



St. Felicitas Catholic Church

1662 Manor Blvd. San Leandro • Email: stfelicitaschurch@comcast.net
Tel.No. (510) 351-5244 • Fax (510) 351-5730

December 25, 2011 The Nativity of the Lord



Parish Staff

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Parochial Administrator	
Rev. Jayson Landeza	297
Parochial Vicar	
Rev Tran T Dinh , (In Residence)	
Vietnamese Ministry	288
Jose Prado Deacon (Retired)	
Mercey Zamora, Pastoral Assoc.	
(Spanish Ministry)	347-1293
Sr. Magdalena Duong,	287
Ministry (Vietnamese Community)	
Sr. Ancilla Marie	282
Pastoral Care	
Ida Valenzuela, RCIA	283
Sister Cecilia Chuong-Phan,	
Altar Servers	
Rosario Rivera, Secretary	281
Clare Zipp, Bulletin	284

Religious Education Office

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Mary Segismundo		285
Youth Services		
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Convent 351-5577

St Vincent de Paul 706-1972

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
 12:15(Spanish) 4:30pm(Vietnamese)
 Saturday 8:15am, 4:30pm (Vigil)
 Daily (Mon-Fri) 7:00am, 8:15am
 Holy Days 7:00am, 8:15am, 7:00pm
 1st Friday Exposition 12:30 - 4:45pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:15 to 4:00pm or by appointment

Baptism

4th Sunday of every month 2:00pm
Contact Parish Office for information.

Marriage

Arrangements to be made 6 months prior to the wedding

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:45am-4:30 pm Fri 8:30am - 12:30pm

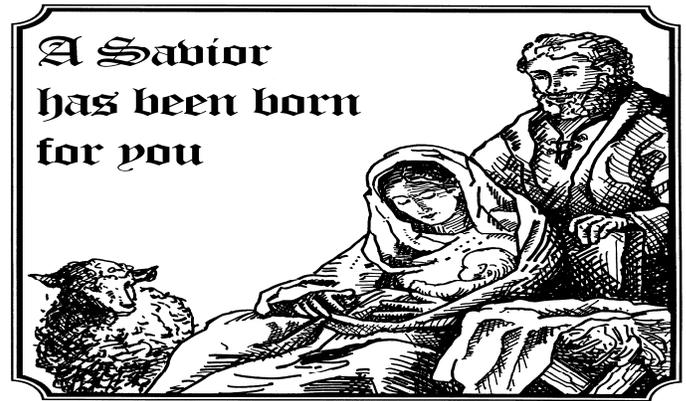
Parish School

Meghan Anne Jorgensen
Principal
1650 Manor Blvd.
Ph. 357-2530 Fax: 357-5358

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
December 25, 2011

The light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not overcome it

MERRY CHRISTMAS



NO ROOM IN THE INN

Mary and Joseph were very average folks. They were required to travel to Bethlehem for census. Mary was in advanced stage of pregnancy. On reaching Bethlehem they looked for accommodation; no one welcomed them. They had to seek shelter in a cave, outside the city limits, a shelter used by animals. Savior of the world, Messiah, was born in a stable!

Christmas is a time for us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. We help others not out of our abundance or because we have plenty. True sharing is giving 'the widows mite'; giving what we need, sharing the little we have.

Christmas is a time for us to be mindful of others. Just as Christ who came to serve and not to be served, we are invited to help one another – care for the elderly, the sick, those who are lonely and the less fortunate among us. Open our hearts and our homes and share a Christmas Dinner with someone who has no one to care for or inviting a Stranger to share the Christmas joy is truly making "room in the Inn."

Christmas invites us to be polite to one another. It is a time of great stress and tension for many people. Shopping, buying gifts, cooking meals, planning parties, etc. can set people on edge. One can become coarse and ill-mannered. But Christmas is a season of caring, sharing, forgiveness, and politeness; a season filled with love for God and love for our neighbor which makes it "the most beautiful time of the year."

In the Church, in our parking lots, at home or in shopping centers, be kind and considerate toward one another. When we are polite and considerate we become messengers of the real Spirit of Christmas. It is a time for us to open the floodgates of our goodness and charity that everyone may partake of the milk of kindness and love.

There is enough room in the Inn for everyone!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012.

Fr. Augustine

The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
and best wishes
to all parishioners
from the priests, sisters
and staff of St. Felicitas.

