

SAINT  
JOSEPH BASILICA

Centennial  
year 2020



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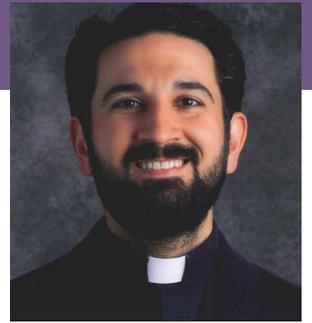
A VOICE CRIES OUT:  
IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!  
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!  
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED IN,  
EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.

ISAIAH 40:3-4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 6, 2020

*The Second Advent Candle also known as the "Bethlehem Candle" symbolizes FAITH, reminding us of Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.*

## Bulletin Letter from Fr. Mario Rizzo



Dear Friends,

As I mentioned in the announcements after Mass on Sunday, I am inviting you to a Zoom event this Saturday, December 5, from 12pm to 2pm. I would also like to provide a little bit more information about the event.

When I was assigned to St. Joseph in January it was not under normal circumstances. We can say, without making any unfounded assertions about the circumstances, that the departure of Fr. George was a distressing event for us all. This is why the community came together in the months afterwards in order to provide parishioners an opportunity to pray together and voice what they were experiencing. It is my understanding that these gatherings did not continue for very long.

During my short time here at St. Joseph, I have learned that some parishioners still desire these opportunities to come together. It was my intention to resume them earlier, but with the SIP, this got put on hold. Even though it has been some time since the parish's initial gatherings, and many of you have found closure on your own, I feel that it is still important to provide at least one more opportunity for those who desire it to come together as a community to support each other as we move forward.

The event on December 5 will be facilitated by Southdown, a wellness services institute from Ontario, Canada that specializes in ministering specifically to men and women in the church. Here is their website. <https://southdown.on.ca/> The director of Southdown will deliver a presentation on the effects of trauma in situations like the one our community has experienced. Following this, there will be ample time for small group discussion, with third-party professionals guiding each group. Our purpose is not to discuss the details or purported facts of what occurred, nor is it to assign culpability. The aim of our event is to learn and share our personal experiences in order to support each other in the healing process.

I have arranged for six small-group facilitators, and after speaking with the director of Southdown, we are aiming for 10 people in each small group, giving us a total of 60 participants. If you, your spouse/significant other, or teens/young adult children would like to attend, please follow this link to register:

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5734>

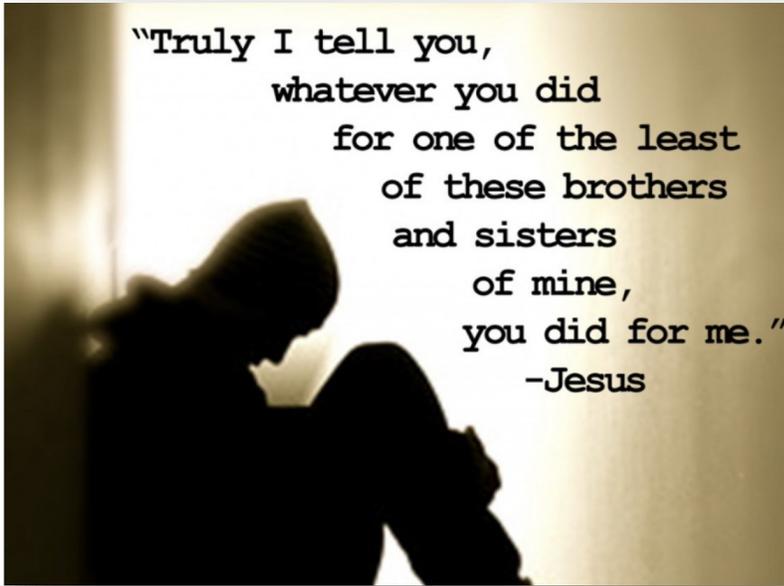
Please note, you do not need a FaithDirect account to register. Registration does require that you enter the number of people that will be attending, even if only one. Please register by Friday evening so that we can email you the link to the Zoom event. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mario

510-522 0181

Email: [fmario@sjbalameda.org](mailto:fmario@sjbalameda.org)



*Spreading Christ's Love and Christmas Joy*

The Shelter In Place Ministry is continuing the church's mission of alleviating loneliness in our collective time of separation and isolation. We have collected donations for a total of 26 embroidered fleece blankets for South Shore Care Home residents.

