

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: stjohs@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:
• 1st 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.

He's One of Us

The Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a “son of David” (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph’s legal son, he also was a “son of David.” Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

MATTHEW 1:23

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?*
- ★ *We are on the threshold of Christmas. What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart?*

Mass Intentions for the Week

Intention

Requested by

Saturday, Dec. 21	5 p.m.	Thanksgiving of Priscilla Flores and Family to the Lord Jesus	Priscilla Flores
Sunday, Dec. 22	8 a.m.	Evelyn Baker †	Anne Sowinski
	9:30 a.m.	Barbara Brendlinger †	Keller Family
	11:30 a.m.	Daniel Fleming †	Lorraine Ostrowski
Monday, Dec. 23	6 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
	7 p.m.	Simbang Gabi Volunteers	St. John Parish
Tuesday, Dec. 24		<i>Merry Christmas</i>	
	5 p.m.	Pedro Peralta † Evelyn Baker †	Larry Peralta Anne Sowinski
	8:30 p.m.	Esther Esmilla Taylor Rosa Nguyen Thi Nieng Memorial Eladia Cruz †	Christina Taylor Adrian Nguyen Nemesia Peralta
Wednesday, Dec. 25	8 a.m.	EEC-Birthday	Ancelle Nguyen
	9:30 a.m.	Fatima Gregorio †	Domingo and Victoria Gregorio
	11:30 a.m.	Fr. Ray Ogbemure	Kathy and Helen
Thursday, Dec. 26	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	8 a.m.	Dick, Helen, and Richard Nelson †	Karen Stevens
Friday, Dec. 27	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children For Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Saturday, Dec. 28	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children For Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children

Stewardship

Plate Collection, Dec. 1
 Envelopes \$3,752/EFT, Weekly \$210
 EFT, Monthly Every 2nd \$1,390
 Parish and School Dev \$ 1,289/EFT \$207
 Thanksgiving Day \$1,609/EFT \$72.50
 Loose Collection \$901.06
 Chapel, Monthly Every 2nd \$130

Plate Collection, Dec. 8
 Envelopes \$1,533 EFT, Weekly \$210
 EFT, Monthly Every 2nd \$1,390
 Retirement Fund for Religious \$ 1,285
 Immaculate Conception EFT \$67.50
 Loose Collection \$1,481.82

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).

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, 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



Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open as to the leading of the

This Week's Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Is 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7.

Mt 1:18-24.

Monday Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24. Lk 1:57-66.

Tuesday Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16. Lk 1:67-79.

Wednesday Readings / Christmas Vigil.

Is 62:1-5. Acts 13:16-17, 22-25. **Night.** Is 9:1-6.

Ti 2:11-14. Lk 2:1-14. **Dawn.** Is 62:11-12.

Ti 3:4-7.

Lk 2:15-20. **Day.** Is 52:7-10. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18.

Thursday Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59.

Mt 10:17-22.

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

Saturday Readings: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2. Mt 2:13-18.

Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Mon., Wed.-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. at 8:30am at Church.

Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

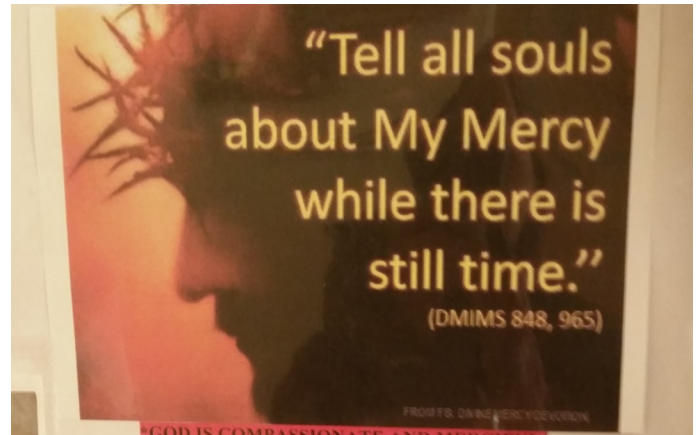
Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.

Mass at Christmas. Tue., 5pm, 8:30pm. Wed., 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm (Brazilian).

Simbang Gabi/ Advent Mass Novena. Sat., 5pm. Sun. 6pm (Brazilian). Mon., 7pm.

Join the Parish Email List

Besides the bulletin and website, the parish also uses email to disseminate information. Sign up at the parish website, 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. Your email address and name are all that is required.



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.

The Annual Bishop's Appeal

Rebuild My Church. Make a pledge or donation payable to Bishop's Appeal/St. John, El Cerrito. As of Nov. 30, we have reached 93.97% of our church goal of \$23,400. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Safe Environment/Diocese

Every volunteer and worker is required to register every three years at virtusonline.org and complete the training on Protecting God's Children or Keeping the Promise Alive.

Advent Evening Mass Novena/ Simbang Gabi

This year, leading up to Christmas Eve, the parish started on Dec 15 until Dec 23 (M-F7pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 6pm) SIMBANG GABI, an evening Mass tradition of our Filipino Catholic parishioners here. There will be a short prayer before Mass, and a reception after Mass. Please join us for these Masses! If you want to bring a dish to share on one of the evenings, please call Zeny (510) 367-1545 or Thalia (510) 734-8190.

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.*