*

Sista Agoot, Manuel Abad, Vincente Angeles, Ping Balingit, Sean Bocato, Wilma Canio, Ed Carlos, Jesus Carpio, Juanita Castro, Jem Catapang, Delia Cera, Mary Cipriano, Jerry Davis, Chito Chavez, Devon De Vera, David Fournell, Victor Franco, Robert Giovanni, Maria Gomez, Erlinda Hernandez, Maria Hocke, Gualberto Marchan, Jose Mendoza, Cora Paiso, Federico Quizon, Alfredo Reyes, Ernesto Reyes, Gwen Rezentos, Sr. Felix Rivas, Adoree Rivera, Joseph Albert Sison, Marlise Schwedhelm, Cristina Tambunting, Jane Valentin, Lydia Villacorta.

All names will be removed at the end of each month.

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO ADD NAMES AND GIVE A CONTACT PHONE NUMBER SO OUR MINISTRY CAN FOLLOW-UP.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST ANNE COUNCIL 8627**

**Dec. 20- Choir @ Sambaing Gabi/ Membership Drive**

**Dec. 24- Caroling @ 7PM**

**Dec. 25- Christmas Day**

**Dec. 26- KofC Family Choir@ 5:00 PM mass**

**Dec. 30- Regular Business Meeting @ 8PM**

The Knights of Columbus is always looking for new members who would like to serve their Church, Family, & Community. If you are interested, please contact: Arsenio C, Reyes - Grand Knight @ 510-378-0323, Ben Benitez- Membership Director @ 510-366-4293



**St. Anne Youth Ministry**

St. Anne Youth Ministry is on Christmas break. Our next meeting will be in the New Year on January 11, 2016!

**St. Anne Confirmation Retreat**

St. Anne Confirmation Candidates and staff had a wonderful retreat and are now on Christmas break. Our next Confirmation gathering will be on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ST. ANNE SCHOOL OF FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1- 8)**

**RE M I N D E R**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK - December 21 to 31  
NO CLASSES – School is closed.**  
Classes resume Monday, January 4, 2016  
**WE WISH ALL A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS  
and BLESSED NEW YEAR 2016 !!**

**R.C.I.A.**

Are you an adult who is interested in being baptized Catholic?

— was baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to explore what being Catholic is all about?

— was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

If you answered yes to any of the above, please consider joining our ongoing Inquiry sessions for chance to ask questions, learn more about us and about the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, the process by which adults join the Church. No commitment required. For more information, call the parish office at 510-471-7766

**DIVINE MERCY ACTIVITIES.**

December 20, 2015- Caroling- Jade's Home- 4443 Alameda Dr. Fremont, Ca. 3:00 pm- Annette

December 20, 2015- Caroling- 36233 Birkashiras Pl. Newark, Ca.- 6:00 pm Tess Kumar

December 26, 2015- Caroling- Michael Smith- San Jose-Emma

January 1, 2016 - New Year- and First Friday

" Today, penetrate into the Spirit of my poverty and arrange everything in such a way that the most destitute will have no reason to envy you. I find pleasure, not in large buildings and magnificent structures, but in a pure and humble Heart." Diary 532

Thank you and May You all Have a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas!

Sis. Carmencita Y. Draculan- 510- 449-4447

In Jesus We trust!

**Year of Mercy**

“Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”  
Matthew 9:13

“We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.”  
Pope Francis, *The Face of Mercy*, (No. 2), 2015

**Focus Work of Mercy for the month: To feed the hungry**

Everyone needs food for their body. It is an act of love to help others to obtain their bodily nourishment, especially those in greatest need.

**ACTION:** Bring food or donate money to buy food for the poor; share your food with others; find an agency working to end starvation, such as Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) and commit yourself to join in their efforts.

