Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Caesar Augustus thought he was really something special. He was the second Roman emperor - probably the greatest of them all - and he had consolidated his authority such that the whole world enjoyed the "Pax Romana," with the cessation of all hostilities. Such was his success that he even called himself a god and blasphemously appropriated to himself divine worship. Filled with pride, he saw fit to take a census, to count the number of men under his pretended divine rule. At his word, the whole world began scurrying across the globe to be counted, each to his own town. Dom Prosper Gueranger makes the beautiful point that the emperor gave this command, and all these millions of people began moving about, solely in order that one married couple, soon expecting their first child, would travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Such is the mystery of Divine Providence, which guides and directs all the affairs of history, ordering all things strongly and gently.

In Bethlehem, the City of David, there is no room for the expectant mother in the inn, so the head of the family secures for his wife the shelter of a cave used for the housing and feeding of animals. It was the best he could do. In the cave, the mother gives birth to her baby - a boy - and wraps Him in swaddling clothes. She is both mother and midwife, thus testifying to the miraculous nature of His Virgin Birth from her, in whom He had been virginally conceived.

The baby shivers in the cold. This is the Christmas mystery: God was cold. God shivered for us. The Mother of God brings the God-man close to her to warm Him. The One Who ordered affairs so that there would be a Pax Romana, and a census, and therefore Bethlehem for the Holy Family, is the One Who is shivering in the cold in the cave. His Mother swaddles Him again, lays Him in the trough filled with hay, and He is warmed by the breath of the animals in the stable. God is kept warm by a donkey's breath.

How can we ever not love Him Who has so loved us? What humility and poverty He shows; to what lengths He goes to save us! Lord Jesus, true God and true man, never let me leave this cave of Bethlehem until I have understood the Love with which You shivered for us. Never let me leave until I have loved You in return. Let me shiver with You. Let me be humble and poor with You. Let me love like You.

Pray for me, Father Joseph Previtali
Parish Announcements

Upcoming Events

Our Lady of the Pillar
Monday Nights
Adult Catechism with Father Joe
7:30pm—8:30pm @ New Hall

Third Tuesday of the Month
Knights of Columbus Meeting
Old Hall—7:00pm

Tuesday Nights
Bible Study
5:30pm– 7:00pm @ Conference Room

Miércoles por la Noche
Estudio de la Biblia
7:00pm en el Salón Viejo (Old Hall)

Saturday Morning
Legion of Mary Meeting
Conference Room
9:00am– 11:00am

Second Sunday of the Month
Hospitality for after 8:00am Mass
Old Hall

Office will be closed
Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26

ART AND ENVIRONMENT
As a reminder, your Christmas Offering Envelopes may be turned in throughout the Advent Season. You may place them in the Collection Basket or drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you to those who have already made a donation.

Comité de Arte y Medio Ambiente
Este es un recordatorio, del ofrecimiento para las flores de Navidad, los sobres puede ser entregados durante el todo el tiempo de Adviento. Puede colocarlos en la caja de la colecta o puede llevarlos a la oficina de la parroquia. Gracias a todos aquellos que ya han hecho una donación.

Congratulations and thank you to all the members of Our Lady of the Pillar, St. Anthony’s, and Our Lady of Refuge for successfully fulfilling our commitment for the 2016 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal! May God reward your beautiful generosity! All AAA funds collected for the remainder of 2016 will be dedicated towards the 2017 appeal.

New members for Art and Environment
The OLP Art and Environment committee is looking for volunteers. We are committed to working throughout the year to keep our altar, church interior and exterior appropriately decorated for the celebration of the Mass. The flowers, plants and other decorations are coordinated to the specific liturgical occasions of the church calendar. If you are interested in becoming a member of our group, please call the rectory office or Kristin Sutro, 726-6456

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016
Christmas Eve Masses
Saturday December 24th
Our Lady Of the Pillar
8:00am Mass in English
5:00 pm Vigil Mass in English
7:00 pm Misa de Vigilia con Adoración del Santo Niño

