

# Catholic Voice

DECEMBER 2023 • VOLUME 61 • ISSUE 12

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## Editor's note

Gratitude.

That's the word that comes to mind this season. I am grateful for the gifts. I look forward to making gifts, and I am grateful that I have the opportunity to do so.

By the time this issue of the magazine reaches you, it's likely Christmas music is already on the air, and your mailbox has been full of catalogs for weeks.

Inspired by my interview with Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, which begins on Page 6, I am hoping to enter into the mystery of the season of Advent, rather than the mystery of how will I get everything done.

Thanks to Megan Arteaga for sharing her story of how her family of two people in ministry at vibrant parishes carve out the time for their celebration of the season. Her story begins on Page 14.

I asked her to do this story based on a long-ago conversation I had at a reception following the presentation of *The Nutcracker* at the Paramount Theatre. I had taken my then-4-year-old daughter to see her first ballet.

The Sugar Plum Fairy graciously greeted her young admirers at the reception. I asked her how she celebrates Christmas.

"The Sugar Plum Fairy can't celebrate Christmas," she said.

It makes me think of all those whose family celebrations are limited because of the service they do for others. May they find the time and space to celebrate.

Wishing you all the joy of this season.

Michele Jurich, editor, *The Catholic Voice* ●

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# THE POWER OF A MOTHER'S LOVE AND FAITH

**A**lthough we usually consider May the “Month of Mary,” I think December comes a close second. This month we celebrate the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Nativity of Our Lord and, on the evening of Dec. 31 and morning of Jan. 1, the Feast of Mary as Mother of God.



BY BISHOP MICHAEL  
C. BARBER, SJ

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ has been bishop of the Diocese of Oakland since May 25, 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY  
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PARISH, FREMONT

One of the best definitions of a “mother” is “a woman who gives her life so that someone else may live.”

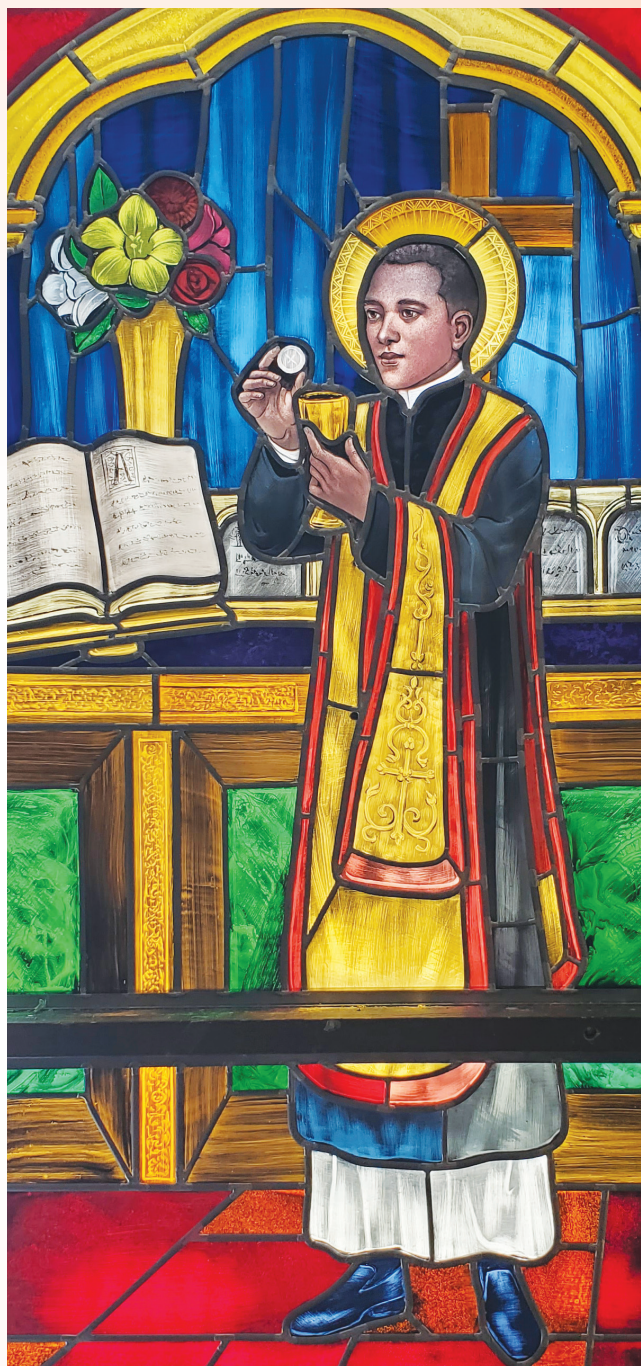
Our Lady certainly fulfills that role.

And so did Martha Jane Chisley Tolton.

Martha Jane was the mother of Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American ordained to the priesthood in the United States.

Martha Jane was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1827. As was the custom of the time, she was raised in the religion of her “owners” – and they were Catholics. One wonders how someone could embrace the religion of someone who “owned” her or him.

Martha Jane is an example of Christ, who said of the Pharisees, “Do what they say, but do not practice what they do.” She embraced the Catholic Faith, which gave her courage and spiritual strength, which she duly imparted to her children.



She was given away as a wedding present to another family in Missouri in 1849, and separated from her own family. She was married in the Catholic Church to Peter Paul Tolton. When the Civil War broke out, her husband escaped to join the Union Army, but died in the war.

In 1863, with great faith and trust in the Lord, Mary Jane also decided to escape with her three young children in search of freedom. Although she and her kids had the assistance of the Underground Railroad in their trek north, they were pursued and shot at by bounty hunters. She made

“

REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, 'DO WHAT THEY SAY, AND NOT WHAT THEY DO,' MARTHA JANE CHISLEY TOLTON REMAINED STEADFAST IN HER FAITH."

it to the free state of Illinois and settled with her children in Quincy.

Martha Jane enrolled her son Augustus in Catholic school, where he was the only Black student. There was such an outpouring of opposition and harassment from White families against having a "colored child" in their school that Martha Jane had to withdraw young Augustus.

Again, remembering Jesus' words, "Do what they say, and not what they do," she remained steadfast in her faith. And she refused to give up on her quest to give her son a Catholic education. She eventually met a kinder priest, Father Peter McGirr, who took Augustus into his parish school. Opposition followed, but Father McGirr condemned racism from the pulpit and defended the Tolton family and their right to attend Catholic school.

As the years progressed, Father McGirr noticed in Augustus the makings of a future priest and encouraged him to apply to seminary. Although he had top grades and excellent recommendations, Augustus was rejected by every seminary in the United States to which he applied, because he was African American.

And his mother was there for him. Even though it meant that Augustus would not be around to work and support the struggling family, Mary Jane kept encouraging him not to give up.

Eventually Augustus was accepted by a seminary in Rome that specialized in training missionaries. He said goodbye to his mother and

sailed for Italy. After six years, he completed his studies successfully and was ordained a priest in Rome. He celebrated his First Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Easter Sunday morning. Unlike seminarians ordained in Rome today, his mother could not be present due to the time and expense of travel.

