

SAINT ROBERT'S CHURCH



Advent Reconciliation Service

On Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 7:00PM, the 8 parishes of our deanery will come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance at St. Veronica's Church in So. San Francisco (434 Alida Way). Let us join with one another to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus by listening to God's Word, praying together and confessing our sins. All we have to do is come
– God will do the rest!

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

Rev. Roberto A. Andrey, Pastor
Rev. Michael Konopik, 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

Ms. Rose Aragon, **589-2800**
Office Administrator
Mrs. Judy DeMartini, **589-2800**
Parish Receptionist/Bookkeeper

PARISH SCHOOL – **583-5065**
Mrs. Margo Wright, 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

MASS TIMES

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 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 PENANCE

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

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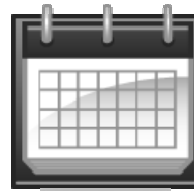
Please call the rectory in case of serious illness and before surgery and hospital care.

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.

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

THE WEEK AHEAD



Monday-December 12th

Mass Intention 6:30 Easter Eagan †
 8:30 Charles & Rita Agius †
Women's Guild Mtg 6:30pm Hall

Tuesday-December 13th

Mass Intention 6:30 Maria & Nelly Munoz †
 8:30 Steven Morena †
Adult Religious Ed 9:00am Mary's Chapel
Religious Education 3:30pm Church & Hall
Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
Confirmation/Yr 1 7:00pm Hall
Choir Practice 7:00pm Church

Wednesday-December 14th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
 8:30 Paul & Rosina Vella †
Kidstock 7:00pm Hall & Church

Thursday-December 15th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
 8:30 Esther Starr †
School Board Mtg 7:00pm Mahoney Room
Simbang Gabi 7:00pm Hall & Church
Choir Practice 8:00pm Church

Friday-December 16th

Mass Intention 6:30 Marie Jambon †
 8:30 Steve Morena †
Simbang Gabi 7:00pm Hall & Church

Saturday-December 17th

Mass Intention 8:30 Anne Anderson †
 4:30 Ralph Carrillo †
AA Mtg 10:00am Mahoney Room
Grief Consolation 3:00pm Convent
Simbang Gabi 7:00pm Hall & Church

Sunday-December 18th (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Mass Intention 7:30 Steven Hart †
 9:30 Richard Sarro †
 11:30 People of St. Robert's
 5:00 Marie Jambon †
Simbang Gabi 7:00pm Hall & Church

Dear Friends,

I quietly slide open the door and get a fleeting glimpse of my white butterfly. For him it may not be---but for me it is much too cold to sit outside on our deck. I turn up the heat; sit here in Gene's big blue chair; look over the readings for this week and sip Candy Cane tea. As always, I ask Gene to give me a few inspiring thoughts to share with you.

This Third Sunday of Advent falls between two special feasts of Our Blessed Mother - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I close my eyes and imagine this 15 year old girl (the same age as our grand-daughter Katie) enjoying a peaceful, ordinary day in Nazareth. Perhaps she is daydreaming at her special "away-from-everyone-else" place under her favorite tree in the shady olive grove. Suddenly the Angel Gabriel appears before her. Mary is startled and very much afraid. His words are a puzzle to her. "How could it be that she would conceive and bear a son? How could her cousin Elizabeth, who is so very old, be in the sixth month of her pregnancy?" To reassure her and calm her fears, Gabriel tells Mary, "nothing will be impossible for God". Mary believes his words and wonders, "What do I do now?" Swiftly the answer comes to her. "Elizabeth needs me."

Today we read Isaiah's prophesy --- Our Savior will bring glad tidings to the poor; the brokenhearted will be healed and this will be a year of favor from the Lord. Mary (more than anyone of us) waits in joyful anticipation for the coming of her baby. How does Mary wait? She puts aside her own concerns and sets out to the hill country. I see a cheerful group of neighbors accompanying her? (Her mom and dad would never let her travel alone.) At her greeting as she enters Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth's baby leaps in her womb. He recognizes his Lord! The Holy Spirit, in that instant, inspires her to say to Mary: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Paul then tells us to: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." How does Mary rejoice? How does she pray without ceasing? How does she give thanks? Mary's prayer is a prayer of action. She brings Jesus to Elizabeth. She tenderly reaches out to help her elderly cousin prepare for the birth of her son, John the Baptist -- the prophet of whom today's Gospel speaks.