Events of the Week Dec. 26 thru Dec. 31			
MON 12/26	6:30 pm	OFFICE CLOSED St. Vincent DePaul meeting	AE Rm
TUE/1 2/27	6:30 pm	Adult Confirmation	SMC
WED 12/28			
THU 12/29	7:00 pm	Spanish Youth Group	Church
FRI 12/30	7:00 P.M.	Spanish Choir Practice	Social Hall
	8:00 pm	Vietnamese Choir	AE Rm
SAT 12/31			



NEW YEAR'S DAY
(Mary, Mother of God)



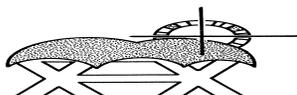
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Including Vigil Mass on Sat. 12/31
at 4:30 pm

ST. FELICITAS SCHOOL

A Christmas Prayer

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table of the Lord. We ask you to bless us and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life this Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

From all of us here at St. Felicitas Catholic School – We wish you a most blessed and Merry Christmas! We pray that you and your family have a very special holiday filled with joy, love and the peace of Christ Jesus.



THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

YOUNG at HEART LUNCHEON

JANUARY 11, 2012

Second Wednesday because of vacations

A new year!

A new Young at Heart Lunch!

Come and enjoy a delicious menu of:

Lasagna Roll ups
Veggies, Garlic Bread
Apple Pie

The price has NOT gone up!

Get your tickets at the Church Office.

Deadline for tickets is Jan. 9th!



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Pray for *The Sick & Homebound:*

Peggy Miller, Daniel and Raymond Bautista, Josie Herrera, Evelyn Lake, Shirley King, Julie Chin, Oscar Bickerton, Jose Julian Garcia, Bailey Gendreau, Jim Lachemeyer, Barbara Houston, Jack Bollinger, John Cooke, Cesar DeLeon, David Silva Jr, Audris Woo, Amanda Jean, Theresa & Mario Pellini, Roseta Laguana, Elaine Desa, Gerard Poyatos, Dolores Smith, Lisa Bigman, Lisa Dmoski, Rhodera Posa, Joseph Andrade, Viola Litvinchuk, Mae Zeffaro, Hortense Prado, Mia Lara, Elizabeth LeFargo, Paul DeFue, Sara Melin, Ladale Rohles, Rosalie Keller, Juanita Estrella, Alejandra Reyes, Madeline Oberti, Antonie Catubig, Mick Carson, Mary Giannelli,

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED.....

Julius Caesar Bartel, Judith Motta

Mass Intentions Dec. 25 thru Jan 1

Sun. 12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
Mon. 12/26	7:00 am	Marciana Villanueva †
	8:15 am	Kylie Willkom (Birthday)
Tue 12/27	7:00 am	Jose, Maria & Liduina Silva†
	8:15 am	Alma August †
Wed. 12/28	7:00 am	Catherina Do †
	8:15 am	Ronna Marie Willkom(Birthday)
Thurs 12/29	7:00 am	Jan & Ray Hemphill †
	8:15 am	Egidia Ornalas †
Fri. 12/30	7:00 am	Jan & Ray Hemphill †
	8:15 am	George Biasotti †
Sat. 12/31	8:15 am	Winefredo Celario †
	8:15 am	Augustine & Marie Nguyen†
Sun. 1/1	7:30 am	Intentions of Fr. Augustine
	9:00 am	Felicitas Barrina
	10:30 am	Jean McElhinney
	12:15 pm	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE

We pray especially at this time for all our men and women who are serving their country far away from home at Christmas Time !

We would like to keep all who serve in the Military in our prayers and in our hearts. If you know of any of our parishioners who are in the Military Services, or have a son or daughter in the Service, please contact us at the Parish. We pray especially for **Angelo Lisondra**, Army; **Nelson Pena**, Army; **Benjamin Sacramento, Jr.**, Navy; **Aurelio Sandoval Jr.**, Army; **Shiloh Morrison**, Marine Corps; **Steven Accardo**, Marine Corps. **Michael Saragosa**, Green Beret; **Bruce Holmes**, Army; **Brian Pontes**, Air Force; **Denis Charles Gafke**,; **Jason Buscovich**, Army; **Victor Avilla**, National Guard; **Omar Tejeda**, National Guard ; **Michael Roe**, Army; **Kevin I. Ontai**, Army National Guard; **Marvin Terlaje**, Army, **Kyle Swatman**, Marine Corp.; **Megan McClain**, Army Nat'l Guard; **Patrick Gilmore**, Army Reserve; **Nicholas Goyeneche**, Navy

A letter from the Sisters of the Gospel Missionnairer

Dear Fr. Augustine,

Thank you Fr. Augustine & St. Felicitas Church.

I am Srl. Anna Dinh Thi Xuan Hien, the society of the Sisters of the Gospel Missionnairer, at Thu Duc, Vietnam.