Yet there she was when her son, now Father Tolton, arrived home in Quincy. She was there with tears of joy to witness her son celebrating Mass in the local parish church, after which she knelt at the Communion rail to receive his "first blessing."

Mary Jane's faith in God, her love for Jesus, her closeness to Our Lady – all were rewarded on that day.

Yet her faith was to be tried again, twice. Father Augustus was assigned to start a parish in Quincy for African American Catholics. But he was such a good preacher, and sang the Latin High Mass so beautifully, he attracted White Catholics who joined his parish. He also began attracting converts from African American Protestant churches. The opposition of jealous White Catholic priests and Black Protestant pastors eventually forced Father Tolton from the town.

And his mother was always there for him.

Father Augustus was accepted by the Archdiocese of Chicago, and asked to found an African American parish. He brought his mother with him, and she served as his housekeeper and sacristan. Because of his tireless work, and his reputation as a

noted homilist, Father Tolton received invitations from all over the United States to preach. And he was able to collect enough funds to build St. Monica's Church. He built his parish up from 60 to 300 members by the time the church was dedicated.

And his mother shared his joy.

Father Tolton was good – but maybe too good. Because of overwork, he collapsed and died of heatstroke on the streets of Chicago in 1897 at the age of 43.

Like Our Lady, Martha Jane had her *Pietà* moment, beholding her dead child.

More than 100 priests attended Father Tolton's funeral at St. Monica's. At his request, he was buried back in Quincy, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone."

Martha Jane continued to serve as housekeeper and sacristan at St. Monica's, with her warm welcome and home cooking. She was known universally in the parish as "Mother Tolton."

On Dec. 23, I will rededicate the newly renovated St. Joseph Church in Fremont. To my great joy, it features an extraordinary new stained-glass window of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton. It is the first window I have ever seen, anywhere, dedicated to this man of God.

Maybe someday we will dedicate a window to his mother, Martha Jane.

*Bishop Barber's column is adapted from a homily he preached Nov. 5 at St. Benedict Parish, Oakland.*

# The sounds and sights of Advent and Christmas

## NOV. 30

### ADVENT GRACE

"Song, Scripture and Prayer for the Joyful Season of Waiting." Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, composer, is joined by singers from throughout the diocese. 7 p.m. Nov. 30 at Christ the King Parish, 199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill.

## DEC. 1

### DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Deacon Dave Rezendes' display at his home, Casa del Pomba. Opening ceremonies begin at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 1 with the Annual Christmas Procession down Hillcrest Avenue in Livermore. Casa del Pomba is at 352 Hillcrest Ave. Sunday - Thursday: 6-9 p.m. Friday & Saturday: 6-10 p.m. Note: Display subject to close if high winds or heavy rains. Details: [www.casadelpomba.com](http://www.casadelpomba.com)

## DEC. 2

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas concert featuring Adult Choir, Children's Choir and Worship Band. 7:30-9 p.m. Dec. 2. St. Agnes Church, 3966 Chestnut Ave., Concord.

## DEC. 3

### ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Tree Lighting on Plaza at 4:30 p.m., followed by 5 p.m. service with Very Rev. Brandon Macadaeg, rector, presiding at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland.

## DEC. 3

### ADVENT GRACE (See Nov. 30.)

3:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 606 Mellus St., Martinez.

## DEC. 8

### MANY SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

St. Columba "Many Sounds of Christmas" 10th anniversary,

featuring the St. Columba Gospel Choir and eight individual musicians. Emcee is Miranda Wilson. 6 p.m. Dec. 8 at St. Columba Church, 6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. Contact: 510-654-7600. Tickets: \$25 (general admission, parish office and online). VIP seats \$40 (first & second rows, left & right sections, online only) Purchase tickets online at <https://manysounds10.eventbrite.com>.

## DEC. 10

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT & TREE LIGHTING

Christmas songs and sing-alongs featuring the St. Mary Magdalen Family Mass Choir, Children's Choir and School of the Madeleine Band will be featured in a free concert. 3 p.m. Dec. 10 at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 2005 Berry St., Berkeley. Festive, free and about 90 minutes of music.

## DEC. 10

### LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR

Olivier Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur, nine meditations on the birth of Christ. Jonathan Dimmock, organist. 3 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Free-will offering.

## DEC. 13

### ASSUMPTION SCHOOL CONCERT

Assumption School presents the Advent/Christmas Concert. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at Assumption Parish, 1100 Fulton Ave., San Leandro. All are welcome; admission is free.

## DEC. 15

### WELCOME THE CHILD - A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Beloved solo and choral pieces celebrating the birth of Jesus. Presented by the adult and children's choir of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton,

and the St. Paul Chong Korean Catholic Community. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Admission is free; there will be a free-will offering. More information: 925.846.4489 or [www.catholicsofpleasanton.org](http://www.catholicsofpleasanton.org).

## DEC. 16

### LUMEN CHRISTI ACADEMIES

Join students and families from the Lumen Christi Academies for their Christmas concert at 5 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland.

## DEC. 17

### CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

A Chanticleer Christmas at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. 5 p.m. Dec. 17. Tickets: [chanticleer.org/christmas](http://chanticleer.org/christmas)

## DEC. 21

### BLUE CHRISTMAS

A service of Readings and Reflections for the Longest Night. A 5:30 p.m. service with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, followed by a meal and fellowship.

## DEC. 24

### CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT

The Festival Schola Choir and Consort of instruments will present Christmas music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods on period instruments and voices at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Berkeley. Concert at 9:30 p.m. The Mass following the concert at 10 p.m. will also include music of the same style as well as traditional Christmas hymns.



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# ADVENT AND ANY SEASON

with Janèt  
Sullivan Whitaker

BY MICHELE JURICH | PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ

**T***There's a good chance you've met Janèt Sullivan Whitaker. Maybe you've sung her Here at This Table as you approached the altar to receive Holy Communion; or been fortunate to be in one of the parishes she has served as music director; or been at a workshop she led for parish musicians.*

In the early retiree phase of her life, the self-described Diocese of Oakland lifer is saying yes to adventures that a music director had to decline because a music director couldn't get away. She's headed toward music-oriented pilgrimages, beginning in Italy; workshops throughout the country for parish musicians; a concert at Carnegie Hall; and closer-to-home activities.

On this late October morning, we talk about one of her retirement-era projects. She is scheduled to present two "Advent Graces" events. One is Nov. 30 at Christ the King in Pleasant Hill; the other Dec. 3 at St. Catherine of Siena in Martinez.

What draws her to Advent?

"It's mysterious," she said. "It's one of those seasons that's very dark and mysterious. It's a conundrum,

because it's juxtaposed with December, when everything ramps up from Thanksgiving to December—the lights, the Christmas music, all the stuff in the stores. They're revving everybody up to be geared up toward Christmas. It looks right past Advent.