What do we do now as we wait for the coming of Christ? How can we (like Mary) bring Jesus to our world? Is there someone close to us who needs our help? Are there hungry people for whom we can provide food? Can we put smiles on the faces of parents and their children who have given up hope of having a joyous Christmas? Can we visit someone who is lonely or ill? Can we make a caring phone call? Send a cheerful note? As we watch and wait, there is something each of us can do --- we can let our actions speak these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted."

May you be blessed with a fruitful Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Anna May





AS A PARISH COMMUNITY, we pray for the broken-hearted, for those who are hungry, ill, and for the homeless.... May Jesus use our hands and our hearts to help and comfort them.



**WE CONGRATULATE
THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Skylar Krystine Fellion
Theresa Liko Laupati
Vanessa Anne Tse*

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
Jennifer Reyes***

STEWARDSHIP

July 1st to Dec. 4, 2011 (goal)	215,688.00
July 1st to Dec. 4th (actual)	204,916.88
7/1/11-6/30/12 Weekly Goal	9,804.00
Collection (actual 12/04)	8,572.71

Thank you for your generous donation of
\$2,183.73
to our School, CCD and Confirmation Programs.

**2011 ARCHBISHOP'S
ANNUAL APPEAL
As of 12/6/11
\$75,764.94
has been pledged.
Our goal this year is \$86,200.
Thank you in advance
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.

Sing for Christmas!

If you'd like to join the choir for one of our Christmas Masses, please contact Kevin Imbimbo at kji@sanbrunocable.com or 678-0491 ASAP. Practices begin this week!

CONSOLATION MINISTRY "Getting Ready for Christmas"

Saint Robert's Grief Support Group will hold A special session to help those who are faced with the celebrating of **Christmas** for the first, second or third.. time since the passing of their loved one, on Saturday, **December 17**, in the Convent 349 Oak Avenue from 3:00 – 4:15 pm (before the 4:30 pm Mass).

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one – spouse, sibling, child, parent, friend or relative is invited to come together and pray, share, comfort and be comforted. We will give you some very helpful hints to cope with your grief and sorrow during this festive season. No one is pressured to share or contribute, if your pain is too intense. May God bless and comfort you in your sorrow. If you have any questions, call: **Sister Patricia @ 589-0104** or any of the Saint Robert's Consolation Committee.

Thanks!

Thank you for returning the missalettes, Music Issues and Mass Response cards to the pews when you're finished using them. The missalettes and Music Issues need to last us many months and the cards until we've all memorized the new responses.

When Someone Is Ill

If you're aware of a parishioner who is homebound, in the hospital or in rehab, please be sure to let Sr. Patricia know. She can be reached at posullivan3@juno.com or at 589-0104. She'd rather hear twice than not at all. Thank you.

ATTENTION!!! BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of the Advent Season and New Years all bulletin announcements until the weekend of January 1st, have to be sent in to raragon.stroberts@gmail.com **No later than December 12th by 2 pm.**

MINISTER SCHEDULE/DEC 17 & 18

Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet
Eucharistic Ministers: J. Scannell (C)
M. Murphy, A. Ciraulo, J. Beltrano, S. Chester
Lectors: P. Scannell and C. Bonner
Altar Servers: K. Ravelo and J. Cilia

Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet
Eucharistic Ministers: R. Vassallo (C)
F. Reyes, A. Doherty, J. Aldinger, E. Ruggiero
Lectors: S. McDonagh and A. Reyes
Altar Servers: A. Cronin and C. Galli

Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Mike
Eucharistic Ministers: T. Casey (C)
G. Sinks, K. Semenza, A. Solis, S. Murray
Lectors: C. Sinks and C. Calonje
Altar Servers: I. Galinda, R. Karlegan and N. Dabagneh
Children's Liturgy: Mark & Hilda and Darlene

Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet
Eucharistic Ministers: B. Chester (C)
S. Menendez, D. Murphy, N. Bamba, L. Sing
Lectors: G. Peralez and C. Pisani
Altar Servers: J. Cascino and N. Medina

Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Mike
Eucharistic Ministers: M. Elmore (C)
T. Estelita, M. Salvato, M. Mahoney, K. Welch
Lector: H. Lowood
Altar Servers: E. Estelita and N. Uroz

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday-December 12th

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday-December 13th

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

Wednesday-December 14th

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

Thursday-December 15th

Readings: Is 54:1-10 Lk 7:24-30

Friday-December 16th

Readings: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Jn 5:33-36

Saturday-December 17th

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

Sunday-December 18th

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38



From the Pastor's Desk Simbang Gabi

On the first Sunday of Advent we started using the new translation of the mass. As per my observation there were a few lapses on the part of the congregation and the presiders. It is said that we are creatures of habit and it will take some time to adjust to the changes in the mass. Most of the changes in the mass are the parts spoken by the presiders. When saying the mass I am very focused on the missal so that I can familiarize myself with the new translation quickly. I urge all of you to use the mass response card at all times when attending the mass.

Christmas is just around the corner. Our parish and school community have scheduled many activities and events to commemorate the birth our Savior meaningfully. There are Christmas drives to solicit gifts in cash and kind to be shared with the less fortunate among us. Every year St. Robert's does a very good job to make sure that there many smiling faces, especially children's, when they receive their Christmas gifts and wishes. Our parish organizations are also doing their customary Christmas get-together or parties to strengthen our community spirit. Christmas is really a time of sharing and having fun as a community.

However, let us not forget the reason for the season. We do all these activities because of Jesus. His birth is God's greatest gift to us. We express our gratitude by sharing our blessings with others. Another way of giving thanks to God for the gift of His Son is, of course, through prayers. A spiritual preparation for Christmas is in order so that we don't truly miss the reason for the celebration of Christmas.

For nine days before Christmas we celebrate *Simbang Gabi* here at St. Robert's. *Simbang Gabi* is a typical Filipino way of preparing for the great feast of Christmas. Originally it was known as *Misa Aguinaldo*. *Aguinaldo* means gift. And gift is peculiar to Christmas. In the Philippines, the faithful wake up early morning for nine days before Christmas to join in the celebration of the dawn mass. The faithful make this their "*Aguinaldo*" to God for the great gift of Jesus. The practice can also be understood as the preparation of the faithful to receive from God the great gift or "*Aguinaldo*" of Christmas, which is Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Through the years the celebration of the nine-day *Misa Aguinaldo* has evolved so much so that instead of just the nine-day dawn masses, the *Misa Aguinaldo* masses are also celebrated in the evening. Hence the term, *Simbang Gabi*, which literally means evening mass.

The Filipino immigrant community has brought this practice to America as a gift to our community of faith. This practice is officially recognized by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and is being done in more than 40 parishes in the archdiocese. For many Filipino Catholics, *Simbang Gabi* is an expression of their filial devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. For nine consecutive days, they join and accompany her, so to speak, as she awaits the birth of her Son. What could be a better way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas than that of Mary, a woman of faith?

I invite all my parishioners to join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi on December 15 to 23 at 7:00 PM. Fellowship in the hall follows after each mass. Let us join Mary in this novena-masses as we await with joy the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season.

SIMBANG GABI

Mass at Dawn or Misa de Gallo



December 15th 7:00 pm
December 16th 7:00 pm
December 17th 7:00 pm
December 18th 7:00 pm
December 19th 7:00 pm
December 20th 7:00 pm
December 21st 7:00 pm
December 22nd 7:00 pm
December 23rd 7:00 pm



The St. Robert's Fil-Am group is sponsoring Simbang Gabi celebration from December 15th thru Dec. 23 at 7:00 pm. The children of the parish are invited for the parol processional at the beginning of each mass. Fellowship and reception (at Hennessy Hall) follows after each Mass. On the last day, Dec. 23rd, Fil-Am will present "Christmas around the Philippines", featuring specialty dishes, folk songs, and Filipina attire of the different regions. Join us to capture the essence and beauty of Christmas in the Islands.

For more information call Encar Sanchez (588-7153), Thelma Tannis (952-5080) or Al Reyes (871-5706)

SRWG Members

"It's Christmas Time"

Ho! Ho! Ho! Women's Guild will host their Christmas meeting on the Monday, December 12. We will be doing a "White Elephant Ornament Exchange". Please bring an ornament (\$15 maximum) if you would like to participate!