St. Anthony’s Pescadero
6:00 pm Misa en Español

Sunday December 25th
Our Lady Of the Pillar
12:00 am Midnight Mass (Sung Latin Mass)
8:00am  Mass in English
10:00am  Mass in English
12:00pm  Misa en Español

St. Anthony’s Pescadero
9:00 am Mass in English

Our Lady of Refuge
10:30 am Mass in English

Saturday December 31th
Our Lady Of the Pillar
8:00 am  Mass in English
5:00 pm  Mass in English

St. Anthony’s Pescadero
6:00 pm Misa en Español

Pray for Our Parishioners Who are Sick

Sick Relatives & Friends/
Parientes y Amigos Enfermos
Pray that God’s, healing power will fill them with strength and hope.
Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday EVENING December 17, 2016
5:00pm Antonio & Maria Simas + & Family
8:00pm Daniel Corona Sr. & Daniel Corona Jr. +

Sunday December 18, 2016
8:00 am Diana Boderick +
10:00 am Ines & Pablo Labaj +
Joe Daniel Rocha +
12:00 pm John & Belmira Vaz + and Family
Antonio & Maria Avila +

Monday December 19, 2016
8:00 am Eduardo & Maria Silveira +

Tuesday December 20, 2016
8:00 am Elias Pacheco + and Family
Vincent Fontana +, Rose & Fred Del Porto +

Wednesday December 21, 2016
8:00 am Manuel Machado + and Family
Manuel & Maria Ferreira + and Parents

Thursday December 22, 2016
8:00 am Franck Vaz Jr. + and Family
Maria & Jose Matos +

Friday December 23, 2016
8:00 am Nancy Bakovic +
Manuel Costa + & Family

Saturday December 24, 2016
8:00 am
5:00pm Modesto Villalobos & Jose Villalobos +
8:00pm For the Parish

Sunday December 25, 2016
8:00 am
10:00 am For the Parish
12:00 pm

St. Anthony’s
6:00pm December 17 Bladimir Martinez (Int.)
9:00am December 18 The Gutierrez Family (Int.)
6:00pm December 24 Our Lady of Refuge
9:00am December 25 St. Anthony’s

Our Lady of Refuge
10:30am December 18 Dorothy Wylie +
10:30am December 25 Modesto Villalobos & Jose Villalobos +

HOLY MASS WITH BEAUTIFUL ORGAN MUSIC
For the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, on Wednesday, December 21, at 6:00 pm, at Our Lady of the Pillar Church, we will have a sung Latin Mass. All are welcome!

Misa Santa con hermosa música de órgano: Por la fiesta de Santo Tomás Apóstol, el Miércoles, 21 de diciembre a las 6:00 pm, en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, tendremos una misa cantada en Latin. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

ECHOS OF WORTH RETREAT
All high school students are invited to attend the Echos of Worth Retreat that is coming up on January 15th - 17th. The Echos of Worth Retreat is based on the teachings of Saint John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body”. Students will learn about what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God. During this faith and fun -filled weekend students will have an opportunity to encounter Christ through Mass, guest speakers, praise and worship, fun activities and much more! For more information, please go to: www.echoesofworth.com. To register with the parish, please contact Cosette Kulda at 650-440-0200 or email at cosette@kuldacrew.com. Registration closes on December 15th.

RETIRO DE JOVENES ECOS DE VALOR
Todos los estudiantes de secundaria están invitados a asistir el Retiro Ecos de Valor que será del 15- 17 de Enero. El Retiro de Ecos de Valor está basado en las enseñanzas de San Juan Pablo II “La Teología del Cuerpo” donde los estudiantes aprenderán acerca de lo que significa ser hecho a imagen y semejanza de Dios. ¡Durante este divertido fin de semana, los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de encontrar a Cristo a través de la Misa, oradores invitados, alabanza y adoración, actividades divertidas y mucho más! Para más información por favor visite: www.echoesofworth.com. Pata registrarse con la parroquia por favor contacte a Cosette Kulda a 650-440-0200 o a su correo electrónico: cosette@kuldacrew.com. La inscripción se cierra el 15 de Diciembre.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION!
GREGORIAN CHANT CLASS
With Fr. Joe Previtali
Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 8:00 pm at St. Anthony’s in Pescadero
All are welcome!
Community Holy Hour before Gregorian Chant class on December 22,
Holy Hour at 7:00pm, Class at 8:00pm