"Meanwhile, Catholics are going through this wonderful season—short, only four weeks, it's deep, it's foreboding—all sorts of things about end time, mystery, waiting patiently—all things that are contrary to what our secular society tells us about that month."

There's a challenge in that brevity.

"I love that it's so short," Janèt, said. "It really challenges you to get your stuff together and get in there and do it. But what I've noticed is the people with whom I've ministered is





they're so busy getting ready for Christmas and they get into the third week of Advent and they haven't even started 'Adventing' yet."

"Advent Graces started out as something I could present in November, to prepare people for the season for Advent. It's always been of my heart getting people ready for Christmas and journeying into Advent."

Among the special graces is one that's not easy. "It's quiet," she said. "We're not quiet enough."

It's a particularly challenging time for pastoral ministers, particularly music ministers. She saw the need to help them navigate the season.

"While you're trying to be entering into the mystery, to be quiet, to be calm, listen, and to carefully move through it while managing home life and rest of the world ... it's hard. While you're trying to be contemplative, quiet, full of mystery and humble, you're faced with all of this bombardment."

The life of a parish minister is one she knows well. She has lived it at St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon; Corpus Christi Parish in Piedmont; All Saints Parish in Hayward; an Episcopal parish in Fremont.

### Family rooted in faith

Janèt's care for others is rooted in a family where it was not only preached but practiced.

She grew up in a family of 11 children in a home Thomas P. and Esther Marie Sullivan filled with faith and music.

"You should hear us sing happy birthday," she said.

The Sullivan family of Newark, California, lived just a couple of blocks from St. Edward Church. The children attended St. Edward School.

Their education was not limited to the classroom.

Her father was on the diocesan committee for the imple-

mentation of Vatican II reforms in the liturgy. Some of the older priests of the diocese remember him, a memory that brings smile to her face. The word "firecracker" is part of the memory.

At the Sullivan house, he children did not speak at the dinner table. "Only my dad was allowed to talk at the dinner table," Janèt recalled. And in the 1960s, he was talking about Vatican II.

"We had a strong grounding in music and in the Church," Janèt said. "My father would walk up and down the hallway in between our bedrooms every night. The first thing he'd do was take us through the times tables. He'd call and we'd respond. After that, he'd lead us in the rosary."

On family drives, he'd lead the children in the rosary.

“

It's always been of my heart getting people ready for Christmas and journeying into Advent.”



His work with implementing Vatican II reforms was not just talk.

"In the archives of our hometown newspaper there are pictures of my dad taking out the communion rail with a chainsaw," she recalled.

He believed the Church had the ability to do much good in the world.

He called them to be agents of change. A typical question from her dad might be: Does your accompanist earn a living wage?

### Entering music ministry

Of the 11 siblings, Janèt and her brother Mark, who now serves at three parishes in Hanford, Fresno and Visalia, do liturgical music.

"We've spread out but I've stayed," she said. "My brother Mark directed the big choir for the 1987 papal visit

at Candlestick Park."

"Dad put my feet on the path that I'm on," she said. "I never left. When I was 10 years old, grammar school, high school, I stayed," she said. When she was choir director at an Episcopal church, she went to Mass at the Catholic church.

Janèt earned her bachelor's degree at Cal State East Bay her master's degree at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley.

Her father wasn't so sure about the master's program, she recalled. "I want you to stay who you are," he told her.

She turns the ring on her right hand.

"When I graduated, he gave me this ring." It had belonged to his mother.

### The composer's life

Taking an early retirement from music ministry gave her the opportunity to focus on wellness, her garden and unfinished compositions.

There are reminders of the growing-up years in Newark. She has her father's 125-year-old Steinway grand piano.

"He gave that to me," she said. If he visited and found dust on the piano, he would be the opposite of pleased.

"But little bits of erasing? He'd be joyful."

He knew she had been writing music at the piano.

He died in 2020.

Janèt's mother Esther, who died 10 years ago, had joined some of her daughter's choirs over the years.

"My mother was known to weep at my concerts," she recalled.

After her mother's death, Janèt learned her mother had kept a folder – a big, expandable folder – with clippings she'd kept. There were programs from piano recitals,

wedding programs, letters and pictures she had painted.

"She saved everything."

"I'm not writing as much as I used to," she said. She is revisiting the unfinished compositions.

What's it like to hear her songs?

It resembles something she learned on a trip to Japan at as a teenager.

"When I was 17, I was in Japan. I was walking along the Ginza with my two chaperones. One stopped. 'That's my son over there. I didn't know he was here.'"

"He's on this own. Living his life."

"I see this song doing just fine without me. It's living and having its place in the community."

Each of her compositions has come to her in its own way.

One song came to her in a dream. "I was dreaming of this flute playing. I wrote it down and it got words," she said.

She was attending a meeting about the chaplaincy program at St. Rose "I was in the back

of the room. I started lining the paper. This is kind of cool. By the end of the meeting it was finished."

"They come in through different doors," she said. "Sometimes they get a start and I get too busy and it stays on the back burner for 15 years."

"I'm rediscovering it. I pull it out say this week I'm going to finish this. I could do that with this backlog for the rest of my life."

She is always open to possibility.

"Sometimes something new will come to me," she said. "Sometimes it's inspired by particular singers or instruments — I love the clarinet and French horn."

When I think of the French horn, there's a noble loneliness to it. I see it as very holy."

A storyteller extraordinaire, she tells of the song her son Max Whitaker is credited as co-writer.

"When he was a little kid, I was calling him to breakfast and he was ignoring me. He finally came running out.

And he sang, 'Eat and be filled. I want some French toast. I want melted butter and powdered sugar, too.'

"Then he sat down and ate."

His mother thought about the song she had working on.

"He ran out to play and I wrote that into that song. I sent it off to be published," she said.

Max receives royalty checks five times a year.

And as a co-writer of a song at the dedication Mass as the Cathedral of Christ the Light, the 22-year-old was invited to the Mass. *Here at This Table* was sung at Communion. And Max sat, his mother recalled, "right behind the cardinals."



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Dad put my feet on the path that I'm on. I never left.”

## The beginning

When John Woodcock retired from Detroit Lions, he returned to his home in Fremont, but died in his sleep shortly thereafter at the age of 43.

His mother asked Janèt to sing for his funeral. Thus was born Janèt's song *In Every Age*.

That night, a flute melody wafted through her dream.

"I got up at 3 in the morning and wrote it."

A close friend offered to fund the recording, so that it could be sent for publication. His only request was that the sheet music be "Dedicated to the memory of John Woodcock."

You will find that line on *In Every Age*.

"That was the song that got me out of the harbor."



### CONNECT

Follow Janèt Sullivan Whitaker on Facebook.



Agatha Lee, left, served as the pianist accompanist when Janèt Sullivan Whitaker was music director at St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon. Today Agatha is St. Joan of Arc's music and choir director. Janèt has mentored liturgical musicians for decades.

