

# St. John the Baptist Church

11150 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 • Phone (510) 232-5659 • Fax (510) 236-0960  
www.StJohnElCerrito.org • e-mail: stjohns@sjtbc.us

## Welcome!

*Our warmest welcome to all who worship with us,  
whether a long-time parishioner or newly arrived in the parish.*

*As Catholic Christians, we are committed to knowing,  
loving and serving God by obeying His commandments  
and serving our brothers and sisters with love and respect.*

### Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.  
Brazilian: 6 p.m. Sunday  
Weekdays: 8 a.m.  
Holy Days: 8 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

### Sacraments

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday  
Anointing of the Sick:  
• 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday after 8 a.m. Mass  
• or by individual arrangement  
Baptism & Marriage: Contact office



### Priests

Rev. Thuong Hoai Nguyen, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Tran, In Residence

### Deacons

Thom McGowan: (707)-653-4920  
Loch Sekona: (510)-837-1052

### Parish Office

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Bulletin Editor:** Ed Bautista

**Accountant/Bookkeeper:**  
Arthur De Leon

### Children's Religious Education

Lynne Castro-Evans: (510)-501-4894

### Confirmation – Youth Ministry

Gina DeLaTorre: (510)-815-0050

### Adult Inquiry – RCIA

Christine Hickey: (510)-815-6022

### Pastoral Council

Dan Hughes: (510)-253-8127

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Leave a message at (510)-232-5659

### St. John's Elementary School

Principal: Dina Trombetta  
(510)-234-2244 • www.stjohnec.org

### St. John's Community Center

6500 Gladys Ave.  
Tuesdays: (510)-237-3808

### St. John's Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

11152 San Pablo Ave.

### Sisters of Mercy Convent

(510)-233-6769

## God's Promise of Real Treasure

If anyone can keep a promise, it's God. His very nature is to be faithful to his promises and to fulfill all he has foretold. His promise after the fall of Adam and Eve was to send us a Redeemer, to bring peace to Jerusalem, and to reestablish his reign on earth. The prophets continually reminded the chosen race of God's fidelity and, although things looked far from their fulfillment, they insisted that God is faithful and would deliver.

Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise, comes in two phases. First, by coming as a baby in Bethlehem. This Incarnation and his arrival as Savior

is what we're preparing to receive this Advent. Extra prayers, generous giving of your time, and special sacrifices are the best way to ready your soul for his coming.

Jesus' Second Coming will bring to completion what he started on the cross. His glorious return, which all of creation will foretell in those last days, is when the full effects of Christ's victory on the cross will be seen at the judgment of all living creatures.

The advice for all Christians in this period of waiting and preparation is to keep watch; to not allow the delay to lead us to drowsiness. Don't let the vanities of this world dazzle us, for in time, they will become dust.

God promises real treasures that will endure forever, and as we know, God keeps his promises.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: Vanitas Vanitatum, 1967-1968  
Artist: Gregorio Sciltian  
Location: Vatican Museums



### For Reflection

Am I preparing my soul for Christ's coming by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?  
Have I settled on which concrete acts I will do?

*[Jesus said,] "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life."*

*Luke 21:34*

*Mass for the Intentions Week*

		Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Dec. 1	5 p.m.	Esther Esmilla Taylor†	Christina Taylor
Sunday, Dec. 2	8 a.m.	Luis Torres†	Torres Family
		Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
	9:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children	Ana Prindle and Children
		For Blessings of Good Health	Quinto and Barce Families
		Salvador Quinto †	St. John Parish
	11:30 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Dec. 3	8 a.m.	Edito and Fermina Enemecio†	Noli Martinez
Tuesday, Dec. 4	8 a.m.	Eddie Tiu †	Rosie Murphy
Wednesday, Dec. 5	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children	Ana Prindle and Children
		For Blessings of Good Health	Rosie Murphy
Thursday, Dec. 6	8 a.m.	Elsa Tan †	Fely Sabares
		Juana Juat †	
Friday, Dec. 7	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children	Ana Prindle and Children
		For Blessings of Good Health	Alice Barce and Family
		Rogelio Barce †	Murphy Family
Saturday, Dec. 8	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving	

**Stewardship**

Envelopes & EFT, Nov, 18, 2018 \$ 5,180.  
 Loose Donations \$ 1,413.24  
 Second Collection: Campaign for Human Development/USCCB \$ 539.  
 All Souls \$ 243.  
 Second Collection: Parish Development and School's Tuition Assistance Program, Nov 3 \$1,770.