The class with the most moms (aunts, grandmothers, etc...) attending the meeting will receive a special treat. So far, Kindergarten and 4th grade have received prizes!

Also, you will have an opportunity to purchase "Spirit Gear" items for Christmas presents. A representative will be there taking orders and selling clothing apparel, car accessories, water bottles and more.

Remember, if this is your first Women's Guild meeting ever, your dinner is on us!

Monday, December 12th at 6:30pm- Hennessy Hall

Dinner \$12 (Open Bar)

RSVP to: srwomensguild@yahoo.com

****If you see Mrs. Wright or Mrs. Firpo and say "Rudolph", they will have a coupon for you to bring to the December meeting to receive a free raffle ticket****

Christmas Decorating!

As always, we need many hands to prepare our church for the Christmas celebrations. We'll be decorating on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 9 am and would be happy for your help. Please wear old clothes and bring a bucket (we have rags) or a broom! Service hours gladly given. If you have questions, please contact S. Sheral at sheralmar@aol.com or 589-2800.

Thank you

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 it by Friday, December 16th. Please make checks out to St. Robert's.

My Gift in Memory of: _____

My Gift in Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Marc & Rachel Crowe & Family

IF YOU ARE NEW TO ST. ROBERT'S

Fill out a registration form and 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.



ADOPT A FAMILY

Please Remember

That the gifts are due this weekend

So they could be distributed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have questions please call Rob & Cathy Aveson 583-4757, John & Eileen Grealish 589-6011 or John & Nancy Marty 588-4740

One Stop Shopping Shop Now... Take Home Wrap



**The Perfect Gift
St. Robert Parish Gift Card Fundraiser**



Have a birthday coming up, home repair to do or Christmas gifts to buy or simply purchase groceries? Gift cards from various local retailers will be available to purchase after all Masses this weekend. No fees. Cash and checks accepted.

God's Dream for the World

We hear from Isaiah again today and God's dream for the world is repeated: a year of favor from the Lord. This phrase, unfamiliar to us, refers to the Jubilee Year which was to be observed every 49 years: the land was left fallow; impoverished landowners (who sold their land from dire need) received their land back; slaves were set free, and debts cancelled. "There would be no accumulation of wealth and vast land holdings," according to Jude Siciliano, OP in (*First Impressions, Dec.4*). He also comments that because of the radical nature of the Jubilee Year, it was probably never actually observed in Israel.

You might recall that Jesus quotes this lovely piece of Isaiah when he stands up to read in the synagogue as related in Luke 4.16-30. At the end of the proclamation, he states, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." One can imagine what his well-to-do listeners would think, knowing how much they would lose if the Jubilee Year were enacted somehow through Jesus. "Who does he think he is?" "He is going to turn our world upside down!" No wonder they are enraged and want to throw him over the cliff. (Lk. 4.30)

Seeing the consistent generosity of so many of you in our parish, I can only thank you for helping God's dream, expressed in Jesus, to be fulfilled. I feel challenged by two reflections which I came across at this halfway point of Advent, and I offer them for your reflection as well.

"We must first be drawn to and changed by the adult Christ. Then we will see the significance of his birth among us. Unless he has changed our life and we have absorbed his ways, the infant in the manger will just be a cute baby displayed in a picturesque setting." Jude Siciliano, OP

"If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that he commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it." Stephen Colbert

May we continue to make space in our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Lord!

S. Sheral



GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Many members of our Parish family are homebound or in nursing facilities due to serious illness or advanced years. During Advent, we say to Our Lord: "Come, Lord Jesus!" This hope is in their hearts as well. We can bring Jesus' love to them by placing an unwrapped gift in the basket on our altar steps by December 19th. Some suggestions are: white knee socks, lap robes, sweaters, slippers, robes, dusters, nightgowns, pajamas or a note of encouragement.

The Giving Tree



The Children's Liturgy team will be setting up their annual Giving Tree. Parishioners are invited to take an ornament from the tree, purchase that item and return it unwrapped along with the gift tag to the box in vestibule by December 18th. These gifts are distributed through various needy organizations .

Thank you in advance for your continued spirit of generosity for our neighbors in need.