

SAINT
JOSEPH BASILICA

Centennial
year 2020



1109 Chestnut Street Alameda CA 94501 / Ph: (510) 522 0181

email: parish@sjbalameda.org / website: www.sjbalameda.org / Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

As the Earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

—Isaiah 61:11

On the third Sunday of Advent (also known as Gaudete Sunday, latin for “rejoice”), the rose-colored candle is lit. This candle symbolizes joy and it is also called the Shepherd’s Candle.

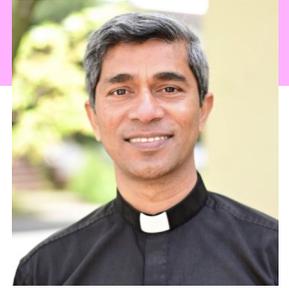


THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

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Bulletin Letter from Fr. Sunil Orathel



Dear Friends,

Rejoice! I am not light, but can testify to light. The third Sunday of Advent depicts the theme of rejoicing not only because Advent is moving towards the end, but 'Emmanuel' is close at hand. Amidst the current situations we are in, we wish to rejoice in the Lord for his bounty towards us and St. Paul gives some simple, practical ways to keep that spirit.

John the Baptist was not sad that he was not the light, nor was he the Christ. His joy came from the fact that he was testifying to the light. Just like the neighborhood is decorated with lights as an external expression of testifying to the inner light, our life too becomes one of testifying to the light, even if we ourselves are not the real light. We desire to be immersed into that Light, who can dispel the darkness that prevents us from being the light.

John the Baptist is reminding us to become the voice crying out in the wilderness: is there a wilderness in me? Is there a voice? Is there a cry? Do I hear a cry? Do I need to look into the wilderness? Can I be a voice? Can I show the light? Can I see the light?

John the Baptist points out the 'one among you whom you do not recognize': can I recognize the one next to me? How do I point out? Am I open to recognize him in the midst of the chaos, busyness or crowdedness in my life? May He the Light, enables us to make the path straight for Him.

Blessings,
Fr. Sunil

Bishop Barber's Statement Of Support For CCC COVID-19 Vaccine Stance

The Catholic Church endorses the use of the Covid vaccines. I endorse the use of these vaccines. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, the bishops on the USCCB Pro-Life Committee and Doctrine committee (of which I am a member) have studied the issue and found this medicine morally acceptable. There are no cells in the vaccines that are derived from aborted human beings. I believe these vaccines are a gift from God, and appreciate the work scientists have done in such a short time to make them available.

- Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

Treasures From Our Tradition

Today there is an abrupt shift in the season of Advent. From here on the tone is more joyful and expectant and the tug of the Christmas message is irresistible. At daily Mass on December 17 we begin to unfold the story of Jesus' birth. Who can resist the beauty of the first reading today - deserts aflame with flowers, arthritics set to dancing, the tone-deaf singing hymns? So we don't miss the change, the parish may take rose-colored vestments out of mothballs, we may light rose-colored candles on the wreath, or fill in our wreaths with desert flowers, pink seashells, seed pods, cones and berries. The seeds of God's kingdom have been sown in us. In these shining days of Advent they are sprouting in many ways. How do we bring the promise to light? This is the week to prepare gifts for the poor. It is the week to invite a lonely neighbor to your Christmas dinner, the week to write a note forgiving a lost friend, the week to shatter a family grudge so that even in the desert places of your heart, Christ's life may blossom. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

How is your family celebrating this Advent?