## You may know Janèt Sullivan Whitaker through ...

### ► HER MUSIC:

Her sacred liturgical compositions, which feature original texts and music, have come to be widely sung in Catholic Churches throughout the world. Her works are published by OCP Publications in Portland, Oregon, and GIA/WLP in Chicago. Her best-known OCP songs include *Here at This Table*, *In Every Age* and *Day of Peace*. Her growing catalog of works published by WLP/GIA include the hymn *That I May Serve You*.

### ► HER PARISH MINISTRY:

As a Director of Music Ministries, Janèt has served the Diocese of Oakland parishes of St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon; All Saints in Hayward; and Corpus Christi in Piedmont. She also served as choirmistress for St. James Episcopal Church in Fremont.

### ► HER EDUCATION:

She holds a BA in Music from California State University, East Bay, and an MTS in Liturgical Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, part of the Graduate Theological Union. Like her 10 siblings, she is a graduate of St. Edward School in Newark.

## SIMBANG GABI 2023

In anticipation of the birth of Christ, many parishes within the Diocese of Oakland will celebrate Simbang Gabi for nine days leading up to Christmas.

The Diocese of Oakland traditionally celebrates an opening Mass earlier in December, with Filipino priests and deacons joining Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ at the altar.

The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Dec. 9 at Church of the Good Shepherd, 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg.

Check the diocesan website at [www.oakdiocese.org](http://www.oakdiocese.org) for the schedule of Masses around the diocese.

Here are some parishes that offered an early look:

► **Church of the Good Shepherd Parish**

3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg

Mass at 5:30 a.m. Dec 16-24

Contact: [www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org](http://www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org)

► **St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish**

3351 Contra Loma Blvd, Antioch

Mass at 7 p.m. Dec. 15-23

Contact: 925.778.0768

► **St. Leander Parish**

474 W. Estudillo Ave., San Leandro

Mass at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 16-24; breakfast reception follows Mass on Dec. 16 and 24

Contact: Text Tess at 510.826.8528.

► **St. Margaret Mary Parish**

1219 Excelsior Ave., Oakland

Mass at 6 a.m. Dec. 16-24; Mass begins at 5 a.m. Dec. 17 and 24

Contact: 510.482.0596 or [gnaguit@stmargaretm.org](mailto:gnaguit@stmargaretm.org).



Photo by Dominique Ghekiere-Mintz

► **St. Joan of Arc Church**

2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon

Mass at 7 p.m. Dec. 16-23; Mass at 6 a.m. Dec. 24

Contact: Anna Bantug at [ambantug@gmail.com](mailto:ambantug@gmail.com)

► **St. Raymond Parish**

11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin

Mass at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 16-23

Contact: Noli Visenio at [trivalleystonino@gmail.com](mailto:trivalleystonino@gmail.com)

► **Holy Spirit Parish**

37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont

Mass at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 15-23

Contact: Patricia Saturnio at [patricia.saturnio@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.saturnio@gmail.com)

► **St. Clement Parish**

750 Calhoun St., Hayward

Mass at 5 p.m. Dec. 15-23

Contact: [jayumi2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jayumi2@sbcglobal.net)

## LAS POSADAS AT OLD MISSION SAN JOSE

Las Posadas, a ceremonial reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, has been celebrated annually at Old Mission San Jose since 1982. For nine days, from Dec. 14-23 at 6 p.m. we process to a location, a short walk from the Mission, with a beautiful hand-carved statue of the Holy Family all the while singing Christmas carols.

At our destination, "Joseph and Mary" ask for lodging but are refused. Finally, they are allowed to enter and once inside, enjoy a short musical program followed by refreshments. On the final night, Dec. 23, there will be caroling in the Mission church featuring the magnificent Mission San Jose organ and a pinata for the children.

Participants are encouraged to wear warm clothing and bring a flashlight or headlamp to read the song sheets. Join us rain or shine for this no-cost celebration of the true meaning of Christmas!

Mission San Jose is at 43300 Mission Blvd., Fremont. For information, visit [missionsanjose.org](http://missionsanjose.org) or call 510.657.1797. ●



**How can we help?  
Let us know.**

**510.267.8344**

# DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HONOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The annual pilgrimage honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe is set for Saturday, Dec. 2. The pilgrims are scheduled to begin walking at 9 a.m. from St. Louis Bertrand Parish, 140 100th Ave., Oakland. A brief prayer will be said at 8:40 a.m. It is recommended that pilgrims arrive about 8 a.m.

Around 11 a.m., the pilgrims will pass close to St. Elizabeth Parish. A group of parishes will stay there for Mass at 1 p.m.

The groups that continue the pilgrimage will arrive at the Cathedral of Christ the Light around 12:30 p.m. to celebrate Mass.

Every year, a different parish takes the lead on the front of the pilgrimage. This year, St. Clement Parish in Hayward is taking the lead.

Weather conditions may affect the program. ●

## CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

### ► Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24

5 p.m. Vietnamese Mass

with Father Michael Pham

10 p.m. Mass with

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

### ► Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25

8 a.m. Vietnamese Mass

with Father Michael Pham

11 a.m. Mass with

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass



## Sacred Meal

A steering committee of priests, deacons and laypeople gathered regularly for a year to plan the Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress. But the efforts go far beyond those memorable three days in September.

As we continue to prepare for the National Eucharistic Revival Congress this July, and our continuing focus on the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we are delighted to invite the children of the Diocese of Oakland to participate in an art contest.

On the following two pages, you will see a book written by Deacon Robert Falco, who serves at St. Raymond Parish in Dublin. He worked with Father Erick Villa, parochial administrator at St. Raymond Parish, who directed the steering committee. Father Ramon Urbina, parochial vicar at St. Bonaventure Parish in Concord, also lends his artistic talents to this book project.

You are welcome, of course, to share the pages with young people who might be visiting your home this Advent and Christmas season. You may make copies of the pages if more than one child in your family would like to participate. You may enlarge the pages for the young artists.

If you would like to submit the art of children (ages 3 to 14) to be considered for inclusion in a published book, please submit it to by Jan. 15, 2024 to:

**The Catholic Voice | 2121 Harrison St. Suite 100 | Oakland CA 94612**

**Please include the following contact information with submitted artwork:**

- Name and age of the artist
- Name of the parent or guardian
- Email and phone for parent

We look forward to seeing the art you submit. Even more, we wish you happy times and excellent conversation with your young artists.

# Sacred Meal



Words by Deacon Robert Falco

Illustrations by Father Ramon Urbina/Children of the Diocese of Oakland



When we celebrate Mass together, we are really gathering for a meal.

In the center of the church is a table we call the altar.

Did you know the tablecloth on the altar is made from linen,  
the same cloth used in Jesus' time to bury people?



Why is this tablecloth special? Because it reminds us of Jesus' great sacrifice for us ... His death on the cross. Jesus was buried in the same type of linen, before he rose from the dead.



The altar is where the priest blesses the bread before we eat it.  
Before the bread is blessed by the priest, it's just bread.



