Our Mission…

To Be Christ for Others
As Christ is for Us

“Learn it, Live it”
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We show our courage and confidence when life puts us to the test. Anyone can stand tall when there are no problems in life. The real heroes are the people who are unafraid when life does its worst to us.

These words from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16 are extraordinary. Jeremiah had seen his predictions of the judgment of God come true. The enemy crushed his people. But Jeremiah urged them to stand tall in the faith that God would fulfill his promises to his people.

Jesus never sugar-coated the facts. In our Gospel from Luke 21:25-28, 34-36, Jesus told his disciples that heaven and earth will be shaken by the forces of evil. But he told them to “stand up straight and raise their heads” when that happened because they knew their redemption was near.

Years ago there was a musical on Broadway called “Damn Yankees” that had a song called, “Ya Gotta Have Heart.” Some of the lines went like this: “When your luck is batting zero, get your chin up off the floor; you can really be a hero, you can open any door. But you got to have heart, miles and miles of heart.” Good advice for discouraged Christians!

Blessings,
Fr. Ray
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- **Monday**: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- **Tuesday**: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- **Wednesday**: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
- **Thursday**: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- **Friday**: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
- **Saturday**: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- **Sunday**: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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**1st Sunday of Advent
December 2nd, Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 1**
- 9:00 AM Robert Krutilla +
- 5:30 PM Pilar & Nonina Aguinaldo +

**Sunday, December 2**
- 7:30 AM Angeline Dias +
- 9:00 AM Kurt Fanuka +
- 10:30 AM Dushant & Pauline Shaw & Family
- 12:00 PM Alfred & Kathleen Ma

**Monday, December 3**
- 9:00 AM Lorna Cohen +

**Tuesday, December 4**
- 9:00 AM Gregorio Miranda Aisporna +

**Wednesday, December 5**
- 9:00 AM Jesse Bragg +
- 7:00 PM Communal Penance Service

**Thursday, December 6**
- 10:30 AM Rachel Saliba +

**Friday, December 7**
- 9:00 AM Anna Olsen +

**Saturday, December 8**
- 9:00 AM Silverio & Concepcion Salvaleon +
- 5:30 PM Aida Teodoro +

**Sunday, December 9**
- 7:30 AM Members of our Parish
- 9:00 AM Albert Vidaurreta +
- 10:30 AM Rosemary Hiller +
- 12:00 PM Marcos Ortega +

**Prayers for those who are sick or suffering:**
Elfi Ashouri, Stanley Zielezenski, Roberta Ambrose Sotelo, Janet Bertolero, Ann Otis, Mary Roberts, Pavlic Khoudian, Nicholas Policar, Verla Pelley, Merlin Gorsch, John Tailec, Patrick Lofty, Rafael Ferreros, Marie Hauser, Norma Magno, Bernard Espejo, Bill Crandell, Charles Davis, LaVonne Telle, Leonard Davey, Robert Blair Kaiser, Cristina Elu, Jim Doyle, Bien Mendoza, Gene Jessup, Dorothy Berry, Dwight Wilson,

**Pray for our deceased:** Theresa Helms, Laurie Dennin

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**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Weekly goal:** $26,000

**November 25th Collection:**
- Envelope Users $11,189.00
- Loose Checks $3,028.00
- Loose Cash $3,002.00
- OTHER* $5,430.00
- **Total Sunday Collection** $22,649.00
- Excess (Shortfall) $(3,351.00)

Other includes EFT, Employee Giving Campaign, On-Line Banking

**November 18th Collection:**
- **Total Sunday Collection** $22,023.50

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**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**Todays 2nd Collection**
**Will be for Christmas Flowers**
**To Decorate the Church**

**St. Joan of Arc Book Group**

The Book Group invites you to read Bill McKibben’s *Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case for a More Joyful Christmas* and to join us in talking about how we celebrate Christmas at our December meeting at Meg Monaghan’s home, 28 Cree Court in San Ramon, at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 9th.

Meg at 803-8830,
E-mail mmonaghan@pacbell.net

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**PEOPLE OF LIFE**

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” — Albert Einstein

As we enter the season of celebrating Christ’s birth, let us allow the miracle to transform our souls.