A special thank you to Kerry Plain for generously donating funds for picture frames for each of the 160 residents of Alameda Care Nursing Home. Their rooms will be cheered up with photos of the residents' family and friends, which is so precious in this time of lockdown for the nursing homes. Thanks to all of you for being the testament of the power of the Holy Spirit and for bringing Christ to some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.





# The Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 6, 2020

## The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin.

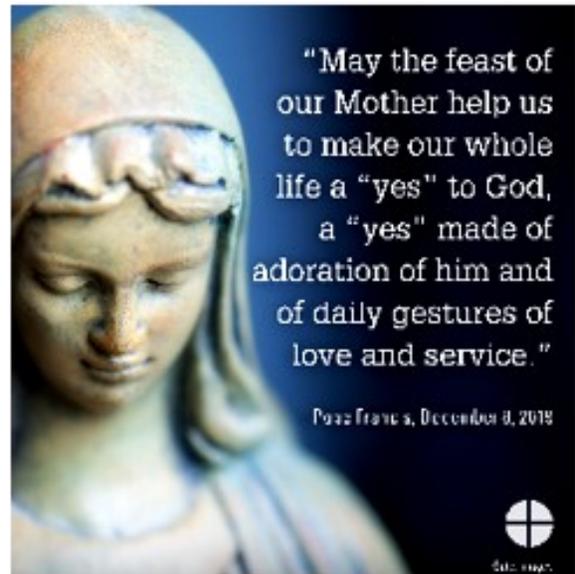
We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

### MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you we come. Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.—St. Bernard of Clairvaux



Solemnity Of  
The Immaculate Conception of  
The Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday, December 8

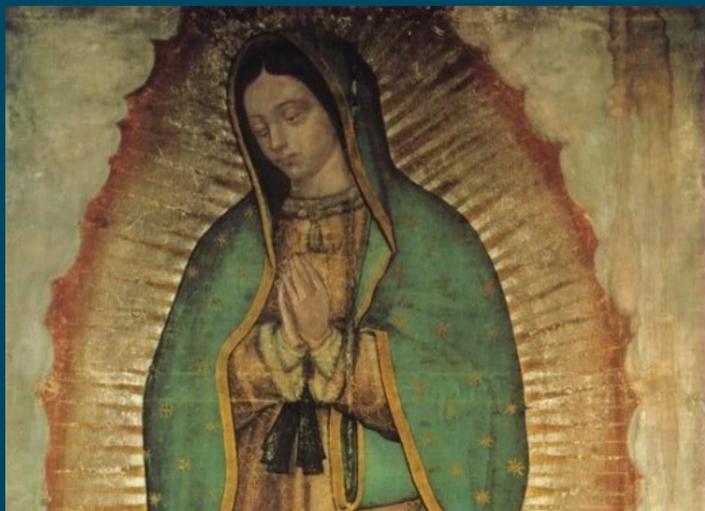
Mass Time: 11 am, Gathering Space  
Live-streaming is also available on Parish's  
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

Novena To Our Lady Of Guadalupe,  
December 3 - 11

Join us at 7:00 pm for Rosary prayer,  
live streamed on Parish's  
Facebook page.

Feast of  
Our Lady Of Guadalupe  
Saturday, December 12

Mass Time: 11 am, Gathering Space  
Live-streaming is also available on Parish's  
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>



**Your Home Is A Holy Place;  
Worship The Lord There**

An excerpt of the article by Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ, published in the current Catholic Voice.

*In this time of frustration, trials of patience, and even sickness and death, let's not lose hope. Hope is the hallmark of the Christian. Bring the holiness of God from your parish church into your own home. Your home is a holy place. Worship the Lord there. The first Christians were not free to come together for Mass and worship openly, so they gathered in "home churches." Maybe we can learn from our Catholic sailors in the submarines on months long underwater deployments, and come together as best we can to recognize Christ in our midst. And take courage from St. Paul, who certainly endured worse hardships than us. But his suffering, his carrying the cross, only made his faith stronger. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38-39)...*

**Give Your Spouse A Special Gift**

**This Christmas:** Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day! The next Marriage Encounter Weekends include: Feb 19-21, 2021 in DANVILLE, CA and Jul 9-11, 2021 in DANVILLE, CA.

