



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2007**

*They shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."  
-- Matthew 1:23*

**✦ PARISH & SCHOOL NEWS ✦**

Parish Office Hours during the Christmas Holidays:

Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Closed
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Closed
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm

**WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST:** Sat Jan 19, 2008.  
An awesome experience! There is a comfort travel bus that will pick up in Chico. For more information call Erika Sajben 566-1201. Call the parish office to register and reserve your spot 343-8741. Cost is \$37 per person.

**GROUP PICTURES:** Now that we have taken all of our parishioner pictures we need to start gathering pictures from all the different organizations and ministries such as Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, Life Teen, Lectors, and all our Hispanic groups etc. If you would like your organizations or ministry represented in the directory please send in pictures to the parish office no later than Jan 7. Be sure and attach necessary information. You may also send a digital copy to the parish office email address. Please call the office if you have any questions 343-8741.

*Thank you for the flower donations for Christmas...*

<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
<i>Bud Stalker and Mary VanBuskirk</i>	<i>Lona Stalker</i>
<i>Costante Terzi</i>	<i>Elena Nilsson/Rachel Greenway</i>
<i>Mary Silvasie</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Florence Smith</i>
<i>Renado &amp; Maria Chinca</i>	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Reno Ricci</i>
<i>Richard &amp; Katherine Gavranich</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Donna Sloan</i>
<i>Steven Lydon</i>	<i>Don &amp; Joan Lydon</i>
<i>Bill &amp; Alice Bonnema</i>	<i>Ron &amp; Patricia Bonnema</i>
<i>Denise Marie Boutwell</i>	<i>Boutwell Family</i>
<i>Dick &amp; Lillian Cook</i>	<i>Donna Houston</i>
<i>Joseph McCart</i>	<i>Mary McCart</i>
<i>Forbes Family</i>	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Allan Forbes</i>
<i>Frank Vrisimo</i>	<i>Helena Vrisimo</i>
<i>Jack &amp; Pat O'Keeffe</i>	<i>Diane O'Keeffe Smith</i>
<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Mutch and Mr &amp; Mrs Day</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Patty Mutch</i>
<i>Jim Sturgeon and Theresa Sullivan Allee</i>	<i>Catherine Sullivan</i>
<i>Angela Tipps and Secondo &amp; Mary Teado</i>	<i>Michael &amp; Diane Reynolds</i>
<i>Albert &amp; Georgiana Ashley</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Geraldine Meyer</i>
<i>Pat &amp; Marian Murphy</i>	<i>Michael &amp; Karen Murphy</i>
<i>Manuel H. Bettencourt</i>	<i>Diana Bettencourt</i>
<i>Joseph Wang and Richard Wang</i>	<i>Anonymous</i>
<i>Doris Gromley</i>	<i>Sam Gromley</i>
<i>Eusebia Pecson</i>	<i>Lilia Crawford</i>
<i>Martin Family</i>	<i>Martin</i>
<i>Ernesto Gutierrez</i>	<i>William &amp; Connie Adams</i>
<i>Jeanne Sauer and John Kishel</i>	<i>Ed &amp; Mary Wittmeier</i>

*And to all those who contributed to the Christmas flower fund.*

✦ Mass Intentions ~ St. John the Baptist ✦

Sat 22	7:30a	✦Vivian Reginato by Ida Martin
	5:30p	✦Colleen Howard by Gala Ybanez
Sun 23	7:30a	Rosanne Correa (living/B'day) by Maria Correa
	9:30a	People of God
	12:30p	✦Victor Raul Marrero by Lupe Alfaro
Latin Mass	2:30p	Special Intention
	5:30p	Caroline Sajben (living/B'day)
Mon 24	7:30a	Carlena Boutwell by Cathy Boutwell
	5:30p	✦Richard Bidwell by Lyle & Therese Anderson
	7:30p	no intention
	Midnight	Missionaries of Mercy by DJM's
Tue 25	7:30a	✦Vince Starwyck by Mike & Jane Rabo
	9:30a	People of God
Latin Mass	11:00a	Special Intention
	12:30p	no intention
Wed 26	7:30a	✦Vince Starwyck by Mike & Jane Rabo
	7:00p	no intention
Thur 27	7:30a	✦Alexander & Maria Enos by Laura Mendonca
Fri 28	7:30a	✦Manuel & Melvin Mendonca by Laura Mendonca
	8:30a	NO MASS (VACATION)
Sat 29	7:30a	✦Joseph Miguel
	5:30p	✦Nora O'Brien

✦ Mass Intentions ~ St. James ✦

Sun 16	9:00a	no intention
	10:30a	no intention

*Pray for the repose of the soul of Ellen Scofield, Gerda Hase, Archbishop Kirima and for the comfort of their family and friends.*

**Weekly Offering**

<u>3<sup>rd</sup> week of December</u>	
Sunday Collection	\$7,766
Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,266</b>

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

*--2 Corinthians 9:7*

ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE  
[stjohnthebaptistchico.org](http://stjohnthebaptistchico.org)

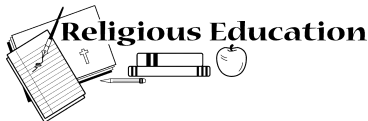
Fr. Brent's email: [fbrent@stjohnthebaptistchico.org](mailto:fbrent@stjohnthebaptistchico.org)  
St. John Office email address: [stjohn33@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohn33@sbcglobal.net)

(NEW E-MAIL)  
Chico\_lt\_ym@yahoo.com

Andrea Florez, Youth Director 530-961-2050

**LIFE TEEN – EDGE –** We are taking a Christmas break during this busy season. Please enjoy this time with your family and friends. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! My God bless you and your families during this Christmas Season!**

✦ **CFF: CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION** ✦



**Religious Education Questions**  
Call 343-8741

**Sacramental Parents Classes are** for parents who have children receiving Sacraments this year. The required classes will be **Tues Jan 22, Feb 19, March 11, April 22, and Sun May 4.** Watch for details of time and place.

