

**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION**

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

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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:**

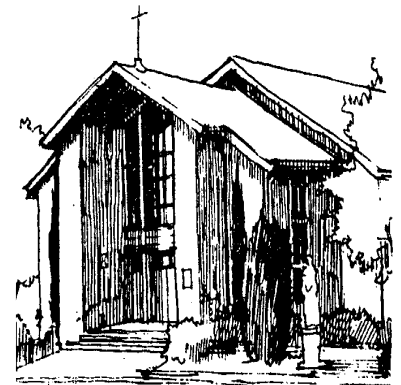
Every Wednesday 7:30-8:30 AM

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



## The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2011

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. — *John 1:5*



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If it weren't for his life, we wouldn't be celebrating his birth. If it weren't for the way he lived his life, then the story heard at the Christmas Vigil, the one that proclaims his genealogy and the story of Joseph's dream and act of faith about the Emmanuel to be born, would fall on deaf ears. Were it not for the witness he gave and the actions he did during his ministry in Galilee, there would be no midnight hymns and songs of praise, and the stories of the gathering shepherds would make no difference. It would have been just another night and just another baby born in an overcrowded town.

And then there would be no need for this convincing Gospel proclamation from John on Christmas morning, cementing his identity as the Word made flesh and our place as children of God born of God's decision to become one with us. Word made flesh, Emmanuel, only Son of God, true light — Jesus Christ was born among us, lived among us, preached, healed, taught and loved among us human beings. His way, his path of life gave witness to how children of God are called to love one another as they love God. His life is what gives us reason to celebrate his birth. And his birth in us compels us to live the same witness so that we might sing with Psalm 98: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God."

God's saving power is seen over all the earth as God comes again and again in our lives, our actions, our witness, our proclamation. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem thousands of years ago. Yet Jesus Christ is born here, now,

in what we do and how we live and in the way that we give expression to the incarnated love of God. Born once in human history, God is born again and again in our very lives, our homes and neighborhoods, our workplaces and shopping centers, our parks and our playgrounds.

Like John the Baptist, whom John the Evangelist highlights in this Gospel passage, we too are called to testify to the light, to proclaim that this is indeed the true light that gives everyone a chance at light in the darkness, offers all the possibility of salvation from the power of sin, bestows God's loving grace and kindness on all the world, reveals God's inclusive love to all who are oppressed and ostracized. The arrival of this new world is indeed glad tidings and good news, as Isaiah proclaims in the first reading. Shouts of joy, songs of praise, announcements of peace and salvation are the new song to be sung by all believers. This is indeed a new world filled with God's wondrous deeds of justice, kindness and faithfulness, a new world where all creation breaks into song and praise, where trumpets blast from the rooftops!

We celebrate his birth because of how he lived among us. We celebrate again and again his birth and his coming again by our very lives. Every day could be Christmas if we allowed the Christ child to be born where we walk, where we eat and drink, where we mix with people — family and associates, neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. Everywhere we walk we carry Christ. Everywhere we go Christ goes with us and is born again and again in those loving and messy relationships between the beloved children of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus, the heirs of God's loving promises. We make the Word flesh right here, right now.

On behalf of our Pastoral Staff, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Speaking of the New Year, since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, we will have additional celebrations of the Eucharist. I would like to call your attention to a time for quiet prayer and

meditation on New Year's Eve. This is something we've done for a number of years. After the 5:00 P.M. Liturgy there will be Exposition of the Holy Eucharist. There will be time for adoration until the celebration of Night Prayer at 11:45 P.M. with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament around Midnight. This is a wonderful way to do something different on New Year's Eve. I am hoping that there will always be someone in the church during the time of Exposition.

Mary Schirmer has told me that our parish overwhelmingly supported the Jesse to Jesus Tree Project. We received more gifts for the children of St. Benedict's than asked for. Thank you for your generosity!

Interim Music Director: With the resignation of our Music Director, I have appointed Deacon John Durden as the Interim Music Director until we can hire a permanent replacement. As of this writing, I have placed one national ad and two local ads. When we get enough resumes we will establish a hiring committee as we did before. I will keep you posted as to our progress. Deacon John has many years experience as a parish Music Director at St. Felicitas in San Leandro and St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore.

This is Stacy Piontek's last weekend with us. We thank him for his service to our parish and school and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

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)*

### Assumption Book Club

Too busy to read anything but text messages? Still feeling stressed about the holiday season? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, please join 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.

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### Birthright

Birthright is a non-profit, non-political interdenominational emergency pregnancy service offering alternatives to abortion. Birthright volunteers are dedicated to helping any 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

The angel told the shepherds that the Savior was born and where to find him. How and when are we told? God reveals divine presence in someone's generous offer, in a plea for help, in the cry of the poor and the oppressed, in the child needing reassurance, in the aged needing a listening ear, in the sick needing a consoling hand. Today we see not a Baby in the manger, but a saving God working through and among us. Please continue to refer others to our **HELP-LINE at 352-6079**.



## Weekly Offering Including EFT

Goal .....\$8,200

December 18th.....\$7269.00



## Merry Christmas!!!



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## 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.

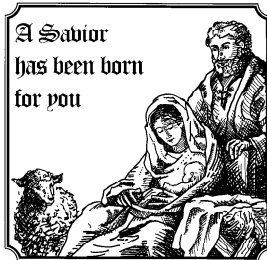
Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## 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.

## Week at a glance.....

Sunday 25.....  
Monday.....  
Tuesday..... Gym CYO  
Wednesday.....H Cub Scout 7p.m.  
Ch Adult choir practice 7:30  
Thursday.....Gym CYO  
Friday.....GYM CYO 3:30-9p.m.



## WE REMEMBER AT THE EUCHARIST Weekly Mass Intentions December 24 - January 1

### Saturday

5:00 Fernando Cardoso Sr. +  
8:00 Tony Gonsalves +  
11:00 Candelaria Bantay +

### Sunday

8:00 Eufracina Yalung +  
9:00 Aleixo, Brigida and Maurice +  
11:00 David Rogers +

### Monday

7:00 Francis & Arthur Mccoy +

### Tuesday

7:00 Mary Sue Evans +

### Wednesday

7:00 Andrea & Rosario Pacis +

### Thursday

7:00 Tony Gonsalves +

### Friday

7:00 Theresa Scott +

### Saturday

8:00

5:00 +

### Sunday

8:00 Laura Moniz +  
9:30 Agnes Keating +  
11:00 Marie Asucnsion Cortez +

## 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 Riccio .....352-3506  
Head Usher: Al Weinberger.....895-9900  
Head Greeter: Susan McCue.....638-7434  
Ministry Schedulers: Barbara Buckley .....352-9656  
Susan Hupp.....483-5652  
Teen Confirmation:  
Mary Schirmer .....352-1537  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Joe Riccio.....352-6079  
Pastoral Council:  
Paul Carney .....635-9473  
School Board:  
Giovanna Giuliani.....777-1426  
Liturgy CommitteeFinance Committee:  
Loretta Fernandes.....352-1537  
Pat Durgin .....632-4032  
All Saints Skilled Nursing  
Merlie Macasieb.....895-5162  
Bishop's Appeal:.....352-1537  
Tuesdays with Larry:  
Larry Graves .....352-4777  
Rosary Makers:  
Irene Haines .....483-7975  
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.