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**SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

**1st Sunday of Advent**
**December 2, 2012**

**Adult:** “What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?”

**Child:** “What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?”
Christmas Program

Traditionally the children of the parish have presented the Christmas Story for the homily at the 4:00 pm Mass in the church on Christmas Eve. We need all the players to help with the presentation. We need volunteers to be angels, shepherds, kings, sheep, cows, etc. We will have one practice on Tuesday December 18 at 4:30 in the afternoon. Please mark your calendars now so that you will be here and get your costumes and places for the play.

If you have questions, please contact Maureen Tiffany in the RE Office at 830-4710 or mtiffany@sjasr.org

Blast
Meets this Thursday, December 6 from 6:30—8:00

CIC
meets next Sunday, December 9 from 11:30 to 1:00 in the MPR

Be Christ for others, as Christ is for you this Advent season
EDGE will be meeting in the church on December 5th at 6:50 for the reconciliation service. Families are welcome.

NEXT WEEK!

S’Mores Bags and new this year “Keep Christ in Christmas” car magnets will be on sale after all masses the weekend of Dec. 8th/9th. All proceeds benefit Youth Ministry department!

Next week is also Youth Mass on Sunday, December 9th at 5:30 pm. Come join us!!

Hands & Feet of Christ!

James 1:22 “Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.”

Food for Friends Food Drive: December 12th
LIGHT and EDGE will collect food for Food for Friends Christmas Collection. Please bring donations to LIGHT or EDGE or drop in the Youth Center before 7:00 pm December 12th.
Ed Laughlin: *Stewardship and Blessed Mother Teresa*

In her simple way, Blessed Mother Teresa often explained things in words and stories that made it very clear what it truly means to be thankful, a good steward, and a Christian.

In 1994, she was the speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. In that speech she shared this story:

"Those who are materially poor can be very wonderful people. One evening we went out and we picked up four people from the street. And one of them was in a most terrible condition. I told the Sisters: ‘You take care of the other three; I will take care of the one who looks worse.’ So I did for her all that my love can do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hand, as she said two words only: ‘thank you’ – and she died.

I could not help but examine my conscience before her. And I asked: ‘What would I say if I were in her place?’ And my answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said: ‘I am hungry, I am dying, I am cold, I am in pain,’ or something. But she gave me much more – she gave me her grateful love. And she died with a smile on her face."

Jesus often calls on us to love our neighbor, all those whom we may meet, in a similar way. The Lord asks us to feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner. At this time of thanksgiving, we need in particular to reach out to those in need.

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**St. Joan’s YACHT Club**

*Young Adult Ministry (20s-30s)*

Yacht club wishes to thank all who supported us in our 3rd Annual Turkey Giveaway. We personally delivered turkey and food baskets to 21 struggling families last Saturday.

Fri 12/7: Holiday Get Together, Jack’s Brewing Co, San Ramon, 7pm

Thurs 12/13: QUEST, preview Sunday’s readings & gospels 7pm, St. Joan’s Conference room

Don’t be shy! Come mingle with people of your age that share your faith.

Contact: sjayachtclub@gmail.com
Christmas Schedule—2012

Communal Reconciliation Service
December 5 - 7:00 p.m

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 8 -(Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Giving Tree Collection of Gifts and Distribution.
All gifts should be brought to the church by 12:00 noon on Sunday, December 16th so that our volunteers can sort and distribute what has been promised.
We are most grateful for your generosity and cooperation.

Simbang Gabi Mass (Misa de Gallo)
(A Filipino tradition of a nine day novena to usher in the birth of Christ.)

December 16-23, 7:00 p.m. Mass
(followed by a reception in the Multi-Purpose Room)

December 24, 5:30 a.m. Mass
(followed by a reception in the Multi-Purpose Room)

Christmas Eve—December 24
3:30 p.m. Community Caroling
4:00 p.m. Mass in the Church
4:00 p.m. Mass in the Gym
6:00 p.m. Mass in the Church
6:00 p.m. Mass in the Gym
8:00 p.m. Mass in the Church
10:00 p.m. Mass in the Church
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) - December 25
Masses in the Church will be at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 noon

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God—January 1, 2013
Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Feast of The Epiphany—January 5-6
Masses: Saturday 5:30; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Journey of the Magi: A festive celebration of prayer and song
Saturday, January 5 - 7:00 p.m.
Simbang Gabi Ministry

The planning for the nine day novena is now underway. We have formed the different committees but still need your help. We need lectors, ushers, greeters, food sponsors, special intention mass sponsors etc.

