

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 Fax 510-352-2094

website: churchoftheassumption.net e-mail: SLASSUMPTION@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Fr. Vincent J. Scott, Pastor

Fr. Chris Berbena, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Dac Cao, Permanent Deacon

Deacon Harry Clyde, Permanent Deacon

Deacon George Peters, Permanent Deacon

Deacon John Durden, Permanent Deacon

Maureen Moran, Faith Formation

Mary Schirmer, Youth & Family Ministry

Toni Durden, RCIA Coordinator

Stacy Piontek, Director of Music Ministries

Rhina Ruggiero, Office Manager

Pam Lyons, School Principal

PARISH 510-352-1537

CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday: 8:00 AM, 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12:00PM

Weekdays: 7:00 AM

Holy Days: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 7:30 PM

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 to 4:00 PM

Perpetual Help Devotions:

Tuesday mornings after 7:00 AM Liturgy

Rosary:

Recited every weekday morning before Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

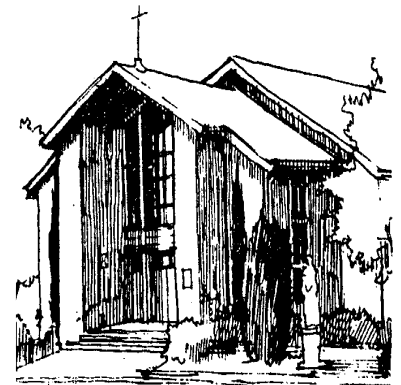
Every Wednesday 7:30-8:30 AM

Office Hours:

8:30 AM-12:00 PM – 1:30 PM-5:00 PM

School Office 357-8772

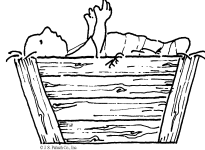
School Office Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18,

2011 The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. —*Luke 1:35*

It sure is a strange scene. How well thought out does this plan seem? How weird does it strike



you that God's plan of salvation should depend upon the willingness of a young woman living in an obscure village of a remote province to trust a vision that tells her God wants her to conceive a child? Why Mary for the mother of God? Why Mary?

Mary was apparently an ordinary person. She wasn't rich or wellborn. Wasn't she an unlikely representative of humankind to give birth to the savior?

Mary was so simple, so plain, so ordinary, so much like the rest of us. And that's the answer, isn't it? The flesh that became Jesus came from the body of one who was just like us. The body that gave birth to him, the body that nourished him, was just as plain and ordinary and vulnerable as our flesh.

Mary's ordinariness allowed God to make it absolutely clear that Jesus was truly and fully human. No one could say that Jesus only **appeared** to be truly human—or that he was not like every one of us in every aspect of our bodies. No one could say he was different because he was born to a wealthy or royal family.

What we know of Mary is little. Yet we know of her humility and her faith and her obedience to God. In fact the last words of Mary recorded in Scripture are: Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you. She was a person who was completely "herself." She wasn't pretentious, or boastful. She was wholly content to be who and what she was, and to do what God gave her to do.

She was open to what the angel had to say to her but honest enough to question how she could possibly conceive and bear a son. Yet she was obedient and did what she was told. She said in reply to God: "Here am I, the servant of the lord; let it be with me according to your word."

So we can well understand why God chose one

so young and inexperienced to be the mother of the Lord. She hadn't grown old enough to become skeptical or cynical about such things. She was fresh enough in her humanity to embrace an accepting attitude so that she could hear and heed the word of God's angel.

In addition, Mary's faith was uncomplicated and pure enough for her to believe in miracles. She was able to accept a truth that came from outside human knowledge and beyond human capacity.

Mary had courage. She was willing to stand up to whatever gossip or rejection might come her way because she was pregnant and not married. She was willing to suffer a mother's worst fate, bearing a son who would necessarily be taken from her all too soon. She was willing to give him away so the whole world could have him. Later, she would watch her son walk the rocky road of a controversial religious leader, see him reject her on one occasion, see her son receive threats and abuse. Finally, Mary would stand at the foot of a cross, helplessly watching him die a humiliating death.

In a way, we are presented with this same message as the one declared to Mary by God's angel. Mary, the mother of our Lord, helps us believe in the miraculous possibilities of God—in the truth that only the power of God can produce salvation from the body of an insignificant and ordinary young girl who lived in an obscure village. Mary helps us understand that as God chose her, he chooses us in our commonness and ordinariness to be the continuing instruments of his flesh. She becomes our mother, too, as we live this life together as the body of Christ, in the same plainness of humanity that was made Godly by Christ's sharing it.

We are to be the bearers of the Christ—for our bodies are the only place where he may live on this earth. We are the body of Christ—when we let Christ dwell within us, and when we share Christ with others, God will be with us always. By opening our lives to Christ, we, like Mary, are blessed among all men and women. By sharing Christ, we, like Mary, take part in the greatest, most wonderful thing the world has ever known... Jesus, God with us!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – 2011

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Individual Reconciliation (Confessions)

December 20: 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

December 22: 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be celebrated on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARISTS – December 24

5:00 P.M.: Children's Liturgy

8:00 P.M.: Vigil Liturgy

11:00 P.M.: **Midnight Mass**

preceded by carols and music by
Assumption Adult Choir beginning
at 10:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARISTS – December 25

8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

(Please note the change of times)

New Year's Eve – December 31

5:00 P.M.: Eucharist. *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the Liturgy and Night Watch before the Blessed Sacrament until 11:45 P.M.: Night Prayer*

New Year's Day Eucharist – January 1

8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M.

