

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:
• 1st 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.stjohne.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

Jesus Comes to Our Defense

Today's drawing places the viewer outside the Gospel scene looking in. We're behind the darkened figures standing at a door. We see Jesus in full view, standing in the light blocking the accusers' way toward the woman. He's clearly coming to her defense as he listens, unmoved by their story.

Oftentimes we may feel that Jesus stands more as an accuser than a savior. He's there to point out what we should do in the future, didn't do in the past, or aren't doing in the present. This isn't the Jesus the Gospel presents. He stands to defend the sinner before her accusers. Even to those who so blatantly hurt him, Jesus said "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Sometimes it is hard to let go of an erring view of God. It can be comforting to have someone to blame or fear. Look at St. Paul: He was a zealous persecutor of Christians. Yet, having found Christ, he let go of his erroneous view of God and let Jesus come to his defense. He let go of the guilt of his sinful past and his desire to save himself through his own works. He considered it all trash to be discarded and forgotten as he held on to faith in Jesus.

We need to leave our evil deeds in his merciful heart and forget them there. The sacrament of reconciliation offers the best opportunity to do so. Let him stand at the door of your heart, defending you from those sinister accusers of your past who would haul you back into the darkness.
—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Christ and the Sinner*, 1911
Artist: Max Beckmann
Location: Vatican Museums

PHOTO © GIOVANNI ARTO S.C.A. - DIREZIONE DEI MUSEI VATICANI

For Reflection

*Do negative thoughts about myself or my past limit my experience of God's love?
When have I truly known the redemption of Christ?
Remember that moment of mercy and take strength from it.*

"Has no one condemned you?" ...Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more."

John 8:10-11

Mass for the Intentions Week

	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Apr. 6	5 p.m. Angellie Cruz-Thanksgiving	Nemesia Peralta
Sunday, Apr. 7	8 a.m. Renaldo and Diane Marin †	Marin Family
	9:30 a.m. Diane Marin †	Janet Chavez
	11:30 a.m. Esther Esmilla Taylor †	Christina Taylor
	Ed Carville †	Geraldine Judt
	11:30 a.m. Maria Fatima Gregorio †	Domingo Gregorio
	6 p.m. St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Apr. 8	8 a.m. Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Tuesday, Apr. 9	8 a.m. Martha Harris †	Fely Sabares
Wednesday, Apr. 10	8 a.m. Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Thursday, Apr. 11	8 a.m. Diane Marin †	Noreen Shaughnessy
Friday, Apr. 12	8 a.m. Ben Ong-Birthday	Cecile Ong Family
Saturday, Apr. 13	8 a.m. Ramon Regalado † 102th Birthday Anniversary	Panganiban Family

Stewardship

Mar. 31, Envelopes/EFT \$2,554.00
 Loose Collection \$1,343.13
 Second Collection: Parish Charities \$1,785.00
 This Week's Second Collection: Parish and School Development

Thank you for your generosity.

A Day of Abstinence

Every Friday at Lent



Welcome to the Faith
 Ayden Mamaril
Our Newly Baptized

Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave

Apr. 9: Seniors' Meeting. 12:30pm, Lunch (\$4).
 Tracy (707) 400-8526.

17th Annual Summer Bible Camp

Jun. 24-28. "Power Lab, Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Powers". Pre-School to 6th Grade.
 Call Pam, 510-507-8694. www.sjbtcc.us/vbdc.html

Let Us Pray for the Sick

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



CRS Rice Bowl

Your almsgiving help in Building Homes,
 Keeping family members safe, Giving hope to refugees all over the World.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul says, "For His sake I have forfeited everything, I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same.
-Phil 3:8

This Week's Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Is 43:16-21. Phil 3:8-14.
Jn 8:1-11.
Monday Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62.
Or 13-41c-62.
Tuesday Readings: Nm 21:4-9. Jn 8:21-30.
Wednesday Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95.
Jn 8:31-42.
Thursday Readings: Gn 17:3-9. Jn 8:51-59 .
Friday Readings: Jer 20:10-13. Jn 10:31-42 .
Saturday Readings: Ez 37:21-28. Jn 11:45-56.

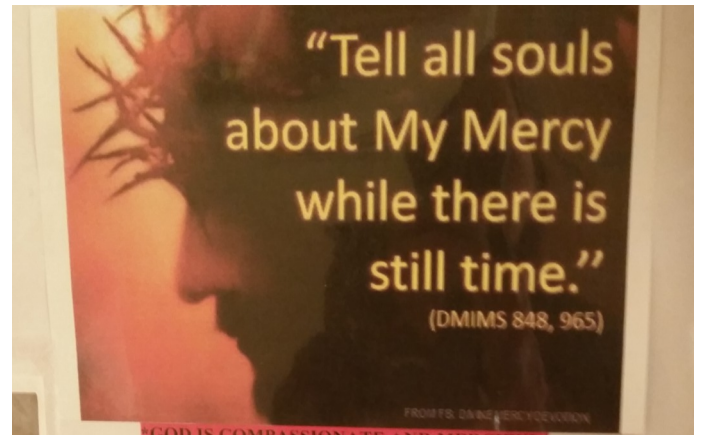
Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Mon.-Thu. Sat., 8:30am. Fri., 9am at Church.
Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed.,
7:30pm (Spanish) at Chapel.
Stations of the Cross, Fri., 8:30am, 7:30pm (and
Benediction).
24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration,
Daily at the Chapel.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena,
Weds, 8:30am at Church and 6pm at the Chapel.
Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.- Fri., 7:40am.
Confessions, Fri. before and after the Stations of
the Cross/Benediction at 7:30pm. Sat., 4pm. Or
call 9am-4:30pm, Mon.-Fri.
Holy Infant of Prague Novena,
Thu., 8:30am at Church.
Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.

