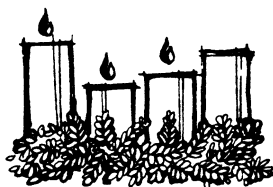


# Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2009



**Lessons and Carols:** TODAY at 2pm in the church. Come join us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child by reading Scripture, singing Advent hymns and Christmas carols.



**Pancake Breakfast:** Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast TODAY from 8:30am-11 at St. John's. Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 or \$20 for a family of five or more!

**Advent Penance Services:**  
St. Thomas Oroville – Wed, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
St. John's – Mon, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm



**Retirement Fund for Religious:** Next Sunday, December 19-20. Were you aware that about 58% of women and men religious are past age 70; 7% past age 90, and more than 4,900 need skilled nursing care? Community living provides some help, but health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income, as most elderly religious receive, on average, a Social Security benefit of just \$4,402 per year (the average U.S. beneficiary receives \$12,948 annually). Your gift makes a difference! Please give generously to next week's special collection. **Please make your check payable to St John's Church.**

**Caring & Angel Tree:** Please drop off your wrapped gifts with tag by Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to the parish office. Contact the parish office at 343-8741 with any questions. Thank you for your generosity.



**Christmas Flowers:** This year, as in years past, the Art and Environment Committee will be accepting donations for Christmas flowers and decorations. Your donation may be in the name of your family, in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving. Please return donation envelopes to the office or put into the collection basket.



**Vespers— Evening Prayer:** Join the choir to pray the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer on Tuesday Dec 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-6:30pm in the Church.



**Struggling to find a great new Christmas gift idea?** We are excited to have available for you and your family CD's from Lighthouse Catholic Media. Many titles such as *Life-changing Stories of the Eucharist; The Healing Power of Confession; and Mary Handmaid of the Lord* are on display in the vestibule. For a donation of just \$3 each these CDs will inspire you to fall in love more and more with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Or you can have these inspirational CDs mailed directly to your home. Consider joining the **Catholic CD Club**. The cost for your inspirational CD each month is only \$5 (includes shipping). A portion of that money will come back to our parish. There is no risk because you may cancel your subscription at any time. **Register online at [www.lighthousecatholicmedia/p/cdclub](http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia/p/cdclub). Please use Promo Code 49737 to ensure that our parish receives credit.**

## ✦ Mass Intentions ~ St. John the Baptist ✦

Sat 12	7:30a	✦Louis & Arline Borges by Borges Family
	5:30p	Steve Rowling (living) by Jane Rabo
Sun 13	7:30a	✦Lena Morgado by Filice Family
	9:00a	People of God
	10:30a	Jim O'Toole & Family (living) by CSUC Economics Department
	12:30p	Brianna Arevalo (living-b'day) by Oralia Arevalo
	5:30p	✦Cody Daniel Ruggle by Ruggle/Garoppo Family
Mon 14	7:30a	Laurie Rabo (living) by Jane Rabo
Tues 15	7:30a	✦Anna Elizabeth Pilliard
Wed 16	7:30a	✦Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00p	no intention
Thur 17	7:30a	Marlene Froula (living) by Knox Family
Fri 18	7:30a	✦Colleen Howard by Gala Ybanez
Sat 19	7:30a	✦Jim O'Toole & Family (living) by CSUC Economics Department
	5:30p	Charles & Hazel Nelson by Karen Neadly

## ✦ Mass Intentions ~ St. James ✦

Sun 13	9:00a	no intention
	10:30a	no intention

*Please pray for the repose of the souls of Miguel Rangel, Visenta Tadeo, Joanne Bowman, William Zimmermann, and for their family and friends.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> week of December

Collection	Actual	Budget
December 6	\$11,653	\$12,132
Year to date	\$194,290	\$211,499

(St. James total for Dec 6: (\$810))

*May your faithful generosity bring you blessings of joy, for the Bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver!"*

**To St. John's Parishioners:** Between December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Diocese of Sacramento will be airing 3,000 TV ads in both English and Spanish in the Redding and Sacramento broadcasting areas. These powerful ads are designed to help bring inactive Catholics back home, and to help non-Catholics explore the Catholic faith. The Diocese of Phoenix received over 92,000 Catholics in the course of the last year due largely to these commercials. We are hoping for similar results.

During this time I would like to ask several things of our parishioners. First, the average Catholic knows 2-3 inactive Catholics. This would be a wonderful time to share your faith with them and encourage them to return to the Church. We have a team prepared that can help them address any needs or concerns. Secondly, please be especially vigilant for visitors or returning Catholics. If someone seems new, welcome them, and through your kindness offer them a model for what it means to have a relationship with Christ and His Church. Finally, I ask you all to pray during this time for those who have left the church, those who have been hurt by the church, and those who are returning home.

