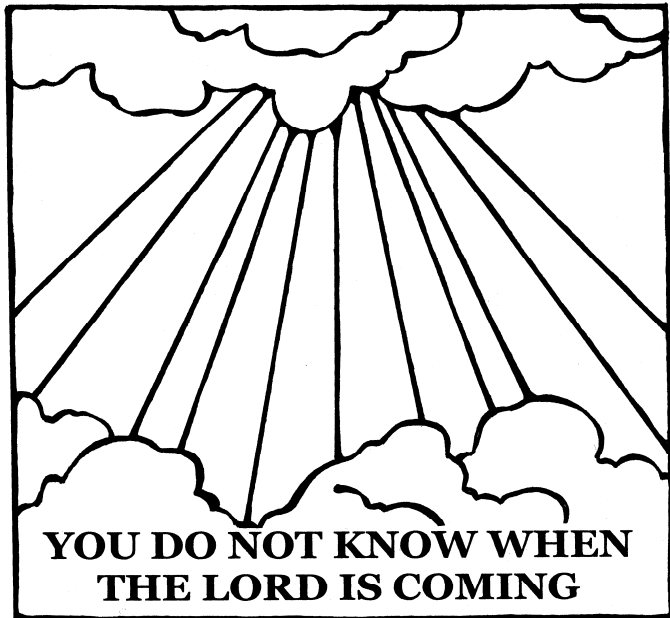


# First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2008



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## Reflection on the Word

Surely Jesus does not mean that we are to stay awake at all hours? Not only our bodies but our minds and our spirits need rest, both the rest of sleep and what we rightfully call re-creation. We need time to recharge our batteries, let our spirits play, give our souls room for leisure activities.

Jesus is saying that part of our life's work is always to be in a state of readiness to welcome him, the one who will come to judge the living and the dead. Our faith reminds us that we are people who wait for the Lord to return, just like a parent is always waiting for a child to return home late at night.

One of the most difficult times to stay awake is after the Thanksgiving Day meal. All that stuffing — and not just what goes into the turkey! In his book *Consumed*, Benjamin Barber points out how our consumer culture encourages adults to remain as infantile as possible, while it trains children to consume at an ever younger age. Such consumption, he says, makes for a bloated people whose spirits are weighed down and sluggish.

We all have moments when we feel alert, when our senses are primed to take in what is happening, when our hearts and minds are open. That is what the Lord is asking us to achieve, if not 24/7, perhaps a little more frequently than we presently do. One of the traditional ways of achieving this state of alertness has been the spiritual discipline of fasting. Another is prayer.

## For Consideration & Discussion

- ✠ When did you last feel fully alert and alive? Truly awake and watchful?
- ✠ Do you find yourself like the people Isaiah writes about when he says that “we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind” (Isaiah 64:5)?
- ✠ What can you do to take on the attitude of actively waiting for the Lord?

## Responding to the Word

We can ask God to help us live these coming days alert and attentive to the hope that has been placed in our hearts. Let us pray that God “will keep [us] firm to the end, irreplicable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 1:8).

Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer. Ask God to show you one (or more) ways that you may be called to respond to this week's scriptures —

- ♥ In your relationship with God
- ♥ With family and friends,
- ♥ At work, school, or church,
- ♥ In the broader community.

## VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER IN MENLO PARK

### December 6

Advent Day of Prayer 9am— 4pm

Speaker: Carmen de la Vega Neafsey, M.A.

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Silence, guided meditations and contemplative prayer sessions will help you deepen your longings for Christ's coming and prepare you to receive Him, anew with open hearts and minds.

### December 31, 2008—January 1, 2009

New Year's Eve Retreat

Speaker: Fr. Patrick LaBelle, O.P.

Join us for our annual New Year's Eve retreat. Together we will remember and give thanks for the graces experienced in 2008. Looking ahead, we will reflect on the call, the plan and the promise of new beginnings.

Please call (650) 325-5614 or visit our website at [www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org) for information and to register for any of the above events.

### ♥ *Heart Warmers*

**Mary stands in the presence of her Son,  
and never ceases to intercede for sinners**

— *St. Bede the Venerable*



**Religious Education  
& Youth Ministry**  
Pre-K through High School  
Nancy Becerra: (650) 574-9191

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

December

3 Wed. 5:30-6:30 pm Grades 1-4  
7:30-8:30 pm Grades 5-8  
7 Sun. 9:00 am Pre K/K



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)  
FOR CHILDREN**

December

7 Sun. 10:15-11:30 am  
14 Sun. 10:15-11:30 am



**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

December

4 Thur. 7:15-8:45 pm  
18 Thur. 7:15-8:45 pm



**Youth Ministry ~ SLY**

The Saint Luke Youth Mission Statement  
✦ Serving God  
✦ Serving the Community  
✦ Serving the Youth

Our Youth Ministry would like to thank each and everyone who supported their Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Samaritan House. They were able to give out 7 barrels. It surely was a successful project to have made the Thanksgiving Dinner complete for some low-income families of San Mateo County.

