

# SAINT ANNE of the SUNSET CHURCH

850 Judah St., San Francisco, CA 94122

www.stanne-sf.org 

Rectory: 415-665-1600

School: 415-664-7977

*Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 24, 2023*



**“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”**

[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

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## **SCHOOL STAFF**

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**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES: 415-866-6455**

**Daily Mass: 8:45am Mon.—Sat.**

**Sunday Masses: Sat. Vigil at 5pm,  
Sundays at 8am, 10am, and Noon (Chinese)**

**All Masses Livestreamed except Sunday 8am**

**Confessions: 30 minutes before  
Saturday Vigil and each Sunday Mass**

**Office Hours: Mon.—Fri., 9am — 4:30pm**

**Baptisms: 2nd Sat. of month, 12:30pm  
(Registered Parishioners only)**

**Baptismal Prep: 3rd Sat. of month, 10:00am  
(Registered Parishioners only)**



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December  
24, 2023

### *Mary, the New Ark*

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent beautifully intertwine the imagery of the Ark of the Covenant with Mary's role in the divine plan. In the first reading from 2 Samuel, we encounter King David's intention to build a physical house for the Ark, symbolizing God's presence among His people. However, God reveals a different plan to David through Nathan, signifying that His presence cannot be contained in a mere structure.

This revelation foreshadows the incarnation, where God chooses not a temple made with hands, but a living ark – Mary – to bear His presence into the world. Mary, as the new Ark of the Covenant, embodies the fulfillment of God's promise to dwell among His people. Her role as Theotokos, the God-bearer, signifies a profound shift: God's presence is no longer confined to the Holy of Holies but is now intimately accessible through Christ, born of Mary.

Mary's acceptance of her role, as depicted in Luke's Gospel, marks a pivotal moment in salvation history. Just as the original Ark was revered and held the tablets of the covenant, Mary carries within her the Word made flesh, the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Her fiat – her yes to God – ushers in a new era where God dwells not just among us but within us, through Christ. For us, Mary as the new Ark represents not only the fulfillment of ancient prophecies but also a model of discipleship.

Her willingness to accept God's plan, despite the uncertainties and challenges, calls us to be bearers of Christ in our own lives. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, we are invited to reflect on how we, like Mary, can carry the presence of Christ into our world, living out the Gospel in our actions and being vessels of God's grace and love in a world that yearns for His presence.

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### *Pastor's Column*

**Giving Tree Thanks** – To all who contributed to the Giving Tree Gift Card campaign, know that we collected 80 gift cards and \$150 cash, which we used to purchase 6 additional gift cards. Along with the toys and clothes that were donated, the Manager of Volunteer Services for Catholic Charities, Ms. Darlene Wilson, expresses her *appreciation for our kindness and compassion*. Our generosity she adds *will make a difference to our clients and community*. You are amazing and inspirational. I'd like to thank also the parents of the Religious Education program who organized the campaign, set up the giving tree, decorated the ornaments, and gathered the gift cards for Catholic Charities. You were Santa's elves and you gift card donors were someone's Secret Santas. Know that you made someone's Christmas just a little bit brighter.

**Blessing Same-Sex Couples** – On Dec 18, 2023, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith published an explanation on Pastoral Blessings in response to questions raised about Blessing Same-Sex Unions. Pope Francis begins by reminding us that *the great blessing of God is Jesus Christ. He is the great gift for all of humanity, even "while we were still sinners" (Rom 5:8, #1)*. And then he contrasts the difference between a Sacramental and a non-Sacramental blessing. He continues: *From a strictly liturgical point of view, a blessing requires that what is blessed be conformed to God's will, as expressed in the teaching of the Church (#9)*. Therefore, blessing Same-Sex Couples should not have the appearance of a Sacramental Marriage, nor should it be part of a civil union ceremony. However, outside of a liturgical setting, from the perspective of popular piety, those who seek God's blessing *should not be required to have prior moral perfection as a precondition for conferring it (#25)*. Indeed, *the grace of God works in the lives of those who do not claim to be righteous but who acknowledge themselves humbly as sinners (#32)*. Lastly, we are reminded that the Church is *the Sacrament of God's infinite love. Therefore, even when a person's relationship with God is clouded by sin, he can always ask for a blessing, stretching out his hand to God, as Peter did in the storm when he cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" (Mt 14:30, #43)*. The letter concludes by reminding us that *this world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him to bless. In this way, every brother and every sister will be able to feel that, in the Church, they are always pilgrims, always beggars, always loved, and, despite everything, always blessed (#45)*.

—Fr. Dan



*Saint Anne Parish*  
**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**WEEK of December 24, 2023**

**Sunday, December 24**

**8:00am** Thanksgiving, C. V. Velicaria Family

**10:00am** Gerald Maring (D)  
Vincent Vago (D)

**Noon** People of the Parish

**5:00pm** *Christmas Vigil Mass*  
Arcasio Meneses, Sr. (D)

**8:00pm** *Christmas Vigil Mass in Chinese*  
People of the Parish

**Monday, December 25—CHRISTMAS**

**12am** *Christmas Midnight Mass*  
Milagros Rodrigues (D)

**8:00am** *Christmas Mass*  
John and Marian Fox (D)

**10:00am** *Christmas Mass*  
People of the Parish  
Healing, Mum McCue

**Noon** *Christmas Mass in Chinese*  
Chinese Pastoral Center Community

**Tuesday, December 26**

**8:45am** Members of the Santiago Families,  
living and deceased  
William Wuenschell (D)

**Wednesday, December 27**

**8:45am** Members of the Velicaria Families,  
living and deceased  
Charles Cunningham (D)

**Thursday, December 28**

**8:45am** Deceased Members  
of the C. V. Velicaria Family  
Marcus Pena (D)

**Friday, December 29**

**8:45am** Anthony Chan (D)  
Michael Kiernan (D)

**Saturday, December 30**

**8:45am** Confraternity of Saint Anne  
**5:00pm** People of the Parish  
Charles Cunningham (D)

**Please Note** that in 2024, we will go back to offering only **one intention per Mass**. However, there are still lots of openings for Mass intentions in January and beyond.

Visit the rectory or call 415 665-1660 x22  
to offer a Mass on behalf of a loved one or yourself.



*And of  
his  
kingdom  
there  
shall  
be  
no  
end!*



**FINAL WEEK Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**

**2023 Goal: \$49,348**

Donations as of 12/18/23: **\$46,709**  
**(95% of Goal) WE'RE ALMOST THERE!**

Please help us meet our goal by donating  
directly online at [SFArch.org/AAA](http://SFArch.org/AAA)  
and selecting **Saint Anne** in the drop-down menu  
**no later than December 31, 2023**

If you prefer to write a check, all checks mailed  
must be dated and postmarked by December 31.

Make check payable to **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2023**  
and indicate on the memo line that the donation is for  
**Saint Anne of the Sunset Church.**

**Mail to : AAA 2023**  
**Archdiocese of San Francisco**  
**One Peter Yorke Way**  
**San Francisco, CA 94109**

Otherwise you will not receive tax credit for 2023  
and your donation will go to the AAA for 2024.

**Previous Week's Collections**

1st Collection, Dec. 107 2023— \$2,918.00  
Property and Insurance Fund— \$1,349.00

**No Second Collection This Week**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

For on-line giving, visit: [www.stanne-sf.org](http://www.stanne-sf.org)