

*St. Anne of the Sunset Catholic Church*

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www.stanne-sf.org



*December 18, 2016 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent*



*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel...*

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S

If you haven't registered or are changing information on your registration card,  
please complete this form and return it to the Rectory.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Moving \_\_\_\_\_ New information \_\_\_\_\_ Send Envelopes \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Please put me on the mailing list \_\_\_\_\_

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016



They shall name him  
Emmanuel,  
which means "God  
is with us."

—Matthew 1:23

### EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well.

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### CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

—From *God's Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** —You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (*Isaiah 7:10-14*).

**Psalm** — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (*Psalms 24*).

**Second Reading** —God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (*Romans 1:1-7*).

**Gospel** —The son of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (*Matthew 1:18-24*).

## Pastor's Corner

**Novena to Christmas** - The online Catholic Encyclopaedia NewAdvent.org explains that Novenas are nine days of private or public devotion to obtain special graces. The simplest explanation of the Christmas novena is the nine months of Christ in the womb. Just as Mary carried Jesus in her womb for nine months and brought Christ to our world, so our own nine days of preparation can also be so that we may bring Christ to others, that we be *Alter Christus*, another Christ. Certainly in this Season of Grace, many of us play the role of Santa Claus as well as being angels to the needy and at times even being Christ to those around us. While that can be one intention of the Christmas novena, we can also bring our own special intention to God. It was Jesus Himself who exhorted the Apostles to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. And when the young Church prayed for nine days, they received the gift of the Spirit that comforted them and emboldened them to continue the work of Jesus. So whatever favors we seek, Jesus taught us in the parable of the persistent widow (Lk 18:1-8) to persevere in prayer. *"For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened"* (Mt 7:8). Our Christmas Novena (*Simbang Gabi*, meaning *Dawn Mass*), which began last Thursday, December 15, continues through Friday, December 23. All masses will be at 7pm except for Saturday (12/17), which is at 5pm. Reception follows in the vestibule after Mass. Hope to see you there!

**Quotes regarding Advent** - The following are excerpts from the talk given by **Pope Francis** as he spoke with those gathered at St. Peter's square on Sun, Nov 27, 2016 (the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent):

- Advent is an invitation to "sobriety, to not be dominated by the things of this world, to material reality, but rather to govern them."
- He pointed to the three comings of Christ, to which Advent direct us: his Incarnation; his daily walking with us and consoling presence; and his "coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead."
- Relationship with God-who-comes-to-visit gives to every gesture, every thing, a different light, a 'thickness' and symbolic value.
- The things of everyday should be seen from the perspective, the horizon, of our final encounter with Christ. Thus, Advent is "an invitation to vigilance, because not knowing when He will come, we must always be ready to depart."
- Learning from Mary's "yes" to the angel, the Pope concluded, we can pray that Mary help us to not consider ourselves as owners of our lives, "not resistant when the Lord comes to change them, but ready to meet Him as an awaited and agreeable guest, even though He upsets our plans."

Fr. Dan



## Masses for the week

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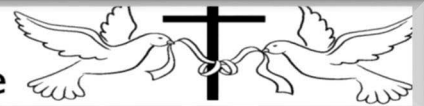
### December 18 to December 25, 2016

<b>Sunday, December 18</b>		<b>Presider</b>
7:30	Juan Canto, Jr. (D)	Fr. Nascimento
9:00	Joseph Tsoy (D)	Bishop Walsh
10:30	Parishioners of Saint Anne	Fr. Nascimento
Noon	Paula Chow (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Monday, December 19</b>		
6:30	Eloisa Carrasco (D)	Bishop Walsh
8:45	Deacon John Dupre (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Tuesday, December 20</b>		
6:30	Parishioners of Saint Anne	Bishop Walsh
8:45	birthday, Ninfa Guevara	Fr. Nascimento
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Wednesday, December 21</b>		
6:30	Parishioners of Saint Anne	Bishop Walsh
8:45	Bernise Sabin (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Thursday, December 22</b>		
6:30	Andy Wirth, Rudy Golding, and Phil Jimenez (D)	Fr. Nascimento
8:45	Joseph Chen (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Friday, December 23</b>		
6:30	Alice Liu (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD
8:45	David Liu (D)	Fr. Nascimento
7 p.m.	Christmas Novena Mass ( <i>Simbang Gabi</i> )	
<b>Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve</b>		
8:45	Confraternity of Saint Anne	Bishop Walsh
5 p.m.	<b>Family Mass with Christmas Pageant</b> Parishioners of Saint Anne	Fr. Nascimento
8 p.m.	<b>Chinese Christmas Mass</b> Parishioners of Saint Anne	Fr. Zhai, SVD
<b>Sunday, December 25—Christmas</b>		
12:00	<b>Midnight Mass</b> Parishioners of Saint Anne	Fr. Nascimento
7:30	William Kvaternick and Mary Zuppe (D)	Bishop Walsh
9:00	Parishioners of Saint Anne	Bishop Walsh
10:30	Aniceto L. Lucas and Mary & Natale Fioranelli (D)	Fr. Nascimento
Noon	Ilisa Chan (D)	Fr. Zhai, SVD

