

Saint Robert's Church

Rev. Msgr. Bruce A. Dreier, Pastor
Rev. Paul O'Dell, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Vincent Ring, *Retired In Residence*
Seminarian Hansel Tomaneng, *In Residence*
Deacon Rusty Duffey, Pastoral Associate
Deacon John Meyer, Pastoral Associate
Sister Patricia O'Sullivan, PBVM, **589-0104**
Pastoral Associate for Sick and Homebound
Sister Sheral Marshall, OSF, **589-2800**
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy
In residence **583-2544**
Sister Ita Cleary, PBVM
Sister Antonio Heaphy, PBVM
Sister Vianney Buckley, PBVM

Rectory Office: 1380 Crystal Springs Rd.
San Bruno, CA 94066 Phone: **(650) 589-2800**
FAX: **(650) 588-9628**
Web Site: www.saintroberts.org

Mrs. Kathy Hanley, **589-2800**
Parish Secretary
Mrs. Judy DeMartini, **589-2800**
Parish Receptionist

PARISH SCHOOL – **583-5065**
Ms. Yvonne Olcomendy, Principal

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (CCD)-**588-0477**
Ms. Joanne Bartolotti - Director
Mrs. Leslie Fong, Secretary
PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY – **589-2800**
Mr. Kevin Imbimbo

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

There is a six month period of preparation for the celebration of this Sacrament. Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the rectory in case of serious illness and before surgery and hospital care.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

High school students call the Religious Education Office. Adult confirmation is available on an individual basis. Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

There is a period of preparation for the celebration of this Sacrament. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal class. Please contact the rectory in advance.

ST. ROBERT'S PARISH ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2008



CHRISTMAS MASSES
Christmas Eve,
Wednesday, December 24th
4:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.,
and
Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day,
Thursday, December 25th
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
NO MASS at 5.00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Thursday, January 1, 2009
MASS AT 8:30 a.m. ONLY

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Thursday, December 25th
Thursday, January 1st



Dear Parishioners,

Reflecting on Luke’s gospel, I’m reminded of an experience I had long ago while leading the RCIA process at Good Shepherd Parish in Pacifica. I was telling the Christmas story when I got to the Annunciation passage which we hear today. One young adult asked in all sincerity, “Then what happened?” She had never heard the Christmas story! Her family had no religious practice and, evidently, no one else had ever shared this wondrous story with her.

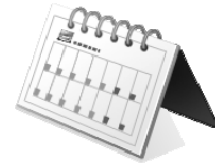
We who are “cradle Catholics” may not realize how blest we are to know that God loves us enough to become one of us. Jesus’ incarnation, literally “enfleshment,” means that everything human has a new dignity, since it has been taken into the very person of the Son of God. The split we inherited from Greek philosophy - that the spirit is good; the body is inferior and suspect - should be banished forever! Our spirit, of course, is good, but so is our body through which we relate to each other and to God and touch each other, physically and spiritually. Much of traditional theology denigrated our bodies, comparing their needs to those of animals. But Jesus also experienced feelings, sexuality, and the basic human needs we all have for food, shelter, and companionship.

What an amazing gift God has bestowed on us in sending his Son to become one of us! Francis Bernadone was the first to have a Christmas crib in the hills of Assisi. He and other Franciscan theologians taught that God intended to send Jesus to us in the flesh from the very beginning of creation, even if our first parents had never sinned! [If you’re interested, I have quotes from the scriptures to back up that theology.] It was purely out of love that Jesus came. May our lives bring his presence to our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our schools and our world!

Thank you for buying 110 pounds of Fair Trade coffee and 90 bars of Fair Trade chocolate! The coffee farmers of Guatemala and Mexico and the cocoa bean growers of Ghana will have a happier Christmas because of you. If you’d like to continue to help them, you can look for Fair Trade coffee at the following retailers: Seattle’s Best, Costco, Target, Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods, Peets, and Starbucks. Look for the Fair Trade stamp on the package or ask which of the coffees they are brewing is Fair Trade. Your seemingly insignificant decision will help bring the presence of Emmanuel, God with Us, to the poor. Thank you.

Dzacz, S. Sheral

THE WEEK AHEAD



Monday-December 22nd

Mass Intention 6:30 Joseph Spitaleri †
8:30 Lorraine Boisson †

Tuesday-December 23rd

Mass Intention 6:30 Carlo Giovanni †
8:30 Frances Friedman †
Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library

Wednesday-December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mass Intention 8:30 Gandeza Family
4:30 People of St. Robert’s
8pm People of St. Robert’s
12 Midnight People of St. Robert’s

Thursday-December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass Intention 7:30 People of St. Robert’s
9:30 People of St. Robert’s
11:30 People of St. Robert’s

Friday-December 26th

Mass Intention 8:30 Manuel Falzon †

Saturday-December 27th

Mass Intention 8:30 Engli Yao †
4:30 Bob Bordin †
AA Meeting 10am Mahoney Room

Sunday-December 28th

Mass Intention 7:30 John Mocolin †
9:30 People of St. Robert’s
11:30 Richard & Hattie Irsfeld
5pm Sister Adelaide Bennett



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm or call 589-2800 to make an appointment.