**OPEN HOUSE**

**JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL**  
451 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo; 650-345-8207  
Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 pm

**WOODSIDE PRIORY SCHOOL**  
302 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
Saturday, December 6  
For reservations, please call 650-851-8221

**November 30 is a "fifth" Sunday**

Whenever a fifth Sunday occurs in a month, the parish of St. Luke sets aside a second collection to benefit the works of our own local **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**. Their outreach extends to families in need in Foster City. The conference asks you to *help them to help others*. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

**RCIA FOR ADULTS**

The Adult Faith Formation is **ongoing every Thursday, here at the Church**. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church or just learning more about the Church, please ask them to contact **Deacon Paul Lucia** at the Parish Office, 650-345-6660.

**Immaculate Heart Radio's December On-Air Pledge Drive**

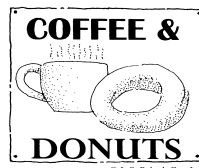
will be held Tuesday, Dec. 2nd through Thursday, Dec. 4th from 6 am to 6 pm each day at Mater Dolorosa School in South San Francisco. We need your help to answer phone calls, run errands, or help with hospitality. If you can help for an hour or a couple of hours any day, please call Deborah Heinrichs at 916-535-0500 ext. 221 or email her at [dheinrichs@ihradio.org](mailto:dheinrichs@ihradio.org).

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

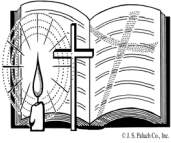
Please join the **Divorced and Separated Catholics of the Archdiocese of San Francisco** as they celebrate the Christmas season with a potluck dinner and sing-a-long. On Saturday, **December 20, 2008 at St. Dominic's Church**, lower level, Bush and Steiner Streets in San Francisco, we will have a social hour starting at 6:30pm, followed by a potluck dinner. Please call for more information: Gail Castro @ (650)591-8452 OR Vonnie McGee (650)873-4236.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our Parish holds **All Day Eucharistic Adoration Thursdays** and **First Fridays** after the 8:30 am Mass. Benediction follows at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited. If you can spend one hour with the Blessed Sacrament in those days please register your name with the Parish Office, with Tel. No. (650) 345-6660.



*Everyone is invited for Fellowship after the 9:00 and 10:30 am Mass every Sunday!*



## Scripture Readings

November 30 – December 7, 2008

<b>Sunday:</b>	Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Psalm 80; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37
<b>Monday:</b>	Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37
<b>Thursday:</b>	Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21,24-27
<b>Friday:</b>	Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27-31
<b>Saturday:</b>	Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Psalm 147; Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
<b>Sunday:</b>	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

## Mass Intentions

For the week of December 1-7, 2008



<b>Monday</b>	+Clemente & Filomena Chiari
<b>Tuesday</b>	+Inocencio Pangilinan
<b>Wednesday</b>	Private Intention
<b>Thursday</b>	+Delpech & Eggers family
<b>Friday</b>	+Jerome & +Jerry M. Kozloski
<b>Saturday</b>	
8:30 am	Gracia Untalan
5:00 pm	+Perfecto Gotamco
<b>Sunday</b>	
7:30 am	For the People of St. Luke
9:00 am	+Francis & Margaret Egan
10:30 am	Romeo & Edda, Special Intention
5:00 pm	+William Rouse



## Mass Schedule for December 6 and 7, 2008

<b>Saturday</b>		
5:00 pm	Fr. Jonathan	Choir: Grivas Family
<b>Sunday</b>		
7:30 am	Fr. Jonathan	
9:00 am	Fr. Bill	Choir: Joyful Noise
10:30 am	Fr. Bill	Choir: Emmaus
5:00 pm	Fr. Jonathan	Choir: Couples for Christ

If you or a member of your family would like the faith community of St. Luke Parish to join you in prayers for special needs, contact the parish office at 345-6660. Please take some time this week to remember the following people and intentions in your prayers:



- ✠ **For all those who are ailing** especially Judith McKelvey, Breana Picchi, Josefa Garcia, Roman Vi-ray, Ellen Bona, Ron Cox, Ana Vazquez, Ric Turek, Antonia Canoy, Faith Gillis, Randy Robin, Keith Fitzpatrick, Virginia Petraglia, Elizabeth Adorable, Cherie Beals, Doris Sullivan, Mina Teves, Brian Walsh, Raymond Acero, Jenny Slove, Kay Ketcham, Dolores Maga, Rudy Rucker, Catalina Nokom, Gerda White, Ronald Reidenbach, Hal & Rose Tanforan
- ✠ **For our recently deceased** parishioners, relatives and friends, especially Corazon Benitez, Leoncia Alarcon, and Lori Turek we pray that they may be welcomed into the reign of everlasting joy & for those who mourn, that they may be comforted and consoled.