Oportunidad para profundizar su conocimiento de nuestra tradición Católica!
CLASE BILINGUE DEL CANTO GREGORIANO (MUSICA CATOLICA)
Con Padre Joe Previtali
Jueves, 22 de Diciembre , a las 8:00 pm en la Iglesia de San Antonio en Pescadero
Todos son bienvenidos!
Tendremos Hora Santa antes de la Clases de Canto Gregoriano, Hora Santa - 7:00pm– Clase a las 8:00pm
Advent Preparations For Christmas

During Advent, we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas by joining the patriarchs and prophets in awaiting the coming of Jesus. Advent is a penitential season, as seen by the church's use of violet vestments and more somber music and decorations. Our home should mimic what we are doing in our church - use purple to decorate the dining table and other places in the home, hold off on Christmas themes until it's Christmas and let Advent be Advent in your family! During this time, the Advent wreath is our primary symbol, not the Christmas tree - it is quite inappropriate to have a fully decorated Christmas Tree throughout the season of Advent.

On the other hand, Catholics celebrate Christmas with particular joy when it really is Christmas! Unlike the rest of the world, we continue to celebrate Christmas with much festivity through the whole Twelve Days, **till January 6th**. The Christmas spirit continues even **until February 2nd**, forty days after our Lord's birth, when Mary and Joseph first left Bethlehem to take the newborn King to the Temple. Let Advent be Advent, and let Christmas be Christmas!

Here are some simple ideas for decorating the home during the Advent and Christmas seasons. These are just suggestions and do not follow a hard and fast rule. We all can adapt practices to our particular needs - so long as we continue to respect the essential character of the season and both temptations of celebrating Christmas too soon (during Advent) or not long enough (ending **before February 2nd**, or even **before January 6th**).

**First Sunday of Advent** - Put out the purple tablecloth and use purple and dark colors in other places throughout the home. Place the Advent wreath on the dining table or in another prominent place in the home.

**Second Sunday of Advent** -
- **December 6th**, St Nicholas Day - Put out the stockings and write our Christmas wish-list.
- **December 8th**, The Immaculate Conception - Today we use a white or gold table cloth with nice happy flowers, and we decorate a statue or image of Mary. But we switch back to the purple table cloth tomorrow.
- **December 13th**, St Lucy Day - Place a few of the Christmas lights around the inside and outside of the house.
- **December 16th**, Christmas Novena, 9 days till Christmas eve! - Put out the Nativity set, without any of the figures, just the stable and hay, etc.
- **December 17th to December 23rd** - Each day, place more figures in the Nativity set: shepherds and sheep, ox and ass, and other livestock, the empty manger. Mary and Joseph go in on the last couple days before Christmas. Do not put in the Baby Jesus, or any of the Wise Men, or the Angel, or the Star.

**Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday** - Put garland up around the home, and a simple wreath on the door.

**December 13th**, St Lucy Day - Place a few of the Christmas lights around the inside and outside of the house.

**December 16th**, Christmas Novena, 9 days till Christmas eve! - Put out the Nativity set, without any of the figures, just the stable and hay, etc.

**December 17th to December 23rd** - Each day, place more figures in the Nativity set: shepherds and sheep, ox and ass, and other livestock, the empty manger. Mary and Joseph go in on the last couple days before Christmas. Do not put in the Baby Jesus, or any of the Wise Men, or the Angel, or the Star.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** - Put up the Christmas Tree, but without any lights or ornaments. Put up the rest of the greenery around the home, but again without any ornaments. Put up more lights on the outside of the house, but don't turn them on at night (only those that have been up since St Lucy Day).

**December 24th**, Christmas Eve - Put up the remaining lights on the outside of the home and all around the tree and throughout the house. These lights are finally all turned on tonight! Fully decorate the tree and garland around the home. In the early eve, replace the purple and other dark colors around the home with white and gold and happy colors!

