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Saint Christopher Church

1576 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, CA

Parish Office: 269-2226 Fax: 269-2784

Web Site: www.saintchris.com

Office Hours: 8:30—12:00; 1:00—4:00 M-F

PASTOR: Msgr. Wilfredo S. Manrique

PAROCHIAL VICARS:

Rev. David Mercer & Rev. Andrew Nguyen

Deacon Pedro Perez

PARISH SECRETARIES:

Gayle Blackford & Adrienne DiVittorio

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Chuck Blalock

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: 6:30 & 8:00 a.m.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Sundays: 6:30, 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.;

12:30 & 6 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:30-4:15 pm
& by appointment.

R.C.I.A.: 269-2226

Director: Sr. Sharon Skain, S.N.D.

LITURGY OFFICE: 269-6437

OUTREACH OFFICE: 269-3932

Director: Nancy Melander

Pantry Hours: 4:00-5:30pm Tuesday & Wednesday
Call for Saturday Hours

PARISH RECORDS: Sue Pershon

PASTORAL Ministry: 264-5114

Director: Loretta Pfaff

YOUTH MINISTRY: 265-3230

Director: Tim Melander

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: 264-8764

Director: Sr. Felicia Gross, O.S.F.

Rel. Ed. Assistant: Diane Forst

Elementary Sacrament Coordinator: Gina Park

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL: 408-723-7223

School web site: www.stchris.us

Principal: Mrs. Anne Ivie; **Vice Principals:** Sr. Kieran O'Connor, P.B.V.M. and Mrs. Jutta Brassill

Business Manager: Mrs. Stephanie Houlihan **Finance Manager:** Mrs. Angie Thomas;

Development Director: Teresa Behan X204

MARRIAGE: Must be a Parishioner in the parish. Diocesan policy requires that parish couples contact a parish priest six (6) months prior to the date of marriage. Weddings are on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

BAPTISM: Registered parents (6 mo. minimum) may pick up a Baptism Registration form at the parish office or on line at www.saintchris.com. Baptismal Preparation will take at least 2 – 4 months upon receipt of the registration form. We suggest you begin Baptismal Preparation before the birth of your child.



**The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2011**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.— *John 1:5*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God
(Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalm — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being
(Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace
(John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

Dear Parishioner,

Prepare to celebrate Christmas by inviting Jesus into your heart and soul.

Prepare your soul for the Prince of Peace with confessions, prayer and fasting.

Christ Jesus wants to bless us on his Birthday with the peace the Angels proclaimed, but first we must make peace within ourselves, then peace with our family and friends, parishioners and neighbors, thus making room for the Prince of Peace to enter and dwell within.

This Christmas is a special gift for you from Jesus Christ. Prepare for it, cherish it, carry it gently for it is fragile. Guard it powerfully, for it can easily be stolen. Live it boldly, for it is the power of God in you.

God bless you all and may you have a most peaceful and Blessed Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,
Msgr. Willie S. Manrique
Fr. David Mercer
Fr. Andrew Nguyen
Deacon Pedro Perez



**2011
CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DEC 25
6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, &
11:00am 12:30pm in Church

NEW YEAR'S EVE, SATURDAY,
December 31st @ 4:30pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JAN 1
6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,
12:30pm, 6:00pm



The parish office will be closed for Christmas starting Friday December 23rd and re-open on Tuesday January 3rd. Have a safe and healthy holiday. We wish you and your family a blessed New Year.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR & FLOWER FUND

To share in decorating the altar for Christmas, you may donate to the Christmas Altar and Flower Fund in memory of a loved one or as a sign of raise and worship. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church or you may use a plain envelope. Enclose the names of those you would like remembered with your donation and either drop in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.



We're On The Web!

Check us out on the Web

You can always refer to our web site any time at:

www.saintchris.com

Our Parish Financial report is now on-line

Under: Parish Administration

here you can view our latest Annual report
Also answer questions about Baptisms,
Marriages, Religious Education, Church events, etc.

All available at your finger tips

Religious Education Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs: 8:30am-Noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm

From the Religious Education Staff of St. Christopher Parish: We wish all the parish families who have children enrolled in our various Rel. Ed. Programs a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. "Thank You" for your continued support with the religious formation of your children.

CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

The Sunday Rel. Ed., the ECE Pre-School, and the COOP Babysitting will have a break from Dec. 18th - Jan. 1st. Liturgy of the Word will have a break from Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st. All programs resume on Jan. 8, 2012. The Tuesday Rel. Ed. Program has a break from Dec. 20th - Dec. 27th, classes resume on Jan. 3, 2012.

JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM: The Rel. Ed. Junior Program will meet Sunday Jan. 8, 2012 from 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE WORD PROGRAM: The Liturgy of the Word for children is open to all children of the parish, who are in grades 1st through 4th. This program takes place each Sunday during the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

COOP BABYSITTING DURING THE 9:30 A.M. MASS: This service is for children 3 years old (too young for the ECE program) and younger. Tiffany Harridine-Sinn is the Coordinator for this service. If you are interested in your child/ren participating and are willing to be a COOP parent, please email Tiffany at tiffanysinn@yahoo.com or call Tiffany at (408) 265-7273. Diocesan regulations require that you be finger printed before you can work or volunteer to be with children. Please contact Sr. Felicia 264-8764 for further information on requirements for volunteers.

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Adult Confirmation

Join our class on Wednesdays Jan thru April 7:15pm in Msgr. Allen Center 2278 Booksin. Confirmations will be April 7, all day event.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 11, 2011**

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Last weeks Collection | \$18,886.50 |
| 23 Week Average: | \$18,338.96 |
| Weekly budget | \$21,682.08 |
| (Weekly shortfall | \$2,795.58) |

Christmas has dawned upon us and the end of the year is right around the corner, and for many people and companies this is also a time to make a charitable contributions at the end of the year.

Please remember St. Christopher Parish when you consider making charitable gifts before the year's end. Your contribution is tax-deductible. When you give to your Parish or to charities, you do not only help those organizations and institutions, you are also able to reduce the amount of taxes you pay.

As you know, our weekly contributions have not been at par with our projected budget. Anything you could send along would help keep us stabilize our financial situation.

I know that many people are already tightening their belts and cutting back on important expenditures. I wish to thank you for all the sacrifices you have been making in the midst of economic uncertainties. May God bless you for your kindness.

Merry Christmas to you and all those who are dear to you.

Msgr. Willie S. Manrique

PFC Youth Ministry News:
Tim Melander (408)-265-3230
scyouth@yahoo.com or parish website
www.saintchris.com—Select youth link

YOUTH RETREAT

All High School youth are welcome and encouraged to attend our Youth Retreat, Jan 6-8th at YMCA Camp Campbell. Don't miss out on a life changing weekend! For a retreat packet, please contact the PFC Youth Ministry office.

PFC YOUTH MINISTRY

Our first youth meeting of the new year is Sun., Jan. 8th, from 4:30 – 5:45 pm. in the Marian Room. Youth will share pictures and highlights from the youth retreat that weekend. All High School youth are welcome!

NEEDING SACRAMENTS?

H.S. youth, if you need to prepare for the Sacrament (s) of Baptism, First Communion or Reconciliation, please contact Tim at the PFC youth ministry office. Small group sessions will begin in January.

PLANNING TO REPLACE YOUR COMPUTER FOR CHRISTMAS?

Planning to purchase a new computer for Christmas? If your old one isn't ancient and still running well, it could be put to good use to help our seminarians. Many of them are in need of a computer or laptop to write papers for their academic studies. Many, especially those who have just recently arrived from another country, are unable to purchase one for themselves and they have to rely on shared computer resources at the local libraries. So, if you would like to help out, please bring your old well running computers or laptops to the Msgr. Allen Center to Fr. Andrew, Msgr. Willie or Loretta. For more info, please call 408 264-5114.

St. Christopher's Over 50's
The St. Christopher's Over 50's Club wish all of the clergy, religious and members of the parish a very holy and happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year. Our next meeting will be held on January 13, 2012 with a lunch at John's Restaurant on Lincoln Avenue. The luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. You will have three choices for your meal. The telephone committee will be calling all members with more specific information. See you all in the new year.

Social Justice

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.....

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

Would you like to be part of the Baptism Preparation team? see Fr. Dave

Baptism Preparation: meet with parents who are preparing for their child's baptism. You'll be part of a team of other parishioners who help parents reflect on how to begin sharing our faith with their children. Training included.

Fr. Dave asks you to contact him to learn more: fr.dave@stchrissj.org, or 269-2226 x135.



Refugee Resettlement Ministry: 2011 saw the beginning of this wonderful ministry of compassion. In July, St. Chris began sponsoring a family of three sisters from Iraqi, forced to leave Bagdad because of the violence. Parishioners have stepped forward in many, many wonderful ways, including

helping the sisters with errands, moving them into an apartment, and helping them settle into a new life in our country. Hayfaa, Ibitisam, and Alham having been going to ESL classes and learning American ways. One has been working in retail during the Christmas season.