Collection figures of Nov. 25 will be reported in the coming issue.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

December 8, Saturday. Mass at 8am. Not A Holy Day of Obligation.

**Let Us Pray for the Sick**

Rodolfo Abesamis, Virginia Alday  
 Niani Barber, Pearl & Patrick  
 Batiste, Irene Blair, Robert Britto  
 Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa  
 Jeff Chavez, Brenna Clark  
 Jennette Cleadenger  
 Linda Crittendon  
 Cora Dongon, Mary Dong,  
 Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas  
 Eric Ewen, Filomena Giese  
 Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau  
 Domingos deGregorio, Andy Gutierrez, James Gutierrez  
 Patrick Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan  
 Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry Highlander  
 Tamaya Hunt, Ann Jones, Avelina Juat, Tom Kennedy  
 Maria Impang Lozada, Bernice Luckett, Marian &  
 Michael Luoma, Nancy McVey, Francis Mondragon,  
 Ester Oppus, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina  
 Patacsil, Pam Paun, Victoria Payless, Wayne Price, Rose  
 Anne, Fely Sabares, Jovita Santos, Linda  
 Schneider, Dimitri Smith, Salvador Tejero, Rose  
 Texara, Pat Tilley, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio  
 Walle, Winston Williams, Jan Williamson



## First Sunday of Advent

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another. Luke 21:34

### This Week’s Service Schedule

**Sunday Readings:** Jer 33:14-16. 1 Thes 3:12-4:2.  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36.

**Monday Readings:** Is 2:1-5. Mt 8:5-11. Or 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23. Mk 16:15-20.

**Tuesday Readings:** Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24. Or 2 Tim 1:13-14, 2:1-3. Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-23

**Wednesday Readings:** Is 25:6-10a. Mt 15:29-

**Thursday Readings:** Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27. Or Is 6:1-8. Lk 10:1-9.

**Friday Readings:** Is 29:17-24. Mt 9:27-31. Or Eph 3:8-12. Jn 10:11-16.

**Saturday Readings:** Gen 3:9-15, 20. Eph 1:3-6, 11-12. Lk 1:26-38.

**Holy Hour,** Fri., 8:30am.

**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.

**Mass and Rosary for ReConsecrating California to Mary,** Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Sat., 8am.

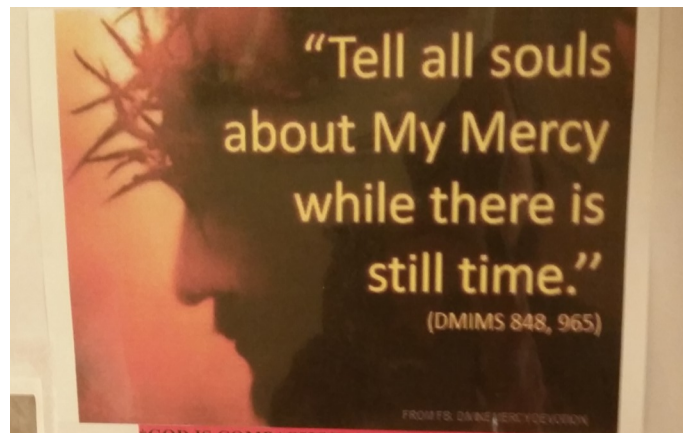
**Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet,** Mon.- Sat., 8:30am at Church; Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed., 7:30pm (Spanish), Chapel.

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

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

**Confessions,** Sat., 4pm. Or at an appointed time.

**24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration,** Daily at the Chapel.



### Protecting God’s Children

All volunteers and church employees are required to sign in at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and complete the training session on *Protecting God’s Children*.

Volunteers and church employees, who mentor minors, or administer to vulnerable adults must be live-scanned/fingerprinted.

For questions, please call the Church or Safe Environment/Diocese, c/o Diana Bitz 267-8315.

