

Saint Francis de Sales Church Bulletin

December 20, 2009 ~ Sherman Oaks, California



Remember to pray for the sick and recovering of our community *especially*

Marilu Crowley, Moe Rush-Bryant, David Story, Brooks Paul, Margaret Tarin Hensley, Olga D'Este, Catherine Street, Faye Schafuss, Ernest Dewsnap, Clarita Hernandez, Alicia Gomez, Susan Dalglish, Melissa Manning Wilmot, Marilyn Bardwil, Robina Dumas, Floyd Romeck, Theresia Hubel, Rocco Carter, Peter Thompson, Calleigh Stone, Micki Kadar, Monica A. Faraldo, Steve Mccahulk, Sam Sosna, Rocco Wren, Kelly Hare, Joey Harper, Sr. Jane Faurot, Dee Gillespie, Emma Ramirez, Cynthia Kotzman, Lucy Fleming McGrath, Sr. Greta Stewart, Teresa Pina-Jiminez, Spencer Hawk, Jennifer Robin, and Eileen Breeden.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY- DECEMBER 19

8:30 AM -For the Intentions of Eileen Breeden

5:00 PM -In Memory of Bob De Chellis

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 20

8:00 AM -In Memory of Gabriel Diaz

10:00 AM -In Memory of John Loughlin

12:00 PM -In Memory of Lala King

5:00 PM -For the Intentions of the Parish

MONDAY- DECEMBER 21

8:30 AM -In Memory of Oscar Rivera

TUESDAY- DECEMBER 22

8:30 AM -In Memory of Benjamin Knoll

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23

8:30 AM -In Memory of Connie & Bob Catlett

THURSDAY- DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM -For the Intentions of the Parish

6:00 PM -For the Intentions of the Parish

12:00 AM -For the Intentions of the Parish

FRIDAY- DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

8:00 AM -For the Intentions of the Parish

10:00 AM -For the Intentions of the Parish

12:00 PM -For the Intentions of the Parish

SATURDAY- DECEMBER 26

8:30 AM -In Memory of William P. Garcia

5:00 PM -In Memory of Marmerto Pascual

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

4 p.m. Mass with Children's Choir.

Carols begin at 3:30p.m.

6 p.m. Mass with Rosie Casey
and friends.

12 Midnight Mass with Adult Choir.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th

8 a.m. Mass with Cantor and Organ.

10 a.m. Mass with Adult Choir.

12 noon Mass with Cantor and Organ
(No 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas
afternoon.)

**THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH,
WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

MISSION STATEMENT

**"Our mission is to help our Parish Family discover rewarding and fulfilling opportunities to grow spiritually;
to form relationships; to serve Our Lord and to help others."**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS (12/27)

First Reading - Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14.

Second Reading - We are children of God when we believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel - Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 12/20

9AM-CRE Classes.

10AM-Little Church.

Monday 12/21

7PM-Simbang Gabi. Main Church. See below.

Tuesday 12/22

7PM-RCIA. Parish Center.

7PM-Advent Penance Service. Main Church.

Wednesday 12/23

7:30PM-Meditation Prayer group.

Thursday 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM-Bible Study. Parish Center.

12PM-Parish Center will close.

3:30PM-Children's Choir sings Carols.

4PM-Mass with Children's Choir.

6PM-Mass with Rosie Casey and Friends.

11:15PM-Adult Choir Carols.

12 Midnight Mass with Adult Choir.

Friday 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8AM-Mass with Cantor and Organ.

10AM- Mass with Adult Choir.

12Noon-Mass with Cantor and Organ.

(No 5PM Mass Christmas afternoon)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

Week of 12/3-12/9 Collection.

Collection \$12,142.00

Parish Pay \$ 1,711.00

Total \$13,853.00

Thank you for your contributions.





