

# 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.  
6 p.m. (Brazilian)  
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. Robson Luis Weber, Associate Pastor

### Deacons

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

### Parish Office

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3:00 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

(510)-232-5659 for messages

### 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.



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt 24:37-44

[Jesus said,]  
"So too, you also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."  
MATTHEW 24:44

KRISTINA FONOVAREVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

## God Is Near

**B**e prepared! But for what? Since we're entering the season of Advent, we might think that we're called to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent is certainly the time to prepare for Christmas, but it's much more than that, for God comes into our lives in many different ways, even today. We see evidence of that when, working together, we rebuild not only cities, as Isaiah describes in the first reading, but relationships in families, parishes, and countries.

Remarkable changes take place in our lives when, as Paul bids us, we "throw off the works of darkness," works of rivalry and jealousy (Romans 13:12). God comes to us every day with the power we need to improve ourselves and our world. God often comes quietly in ways so ordinary we might miss them. That is the point of Jesus' insistence to "stay awake" and "be prepared" (Matthew 24:42, 44).

God certainly came long ago as a human being. That was a one-time-only event. We believe that God will come again at the end. That, too, will happen only once. But God comes more often than this. God comes every day to help us be our better selves. This is what the Advent readings tell us.

What can we do? How are we to prepare for God's coming? Today's readings tell us. We must work for the peace that Isaiah describes; we must throw off the works of darkness, as Paul instructs; and we must do as Jesus tells us: stay awake and be prepared.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Where do you see people's goodness that tells us God is near?
- ★ What can you do to make that goodness present to others?



Editor's note: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, is pleased to join you at Mass over the next three liturgical years, beginning with today's reflection. A sister of St. Agnes, Sr. Dianne earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Saint Louis University, and honorary degrees and accolades from many organizations. She is professor of biblical studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



			<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested by</b>
Saturday,	Nov. 30	5 p.m.	Victoria Tannady-Thanksgiving	Victoria Tannady
Sunday,	Dec. 1	8 a.m.	John Paul Setnicky †	Joe Lewis
		9:30 a.m.	Victoria Tannady-Thanksgiving	Victoria Tannady
		11:30 a.m.	Rodolfo T. Abesamis †	Ria Abesamis
		6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday,	Dec. 2	8 a.m.	Luis Torres †	Torres Family
Tuesday,	Dec. 3	8 a.m.	Rodolfo T. Abesamis †	Ria Abesamis
Wednesday,	Dec. 4	8 a.m.	Rodolfo T. Abesamis †	Ria Abesamis
Thursday,	Dec. 5	8 a.m.	Rodolfo T. Abesamis †	Ria Abesamis
Friday,	Dec. 6	8 a.m.	Roger Barce †	Alice Barce and Family
Saturday,	Dec. 7	8 a.m.	Rodolfo T. Abesamis †	Ria Abesamis

**Stewardship**

Check the coming issue for the Nov. 24 Collection.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave**

Dec. 3: Members Meeting. 12:30pm, Lunch, \$5. Tracy (707) 400-8526.

**Advent Communal Penance Service**

Dec. 13, Friday at 7:30 pm

**Mass Schedule on Christmas**

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

**Advent Evening Novena Mass Simbang Gabi**

Dec. 15-23. Mon.-Fri. at 7pm, Sat. at 5pm, Sun. at 6pm (Brazilian).  
Reception follows after Mass.  
(Welcomes Lector, Choir, Hospitality Volunteers)

**Prayers for Healing**

Virginia Alday, Niani Barber Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Irene Blair, Robert Britto Gustavo Caceres and Friends Evelyn Canepa, Al Carlson, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger Linda Crittendon, Cora Dongon, Mary Dong, Tami Duncan Juanita Estrellas, Eric Ewen Frank Gardner, Filomena Giese Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau, Victoria 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, Isaac Tiongson, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal Evodio Walle Winston Williams, Jan Williamson



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

Dec. 9, Monday. Not a Holy Day of Obligation.

## First Sunday of Advent ( A )

The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

### This Week's Service Schedule

**Sunday Readings:** Is 2:1-5. Rom 13:11-14.  
Mt 24:37-44,  
**Monday Readings:** Is 4:2-6. Mt 8:5-11.  
**Tuesday Readings:** Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24.  
**Wednesday Readings:** Is 25:6-10a. Mt 15:29-37.  
**Thursday Readings:** Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27.  
**Friday Readings:** Is 29:17-24. Mt 9:27-31.  
**Saturday Readings:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26.  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.

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

**Anointing of the Sick.** Sat., 8:30am

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

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

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

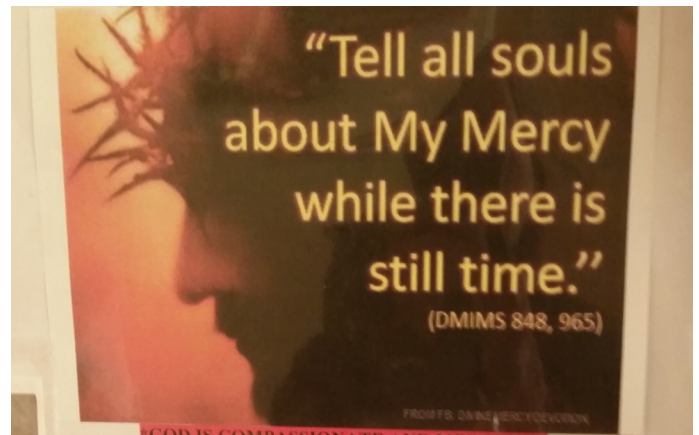
**Liturgy of the Hours.** Mon.- Fri., 7:40am.

