Our Mission…

To Be Christ for Others
As Christ is for Us
“Learn it, Live it”

St. Joan of Arc Parish
2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. • San Ramon, CA 94583-1630
September 17/18 2011

DAILY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Saturday, 4:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. or by appointment
Saturday Evening Mass (Vigil of Sunday) – 5:30 P.M.
Sunday Masses – 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. & 12:00 Noon
Daily Masses: Monday through Friday – 9:00 A.M.
Communion Service: Saturday mornings – 9:00 A.M.
Anointing of the Sick: 1st Saturday of the month – 9:00 A.M.
Holy Day Masses – 6:00, 9:00 A.M., 12:10 & 7:00 P.M.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 7:00 p.m. First Friday of each month
(unless otherwise noted)

REGISTRATION:
Pre-registration Forms can be found on the vestibule counters.
You may drop them at the parish office or in the collection basket.

PARISH OFFICES
Mon. & Tues. 8 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.;
Wed. & Thurs 8 A.M. to 4 PM; Friday Closed
Phone: 925-830-0600
Fax: 925-830-5059
Email: ParishOffice@sjasr.org

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE
Grades 7-12
Phone: 925-830-4720
Fax: 925-830-5059
Email: YouthOffice@sjasr.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
Pre-School-Gr. 6
Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Fri., 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 925-830-4710
Fax: 925-830-5059
Email: REOffice@sjasr.org

CYO OFFICE
Basketball: stjoancyo@aol.com
Track: www.stistjcyotrackclubspaces.com
Website: www.stjoancyo.com
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It’s a wonder that we have any understanding of fairness, because life is anything but fair. People are not equally healthy and happy. They are not equally talented and successful. But deep inside we treasure the dream of a world where each person is treated fairly.

Try as we might to convince God to run the world our way, he has his own rule book and time table. We hear from Isaiah 55:6-9, that his thoughts are not our thoughts. His ways are not our ways. For all of this world’s misery and meanness, God is still in control of things.

The truth from today’s Gospel from Matthew 20: 1-16, is a bitter pill for some people to swallow. They can’t bear the thought that God might treat people the same, even if they don’t deserve such consideration. They do not understand that whatever God gives us is all grace.

As American’s we believe that all people are created equal --- endowed by their Creator with rights, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Yet we know that such equality is an ideal rather than a reality. Our response to life’s unfairness is the real test of our faith. We can become bitter over life’s unfairness to us and indifferent to life’s unfairness to others. Or we can strive to make the world a fairer place for ourselves and others without surrendering to despair or defensiveness.

Blessings, Fr. Ray
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 18, 2011
Mass Intentions

SAT: 5:30 PM  Iluminada Mata +
SUN: 7:30 AM  Chuck Durant +
9:00 AM  Members of our Parish
10:30 AM  Patty Edwards +
12:00 PM  Teodulo Felicidario, Jr. +
MON: 9:00 AM  Honey Giblin +
TUES: 9:00 AM  John & Enrichetta Basso +
WED: 9:00 AM  Andrew Kulka +
THURS: 9:00 AM  Eugenia Samson +
FRI: 9:00 AM  Souls in Purgatory
SAT: 9:00 AM  Communion Service

Pray for those who are sick or suffering:

Pray for our deceased: Michael Boyle

**Please contact the parish office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. Names will appear for one month. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, please call the Office and we will gladly include them in one-month increments as long as necessary.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

VOCATIONS

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life please call Fr. Kenneth Nobrega, Director of Vocations for the Oakland Diocese.
510 267 8345
KNobrega@oakdiocese.org

PEOPLE OF LIFE

The Gabriel Project was initiated in 1990 by two Texas Catholics. They saw a sign erected by Msgr. John Perusina outside the rectory of his Houston parish. “If you have your baby, this parish will help you in every way.” They realized that this message could be embraced by every Catholic parish.

In the USCCB’S Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, the bishops said, “We renew our offer of assistance to anyone considering abortion: If you are overwhelmed by the decisions you face, if you cannot afford medical care, if you are homeless or feel helpless, whatever your needs, we will help you. The Church and her ministries, inspired by the word and example of Jesus Christ, will help you with compassion and without condemnation.”

In August, 2009, Archbishop George Niederauer noted that one of the objectives of a parish pro-life committee should be to “develop or adopt a parish-based ministry to pregnant women and their children. The Gabriel Project answers this call. It embodies the practical support that the bishops promise pregnant women.”

The Dioceses of San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento and Oakland have joined efforts and resources to help these women in need. Less than two years ago, the Gabriel Project started here at SJA. This caring community has already assisted 4 pregnant women. On Thursday, September 22 after the 9:00 a.m Mass, there will be a procession and blessing of the new Gabrielle Project Sign.

RCIA

If you or someone you know is interested in Joining the Catholic Faith or completing the sacraments of initiation, please contact Maureen Tiffany at 830-4710 or mtiffany@sjasr.org.
THANK YOU!