Simbang Gabi starts Dec 16 to Dec. 23 at 7 PM and Dec 24 at 5:30 AM.

Special Intention Mass Sponsor, Contact Arnel Tecson at arnel.tecson@hotmail.com 925-548-0425
Food Sponsor, contact Gina Atanacio at gina.atanacio@yahoo.com 925-980-8547
For more information please contact Marietta Ocampo at mocampo@legacyrea.com 925-525-6821

Give YOURSELF a GIFT this January!

Growing In Faith Together

St. Joan of Arc is devoting the month of January to YOU—the adults of our parish: a month of workshops to choose from that will nourish your faith.


GIFT: Growing In Faith Together . . . a gift from our parish to you . . . an opportunity to nourish our minds and our spirits and our faith . . .

Watch your mailbox for the listing of all workshop options, and the workshop booklet will be handed out at all Christmas masses!
### Advent Giving Tree Commitment List

Look for Trees in the Lobbies. They will greet you when you come in!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ornament</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book (Light Blue)</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of Oakland Families</td>
<td>$25 or open donation check for food payable to St. Joan of Arc. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown (Orange)</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of Oakland (boys)</td>
<td>Purchase an age appropriate, $20 gift for a boy. Please wrap and return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel (Dark Blue)</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of Oakland (girls)</td>
<td>Purchase an age appropriate, $20 gift for a girl. Please wrap and return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple (Red)</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Senior Citizens</td>
<td>Bring new gift requested on the ornament ($20 suggested), wrapped, and tagged to church by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star (Yellow)</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Families</td>
<td>Cash donation for perishable food. Make check payable to St. Joan of Arc. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scroll (Black)</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Families</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 Gift Certificate to Lucky, Safeway, Target or Walmart. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell (purple)</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Gate</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 Gift Certificate to Target, Walmart, Safeway, Lucky, Home Depot, Lowe’s, Costco, Gas or Phone. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat (Green)</td>
<td>Bay Area Crisis Nursery</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 gift, age appropriate gift within category listed on ornament. Please <strong>DO NOT</strong> wrap. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whale (Turquoise)</td>
<td>Tri Valley Haven</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 Gift Certificate to Target or Walmart. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower (White)</td>
<td>Danville Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Purchase plant (no poinsettias please) or stuffed animal and visit resident between 10am and 6pm. Please sign in upon arrival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candle (Orange)</td>
<td>Catholic Charities of the East Bay</td>
<td>Purchase Men’s &amp; Women’s socks; women’s panties, sizes 5–16, men’s boxers, sizes M,L, &amp; XL; men’s briefs, 32-38; men’s tee shirts M,L, &amp; XL; hats and gloves, hygiene products (disposable razors, deodorant, shave cream, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes &amp; paste). Please <strong>DO NOT</strong> wrap. Bring in bag from store, tagged with this ornament by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart (Pink)</td>
<td>Toy’s For Tots</td>
<td>Purchase an age appropriate, $20 gift for a boy or girl. <strong>DO NOT WRAP</strong>. Return with this ornament attached by noon Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkey (Dark Brown)</td>
<td>Hosanna Homes</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 Gift Certificate to Target or Walmart. Please <strong>DO NOT</strong> wrap. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree (Dark Green)</td>
<td>Casa Francisca</td>
<td>Purchase a $20 Gift Certificate to Lucky or Save Mart. Return with this ornament attached by noon on Dec. 16th.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact Kathy if you have any questions. Thank you! Kathy Barnard: kfmbarnard19@aol.com or 838-0443

**Giving Tree Suggestions for Teenagers**
- Gift Certificates to: Target, Best Buy, Sears, Old Navy, Wal Mart, J C Penney, Kohl, Regal Cinemas, Brendan Theaters, basketball, football, baseball and glove

**If you return gifts before December 16,**

**PLEASE, take them to the Church Office.** **DO NOT leave any gifts in the Church**