

# Saint Robert's Church



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

Rev. Roberto A. Andrey, Pastor  
Rev. Paul O'Dell, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Vincent Ring, *Retired In Residence*  
Deacon Rusty Duffey, Pastoral Associate  
Deacon John Meyer, Pastoral Associate  
Sister Sheral Marshall, OSF,  
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy  
Sister Patricia O'Sullivan, PBVM, **589-0104**  
Pastoral Associate for Sick and Homebound

In residence **763-8822**  
Sister Ita Cleary, PBVM  
Sister Antonio Heaphy, PBVM  
Sister Vianney Buckley, PBVM

Mrs. Kathy Hanley, **589-2800**  
Office Administrator  
Mrs. Judy DeMartini, **589-2800**  
Parish Receptionist/Bookkeeper

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

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (CCD)-**588-0477**  
Ms. Joanne Bartolotti - Director  
Mrs. Leslie Fong, Office Manager

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.

## **SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST**

Vigil Mass 4:30 pm (Saturday)

Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 5:00 pm

Holy Days: Please consult weekly bulletin.

**Weekdays:** Masses are on Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 6:30 a.m. and Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. *Communion Services* are held Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

## **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

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

**Schedules for Eucharistic Ministers,  
Lectors & Altar Servers are also available  
on the web at [www.saintroberts.org](http://www.saintroberts.org).**

## Dear Parishioners,

One of the great blessings of my life has been a love of reading. Books have been a source of knowledge, a source of enjoyment and, to be honest, all too often a way to escape from difficulties of everyday life. Often, as I read, I wish I could share the wisdom of what is set before me. Recently, I went back to read Pope John XXIII's JOURNAL OF A SOUL, the spiritual diary that he kept during his long life. For all of us, young or old, he gives us so much to meditate upon.

As he approached 70 years of age, Pope John wrote: I must not disguise from myself the truth: I am definitely approaching old age. My mind resents this and almost rebels, for I still feel so young, eager, agile and alert. But one look in my mirror disillusioned me. This is the season of maturity; I must do more and better, reflecting that perhaps the time still granted to me for living is brief, and I am drawing near to the gates of eternity ...No, I do not weep, and I do not even desire to live my life over again, so as to do better. I entrust to the Lord's mercy whatever I have done, badly or less than well, and I look to the future, brief or long as it may be here below, because I want to make it holy and a source of holiness to others.

As we journey through the season of Advent, it is a good time for us to think about our own commitment to Christ. Do we thank Him for being born into our world? Do we thank Him for coming to us in the Eucharist? Do we thank Him for being present in others? Are we prepared to join Him at the time of our death? Advent can be a time for us to grow in holiness so that others can see Christ in us.

May Christ, the Son of God, be with you.

## Father Ring

**MEMORIAL MASS**  
for  
**Father Joe Healy**  
at 10 a.m.  
**Saturday, January 9, 2010**  
here at St. Roberts.

## THE WEEK AHEAD



### Monday-December 14th

Mass Intention 6:30 Msgr. Bruce Dreier †  
8:30 Leone Germenis †  
**St. Vincent de Paul 7:00pm Mahoney Room**

### Tuesday-December 15th

Mass Intention 6:30 Msgr. Bruce Dreier †  
8:30 Kathleen Sullivan †  
**Adult Rel Ed 9:15am Mary's Chapel**  
**Rel Education 3:30pm Church & Hall**  
**Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library**  
**Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church**  
**Rel Ed/Jr. High 7:00pm Hall**

### Wednesday-December 16th

6:30 Communion Service  
Mass Intention 8:30 Frances Friedman †  
**Grownup's Lunch 11:00am Offsite**  
**Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall**  
**Scripture Study 7:30pm Mary's Chapel**

### Thursday-December 17th

6:30 Communion Service  
Mass Intention 8:30 Bill & Nancy Curtis †  
**RCIA 7:00pm Convent Chapel**  
**Sambang Gabi 7:15pm Church**  
**Kid's Stock/K-5 5:30pm Church**

### Friday-December 18th

Mass Intention 6:30 Edward Connell †  
8:30 Margarite O'Keefe †  
**Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall**

### Saturday-December 19th

Mass Intention 8:30 Joseph & Rose Spitaleri †  
4:30 John Paul Marra †  
**Consolation Ministry 3:00pm Convent Chapel**  
**Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall**  
**Youth Group 7:30pm Convent**

### Sunday-December 20th

Mass Intention 7:30 Tom & MaryAnn Begley †  
9:30 Jaime & Jovita Argao †  
11:30 Mary Isonio †  
5:00 People of St. Robert's  
**Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall**



**As a Parish Community we pray ...** all who are ill, anxious or afraid find hope, strength and courage in the realization that God, our Savior, is always with us.

### GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Let us open our hearts to members of our Parish family who are homebound or in nursing facilities because they are seriously ill or because of their advanced years. As we have done for so many years we will once again bring Jesus' love to them. Please place a gift in the basket on our altar steps. *Some suggestions are:* white knee socks, lap robes, slippers, robes, dusters, nightgowns, pajamas, notes of encouragement. The only requisite is that your gifts be new, not used, and unwrapped. The cut off date is on December 20th.-  
**Thank you.**

Our sincere sympathy to the families of  
**Father Joe Healy and  
Siu Come Ung**  
who died recently.



### **WE CONGRATULATE THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**



Alexandria Isabella Hart  
Amanda Rose Patea  
Andrew John Pirazzi  
Alexis Ilona Pirazzi



### **ADOPT A FAMILY**

Once again this year we will have an Adopt-a-Family tree in front of church for the Christmas Season.

The tree will have paper ornaments profiling families that can use some help during this time of year. We've received our families from our own St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, Child and Family Services of San Mateo County and again this year we've gotten some families from our adopted parish in Mississippi.

If you have the means to help, look for the tree after Mass this weekend.

**Thank you, as always!!!**



### **THE GIVING TREE**

During the season of Advent we will again have our Christmas "Giving Tree". Please take the time to visit our tree and remove one of the ornaments with a gift suggestion. We ask that you return the unwrapped gifts before December 20th so that we can deliver them in time for Christmas. Gift suggestions are for young children, teens and needy adults at several homeless shelters.

We thank you for your generosity and for taking the time to help others during the Christmas season.

**The Children's Liturgy Team**

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

July 1st to Dec. 6th (goal)	231,150.00
July 1st to Dec. 6th (actual)	217,953.95
7/1/09-6/30/10 Weekly Goal Collection (actual 12/06)	10,050.00 9,125.13

Thank you for your generous donation of  
**\$2,151.32**  
to our School, CCD and Confirmation Programs.

### **THIS WEEKEND'S 2ND COLLECTION DECEMBER 19TH**

#### ***Retirement Fund helps senior religious.***

"As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

### **2009 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

As of 12/8/09 **over 500 families** have pledged **\$94,617.09.**

*Our goal this year is \$98,400*

Thank you for your generous donation.

### **Sign up for E-Contributions**

Go to [www.saintroberts.org](http://www.saintroberts.org) and click on the e-contributions button.

*There is no cost to you for this service.*

# MINISTER SCHEDULE/DEC 19 & 20

## **Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass**

**Presider:** Fr. Paul

**Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Aveson (C)

J. Beltrano, T. Dachauer, J. Scannell, M. Murphy,  
C. Holland, R. Hanley, D. Hageman, D. Bisagno

**Lectors:** B. Rudometkin and C. Aveson

**Altar Servers:** T. Lesser and J. Kelly

## **Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass**

**Presider:** Fr. Obet

**Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Vassallo (C)

E. Ruggiero, B. Mullins, B. Albright, R. Jardin

**Lectors:** S. Heaney and J. Moresco

**Altar Servers:** J. Mejia-Prieto and E. Johnston

## **Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass**

**Presider:** Fr. Paul

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Sexton (C)

H. Mar, R. Valdez, J. Valdez, T. Jones, J. Kelly,  
M.A. Saisi, L. Canaya, L. Rodrigues

**Lectors:** F. Abellana and J. Bendick

**Altar Servers:** N. Jauregui, P. Jauregui and J. Chase

**Children's Liturgy:** Esperanza & Nubia and Danny & Sandy

## **Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass**

**Presider:** Fr. Ring

**Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Morgan (C)

V/L Piccinini, V. Valle, J. Yee, D. Murphy, E. Sanchez,  
P. Fernandez, M. Fernandez, H. Maydag

**Lectors:** M. Estelita and G. Khoury

**Altar Servers:** R. Benavente and J. Fontenot

## **Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass**

**Presider:** Fr. Obet

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Huddleston (C)