As a Parish Community we pray ...
 AS A PARISH COMMUNITY, WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO SUFFER FROM PAIN, ANXIETY AND DOUBT. MAY THEY BE COMFORTED



Our sincere sympathy to the families of
Deborah Haddad and Jeanette Botti
 who died recently



We continue to ask each week that parishioners pray for the chronically ill of our parish.
If you have a friend or loved one in need of our parish prayers please call the Rectory at 589-2800.

This week we pray for:
 Aldo Alcera and George O'Brien



Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of weekly bulletin announcements is **Tuesday at noon**. Please submit announcements in writing to Kathy or Judy in the Rectory Office, fax us at 588-9628 or email kathywithak2@yahoo.com. - **Thank you!**

Many returning veterans will be spending the Christmas season recuperating from traumatic brain injuries and other major injuries. You might want to send a card to:

A Recovering American Soldier
 c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Schedules for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Altar Servers are also available on the web at www.saintroberts.org.

LOOKING FOR A MASS

While you are away during the the holidays check www.masstimes.org for Mass schedule in other cities.



Communion for the Sick

If there is someone ill in your family or recovering from surgery or chemotherapy who is unable to come to Mass, please call Sister Patricia at 589-0104 and she will ask someone to bring Holy Communion. Or contact Sr. Sheral at 589-2800 about the option of bringing your family member Communion yourself. There is a very simple procedure to be followed and either of us will be happy to go through it with you.

MY SCHOOL'S COOL FUNDRAISER

This fundraiser continues until May 30, 2009. **Shop anywhere** at the Tanforan Mall Food Court, Century ticket stubs and concession at theatre. Save your receipts and Deposit them at SR Locker (located by Sears) or drop them off at the Rectory/School Points = Dollars for St. Robert's Questions, call Chris Peterson at 650-827-1748
 **We will still accept receipts back as far as the August 1, 2008.

STEWARDSHIP

The envelope company made a mistake there is no 2nd collection on December 28th for St. Vincent de Paul. If you wish to make a donation, please put your envelope in with the first collection. Thank you

July 1st to Dec. 14th (goal)	241,200.00
July 1st to Dec. 14th (actual)	250,842.75
7/1/08-6/30/09 Weekly Goal	10,050.00
Collection (actual 12/14)	9,719.43

Thank you for your generous donation of **\$3,982.50** to the Religious Retirement Fund.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
 As of 12/16/08 **360 Families** have pledged **\$85,185.10**.

Our goal this year is \$95,100.00

Thank you for your generous donation.

Sign up for E-Contributions

Go to www.saintroberts.org and click on the e-contributions button.

There is no cost to you for this service.

MINISTER SCHEDULE/DEC 27 & 28

Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass

Presider: Msgr. Dreier

Eucharistic Ministers: *J. Scannell* ©, D. Bisagno, C. Holland, M. Murphy, R. Hanley, D. Hageman, J. Waldvogel, B. Moniz, J. Beltrano.

Lectors: Marilyn Dachauer and Jim Cronin

Altar Servers: D. McElroy and K. Ravelo

Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Ring

Eucharistic Ministers: *J. Aldinger* ©, C. Noce, M. Noce, T. Montross, R. Lahoz

Lectors: Pat Lusic and Sherm Heaney

Altar Servers: L. Clifford and A. Cotroneo

Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. O'Dell

Eucharistic Ministers: *R. Valdez* © J. Valdez, M. Quilici, M.A. Saisi, M. Bologna, A. Romine, H. Mar, S. Murray, M. Lopez

Lectors: John Valdez and John Bendick

Altar Servers: N. Jauregui, N. Barbieri and K. Uroz

Children's Liturgy: Family Mass

Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Ring

Eucharistic Ministers: *M. Giusti* ©, B. Chester, H. Mantler, P. Fernandez, M. Fernandez, H. Madayag, V/L Picinnini, A. Maron, N. Bamba

Lectors: Thelma Tannis and Megan Estelita

Altar Servers: A. Dharmadi and M. Thompson

Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. O'Dell

Eucharistic Ministers: *V. Hawkins* ©, T. Estelita, C. Browne, M. Elmore, G. Lynch, P. Landholt, G. Landholt, G. Huddleston, M. Aberouette

Lectors: Mark Innes and George Jurkowich

Altar Servers: E. Wright and T. Lopez

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday-December 22nd

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday-December 23rd

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

Wednesday-December 24th

Readings: Is 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Thursday-December 25th

Readings: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

Friday-December 26th

Readings: Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

Saturday-December 27th

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

Sunday-December 28th

Readings: Gn 15:1-6,21:1-3 Hb 11:8,11-12,17-19 Lk 2:22-40

Living the Liturgy

It's Almost Here!