**All CFF parents** are encouraged to attend the following classes. Some topics that will be discussed will include: How to better our relationship with God at home; How we as parents can emphasize God's love to our children; Learn more about our Catholic Faith.

**MARY SHALL BEAR A SON AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS**



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✦ **ADULT FAITH FORMATION** ✦

**Catholics Returning Home:** A Ministry of Compassion and Reconciliation is designed to reach-out and encourage non-practicing Catholics to return "Home to the Catholic Church" and resume active practice of their faith. For more details contact Deacon James Burkett at 893-2348.

**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 Haselton: 891-5334 or James Burkett: 893-2348.



**Scripture Study/Radio: Joe Hollcraft is live on AM 930 at 11:00am-12:00 each Saturday and Sunday (re-aired).** Joe will have a different guest each week. Each program will be devoted to the readings from the Mass. On Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> (program to be re-aired Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>) Joe will be joined by Ann Baumgartner and they will consider the deeper sense of Christmas in lieu of the Gospel of Matthew. The following week will be the same program re-aired due to Joe's vacation schedule. Be sure not to miss this great opportunity to better understand the Bible and the structure of our faith. You can email Joe at [jholljmi@yahoo.com](mailto:jholljmi@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the radio program and/or the Catholic faith.

✦ **MARRIAGE & FAMILY** ✦



**Respect for Life Committee:** Prayer for Advent – God of Life, We rejoice in the promise of your coming. You have sent your Son, born in Bethlehem. He is the Prince of Peace, and the one in whose name all oppression shall cease. May we welcome His coming each day and prepare for His coming at the end of time. May we build a culture that welcomes Him by welcoming every child, born and unborn. We pray through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. **Please join us for the next Respect Life Committee meeting on Dec 18th at 3:30 in the St. John's library.**

**Mothers' Prayer Group:** Join other mothers and children for a "pray and play" group every Thursday at 10:30am in the preschool room at ODS. If you have any questions, please call Marijeanne Birchard at 343-6912.



**Marriage Encounter:** Make a great marriage even better! Sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Call Stephanie & Deacon James Burkett at 893-2348 for more information.

**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. (899-0243).

**Retrouvaille:** This is a program consisting of a weekend experience and 6 post-weekend sessions designed to give hope and help for marriages that are experiencing trouble. For additional information, go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org) or call 1-800-283-5952.

**University of Sacramento:** The University of Sacramento is excited to announce our Spring 2008 course entitled Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This course provides the content requirement for the Basic Catechist Certificate and is approved by the Diocese of Sacramento. If you are interested and would like more information, please call 916-443-4760. Applications and registration forms for all our programs in Catholic Faith Formation may be located online at [www.universityofsacramento.org](http://www.universityofsacramento.org)

**One-day Seminar:** Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> Dr. Alexander Shaia will offer a one-day retreat on “The Wholeness of John’s Gospel.” Faith Lutheran Church social hall from 9am-2pm, \$15 donation. For more information contact Connie Cox at 345-2378.


**Travel to France:** Pilgrimage to Catholic France (Lourdes & Other Sacred Sites) with Fr. Steve Avella, May 13<sup>th</sup> thru May 28<sup>th</sup> 2008. For details call Karen Chappellear, 916-652-7560. Leaves from SFO.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren’t for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn’t make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn’t admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn’t make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

—James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9am-noon RCIA <b>NO CFF</b> <b>2:30pm Latin Mass</b> <b>NO Life Teen</b> <b>7-9pm Posadas (in church)</b>	
<b>Mon 24</b>	<b>Vigil of Christmas</b> 6-8pm English AA NO BSA #2 (Convent) 7-9pm Spanish Cursillo	
<b>Tues 25</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b>	
<b>Wed 26</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6-9pm Spanish AA	
<b>Thur 27</b>	<b>St. John</b> <b>Office open 9am-12noon</b> 7pm Rosary	
<b>Fri 28</b>	<b>The Holy Innocents</b> <b>Office open 9am-12noon</b> 6-7am men’s Bible Study (ODS) 6:15am Bible Study with Fr. Brent <b>All are welcome!</b> <b>3:30-4:30pm Adoration</b> 6-9pm Spanish AA	
<b>Sat 29</b>	<b>The 5<sup>th</sup> Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> 10am Confessions 6pm Spanish Coro	

**Library Hours:**

Sunday 8:30-9:30am & 10:30am-12:15pm

Wednesday 9-noon and Thursday 9-noon



*The library staff would like to thank all those who have given so generously to the library fund. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*  
*Christmas hours: Wed Dec 26<sup>th</sup> thru Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Closed*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
- Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14] 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