But the priest blesses the bread, calls on the Holy Spirit, and the bread changes into Jesus. After the priest blesses it, the bread changes into Jesus. It still looks like bread and tastes like bread, but Jesus' spirit is in this food as well. It's a miracle!



Every week, when we come to Mass, we are giving thanks to God for Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. By dying and rising to life, He rescued us from our sins.



So coming to Mass is a sacrifice, a celebration and a meal!



Thank you, Jesus, for our sacred meal!

# A tua parish Christmas

## How one family keeps Christmas at church and at home

BY MEGAN ARTEAGA



Megan Arteaga is youth ministry coordinator and, among other duties, writes a weekly column in the parish bulletin, at the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda. Photo by Chuck Deckert

**“O**kay, I’ll see you after Christmas,” I joke to my husband Anthony, usually somewhere around the Third or Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The holidays are a busy time of year for most people, but church work might make them even busier around Casa Arteaga. While some of our friends are spending their days on cruise control before a company-wide holiday closure or attending office holiday parties, we’re often staying late or coming in on our days off for the crunch time leading up to the Nativity of the Lord – at two different parishes.

Anthony works at St. Bonaventure, a large, multilingual parish on the border between Concord and Clayton. His official title is “Director of Liturgy and Music,” which means that half his job is coordinating priests, liturgical ministers, prayers and scripts for Sundays, holy days and special celebrations. The other half is overseeing each of St. Bonaventure’s five choirs, working with the different choir directors to facilitate one diverse yet cohesive music program and providing music for some of the Masses himself.

I’m over at the Church of Santa Maria, a comparatively smaller parish nestled in the Orinda hills. My main title is “Youth Ministry Coordinator,” working with young people and their families (including the Confirmation program) but that’s not my only role. I’m also in charge of communications – managing the parish website, creating the Sunday bulletin and facilitating the live-streaming of our Sunday Masses. Like Anthony, I’m also involved in music at all of our Sunday Masses.

While our regular ministry keeps us bustling but content, adding the Christmas chaos to the mix certainly ups the game. In addition to the regular Sunday Masses, there are also each parish’s communal Reconciliation services, Christmas concerts, parish Christmas parties, choir practices, liturgy rehearsals, three or more Masses on Christmas Eve often running into the wee hours of the morning and a whole ‘nother round of them on Christmas Day.

There are worship aids to create, PowerPoint presentations to design, parking to facilitate, Christmas pageants

to rehearse and our regular ministries to run – all while many of our regular volunteers are using their well-earned days off work to vacation or visit family for the holidays. Even being peripherally involved in all of this takes time and energy.

We’re always aware of the danger of taking on so much during the Christmas season that the Good News becomes a grind or the hustle overwhelms the holy – never a good thing for anyone, but especially not people who are some of the hosts at church! In order to combat that risk, we’ve come up with a few traditions to ensure we make time for family, friends and good old-fashioned relaxing.

First, we always decorate the house right after Thanksgiving – yes, sometimes before Advent has even started! We’ll take that Saturday to hang up the lights outside, put up the tree and add in other holiday flourishes. We’ll heat up our first festive mug of glögg (the Swedish cousin of mulled wine) and play Christmas tunes. Then, no matter how busy the rest of the following weeks are,

“

**We’re always aware of the danger of taking on so much during the Christmas season that the Good News becomes a grind or the hustle overwhelms the holy – never a good thing ... !**

we know we'll always come home to the coziness of the Christmas tree and the glow of our Christmas candles.

Second, we make sure to do at least one church-related activity together. Because we work at two different parishes, usually the only time we get to go to church together is when we're on vacation! My favorite seasonal event anytime they offer it is St. Bonaventure's Advent Taizé Prayer Service, a beautiful candlelit evening with Scripture readings and simple repeated refrains to help us focus on the quiet and mystery of Advent.

Third, we've got traditional visiting times for each of our families – an early Christmas vacation in early December with Anthony's side of the family, and, following the Christmas Day Masses, a few days with my own family. We also have a few non-church events with our family and friends we prioritize: One is my hula hālau's "Hō'ike," our annual holiday performance; another is our friend Bev's impeccably decorated Christmas party; and yet another is a "Posadas" progressive dinner that some church friends organize, commemorating the journey Mary and Joseph took to find a place for the birth of Christ.

In general, we try to remember to slow down and breathe, and that God can carry everything that we can't during this season. We aren't any good to ourselves or those we're ministering to if we don't make time ourselves to enter the mystery of Advent. And after all of the good work and good fun of Advent, the joy of Christmas is made all the greater when we're reunited again after that final Mass on December 25!

Merry Christmas to you and yours, and a blessed holiday season to all those who labor to make it beautiful. ●



Megan and Anthony Arteaga cherish their time with their family and friends.

Photo courtesy of the Areagas

# ON A MISSION IN PORT COSTA

## ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

BY DIANE BOTTINI THOMAS

THE LIFELONG PARISHIONER CLIMBED THE WOODEN STEPS, UNLOCKED THE DOUBLE DOORS AND PULLED THE OLD WORN ROPE LEADING TO THE STEEPLE BELL. CALLING RESIDENTS TO MASS HAPPENS EVERY SUNDAY, BUT ON AUG. 20, 2023, THE BELLS USHERED IN THE BEGINNING OF A NOSTALGIC DAY, THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PATRICK'S MISSION CHURCH IN PORT COSTA.



Photos courtesy of Jesse Peralta

**On the altar, above:** Father Augustine Joseph, Father Thuong Nguyen, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Father Leonardo Asuncion and Monsignor Antonio Valdivia

**With parishioners in front of the mission church, opposite page:** Father Thuong Nguyen, Father Leonardo Asuncion, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Monsignor Antonio Valdivia, Father Augustine Joseph and Deacon Albert Dizon

The picturesque church on the knoll has a rich history, dating back to a time in the 1800s, when a Dominican priest from Benicia would row across the strait to celebrate Mass on a makeshift altar at Crowley and Casey's boarding house. From Port Costa, he would often walk or travel by

horse and buggy to Crockett for a second Mass, before rowing back to Benicia.

The first St. Patrick's Church, dedicated on Feb. 3, 1884, was built on two lots donated by George W. McNear. The total cost was \$1,500. Although records are unclear, in a newspaper article it appears

the original structure burned, necessitating the building of a new church on the same property, which was completed in 1898 at a cost of \$7,000.

The latest extensive restoration was completed in 1980, and this is the revered church we celebrate today. Through the years, in addition to the Dominicans, Franciscans and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate have served the church. Priests of the Diocese of Oakland serve the church today.

The parishioners of St. Patrick's, predominantly Irish, took great pride in their new church. Although the population of the town has declined noticeably, the community has supported it without fail, giving testimony to the faith and dedication of its steadfast parishioners.