Parishioners have donated house wares and furniture, and others help with a variety of tasks in the refugee office at Catholic Charities. When Catholic Charities needed bicycle helmets for the many other refugees who settle in county, helmets and even bicycles came in. A second grader asked her relatives to donate to our ministry instead of giving her gifts at her First Communion, and a third grader delivered a double baby stroller for another refugee family with small children. Several families held a backyard BBQ that not only raised funds for refugee lodging, but also raised awareness of refugee needs among their many friends.

Big Thank You!

We are indeed grateful for how parishioners have been so gracious, extending the compassion of Christ to people who cannot return to their homelands. For more information on how to be part of this ministry, please contact Fr. Dave at fr.dave@stchristsj.org.

Announcements

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER –
Our Parish PFC Youth Ministry is selling Entertainment Books to raise money for special youth events during the year. Entertainment Books for only \$30 each, make great Christmas gifts! Save 50% on dining, travel, dry cleaning, movie tickets and more! Stop by the parish office to purchase a book. You can also order online by going to www.entertainment.com/support and entering our group ID# 112793. Thanks in advance for your support of our fundraiser.



Being Catholic Today ~ Monthly Talks

Presenter: Fr. Dave Mercer
 Location: St. Christopher Church

Fr. Dave Mercer offers a monthly series of talks about the Catholic faith. Topics include the Bible, fundamentalism, the role of conscience, spirituality, and what makes us Catholic. The series will interest those who have a committed faith, those who have a wavering faith, and those who are new to the Catholic faith. All are welcomed: teens, young adults, and older adults. Invite a friend. Bring a family member.

Each topic is offered twice: a Sunday, 7-8:30pm (following the 6pm Mass) & a Monday, 8:45-10:15am.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday, Jan 8 | Fundamentalism & Catholicism |
| Monday, Jan 9 | ~ What are the differences? |
| Sunday, Feb 12 | Are You Saved? |
| Monday, Feb 13 | ~ A Catholic Response |
| Sunday, Mar 4 | Can a Catholic Be a Democrat? |
| Monday, Mar 5 | ~ Can a Catholic Be a Republican? |
| Sunday, Apr 1 | What If I Disagree? |
| Monday, Apr 2 | ~ Catholics and Conscience |
| Sunday, May 6 | The Strange Book of Revelation |
| Monday, May 7 | ~ 666? End Times? Huh? |
| Sunday, Jun 3 | I'm Spiritual, Not Religious |
| Monday, Jun 4 | ~ Can I Be Both? |

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING IN MEMORY OF:

Sarah Carolyn DeCarli, Don DeCarli, Bernice DeCarli, Agnes Wallace, MaryAnn Wallace, Donald Wallace, Karen Wallace, Danny Blackford, Eva Hazen, Eleanor Agulara, Eleanor Alexander, Otto & Wilma Sorensen, Eugene Olszewski, Dean Olszewski, Mabel Crank, Sapwiga Dlugopolshi, Mary Villa, Michael Hausler, Peter & Violet Coronato, Antonia Pellegrin, Rines Family, Jackie Gebhard, Eva Moses, Robert J. Esparza, Juanito & Undo Villanueva, Jose Cabusas, Bozzo & Sunseri family, Paul Sickinger, Penny Martin, Anthony & Anna Barcelona, Jesus Buenrostro, Eugene & Marie Kubiak, Angela Cistulli, Mr. & Mrs. C. Romito, Juanito Villanueva, Anita & Pedro Roa, Paul & Mary Sue Simon, Bill & Loretta Bunce, David Muller, John, Lena, James & Vernon Hickey, Devin & Harper Families, Hipolao Herrera, Kym Lieb, Manuel & Evelyn Perry, Marlene Williamson, Jean Taddie, Marie & John LoBue, Dorthy Reyna, Vito Fabrizio, Targantos & Mobeck Families, Nemeth Family, Fernando & Elsie Bertaccini, John & Rosaria Pistorino



St. Christopher School Alumni

Alumni we are updating our records so that we may keep our St. Christopher community past and present informed. Please take a few minutes to share with us what has been happening in your family so we can publish them in the upcoming issue of The Traveler (next issue, Spring 2012). Tbehan@stchris.us. Make sure you include year graduated and maiden name if appropriate.

