

# 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.

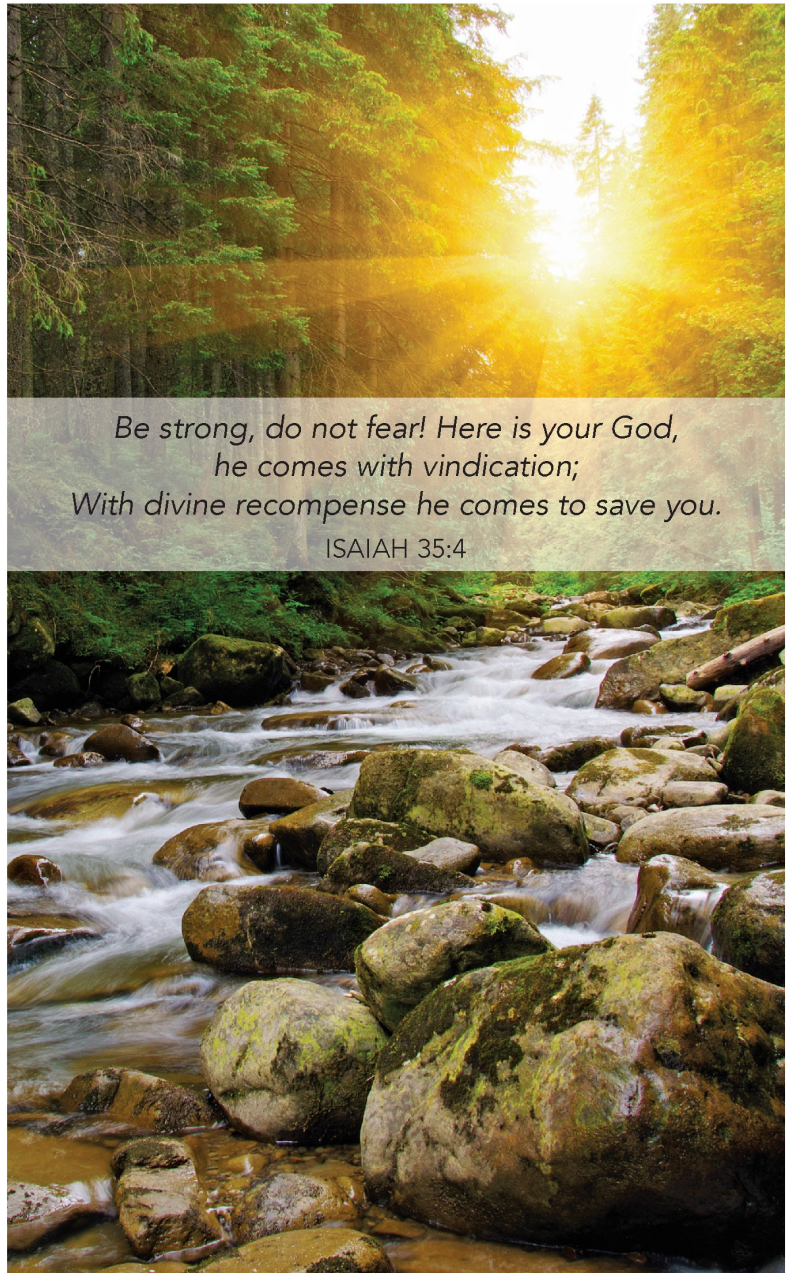
## The Splendor of God

**"H**ere is your God!" Who wouldn't run to see this marvel? Isaiah 35 tells us what to look for: nature will explode with excitement and splendor, and the hardships of life will no longer hold us captive. Is this really possible, or is it merely hopeful poetry? Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist that it's possible. In fact he, Jesus, is the one who has ushered in the kingdom of heaven. Since that is true, why don't you and I see it?

The reading from James sheds light on this. There is something truly wondrous about earth bringing forth "precious fruit" (James 5:7). Our understanding of how the development and emergence of fruits occur does not make the fact of natural growth any less wondrous. Farmers know this well. They also know that such growth will occur only when human labor cooperates with the laws of nature designed by God. In other words, the farmer provides the labor while God provides the life-giving sun and rain.

