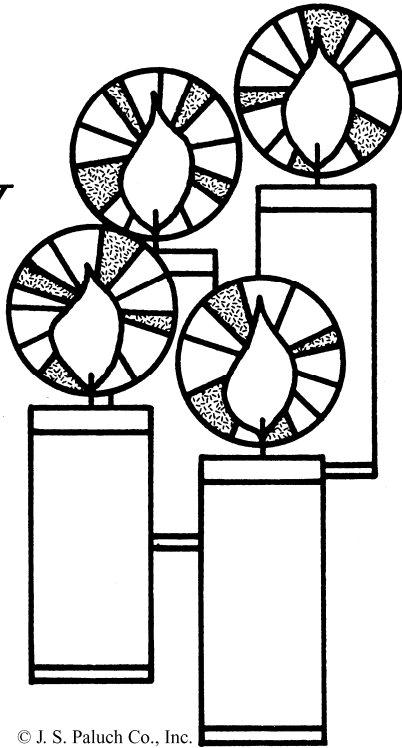


Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2008

Make Ready the Way of the Lord



Reflection on the Word

Both this week and next week our Gospel readings focus on the figure of John the Baptist. Today we will reflect on his message; next week, on his person. John's message was simple one; One is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, so prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

That God came and that God will come can be an easier message to handle than that God is coming now. The past can be seen as offering us information and the future as... whatever it will be, but the present demands a response. Every Advent calls us to respond to his message. He comes and he comes today. Jesus continues to come now and immerse us in the life of the Holy Spirit. He comes to us in the word of God and in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

So we are to make straight path for him so that he can take up residence in our minds and hearts. This baptism with the Holy Spirit is an ongoing process, just as the first Pentecost began an ongoing process in the church. The Holy Spirit that blew out doors and sent out the first disciples with enflamed hearts and tongues continues to come in surprising ways. (Pick up the acts of the Apostles and read it through if you need reminding.)

So as a new year begins in the Church, making straight a path involves some inner inventory.

For Consideration & Discussion

- ✠ What is presently taking up room in our hearts?
- ✠ What is engaging our minds these days? What energizes our wills and flows over into action?
- ✠ Do any of these serve as obstacles to God entering in and taking possession of our hearts and minds and spirits?

Responding to the Word

We can get used to living with obstacles that block access to our hearts, like we get used to construction projects that tie up access to our streets and roads. This week, pray that God will help us to recognize and remove those things that block God's entry into our lives at this moment.

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.

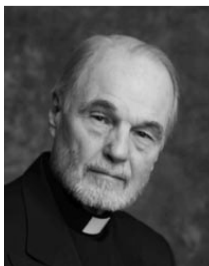
VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER IN MENLO PARK

December 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. For more information, please call (650) 325-5614 or visit our website at www.vallombrosa.org



Robert Faricy, S.J.

is a Jesuit priest and theologian who is an Emeritus Professor of Spirituality, lives at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is an Emeritus Professor of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Fr. Faricy has written over thirty books, most translated into several languages, and several hundred articles. Brief biographies can be found in: *Who's Who in the World*; in *Contemporary Authors*; in *The Dictionary of Pentecostalism*, and in other reference works.

He will be here at St. Luke on **Saturday, December 13 at 7:30pm for a Mass for the Healing of Emotional and Psychological Difficulties**. For more info, please call Deacon Paul Lucia or Kevin Lucia (650) 345-6660.

On **Sunday, December 14 at 2pm**, he will be at **St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Alameda, CA for a Mass for Healing of the Family Tree**. For more info, please call Cheryl (510) 378-5723.



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

Youth Ministry ~ SLY

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

December

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

**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

****After the above schedule, Winter Break follows
till January 6, 2009 ****

Fight FOCA!!!
(Freedom of Choice ACT)

Go to www.FightFOCA.com & fill out a petition.

