

Reaching Far and Wide

A mysterious scene barely comes to light before us. Are we inside or outside of a Roman portico? What is going on in the background? The central scene clearly shows the Child Jesus perched in the Virgin's arms and surrounded by swaddling clothes. A glow emanates from the Child that enlightens the three Wise Men processing toward Jesus. Their whole caravan chaotically crowds around and strains to see the king they have come to worship. A dalmatian wanders behind while a camel appears in the back lighting with a knowing smirk. The Ethiopian sage sympathetically stares out from the center of the painting and seemingly asks us if we understand the significance of their travels.

The arrival of these astronomers from the East sends a very important message for all of us at Mass

today. Jesus is the light of the whole world, and all peoples—no matter how far or how lost—are invited by his attractive and saving light. This light came to the Chosen People and will be fully consumed in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesies. Yet he will proclaim that all peoples are invited to be members of the same family and coheirs to the treasures of God's love and mercy. Faith in him and acceptance of his gospel truth is all he asks. So no matter how far you or anyone you know seems from Jesus and his truth, he loves them and wants them around his table to experience his love.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection Do I trust that Jesus wants to and can reach any soul, no matter how far away? Will you renew your prayer and gentle testimony to invite those who are still searching?

Piece: *The Adoration of the Magi*, 1645-1650
Artist: Vincent Malo
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca



Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.
(Isaiah 60:1)

Mass Intentions for the Week

		Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Jan. 6	5 p.m.	Thanksgiving	Tannady Family
Sunday, Jan. 7	8 a.m.	Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
	9:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
	11 a.m.	Esther Taylor †	Taylor Family
	12:30 p.m.	Ancelle Nguyen	Ancelle Nguyen
	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Jan. 8	8 a.m.	Epifania Mordeno - Death Anniversary	Fernando and Leonila de Jose
Tuesday, Jan. 9	8 a.m.	Anna Nguyen †	Sonthu Minh
Wednesday, Jan. 10	8 a.m.	Marivic Leal †	Rosie Murphy
Thursday, Jan. 11	8 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory	Maria Lozano
Friday, Jan. 12	8 a.m.	Enzo Lencioni †	Gina Lencioni
Saturday, Jan. 13	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving	Nemesia Peralta

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT, December 24, 2017	\$2,436
Loose Donations	\$2,457
Christmas	\$8,541

This bulletin was released earlier than usual due to the holiday occurring on Jan. 1, 2. Please expect the collection figures of Dec. 31, Jan. 1 on the coming week's issue.

Thank you for your generosity.

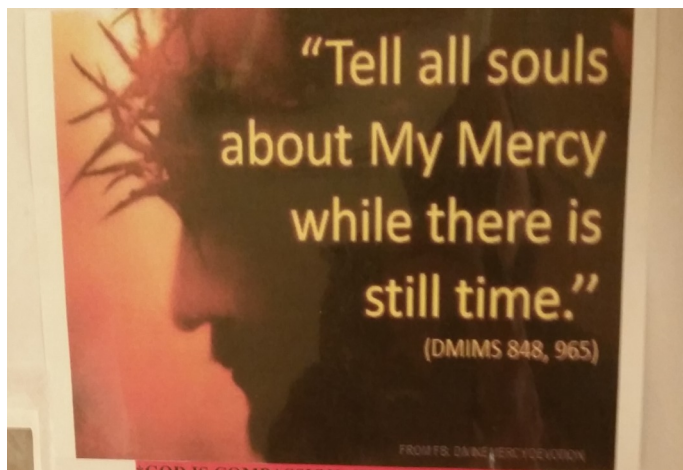
Let Us Pray for the Sick

Rodolfo Abesamis, Virginia Alday, Gera Assefa
 Evelyn Baker, Niani Barber, Pearl & Patrick Batiste
 Paul Batist, Irene Blair, Robert Britto, Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger
 Betty Cooper, Linda Crittendon,
 Ernesto P. Cruz, Cora Dongon,
 Joann Douglas, Pablo de la Vega,
 Mary Dong, Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas, Filomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau,
 Domingo Gregorio, Andy Gutierrez,
 James Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan,
 Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry Highlander,
 Tamaya Hunt, Pat Jeffrey, Ann Jones, Tom Kennedy,
 Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Bernice Luckett,
 Marian & Michael Luoma Nancy McVey, Francis Mondragon, Ester Oppus, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Victoria Payless, Fely Sabares, Jovita Santos, Linda Schneider, Salvador Tejero, Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, James Vaughn Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Jan Williamson



Senior Center Event

Jan. 9, Tuesday: Guest Speaker at 11:30am/
 Lunch at 12:30pm. Call: 237-3808 (Tuesdays).



The Epiphany

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

This Week's Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12.

Monday Readings: Is 55:1-11 or 1Jn 5:1-9, Mk 1:7-11. Or Is 42:1-4, 6-7. Or Acts 10:34-38, Mk 1:7-11.

Tuesday Readings: 1 Sam 1:9-20. Or 1Sam 1:1-8 and 1Sam 1:9-20. Mk 1:21-28. Or Mk 1:14-28.

Wednesday Readings: 1Sam 3:1-10, 19-20, Mk 1:29-39.

Thursday Readings: 1Sam 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45.

Friday Readings: 1Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a. Mk 2:1-12.

Saturday Readings: 1Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1. Mk 2:13-17. Or 1Jn 2:18-25, Mt 5:13-19.

Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.- Fri. at 7:40am.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, Wed., 8:30am at the Church and 6pm at the Chapel.

Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mon.- Sat., 8:30am at Church; Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed., 7:30pm (Spanish), Chapel.

Holy Infant of Prague Novena, Thu. at 8:30am at Church.

Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.

Confession, Sat., at 4pm or at an appointed time.

First Saturday Charismatic Praise and Worship/ Adoration/Healing Service, Dec. 6, 7pm.

The Baptism of Our Lord, Jan. 8

The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Ministry on Stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them "to offer up the world and all that is in it - especially themselves - to the Lord of All."

Building A Safe Environment

All volunteers must complete training thru virtusonline.org and obtain a certificate online.

Volunteers, who mentor minors or assist and administer to vulnerable adults on an ongoing basis, would need to secure a livescan/fingerprint service document in addition to a virtue certificate.

Please send a copy of the virtue certificate and a completed livescan document to the Rectory as soon as possible.

For any questions, call 232-5659.

Oakland Symphony Chorus Italian Tour 2018

Sing with the Oakland Symphony Chorus in some of the finest cities and concert venues in historic Italy. You will be traveling to Rome, Venice, Florence, and Pisa from June 21 to July 1, 2018.

Join parishioners Bernie Juat and Cynthia Webb-Beckford singing in Rome and Florence.

For more information, log on:

www.oaklandsymphony.org/about-us/chorus/
International Tours Next Stop: June 21-July 1, 2018

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the Month of January

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia. That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

Calls for Help & Hope

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has provided a lifeline of help and hope for 42 years.

Call 1-800-833-2900

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The mission is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the church and the world! - Joe & Sue Talarico, Diocese of Oakland

As a New Year' resolution... how about to take some time for the two of you -- to be alone and rekindle that flame of love and intimacy. Relax, let go and grow your love for one another by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend held at **San Damiano Retreat Center**, Danville on **May 18-20th**. Space is VERY limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Mike & Jeanne @ 925.672.2016 or Joe & Sue @ 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org



with Silent and Live Auction

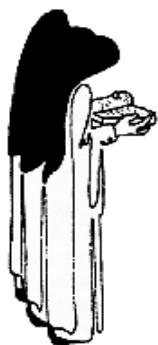
Walk For Life, Jan. 28

Bishop Barber invites the laity to a Mass concelebrated by bishops and priests at St. Mary Cathedral in San Francisco at 8am prior to an assembly at Civic Center and The Walk down Market Street.



The Spirit of the Manger
Catholic Charities of the East Bay is grateful for your generosity to our Christmas gift drive. You have helped more families experience the Christmas spirit. Together this year, we've helped people overcome obstacles resulting from violence and poverty so they can move forward in life. Your generosity reminds us of the powerful reason God choose a humble manger as the birthplace for our Savior.

Every vocation is a call to love, a path to happiness, and every baptized person has one!



Come and see! Single women between the ages of 18 and 38 years are invited to spend a day with the cloistered Dominican nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, California, Saturday, January 20th. Learn more about discerning God's will for your life and catch a glimpse of the same hidden life of love that has been lived at the heart of the Church since Saint Dominic

founded the first community of Dominican nuns in 1206. For more information about this or other upcoming retreat days and events, visit our website at www.nunsmenlo.org or contact Sister Joseph Marie, O.P., at vocations@nunsmenlo.org

Celebrate the Fatima Centennial

Host Our Lady's Pilgrim Statue of Fatima in your own home with the Rosary, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and Our Lady's Message at Fatima. (Spanish/English).

Please call: Enrique Sanchez, (510) 237-8873.

WWII Veteran Remembered

Excerpts from the Thursday edition of The Chronicle, Annie Ma, Dec. 28, 2017. Ramon Regalado, a survivor of the 1942 Bataan Death March died on Dec. 16 at an assisted-living facility in El Cerrito. He was 100 years old.

He is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor along with other surviving Filipino WWII veterans. He was a firm advocate that Filipino veterans be recognized in American history.

A funeral Mass attended by families and friends was held at St. John.

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Dec. 3-13, 2018

Walk the path filled with miracles.

For information: www.polandmej.com
Or call Victoria at 650-758-5802, or Luvi at 510-918-5825.

Fr. Joseph Tran will preside at all daily masses of the pilgrimage.



**Sign Up for Electronic Donations
– They’re Simple, Safe and Convenient –**

I (We) hereby authorize The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito to initiate debit entries to my (our) account indicated below at the depository financial institution known as Mechanics Bank to collect my church donations and, if necessary, adjustments for any entries in error to my account indicated below to credit and/or debit the same to such account.

I (We) acknowledge that the origination of EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK FROM THE ACCOUNT YOU WISH TO DRAW FROM

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS:

WEEKLY (drawn every Monday) AMOUNT: \$ _____

OR

MONTHLY ON THE 2ND OR MONTHLY ON THE 17TH AMOUNT: \$ _____

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

PARISH & SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT (First Sunday) AMOUNT: \$ _____

PARISH CHARITY (5th Sunday of month – 4 times/year) AMOUNT: \$ _____

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL (2nd or 17th of month – please specify) AMOUNT: \$ _____

DATE PAYMENTS TO BEGIN: _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito**, has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford **The Church of St. John the Baptist** and **Mechanics Bank** a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Your Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Daytime Phone

Please complete and send this form to:

St. John the Baptist Church
11150 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530