(Please note the change of times)



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Assumption Book Club

Too busy to read anything but text messages? Already feeling stressed about the holiday season? Wondering how to prepare for Advent this year? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, start the holiday season off right by joining the Assumption Book Club in reading our next selection, ***Life of the Beloved*** by Henri Nouwen. We will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 in the Convent to discuss.

School News

With Christmas right around the corner, on Tuesday, December 6, the students enjoyed St. Nick Day. Wednesday, December 7th was a minimum day. The 7th and 8th grade sponsored the Immaculate Conception Liturgy on Thursday, December 8th. On Friday, December 9th, grades 3-8 attended Reconciliation.

Application's for the 2012/2013 school year will be available beginning January 3rd.

Birthright

Birthright is a non-profit, non-political interdenominational emergency pregnancy service offering alternatives to abortion. Birthright volunteers are dedicated to helping many woman distressed with her pregnancy. All services are free and confidential.

If you desire to volunteer your time and talent to assist these life saving efforts, contact birthright at 481-9677. Birthright San Lorenzo 1048 Grant Ave San Lorenzo Ca 94580.



**Blessed are You
Among Women**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. In faith is found the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas. **In helping those who are poor and suffering we find the real, lasting and deep joy of Christmas.** Please continue to refer others to our **HELP-LINE at 352-6079.**



Weekly Offering Including EFT

Goal\$8,200

December 3rd.....\$8,692



THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Seniors Join us on Wednesday, December 21 at 4pm for a movie and a dinner. We are having a Christmas party so please bring a desert to share.

Haven Christmas party is on December 19th. Please join us for holiday cheer from 7:30-9 pm in the Youth Center. All high school students are welcome!

Thank you so much for bringing in the **Jesse to Jesus** Tree gifts. Please have them to the Church by **December 18th** at the latest!! You are all so generous and for that we are very grateful.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!
—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Week at a glance.....

Sunday 18.....GYM CYO 11-7p.m.
Faith Formation 10:00a.m.
Monday..... Gym CYO 3:30-9p.m.
Tuesday..... Gym CYO
YC Dad's Club
Wednesday..... H Cub Scout 7p.m.
Gym Senior Movie
Ch Adult choir practice 7:30
Thursday.....Gym CYO
CR Liturgy Committee 7:00p.m.
Friday.....GYM CYO 3:30-9p.m.

WE REMEMBER AT THE EUCHARIST

Weekly Mass Intentions

December 17 - December 25

Saturday

5:00 George & Dora Bielaski +

Sunday

7:30 Marnelle Vieira-Ducey +

9:00 Special Intention +

10:30 Dominick Silva +

12:00 Michael Fong +

Monday

7:00 Anthony O'Toole +

Tuesday

7:00 Edward Barry +

Wednesday

7:00 Agnes Keating +

Thursday

7:00 Tony Gonsalves +

Friday

7:00 Rosa Keliakian (L)

Saturday

8:00 Fernando Cardoso Sr. +

5:00 Tony Gonsalves +

8:00 Candelaria Bantay +

Sunday

8:00 Eufracina Yalung +

9:30 Aleixo, Brigida & Maurice +

11:00 David Rogers +

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Head Lector: Barbara Buckley.....352-9656
Altar Server Coordinators:
Dennis Burigsay.....895-1628
Mike Tedeschi.....357-9447
Head Communion Ministers:
Joe and Mina Riccio352-3506
Head Usher: Al Weinberger.....895-9900
Head Greeter: Susan McCue.....638-7434
Ministry Schedulers: Barbara Buckley352-9656
Susan Hupp.....483-5652
Teen Confirmation:
Mary Schirmer352-1537
St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Riccio.....352-6079
Pastoral Council:
Paul Carney635-9473
School Board:
Giovanna Giuliani.....777-1426
Liturgy Committee/Finance Committee:
Loretta Fernandes.....352-1537
Pat Durgin632-4032
All Saints Skilled Nursing
Merlie Macasieb.....895-5162
Bishop's Appeal:.....352-1537
Tuesdays with Larry:
Larry Graves352-4777
Rosary Makers:
Irene Haines483-7975
CYO:
Lisa Brue.....351-6860
Communion to the Homebound:
Mary Croak.....352-1537
Communion to Kindred Hospital:
Al Frates.....351-2852
Prayer Chain:
JoMarie Stavosky.....483-3366
Knit/Crochet Group
Mary Croak.....357-7562
Linens:
Anita De Marais.....357-9172
Cursillo
Jennie Gisslow.....635-4143

Assumption Parish Mission Statement

Assumption Parish is a culturally diverse and vibrant Catholic community which strives to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting the challenge to build a Christ-centered community that draws on the wisdom of our seniors and the energy of our youth. We are committed to Catholic education at various levels. We are nurtured by inspired Liturgy, active and enriching faith formation programs, and inclusive family ministry, all of which enable us to share our gifts of time, talent, treasure and vision with our parish family and surrounding communities.