Fr. Chris Frazer

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◆ ADULT FAITH FORMATION ◆

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**Scripture Study/Radio:** Joe Hollcraft is live on AM 930 at 11:00am-12:00 each Saturday and Sunday (re-aired). Tune in to the Catholic Hour, where each week Joe will offer a teaching and reflection on the readings from the Mass. In addition to his teachings, Joe's programming will look at all the important questions that people are asking about the faith today. **This week, Dec. 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> (re-air), Joe will continue to explore the richness of the Advent season with a look at the crib scene and its tie to Saint Francis. The following week Joe will offer a reflection into the history of Christmas and its catholic roots.** Please do not hesitate to send Joe any of your questions. You can e-mail Joe at [jholljmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jholljmj@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the radio program and/or the Catholic faith or go to the parish website and click on Joe Hollcraft's blog.

**Taize:** Take a break from Christmas shopping and the hullabaloo and join us for a quiet Taize prayer service at the Newman Center on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** If you are a woman in search of fellowship we are starting another segment of our study of the bible. We will be studying the book of Revelation with "the First, Second, and Third Letters of St. John and the Revelation to St. John" using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible. We will also be viewing the tapes from Scott Hahn regarding the "Lamb's Supper - The Mass as Heaven on Earth". **We meet in the Knights of Columbus room in the social center at ODS from 6:45pm to 9 pm. Come and join us on December 17<sup>th</sup> for our next meeting. If you have any questions or you would like a book ordered call Mary Waldorf at 345-8638.**

**Rosary Prayer Group:** meets on Wed evenings at 7pm, at individual homes. The current Medjugorje message from Our Lady and the commentary are read. If you would like to participate, call 342-2323 or 898-1183.

**Holy Spirit Prayer Group:** They meet at 7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of each month at the Newman Center. For more information call Sharon, 891-5334 or James, 893-2348.

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◆ CFF: CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION ◆

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*Religious Education Questions - Call 343-8741*

**Today, Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>** is the Raising Children with Christian Virtues class from 10:30am-12noon in the Upper Meeting Room of Notre Dame School. All parents are welcome. Don't miss it. The first two were great!

**Parent Sacrament Class:** The next class is January 17<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be the Mass. This is one of the mandatory meetings for all parents who have a child making their First Communion or Confirmation.

ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE

[stjohnthebaptistchico.org](http://stjohnthebaptistchico.org)

Fr. Berg's email: [fatherbrberg@yahoo.com](mailto:fatherbrberg@yahoo.com)

St. John's Office email address: [stjohn33@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohn33@sbcglobal.net)



Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Andrea Florez  
[chicolifeteen@gmail.com](mailto:chicolifeteen@gmail.com) 530-961-2050

Asst. Coordinator/LIFE TEEN Music Minister, Jeremy Bermender  
[senorjeremy@yahoo.com](mailto:senorjeremy@yahoo.com) 530-864-8187  
[chicolband@gmail.com](mailto:chicolband@gmail.com) (band e-mail)

We can't wait to see all you high school teens these last few times before Christmas break so join us on Sunday night from 7-8:30pm in the gym.

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas party we are having a white elephant gift exchange with a \$5 limit. So bring your wrapped gift for our Life Night from 7-8:30pm.

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◆ MARRIAGE & FAMILY ◆

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**Respect for Life: Help Wanted! People who respect life, abhor violence, and are willing to peacefully pray at one or both of the two abortion establishments in Chico. We need you!** Simply go to Planned Parenthood on Vallombrosa on Wednesdays or the Women's Feminist Abortion Center on Humboldt on Fridays, and pray for the mothers, fathers, and the safety of the unborn babies. Also pray for the conversion of those committing gruesome violence to the babies and mothers. Come anytime from 9 am to 12 noon.

**Natural Family Planning (Creighton model) Classes:**

Are you ready to do a great thing for yourself and your marriage? Classes are available right here in Chico. Contact Jackie Hollcraft M.S.; P.A.C. (519-5081)

**Share the Good news of God's abundant love with a practical Christmas gift—with a twist. The CANFP Blessings of NFP 2010 Calendar features the fruits of God's love through images of twelve babies conceived through the practical applications of the principles of NFP, and their parents testimony of the blessings received. Proceeds support the California Association of Natural Family Planning. Order calendars by calling 1-877-33-CANFP or e-mail [info@canfp.org](mailto:info@canfp.org) \$10 each, significant discounts offered on bulk orders.**



**Marriage Encounter:** "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more...said that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..." Come to a WME weekend and recharge your marriage/holy orders. The next local Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be Feb 12-14 in Sacramento. Early registration is highly recommended. Contact Stephanie and Deacon James Burkett at 893-2348 or email [burkett7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burkett7@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

**Retrouvaille:** This is a program to give hope and help for marriages that are experiencing trouble. For additional information call 1-800-283-5952.



