
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The three Masses of Christmas celebrate the threefold Nativity of Christ: from the Father, in His Divinity, from all eternity; from His Virgin Mother, in His humanity, 2,016 years ago; and by grace, in our hearts, in the present moment. This latter birth of Christ is celebrated especially at the Mass at Dawn because His birth in our hearts is the dawn of our salvation, and when He is born in our hearts His Light begins to shine therein.

Christ is born in our hearts principally through Baptism, and when we have sinned after Baptism, through the Sacrament of Penance. In Baptism we are reborn in Him and His life is born in us. There are three types of baptism: of water (the sacrament), of desire (moral baptism caused by exercise of graced reason), and of blood (death for Christ). Of these, the baptism of blood is most perfect because it most clearly signifies His Saving Death. Christ is most clearly born in the heart of one who sheds his blood for Him.

The most famous instance of the baptism of blood is that of the Holy Innocents, whom we celebrate on the Fourth Day of Christmas. These infants gave eloquent witness to Christ in their martyrdom for Him, as they received His Birth in their hearts through the grace of the baptism of blood. We can see, therefore, that it is most beautiful to celebrate the Holy Innocents during the Octave of Christmas. Christ accomplished His Birth by grace most perfectly in these little babies. We see the baptism of blood also in St. Stephen, the First Martyr, whom we celebrate on the Second Day of Christmas.

On the Third Day of Christmas, the feast of St. John, who taught us so much about Jesus's Eternal Birth from the Father, we beg that same grace for ourselves, as the Church blesses wine in honor of St. John. This wine represents Jesus's Divinity and the love of St. John for Him. As we drink the love of St. John, we drink mystically from the Divine Heart of the Newborn Savior. Thus, the whole of Christmas comes together for us. Through the sacraments and fervent prayer, we can follow the good example of St. Stephen, St. John, and the Holy Innocents and receive the Birth of Christ in our hearts. Then Christmas will not be external to us, but it will be a feast day happening in our souls.

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**
Monday, December 26

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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
**Monday:** St. Stephen
**Tuesday:** St. John
**Wednesday:** The Holy Innocents
**Thursday:** St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
**Friday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
**Saturday:** St. Sylvester I; New Year’s Eve Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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**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.

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**Special New Year’s indulgences**
The Catholic Church offers a plenary indulgence for the public recitation of the “Te Deum” on the last day of the civic year and for the public recitation of the “Veni Creator Spiritus” on the first day of the civic year. In the former prayer, we give thanks to God for all of the blessings of 2016; in the latter, we beg the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the new year 2017.

**Indulgencias Especiales para el Año Nuevo**
la Iglesia católica ofrece la indulgencia plenaria para la recitación pública del “Te Deum” en el último día del año cívico y para la recitación pública del “Veni Creator Spiritus” en el primer día del año. En la antigua oración, damos gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones de 2016; en el segundo, imploramos la efusión del Espíritu Santo sobre el nuevo año 2017.

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**Epiphany house blessings**

Epiphanytide (January 6-February 2) is the traditional time of the liturgical year for house blessings. Please call the parish office to schedule your special Epiphany house blessing.

**La bendición de nuestra casa en Epifanía**
El Tiempo de Epifanía (6 de enero-febrero 2) es el tiempo tradicional del año litúrgico para la bendición de sus casas. Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para hacer una cita para su especial Bendición de sus casas en Epifanía.

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**Opportunity to learn more about our Catholic tradition!**

**GREGORIAN CHANT CLASS**
With Fr. Joe Previtali
Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at St. Anthony’s in Pescadero
All are welcome!
Community Gregorian Chant class on January 19, Class at 7:00pm, Holy Hour at 8:00pm

**Oportunidad para profundizar su conocimiento de nuestra tradición Católica!**

**CLASE BILINGUE DEL CANTO GREGORIANO**
(MUSICA CATOLICA)
Con Padre Joe Previtali
Jueves, 19 de Diciembre, a las 7:00 pm en la Iglesia de San Antonio en Pescadero
Todos son bienvenidos!
Tendremos Clases de Canto Gregoriano, Clase a las 7:00pm, Hora Santa 8:00pm
Your Offerings | Supporting Our Parish

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1st Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Pillar</td>
<td>$ 5,286</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Refuge</td>
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<td>$ 134</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Anthony’s</td>
<td>$ 213</td>
<td>$ 124</td>
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Second Collection this week: Religious Education

January 1: Building Fund
January 8: Annual Appeal
January 15: Religious Education
January 22: St. Patrick’s Seminary