### Advent Penance Service

December 13, Thursday at 7:30pm

### Mass Schedule for Christmas, A Holy Day of Obligation

Dec. 24, Monday, 5pm and 9pm

Dec. 25, Tuesday, 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm (Brazilian)



Mary Nguyen Thi Peng  
Angela Rapella

### The Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for the Month of December

**EVANGELIZATION:** In the Service of the Transmission of Faith. That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find in their dialogue with culture a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**Merry Christmas, St. John's Parishioners!**

**We're having a Christmas party and you're invited!**

On Saturday, December 15, St. John's will host a parish Christmas dinner in the gym. This date is also the first night of our annual Simbang Gabi celebration, so we will be combining the 2 events.

We'll have food, sing along Christmas carols, and most importantly....you! The dinner will be catered. Wine and bottled water will also be available. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for children in grades K-8 (pre-K and under free!), and \$30 for families. Reserved tables seating 10 people will be available for \$100.

Seating will be first come/first served so be sure to get there early. Tickets will be on sale outside the conference room after all weekend Masses until Sunday, December 9.

Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship as we await the birth of our Savior.

**St. Vincent dePaul Christmas Gift Drive**

Dear Parishioners, it's that time of year again. Our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry will be gathering gifts for our pantry children. Beginning the weekend of December 1 and 2 we will have signups after every Mass, where you can choose a child and bring a new, wrapped gift for us to distribute.

We're asking that gifts be brought in by December 8 and 9 for distribution at our December 15 pantry. As ever, we are heartily thankful for your generosity and prayerful support. We wish everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas! -Sharon

**New Year's Vigil Service at Chapel**

Theme: Living Our Baptismal Vows/  
Rejecting the Words of Satan  
Dec. 31, 9pm-11pm. English/Spanish.  
Everyone is welcomed. Food will be Served.

**YLI Bake & Knick Knack Sale**

YLI Mother of Perpetual Help's annual institute fundraiser (Bake Sale & Knick Knack Sale) is at St. Jerome's Rohan Hall, 308 Carmel, El Cerrito, Saturday, 12/1, 6PM and Sunday, 12/2, 7AM-12:30PM. Beautiful creative handmade items by the St. Jerome's Crafters will also be featured. Please come out and support YLI and the Crafters.

**Simbang Gabi/Advent Novena Mass Schedule**

December 15-23, at 7pm. Except on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 6pm (Brazilian).

**Mass Schedule for New Year's Day and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, A Holy Day of Obligation**

Dec. 31, Monday, 7:30pm  
Jan. 1, Tuesday, 8am, 10am



*Welcome to the Faith*  
Matthew Cortez  
Olivia Licata  
*Our Newly Baptized*

**ReConsecrating California to Mary**

Dec. 8, Saturday, 8am. Mass and Rosary. At the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

**Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave**

Dec. 4: All are welcome. Fellowship, crafts, Music, tai chi, invited guest speaker. Lunch at 12:30pm. Tracy, (707) 400-8526.

**Rosary Crusade**

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.



## *Rejoice!*

### *Advent Meditations with Mary*

DECEMBER

25

During this Advent season are you **preparing for a day**, December 25? Or are you **preparing for a person**, Jesus Christ? The parish invites you during this Advent to **prepare for Jesus by accompanying Mary** through her Advent.

Imagine having an Advent that is more peaceful, more joyful, and more meaningful than ever before. The [\*Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary\*](#) Journal lets you walk beside Mary during the first Advent as you get to know her in a way you haven't before.

The Journal offers more than insights and information about Mary's life - it offers an opportunity for you to encounter Mary in the quiet of your heart. Each day, in a few short pages,

#### **Fr. Toups provides you with aids to help guide your prayer:**

- **A Word** - Focus on a single word each day to draw out the details, the specifics of who Our Lady is.
- **A Reflection** - Learn more about Mary, the culture in which she was raised, and the world in which she lived.
- **A Psalm** - Each day, you're given a Psalm to pray (just as Mary herself would have prayed) to help you enter into prayer.
- **A Reading** - In reading Scripture, you find the Word of God, bringing you closer to Mary, who carried the Word in her body.



On the **First Sunday of Advent, December 2**, after all the Masses we will be showing a video of the Blessed Mother's first Advent. We will also be selling the Journal to help you accompany Mary through Advent to all who are interested. You can also sign up to receive a link to a short weekly video to aid you on your journey.