

# St. John the Baptist Church

11150 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 • Phone (510) 232-5659 • Fax (510) 236-0960

www.sjtbc.us • E-mail: stjohns@sjtbc.us

## Welcome!

*Our warmest welcome to all who worship with us,  
whether a long-time parishioner or newly arrived in the parish.  
As Catholic Christians, we are committed to knowing,  
loving and serving God by obeying His commandments  
and serving our brothers and sisters with love and respect.*

### Schedule of Masses

For information: [www.sjtbc.us](http://www.sjtbc.us)  
Private Masses are held on weekday  
mornings and Saturday morning without  
the congregation

### Sacraments

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday

For inquiries,  
please call, e-mail [stjohns@sjtbc.us](mailto:stjohns@sjtbc.us)  
or check website [www.sjtbc.us](http://www.sjtbc.us)



### Priests

Rev. Thuong Hoai Nguyen, Pastor  
Rev. Thang Nguyen, In Residence

### Deacons

Thom McGowan: (707)-653-4920  
Loch Sekona: (510)-837-1052

### Parish Office

Temporarily closed

### Bulletin Editor:

Ed Bautista, OCDS

### Accountant/Bookkeeper:

Arthur De Leon

### Children's Religious Education

Camille Herrera: (510) 220-3839

### Confirmation – Youth Ministry

Gina DeLaTorre: (510)-815-0050

### Adult Inquiry – RCIA

Christine Hickey: (510)-815-6022

### Pastoral Council

Thomas Fleming: (510)-502-0080

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

(510)-232-5659 for messages

### St. John's Elementary School

Principal: Dina Trombetta  
(510)-234-2244 • [www.stjohnec.org](http://www.stjohnec.org)

### St. John's Community Center

6500 Gladys Ave.

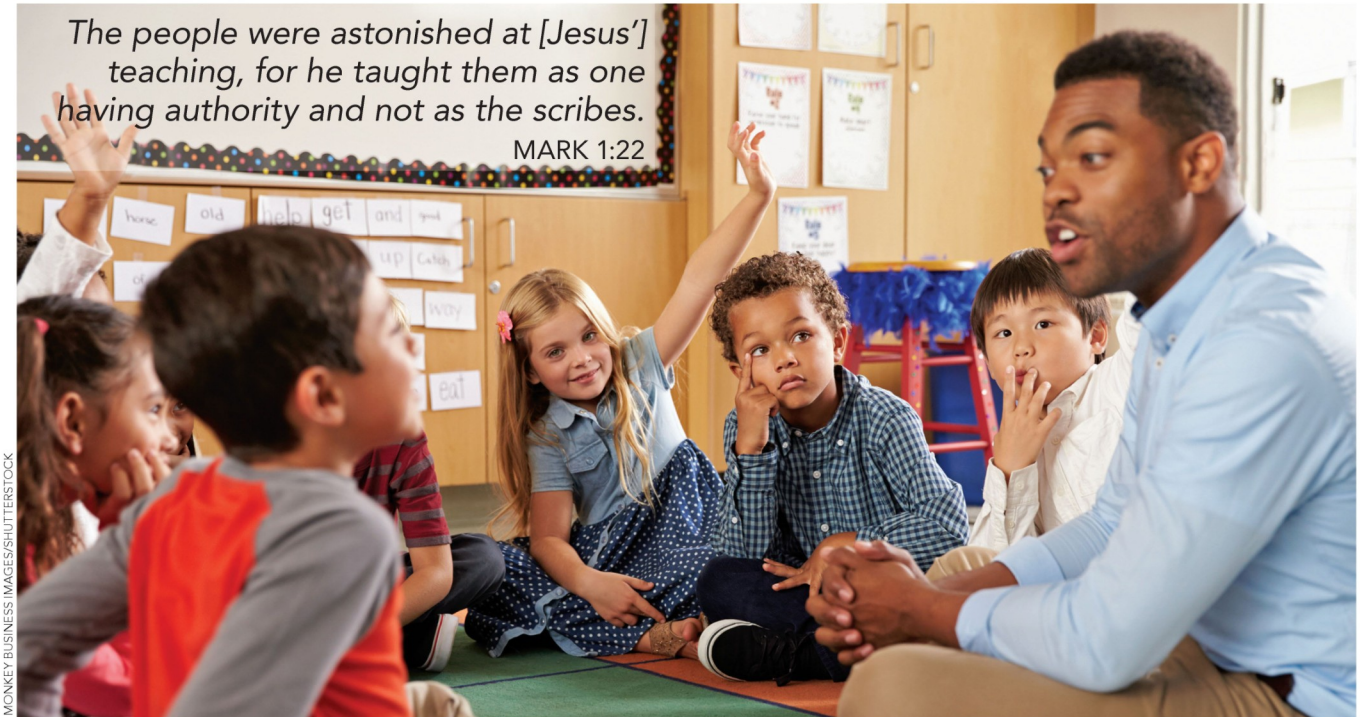
### St. John's Divine Mercy

Adoration Chapel

11152 San Pablo Ave.



The people were astonished at [Jesus'] teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.  
MARK 1:22



## Teaching with Authority

**Who teaches with authority? To whose voice should we listen?** The first reading provides an answer. Moses had been appointed by God to be God's voice for the Israelites—for that is what a prophet is. Moses assures the people that God will raise up a leader like himself. They are to listen to that voice just as they listened to his voice. The Gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of that promise.

The issues of contemporary life are extraordinarily complex. Actually, when one is in the midst of living, it is always complex. It was complex at the time of Moses and at the time of Jesus as well. So, to whose voice should disciples listen? It is easy to answer: "The one with authority." But who has authority? Recognizing genuine authority is not as easy as it sounds. Moses' position of authority was eventually recognized, but that was not the case in the beginning. The expression, "Who died and left you boss?" comes right

out of an earlier story of Moses (Exodus 2:14). As for Jesus, he never held a recognized position of authority in his society, and we know his authority seems eventually to have been rejected by most.

