

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

Daily at 8am.
Saturday Vigil Mass, 5pm.
Sunday at 8am, 9:30am,
11:30am, 1pm (Chinese),
6pm Brazilian

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick, Every 1st Saturday
of the month at 8:30am
Confessions, Every Saturday at 4pm.
For other inquiries, please call, email, log
in by website, visit the church office.



Priests

Rev. Thuong Hoai Nguyen, Pastor
Rev. Joseph Tran, In Residence
Rev. Chrisantus Bemer, In Residence

Deacon

Dcn. Lochlein Sekona

Parish Office

Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Bulletin Editor

Ed Bautista OCDS

Bookkeeper

Chien Nguyen

Children's Religious Education

Camille Herrera: (510) 220-3839

Confirmation-Youth Ministry

Gina de la Torre: (510) 815-0050

Adult Inquiry-RCIA

Reyline Artiaga: (510) 502-0080

Pastoral Council

Thomas Fleming: (510) 502-0080

St. Vincent DePaul Pantry

Open: 9 am - 10 am First and
Third Saturdays of the month

St. John the Baptist Elementary School

Principal: Dina Trombetta
(510) 234-2244 • www.stjohnec.org

St. John Community Center

6500 Gladys Ave., El Cerrito

The Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

11152 San Pablo Avenue

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-14 / Mark 1:1-8



When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled “Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?” It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

Reflect

How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4



Mass Intentions for the Week

			<i>Requested by</i>
Saturday, December 9	5pm	St. John Parishioners	
Sunday, December 10	8am	Mary Frances Asta †	Keller Family
	9:30am	Diane Marin †	Kathy Klatt
	11:30am	Eliana Hernandez Araujo-Birthday	Maria Remedios Araujo
	1 pm (Chinese)	St John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	6 pm (Brazilian)	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, December 11	8am	Alberto Flores-Birthday	Agripina Delgado
Tuesday, December 12	8am	For A Personal Intention	Elaine LeCrom
Wednesday, December 13	8am	Phillip Milspaugh †	Debi Mendoza
Thursday, December 14	8am	Jerome Gronsky †	Ron Gronsky
Friday, December 15	8am	St. John Parishioners	
Saturday, December 16	8am	St. John Parishioners	

Stewardship

Plate Collection, December 4, 2023

Envelopes/Loose. \$4,233.00

Envelopes/Loose. \$60.00

Envelopes/Loose. \$578.00

This Week's Second Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Thank you for your generosity

Advent Penance Service

Reconciliation at 7:30pm, Wednesday, December 13

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday. 5pm, 9pm.

Christmas Day, Monday. 8am, 10am.

St. John Senior Center/6500 Gladys Ave.

Every Tuesday, 9am-3pm. Senior Activity and Lunch.

See Buddy Akacic, Instructor, WCC Adult Education.

St. John Christmas Party.

Please come on December 16, Saturday, 6pm, at the School Gym.

Prayers for Healing

Virginia Alday, Niani Barber, Patrick Batiste

Eleanor and Juan Beltran, Julia Bustamante

Gustavo Caceres Family,

Al Carlson, Brenna Clark

Jennette Cleadenger

Linda Crittendon

Cora Dongon, Mary Dong

Tami Duncan, Juanita

Estrellas, Eduardo

Garchitorena, Filomena Giese

J. P. Giorgi, Sonny Go, Joseph Golinveaux, Victoria

Gregorio, Jovita de Guia Andy Gutierrez James

Gutierrez Ruben Gutierrez, Marvin & Maurice

Haynes, Sherry Highlander Tamaya Hunt, Ann Jones

Avelina Juat, Tom Kennedy, Marija Limon, Marian

& Michael Luoma, Mary Agnes, Nancy McVey

Cecilia Mendiola, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella

Angelina Patacsil, Pam Paun, Victoria Payless

Melvin Perreira, Marlen Pineda Family, Wayne Price

Rose Anne, Lito Rosaroso, Fely Sabares, Jovita

Santos, Linda Schneider Sol Simkin, Dimitri Smith

Elsie Sowinski, Salvador Tejero, Isaac and Corazon

Tiongson, Jr. Virginia Velasquez, Joseph Vidal,

Sarah Vidal, Jan Williamson, Jonathan Zumwalt



My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Time has passed very quickly. It seems to me that we had just celebrated the past year's Christmas. Very soon, we will be celebrating this year's Christmas.

I like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of many blessings from our Loving Father. I would also like to offer to you some thoughts of mine to reflect on as the year is coming to an end.

First of all, take notice that we are present, bodily and spiritually, to one another by the grace of God. Secondly, we have many opportunities to worship God as a community at St. John Church. And lastly, we are able to gather together, as a family of a loving Father.