The church environment probably reflects what we're feeling this weekend: the Advent wreath has all its candles lit and the crib is out, lacking only the infant! We're most likely a bit stressed with the thought of the cards we haven't written yet and the gifts still to be purchased or made. Last minute arrangements for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are confirmed and we await the arrival of relatives from out of town or finish planning for our escape to their place!

And in the midst of all this, we hear the beautiful story of the Annunciation, Gabriel asking Mary to take part in God's mysterious and long-awaited fulfillment of his promise. Our nativity sets and Christmas cards present a peaceful scene, but life was not quite that easy for Mary. Galilee was a very poor place, occupied by the Romans with frequent insurrections. She is often pictured kneeling in prayer or seated in a meditative pose, but more likely, she was kneading bread, or sewing or sweeping the floor of their simple home. (God tends to break into our everyday lives when we least expect!) Imagine how frightened any of us would be if a messenger from God appeared! She has the courage to ask how this will happen, since she is engaged, but not yet married. She opens herself to the angel's message and says yes to God's plan, though she really has no idea what it will mean. She sets out immediately for the 60 mile trek to see her elderly cousin Elizabeth, so she can be of help to her in her own miraculous pregnancy. She has to trust, as we all do, that God will guide us and will be with us no matter what. No wonder she is called our mother in the faith!

May this Christmas season bring us a taste of that peace which is God's gift, for which we and the whole world long! S. Sheral



St. Roberts Parish SIMBANG GABI

(Mass at Dawn or Misa de Gallo)

Monday,	Dec. 22nd	6:30 a.m.
Tuesday,	Dec. 23rd	6:30 a.m.

Fil-Am assigned families will provide food, coffee and tea after all the Masses. On the last day, Dec. 23rd a breakfast will be served the residence of Dada and Bob Gallagher at 1500 Donner Ave.

We warmly invite all, young and old, to take part in our Christmas Novena.

*******St. Robert's School will be selling paper scrip and scrip gift cards after Mass this weekend.**

Gift cards are great last minute gifts!

Gift Wrapping Party Monday, December 22, 2008

9:30 am – 11:30am

(or until we are finished)

Convent Dining Room

Please, bring your scissors!

All talented and non talented gift wrappers are invited to come and wrap those beautiful gifts donated for the Sick and Homebound of our parish. Thank you and God bless you.

Sister Patricia



At Home with the Word has this lovely prayer as we prepare our hearts to listen to the Christmas readings:

While all the world, Lord God, lay wrapped in deepest silence, and night had reached its midpoint, your all-powerful Word came down. Enlighten us to know the glorious hope to which you have called us. Upon the deep darkness of our world, shine the light of your countenance that our hearts may exult and sing for joy at the Savior's coming, with angels and shepherds, with Mary and Joseph, and with all people of good will who long for your peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

2008 Centerplate Schedule

****Emerald Nut Bowl-Saturday, Dec. 27th at ATT Park-leave at 1p.m. –game 5 p.m.**

***St. Robert's has been invited to work the Emerald Nut Bowl on Saturday, December 27th at ATT Park. The University of California, Berkley will play University of Florida, Miami. The game begins at 5:00 p.m.. We will leave Saint Roberts at 1:00 p.m.*

****Sunday, December 28th 49ers vs Redskins-leave at 8 a.m.– game at 1:15 p.m.**

*** Centerplate is short staffed that day and has asked for additional volunteers. We will also be receiving a higher percentage if we bring extra people.*

Dress Code: Full length Black Slacks (no jeans, capris, spandex), white shirt with collar, closed toe shoes (black or white).



Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sign up on-line at www.saintroberts.org. Click on the Centerplate button.

As of December 15th we have received

\$62,512.43

Thanks to the many people who have volunteered.



**This years Festival profits total:
\$68,292.98**



MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Christmas flowers and garlands will decorate the Church during the Christmas Season. If you would like to make a donation of \$10 toward their purchase in memory or in honor of a loved one please fill out the form below and return by Monday, December 22nd. Please make check out to St. Roberts.

My Gift in Memory of: _____

My gift in honor of: _____

Given by: _____