(Activity for at-home or online)

Looking for an activity to do with your children or those who are young at heart? Create a Jesse tree for your home or make ornaments to hang from the Basilica's Jesse tree (template and instructions available from Anne Marie at afourre@sibalameda.org) and/or celebrate Gaudete **Sunday December 13** with an Advent Party via Zoom (see link below) from **3:00 to 3:30 pm** to craft ornaments "together." Later you can hang your ornaments on the Jesse tree in the Basilica, paying attention to all safety protocols, of course! (Organized by the Special Needs Inclusion Ministry)

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. It comes from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Jesse was the father of King David, listed in the genealogy of Jesus.) We adorn a Jesse tree (a bare branch, or a small tree, or a paper tree on a wall) with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. Zoom link to Advent Party: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87614741219>



Welcome the Stranger Update

As we come to the end of this very unusual year, the Welcome the Stranger (WTS) ministry continues to work with our Guatemalan family to help them become more independent in their new lives here in Alameda. COVID precautions necessitated many changes and helping from a distance. Even with these restrictions, WTS volunteers navigated new ways to support this family. With stable housing, the family was able to focus on scheduling dental and medical appointments and working on transportation with the help of our medical experts. On the education front, our dedicated volunteers worked endlessly to advocate for educational needs for the entire family for distance learning at the elementary, high school and adult learner level for English language learners providing tutoring, procuring lap tops and internet access for distance learning. The adults have been gainfully employed and showed great resilience in coping with some employment difficulties. Their perseverance paid off and they are now working for a larger company. We continue to keep in touch with our families from Afghanistan and pray for the many losses they have endured. It has truly been a gift to be able to share our time and talent with these families. In this advent season, let us all continue to see the needs of others and respond with Joy and Hope.



Congratulations to eleven of our young people who received the Blessed Sacrament last Saturday, Dec 5th: Oliver Binder, Nia Esparrago, Naomi Gutierrez, Vincent Iazzetti, Jacob Jaber, Matthew Manabat, Marcus Medina, Faith Nguyen, Nicholas Roben, Dante Wallace and Emery Wong. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. For more pictures, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda>

Each year during Advent,

we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior at Christmas. As we anticipate this joyful celebration, we recall the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home, poor, and in great need, Mary and Joseph find refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomes the heavenly host of angels and the infant Jesus himself.



Today, women in our own communities are pregnant, poor, perhaps without a home, and in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they may be reliant on the kindness of others.

This year, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we proactively seek to offer loving care and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope, and peace brought by the infant Jesus. And may we, too, share in and bear witness to the miracle of new life. Learn more about how you can help mothers in your community by signing up at www.walkingwithmoms.com and following [@walkingwithmoms](https://www.instagram.com/walkingwithmoms) on Instagram! (Source: Diocese of Oakland)

Sacrament of Reconciliation (In the Basilica)



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

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

Even if you do not confess, God is not ignorant of the deed, since he knew it before it was committed. Why then do you not speak of it? Does the transgression become heavier by the confession? No, it becomes lighter and less troublesome. And this is why he wants you to confess: not that you should be punished, but that you should be forgiven; not that he may learn your sin—how could that be, since he has seen it?—but that you may learn what favor he bestows. He wishes you to learn the greatness of his grace, so that you may praise him perfectly, that you may be slower to sin, that you may be quicker to virtue. And if you do not confess the greatness of the need, you will not understand the enormous magnitude of his grace. — St. John Chrysostom,

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.

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84502864780?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84502864780?pwd=Z0JVYTJpNFh2ZDM2ZVBNWUZ0dIp2UT09)
[pwd=Z0JVYTJpNFh2ZDM2ZVBNWUZ0dIp2UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84502864780?pwd=Z0JVYTJpNFh2ZDM2ZVBNWUZ0dIp2UT09)

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.

Listening Ministry

As you may remember, several months ago, the Parish conducted a survey to understand the needs we as a community have during the COVID pandemic. One of the themes that were identified in the survey was an increased feeling of loneliness across all segments of our community. With lockdowns and extra precautions, we've needed to take to protect the health of others, many of us have experienced more loneliness as a result.

