



# Saint Christopher Church

1576 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, CA

Parish Office: 269-2226 Fax: 269-2784

Web Site: [www.saintchris.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.— *Mark 13:33*

### Advent Reflection

#### First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2011

The Gifts We Receive -----HOPE

Advent is upon us and the Christmas Season has begun!

Each year we give our Advent Season a theme, a spiritual reminder that helps us focus on the miraculous event at its conclusion – The Birth of Our Lord.

We look to Him with Hope, and feelings of Peace, Joy and Love.

Each of these is a Gift of Advent and on this first Sunday of Advent we look to receive **and** give HOPE.

So how do we take HOPE and make it a gift-received and gift-given?

Today's readings all have this virtue interlaced throughout them.

The Prophet Isaiah gives us a plaintive prayer to God to not forget us, to not leave us to wander *hopelessly* like lost children without guidance, without relief. He reminds the Lord that we are the works of his hands, the clay HE has formed.

In his exhortation in the second reading, St Paul reminds the Corinthians that our hope is well founded: *God will keep us firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He is faithful and has called us to fellowship with His Son.*

The gospel is really a warning that Hope without awareness and watchfulness is blind thinking.

We cannot just hope for the best. We must fortify our hope with deed and action. The first two weeks of Advent point to our being ready for the *second* coming of Christ. We must stay awake!

So Hope is a gift given to us by God...he is our potter, we his clay.

We in turn pass this gift on to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. How? By sharing our goods; helping them in whatever way is needed, physically and spiritually; by offering our prayers and our love.

#### The Gifts of Advent We Receive and Share

This Advent, to reciprocate for the many gifts we have received by the grace of God, St. Christopher Parish will put our faith into action by sharing some of our surplus with the poor and marginalized of our community. By making our liturgical celebrations an extension of our Parish Outreach Office, we will both receive and share the Gifts of Advent.

#### The 2nd Week of Advent

The Advent Gift We Receive: PEACE

The Advent Gifts We Share: For the Elderly: Fleece Blankets, Cards and Entertainment, Warm Clothing, Recorded Books; or Food

Please remember to bring your Advent Gifts to Share to Mass next weekend and to place them in the baskets in front of the altar before Mass begins.

**Religious Education Office Hours:**

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

**JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM:** The Rel. Ed. Junior High Program meets next Sunday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Next Jr. High meeting is Jan. 8, 2012.

**REL. ED ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:**

All parents are invited to the Sunday Rel.Ed. Christmas Program on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> in Healy Hall at 8:50 a.m. The Tuesday Rel. Ed. Christmas Program will be on Tuesday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. in the Church.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD PROGRAM:** The Liturgy of the Word for children is open to all children of the parish, who are in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:**

The Sunday Rel. Ed., the ECE Pre-School, the COOP Babysitting and the Liturgy of the Word have a break from Dec.18<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. All programs resume on Jan. 8, 2012.

The Tuesday Rel. Ed. Program has a break from Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> -Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, classes resume on Jan. 3, 2012.

**Mass Intensions**

**Saturday, November 26**

**4:30** Gene Martin, Vicente Martinez  
Chuck Snyder, Josephine Sunseri

**Sunday, November 27**

**6:30** Helen Boshell, Pro Populo,  
**8:00** Michael Giammona, Millie Rochette  
Ray Humecke & Narog Family  
**9:30** Sarah Carolyn DeCarli  
**11:00** Maietta Family  
**12:30** Donald Allen DeCarli  
**6:00** Steven Edward DeCarli

**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](mailto:fr.dave@stchrissj.org), or 269-2226 x135.



**IN REMEMBRANCE** *Let us pray for all who have died, that they may rejoice with the Risen Lord, especially:*  
Marcus Gross, Margaret Cargile,  
Mary Hishmeh and Geraldine Phillips

**PFC Youth Ministry News:**

**Tim Melander (408)-265-3230**  
[scyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:scyouth@yahoo.com) or parish website  
[www.saintchris.com](http://www.saintchris.com)—Select youth link

**PFC YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our Christmas Meeting and Cultural Potluck is next meeting is Sun., Dec. 11th, from 4:30 – 5:45 pm. in the Marian Room. Please bring a cultural food item to share and your Adopt-A-Family item(s). Be prepared to share something interesting about your cultural background.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER**

Our Parish PFC Youth Ministry is selling Entertainment Books to raise money for special youth events during the year. Save 50% on dining, travel, dry cleaning, movie tickets and more! Books sell for only \$30. You'll save that amount by just trying a few of the fine dining choices. Stop by the parish office to purchase a book. You can also order online by going to [www.entertainment.com/support](http://www.entertainment.com/support) and entering our group ID# 112793. Thanks in advance for your support of our fundraiser.

**YOUTH RETREAT**

Information about our St. Christopher Youth Retreat, Jan 6-8th at YMCA Camp Campbell has been emailed to Youth Ministry and Confirmation youth. All High School youth are welcome and encouraged to attend. For a retreat packet, please contact the PFC Youth Ministry office.

## Social Justice

Dorothy Day lived a shining example of renouncing all for the one thing lacking. She gave everything she had to the poor, founded the Catholic Worker, spoke out for peace and disarmament, and spent her life following Jesus. As Daniel Berrigan has pointed out, Dorothy not only made the connection between the sufferings of the poor and the world's militarism, she lived the connections. In her Catholic Worker life, she practiced voluntary poverty, resisted war, and suffered persecution (often from the institutional Church) for her unpopular stand. Her response to the invitation of Jesus was wholehearted, complete, and steadfast. She suffered persecution, arrest, and jail for her faithful discipleship. She lived and died among the poor and, like St. Francis, her witness demonstrates the life of radical discipleship to Christ.