Reunion Class of 2008-Save the Date May 9 2012

A donation to the St. Christopher School Endowment fund is wonderful gift in remembrance or tribute to someone during the holidays. The Endowment Fund is critical for the future of our school and also minimizing any increases in tuition. It will help insure that our school will be around for many generations to come.

A gift of any amount is appreciated. For a donation \$500+ a plaque is placed on our donor wall in the school lobby. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church or in the parish and school offices.

ALPHA IS Coming to Holy Family Parish SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar: The Alpha Course will begin with an introductory dinner at Holy Family Parish 4848 Pearl Ave, San Jose, CA 95236
 Wed, February 8, 2012 @ 6:30PM
 For more information or to RSVP: Please call (no charge but for food prep) Patty Trillo 264-6134
nappatty@pacbell.net

Please Pray For Us



We continue to pray for all the men and women serving our country in this time of war:

Tom G. Holman, Greg Cook, Connor McDonald, Christian

Dietz, Connor Quinn, Adam Christopher Madewell, Keith Lewis, Richard Stayskal, Larry Chartier, Andrew Morgan, Derek Carroll, Allen Ellerbee, Obadihah Petteway, Eric Gentrup, Michael Arnone, David Wells, John Prieto, Ryan Trapani, Rafi Miranda, Spencer Fishman, Ryan A. Johnson, David Ryan, Benjamin Owens-Filice, Christopher Healy, and Christine Doudell

Pray for the ill in our Parish

Maureen Morgan, Andes, Ike & Louise, Miranda Aduddell, Joseph Walter, Tony Jones, Carmen Filice, Sr. Carmel Silva, Marco Salsiccia, Dave Oliverio, Fr. Bill Leininger, Kathy Fiato, Kathleen Folan, Margret Gaffaney, Louise Re, Mary O'Toole, Charles & Rachel Pori, Ann Monaco, Marcus Espinoza, Al & Jean Trznadel, and Janet Brunsman



ILL OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you or someone you know like to have Eucharist brought to their home because they are ill or homebound and unable to get to Church? We have Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick who are ready to bring Eucharist to anyone in the Parish who is unable to attend Church, whether for a short period of time or on a permanent basis. Please call Loretta Pfaff at in the Office of Pastoral Care at 264-5114.



Fresh & Easy supports local schools. By submitting receipts that are dated September 15, 2011 through December 31, 2011 Fresh & Easy will give St. Christopher School one dollar for every \$20 spent. Please drop off your receipts at the parish office attn: Development or mail to St. Christopher School 2278 Booksin Ave SJ CA 95125 attn Development. Thank you for your support

Due to a direct cost increase from our vender our candles cost is increasing. As of July 1st the cost of votive candles will increase to \$2.50

Miscellaneous

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL AND PARISH CHILDREN'S MUSIC GROUP (Grades 3-8)

The children of St. Christopher School and Parish (Grades 3-8) are invited to join a music group that will sing and play musical instruments once a month at the 9:30am Sunday Mass. The commitment would be two afternoon practices before each scheduled Mass and the Mass itself. The dates are listed below:
Practice Mass

Friday, Jan. 20th @ 3:30-4:30

Friday, Jan. 27th @ 3:30-4:30

Sunday, January 29th @ 9:30

(Catholic Schools Week Mass)

Friday, Feb. 24th @ 3:30-4:30

Friday, Mar. 2nd @ 3:30-4:30

Sunday, March 4th @ 9:30

Monday, April 16th @ 3:30-4:30

Friday, April 20th @ 3:30-4:30

Sunday, April 22nd @ 9:30

If your child(ren) plays an instrument or is interested in singing with the choir please contact me by email: dcarey@stchris.us with their name/grade level and contact information or call me at 723-7223 x 208
Thank You!

Debbie Carey (St. Christopher School/Music Teacher/Children's Liturgist)

Are you called to be a Priest? Come to this Discernment Retreat!

When?

From 4:00pm on Friday

January 13, 2012

Through 1:00pm on Sunday

January 15, 2012

Where?

St. Patrick's Seminary & University

320 Middlefield Road

Menlo Park, CA 94025

All meals (including dinner on Friday) and Lodging are provided

Who?

To register you must be a single male, twenty one years or older and sponsored by a parish priest or recommended by a Diocesan Vocation Director*

How?

To obtain further information, contact the Discernment Retreat office k8hayes@yahoo.com
(650) 289-3352

Please register by December 20, 2011