If our world does not resemble Isaiah's astonishing portrait or the healing that Jesus was able to accomplish, might it be that we have not done what we can to remedy the hardships of life that hold so many captive? When God enters our lives, he provides us with the power we need to change our world, but we must be willing to allow that power to work through us. If we are open to God in our midst, our world will be rich with life and healing, and everyone will know that God is really here.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



*Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
With divine recompense he comes to save you.*

ISAIAH 35:4

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *On what ways might you enrich the life of another?*
- ★ *What can you do to heal broken relationships in your life?*

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



		<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested by</b>
Saturday, Dec. 14	5 p.m.	Evelyn Baker †	Anne Sowinski
Sunday, Dec. 15	8 a.m.	Renaldo and Diane Marin †	Marin Famil
	9:30 a.m.	Noreen Shaughnessy-Birthday	Cecile Ong
	11:30 a.m.	Evelyn Baker †	Anne Sowinski
Monday, Dec. 16	6 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
	8 a.m.	Ramon Regalado - 2nd Year Death Anniversary	Panganiban Family
	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
Tuesday, Dec. 17	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children For Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
	8 a.m.	Rose Boitano †	Kathy
Wednesday, Dec. 18	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children For Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Thursday, Dec. 19	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
	8 a.m.	Enzo Lencioni †	Gina Lencioni
	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
Saturday, Dec. 21	8 a.m.	Rogelio Co-Birthday	Geraldine Hampton

**Stewardship**

Check the coming issue for the Dec. 1, 8  
Collections.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Mass Schedule at Christmas**

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

**Advent Evening Mass Novena/  
Simbang Gabi**

This year, we will have 9 nightly masses leading up to Christmas Eve, starting on December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is called SIMBANG GABI in the tradition of our Filipino Catholic parishioners here. There will be a short prayer before Mass, and a reception after Mass. The first Simbang Gabi Mass will be with the 6 pm Brazilian Mass on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for these Masses!

If you want to bring a dish to share on one of the evenings, please call Zeny Miguel at (510) 367-1545; or Thalia Cayetano at (510) 734-8190. Sponsors will be published in the bulletin.

**Prayers for Healing**

Virginia Alday, Niani Barber Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Irene Blair, Robert Britto, Elizabeth Brown, 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, Bernice Lockett, Marian & Michael Luoma, Mary Agnes, Nancy McVey, Cecilia Mendiola, Francis Mondragon, 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 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Mass on Dec. 15, Sun., at 11:30am. Reception at  
Fr. Maxwell Hall after Mass. Contact Rosa Walle.

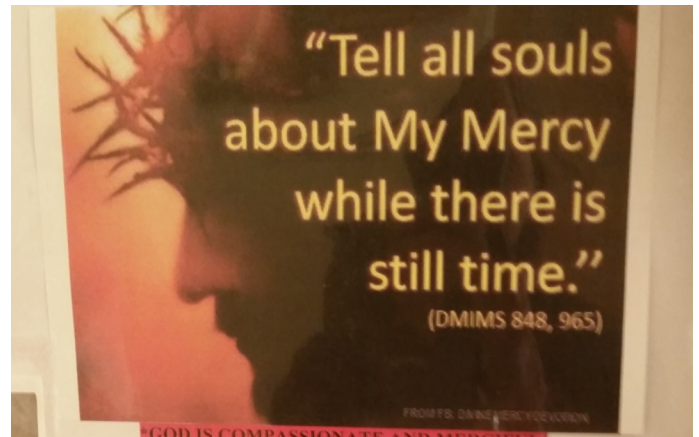
**Third Sunday of Advent ( A )**

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me.

**This Week's Service Schedule**

**Sunday Readings:** Is 35:1-6a, 10. Jas 5:7-10. Mt 11:2-11.  
**Monday Readings:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a. Mt 21:23-27.  
**Tuesday Readings:** Gn 49:2, 8-10. Mt 1:1-17.  
**Wednesday Readings:** Jer 23:5-8. Mt 1:18-25.  
**Thursday Readings:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a. Lk 1:5-25.  
**Friday Readings:** Is 7:10-14. Lk 1:26-38.  
**Saturday Readings:** Sg 2:8-14. or Zep 3:14-18a. Lk 1:39-45.

