

Saint Robert's Church

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Web Site: www.saintroberts.org



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

Christmas Day,
Friday, 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
Friday, January 1, 2010
MASS AT 8:30 a.m. ONLY

Dear Parishioners,

It is such a strange time, isn't it, barely a week before Christmas? Our thoughts turn to 30,000 families whose loved ones will soon be leaving for Afghanistan, a country most of us couldn't locate on a map just a decade ago. The recession continues, experienced as a depression for those most drastically affected by it. Men who see their only value in their role as breadwinner, unemployment bring feelings of failure and worthlessness; retirement investments have shrunk. Funds for higher education in our state are gutted; professors furloughed, leaving students without the classes they need to graduate.

And yet...We see signs everywhere of people reaching out to those most in need: support groups for people unemployed for the first time; assistance being given (finally) to those faithful to their mortgage payments until being laid off. Charitable organizations like St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, and St. Anthony's Dining Room are all seeing people who used to be donors now coming as recipients of their services. How many families are cutting back on their spending to help an adult son or daughter with their family's bills? Might this time of financial hardship help us to realize the difference between what we want and what we need? Might it give us the impetus to remind our children and grandchildren that no one ever receives everything that he or she wants? Are our prayers more fervent and more frequent now that we personally know individuals and families who are struggling?

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown." We'll hear this wonderful proclamation from the prophet Isaiah on Christmas Eve. Will the light of Christ's coming shine more brightly because we've experience the darkness?

Jesus was born into times like ours. Palestine was occupied by Roman; his family probably struggled to make ends meet. There was sin and selfishness and greed. And yet...The Father sends Jesus as his love enfleshed. God believes in us, no matter what. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." May we become that incarnation of God's love for one another! **Peace, S. Sheral**

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

THE WEEK AHEAD



Monday-December 21st

Mass Intention 6:30 Marjory Holt †
8:30 Karen Johnson Donovan †
Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall

Tuesday-December 22nd

Mass Intention 6:30 Marc Guerra †
8:30 Karen Johnson Donovan †
Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall

Wednesday-December 23rd

6:30 Communion Service
Mass Intention 8:30 Maureen Powderly †
Sambang Gabi 7:00pm Church & Hall
Choir Practice 8:00pm Church

Thursday-December 24th

Office closes at 12:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mass Intention 8:30 Manuel Falzon †
4:30 People of St. Robert's
8pm People of St. Robert's
12 Midnight People of St. Robert's

Friday-December 25th

Office closed

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

Saturday-December 26th

Mass Intention 8:30 Andrea Wong †
4:30 People of St. Robert's
AA 10:00 Mahoney Room

Sunday-December 27th

Mass Intention 7:30 John Mocelin †
9:30 James Haddock †
11:30 Dominique Hauscarriague †
5:00 Sam Callejo †

**PARISH OFFICE
Holiday Schedule
Christmas Eve
office closes at noon
Christmas Day closed
New Years Day closed**



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

Our sincere sympathy to the family of **Betty Barnes** who died recently.



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 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.



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.



**WE CONGRATULATE
THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**
Lenel Alison Avancy Gomintong
Cecilia Leonora Sebastian

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

SIMBANG GABI

Remaining days

December 20th through the 23rd.
Join us to welcome the birth of The Child Jesus in the spirit of love and the joy of togetherness.

For more information call:
Dada Gallagher (650) 871-9062
Encar Sanchez (650) 588-7153



Gift Wrapping Party!

All are welcomed to our annual gift wrapping party for the Sick and Homebound on Monday, December 21st, at 9:15 a.m (after the 8:30 Mass) in the Convent 349 Oak Ave. Bring your scissors and wrapping talents. Questions call Sister Patricia 589-0104.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Religious Give Thanks!!!

Our parish contributed **\$3,458.92** to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the 2nd collection on December 13th. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, *"We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year."* Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donations www.retiredreligious.org.

July 1st to Dec. 13th (goal)	241,200.00
July 1st to Dec. 13th (actual)	228,574.03
7/1/09-6/30/10 Weekly Goal	10,050.00
Collection (actual 12/13)	8,714.08

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 and click on the e-contributions button.

There is no cost to you for this service.

MINISTER SCHEDULE/DEC 26 & 27

Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet
Eucharistic Ministers: R. Hanley (C)
D. Hageman, J. Beltrano, R. Aveson, J. Scannell
Lectors: C. Aveson and P. Scannell
Altar Servers: R. Nazzal and J. Wilson

Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Paul
Eucharistic Ministers: R. Vassallo (C)
A. Buelow, J. Jackson, R. Lahoz
Lectors: S. Heaney and J. Moresco
Altar Servers: J. Mejia-Prieto and S. Jensen

Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet
Eucharistic Ministers: L. Cesca (C)
U. Uniacke, S. Murray, M. Salazar, A. Solis
Lectors: A. Bolivar and J. Shiffer
Altar Servers: M. Tankeh, B. Simpson and K. Thomson
Children's Liturgy: Family Mass

Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Paul
Eucharistic Ministers: M. Giusti (C)
B. Chester, A. Maron, V. Valle, C. Forsell
Lectors: H. Valle and T. Tannis
Altar Servers: C. Ward and R. Benavente

Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Ring
Eucharistic Ministers: G. Huddleston (C)
M. Aberouette, G. Landholt, P. Landholt, M. Mahoney
Lector: J. Marty and H. Lowood
Altar Servers: J. Marty and A. Davis

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday-December 21st

Readings: Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday-December 22nd

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

Wednesday-December 23rd

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

Thursday-December 24th

Readings: Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17,22-25 M1:1-25

Friday-December 25th

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

Saturday-December 26th

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

Sunday-December 27th

Readings: Sir 3:2-7,12-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52

DID YOU KNOW?