**Confessions.** Sat., 4pm. Or call 9am-4:30pm,  
Mon.-Fri.

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

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

**Charismatic Service.** Sat., 7pm



### Sacred Silence

There are specific periods of silence recommended in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. They encourage a general atmosphere of interior and exterior silence for all the participants at Mass. This silence should be sought while listening to the readings, the homily, or the proclamation of the Eucharistic and other priestly prayers. This helps quiet our imagination, our worries and our toils so as to join our hearts to the prayers and be fully attentive to whatever the Holy Spirit should inspire in us. Thus, silence at Mass is an active, not a passive disposition.

This form of interior silence does not impede, but indeed favors, full and active participation in those parts of the celebration where the community is united in acclamation and song, for each person is more fully aware of what he or she is doing.

After Communion is an opportunity of prolonged silence. It is a time to offer our prayers of Thanksgiving for Jesus having fed us with His very self in the Holy Eucharist. Communion is the "source and summit" of our faith.

Fr. Thuong has directed all of our priests to ensure they observe this period of silence. Please join in this period of silence and thank Jesus for this most precious gift that you have received.

### The Annual Bishop's Appeal

*Rebuild My Church.* Make a pledge or donation to the Bishop's Appeal/St John, El Cerrito

### Safe Environment/Diocese

Every volunteer and worker is required to register at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) every 3 years and complete the training on Protecting God's Children. After 3 years complete a second training on Keeping the Promise Alive.

## First Saturday Devotion

Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Lucia of Fatima on December 10, 1925. It was there Our Lady requested the Five First Saturdays Devotion and gave a great promise.

Appearing with the Queen of Heaven in that apparition was the Infant Jesus, Who said to Lucia: “Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation.”

Our Lady then spoke: “See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.”



At St. John the Baptist we do this devotion on every First Saturday. We start the Rosary at 4:15pm. There is a priest in the confessional starting at 4 pm. And Mass is at 5 pm. It is very easy to fulfill the whole devotion that our Lady asks in a short amount of time and in one place. Please join us at 4:15 on every first Saturday. December 7 is the next first Saturday.

# December 2019

Church (CH) Fr John Maxwell Conf Rm (CR) Comm Cen (CC) Comm Cen 2nd Fl (CC2) Music Rm (MR) Rectory (RE) Adoration Chapel (DM)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent 8a, 9:30a, 11:30a, 6p (Brazilian) Mass 9:30a CRE	2 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours/ Mass /Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 8a-2p Senior Program CC 7:30p-9p RCIA CC2	3 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours/Mass/Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 8a-2p Senior Program CC 7:30p-9p RCIA CC2	4 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/ Divine Mercy Chaplet 12n-2p Women's Covenant	5 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet	6 First Friday 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Holy Hour	7 First Saturday 8a Mass 8:30a Anointing of the Sick/Rosary 4p Confessions 5p Vigil Mass 7p Charismatic Service
8 Second Sunday of Advent 8a, 9:30a, 11:30a, 6p (Brazilian) Mass 9:30a CRE	9 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy	10 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 8a-2p Seniors Program CC 7:30p-9p RCIA CC-2	11 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 12n-2p Women's Covenant	12 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet	13 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass. Rosary. Divine Mercy Chaplet	14 8a Mass/Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 4p Confessions 5p Vigil Mass
15 Third Sunday of Advent 8a, 9:30a, 11:30a, 6p (Brazilian) Simbang Gabi Mass 9:30a CRE 8a-5p SVDP GiftsCC2	16 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 7p Simbang Gabi 8a-5p SVDP GiftsCC2	17 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass/8:30a Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 8a-2p Seniors Program CC 7p Simbang Gabi 7:30p RCIA CC2 8a-5p SVDP Gifts CC2	18 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass/8:30a Rosary and the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 12n-2p Women's Covenant 7p Simbang Gabi 8a-5p SVDP Gifts CC2	19 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass. Rosary. Divine Mercy Chaplet. 7p Simbang Gabi 8a-5p SVDP GiftsCC2/CC1	20 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours/8a Mass. Rosary. Divine Mercy Chaplet 7p Simbang Gabi 8a-5p SVDP GiftsCC2/CC1	21 8a Mass/Rosary/Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 4p Confessions 5p Vigil Mass/Simbang Gabi 8a-5p SVDP GiftsCC2/CC1
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8a, 9:30a, 11:30a, 6p (Brazilian) Simbang Gabi Mass 9:30a CRE	23 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet 7p Simbang Gabi	24 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours/ Mass. 5p, 9p Mass. 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet 7:30p RCIA CC2	25 The Nativity of the Lord 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm (Brazilian) Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy	26 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet	27 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet	28 8a Mass 4p Confessions 5p Vigil Mass
29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 8a, 9:30a, 11:30a, 6p (Brazilian) Mass 9:30a CRE	30 Sixth Day after Christmas 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours 8a Mass. 8:30a Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet	31 Seventh Day after Christmas 7:40a Liturgy of the Hours. Mass. Rosary. Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. 7:30p RCIA CC2				