Opulent stained glass windows surround St. Patrick's Mission Church, but once inside, it remains a humble church with old wooden benches, all without padding, and kneelers that are loud and unsettling when pulled out. Initials carved on the benches by mischievous children long ago remain, bringing a smile to those whose initials defy denial.

On the day of celebration, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ entered St. Patrick's with all the joyful formality afforded an event of this significance. The choir, from the loft, filled the church with song, reminiscent of days gone by. The historic church was full of people whose ties to Port Costa date back generations. Memories came flooding back to seniors, many of whom were baptized, received their First Communion and were married in the small church that was once the social center of town.

Bishop Barber's homily was inspirational and ingenious, intertwining historical stories of the bond between Port Costa's trains, ferries and bridges and the spirit of parishioners of St. Patrick's, past and future.

"In 1879, the first Solano Railroad Ferry transported an average of 30 trains per day between Benicia and Port Costa," he said. "This town of Port Costa was built to support the ferry crossing from Port Costa to Benicia, and this church was built to ferry us from Port Costa to heaven."

While early pioneers probably never saw what was beyond Benicia, the trans-

continental railway opened a whole new world of optimism, and so it is with the church. Bishop Barber reminded parishioners, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him."

"This church was built to guide us to Jesus, who will come to accompany us on the journey from earth to heaven. 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.'"

In his final blessing, Bishop Barber prayed, "May St. Patrick's exist for another 125 years as the

“

**THIS TOWN OF  
PORT COSTA WAS BUILT  
TO SUPPORT THE FERRY  
CROSSING FROM PORT  
COSTA TO BENICIA, AND  
THIS CHURCH WAS BUILT  
TO FERRY US FROM PORT  
COSTA TO HEAVEN.”**

*domus Dei el porta coeli.*  
The House of God and the  
Gate of Heaven.”

Following Mass, a reception was held at the old Port Costa Grammar School, where celebrants enjoyed lunch in the well-preserved school of yesteryear, many remember-

ing days of learning, and their antics, in the three-classroom schoolhouse.

Upon reflection, "Celebrating the Past towards Ministering to the Future," was a wonderfully memorable day. Whether your journey between earth and heaven is over a bridge, on a train or aboard a ferry, it "begins at the church door."

The double doors to St. Patrick's Mission Church in Port Costa have opened countless times through the years; just how many hearts have been changed is unknown, but today, as in the past, the charm of this unassuming little church somehow brings a sense of belonging, love and peace. ●



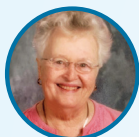
# Jubilarians

## SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

### 70 Year Jubilarians:



Sister Aileen Carissimi, SNJM has always been interested in global studies and social justice issues. Aileen taught in California SNJM secondary schools for 35 years, encouraging in her students a love of history and a sense of justice. She lived her values, from protesting at the School of the Americas to learning Spanish for her cross-cultural ministry in Nicaragua to teaching ESL. A passionate justice advocate, patient teacher and lover of gardening, Aileen lives in Campbell.



Sister Noël Girard, SNJM spent over 40 years teaching in elementary and secondary schools in California, including Sacred Heart Elementary and Holy Names High School in Oakland. Blessed with a zest for life, a celebratory nature and a commitment to family, friends and her SNJM community, she has shared her talents in countless ways. A volunteer in the development office of Holy Names High School, Noël resides in San Leandro.

### 60 Year Jubilarians:



Sister Barbara Boudreau, SNJM got to know the SNJMs at St. Andrew High School in Pasadena. After entering, she spent 10 years teaching in elementary and high schools before moving into parish ministry. Barbara spent several years as Novice Director and in California province leadership, followed by work as Religious Services Coordinator at Holy Cross Cemetery/Mortuary, using her gifts assisting families in grief and planning services for their loved ones. Barbara is retired and living in Los Gatos.



Sister Margaret Kennedy, SNJM began her ministry as a Religion and English teacher in four junior highs and three high schools. She also served as principal at St. Bede School, Hayward. These experiences prepared her for congregation and province leadership. In 1994, she co-founded Oakland's Next Step Learning Center. She also assisted with relocation of Sisters from the California "mother-house" to independent/assisted living or skilled care residences. Margaret serves on the SNJM Educational Ministries Board and lives in Alameda.



Sister Mary Pat LeRoy, SNJM learned the importance of planning as an educator/administrator in Oakland, followed by six years in provincial leadership. She helped develop team leadership for religious congregations, especially in Southern Africa. As Congregational Leader, the 2004 ceremonial transfer of Mother Rose's remains to the Longueuil Cathedral was a deeply spiritual moment. After a sabbatical, she assisted in the planning for retirement needs of Sisters in the California area. Mary Pat resides in San Jose.

## SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, INDIANA

### 60 Year Jubilarian:



Sister Jeremy Gallet was born in Chicago. She entered the Congregation on Sept. 12, 1963, from Mary Seat of Wisdom Parish in Park Ridge, Ill. She professed perpetual vows on Sept. 29, 1973.

Sister Jeremy has a bachelor's degree in music education from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and earned a master's degree in education in urban education with music minor from Indiana University. She also has a master's degree in theology liturgy from the University of Notre Dame and a doctorate in theology and the arts from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley.

In the Diocese of Oakland, Sister Jeremy ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Augustine Parish in Oakland from 1992-96, as an adjunct faculty member at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley from 1993-98 and as the director of music at St. Barnabas Parish in Alameda from 1996-98.

Sister Jeremy has also ministered in Indiana, Illinois, Texas and Oregon.

Sister Jeremy is in between ministries and resides at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. ●



## Retirement Fund for Religious

**Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:**

National Religious Retirement Office  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194

*Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.*

**[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)**

Visit [retiredreligious.org/2023photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2023photos) to meet the religious pictured.  
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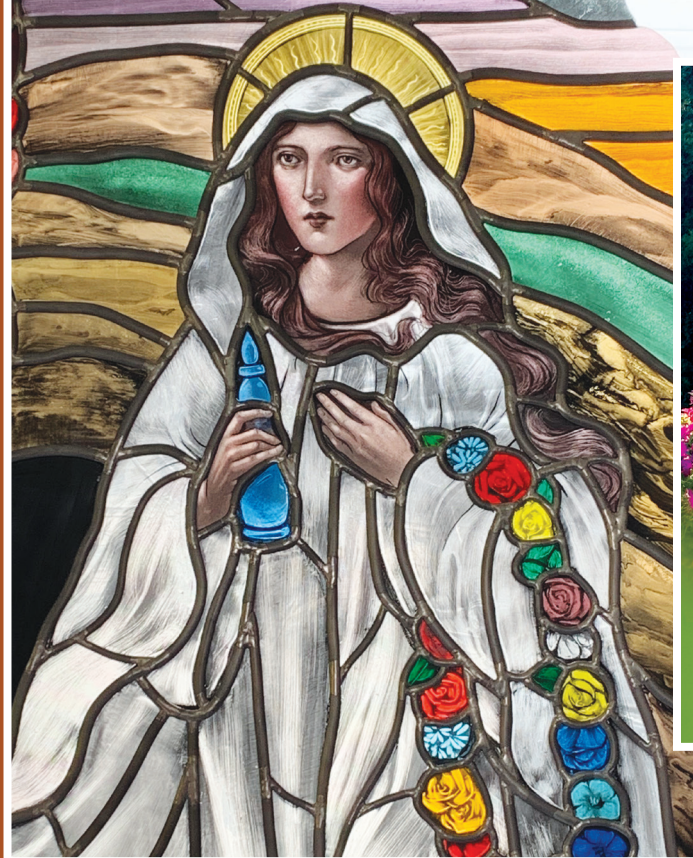
# At Mission San José, a newly rebuilt St. Joseph Church

