

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2008



Reflection on the Word

In our house chapel there is a stained glass window of the Annunciation. I must confess that I have always thought it a little silly — until recently. Mary is dressed in a lovely white gown with beautiful stars embroidered on it. She is kneeling in what looks like a house chapel. Next to her is a single potted lily. Through the window, one can glimpse a charming village. Behind her a book is opened and you can see but not read words printed on it. And, most dramatically, hovering above her is a very handsome angel, his hair wreathed with flowers. It is all so syrupy, so preposterously romantic.

Besides, all this is quite impossible. Mary was a peasant woman, unlikely to have had any reading skills; her clothing would have been very simple; and she certainly would not have had a house chapel to pray in. The form of an angel can be debated, but this one looks more like a flower child from the Sixties.

Nevertheless, what this stained glass window captures so beautifully through its romantic imagery is that the story we heard today is a love story. God has come wooing the Virgin Mary, and in her “yes” we hear the beginning of the marriage of heaven and earth, of divinity with humanity.

God has chosen to dwell with us, not merely in a grand temple of stone and marble like David wanted to build, but in our flesh and blood. God has chosen to reveal a divinely passionate love for us. Nothing else will do but that this word of love not only be spoken but that the Word become flesh.

For Consideration & Discussion

- ✚ How do you imagine Mary reacted to the words of the angel?
- ✚ Do you see the story of the Annunciation as part of a love story between God and humanity?
- ✚ How does this story offer hope and peace and comfort to our world, our Church, our families, our individual hearts?

Responding to the Word

The English mystic Caryl Houselander once wrote that we know so very little about Mary, Mother of Jesus, but we do not know the one essential fact that we are all called to imitate: she bore him in her body and gave him to the world. Ask God to open your heart to receive this mystery of faith and incorporate it into your being, so the Word will continue to become flesh, our flesh.

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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
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**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
2008**

CONFESSIONS
Wednesday, December 24th
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MASSES

Christmas Eve, December 24th
4:00 p.m. (Children’s Mass)
6:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25th
7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

New Year’s Eve, December 31st
8:30 a.m.

New Year’s Day, January 1st
8:30 a.m.



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



**December 24, 2008
Wednesday
4:00 pm
Children's Mass**

Youth Ministry ~ SLY

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*** 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

*** WINTER BREAK ***

January

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

*** 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)

WOMEN:

Find your purpose and feed your soul.

Saint Luke will present *Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life Foundational Study*, a powerful Catholic study just for you!

Please join us at the information session on **Monday, January 5, 2009 at 6:30pm** at the **St. Luke Parish Hall** or contact Beth Noronha at 650-576-2667 or Lilia Roldan at 650-802-8309.

LECTORS & CAPTAINS

January/ February 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 and February**, please call Peggy by **Monday, December 22**. You may reach Peggy at 573-5370. Leave a message if you are not able to speak to Peggy directly

RCIA FOR ADULTS

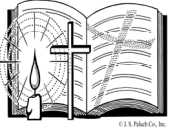
The Adult Faith Formation is **ongoing every Thursday, here at the Church.** If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church or just learning more about the Church, please ask them to contact **Deacon Paul Lucia** at the Parish Office, 650-345-6660.

♥ Heart Warmers



At Christmas we contemplate ...
the Creator of the Universe reduced
to the helplessness of an infant.
Once we accept this paradox, we discover
the Truth that sets us free and
the Love that transforms our lives.

— Pope Benedict XVI



Scripture Readings

December 21-28, 2008

Sunday:	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8B-12,14a,16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Monday:	I Samuel 1:24-28; I Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7,8abcd;128; Luke 1:46-56
Tuesday:	Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday:	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Psalm 89; Luke 1:67-79
Thursday:	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
Friday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31; Matthew 10:17-22
Saturday:	I John 1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:1a,2-8
Sunday:	Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Mass Intentions

For the week of December 22-28, 2008



Monday	Alan & Scott Rathjen, Happy Birthday
Tuesday	+Mariano Foz John Cheng, Birthday Thanksgiving
Wednesday	Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Jaleigh Schneider, Special Intention 6:00 pm Justin Schneider, Special Intention 10:30 pm +John & Margaret Schneider
Thursday	Christmas Day 7:30 am +Helen Dallara 9:00 am +Michael Donnellan 10:30 am Antonio Lopez
Friday	+Jerome & +Jerry M. Kozloski
Saturday	8:30 am +Harley & Jude Hagerman 5:00 pm +Paul Han, Sr.
Sunday	7:30 am For the People of St. Luke 9:00 am +Barbara Nehme 10:30 am +Donald J. Sullivan 5:00 pm +Elvira Letran

Mass Schedule for

December 27 & 28, 2008



Saturday	5:00 pm	Fr. Jonathan	Choir: Angels
Sunday	7:30 am	Fr. Jonathan	
	9:00 am	Fr. Kieran	Choir: Joyful Noise
	10:30 am	Fr. Kieran	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 Librado Ramirez, Eileen Marino, Elisha Acero, Ruth Tabnick, Tom Bortak, Suzanne Clark, Peggy Ankerband, Lolita Lopez, Frank Tucci, Fionulla Mullarney, Michelle Burtcher, Julie Allen, Anna Gonzalo, John Gemenez, Pam Frisella, Sara & Paul Han Jr., Marisa Jose, Edong Pascua, Johnnie Baker, Hal & Rose Tanforan
- ✠ **For our recently deceased** parishioners, relatives and friends, especially Rhodora Golez, Paul Han, Sr., & Binh Trinh, 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

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" — "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." — that the promise finds fulfillment.

Stewardship... Last Sunday's collection: December 14, our parish received **\$5,460**. This figure includes a portion of the once a month credit card donations. The second collection for the Skip-A-Meal Program, received **\$1,394**.

2008 Archbishop Annual Appeal ... This year, St. Luke has been assessed **\$69,500**. We now stand at **98%** at **\$67,900** pledged from **158 donors**, but we still need **\$1,600 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!



You can give cash to support St. Luke's Church. **E-Script** is 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**. Call **John Bernat** at (650) 341-4045 if you have any questions 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 in 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) 345-6660

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

Monday, December 22

5:30-7:00 pm ~ Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

7:00 pm ~ Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23

7:00 pm ~ Faith Formation

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass ~ Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 27

9:00 am ~ Legion of Mary

10:30 am ~ Junior Legion of Mary

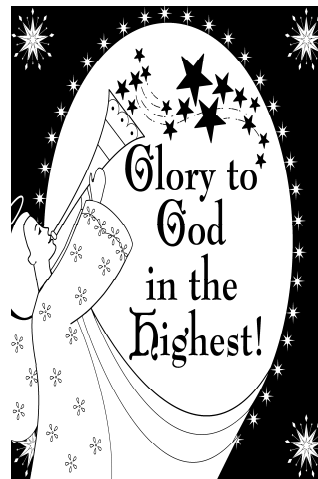
VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER IN MENLO PARK

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



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The Parish Offices
are closed on
December
24, 25, and 26,
2008

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: _____