With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation  
 -- Isaiah 12:3

**AROUND THE DIOCESE and beyond** ✧

**Newman Center Confirmation Classes:** If you are a college student or an adult who needs to be Confirmed please call the Newman Center at 342-5180 for information.

**Respect Life Coordinator:** The Diocese of Sacramento has an immediate opening for a Respect Life Coordinator. This full-time position provides leadership in all aspects of the Catholic Church's pro-life please visit [www.diocese-sacramento.org](http://www.diocese-sacramento.org) under Employment: Job Announcements. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**St. Patrick's Seminary & University:** "Have You Ever Thought About Becoming a Catholic Priest?" Interested? Attend a Discernment Retreat, Jan 15-17 2010 at St. Patrick's Seminary & University to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you. For more information, please contact Fr. Chris Frazer at 343-8741.

**World Day of the Sick:** A celebration held in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb 20, 12pm at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join Bishop Jaime Soto for a special Mass which will include: Anointing of the Sick, Blessing of the Caregivers, and Blessing with Lourdes Water. For those receiving the anointing, please arrive by 11:30am for seating.

**Pilgrimage:** Join Catholics for a Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & Shrines on Spain in a Holy Year June 1 to June 14, 2010. Trip includes: Daily Mass, breakfast and dinner, 12 nights accommodations, entrance fee to places included on the itinerary, round trip form San Francisco Airport, transfers on an air conditioned private coach and English speaking local Catholic guides. Cost is \$3,340 per person, double occupancy. Contact Karen Chappelle at 916-652-7560 for more details. Deadline to register is April 15, 2010.

**Christmas Party '09 for the Homeless**

The Christmas party for the homeless in Chico is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Torres Shelter starting at 6pm. To make a contribution for one of the following please call the person in charge:

- Gifts for the children, or gift certificates to a fast food restaurant: Jerry, 342-2134
- Green or Fruit Salads: Tina Lando, 342-2084
- Vegetable, potatoes, or rice holiday dishes: Barbara Francis, 893-2355
- Non-alcoholic holiday drinks: Paula Selvester, 345-1015
- Desserts: Kelly Gomez, 680-79808

Gifts and gift certificates can be dropped off at the parish office. The staff and guests at the Torres Shelter appreciate the efforts and contributions of the Catholic communities of Chico. I wish each of us could see the surprise and joy on their faces as we share our blessings this Holiday Season.

**CALENDAR** ✧

<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>8-11am K of C Pancake Breakfast</b> <b>10:30am-12pm CFF</b> <b>2pm Lessons and Carols (in church)</b> <b>7pm Life Teen</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>St John of the Cross</b> 6-8pm English AA
<b>Tues</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>16</b>	6-9pm Spanish AA 7-9pm Boy Scouts Troop #2
<b>Thu</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6-9:30pm Sons of Italy</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3:30-4:30pm ADORATION</b> 6-9pm Spanish AA
<b>Sat</b>	<b>19</b>	10am Confessions

**Library Hours & News:**

Sunday 8:15-12:30pm & Thursday 9-11am



An excellent conversion story has been donated to the library titled *How Firm the Foundation*; the first novel of Marcus Grodi of EWTN's The Journey Home. This thriller is also a gem of catechesis citing scripture and the early Fathers as the basis to help not only those coming into the Church but those already there.

A recently released documentary is in about the spiritual quest of Thomas Merton titled, *Soul Searching*. This DVD uses available photos of Fr. Louis accompanied with interviews of those that knew him or have become authorities of his life which is unfolded in an honest light.

The *Maldonado Miracle* is a joyous movie starring Peter Fonda, Mare Winningham and Ruben Blades. Set in the southwest, a town finds itself the center of media attention when a miracle takes place in the Catholic Church, or does it?

**EMHC AND LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

TIME	EMHC	LECTOR
5:30pm Sat	Karen Neadly Arlie Hixson Tom Hixson	Karen Monroe Bruce Neadly
7:30am Sun	Jean Mayer Ona Mertens	Yolanda Holt Lyle Anderson
9:00am Sun	Cathy Boutwell Dan Boutwell Barbara Bertapelle Bill Mutch Diane Smith Donna Houston	Claire Johnson Stephanie Burkett

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10;  
Lk 1:39-45

**Liturgy of the Hours Week III**