**For further study and reflection:**

Book: *The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church*, Pope Francis

Website: <http://jubileeofmercy-eb.org>, Diocese of Oakland Jubilee of Mercy website

App: *365 Days to Mercy*, from Our Sunday Visitor (download at www.osv.com)

**Sunday, December 20, 2015**

**FINANCE CORNER**

**Weekly Collection Goals**

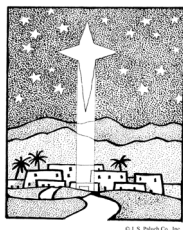
<u>Sunday, December 13, 2015</u>	\$ 9,650.50
On-line Giving	\$ 1,106.08
Stewardship - Rel.Retirement	<u>-1,076.00</u>
	\$ 9,680.58
<b>Budget</b>	\$15,000.00
Over (Under)	(\$ 5,319.42)

**Act of Mercy for the Year of Mercy**

The Diocese of Oakland, in partnership with Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Alameda District Attorney's Office, will partner to open a Safe House for minors (11-17) who have been sexually trafficked. The Bay Area is a nationwide hub for Human Trafficking, and these children are the most victimized and vulnerable. Together, we can bring healing, hope and dignity to their lives. In conjunction with the opening of the Safe House, Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Office of Life and Justice will coordinate a campaign to build awareness and mobilize action in all 84 parishes. If you would like to assist with this work please contact Steve Mullin at [smullun@cceb.org](mailto:smullun@cceb.org) or Cristina Hernández at [chernandez@oakdiocese.org](mailto:chernandez@oakdiocese.org).

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
- Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
- Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
- Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Saturday: St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa



**LOVE NOW**  
Let those love now  
who never lov'd before;  
let those who always lov'd  
now love the more.  
—Anonymous

**NATURE RESTORED**

Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore  
your nature.  
—St. Peter Chrysologus

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ANNE**

Monday, December 21

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

6:30 am - Simbang Gabi Reception, SH

9:00 am - Legion of Mary, CR #102

7:30 pm - Lectors, CH

Tuesday, December 22

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

6:30 am - Simbang Gabi Reception, SH

7:30 pm - RCIA, CR #105

7:30 pm - Fit Club, SH

Wednesday, December 23

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

6:30 am - Simbang Gabi Reception, SH

4:00 pm - Wedding Rehearsal, CH

7:00 pm - Perpetual Help, CH

7:15pm - Boy Scouts, CR #104

7:30 pm - Young Adult Choir, CR #103

Thursday, December 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:30 & 8:00 am, 5:00, 8:00 pm 12:00 midnight -CH**

6:30 am - Simbang Gabi Reception, SH

7:30 pm - Lopez Choir, CR #105

7:30 pm - Unity Choir, CR # 106

Friday, December 25 - **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

**NO 6:00 PM MASS**

Saturday, December 26

**8:00 am & 5:00 pm - MASS, CH**

9:00 am - SPRED, CR #104, 105, 106

9:30 am - Lectio Divina, CR # 102

11:00 am - Individual User, CH & SH

6:30 pm - El Shaddai, CH

7:00 pm - Ping Pong Club, CR # 105

Sunday, December 27

**5:30, 8:00 & 10:00 am, 12:00 & 6:00 pm- MASS, CH**

10:00 am - Unity Choir, CR #106

1:30 pm - Charismatics (ELIM) - CR #103

4:00 pm - Wedding

7:30 pm - Divine Mercy, CH

7:30 pm - Fit Club, SH

The child  
grew to maturity



and was  
filled with wisdom

# Christmastide Mass Schedule

## ❖ Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord (Vigil)

Thursday, December 24 @ 5PM and 8PM

## ❖ Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord (Midnight)

Friday, December 25 @ 12AM (MIDNIGHT)

## ❖ Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord (Day)

Friday, December 25 @ 8AM, 10AM, 12PM (NO 6PM)

## ❖ Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Vigil)

Thursday, December 31 @ 5PM

## ❖ Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Day)

Friday, January 1 @ 10AM and 12PM (NO 8AM)