Our program exists and is working because of generous volunteers who give of their time and talent to work with the children of the parish. Thank you to those who have answered that call. We have over 40 volunteers for Kindergarten through Grade 3. We will have a Catechist Orientation this Thursday, September 22 for THE ROCK and BLAST facilitators. We will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 just like we do for our sessions.

MARK YOUR Calendars...all volunteers who work with children will need to go through the LIVESCAN process (fingerprinting). We will have people on site at St. Joan of Arc on Sunday, October 9 from 10 to 2. Please watch the bulletin for the next few weeks to see how to sign up for this.

You can not work with children unless you are livescanned.

BLAST
R U a 6th Grader...then BLAST is 4 U

Don’t be left out! If you have not signed up for BLAST, do so as soon as possible. Our classes begin October 6 with an evening of fun and games for you and your family.

Contact Marcela Kamp at 830-4710, mkamp@sjasr.org or REOffice@sjasr.org if you are interested in joining in the fun.

LITTLE SAINTS
PRE-K CLASSES BEGIN
OCTOBER 2ND DURING THE
9:00 & 10:30 AM MASS
STOP BY THE
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
OFFICE TO REGISTER

LITTLE ANGELS Childcare is available during the
9 & 10:30 a.m. Mass.
SIGN UP IN CLASSROOM 2
BEFORE MASS
or Call Jamie at 830-4710 ext. 232

LITTLE ANGELS STAFF SPOTLIGHTS
Mary Reiss & Kathleen Larson

Mary (left): Married to Mike for 26 years with two sons, Howard, 23, who graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Adam, 21, attending Santa Clara University and daughter, Michelle, 18, just out of high school. I moved to San Ramon in 1993 and joined St. Joan of Arc Parish. I enjoy caring for children and have been with Little Angels for almost 6 years. During the week I am a nanny for two families.

Kathleen (right): I have been a resident of San Ramon for 20 years. My husband Dave and I have one child, Brian, who is currently a senior at San Diego State. I enjoy children and have found that spending time with the Little Angels of St. Joan's has been fun and rewarding.

WHOLE COMMUNITY CATECHESIS - what is it?

This is an opportunity for adults to join with others in the community to form community, share faith, build friendships and support each other. There are children present for part of the meeting but they leave for their own catechesis on their own level.

All are invited to join us for this special program that will focus on Living the Commandments. This program begins next Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 am in the Gym. Come and check it out. Call the RE Office for more information and a schedule.
1st LIGHT
Night of the year.
Monday, Sept. 26
6:50-8:30 p.m. in the MPR: C-O there!

EDGE kick-off!
Wednesday, Sept. 28
6:50-8:30 p.m. in the gym
"September 18, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, we see how much Our Lord wants us to be co-workers with him. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard is one that probably startles us when we hear that the vineyard owner paid those who worked only part of the day, the same wage as those who labored all day long.

The vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" The parable, however, is not so much about the workers as it is about the owner of the vineyard. The owner paid all the workers everything they had agreed upon. In his generosity, he paid many of them more than was required.

In the same way, God, in his mercy and generosity, gives all who turn to him eternal life in heaven, whether they have served him all their lives or have responded to him a short time before death.

Our response to this merciful and generous God should be one of thankfulness and a generous return to him in thanksgiving for his many blessings. Just as the Master went out repeatedly to invite more workers into his vineyard, so Our Lord continually calls us to participate more fully in the life of the Church. How many times does God have to call us, before we answer his call? Even the workers who entered the vineyard late were paid well.

How well do we fulfill our jobs as Christian stewards?

Treasure

Weekly goal: $28,000

**September 10/11, 2011 Collection**
- Envelope Users $12,015.00
- Loose Checks $3,416.00
- Loose Cash $3,155.50
- OTHER * $5,430.00
- **Total Sunday Collection** $24,016.50

Excess (shortfall) $3,983.50

*Other includes EFT

Employee Giving Campaign, On-Line Banking

Today we support the Holy Father in his charitable works. **The Peter’s Pence Collection** is taken up worldwide to support the most disadvantaged. Cast the peace of Christ upon the world—please be generous in today’s Collection.
**St. Vincent de Paul Truck Will Be Here**
**October 1st and 2nd**

Donation bags for clothing will be available at the church on September 24 and 25 after each mass.

St. Vincent de Paul members will be on the truck after mass Saturday, October 1st and Sunday, October 2nd. If you wish to donate large items such as furniture, automobiles or boats, please call St. Vincent de Paul at (925) 439-5060.

Your continued generosity in assisting our mission of helping those in need is very much appreciated.