A sign of genuine authority is seen in the integrity of one's life. Moses led the people through the struggles of the wilderness. In this Gospel, Jesus confirms the message of his teaching with his works of healing. Who has authority? "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16).

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ As a disciple of Jesus, whose voice are you inclined to follow? Why?
- ★ What is your attitude toward official authority? Is this a good attitude to hold?

January 25, 2021

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Gospel readings of this week talk about our Almighty God whom we have to adore and worship with all of our heart, our mind, our soul, and our whole being. By our naked eyes, we cannot see God. Nonetheless, we must offer to Him everything of who we were, who we are, and who we will be for God is real, God is true, and God is Life.

The Gospel narrates, “Jesus entered the Synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.” We are also well aware of the man with unclean spirit who cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-the Holy One of God!”

As disciples, how are we to live our lives and purposeful continue the mission of Jesus. The Letter of St. Paul explains, “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News!”

St. James 1:18, 21-25 writes: “God willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures. Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the Word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets, but a doer who acts, such a one, shall be blessed in what he does.”

In all these, know God, believe in God, and serve God. Practice what we do believe; do what we truly know; and live to serve God by our actions toward our brothers and sisters.

With Love in Christ,

Fr. Thuong Hoai Nguyen

## *Mass for the Intentions Week*

|                                | Intention (s)         | Requested by               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, January 30           | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Sunday, January 31 Live Stream | Kevin Delaney †       | Patricia Scheiner-Ovenfors |
| Monday, February 1             | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Tuesday, February 2            | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Wednesday, February 3          | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Thursday, February 4           | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Friday, February 5             | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |
| Saturday, February 6           | St. John Parishioners | St. John Parish            |

### Stewardship

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### Holy Land Discovery with Jordan- (Israel and Jordan)

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Irene Blair, Robert Britto, Gustavo Caceres and  
Friends Evelyn Canepa, Al Carlson  
Brenna Clark, Jennette leadenger,  
Linda Crittendon, Cora Dongon,  
Mary Dong, Tami Duncan  
Juanita Estrellas, Eduardo  
Garchitorea, Frank Gardner  
Filomena Giese, Mike  
Giovannini, Joseph Golinveaux, Victoria Gregorio  
Andy Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez  
Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry  
Highlander, Tamaya Hunt, Ann Jones, Avelina Juat  
Tom Kennedy, Marija Limon, Bernice Lockett  
Marian & Michael Luoma, Mary Agnes, Nancy  
McVey, Cecilia Mendiola, Francis Mondragon, Judith  
Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Pam  
Paun, Victoria Payless, Marlen Pineda and Friends  
Wayne Price, Rose Anne, Fely Sabares, Jovita Santos  
Linda Schneider, Dimitri Smith, Salvador Tejero,  
Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, Isaac Tionson, Joseph Vidal  
Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Winston Williams  
Jan Williamson



## Baptism of the Lord

There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples-Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately*, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me-at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?

### This Week's Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Dt 18:15-20. 1 Cor 7:32-35.  
Mk 1:21-28.

Monday Readings: Heb 11:32-40. Mk 5:1-20.

Tuesday Readings: Mal 3:1-4. Heb 2:14-18.  
Lk 2:22-40. Or 2:22-32.

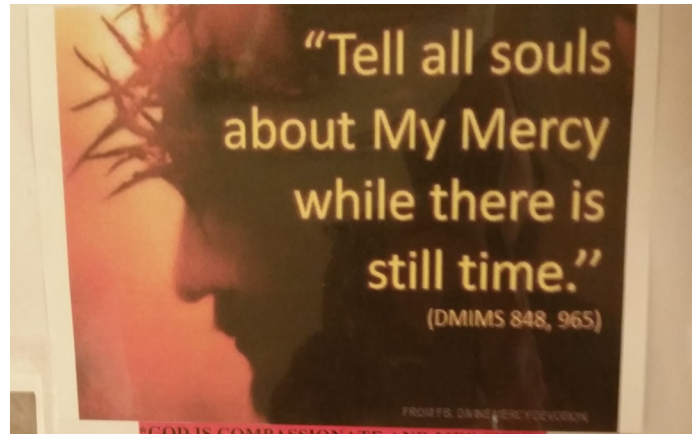
Wednesday Readings: Heb 12:2-7, 11-15.  
Mk 6:1-6.

Thursday Readings: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24.  
Mk 6:7-13.

Friday Readings: Heb 13:1-8. Mk 6:14-29.

Saturday Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21.  
Mk 6:30-34.

Daily. 24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration.  
Chapel.  
Confessions. Sat., 4pm.



### Safe Environment

Every volunteer and worker is required to complete the training at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) every three years.

### Baptism Classes

For information, E-mail: [stjohns@sjtbc.us](mailto:stjohns@sjtbc.us) Or  
check website: [www.sjtbc.us](http://www.sjtbc.us) or call the church at  
510-232-5659.

### Calls for Help & Hope

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has provided  
a lifeline of help and hope for 57 years.  
Call 1-800-833-2900



# First Saturday Devotion

Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Lucia of Fatima on December 10, 1925. It was there Our Lady requested the Five First Saturdays Devotion and gave a great promise.

Appearing with the Queen of Heaven in that apparition was the Infant Jesus, Who said to Lucia: “Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation.”

Our Lady then spoke: “See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.”





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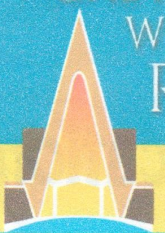
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