BY FATHER ANTHONY HUONG LE

**S**t. Joseph is a great dreamer. He dreamed of an angel who told him the greatest act of love: God sent his son to be a child of Mother Mary. He was asked to take Mary home and care for them both as his own. So, he did. After Mary gave birth to Jesus, Joseph dreamed again. This time, he was told by an angel to bring Mary and Jesus to Egypt because the king of the land wanted to kill the child. He awoke and immediately followed. Living in a strange land for a while, Joseph was again guided in his dream to return to Judea, his homeland. The Gospel tells us Joseph did it without a word of complaint. On the way home, however, his plan was changed as the angel encountered him in another dream, telling him to go to Nazareth.

St. Joseph was a great dreamer who waited for the divine command to make reality God's plan. He became great, not on his own, but by fulfilling his vocation as a man of righteousness, a faithful husband and a strong father. He did what was asked of him by God. His humility and obedience allowed God to make the salvation plan possible. He accepted and safeguarded Salvation with his own life. No wonder he is now called the universal protector of the holy church. That is the man we are proud to call the spiritual father and patron saint of our parish. People of St. Joseph Parish are blessed to bear his name and rely on him for help in doing God's will.

Like St. Joseph, we had a dream of a new church for a long time. However, divine providence has led us to discern and change our old plan to adopt a new reality. Once, it was a hybrid gym and temporary church; now, it has become one of the most unique and special churches in the Bay Area, perhaps in the world.



YOU MAY ASK,  
WHAT MAKES  
ST. JOSEPH  
CHURCH SO  
UNIQUE AND  
SPECIAL?  
THERE ARE A  
FEW EXCELLENT  
AND SPECIAL  
FEATURES  
THAT MAKE  
IT SO.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
ST. JOSEPH PARISH

### Mission San Jose Church

St. Joseph Parish is the home of the 14th California Mission. Mission San José is uniquely located on the holy ground, established by the Franciscans and native faithful in 1797. The seed of faith was first planted here and continues to serve as our spiritual wellspring and eternal reminder of the Church's apostolic mission.

### The Altar, the Tabernacle and the Altar Cross

All three were made from olive wood. They were envisioned, designed and built by the people and friends of St. Joseph. As old as the mission, the dead 200-year-old olive tree is a special gift to the new church. It captures the heart of the Eucharistic mystery that the church celebrates daily.

### Stained Glass

Stained glass images are designed to convey a theological truth that God makes all things new and beautiful. One will experience the breathtaking beauty of these stained glass images that depict the life of our Lord and the saints, such as St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Francis, Venerable Augustus Tolton and many more. When the lights are on, and the sun shines, the mystery of faith comes to life; as it is to say, the light of God shines and makes all things fabulous. We are His image and we will shine thanks to His divine life.

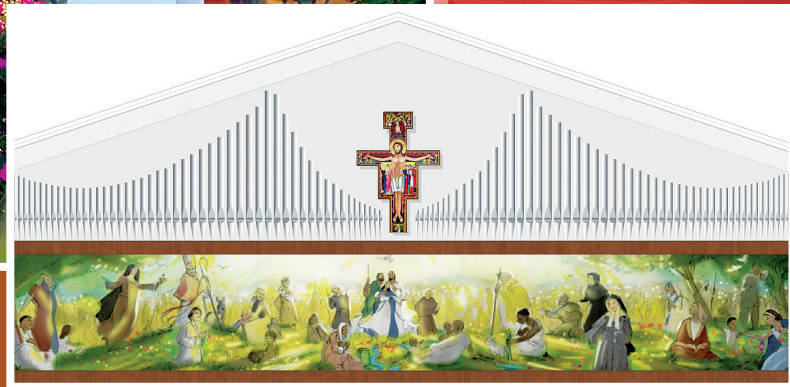
### The 50x7 foot Oil Painting of the Wedding Feast of the Lamb

This is the most unique and original piece of art that will capture your heart and mind. The wedding feast of the lamb depicts God's dream

for humanity, in which all are transformed and beautified by the presence of the Holy Family. The union of the Holy Family is the sign of the union of God with humanity. At this wedding, all holy men and women of faith from everywhere, different times and places of history, gather happily around the religious family. This is our dream; this is what the Mass offers and helps us to realize: participation in the heavenly wedding banquet.

### Wood and Stone

When we began to design the church's interior, we asked: What would St. Joseph do if he built this church for his son and spiritual children? Because he is a carpenter, wood and stone must be his preferred materials. We reuse all the wood from the old pews. We cut, sand, stain and



## DEDICATION AND BLESSING OF ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, FREMONT

Dec. 23, 11 a.m.  
Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ presiding  
St. Joseph Church  
43148 Mission Blvd.,  
Fremont

Mass attendance is limited to attendees with tickets, which have been distributed. For link to the livestream visit [www.saintjosephmsj.org](http://www.saintjosephmsj.org).

wrap them around the posts and beams. We use white stone and red tiles for the sanctuary and the nave. Looking from the back, they form a chalice to hold the blood and water coming from the heart of the Lord. Together, the white and the red colors represent the blood and water from the heart of the Lord flowing into the community of the faithful.

### Giant Sleeping St. Joseph, Dream Garden, Holy Family Picnic Area and Stations of the Cross

When you come to St. Joseph Parish, one thing is clear: We want you to encounter God in all things St. Joseph! Just like St. Joseph, we bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. We fully understand our role as stewards of the mysteries of faith. We will facilitate that encoun-

ter with the Lord, thanks to St. Joseph and Mother Mary's help. Thus, those who come here will see a beautiful testament of faith, a beautiful presentation of the devotion to the heavenly things and an inspired group of disciples of Jesus. You will be transformed by God's holiness and inspired by what you see.

### People, disciples of Jesus

We are diverse and united in the Catholic faith. We want to follow Christ and are unafraid to make our faith known. Please celebrate with us the faith and honor our father, St. Joseph. It is our great joy to inform you all that at 11 a.m. Dec. 23, the newly rebuilt church of St. Joseph Parish in Fremont will be dedicated and blessed by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. At this holy Mass, our bishop will also declare St. Joseph Church

a diocesan pilgrimage site, a shrine of St. Joseph, where the faithful could come and draw great spiritual resources and encounter the Lord, Mother Mary and her Spouse. As the birth of the Lord brings a new dawn of salvation to all, a newly rebuilt church will mark a new chapter of missionary efforts here at St. Joseph.