**December 25th**, Christmas Day - **At midnight**, place the Baby Jesus in the Nativity Set and kneel for a moment as a family to worship the newborn King! The star and the angel are also placed in the Nativity set, but not the wise men or their camel. All other Christmas decoration are placed throughout the home!

**December 25th to January 5th** - The wise men begin to make their journey through our home, as they travel from Persia to Bethlehem. Additional small presents are given on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

**January 1st**, Octave Day of Christmas - Mary is the Mother of God, we decorate a picture or statue of her and celebrate with special flowers on the dinner table and throughout the home! Our Christmas lights are still burning brightly! Remember that we are celebrating Mary as Mother of God, this is much more important than New Year's or football - don't let our secular culture take over your Christmas!

**January 6th**, Epiphany - The Magi finally arrive and are placed in the Nativity Set! Any extra decorations are set up inside and outside the house today! This is the day that Christmas was revealed to the world! It is as great a feast as Christmas itself, and we should take pride in having our Tree up and our Christmas lights fully aglow! Throw your Christmas/Epiphany party today!

**January 7th to January 13th**, the Octave of Epiphany - We gradually reduce our Christmas decorations and begin to put them away. But our Christmas spirit continues **till February 2nd**, and we keep at least our Nativity Set in a prominent position until then.

May God grant us all a most prayerful Advent, so that we will be ready to receive Christ with true Christmas joy!
Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

César Augusto pensaba que era algo realmente especial. Fue el segundo emperador romano - probablemente el más grande de todos ellos, y él se había consolidado su autoridad de manera que todo el mundo disfrutó de la "Pax Romana", junto con la cesación de las hostilidades. Fue tal su éxito que incluso él se llamó a sí mismo un dios y blasfemo consignó mismo a el culto divino. Lleno de orgullo, vio conveniente realizar un censo, para contar el número de hombres bajo su pretendida regla divina.

Con su palabra, el mundo empezó a correr a través del globo para ser contados, cada uno a su propio pueblo. Dom Prosper Gue-ranger hace un punto hermoso que el emperador hizo esa orden, y todos esos millones de personas comenzaron a moverse, únicamente con el fin de que una pareja de casada, que pronto esperan su primer hijo, tendría que viajar desde Nazaret hasta Belén. Ese es el misterio de la Divina Providencia, que guía y dirige todos los asuntos de la historia, ordena todas las cosas con firmeza y suavidad.

En Belén, la ciudad de David, no había cabida para la futura madre en la posada, por lo que el jefe de familia fijo para su esposa el refugio de una cueva utilizada para el alojamiento y alimentación de los animales. Fue lo mejor que pudo hacer. En la cueva, la madre dio a luz a su bebé - un niño - y lo envolvió en pañales. Ella fue tanto la madre y la partera, atestiguando así ala naturaleza milagrosa de Su nacimiento virginal, en quien Él había sido virginalmente concebido.

El bebé temblaba de frío. Este es el misterio de la Navidad: Dios tenía frío. Dios templo por nosotros. La Madre de Dios nos trae al Dios-hombre cercano a ella para calentarlo. Él quien ordenó asuntos de manera que habría una Pax Romana, y un censo y, por lo tanto, Belén con la Sagrada Familia, es el que está temblando de frío en la cueva. Su madre lo envuelve otra vez, lo acuesta en el comedero lleno de heno, y Él es calentado por el aliento de los animales en el establo. Dios se mantiene caliente por aliento de un burro.

¿Cómo podemos no amar a Aquel que nos ha amado? Que humildad y la pobreza que Él demuestra, hasta qué punto va a salvarnos! Señor Jesús, verdadero Dios y verdadero hombre, nunca me dejes salir de esta cueva de Belén hasta que haya entendido el amor con el cual temblaste por nosotros. Nunca me dejes salir hasta que yo te hayamos amado a cambio. Déjame temblar Contigo. Déjame ser humilde y pobre Contigo. Déjame amar como Tu.

Oren por mi, Padre José Previtali