In response to this need for connection and support, the Parish is piloting a **Listening Ministry**. This ministry will allow Parishioners to talk to over the phone with a trained listener. While this isn't therapy, counseling, a crisis hotline, or even spiritual direction, it is a good opportunity for those who would like some connection during hard times to be able to have an anonymous friend to speak with for a bit. It is a chance to share what is on your mind and in your heart. We are here with open hearts to listen.

A *Listening Line* was started on December 2nd and 3rd, and over the next few weeks we will gauge the need for it. If you are interested in having someone to speak with, **feel free to call in on Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 7pm-9pm and the number is 510-995-9474.**

We have male and female listeners and all conversations will remain anonymous and confidential. Our listeners also have training and experience in several different cares and helping modalities.

Thank you for your continued financial support!

Sign up for St. Joseph's **Faith Direct** which is easy and secure. Click [here](#) to give with **parish code CA702**. If you need help with signing up or for more details, contact our Business Manager, Stan Schonberg: call: (510) 995 9411 or email: business@sjbalameda.org.

You can also continue to support your Parish by:

- Mail in your weekly envelopes to: St. Joseph Basilica, 1109 Chestnut Street, Alameda CA 94501
- Drop off your donations in the mail slot located at the Parish Office door.
- In the collection baskets at the Drive-through Communion.

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.

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 or call 510-995 9409.

FORMED The Catholic Faith On Demand

FAITH AT HOME

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.

E-mail Scam

We have heard recently from several parishioners that the email scam is underway again. As we have shared before, it is a national scam. You can google "priest scam gift cards" and see how wide-spread it is. We need to battle this through education and communication.

If you received a '**gmail.com**' account from any of our priest or parish staff, please do not respond. It appears that the sender is phishing for valid email addresses and if you respond, the sender will follow-up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, for example gift cards.

It is truly unfortunate that cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our Parish Family. If you receive an unusual request, call the Parish Office or our priests directly to seek clarification. **DO NOT USE** any phone number provided in the e-mail or click on any links in the email. For more information on phishing scams and email security, you can google (or search for): *Recognizing Phishing Emails*. Or, the FBI website address to file an on line Internet crime complaint: <https://www.ic3.gov>

News Around The Block...

Elementary School Weekly Newsletter [here](#)

Mass Schedules

Daily Mass
11 am, Gathering Space
Monday - Saturday

Livestreaming is also available on our Facebook Page:

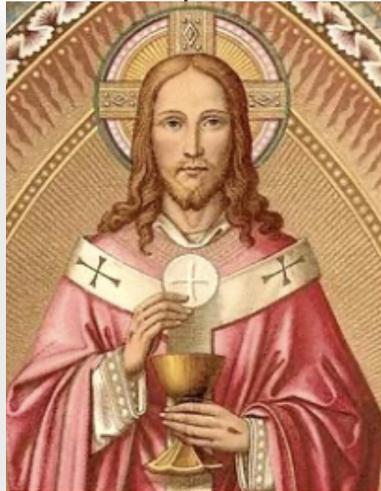
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

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

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.

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/ffwqKLyh3QQ>

Worship Aid:

Click [here](#)

Simbang Gabi Novena of Masses
December 15 through 23

Time: 7:00 pm

Mass will be live-streamed on Basilica's YouTube. Please click [here](#) for links.

The Simbang Gabi Novena of Masses is a joyful tradition and devotion of the Filipino-Catholic Community and it is shared with our Parish Community.



Due to the pandemic, the Novena of Masses will be live-streamed. Feel free to share the Mass inks with your family and friends.

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.

