

# 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!

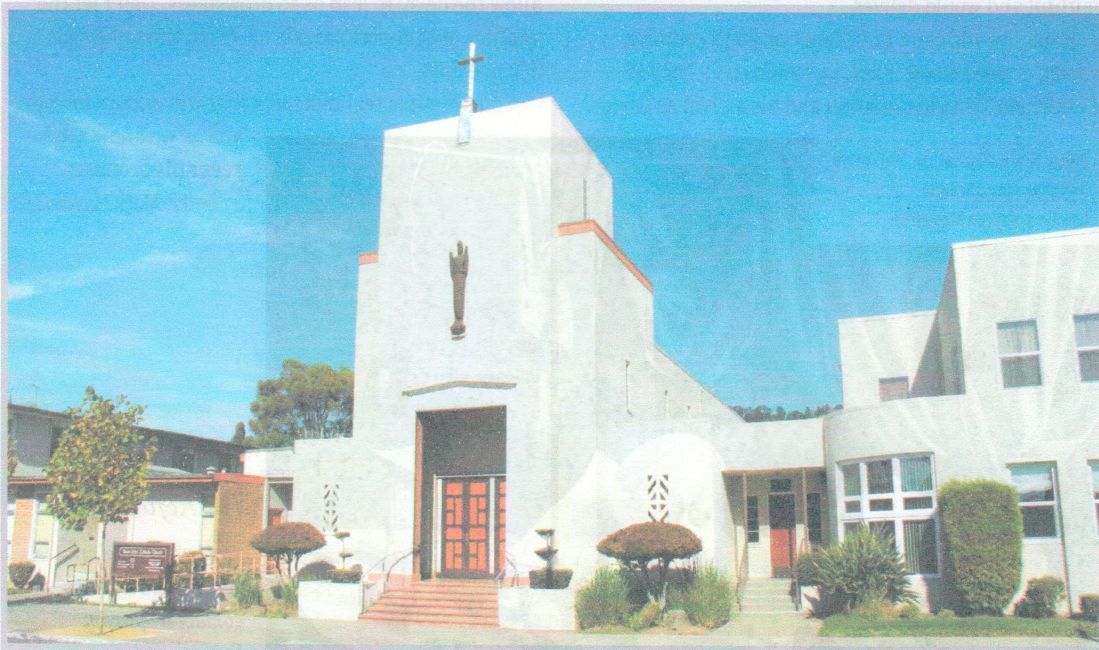
*Our warmest welcome to all who worship with us,  
whether a long-time parishioner or newly arrived in the parish.  
As Catholic Christians, we are committed to knowing,  
loving and serving God by obeying His commandments  
and serving our brothers and sisters with love and respect.*

### 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.

### St. John's Divine Mercy

Adoration Chapel  
11152 San Pablo Ave.

### Sisters of Mercy Convent

(510)-233-6769



## True Love Means Sacrifice

God is often present in the little, hidden things of life. Take for example the small town of Bethlehem. This place barely appeared on the maps of the time. Yet in this dull town, overlooked by all, God wished to be born. God isn't into bling.

Look at the ray of light in the painting that shines from the upper left window directly down onto Mary's womb. She carries in her the Light of the World, but it happened in a way unknown to anyone. He is the Light of the World, shining to catch our attention, but he does so in silence, humility, and intimacy.

There is a second aspect of the Incarnation to learn here. Christmas was about a real sacrifice. Mary and Jesus offered their very selves. Hebrews says it wasn't an animal or a wheat offering but Jesus' very body and blood. The same for Mary, as it was her life, her virginity, her very intimacy, that she was opening to God when she agreed to be the mother of the Lord. It's easy to be generous when it doesn't touch too close to home.

So try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence. And imitate Jesus and Mary by giving of your very self. It's not about a fast, a donation, or extra prayers—as good as

those Advent practices are. But all of this prepares us to give our very selves to him in trust through the hidden acts of love of every day.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: Annunciation, 1427  
Artist: Gentile da Fabriano  
Location: Vatican Museums

### For Reflection

What hidden acts of love can you offer during this upcoming Christmas?

Are there ways you can point out to your children God's presence in the little things?