## Weekly Collections

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

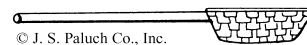
**Stewardship...** Last Sunday's collection: November 23, our parish received **\$5,291**. This figure includes a portion of the once a month credit card donations.

**2008 Archbishop Annual Appeal ...** This year, St. Luke has been assessed **\$69,500**. Last weekend, we collected **\$3,233**. We now stand at **90%** at **\$62,133.50** pledged, but we still need **\$7,366.50** by **December 31, 2008**, to meet our goal.

We need the help of the rest of the parish, as members of the St. Luke Community, and as such, bear a responsibility for supporting this need.

**Please pledge to help us!**

Christian Giving



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Now, you can give cash to support St. Luke's Catholic Church through **E-Scrip** ... the vehicle that allows you to contribute to your church without costing you a dime. How does it work? Just sign up your various credit cards via the mail or on the website **www.escrip.com**. St. Luke's group **ID number is 137683615**. Please call **John Bernat** at (650) 341-4045 for more info or if you need help registering.

# Contact People

**Altar Linens:** Mary True: (650) 571-8783

**Altar Servers:** Perry Durant: (650) 571-5051

**Anointing of the Sick:** If you know of any parishioners who are sick or hospitalized or are unable to attend Mass due to illness or age, please call the office.

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator:**

Barbara Elordi, Marriage and Family Therapist, for persons who have suffered sexual abuse from members of the Catholic clergy. Call (415) 614-5506 (direct & secured phone line of Ms. Elordi)

**Baptism:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Contact office for preparation class information – prior registration required.

**Christian Burial:** Kindly call the parish office before meeting with the funeral director.

**Cursillo:** Duncan Fife: (650) 345-3345

**Divorced and Separated Catholics:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., St. Bartholomew Church, San Mateo. Call Gail Castro: (650) 591-8452

**Finance Council:** John Bernat: (650) 341-4045

**Knights of Columbus:** Marvin A. Crockett: (650)341-4058

**Legion of Mary:** Saturdays at 9:00 am.  
Georgiana Unson: (650) 345-2613

**Lectors & Eucharistic Captains:**

Peggy Simkins: (650) 573-5370

**Liturgy Coordinators:** Watch bulletin for meeting times

**Marriages:** Contact the office at least 6 months before the desired date.

**Music Groups:** Children: Kevin Lucia: (650) 349-3090  
The Joyful Noise & Kevin’s Flock  
– Kevin Lucia: (650) 349-3090

The Burning Bush & Emmaus Choir  
– Elysabeth Allen: Tel. No. (650) 573-6858

Youth Choir - Elysabeth Allen: (650) 573-6858

**Pastoral Council:** John Sanchez: (650) 574-1535

**Right to Life:** Donna Sanchez: (650) 574-1535

**Sandwiches on Sunday:** Peg Culver: (650) 349-1408

**St. Vincent De Paul Conference:**

Peggy Simkins: (650) 573-5370

# This Week in Our Parish

**Tuesday, December 2**

7:00 pm ~ Faith Formation

**Thursday, December 4**

All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:30 pm ~ Benediction

7:45 pm-9:15 pm ~ RCIA for Adults

**Saturday, December 6**

9:00 am ~ Legion of Mary

10:30 am ~ Junior Legion of Mary



**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
**A Roman Catholic Holy Day of Obligation**  
**December 8 (Monday)**

**St. Luke Mass Schedule: 8:30am, 12:10pm & 7:00pm**

On the Roman Catholic Church calendar of holy days, December 8 is celebrated as a holy day of obligation, commemorating the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, **INEFFABILIS DEUS** (Indescribable God) on December 8, 1854.

The dogmatic statement expressed at the end of the document:

**“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all faithful.”**

The entire decree is also worded to suggest that Mary's Immaculate Conception was not in any sense a logical necessity, but rather a divine gift to Mary as **Mother of God**.

**KEEPING IN CONTACT... St. Luke Parish Community**

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian friendship to you, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. If you are not registered, or have moved, or have other needs, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office. We will send new parishioners a census form.

- New Parishioner
- Have moved, here's the new address.
- I have changed my phone number.
- I am moving, please remove my name from list.
- I am a shut-in and would like someone to visit.
- I am going to be in the hospital, please call me.
- I'd like information about \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to volunteer as \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_