Mass Intention

Saturday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

11:00am The Paul Ho Family - Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 13

9:30 am Mass In The Quad

†Sally Gallagher

†Terese Loan & Marcel Hiribarne

12 noon Mass- Live streamed

†Jennifer Stahl

†Vicente Rosendo Abrogar

Monday, December 14

11:00am †Mary Brechmer

Tuesday, December 15

11:00 am †Fernanda Araica

7:00 pm †Roberto Cunanan (S.Gabi 1)

Wednesday, December 16

11:00 am †Modolfo Manuntag

7:00 pm †Eduardo Dumapias (S.Gabi 2)

Thursday, December 17

11:00 am †Maria Lupetti

†For All Souls

7:00 pm †Lucia Datu (S. Gabi 3)

Friday, December 18

11:00 am †Gerald Salleh

7:00 pm Sherley & Patrick Thong -
Thanksgiving (S.Gabi 4)

Saturday, December 19

11:00 am Gregory Falkner - Healing

†Ricardo Lamora

7:00 pm John BJ Espinosa - Healing (S.Gabi 5)

Sunday, December 20

9:30am Joann Harnett & Foley Families -
(Quad) Living & Deceased

†Eufrecina Yalung

12 Noon Mass †Ryland Kresse

(Livestreamed) †Ricardo Lamora

7:00 pm †Lina Nazareth Silva (S.Gabi 6)

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, **Jazlynn & Nia Cain**, Lee & Charlotte Corral, Mary Cronin, Fong Che, Greg Falkner, **John BJ Espinosa**, Martha Flores, **Ida Kempel**, 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 & John Verduzco.



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

Mass Intention Request (2021)

For request, please email Sherley Lim: secretary@sjblameda.org. The following information is required when requesting for the Mass Intention:

- Name of person requesting
- Name of person for whom Mass is offered - living or deceased
- Date of Mass requested
- Telephone and email information

Note: There is no guarantee of availability of Mass for a requested date. We will confirm request by email. The suggested stipend donation is \$10.

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 if you would like to help out.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5:00pm

Note: The Parish Office remains CLOSED during Shelter in place but we continue to serve you remotely. If you need to contact members of the Parish Staff, please communicate with us via EMAIL or phone.

Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation for registered, active parishioners should begin at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Please contact Fr. Mario Rizzo directly to begin the process. Call (510) 995-9421 or email: frmario@sjbalameda.org.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please visit our website under “Sacraments” for information.

- For infant baptism (6 or younger) contact Sherley Lim 510-995-9420, or email: secretary@sjbalameda.org
- For adults or children over age 6 please contact Anne Marie, 510-995-9409, or email: afourre@sjbalameda.org

Clergy:

Rev. Mario Rizzo - Parochial Administrator
(510) 995-9421 / frmario@sjbalameda.org

Rev. Sunil Orathel - Priest In Residence
(510) 301-5975 / sunil@sjbalameda.org

Parish Staff:

Stan Schonberg - Business Manager
510-995-9411 / business@sjbalameda.org

Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation
510-995-9409 / afourre@sjbalameda.org

Sherley Lim – Parish Secretary
510-995-9420 / secretary@sjbalameda.org

David Howitt - Music Director
510-995-9403 / dhowitt@sjbalameda.org

Michael Chinnavaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
510-522-0181/ mchinnavaso@sjbalameda.org

Community Staff:

Julie Guevara - Principal, SJND High School
510-523-1526 / jguevara@sjnd.org

Katherine Francisco – Principal, Elementary School
510-522-4456 / kfrancisco@csdo.org

Parish Ministries:

Most events or gatherings are canceled during Shelter In Place, although some are continuing through video conference or other means. For information on how to connect, contact:

- **Listening Line (New): 510-995-9474** (Calls schedule: Wednesdays & Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm)
- Bible Study: demcgaffey@gmail.com
- Grief Ministry: billkueppers@gmail.com
- RCIA Inquiry: afourre@sjbalameda.org
- St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471
- Shelter-in-place ministry: sjbasilica.outreach@gmail.com
- Special Needs Inclusion Ministry: drmaponce@yahoo.com
- Pastoral Care Ministry: sunil@sjbalameda.org
- Young Adults Ministry: AlamedaYAG@gmail.com
- Legion of Mary: Terecita@terecitadean.com

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