

Merry Christmas

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

St. John the Baptist Parish welcomes everyone who has gathered with us over the Advent/Christmas season. We invite you to join with us in becoming a better disciple of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We think this is a good place to grow in our faith and follow Christ closer. During this holy season we have the joy of seeing both our regular parishioners and many visitors who have joined with us to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

We think we are a good place for all to grow in their faith and become a better follower of Christ. We know we could be better but we are all working on our faults and failings.

Masses

The most obvious way to grow closer to Jesus is through the Mass and the sacraments. We have five Sunday Masses: 5 p.m. on Saturday; 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Our last Sunday Mass is at 6 p.m. in Portuguese. We have a daily Mass at 8 a.m., with additional Masses on feasts and solemnities. You can check our website,

StJohnElCerrito.org, for these Masses. The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." Jesus is with us body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Mass.

Ministries

During Jesus' ministry, he taught his disciples to care for the poor, the marginalized, the disadvantaged. Here at St. John's we try to follow in his footsteps. Our St. Vincent de Paul group runs a food pantry twice a month. A team of volunteers operates the program and the parish as a whole contributes food and money to keep the pantry full. Additionally, several times a year they help in other ways. This Christmas, we provided toys for more than 200 needy children. Three days a month,

we provide lunch at the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) souper center. Our parish also serves dinner there several times a month. We follow Jesus by helping these groups to feed the hungry.

Faith Formation

St. John's has a variety of programs to help everyone learn more about Jesus' church. Most prominent is our Preschool-8 Grade school. We are very proud of the children that attend our school. Besides reading, writing, and arithmetic they are fully integrated with the church with a

TK-8 class attending Mass on Wednesdays, and the whole school attending monthly and on holy days. In addition to the school, we have Sunday religious education for any child, confirmation preparation for teens, Bible study for adults, RCIA for adults coming into the church, and a summer Bible day camp for all kids. Become a better disciple of Jesus by helping us learn about and spread the faith.



Devotions

Our parish is particularly blessed with its Divine Mercy chapel, where we can go and spend quiet time adoring Jesus in the Eucharist. We also support a number of other devotions to inspire and strengthen our faith; Mother of Perpetual Help, First Saturday devotion, Rosary after weekday Mass, a monthly Charismatic service, Our Lady of Aparecida, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We are a parish where anyone can become a disciple who walks closer to Jesus. Join us in our journey.

Feed the Hungry

The Gospel of Matthew says “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink” Mt 25:34-35. At St. John’s we make an effort to feed the hungry in several ways.

Our St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) society runs a food pantry. On the first and third Saturdays of every month they pass out bags of food to needy families. There is a small dedicated group of disciples who get the food, prepare the bags, and pass them out. They are supported by parishioners who provide money and food to stock the shelves to fill the bags. At Thanksgiving time, the team puts in extra effort to provide each family a turkey. At Christmas they try to provide something extra for the table. This year it was a pie. In addition to food SVDP gets presents for over 200 children.

Our Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) volunteers provide and serve lunches and dinners at the GRIP facility in Richmond. They provide lunch on the first Wednesday and third Sunday of every month and on the fifth Friday of months that have five Fridays. The third Saturday of each month they provide and serve dinners at GRIP. Other nights are arranged a couple weeks in advance.



At the final judgment the disciples of Jesus who help in these programs hope to hear “Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.”

If you are interested in helping with SVDP, call Carol Mansinne-Shafer at 510 502-9234, or with GRIP call Joe Orr at 510 504-9876

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Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

St. John the Baptist Parish has the rare blessing of a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week adoration chapel.



Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen said that on the day he was ordained he resolved to spend a continuous Holy Hour every day in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. One of his reasons was to grow more and more into Jesus’ likeness. Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way, as the face of

Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain. Something happens to us similar to that which happened to the disciples at Emmaus. On Easter Sunday afternoon when the Lord met them, he asked why they were so gloomy. After spending some time in his presence, and hearing again the secret of spirituality, their "hearts were on fire."

Jesus, I trust in You

You too can spend intimate time with Jesus. He is always available in our adoration chapel. You can sign up for a regular hour or drop in anytime. Any time you spend in adoration will surely bring you into a closer relationship with Jesus. If you can spend an hour every day, perhaps you will be addressed as Venerable.

The chapel is on San Pablo Avenue, one door to the left of the church. Ring the bell and join Jesus in the chapel.

In addition to quiet adoration time, we pray the Divine Mercy devotion at 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Several groups gather there to pray the rosary in various languages. The parish website has the schedule.

See stjohnelcerrito.org/about-us/adoration/