A. Lopez, V. Lopez, C. Lopez, M. Santiago, M. Mahoney,  
E. Shick, G. Landholt, P. Landholt

**Lector:** N. Buencamino and J. Marty

**Altar Servers:** E. Wright and T. Lopez

### **WEEKLY READINGS**

#### Monday-December 14th

Readings: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Mt 21:23-27

#### Tuesday-December 15th

Readings: Zep 3:1-2,9-13 Mt 21:28-32

#### Wednesday-December 16th

Readings: Is 45:6b-8,18,21b-25 Lk 7:18b-23

#### Thursday-December 17th

Readings: Gn 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17

#### Friday-December 18th

Readings: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25

#### Saturday-December 19th

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Lk 1:5-25

#### Sunday-December 20th

Readings: Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

## ST. ROBERTS SCHOOL

In November, Saint Robert School completed a successful WCEA / WASC visit for accreditation. One of the greatest strengths noted in the report was the strong parish and school connection. The visiting team commented on the seamless support of parishioners for the school and school families to the parish. I would like to thank everyone for your continued support in creating a quality education for the students of Saint Robert School.

Last week, the biannual publication "Across the Parish" was mailed to all parishioners. One of the articles published the Financial Report and Budget of Saint Robert School. While the figure of a \$100,000 deficit is accurate for the 2008-2009 School year, I felt an explanation of the amount would alleviate fears regarding the financial stability of the school. First, the school completed a renovation of the boys and girls restrooms on the main floor of the school. While Centerplate funds were utilized for a portion of the project, money placed in reserves during the three previous year's budgets completed the funding. This money is not included in the revenues for the 2008-2009 school year since it was collected in previous years but the expenditure for the project is in the expense portion of facilities. The final cost to renovate the restrooms was approximately \$175,000. The balance of the deficit was a result of the decrease in the stock market, which affected our balance in the Investment Pool with the Archdiocese. With the upturn in the stock market since June, the school has already been able to recoup some of its losses.

I hope this clears up any confusion or concern regarding the fiscal stability of Saint Robert School.

*God bless,  
Yvonne Olcomendy*

*The St. Robert's Scrip Program will be selling gift cards this weekend and next weekend Dec. 19th & 20th after every Mass.*

*Please pick up your Woman of the Year form to nominate an outstanding woman in our Parish and/or School who is deserving of recognition for her Past and/or Present service to St. Robert's. Forms are available in the vestibule and are due January 6, 2010.*



## 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 21st. Please make check out to St. Roberts.

My gift in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS



**Patrick Carey & Candace Baross & Family**  
**Joseph & Kelly Bonachita & Family**  
**Angelo & Diane Meneguzzi & Family**  
**Sam & Gabrielle Huyhn & Family**  
**Oswaldo & Ana Valdes & Family**

### IF YOU ARE NEW TO ST. ROBERT'S,

we ask that you complete a registration form found in the vestibule of the church. Drop it either in the collection basket, the mail, or at the parish office. We will send you a New Parishioner Packet with information about the parish, its organizations and groups. If you chose, you can register online at: [www.saintroberts.org](http://www.saintroberts.org).

## Centerplate....SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Day / Date	Teams / Events	Departure	Game Time
Monday, December 14	49er's vs. Arizona	12:30pm	5:30pm
Saturday, December 26	Emerald Nut Bowl at AT&T	TBD	TBD
Sunday, December 27	49er's vs. Detroit	8:15am	1:05pm
Saturday, January 30, 2010	Motorcross at AT&T	TBD	TBD

Sign up on-line at [saintroberts.org](http://saintroberts.org) and click on the Centerplate button.

**Our Centerplate totals as of November 16th are \$55,202.19**

## BULLETIN ARTICLES

*Due to the upcoming holiday schedule if you have an article for the bulletins for Dec. 26th and/or Jan. 3rd they must be delivered to the rectory no later than noon this coming Tuesday Dec. 15th.*

## History Of "*Simbang Gabi*" (Advent Novena of Masses)

*It was in or about 1660*, during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines, that the "*Simbang Gabi*" or the "*Misa de Gallo*" became a Filipino religious tradition. During Advent, in preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, the missionary friars held nine days of Masses to usher in the event of Christ's birth. These Masses were celebrated in the early morning hours, typically at about 4:00 AM when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day.

*There was a practical reason* behind the missionary father's design to hold early Mass. The Filipinos are a farming people, and they typically greeted the dawn of a new day in the fields while working the land. The missionary fathers decided that they could implant in the hearts and minds of the theretofore heathen people the substance of the Catholic religion, preserve the Catholic faith and continue the propagation of the gospels by integrating a distinctly Filipino custom with the needs of Catholic worship.