While she condemned nuclear violence as the anti-transfiguration, Dorothy also wrote about the power of nonviolent love, which explodes in the transfiguration of Jesus. In the conclusion of her biography of St. Therese of Lisieux, advocate of the little way of suffering love, Day argued that the power of love, even in the smallest act, is more powerful than any nuclear weapon.

Dorothy Day died on Nov. 29, 1980.

## RCIA



### Sponsors Needed

4 women on Tuesday Eve 7:15 request sponsorship in Walsh Hall. RCIA retreat is Dec 10 and sponsors participate.

## Outreach

### OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

Due to the increase in people needing food this year, the Food Pantry is getting an early start in their collection of items for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. The items needed are: turkeys, hams, canned vegetables and fruit, mash potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, home made cookies, chili, tuna, macaroni and cheese, and soup. Scrip for grocery store is also appreciated. Donations may be brought to Msgr Allen Center during office hours. For information email [nancy\\_melander@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy_melander@yahoo.com)



**Refugees:** Catholic Charities has an immediate need for a double baby stroller for a refugee family who arrived 2 months ago. Their second child was born last weekend (mom and baby are doing well). The father is a physician now studying for his boards so he can practice in our country. Contact Claire Collins at [ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org), or call 408-325-5107. Also needed are volunteer ESL teachers, drivers, and resume writers. If you can help refugees with these tasks, even if for only 2 hours a week, you'll play an important role in helping them become self-sufficient.

**Also:** you're invited to help with a variety of tasks with the 3 Iraqi sisters our parish sponsors. The opportunities are primarily for daytime help with rides to appointments and other needs. Ham, Sam, and Haifaa are delightful and very appreciative of St. Chris parishioners. This is an excellent opportunity to be part of this meaningful service to refugees. If you can offer a couple hours a week, please contact Fr. Dave at [fr.dave@stchrissj.org](mailto:fr.dave@stchrissj.org).

### **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.

# Announcements

## St. Christopher Community

You Are Invited To

An Advent Reflection

The Gifts of Advent  
Hope Peace Joy Love

**Friday, December 2, 2011**

**7:15 pm to 8:15 pm**

**In the Church**

*Join us in reflecting on the many gifts  
we have been given and what we are  
called to do with our gifts.*

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If you have lost a loved one, one of the best ways to heal is to share your grief with those who are going through the same experience. St. Christopher's Grief Ministry is offering a grief support group in the Marian Rm. of the Msgr. Allen Center. The group will run from 1pm -2pm on Tuesdays. Call Loretta at 264-5114 with questions or just come that day.



### What Really Happened in Bethlehem? ~ Christmas Infancy Stories

Presenter: Fr. Dave Mercer  
Location: St. Christopher Church  
Date/Time: Sunday, December 4,  
7-8:30pm (follows the 6pm mass)

Or Monday, December 5, from 8:45-10:15am

Every Christmas, we tell the story of Jesus' birth, complete with shepherds, angels, and visiting magi. However, we too easily tell it as a children's story when it's actually a Gospel message proclaimed to adults. Fr. Dave will look at what actually took place in Bethlehem and its implications for a mature Christian faith. All are welcomed – invite a friend.



## St. Patrick's Seminary & University

### *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](mailto:k8hayes@yahoo.com)  
(650) 289-3352

Please register by December 20, 2011



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



St. Christopher School

2278 Booksin Ave. San Jose CA 95125  
408-723-7223 [www.stchris.us](http://www.stchris.us)



## Open House

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Tours 9am-12pm

**Kindergarten Program**

Classroom Visit 6:30pm-6:50pm

Presentation 7pm in the Church

Application available online or at the school office  
Due January 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

## 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

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



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

The Church of the Transfiguration is hosting an Advent afternoon of Prayer on Monday: Dec. 5th from 1:00 p.m-3:00 p.m. "Advent: A Time of Awe and Wonder" presented by Sr. Rebecca Shinas, OP who is a composer, prayer leader, storyteller and singer. Please get registration form at St. Christopher Parish Office. Deadline is Nov. 23rd.

\*Presentation Center is offering private holiday luncheons from Monday, November 28 to Saturday, December 17! Celebrate the season with delicious entrees and homemade desserts with your family and friends on our beautiful property. Reservations are required and space is limited- **BOOK NOW!** For more information contact (408)354-2346 or reservations@presentationcenter.org. For event updates please visit our Facebook page or our website at www.presentationcenter.org.

## Miscellaneous



### The Layette Program

The Layette Program, run through the Diocese of San Jose, is starting their annual collection drive now. The Diocese carefully identifies and supplies NEW layettes for mothers who do not have the resources to provide basic clothing needs for their newborns. We are currently collecting the following items:

NEW Clothing and Blankets, Size 0-6 Months  
Cribs, Bouncers, Bassinettes are also accepted (gently used, but with all parts included please)

Monetary donations are also welcome and should be made payable to: Diocese of San Jose Layette Fund (Donations are Tax Deductible)

COLLECTION BAGS ARE LOCATED IN THE MSGR. ALLEN CENTER (parish office), MARY'S CHAPEL IN THE CHURCH, and at GRANDMA MILLIE'S DESK IN THE SCHOOL.

St. Christopher will be hosting the Annual Layette Tea on December 4th at 2:00 PM. All Welcome!

For more information or questions, please contact:  
Karen Morgan 679-0351, Mila Martinez 332-6554, Natalie Brunello 307-7012, Amy Corbett 440-1442

### **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, Dec. 2nd @ 3:30-4:30  
Sunday, December 4th @ 9:30  
Friday, Dec. 16th @ 3:30-4:30  
Thursday, Dec. 22nd @ 3:30-4:30  
Saturday, December 24th @ 4:00  
(Children's Christmas Eve Mass/Healy Hall)

More dates to follow

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)