*We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

*Hebrews 10:10*

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

	<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested by:</b>
Saturday, Dec. 22	5 p.m. Simbang Gabi Hospitality Volunteers	St. John Parish
Sunday, Dec. 23	8 a.m. Edna Lafleur Lewis †	Joe Lewis
	9:30 a.m. Antoliano and Pilar Romero †	Noli Martinez
	11:30 a.m. Delfin Mirabel †	May Mirabel
	Lisa Austin †	Christine Hickey
Monday, Dec. 24	6 p.m. St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	7:30 p.m. Simbang Gabi Hospitality Volunteers	St. John Parish
	8 a.m. Dick, Helen and Richard Nelson †	Karen Stevens
	5 p.m. Maria Fatima Gregorio †	Mom and Dad
	9 p.m. Rodolfo and Elsa Abesamis	Ria Abesamis
Tuesday, Dec. 25	Christmas	
	8 a.m. Luis Torres †	Torres Family
	Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
	9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving	Victoria Tannady
	Rodolfo and Elsa Abesamis	Ria Abesamis
Wednesday, Dec. 26	11:30 a.m. Eladia Cruz †	Nemesia Peralta
	6 p.m. St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	8 a.m. Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children	Ana Prindle and Children
Thursday, Dec. 27	For Blessings of Good Health	
	8 a.m. Richard and Kathleen Keller	
Friday, Dec. 28	-Wedding Anniversary	
	8 a.m. Olga Cademartori †	Gina Lencioni
Saturday, Dec. 29	8 a.m. Richard and Kathleen Keller- 50th Wedding Anniversary	Keller Family

**Stewardship**

This issue is an early holiday edition. Collection figures will be available in the coming issue.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Mass Schedule for Christmas**

Dec. 24, Monday, 5pm and 9pm  
Dec. 25, Tuesday, 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm (Brazilian)

**Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
A Holy Day of Obligation**

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

**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 Lockett, Marian & Michael Luoma, Nancy McVey, Cecilia Mendiola, Francis Mondragon, Ester Oppus, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Donna Patterson, 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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

### This Week's Service Schedule

**Sunday Readings:** Micah 5:1-4a. Heb 10:5-10.  
Lk 1:39-45.

**Monday Readings:** 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16.  
Lk 1:67-79.

**Christmas Vigil/Monday Readings:** Is 62:1-5.  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25. Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25.

**Christmas Evening:** Is 9:1-6. Titus 2:11-14.  
Lk 2:1-14.

**Christmas Morning/Tuesday Readings:**  
Is 62:11-12. Titus 3:4-7. Lk 2:15-20.

**Christmas Day/Tuesday Readings:** Is 52:7-10.  
Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14.

**Wednesday Readings:** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59.  
Mt 10:17-22.

**Thursday Readings:** 1 Jn 1:1-4. Jn 20:1a, 2-8.

**Friday Readings:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2. Mt 2:13-18.

**Saturday Readings:** 1 Jn 2:3-11. Lk 2:22-35.

**Simbang Gabi/Novena Mass on Advent, Sat.,**  
5pm. Sun., 7:30pm.

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

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

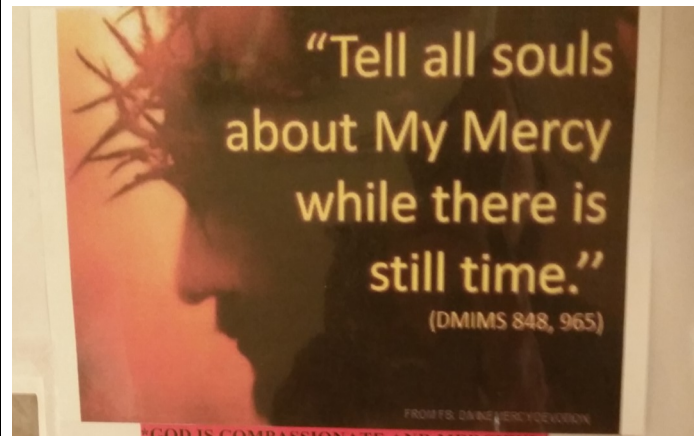
**Confessions, Sat., 4pm. Or at an Appointed time.**

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

**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.



### Simbang Gabi/Advent's Novena Mass

Dec. 22, Sat. at 5pm. Fr. Joseph, Celebrant.

Hospitality: 5PM Vigil Choir, Murphy,  
Dolorfino Families.

Dec. 23, Sun. at 7:30pm. Fr. Thuong, Celebrant.

Hospitality: St. Lorenzo Community, Randall,  
Engalla, del Rosario, Phillips Families.

Contact Bernie Juat at 510-526-5828/510-610-4702.

### Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave

Dec. 25: Closed on Christmas Day.

### New Year's Vigil Service at Chapel

*Living Our Baptismal Vows / Rejecting the Works of Satan.* Dec. 31, 9pm-11pm. (English/Spanish). Everyone is welcomed. Food will be Served.

### The Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intention

**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.

### Job Opportunity

Book binding Assistant. Able to work between 6am and 6pm. Call Ernest or Olvin, (510) 235-6606. Located at 3950 Bissell Ave, Richmond.

### Calls for Help & Hope

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has provided a life-line of help and hope for 55 years. (800)-833-2900