

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

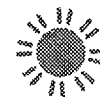
11152 San Pablo Avenue

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12



The Seekers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I live at a parish in downtown Milwaukee. From my window I watch the world pass by, everyone below in search of one thing or another. Students from the local university seek an education, business folk look for a sale, street people often look for a place to spend the night, teenagers hope to find love. Yet beneath all of those longings, in each one there is a deeper hunger that wonders what life is all about and the hope that they might find it. Hidden amidst it all, the real hunger is for God, a longing sewn into our being, sometimes recognized but too often not.

The story of the *Magi* is a story of seekers making their way from afar in hopes of finding the promised one, a newborn king. Perhaps they knew of this child's divine nature, more likely not, yet it was ultimately that same hunger that exists in all of us that drove them, a deep desire to know God.

Every serious religion seeks to experience God in life and tells the stories of those who have done so. There are Christian mystics like St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila, Jewish mystics of the Kabbalah tradition, the Sufis of Islam, Native Americans who go on vision quests, the Hindus who practice yoga, as well as the Buddhists and Taoists and Confucians. Like the Magi, we all seek to find God. ■

Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

ISAIAH 60:1

Reflect

Does it make sense to you to say that your deepest hunger is for God?

Mass for the Intentions Week

Saturday, January 6	5pm	St. John Parishioners	<i>Requested by</i>
Sunday, January 7	8am	Joseph Lewis, Jr. †	Joe Lewis
	9:30am	St. John Parishioners	
	11:30am	St. John Parishioners	
	1 pm (Chinese)	St John Parishioners	St. John Parish
	6pm	St. John Parishioners	
Monday, January 8	8am	St. John Parishioners	
	10am	St. John Parishioners	
Tuesday, January 9	8am	St. John Parishioners	
Wednesday, January 10	8am	Edgard Hernandez †	Delia Mendoza
		3rd Year Anniversary of Death	
Thursday, January 11	8am	St. John Parishioners	
Friday, January 12	8am	St. John Parishioners	
Saturday, January 13	8am	St. John Parishioners	
	11am	Memorial Mass	Yost Family

This Week's Service Schedule

The Epiphany of the Lord

Daily Mass: 8am.

Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6.
Matthew 2:1-12.

Monday: The Baptism of the Lord. Isaiah 55:1-11.
or 1 John 5:1-9. Mark 1:7-11.

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20. Mark 1:21-28.

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Mark 1:29-39.
Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena.
8:30am at Church and 6pm at the Chapel.

Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11. Mark 1:40-45. Devotion
to the Holy Infant of Prague Novena.
At Church.

Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a. Mark 2:1-12.

Saturday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the
Church. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10, 1a. Mark 2:13-17

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

Eucharistic Adoration: Daily. 24 hours a day.
At the Chapel.

Prayers for Healing

Virginia Alday, Niani Barber, Patrick Batiste
Eleanor and Juan Beltran, Julia Bustamante
Gustavo Caceres Family,
Al Carlson, Brenna Clark Jennette
Cleander
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 Tejéro, Isaac and Corazon
Tiongson, Jr. Virginia Velasquez, Joseph Vidal,
Sarah Vidal, Jan Williamson, Jonathan Zumwalt



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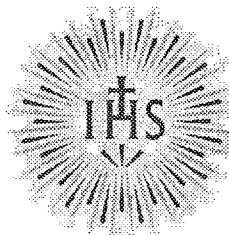
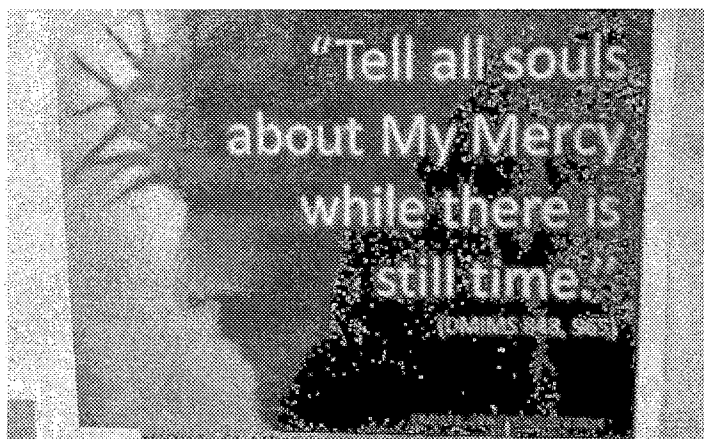
Complete the first training session entitled, Protecting God's Children. The following session entitled, Keeping the Promise Alive, is due in 3 years after completing the first session. Thank you for serving in church ministries.

Get On The Bus

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

As of December 15, our parish has exceeded our annual goal by 14.90%. Congratulations! Thank you for contributing to the ministries of our diocese.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2023

St. John Senior Center/6500 Gladys Ave.
Every Tuesday, 9am-3pm. Senior Activity and Lunch.
See Buddy Akacic, Instructor, WCC Adult Education.

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REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS:

WEEKLY (Drawn Every Monday)

AMOUNT: \$ _____

OR

MONTHLY ON THE 2ND

OR

MONTHLY ON THE 17TH

AMOUNT: \$ _____

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

PARISH & SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT (First Sunday) AMOUNT: \$ _____

PARISH CHARITY (5th Sunday of month - 4 times/year) AMOUNT: \$ _____

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL (2nd or 17th of month - Please specify.) AMOUNT: \$ _____

DATE PAYMENTS TO BEGIN: _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito**, has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford **The Church of St. John the Baptist** and **Mechanics Bank** a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Your Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Telephone Number

Please complete and send this form to:

St. John the Baptist Church
11150 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530



The Real Presence of Christ

Absence makes the heart grow fonder - sometimes! Coming out of the pandemic, most Catholics were eager to come back to Masses in the Church. People are either tired of watching Mass online, want to connect with friends in the parish, miss the ministries they serve or just want to go back to “normal”. Hopefully above all of these and other reasons is our desire to encounter Jesus at Mass and particularly His Real Presence in the Eucharist.

What is the Real Presence of Christ? The Church professes that in ‘the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist “the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ*, is truly, really, and substantially contained.” (CCC 1374) In the person of Christ, priests ‘preside at the Eucharist and consecrate the bread and the wine so that they become the Body and Blood of the Lord.’ (CCC 1411) As Jesus Himself said: “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (Jn 6:54-56).

Can we fully grasp this teaching? This doctrine is one of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith surpassing human understanding. By mystery it does not mean we cannot know anything about it, but it is a truth that on our own we cannot know everything about. Out of love, God reveals truth to us through the gift of faith and the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is only through the eyes of faith that we can perceive this unique presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

After consecration, the priest prays the anamnesis (calling to mind - “*Do this in memory of Me*”) to make present the Paschal mystery by which Christ accomplished His saving work. In the liturgy, we are not just spectators but active participants, present at the table of the Lord and at the foot of His cross with our Blessed Mother mystically connected to the divine eternity. The Eucharist cures and protects us from amnesia (opposite of *anamnesis*), against forgetting that the Lord is with us. He calls and sends us to be His real presence to the world.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Christ comforts us, empowers us, forgives us and profoundly connects us all through our union with Him. Reconstructing the saying above, a transformed knowledge of and assent to Christ’s Real Presence make the heart grow fonder of the Lord.

Deacon Fred Seril

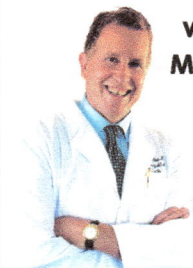
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