

Saint Martin of Tours

200 O'Connor Drive
San Jose, CA 95128

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www.stmartin.org



People Ministering to People

Fourth Sunday of Advent— December 20, 2009

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 6:00 pm **Sunday Vigil:** Saturday 5:00 pm
Holy Days: 8:10 am, 12:10 pm, 7:00 pm **Weekdays:** Mon. - Sat. 8:00 am

Rectory... 294-8953

Rev. Christopher J. Bransfield, Pastor
Rev. Joselito T. Page, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Ray Kenny, Retired, "In Residence"
Rev. Bob Shinney, S.J., Assisting Priest
Holly Schoppe, Office/Facilities Manager
Samuel Aguilar, Buildings and Grounds

Bailey House... 289-9617

Judy Swazey, Liturgy Director
Leslie Plecque, Pastoral Care Coordinator

RCIA

We warmly welcome all those inquiring about becoming Catholic. For information, call Joy in the Catechetical Office at 289-9608.

Baptism

A sacrament of initiation and belonging. Please register with Joy in the Catechetical Office at 289-9608.

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:30 pm or by appointment at 294-8953.

Marriage

Please call the rectory to make an appointment with a priest at least six months in advance of wedding date.

Illness (Sacrament of the Infirm)

If you or anyone you love is sick and unable to attend Mass, please call Leslie in the Bailey House at 289-9617.

St. Vincent de Paul...439-0342

St. Martin of Tours School... 287-3630

Karen DeMonner, Principal
Cathi Contreras, School Secretary
Jane Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Victor Salas, Buildings and Grounds

Catechetical Office... 289-9608

Liz Schoenwetter, Catechetical Ministry Director
Joy Aspenall, Catechumenate Coordinator
Ellen Hays, Catechetical Office Coordinator



We wish to extend a warm welcome to all new parishioners. If you would like to be registered, please fill out this form and either place it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

Name

Address

City & Zip

Phone

Email

Please check to receive offering envelopes.



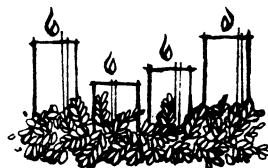
In a few days we will once again celebrate Christmas. Most of us have received Christmas cards that portray scenes of serenity and peace. We can try to build families and lives that look that way. We can try to fool ourselves into believing that if we decorate well enough, spend enough money on gifts and make good enough food, then that serenity and peace will be ours. But that is not the way it works.

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Replace Mary’s name with your own. What if an angel came to us and told us we had found favor with God. Would we believe? How would we react? Could we then rest on our laurels? We need to see that the words of the angel were kind, but they were also a great challenge. Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” With those words Mary admitted her dependence and reliance upon God. She gave up her own will and embraced God’s will. She trusted that what was spoken to her by God would be fulfilled.

We have a few more days to prepare for Christmas. We can slow down and ponder the example of Mary. Are we willing to have the Lord enter us so completely? Can we give up control and allow the Lord to be number one in our lives? Are we willing to be a visible sign of His love? Do we trust what was spoken to us by God will be fulfilled?

As Christmas draws near, may we welcome God with open hearts and open arms. May God’s kingdom grow and thrive as we allow God to work in our lives. May we be ready and eager to follow the example of Mary. Blessed are we who believe and live our days with this assurance! Have a good week.

Peace,
Fr. Chris



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Mass Intentions for Dec. 19—Dec. 26

Saturday	8:00	Francisca Mella †
	5:00	Parlato Family †
Sunday	7:00	Sal & Roy Squatritto †
	8:30	Ben Patellaro †
	10:00	Chuck Thurber †
	11:30	Stephen Michael De Vincenzi †
	6:00	Ann Durkan †
Monday	8:00	Lucille Pillers †
Tuesday	8:00	John Choate †
Wednesday	8:00	Bill Busch †
Thursday	4:00	Erlinda V. Orozco †
	6:00	C.J. Reed †
Friday	7:00	Joseph Ramirez III †
	9:00	Patick Mello †
	11:00	Daniel Fajardo †
Saturday	8:00	Nerisse A. Mangilog †
	5:00	Chelli Family †



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*Scripture Readings for
Sunday, December 27, 2009
The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph*

First Reading: Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel Reading: Luke: 2:41-52

Gospel Question for December 27, 2009:

"How can we teach our children that they are also God's children?"