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday EVENING December 24, 2016
5:00pm Antonio & Maria Avila +
8:00pm Modesto Villalobos & Jose Villalobos +

Sunday December 25, 2017
8:00 am Mia Mulder
10:00 am For the Parish
12:00 pm

Monday December 26, 2016
8:00 am Eduardo & Maria Silveira +
Manuel & Maria Ferreira + & Parents

Tuesday December 27, 2016
8:00 am Jose & Luz Maria Mora + & Family

Wednesday December 28, 2016
8:00 am Manuel Costa + and Family
Idalina & Francisco Costa

Thursday December 29, 2016
8:00 am Jose & Maria Matos +

Friday December 30, 2016
8:00 am Anne Minoletti & Family (Int.)

Saturday January 1st, 2017
8:00 am Manuel & Maria Ferreira +
10:00 am For the Parish
12:00 pm
6:00 pm Lorenzo Marcheschi +

St. Anthony’s
6:00 pm December 24 Paulina Caal + y Familia
9:00 am December 25 Antoinette Gutierrez +
6:00 pm December 31 Bartolo Garcia Echeverria +
9:00 am January 1st For the Souls in Purgatory

Our Lady of Refuge
10:30 am December 25 Dorothy Wylie +
10:30 am January 1st Luis & Bernadette Belo +

Special wine blessing for the feast of St. John
Fr. Previtali will be doing the traditional blessing of wine (see this - http://www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas4.html) the 8:00 am Mass at Our Lady of the Pillar on Tuesday, December 27. Anyone who wishes to have wine(s) blessed should come to the Sacristy door (Church St. side near the Rectory) after Mass with your wine.

Especial bendición de Vino para a fiesta de San Juan
El Padre Previtali estará haciendo la tradicional bendición de vino (ver este - http://www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas4.html) en la Misa de 8:00am en Nuestra Señora del Pilar el día Martes, 27 de Diciembre. Quien quiera que se les bendiga el vino debe traerlo a la Puerta de la Sacristía (del lado lateral de la Iglesia cerca de la Rectoría) después de la misa.
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 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, until 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.

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 until 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,

Las tres Misas de Navidad celebran la triple Natividad de Cristo: desde el Padre, en Su Divinidad, de toda la eternidad; de Su Madre Virgen, en Su humanidad, hace 2,016 años; y por gracia, en nuestros corazones, en el momento actual. Este último nacimiento de Cristo se celebra especialmente en la Misa al amanecer porque su nacimiento en nuestros corazones es la aurora de nuestra salvación, y cuando El es nacido en nuestros corazones su luz comienza a brillar en El.

Cristo nació en nuestros corazones, principalmente a través de su bautismo, y cuando hemos pecado después del bautismo, mediante el Sacramento de la Penitencia. En el bautismo se renace en El y Su vida nace en nosotros. Hay tres tipos de bautismo: de agua (el Sacramento), del deseo (bautismo moral ocasionados por el ejercicio de la razón), y de sangre (muerte de Cristo). De estos, el bautismo de sangre es más perfecto porque más claramente significa Su muerte salvadora. Cristo nace más claramente en el corazón de quien derrama su sangre por Él.

El más famoso ejemplo del bautismo de sangre es el de los Santos Inocentes, a quien celebramos el cuarto día de la Navidad. Estos niños dieron testimonio eloquente de Cristo en su martirio por Él, puesto que habían recibido su nacimiento en sus corazones a través de la gracia del bautismo de sangre. Podemos ver, por lo tanto, que es más hermoso celebrar los santos inocentes durante la octava de Navidad. Cristo logra su nacimiento por la gracia más perfectamente en estos pequeños bebés. Vemos el bautismo de sangre también en San Esteban, el primer mártir, a quien celebramos en el segundo día de Navidad.

En el tercer día de Navidad, la fiesta de San Juan, quien nos enseñó mucho acerca de Jesús, su nacimiento eterno del Padre, suplicamos esa misma gracia para nosotros, como la Iglesia bendice el vino en honor de San Juan. Este vino representa la divinidad de Jesús y el amor de San Juan para Él. Si bebemos el amor de San Juan, bebemos místicamente en el Corazón divino del Salvador recién nacido. Así, toda la de Navidad viene junta para nosotros. A través de los sacramentos y la oración ferviente, podemos seguir el buen ejemplo de San Esteban, San Juan y los Santos Inocentes y recibir el nacimiento de Cristo en nuestros corazones. Entonces la Navidad no será externa a nosotros, pero será un día de fiesta ocurre en nuestras almas.

Oren por mi, Padre José Previtali