**13th Annual Walk for Life** in San Francisco and Walk for Life Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Saturday, January 21 9:30 am: Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with Archbishop Cordileone 10:45 am: Rally at Civic Center Plaza. There the Archbishop will announce this year's recipient of the Saint G award for Pro-life Heroism. The walk from Civic Center Plaza to Justin Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street begins at 1:30 p.m. The Walk for Life Committee says: "The Mission is to change the perceptions of a society that thinks abortion is an answer, because abortion does violence to women and to their children..."

**Are You Looking for Your Offertory Envelopes for 2017?** In past years, in order to save on postage, in December we have put all the new year's offertory envelopes on tables in the vestibule for you to pick up when you come to Mass. But as you may have noticed, quite a number of people never picked up their envelopes, either because they had moved out of the parish or because they preferred not to have them anymore. So this year they will be mailed to you every month. This is an option that we think will ultimately save us money. First of all, it is not that expensive. Secondly, we will learn if the person is no longer in the parish or no longer wishes to receive envelopes. This will enable us to keep from ordering more envelopes than are needed and to maintain a more accurate list of active parishioners and so save us on other mailings.

## Marriage



**Marriage Preparation Programs for the Engaged** is a program to prepare couples for the **Sacrament of Marriage**

Winter 2017 Sessions—Commuter Weekend  
 Saturday, January 7  
 Saturday, February 4  
 Saturday, February 25  
 Saturday, March 18  
 Saturday, April 8

8:45 AM—5:15 PM One Day Session  
 St. Vincent's Marinwood,  
 1 Saint Vincent's Dr, San Rafael, CA  
 Online registration and payment portal—Credit Card via  
[www.sffamilylife.com](http://www.sffamilylife.com)

### LORD OF ALL

Jesus Christ will be Lord of all,  
 or he will not be Lord at all.  
 —St. Augustine

### Last Week's Collection

Immaculate Conception, December 8— \$409.00  
 1st Collection, December 10, 11— \$3,891.00  
 Building and Maintenance Fund— \$989.00

### This Week's Second Collection

Property and Insurance Fund

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2016—\$46,809 (86%)  
 Assessment—\$54,292

**Thank You All for Your Generosity!**  
 For On-line giving, visit: [www.stanne-sf.org](http://www.stanne-sf.org)

## ST. ANNE STAFF

### Pastoral Staff:

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### In Residence:

Bishop Daniel Walsh, Bishop Emeritus of Santa Rosa	
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### Office Staff:

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Eva Wong, Director, Chinese School	
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## ST. ANNE REGULAR SCHEDULE

### Sunday Mass

Sat., 5pm; Sun: 7:30, 9, 10:30am & 12pm (Chinese)

### Daily Mass

Mon - Fri: 6:30am & 8:45am  
Sat: 8:45am (Devotion to St. Anne)

### Holy Days of Obligation

6:30am, 8:45am, 12 noon & 6pm

### Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

1st Friday following 8:45am Mass until 10am

**Reconciliation:** Sat., 4 - 4:55pm or by appointment

**Baptism:** 2nd Saturday @ 12:30pm

Preparation Class: 3rd Saturday @ 10am in Rectory

**Office Hours:** Mon - Fri: 9am - 4:30pm



The virgin  
shall  
conceive,  
and bear  
a  
Son



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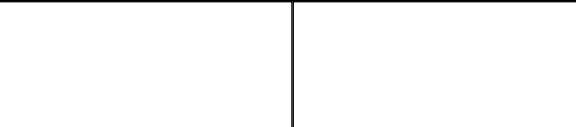
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