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**FOOD FOR FRIENDS**
**NEXT COLLECTION**
**WEEKEND OF**
**SEPTEMBER 24-25**

Thank you, St. Joan of Arc Parishioners, for your continued generosity and support of Food for Friends. Your abundant donations provide physical, emotional and spiritual nourishment to many people throughout the area by way of the seven charitable organizations that we support. St. Joan’s parishioners really do make a big difference in their lives! 203 bags of groceries were donated in the August collection along with grocery store gift cards. Our recipients are so very grateful!

Please remember to pick up bags on the weekend of September 17-18, and return them the following weekend. If no one is distributing bags at the Mass you attend, you’ll find them on the counters in the vestibules. Suggestions lists are attached, indicating special needs for the month, such as cereal, canned goods, flour, corn meal, peanut butter, oil, pasta, and soups, along with other items suitable for school vacation lunches. Grocery store gift cards or cash donations are also welcome.

May the Lord continually bless you for your abundant generosity to Food for Friends.

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**REGISTER NOW!**

For the 6th Annual St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament, Dinner, Auction and Dance. Saturday, September 24th

*This event will benefit the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area along with the St. Joan of Arc Church Building Fund and Youth Ministry.*

This year’s **hole-in-one prize** is a 2011 C-Class Mercedes Benz! Register online at [www.kofc9206.org](http://www.kofc9206.org) or call (925) 263-1776 for more information.

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**BART**

St. Vincent de Paul welcomes partially used BART tickets. You can drop them in the collection basket or bring them to the parish office. Thank you.

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**ATTENTION**

**ALL VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARISH**

According to Diocesan policy, all volunteers in the parish must go through Safe Environment Training either with a live trainer or on line at the shieldthevulnerable.org.

We must keep an updated certificate of completion on file for all volunteers. We are planning to do a live training on **Sunday, September 25 from 2:30 to 4:00.** (Note the time change from last week).
ST. JOAN OF ARC

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Sept. 27th thru Nov.15th, 2011
7:00pm to 9:00pm

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Each person’s grief journey has its own path and its own timeline. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each journey……

Join us and let us accompany you on your journey of healing...

LOCATION: St. Joan of Arc Church
2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
San Ramon, CA  94583

DATES & TIMES: Sept. 27, Oct. 4,11,18,25,Nov.8, 15

Mass of Remembrance on Nov. 2, 2011
7:00pm to 9:00pm

PROGRAM INFO: Pre-registration is REQUIRED, limited space.

For more information or to register by phone call:
Carol @(925)735-7611, Patrick @(925)963-7726, Susan@(925)830-1737

Previous participants are WELCOME to re-attend…everyone’s journey is unique and takes as long as it takes……

St. Mary’s Center Gala

St. Mary’s Center Gala on Saturday, October 8th, 2011 will celebrate the religious women who have carried the torch of the elderly poor and neighborhood children in downtown and West Oakland since 1939!

The Dinner, Dance and Auction benefits homeless and low income seniors and children in need of food, housing, an education and community. It will be a wonderful evening and a chance to bid on amazing items ~ a week in a Switzerland Chalet, romantic getaways, airline tickets, sailing on the bay and more.

Tickets: $75
Location: Greek Orthodox Cathedral
4700 Lincoln Avenue Oakland
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Call (510) 923-9600 x 222
www.stmaryscenter.org

St. JOAN OF ARC PARISH
Vision Statement

Be a Voice for Life & Dignity in California

Our Catholic faith calls us to participate in our communities. That same faith calls us to protect life, ‘L, promote dignity and respect for all human beings from conception to natural death. And in Faithful Citizenship, the U.S. Bishops challenge us to be more involved:

"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation."

In response, the Bishops of California have established the Catholic Legislative Network to help us be better informed about state and national policy issues and make it easier for us to become more engaged in the political process. On the weekend of October 1/2, 2011 every parish in the Diocese of Oakland will hold a Life & Dignity Sunday. During each Mass, the Network will be explained and parishioners encouraged to register. Cards will be forwarded to the California Catholic Conference for inclusion in the statewide database. All registrations will be returned to the Bishop for use on public policy issues.

The Catholic Legislative Network provides a brief, yet thorough, weekly e-newsletter called Public Policy Insights, in which network members learn about issues and actions being taken on certain priority issues. Occasional Action Alerts are sent to members asking them to contact their elected representative and providing a suggested text. A representative who received a dozen emails on an issue may pay attention, but the Senator or Assembly member that receives hundreds of emails on one issue takes immediate notice. A strong voice for life and dignity will make a difference!

There could not be a more important time for this network to emerge. California is in crisis morally and economically. Staggering budget deficits have shredded the safety net that once protected vulnerable children and aging adults. But while funding for life-giving programs is eliminated, financial resources for abortion clinics have not been similarly reduced, and each year proposals to allow doctors to assist their patients in committing suicide gain momentum in the legislature. As Catholics we care deeply about all these "life and dignity" issues and more. The state needs a strong clear, moral voice for life and dignity now!