This is the work of countless people whose names we pray will be written in the book of heaven. From professional workers to volunteers, contributors and prayer warriors, we united in faith to make this Church holy, unique and memorable for all. We thank you all for your love, contribution and dedication to God and St. Joseph. May the Lord remember you for eternity. Come and see the Goodness of the Lord. ●



**FATHER ANTHONY HUONG LE**  
is pastor of  
St. Joseph Parish  
in Mission San José,  
Fremont.

## OFFICIAL CALENDAR

**December 2**

Diocesan Events in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:40 a.m. Initial prayer at St. Louis Bertrand, Oakland
- 9 a.m. Pilgrimage in Honor of our Lady of Guadalupe to Cathedral of Christ the Light begins
- 11 a.m. Mass, St. Elizabeth Parish, Oakland, Very Rev. Lawrence C. D'Anjou, Vicar General, presiding
- 1 p.m. Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, Bishop Barber presiding

**December 8**

12:10 p.m. Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

**December 9**

10 a.m. Simbang Gabi Kick Off Mass, Church of the Good Shepherd, Pittsburg

**December 10**

9:30 a.m. Mass and Blessing of New Altar, St. Joseph Basilica, Alameda

**December 14**

- 10 a.m. Priest Personnel Board
- 1 p.m. Presbyteral Council

**December 15**

4 p.m. Christmas Celebration for the Priests of the Diocese, Bishop's Residence

**December 16**

Regina Mundi Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

**December 17**

Christmas Mass with Inmates, Santa Rita Jail, Dublin

**December 19**

10 a.m. College of Consultors Chancery Offices, Oakland

**December 21**

12:10 p.m. Christmas Mass and Lunch with Diocesan Seminarians, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

**December 23**

11 a.m. Dedication of Remodeled Church and New Altar, St. Joseph Church, Mission San Jose, Fremont

**December 24**

10 p.m. Solemn Christmas Eve Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

**December 25**

11 a.m. Solemn Christmas Day Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

For a complete schedule, please go to [www.oakdiocese.org/bishop](http://www.oakdiocese.org/bishop)

## DIOCESE OF OAKLAND LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES IN 2024

Sunday Readings: Year B | Weekday Readings: Cycle II

**2023****December 3**

- First Sunday of Advent

**December 8**

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Holy Day of Obligation

**December 12**

- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**December 25**

- Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
- Holy Day of Obligation

**2024****January 1**

- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

**January 7**

- Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- Cathedral Titular Feast

**January 24**

- Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Secondary Patron
- Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese

**February 14**

- Ash Wednesday
- Not a Holy Day of Obligation

**February 17**

- Rite of Election 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. at the Cathedral

**March 26**

- Tuesday of Holy Week
- 11 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

**March 30**

- Holy Saturday
- Easter Vigil
- Sunset is 7:30 p.m.

**March 31**

- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
- Sunday Observance

**May 12**

- Solemnity of the Ascension
- Sunday Observance

**May 19**

- Pentecost Sunday
- End of Easter Season

**May 25**

- Anniversary of Bishop Barber's Episcopal Ordination Observed

**May 26**

- Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Sunday Observance

**June 2**

- Solemnity of Corpus Christi Sunday Observance

**June 7**

- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Proper Mass

**June 24**

- Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Proper Mass

**August 15**

- Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Holy Day of Obligation
- Proper Mass

**August 22**

- Our Lady Queen of the World
- Principal Patroness of the Diocese
- Obligatory Feast

**September 25**

- Anniversary of Dedication of the Cathedral
- Obligatory Feast in all Parishes; Solemnity in Cathedral only

**November 1**

- Solemnity of All Saints
- Holy Day of Obligation

**November 2**

- All Souls Observed

**December 1**

- First Sunday of Advent
- New Liturgical Year

**December 9**

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2024 ●

# REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL



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OUR VIRTUAL MASS**

**WHEN:**

December 2, 2023

**WHERE:**

<https://1977-Catholic-Funeral-and-Cemetery-Services.livecontrol.tv/cadd4f70>

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A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

**Remembering those who we have laid to rest in our  
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### † HOLY SEPULCHRE

Esperanza Alcantar  
Katherine Andrade  
Clara Arenas de Zuniga  
Rita Balcorta  
Robert John Bellem  
Luis Botelho  
Kerry Brown  
Brett Burdock  
Rose Carrisosa  
Antonio Casillas  
Mary Castellanos  
James Casey  
Rosalie Conti  
Josephine Costa  
Theresa Cotroneo  
Diane Dahms  
Lafaele Feao  
James Fernandez  
Alejandro Fesinmeyer  
Lois Flowers  
Dolores Frazier  
Jack Frisch  
Carlos Garcia  
Susan Gearhart  
Jeanne Gieseke  
Jose Guadalupe Gonzalez  
Rosa Gonzalez  
Margaret Gray  
Luis Gregoris  
Mary Ann Griffin  
Ezequiel Gutierrez Jr.  
Joanne Marie Jordan  
Charles Robert Joseph Jr.  
Jesus Lantin  
John Lee  
Sheila Lovett  
Karen Luther  
Earldine Martin  
Dilan Martinez  
Jose Gregorio Martinez  
Maria Martinez  
Diane Musgrove  
Glenna Neuenschwander  
Mario Emanuel Nunez  
Teresa Montes Oliveros  
Cecilia Orella  
Rosemarie Pacheco  
Eva Padilla  
James Palmer  
Godofredo Panlaqui  
Marcel Pellerino  
Kathleen Ratto  
Baby Christina Renteria

Ronald Rinaldi  
Joseph Rodriguez  
Marie Rose  
Victoria Rualo  
Julia Severino  
Manuel Severino  
Alvin Silva  
Cecilia Silva  
Frank Souza Jr.  
Bertha Stubberfield  
George Su  
Elia Torres  
Josephine Torres  
Papaoalli Velega  
Rosa Venegas  
Marylou Vincent  
Benjamin Wei  
Mary Wilber  
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Kenneth Dulaney  
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Janet Larson  
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Catalina Ortiz-Lopez  
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Edward Rettagliata  
David Roth  
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Helen Sanders  
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Rufino Norona Quicho Jr.  
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Liliana Franceschi  
Jose Luis Hernandez Martinez  
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Judy Lundy  
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Terrence Patrick  
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Juanita Martinez  
Patricia Mendoza  
Ann Milliken  
Lindsay Samari Montano  
Catalina Ortiz Lopez  
Alex Quevedo  
Mary Lou Ramirez  
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Margarita Carrasquedo  
Ta Tran Loan  
Sesinando Mun

**Start planning today:**

**Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates**



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland**

2121 Harrison St #100

Oakland, CA 94612

# Bishop's Ministries Appeal 2023...

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- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION
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\$3 MILLION**

**75%  
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