I received your check for over \$500.00. On behalf of our society, we would like to express our gratefulness toward your kindness and the parish of St. Felicitas Church.

May the love of God pour His abundant love and graced upon you and your parish.

Representative of our society.
Sr. Ana Dinh Thi Xyuan Hien
Sisters of the Gospel Missionnaires

Prayer of the Week

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question: How can the light of my faith be seen in my daily actions?

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Let's do something rather daring. Imagine, if you will, this day without carols, no child in the manger, no Christmas trees, presents, or fine, big meal. How would you celebrate? For the first three hundred years after Jesus' time Christian communities did little to mark the occasion of Jesus' birth, although commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection were given great prominence. It was relatively easy to ascribe a date to Easter, because it happened at the time of the Jewish Passover. However, the scriptures are silent about the date of Jesus' birth. After the Roman Empire stopped persecuting Christians, the church was free to add celebrations to its official calendar and finally settled on December 25 for Christmas. No one knows exactly why this date was chosen. Christmas became a more elaborate festival during the Middle Ages, but with the rise of Protestantism in England and Germany, the feast was suppressed. Puritans who came to America did not celebrate Christmas, calling it pagan and popish. Only in the nineteenth century, especially after Charles Dickens published his runaway best-seller A Christmas Carol, did people begin to observe Christmas again, but often more as a family festival than a religious event. In one of today's readings, Saint Paul tells us what is at the heart of this day: "When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). Now that is really something to celebrate!

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It is the duty of every Christian to
be Christ to his neighbor



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TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Además de conmemorar la llegada del Niño Dios, la Navidad en Latinoamérica es un acontecimiento hecho en familia; una celebración de reconciliación. Todos anhelamos la armonía en nuestras relaciones humanas, especialmente en los días festivos y nada arruina una buena fiesta como los pleitos y los rencores. Por eso durante la época navideña hagamos todo lo posible por corregir errores cometidos durante el año con amigos y parientes. Muchas veces estas faltas son imposibles de arreglar, por lo cual Dios nos aconseja el perdón y la reconciliación.

Una parábola latinoamericana narra que la “**poinsettia,**” o **flor de pascua, con sus bellas hojas verdes y rojas** nace del regalo que un pobre chiquillo le hizo al niño Dios. Mientras otros le daban oro y joyas el muchachito no tenía más que una hierbita. Este don agradó al Niño Dios quien lo transformó en la flor de Navidad. El perdonar puede ser amargo como una hierba, pero es el don que agrada más al Niñito Jesús quien lo transforma en reconciliación. Al buscar la reconciliación imitemos al Dios recién nacido, quien busca la armonía con la humanidad.

DIGNO DE CELEBRARSE

Imagínate este día sin el Niño en el pesebre. Sin árbol de Navidad, sin regalos ni comida de Noche Buena. ¿Cómo pudieras tú celebrar? Durante los trescientos años siguientes a la época de Jesús los cristianos pasaban por alto el nacimiento de Jesús. Por fin la Iglesia determinó el 25 de diciembre como el día de Navidad y llegó a ser una gran fiesta en la Edad Media. Más tarde los puritanos suprimieron la fiesta por considerarla pagana y papista. A mediados del siglo diecinueve la historia de Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* (Un cuento de Navidad, 1843) revivió la Navidad en los Estados Unidos con un énfasis familiar y no religioso.



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En una de las lecturas de hoy, san Pablo expresa el punto principal de este día: **“Al manifestarse la bondad de Dios, nuestro Salvador, y su amor a los hombres, él nos salvó, no porque nosotros hubiéramos hecho algo digno de merecerlo, sino por su misericordia. Lo hizo mediante el bautismo, que nos regenera y nos renueva, por la acción del Espíritu Santo, a quien Dios derramó abundantemente sobre nosotros, por Cristo, nuestro Salvador. Así, justificados por su gracia, nos convertiremos en herederos, cuando se realice la esperanza de la vida eterna”** (Tito 3:4–7). ¡Eso sí que es algo digno de celebrarse!

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APRECIADA COMUNIDAD!

QUE LA FELICIDAD DE DIOS ENTRE NOSOTROS SEA UNA REALIDAD DE SU PRESENCIA EN NUESTRAS FAMILIAS, EN NUESTROS VECINDARIOS, EN NUESTRA COMUNIDAD Y MAS AUN EN NUESTRAS PROPIAS VIDAS.

QUE SEAMOS VERDADEROS TEMPLOS DE SU PRESENCIA Y QUE ESTE REGOCIJO, LO COMUNIQUEMOS A OTROS, CON UN TESTIMONIO DE VIDA EN DIOS.

Mercey Zamora