For more information and/or to register for a Weekend, visit our website at: [oaklandwwme.org](http://oaklandwwme.org) or contact Ray & Roberta at: [applications@oaklandwwme.org](mailto:applications@oaklandwwme.org), or [applications@sacramentowwme.org](mailto:applications@sacramentowwme.org) or call 916-806-4601.

**Daily & Sunday Mass Schedules**

**Daily Mass**

**11 am, Gathering Space  
Monday - Saturday**

*(Livestreaming available on our  
Facebook Page)*

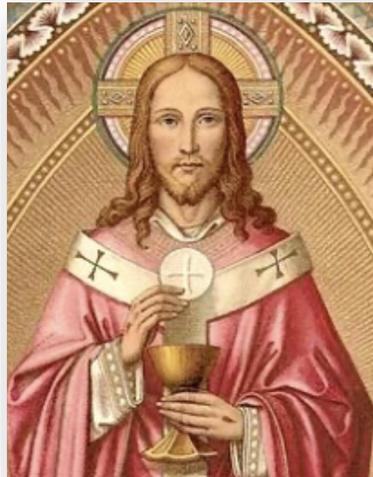
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

**Reminder:**

Catholics in the Diocese of Oakland are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice. We encourage you to live-stream Mass each weekend for those of you who prefer to stay at home or are not feeling well.

**Drive-through or walk through  
Communion on Sundays**

Starts 1.30 pm and ends 2 pm (subject to cancelation due to weather - check website for update)



**Sunday Mass In The Quad  
9:30 am**

Advance reservation is required to attend the Mass as attendance is limited to 100 people per the Alameda County's COVID-19 Guidance. Please visit our website to watch the critical video presentation before reserving a spot to attend the in-person Mass: [www.sjbalameda.org](http://www.sjbalameda.org).

***Note:** Mass subject to cancelation due to weather. Check website or Facebook for update.*

**12 Noon Sunday Mass  
Live-streaming on  
Basilica's YouTube**

YouTube Link:

<https://youtu.be/E8oxPhD00z8>

**Worship Aid**

Click [here](#)



**Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Mondays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
(During Advent)**

**Saturdays, 3:30-5:00pm**

Reconciliation will held in the Basilica,

**Basilica Open for Private Prayer**

- Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm
- Sunday: 9am - 11 am; 1pm-5pm  
**(closed 11 am - 1:30 pm to prepare for  
12 noon livestream Mass)**

Please continue to practice the recommended hygiene and social distancing. We ask you to refrain from gathering in groups, and to avoid touching surfaces and to wash hands as often as possible.

Note: Bathrooms are closed.

**Weekly Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10 am on ZOOM**

Do you have children ages 4 to 10? Help them understand Sunday's Gospel better by joining us for an engaging 30 minute session.

Click on ZOOM link [here](#) to participate.

Meeting ID: 842 1344 6023 / Password: 1109

For more information, contact our Director of Faith Formation, Anne Marie: [afourre@sjbalameda.org](mailto:afourre@sjbalameda.org).



**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? RCIA continues to meet via ZOOM each week.

Invite those thinking of becoming a Catholic to join us Wednesdays, 7:30 pm. ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82327789194>; or dial: 408 638 0968;

Meeting ID: 823 2778 9194

For more information on RCIA, please email Anne Marie at [afourre@sjbalameda.org](mailto:afourre@sjbalameda.org) or call 510-995 9409.

**ONLINE Offerings While Sheltering In Place**

**Study Group on Pope Francis' Encyclical "On Fraternity & Social Friendship"**

Read and reflect on Pope Francis' new encyclical Fratelli Tutti: on Fraternity and Social Friendship Tuesday nights at 7pm, starting November 17.

For info contact Anne Marie at: [afourre@sjbalameda.org](mailto:afourre@sjbalameda.org).

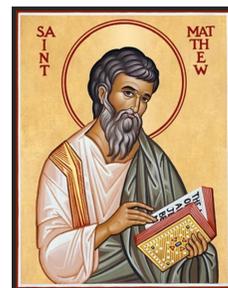
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84502864780?pwd=Z0JVYTJpNFh2ZDM2ZVBNWUZ0dlp2UT09>

Or, Meeting ID: 845 0286 4780; Passcode: Fraternity

Or, Dial 408 638 0968; Meeting ID: 845 0286 4780; Passcode: 7725501181

**Thursday Night Scripture Reflection**

Join us every Thursday night at 7pm, to pray and reflect on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. All are welcome! To participate, click [here for ZOOM link](#).



**The Catholic Faith On Demand**

We would like to remind you that the Parish subscribes to **FORMED**, an online database full of Catholic media. There are great Advent resources to help you and your family enrich your Advent Season. If you have not signed-up, click [here](#) and follow the steps. Search for St. Joseph Basilica. Registration is free.



**Recommended FORMED Video For The Family: Advent (4 Episodes)**

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," or, at least that's the assumption based on that familiar holiday song. But what does that look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorating the inside of our homes. But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given? Through

an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas.



## Our High School Annual Reindeer Run Continues!

Want to come together as a community, get outside, and stay active? Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School's annual Reindeer Run checks all the boxes, all while raising money for the Alameda Food Bank.

Between December 12-20th you can run (or walk) 3.1 miles/5 kilometers on the track or treadmill of your choosing! [Register and learn more here!](#)

### Audio Visual Support Team

We are always looking for more people to join our AV Support Team at the Sunday, 12 noon live-stream Mass. Please contact Alex Ramos: [aramos94501@gmail.com](mailto:aramos94501@gmail.com) if you would like to help out.

### News Around The Block...

- ⇒ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter - *back next week*
- ⇒ High School Flight Plan Newsletter [here](#)

## Keep Christ In Your Christmas Cards!

Our Knights Of Columbus will be selling a beautiful assortment of religious Christmas cards after the 9:30 am Mass in the Quad and at the Drive-through Communion. Share the joy of Christ's birth with friends and families while supporting our Knights and the work they do.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP In the Unexpected

*"What could happen next?"*

How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex.

Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

## Mass Intentions

11am Mass, Gathering Space & Livestreamed on Parish's Facebook page

12 noon Mass Livestreamed on Basilica's YouTube

### Saturday, December 5

11:00am †David Vital

### Sunday, December 6

[9:30 am Mass In The Quad](#)

†Richard Avila

[12 noon Mass- Live streamed](#)

†Judge Ed Vincent Albano  
Lim & Lee Families - Living & Deceased

### Monday, December 7

11:00am †Liliano Lupetti

### Tuesday, December 8

**Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

11:00 am The People of the Parish

### Wednesday, December 9

11:00 am †Alfonso & Teresita Colobong

### Thursday, December 10

11:00 am †Deceased Family Members of Belluomini & Marcheschi

### Friday, December 11

11:00 am Javier Rodriguez - Thanksgiving

### Saturday, December 12

11:00 am The Paul Ho Family - Thanksgiving

### Sunday, December 13

[9:30am in the Quad](#)

†Jennifer Stahl  
†Terese Loan & Marcel Hiribarne

[12 Noon Mass - Live streamed](#)

†Vicente Rosendo Abrogar  
†Sally Gallagher

*Please remember to include St. Joseph Basilica in your will.*

## Pray for the Sick

*May those who are in need of our prayers, place their trust and faith in the comforting presence of the Lord. Amen.*

Sandy Anderson, Ronald M Bautista, Romelita Baustita, Lhiza Brown, Lee Corral, Mary Cronin, Fong Che, Greg Falkner, Martha Flores, David McGaffey, Amelia Miguel, Jeff Murray, Joann Miller, Jack Nelson, Ted Perez, Femmia Ramos, Nory A. Reyes, Michael Ricica, Reena Salud, Ramon N. Tirona, Charles S. Thomas, Patty Wright & John Verduzco.



*Please email [secretary@sjbalameda.org](mailto:secretary@sjbalameda.org) or call (510) 995 9420 if you would like a name to be added to the Sick List.*

## Let Us Remember

All those who have died, especially  
**Gary Wright & Ricardo Lamora**

As a Community of faith, we offer our prayers and support to their families and friends. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

## Sanctuary Flowers & Sanctuary Lamp

The Main Altar flowers and Sanctuary Lamp for the week of December 5 & 6 are sponsored in loving memory of  
**Charles H. Thomas**