**Funeral Mass for Jerry Olivero.** Mon., 11am.  
**Advent Mass Novena/Simbang Gabi.** Sun., 6pm (Brazilian), Mon.-Fri., 7pm., Sat., 5pm.  
**Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.** Mon.- Sat., 8:30am. 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.** Wed., 8:30am at Church and 6pm at the Chapel.  
**Liturgy of the Hours.** Mon.- Sat., 7:40am.  
**Confessions.** Sat., 4pm. Or call 9am-3pm, 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.



**The Annual Bishop's Appeal**

*Rebuild My Church.* Make a pledge or donation payable to the Bishop's Appeal/St John, El Cerrito. As of Nov 30, \$4,212 to reach goal.

**Safe Environment**

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

**Join the Parish Email List**

Besides the bulletin and website, the parish also uses email to disseminate information. Weekly, we email a link to the bulletin on the parish website.

We also email about some of our upcoming events. If you are not getting these emails you can sign up to start receiving them.

You can sign up on the parish website, [StJohnElCerrito.org](http://StJohnElCerrito.org). On the home page, in the recent emails section, you will find a link to the email signup page. You can also go directly to the page which is at [StJohnElCerrito.org/email/email-signup](http://StJohnElCerrito.org/email/email-signup). Your email address and name are all that is required.



**Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave**

Dec. 17: Holiday Celebration. Ukulele Music. 12:30pm, Lunch \$5. Tracy (707) 400-8526.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

A Holy Day of Obligation. Mass on Dec. 31, Tue. at 7:30pm and Jan. 1, Wed. at 8am, 10am.

**Adoration Chapel**

New Year's Vigil and Resolution. Dec. 31, Tue., 9pm-11pm. Theme: "Living our Baptismal Vows" and "Rejecting Satan and his Works".  
*Reception follows.*

**Put Christ in Christmas Public Rosary**

Dec. 21, Sat., Noon. In front of the Chapel.  
*Lunch will be served.*

**Walk for Life, Jan. 25**

Concelebrated Mass at 8am, St. Mary Cathedral, Gough St., SF. Rally at 10:30am. Walk at 2:30pm.

**Blood Drive**

Jan. 19, Sunday from 7:30am-4:30pm at the Community Center. Contact: Joe Orr

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to offer you and your family every blessing as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

*O gracious and loving God,  
we join all creation  
in raising to you a hymn of thanksgiving.*

*For generation upon generation  
peoples of this land have sung of your bounty.  
We, too, offer you praise  
for the rich harvest of blessings  
we have received from your hands.*

*Bless all our gifts,  
which we share with grateful hearts.  
Continue to make our land fruitful;  
and let our love for you be seen  
in our pursuit of justice and of peace  
and in our generous response to those in  
need.  
We present this prayer to you  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

With the assurance of my prayers and blessing

for you and your loved ones this coming

Advent Season, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ  
Bishop of Oakland



## *Office of the President*

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
*President*

December 5, 2019

Your Eminences and Excellencies:

I wish you peace and goodwill in the name of Our Lord.

In this holy season of Advent as we prepare for the birth of our Lord, I wish to take a moment to call special attention to another joyful occasion. The Holy Father will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on December 13. May Jesus the High Priest continue to renew, increase, and strengthen in Pope Francis the graces received at his ordination as he continues to carry his priestly ministry in service to our Holy Church.

In honor of Pope Francis and in celebration of his service to the Church, I would ask that you consider encouraging the faithful in your dioceses to mark the Holy Father's jubilee with special prayers for him in his priestly ministry.

Attached to this letter, you will find prayers in both English and Spanish from the Conference's Secretariat for Divine Worship and social media content from the Office of Public Affairs. I hope your diocese is able to join us in commemorating the Holy Father's ordination anniversary through prayer. Please feel free to share the attached materials with your parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries.

Finally, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your good wishes, support and confidence as I begin my tenure as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

It is an honor to serve all of you, and please keep me in your prayers and know that you will be in my prayers as we begin this holy season of Advent and await the birth of our Savior.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops