

SAINT
JOSEPH BASILICA



Centennial
year 2020

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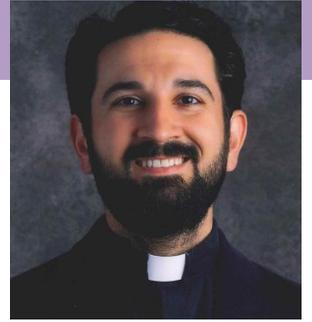
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your Word.
—Luke 1:38



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020

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Bulletin Letter from Fr. Mario Rizzo



Dear Friends,

First off, I'd like to offer some insight into some recent news. We've all heard about the COVID vaccines, and the hope that they are giving to our world. What some may not have heard is that there is a conversation going on about whether the vaccines are morally acceptable to receive. This is because vaccines are often developed using fetal tissue acquired from abortions, which are always wrong. I am not going to explain the science here, but I would like to provide a few resources so that you can explore this topic more. The first is a statement that comes from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which states that, of the numerous vaccines that have been produced, certain ones (namely Pfizer and Moderna), while not completely free from any connection to morally compromised tissue, are morally acceptable to receive, while others (e.g. AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson) should be avoided in favor of one of the alternatives. Here is the full statement: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>

And here is a briefer one: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/memo-to-bishops-on-vaccines-for-covid-19.pdf>

Lastly, here is another helpful resource which goes into more detail about how vaccines are created, and how fetal tissue plays a role: <https://lozierinstitute.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

I'd like to update you also on the Christmas schedule. If you received my Christmas letter you noticed that we initially planned to only livestream Mass on Christmas Day. Due to the expected influx of Christmas attendees, I thought it might be best to simply offer livestream only instead of denying a large amount of people the chance to attend in person. After reviewing this with the re-opening committee and the ushers, we agreed that we would be able to offer two Masses on Christmas Day, at 9:30am and noon. We are currently taking sign-ups on our website. Because of this change, **we will no longer be offering livestream on Christmas day at noon.** We are still offering the livestream on Christmas Eve. This is tentatively set for 10pm, but this may change if it violates the curfew regulation. This livestream will be available to watch on our YouTube channel Christmas Day if you prefer to wait. Please thank an usher if you see them!

Lastly, and most importantly, a word of encouragement in this final push towards Christmas. I invite you to do a check in. How has your Advent been? In his audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis noted that everyone needs interiority, to retreat within a space and a time dedicated to our relationship with God, not to evade the world or avoid disturbance, but to listen more closely to God. This is prayer, and this is what our hearts tend toward, it's what they desire. During this final rush to Christmas, give yourself the gift of silence with God in prayer. What you will find is that this personal prayer is a gift not only for you, but also for your family, our community, and the world, since this silence, as Pope Francis concluded, helps us to have a more authentic Christmas, not one centered on materialism, but on the faith, hope, and love which shines forth in the Holy Family.

With much love,
Fr. Mario

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24
10:00 pm (subject to change)
Live-streaming only
Basilica's YouTube Link:
<https://youtu.be/6tT2tKGeb-Y>

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25
9:30 am & 12 noon
In-person service only
*Advance reservation is required as
attendance is limited to the first
100 registrants at each Mass.*
Click here for details or reservation.

Christmas Day
Drive-through Communion
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Friday, January 1, 2021
Mass Time: 11 am, Gathering Space
Live-streaming available on
Basilica's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

Community Gathering: **THE PEOPLE IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT!**

Please join us for on December 21 from 7 p.m.- 8 p.m. as we as a community gather to talk about Advent and the parallels with the journey we are traveling during this time in our lives. This year has been particularly challenging for us all and we wanted to have a space where we can share our collective grief around our journey and this holiday season. The evening will be hosted by Steve Mullin and Teri Rose. We hope you and your family will join us. Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5309364930?pwd=RXVXanJDbnR2Vi9NVjNBWxhYTWx2dz09>

Meeting ID: 530 936 4930
Passcode: together

*A Message From Our Angel Giving
Project Ministry...* Thank you!! Muchas Gracias!! Merci!! Salamat po!! Thank you to St Joseph's parishioners for your donations to the Angel Giving Project! Because of your generosity we were able to give gift cards to 316 adults and children. In addition we gave games and other items to the BayView and Alameda Care convalescent hospitals to assist with social activities for their residents. We will also be able to make a contribution to the Midway Shelter Adopt-a-Bed program. Thank you for being such a caring community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!



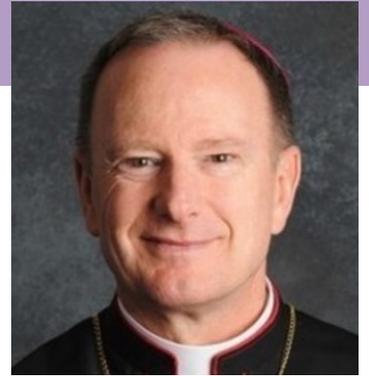
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Office Closure: The Parish Office will observe the Christmas holiday from noon on Thursday, December 24 until Monday morning, December 28. Since staff will not be checking phone messages or emails, if need to urgently contact a priest, please call Fr. Mario 510-995 9421 or Fr. Sunil 510-301 5975. We wish our Parish Family a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BARBER

Listen, act and share on the journey to Christmas

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ



Dear Friends,

The Mystery of Advent and Christmas has the power to console us in the midst of our current difficulties. God never sends us trials without giving us hope and support. If you are having a “Blue Christmas,” feeling down, isolated, as if the joy of the holiday eludes you ... I have a suggestion.

1. Listen.

The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and had a conversation with her. Mary must have been silent, or praying, in a place of quiet receptivity, so she could hear what the Angel had to tell her. The Church Fathers say that Mary “conceived through her ear” -- through her hearing. You, too, can experience Christ through hearing. I suggest that you set aside a private time or place. I prefer early morning or evening, when it is dark outside and my room is lit only by the lights on my Christmas tree. Then set up your music: Google “Advent Lessons and Carols from King's College” or “Christmas Lessons and Carols.” (It’s also on Pandora, Spotify and YouTube.) Then listen as some of the finest music ever written celebrates The Mystery of the Incarnation, interspersed with passages from the Old and New Testament. It is like having a fantastic private retreat. Once you have encountered The Mystery, go to step two.

2. Act.

As soon as the Angel had departed, Mary acted. She went in haste to the hill country to take care of her elderly cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant. Mary acted on the Word of God. The phone company AT&T had a great ad to encourage us to make more long-distance phone calls with its “Reach out and touch someone” campaign. Cardinal Newman says, “The essence of faith is to look out of yourself.” Call a friend or relative. Write a letter or Christmas card. For you youngsters: TEXT. Reach out and express some affection to someone who means something to you. Or someone you have neglected who needs your support. Just do it. The act of giving is its own reward. Support a charity, your parish or a Catholic school. Even if your kindness is not immediately reciprocated, it makes it all the more real and pure. Act out of love, not because of what you may get back.

The more you immerse yourself in The Mystery, the more the Holy Spirit will inspire you how to act on it.

3. Share.

Share the joy you get from encountering The Mystery of Christ. Say “Merry Christmas” to the cashier at Safeway. Invite a friend who is lonely to join you for Mass, or to help at the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry or soup kitchen. Invite someone for a coffee or drink, or just to take a walk and get out of the house. Small things mean so much at this time. I realize people may hesitate to meet up in person given the virus, but we can use all the electronic and human means at our disposal to share the joy of Christ's birth.

St. Irenaeus said, “How shall man pass into God, unless God has first passed into man.” Do as Mary did. Let the Word of God become fruitful in you. Let God become incarnated in you, through listening to His Word, through Baptism, through reception of Holy Communion, through immersion into the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, through the cleansing mercy of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Then, like Mary, act on The Mystery, and share it.

Merry Christmas, my brothers and sisters.

Simbang Gabi Novena of Mass 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.



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.

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: afoure@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

Phishing by Scammers Alert

During this trying times, parishioners have been the target of scammers again, who make attempts to take advantage of our willingness to help the Church or those in need. We would like to remind parishioners to be wary of scams that might involve someone impersonating a priest or other members of staff by email (usually a gmail account), asking for you to purchase gift cards and then transmit the codes back to the scammer. Please know Fr. Mario or staff will never solicit gift cards or ask you to wire transfer money. Always take care in sharing personal information by email or online. For more information about this and other scams, the Federal Trade Commission gives more details about the scam and how to protect yourself. Link to Federal Trade Commission; <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/worshippers-targeted-gift-card-scam>

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 resources to help you and your family grow in faith. If you have not signed-up, click [here](#) and follow the steps. Search for St. Joseph Basilica. Registration is free.

Mass Schedules

Daily Mass
11 am, Gathering Space
Monday - Saturday

(Livestreaming available on our Facebook Page)

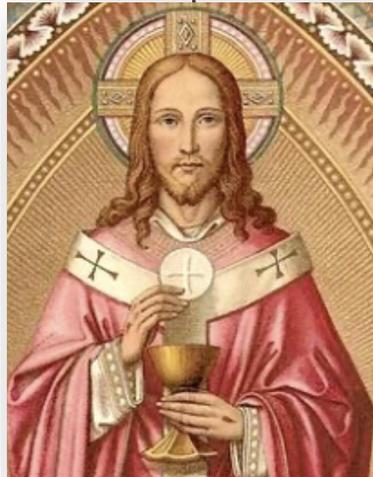
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

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, weather permitting. Please get updates on Parish's website.



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/FAIhMSKeAXE>

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, not in the confessional.

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 19

11:00am Gregory Falkner - For Healing
†Ricardo Lamora
7:00 pm John BJ Espinosa - For Healing (SG5)

Sunday, December 20

[9:30 am Mass In The Quad](#)
†Eufrecina Yalung
Joann Harnett & Foley Families
- Living and Deceased
[12 noon Mass- Live streamed](#)
†Ryland Kresse
†Ricardo Lamora

7:00 pm †Lina Nazareth Silva (SG6)

Monday, December 21

11:00am †For Souls in Purgatory
7:00 pm The Olaguer Family
- In Thanksgiving (SG7)

Tuesday, December 22

11:00 am †Florence & Gregor Bachich
7:00 pm Noel & Nida and Family
- In Thanksgiving (SG8)

Wednesday, December 23

11:00 am †Evelyn Bertelsen
7:00 pm Victor & Melva and Family
- In Thanksgiving (SG9)

Thursday, December 24

11:00 am For The People of The Parish

10:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass (Live-stream)

For the People of The Parish
- Living & Deceased

Christmas Day, December 25

9:30 am For the People of the Parish
(In-person)
12:00 noon For the People of the Parish
(In-person)

Saturday, December 26

11:00 am †Joseph Fernandez

Sunday, December 27

[9:30am](#)
(Quad)
Joseph Lap & An Nguyen
- Wedding Anniversary

[12 Noon Mass](#) †Roger Sanchez
(Livestreamed) †Myrna Pua

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, John BJ Espinosa, Greg Falkner, Martha Flores, Patricia Glynn, Ida Kempel, David McGaffey, Amelia Miguel, Jeff Murray, Joann Miller, **Lloyd Novakowski**, Jack Nelson, Ted Perez, Femmia Ramos, Nory A. Reyes, Michael Ricica, Reena Salud, Ramon N. Tirona, Charles S. Thomas & John Verduzco.



The Sick List will be refreshed in January 2021. Please email secretary@sjbalameda.org or call (510) 995 9420 if you would like a name to remain or added to the new 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

Parish Ministries During Shelter In Place

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

- 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

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 Chinnvaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
510-522-0181 / mchinnvaso@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

Listening Line: 510-995-9474

As you know, we are back under a Shelter-in-Place order in the Bay Area. We know that loneliness can increase during this time. 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.

During the month of **December**, on **Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm**, you can dial the above number to reach a listener to speak with. We have male and female listeners and all conversations will remain anonymous and confidential. Our listeners also have training and experience in several different helping modalities.

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