Your Stewardship & Contributions

Thank you for your generosity!



Collections for week of 12/6/09	\$ 9,368
Collections Year to Date	\$ 324,984
Budgeted Collections Year to Date	\$ 335,085
Current Budget Shortfall	\$10, 100

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.

When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience
our own advent in his.

When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars,
not hearing angel voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has
made known to us.

In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

Author Unknown

On Our Calendar

December 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 12/20 • Nursery, 8:30 & 10:00 masses
• CLOW, 8:30 & 10:00 masses

12/24 Christmas Eve
Masses: 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Midnight Mass - Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

12/25 Christmas Day
Masses: 7:00 a.m. , 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

- 12/27 • Nursery, 8:30 & 10:00 masses

1/1 **New Year's Day Mass** (*for Mary, the Mother of God*)
9:00 a.m. (*no 8:00 a.m. Mass that day*)

- 1/3 • Nursery, 8:30 & 10:00 masses
• Preschool, 8:30 & 10:00 masses, gym
• CLOW, 8:30 & 10:00 masses
• Jr. Hi CCM, 11:15-12:30, Zone
• Destination: Confirmation, 4:30-5:45

1/7 CCM, 4-5:15, classrooms

Is January 1, 2010 a Holy Day of Obligation?

January 1 is the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and is one of the holy days of obligation observed in the United States. However, Bishop McGrath has dispensed the Diocese of San Jose from the obligation to participate in Mass on January 1, 2010. The faithful are still encouraged to participate in Mass if they are able or to observe the holy day in other forms of prayer or pious works.

Mass here at St. Martin's will be at 9:00 a.m. on January 1, 2010.

Catechetical Programs

Children's Catechetical Ministry (CCM)

CCM is on hiatus for the Christmas break. We will resume sessions January 7th. Continue to have a blessed Advent!

2009 CATECHETICAL MINISTRY HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROJECT

Thank you to everyone for supporting our children as they focused on those who are alone and in need during the upcoming holiday season by supporting the Food Box and making cards for the area nursing home residents.

Jr. High CCM

Jr. High is on hiatus until we resume on January 3rd.

Please contact the Catechetical Office at 289-9608 for additional information concerning all of the above.

DESTINATION: CONFIRMATION

St. Martin of Tours' preparation for the sacrament is for those individuals in 8th grade through high school. The next HUB meeting is January 3rd. Call Liz at 289-9608 for more information. Have you booked your journey and plugged into the e-group to see the calendar of excursions?

FOOD BOX PROGRAM NEWS

The Food Box Program would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support this year, in our food barrel collections and our programs throughout the year, like the Easter Baskets, Backpacks with School Supplies, and Adopt-a-Family. This past year has been especially challenging with the economic difficulties, making our clients even more grateful for your steadfast support, through your donations of money, food, gifts, and time.

From the Food Box Program and our clients to your families -- may the blessings of Christmas be with you and your families, today and always.



Scrip News!

LAST CHANCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

we will have our **full scrip inventory** available after the 8:30am and 10:00am Masses!

RCIA: All of us love the beautiful lights of the Christmas season. Let us take comfort in knowing that no matter how dark our days may be, there is a Light that the darkness will never overcome. If you have been thinking about becoming Catholic, or have questions about the Church, perhaps RCIA Inquiry is for you. Come and find out about the Light of the World and the difference He makes in our lives! Each Thursday (excluding 12/24 and 12/31) at 7 in the Catechetical office. Come and See!

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

- ❖ **Christmas Eve Masses:**
 - ♣ **4:00 p.m.** (*Very family-friendly Mass, but very crowded*)
Carols before Mass—8:30 choir
 - ♣ **6:00 p.m.** (*Same as the 4:00 p.m. Mass, but less crowded*)
Carols before Mass – 10:00 choir
- ❖ **Christmas Day Masses:**
 - ♣ **Midnight Mass** (*carols begin at 11:30 p.m.*)
 - ♣ **7:00 a.m.** – *Music by Harry Soza (acoustic)*
 - ♣ **9:00 a.m.** – *Music by Michael Pease*
 - ♣ **11:00 a.m.** – *Music by the 11:30 choir*

If you would like to participate at any of the masses on Christmas Day by setting the Table, carrying candles, bringing up the Gifts, etc., **please call Judy Swazey in the Liturgy Office at 289-9617**, extension 18.