Keep catholic hospitals open!!!
Keep our freedom of religion!!!
For info: Jessica at 650-572-1468



**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 near 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**.

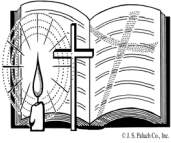
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is **ALWAYS** a day of obligation except in years when December 8 falls on Sunday and the solemnity is observed on December 9.



♥ **Heart Warmers**

Do not be frightened or grieve,
or let your heart be dismayed.
Am I not here, I who am your Mother?
And is not my help a refuge?

— Our Lady to St. Juan Diego



Scripture Readings

November 30 – December 7, 2008

Sunday: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Psalm 80; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Psalm 147; Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Mass Intentions

For the week of December 8-14, 2008



Monday Rico & Meryl Foz & Kids

Tuesday +Joan Basek

Wednesday +John Nunes

Thursday Private Intention

Friday +Jerome & +Jerry M. Kozloski

Saturday
8:30 am Mary Peattie, Special Intention
5:00 pm Ric Turek, Special Intention

Sunday
7:30 am For the People of St. Luke
9:00 am +Concepcion Evans
10:30 am +Jesus Guial
5:00 pm Naty Palanca, Birthday Blessings



Mass Schedule for December 13 and 14, 2008

Saturday
5:00 pm Fr. Jonathan Choir: Mario & Co.

Sunday
7:30 am Fr. Jonathan
9:00 am Fr. Faricy Choir: Joyful Noise
10:30 am Fr. Bill Choir: Burning Bush
5:00 pm Fr. Jonathan Choir: Kevin's Flock

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 Eileen Marino, Daisy McKelvey, Breana Picchi, Shirley Miller, Eileen Fernan, Muriel Campbell, Aida Albano, Bonifacio Tiu, Gerada Cerdan, Jon Miller, Sue Rampa, Charlie Nielsen, Ben Baro, Judith Gonzales, Kelly Eagleton, Helen Borrone, Bozidar Mihelcic, Vernetta Steele, Juanita Roxas, Scott Mather, Victoria Reidenbach, Hal & Rose Tanforan
- ✠ **For our recently deceased** parishioners, relatives and friends, especially Corazon Benitez and Leoncia Alarcon, 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 30, our parish received **\$6,042**. This figure includes a portion of the once a month credit card donations. The second collection for our church's St. Vincent de Paul Conference, received \$ **1,692**. The average Sunday collection for the month of November was **\$5,686**. Also in November, the total Building Fund (Maintenance and Repair) received in total, **\$4,400**.

2008 Archbishop Annual Appeal ... This year, St. Luke has been assessed **\$69,500**. We now stand at **95%** at **\$66,903** pledged from **158 donors**, but we still need **\$2,596** 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!

Our Lady of Guadalupe PRO-LIFE MARCH

Join us in praying the rosary as we march under her banner from St. Gregory, San Mateo (Hacienda & 28th Ave.) to Planned Parenthood (2211 Palm Ave) [about 7 blocks one direction] this weekend:

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 PM

*Our Lady of Guadalupe ... Patroness of the Pre-born,
Pray for us!*

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: 4th 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.
 Kathi Byrd: (650) 906-0645
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 9**
 7:00 pm ~ Faith Formation
- Wednesday, December 10**
 7:00 pm ~ St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting
- Thursday, December 11**
 All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:30 pm ~ Benediction
 7:45 pm-9:15 pm ~ RCIA for Adults
- Saturday, December 13**
 9:00 am ~ Legion of Mary
 10:30 am ~ Junior Legion of Mary
 7:30 pm ~ Mass for the Healing of Emotional and Psychological Difficulties by Fr. Robert Faricy, S.J.

LECTORS & CAPTAINS

January/ December Lector/Captain Schedules – Peggy Simkins will be preparing the Lector and Captain schedules for the next two months. If you know of dates that you will be unable to read or captain in **January & February**, please call Peggy or the Parish Office by **Monday, December 22**. You may reach Peggy at 573-5370. Leave a message if you are not able to speak to Peggy directly.

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.

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: _____