*The word "gallo"* comes from the Spanish word meaning rooster. At first sound of dawn, at the crowing of the rooster, the entire family would get up and walk (or ride their carabao sleds) to their nearest parish church - sometimes up to 10 kilometers away. By 5:00 AM, the Mass was over and the men were off to the fields.

It was thus that *Simbang Gabi* ("*Simba*" means Mass, and "*Gabi*" means night or evening) or *Misa de Gallo* became a Filipino tradition. It was a religious practice that was handed down from parent to child, observed by Filipinos from one generation to the next.

*The agricultural roots* of "*Misa de Gallo*" or "*Simbang Gabi*" are all but forgotten now. However, the fascination of going to church at dawn, in order to start the new day with worship, is as strong as ever among Filipinos. For the children, it announces that Christmas is just around the corner. For most, the practice has acquired its own smell and flavor, and spiritual significance distinct from any other time of the year.

*Vatican Council II, Article 37* of the Sacred Liturgy states: "Even in the Liturgy, the church does not wish to impose a rigid uniformity in matters which do not involve the faith or the good of the whole community. Rather she respects and fosters the qualities and talents of various races and nations. People's way of life which is not indissolubly bound with superstition and error she studies with sympathy, and if possible, preserves intact. She sometimes even admits such things into the liturgy itself, provided they harmonize with its true and authentic spirit."

*In keeping with the spirit* of the document on Sacred Liturgy (Art.37), the Holy See has granted special permission to the Philippine Church to celebrate the *Simbang Gabi* for nine consecutive days before Christmas. The Holy See is cognizant of the particulars of the *Simbang Gabi* celebration. She knows that to add to the festivities, a local band goes around town playing Christmas songs and inviting people to worship. After the Mass, the band continues to play and a variety of delicacies are displayed in the churchyard for everyone's pleasure. On the sidewalk, lighted lanterns called "*Parols*" (Filipino version of the star of David) add to the joyous atmosphere that pervades the air.

*The Filipino immigrants* brought this tradition with them when they came to the United States. Since it is not practical to hold a celebration at dawn, the cold December weather will not allow it, local parishes hold the celebration at night. While the form of the celebration is changed, the substance remains.

**Here at St. Robert's we will celebrate  
Simbang Gabi Masses  
from December 15th—23rd.**

## LIVING THE LITURGY

### Be Joyful Sunday

This weekend we light the pink candle and the readings are constantly telling us to rejoice! Zephaniah declares that "The Lord your God is in your midst; a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness." Imagine – God rejoicing over each one of us, with our faults and failings, our goodness and generosity. Pretty inspiring, yes? I can imagine God "sing[ing] joyfully because of you" with the outpouring of loving concern you continually give through the food drive, the two Giving Trees, the One Warm Coat drive, the baskets for the homebound and your ongoing contributions of time, talent and treasure to the parish. You are a most amazing community! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and from all those who will be the recipients of your care and concern.

I had an experience last week which has given me pause. A parishioner told me he was not able to follow through on a commitment he had made. I was mentally judging him irresponsible and, fortunately, mentioned that to friends of his. Little did I know that his Dad had been in a major accident and that the reason for his "irresponsibility" was the need to support his family with an additional weekend job. What a good reminder to have mercy on each other, to give the person the benefit of the doubt, especially during this hectic time! May we have mercy on ourselves, too, and trust that those we love value our presence more than any present we might give. **Peace, S. Sheral**

### We Need You!

Can you spare a few hours on Wednesday, December 23 to help us transform the church from Advent into Christmas? We'll begin immediately after Mass about 9 am. Usually we do some major cleaning (as you do at home!) as well as put the lights on the trees, hang the bows and banners. No previous experience needed! Service hours gladly given! Please wear your old clothes and bring a bucket, a DustBuster or whisk broom if you have one. Thank you very much!

### An Advent Prayer (by Gregory Norbert)

May the waiting of the God of Advent touch you in your listening heart. May the companionship of Christ Jesus nurture you with gentleness this day. May the tender mercy of God draw you to the gentle compassion meant for you. May the witness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, [Our Lady of Guadalupe] inspire you to magnify, to the world, your own greatness and beauty of soul. May the Spirit of Jesus be born in you, for others to see, a light shining with the radiance of a love that is humble and real, gracious and overflowing!

### 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**