All available **Ushers and Communion Ministers** should be signed up for a mass. Check in at the back Sacristy or ushers room for further information. **Altar Servers and Lectors** are also needed for Christmas Day.



Deck the Halls

Decorating the Church: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Tuesday, December 22**. If you would like to help us, please call the Liturgy Office at 289-9617, ext. 18 and leave your phone number, so that we can schedule a time with you.

White Poinsettias: Once again, we will be accepting your donations of elegant **white poinsettias** which will be used to beautify our church for Christmas. You may bring them to the Rectory or the Church. Thank you.



MEMORIES AND DREAMS

There is an old saying that good gifts come in small packages. This is certainly borne out in today's scriptures. In the first reading the Lord announces that it is from Bethlehem, described as "too small to be among the clans of Judah" (Micah 5:1), that the Messiah would spring forth. In the Gospel story of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, we can only imagine Mary, probably a young teenager, a small woman, bearing within herself the greatest gift the world would ever know.

These scriptures have much to say to us as we look forward to opening Christmas gifts over the next few days. Nothing in any package beneath any tree can compare to the gift given to the world two thousand years ago. As we share the joy of Christmas, let us remember the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who came into this world to save us and set us free.

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Peace and Justice

This month marks the 29th Anniversary of the Deaths of Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan, four Women Martyrs.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

There's one thing I know, that I'm supposed to be down here, right now... You can contribute a lot and make a big difference in the world if you realize that the world you're talking about might be very small... maybe one person, or two people. And... if you can find a place to serve, you can be happy. -- **Jean Donovan**

Am I willing to suffer with the people here, the powerless? Can I say to my neighbors, "I have no solutions to this situation; I don't know the answers, but I will walk with you, be with you? Can I let myself be evangelized by this opportunity? -- **Ita Ford, MM**

The endurance of the poor and their faith through this terrible pain is constantly pulling me to a deeper faith response. My fear of death is being challenged constantly as children and old people are being shot... I want to stay on now. I believe that God is present in His seeming absence. -- **Maura Clarke, MM**

El Salvador is a country writhing in pain—a country that daily faces the loss of so many of its people—and yet a country that is waiting, hoping and yearning for peace. -- **Dorothy Kazel, OSU**

INTERCESSIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER

from Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

We have Maura, Jean, Ita, and Dorothy supporting us in the search for meaning in our world. Now we pray in confidence.

Response: *God of our redemption, hear our prayer.*

For a rebirth of hope in our world, hope that cannot be changed, we pray...

For a rebirth of justice that will prevail through our dedication to it, we pray...

For a rebirth of truth in our communities, our nation our world, we pray...

For a rebirth of courage to live lives rooted in gospel truth, we pray...

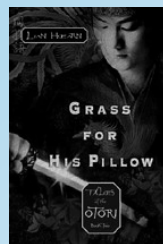
For a rebirth of remembrance of the legacy left to us by these four women, we pray...

Loving and Compassionate God, make us prophets of your word. Open our ears and our hearts to hear the words of your prophets, our sisters, Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean, as they challenge us to take you at your word, to feel within us your urgent cry for justice in our world. May we take that cry as our own and become instruments of your justice and peace.

Upcoming Book Group Selection

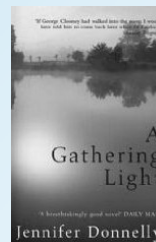
New selections for months after February will be made at our January meeting. Share your ideas for what you would like the group to read in 2010. **There is no meeting in December.**

Here are the selections made by the St. Martin Women's Book Group for the next few months:



January 26: "Grass for His Pillow (Tales of the Otori, Book 2)" by Lian Hearn

February 23: "A Gathering Light" or "A Northern Light" by Jennifer Donnelly



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES:



Want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next local Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is: March 5-7, 2010 (Mountain View). For more information or to register, please visit our website at: www.rekindleyourmarriage.org or contact Paul & Stephanie Francois, 408-287-3996 or Email: PaulandSteph@pacbell.net.