How should you communicate your concerns to someone who may be behaving inappropriately with children? The “I” message is a simple way to reframe what you want to say so that the listener hears you speak of your feelings and concerns rather than hearing a complaint against him-or herself. The “I” message, simply diagrammed, says, “I feel (feeling) when (situation) because (reason).” For example, you can say, “I feel anxious when you drive a child home alone after religious education classes, because that could put you or the child in a potentially risky situation. “It is a much more constructive approach than saying, “You shouldn’t be driving children home alone because it is against the rules and puts them in danger.”

Source: Paul J. Ashton, “CAREConfronting vs. Those Who Behave Inappropriately.

For particular help you may call: Barbara Elordi, Victim Assistance Coordinator
(415) 614-5504 (private, secure line) or
ElordiB@sfarchdiocese.org



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: _____

Directory Make Up

This is the **LAST CHANCE** to have your picture included in the directory. Photographers will be back on Monday and Tuesday after Christmas, December 28th and 29th. If for some reason you missed your scheduled appointment, or your children were away at college, or maybe you submitted pictures that we cannot use, please sign up after Mass this weekend or call me by Wednesday, December 23rd.

Also please return your “Across the Parish” information sheet, if you want your name included in the directory and you did not have a picture taken.

Special thanks to all the directory volunteers for your continued help and assistance.

Centerplate....SIGN UP TODAY!!!

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

Sign up on-line at saintroberts.org and click on the Centerplate button.

Our Centerplate totals as of December 14th are \$57,361.66

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.

The St. Robert's Scrip Program will be selling gift cards this weekend after every Mass!!!!

The Visitation

The readings today, as always during Advent, are rich with meaning for us. Micah speaks of “a ruler in Israel” coming from “too small” Bethlehem. Luke tells of Mary of Nazareth (whose birth there is the only reason we remember the town’s name) and her visiting her cousin Elizabeth in Ein Karim, another small Palestinian village. We might wonder in our technological age which values speed and connectivity why on earth God would have chosen such a slow, patient way to bring us his presence! Why come as an infant to an insignificant family in a remote town in a backward country? Why have this child wait 30 years before he does anything which reveals who he really is? And why have him extol the poor and lowly (like his family members) instead of the influential and powerful who could get things done?

We surely could have arranged things differently, but that’s the point. Our ways are not God’s ways. Perhaps, if God used the mighty to accomplish his work, those involved might take credit for themselves. But as it is, we know the simple, ordinary people God chooses couldn’t accomplish such great things on their own. It must be the power of God working through them. Because God has always worked through people like ourselves, we can’t let ourselves off the hook!

The Dominican preacher, Meister Eckhart asks: “What good is it if Mary gave birth to the Son of God centuries ago if I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and culture?” “His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace,” Micah proclaims. So what small things can we do to bring about that peace? Besides all the big things, like praying and communicating with our legislators, I’ve found it helpful to think about the language I use. I can express an impatient reaction to something (or someone) or I can pause to reflect, then choose to respond or not. Out of respect for all the people who truly are starving, I try to not use that word when I’m hungry. Besides the words we use, our tone of voice can be peaceful or aggravated. If I saw myself as a bearer of Christ (whether I am a man, woman or young person) would I speak differently? If I saw others, especially my family members and close neighbors, as bearers of Christ, would I listen to them differently? May the Lord of Life be born more deeply in us during this holy season! S. Sheral

For the next few months we will feature a group from the parish. This month we are featuring:
Inbetweeners 

The Inbetweeners are a group of parishioners some married, some widowed, some divorced, and some never married.

Ask yourself the following questions:

Do your joints hurt when you wake up?

Do you experience hot and cold when nobody else does?

Do you need to hold the menu across the table to read it?

Do your kids suddenly talk too fast for you to understand?

Did you answer yes to any of the above?

Then the InBetweeners is for you.

We meet about 6 times a year usually on a Friday evening. Some of our past activities and annual events include our Christmas Party, a Pedro Tournament, Crab dinner, and St. Patrick’s Dinner Dance, some of our other off-site events include the Fun Train to Reno, Mystery trips, Giants game, a trip to Seattle, and a Disneyland trip.

All of our events and meetings are open to all members of the parish. Come try a meeting on for size. You will find us to be extremely friendly and we will make you feel welcome. A typical meeting includes dinner and sometimes a small activity is planned afterward. The meetings are in the Parish Hall, cocktails start at 6:30, dinner about 7:30.

In the past we have supported the Youth Group, the CCD program, The School, Catholic Worker House, and the St Vincent DePaul Society, victims of Hurricane Katrina, and donations annually to the community. Dues are \$10 per person per year.

Contact George Lynch at geo@lynchandsons.com or 872-0301 for more information.

LOOKING FOR A MASS

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