Volunteers Needed

St John needs to build up its corps of Eucharistic Ministers - for assistance at Mass or taking Communion to a home bound family member, friend or fellow parishioner. Neither ministry is time-consuming and will bring you closer to the Lord in amazing ways. Call Larry Mundy, 510-301-5027 for more information.

Marian Pilgrimage

Oct 10-24. Portugal, Spain, France, Barcelona, Bosnia. www.polandmej.com. (510) 918-5825. (510) 847-7773.



Youth Ministry

May 4. Prayer and Song Retreat with Sarah Hart. Retreat, 1pm. Concert, 7:30pm. (510) 703-1076. andyg@sjtbc.us

Save the Date: Special Liturgy and Farewell Reception for our Sisters of Mercy

After more than five decades of love and devotion to St. John's School and Parish, Sr. Carmel, Sr. Angela, and Sr. Anne will retire and return to Ireland in the summer. Please join us for a celebration to honor them on June 15, Saturday at the 5pm Mass, with a reception following. For more information and ways to help with this special event, please contact Olivia Wong oswong214@gmail.com or 510-701-8333.

The Annual Bishop's Appeal

Rebuild the Church. Help via pledge or donation. Thank you for supporting the ministries and services within our diocese.

Catholic Campaign on Human Development

Thank You! From CCHD. Parish donated \$559. Last year, our Parish donated \$529. Marc McKimmey, Diocesan Coordinator-CCHD Feb 15, 2019.

St. John Class of '68 Reunion, Oct 26

If you're a former student from the Class of 1968 or know of someone who was in this class, please contact Laurie Gaeta. gaetalaurie1968@gmail.com

Jesus' last command to us in the church was to

“Go And Make Disciples Of All Nations.”

Jesus commands us to bring everyone to His church.

At St. John the Baptist Church, we are charged with this responsibility of making disciples of our part of the nation. **I am asking everyone to invite someone, who would not normally make it to Mass on Easter, to join you at Mass.**

Our Easter Sunday Masses are at 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11:30 am. The Easter Vigil is at 9 pm Saturday night.

I know everyone's first reaction will be “I can't do that because ... (fill in the blank here).” We see this same response all throughout scripture.

God called upon **Moses**. Moses said he had a speech problem. With God's help, he got the Hebrew people out of Egypt.

God called upon the prophet **Jeremiah**. Jeremiah said he was too young. With God's help, he delivered God's message to the Hebrew people.

God called upon **Gideon** to fight and liberate the people. Gideon's excuse was that he was just a farmer. With God's help, Gideon drove the Midianites away.

God called upon **Jonah** to be a prophet to Nineveh. Jonah ran the other way. With God's help, Jonah delivered his message and converted the people of Nineveh.

We, all, have excuses why we cannot invite friends, family, or strangers to come to Mass with us on Easter Sunday. With God's help, each and every one of us can invite and encourage someone to come to Mass.

Fr. Thuong

JOURNEY TO UGANDA

■ CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Jesus tells us to give special care to those who are most in need. He reminds us of our Christian duty to give a voice to those who are unheard and to help those who are most vulnerable.

ENCOUNTER ANNET

Annet's youngest sister calls her Mom—and for good reason. Since their parents' deaths 4 years ago, 16-year-old Annet has been caring for her three siblings: Gladys, 6, Irene, 8 and Emmanuel, 10.

It hasn't been easy. Ongoing violence in their home country, South Sudan, forced Annet to take her siblings and flee south to neighboring Uganda. It was a dangerous journey, but Annet kept them safe despite threats from rebel soldiers.

For more than 2 years now, Annet and her siblings have been living in Bidi Bidi, one of the world's largest refugee settlements. Formed in 2015, Bidi Bidi is home to nearly 300,000 people—many South Sudanese who, like Annet, fled for their lives to Uganda.

While Annet is happy to be away from the violence, life in Bidi Bidi is hard—especially for a young woman trying to raise her siblings. That's why CRS is building houses for families like Annet's. A place to call home means Annet can rest a little easier at night knowing her family is safe.

But that's not all. CRS is also helping people like Annet learn to farm and is giving them the tools they need to succeed. Annet was given her own plot of land to plant on so she will be able to continue providing for her siblings.

For her, that's the most important thing. While she wants her family to return to South Sudan one day, for now she knows that Bidi Bidi is the safer option. In the meantime, she encourages



Photo by Philip L. Lohman/CRS

her siblings to go to school and does all she can to ensure they'll have a bright future.

"My hope is to raise my siblings," she says. "And I know I can do it with the help of CRS and my Catholic faith."

SHARE THE JOURNEY

Shelter is necessary for a dignified life—when families are forced to migrate, finding safe shelter becomes uncertain.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Population: 39,570,125

Size: 241,038 square miles; slightly smaller than Oregon

- Described as the "Pearl of Africa," Uganda is defined by its rich culture and diverse flora and fauna, but has suffered from civil war, poverty and a devastating AIDS epidemic.
- Uganda has received about 180 refugees a day since January 1, 2018, as South Sudanese people flee violence in their country; more than 1 million refugees are now living in settlements in northwestern Uganda.
- Uganda is unique in its openness and hospitality toward refugees, allowing them to move about freely, work and establish businesses.



For downloadable photos, visit csrcebowl.org/photos and watch a video about Annet at csrcebowl.org/stories.