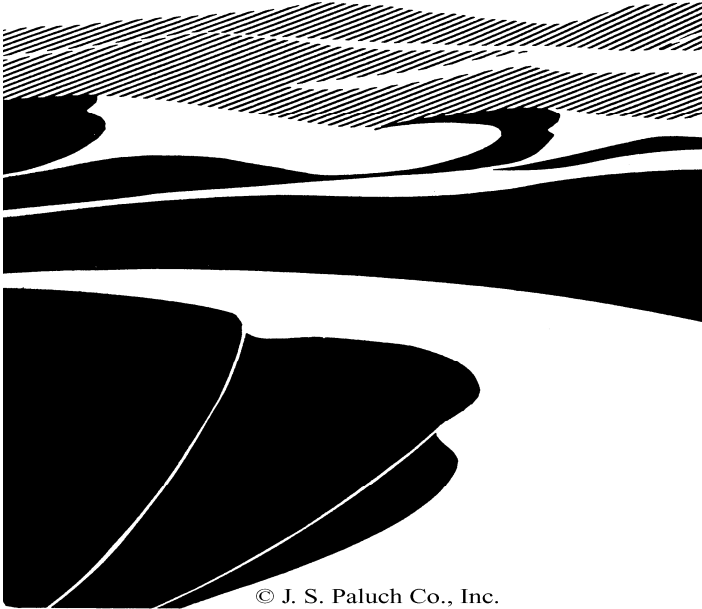


Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2008

I am a voice crying out in the desert



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Reflection on the Word

One of the most poignant moments of Arthur Miller's *Death of Salesman* occurs at the end of the play when the family and one friend of Willie Loman, the salesman of the title, are gathered at his gravesite. Willie has committed suicide. His son Biff says, "He never knew who he was." These sad words hang in the air. This man lived his whole life not knowing who he was.

Today we hear the words of John the Baptist, who knew who he was and who he was not: "I am not the Christ. I am Elijah. I am not the Prophet. I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord" (see John 1:19-23). John had a unique role to play: He was the best friend of the bridegroom who was coming and in whom God and humanity would be joined.

These days of Advent call us to know who we are — children of God who in the fullness of time sent the Son into the world so that we might have life, so that we might know our God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and open ourselves to be made "perfectly holy" (I Thessalo-

For Consideration & Discussion

- ✠ And you, who are you?
- ✠ How does the mystery of God touch your life?
- ✠ Do you rejoice always, as Paul calls us to do, and live in gratitude to God?

Responding to the Word

The words of Second Isaiah in the first reading, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me" (Isaiah 61:1) helped Jesus to know who he was and what his mission was. Pray that God will help you to know who God is and who you are and how God wants to work through you, so that you can make your own the psalm response today: "My soul rejoices in my God" (Isaiah 61:10b)

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 please call Cheryl (510) 378-5723.

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, 2008
2:00 PM**

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



**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
*** WINTER BREAK ***		

January

7 Wed.	5:30-6:30 pm	Grades 1-4
	7:30-8:30 pm	Grades 5-8
10 Sat.	2:00-4:00	Reconciliation Retreat - First Communicants
11 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
*** WINTER BREAK ***	

January

11 Sun.	10:15-11:30 am
25 Sun.	10:15-11:30 am

CONFIRMATION CLASS

December

4 Thur.	7:15-8:45 pm
18 Thur.	7:15-8:45 pm
*** WINTER BREAK ***	

January

8 Thur.	7:15-8:45 pm
22 Thur.	7:15-8:45 pm
25 Sun.	2:00 pm

* Talk at the St. Luke's Main Church for Candidates, Parents and Sponsors (2nd Choice)

**PENINSULA CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS &
BUSINESS CLUB (CP&BC)**

The Catholic Professional and Business Clubs (CP&BC), which has 12 chapters nationally, including a chapter in San Francisco, **seeks to have a chapter on the Peninsula.** The primary purpose of the CP&BC is **to help Catholics live their faith in the workplace and at home.** Existing chapters hold monthly meetings where persons from all walks of life come to network with each other socially and professionally and learn of important issues. Meetings are highlighted by a presentation from a speaker relating business and faith. Persons interested in joining the chapter should **contact Tim Dixon** at 650-581-1293 or at timdixon@dixonconsultinginc.com. For more info about the CP&BC, see www.cpbclubs.org.

The Peninsula CP&BC will hold a meeting here at St. Luke on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00pm.

Men's Prayer Group

A small group of St. Luke men meet for an hour at 7:00 am, on the first and third Wednesday of the month for prayer and Scripture discussion. **All are welcome.** The next meeting is **Wednesday, December 17.** For more information, call Dan James @650-574-3835.

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.

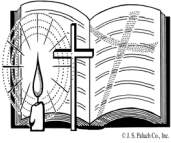
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.

♥ **Heart Warmers**

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

— Isaiah 61:10



Scripture Readings

December 14-21, 2008

Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-2a; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
 I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a;
 Psalm 25; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13;
 Psalm 34; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10;
 Psalm 72; Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8;
 Psalm 72; Matthew 1:18-25

Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a;
 Psalm 71; Luke 1:5-25

Saturday: Isaiah 7:10-14;
 Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89;
 Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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: *Pray for...*

- ✠ **For all those who are ailing** especially Eileen Marino, Daisy McKelvey, Breana Picchi, Alan Paolucci, Riane Acero, Stephan Sabellano, Lydia Xavier, Sonia Cicerone, Joseph Touchstone, Ron Galasi, Nancy Kellerman, Karen Wickham, Jane Schmidt, Cathy Costanza, Katie McNamara, Jerry Vega, Rana Yaminie, Cathy Kost, Elli Guardino, Marilyn Grattan, Elena Santiago, Hal & Rose Tanforan
- ✠ **For our recently deceased** parishioners, relatives and friends, especially Paul Han, 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.

Mass Intentions

For the week of December 15-21, 2008



Monday Ronaldo & Corazon Palma

Tuesday Mary Stark, Birthday Blessings

Wednesday Mary Peattie, Special Intention

Thursday +Terry Yezbick

Friday +Jerome & +Jerry M. Kozloski

Saturday
 8:30 am +Rosario Adiel Rallos,
 +Ruth Sambold & Liza
 5:00 pm Ethyl Parodi

Sunday
 7:30 am For the People of St. Luke
 9:00 am +Jose Luis, Elvira & Augusto Letran
 10:30 am +Bautista & Palad Family
 5:00 pm +Lori Turek

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. **Do I?**

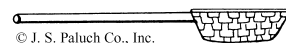
Stewardship... Last Sunday's collection: December 7, our parish received **\$6,078**. This figure includes a portion of the once a month credit card donations. The second collection for the Building Fund (Repair & Maintenance), received **\$ 1,351**.

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!

Christian Giving



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Mass Schedule for

December 20 and 21, 2008

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

Sunday
 7:30 am Fr. Jonathan
 9:00 am Fr. Kieran Choir: Emmaus
 10:30 am Fr. Jonathan Choir: Burning Bush
 5:00 pm Fr. Jonathan Choir: Kevin's Flock

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: 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 16

7:00 pm ~ Faith Formation

7:00-9:00 pm ~ Peninsula Catholic Business Club Mtg.

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 am ~ Men’s Prayer Group

Thursday, December 18

All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:15 pm ~ Benediction

7:30 pm ~ Parish Penance Service

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am ~ Legion of Mary

10:30 am ~ Junior Legion of Mary

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: _____