Let us give praise and glory to Almighty God who is always at our side, in spite of circumstances that are going on in life or for what may there be events that have happened. We are in Him, with Him, and for Him. May this grace never leave us and may it always be the reason to give Him all the praise and glory in every moment.

I, as your Servant, humbly implore our Lord to grant you the joy and peace of the Christmas season.

*Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year,
Fr. Thuong Hoai Nguyen
Pastor*

This Week's Service Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter on stewardship: "Christmas must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live-the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

Daily Mass: 8am.

Sunday: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11. 2 Peter 3:8-14.

Mark 1:1-8.

Monday: St. Damasus, I, Pope. Isaiah 35:1-10. Luke 5:17-26.

Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe. Zehariah 2:14-17. or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab. Luke 1:26-38. or Luke 1:39-47.

Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr. Isaiah 40:25-31. Matthew 11:28-30.

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena. 8:30am at Church and 6pm at the Chapel.

Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church. Isaiah 41:13-20. Matthew 11:11-15. Devotion to the Holy Infant of Prague Novena. At Church.

Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19. Matthew 11:16-19.

Saturday: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11. Matthew 17:9a, 10-13.

Monday-Saturday: Morning Prayer at 7:40am. At Church. Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 8:30am. At Church.

Simbang Gabi-Advent Evening Novena Mass

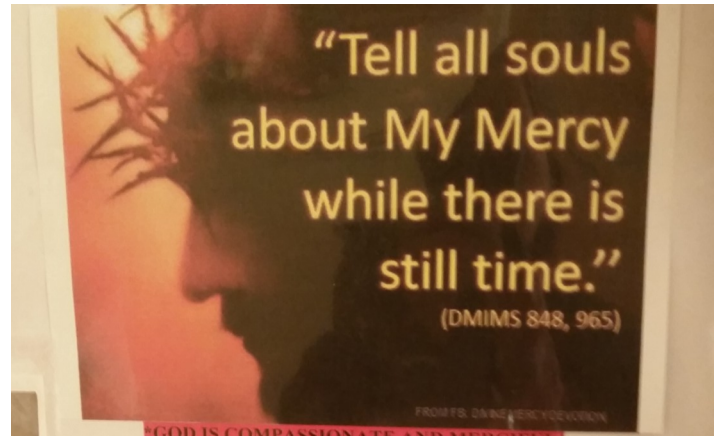
December 15-23. Weekdays at 7pm. Saturdays at 5pm. Sundays at 6pm. (Reception at the Fr. Maxwell Conference Room).

Get On The Bus

Center for Restorative Justice Works
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Bishop's Ministries Appeal-2023

As of November 30, our parish has exceeded our annual goal by 15.90%. Congratulations and thank you for all your help.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2023

To: All Volunteers

Log in virtusonline.org

Complete the first training session entitled, Protecting God's Children. The following session entitled, Keeping the Promise Alive, is due in 3 years after completing the first session. Thank you for serving in church ministries.

Prayer for the 2023 Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress

God our Father, we ask You to look with favor upon Your Church as we prepare with joyful hope to celebrate the Eucharistic Revival Congress here in the Diocese of Oakland.

Help us to better welcome the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ who assured His disciples with these words: "I Am With You Always", the same words inspiring us to embark on this journey of missionary discipleship.

Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may appreciate You more fully each time we gather for the Sacred Banquet, and become messengers of the Good News to a world hungry and thirsty for Your truth and love.

Following the example of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, may we always stay beneath Your cross, and at the same time, offer ourselves in service as Your beloved and faith-filled sons and daughters.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Synod On Synodality

To Learn More Go To: www.oakdiocese.org/synod.

St. John the Baptist Church Centennial Anniversary, 1925-2025




Simbang Gabi

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

DECEMBER 15 to 23

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Simbang Gabi

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

DECEMBER 15 to 23

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| • DECEMBER 15, FRIDAY | 7:00PM | • DECEMBER 19, TUESDAY | 7:00PM |
| • DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY | 5:00PM | • DECEMBER 20, WEDNESDAY | 7:00PM |
| • DECEMBER 17, SUNDAY | 6:00PM | • DECEMBER 21, THURSDAY | 7:00PM |
| • DECEMBER 18, MONDAY | 7:00PM | • DECEMBER 22, FRIDAY | 7:00PM |
| • | DECEMBER 23, SATURDAY | 5:00PM | |

*Hospitality and fellowship
follows right after the
mass...*



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Invites you to

Christmas **PARTY**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

(after 5:00PM Vigil Mass)

@ the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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