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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.



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



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**Mary, the Holy Mother of God
January 1, 2012**

Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.— *Luke 2:19*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm — May God bless us in his mercy (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin a New Year, I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who have made our Advent and Christmas celebrations a wonderful experience for all who come to St. Christopher to worship. Your continued support of our ministry makes this Parish a very vibrant and faith-filled community.


I wish to thank all the ministers who put in so much precious time in helping create and celebrate meaningful and beautiful ceremonies, such as: ushers, lectors, commentators, ministers of communion, musicians, cantors and choirs, altar society and environment ministers, altar servers, the Liturgy Committee, the deacon and presiders.

Our sacred spaces in the Church and in Healy Hall during the Liturgies were truly magnificent worship spaces that allowed us to gather as Community to herald the birth of the Child.

May this Child of Bethlehem, this Jesus of Nazareth, continue to bless us with His gifts of peace, hope, love and joy as we welcome the New Year that has just dawned upon.

A very grace-filled New Year to all.

Msgr. Willie S. Manrique
Pastor



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.

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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.

A Special Thank You

A special thank you again to **Rocky Morrella** for his donation of the parish Calendars. If you did not get one you can pick one up in the Parish office during regular business hours.

Thank you and enjoy

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



Holy Name Society Presents the Family Pancake Breakfast.

Please join us on Sunday

January 8th 2012

after the 9:30 am mass.

We will be serving Pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee for only \$5.00. Kids under 5 are free. Come visit with your friends and fellow parishioners to welcome the New Year in!!

Religious Education Office Hours:

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

CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

The Sunday Rel. Ed., the ECE Pre-School, the COOP Babysitting and Liturgy of the Word will all programs resume next Sunday Jan. 8, 2012. The Tuesday Rel. Ed. Program will resume on Tuesday 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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS: There will a 1st Eucharist Parent meeting on Tuesday Jan. 10th from 7-8 p.m. in church. We ask that at least ONE parent attend.

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 18, 2011**

Last weeks Collection \$19,722.00

25 Week Average: \$19,090.09

Weekly budget \$21,682.08

(Weekly shortfall \$1,960.08)

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

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.....

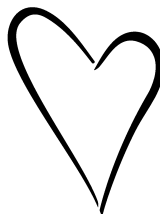
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

-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? |

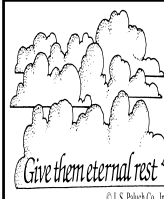
ALPHA IS Coming to Holy Family Parish SAVE THE DATE

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



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, Levin & Harper Families, Hipolao Herrera, Kym Lieb, Manuel & Evelyn Perry, Marlene Williamson, Jean Taddie, Marie & John LoBue, Dorothy Reyna, Vito Fabrizio, Targantos & Mobeck Families, Nemeth Family, Fernando & Elsie Bertaccini, John & Rosaria Pisturino, Gusippi & Francesca Carpita, Vincenze & Edna Mirrione, Joseph Mirrione, Frances May, Mary Mirrione, Anthony, Rose & June Carpita, Charles & Gina Bugna, John Esparza, Larry Esparza, Romeo Lopez & Family, Pedro Roa, Zoobie, Ernest Santos, Sam Samaniego, Arthur, Phil and Tim Volman, Leila Walsh, Frances Rusinski, Josephine Emmite, Elwood & Josephine Laysten, Ignazio & Giulia Filice, Joseph & Lena Zinola, Frank & Rose Emmite, Louis & Carrie Lausten, Chuck & Jeff Stone, Charles & Lena Cisi, David Hollak, Maria Josefina & Dompia Rocha, Isabel Cordova, Mervin & Kathryn Troop, Allen P. Orlando, Helen & F.W. Percy, Fernando & Elsie Bertaccini, John & Rosaria Pisturino, and Barry & Rose Amori



IN REMEMBRANCE *Let us pray for all who have died, that they may rejoice with the Risen Lord, especially:*
 Anna Ezrre, Rosa Cantu, Theresa Buonaccorsi and Earl Butler

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



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.



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)

CIOPPINO FESTA XIII

HOLY NAME *CIOPPINO FESTA XIII!!....*

ON THURSDAY, JAN. 19TH, 2012, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in Healy Hall, the St. Christopher's Holy Name Society will host their 11th annual CRAB & SHELLFISH CIOPPINO



FEED, complete with ITALIAN SINGERS & MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT. All Holy Name members, Men of the parish & their Men-friends are welcome. (Sorry ladies, this is a Men-Only event).

Our talented Holy Name chefs will dazzle your taste-buds with bountiful portions of their famous Crab & Shellfish Cioppino, pasta, & other mouth-watering delicacies. This is Cioppino at its best! Bravo!! Manga!!

This will be an exciting extravaganza of food & song, at a bargain price. This is for fun, not a fundraiser!! Drinks are cheap, too! And wine will be poured with dinner, or bring your own rare vintage!! Price of dinner is only: \$25.00 per person. Reserve Tables of Eight with prepayment of \$200.00 (add more guests at 25.00 each). Biggest Cioppino value in the New World. Tickets Available at Door At \$28.00 Each If Not Sold Out.

NOTE: This popular Cioppino Festa will probably sell out, as it has for most of the last twelve years, so Pre-Purchase of Tickets is encouraged--plus, this will give our fishermen an idea on how much crab to catch!

Send your check(s) payable to *Holy Name Society* to 1791 Cabana Dr., S. J., Ca 95125. Tickets will be held at door.

For additional information please call Tony Piazza at 266-2575, or Mike Weir at 892-6291.