SFDS GIVING TREES

Our Annual SFDS Christmas “Giving Trees”, this year 3, are in the church, and will be decorated with gift tags, each bearing the name and the age of a needy individual. You, our generous parishioners, are invited to take home a tag (or two!) and add this person to your Christmas list. We ask that you buy a new item of your choosing for the individual, wrap the gift and return the gift with the gift tag on it to the Parish Office by Monday, December 21st. This year our gifts will go to benefit the Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles. The mission of the Good Shepherd Shelter is to provide a temporary haven for battered and abused women and their children. The shelter provides a safe and loving community where mothers can address the painful past and begin new, violence-free lives. At Good Shepherd Shelter, the mothers choose to break the cycle of abuse and take on the leadership of and responsibility for their families. The long-term care guides families through the complex social, psychological and educational issues that confront them. There are currently twelve families of battered and abused women with their children residing at the Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles. Please open your hearts to these needy families, especially during this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intention envelopes are now available. They are a good way to remember loved ones, living and deceased. The envelopes are in the church pews or in the Parish Center during regular business hours. You may place your donation in the envelopes.

Fourth Sunday of Advent NATURE RESTORED

Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature. -St. Peter Chrysologus

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

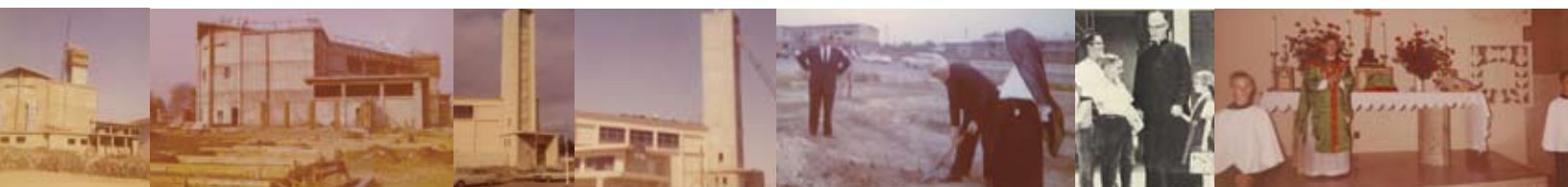
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Cyril of Jerusalem December 21 7:30pm
Our Lady of the Valley December 21 7:30pm
Our Lady of Grace December 21 7pm
St. Francis de Sales December 22 7pm
Our Lady of Lourdes December 22 7:30pm

SIMBANG GABI AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Simbang Gabi 2009, the Filipino Novena of the last nine days of Advent, at St. Francis de Sales will be this Monday evening, December 21st at 7:00.





Parish Penance Service

Our best time for confessions before Christmas is this Tuesday evening, December 22nd, at 7 p.m. in the church.

Confirmation II Retreat

42 of our Confirmation II students spent a retreat day at Holy Spirit retreat Center in Encino on Saturday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The guiding idea was to assist these Confirmation students to see their relationship with the Lord Jesus a bit more clearly. With thanks to the adults who planned and made this retreat day possible: our Confirmation coordinator, Pauline Story, Billy Gillespie, Nick Bryant and Laurie Rey. My thanks to Fr. Ken Deasy who gave a stirring presentation after lunch.

Annual Respect Life Mass

Each January, to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, there is a special Mass to sing God's praises and affirm the sanctity of all human life. This Mass will be on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels at 555 W. Temple St. in Los Angeles.

LOVE NOW

Let those love now
who never lov'd before;
let those who always lov'd
now love the more.

-Anonymous

SFDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Support the SFDS Scholarship Fund. Simply register your Ralphs, Vons, Macys and Albertsons loyalty cards to SFDS and earn money while you shop. It is as simple as that. Last year we earned over \$2100 for the scholarship fund. If you need more information call Lisa Sanders at the Parish Center or email the scrip office at mrebbe@stfrancisds.org. Remember, you must register your cards EVERY year to continue earning money for SFDS.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD...

All are welcome to join the SFDS Meditation Prayer Group. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. for one hour in the church. The group follows the teachings of Fr. John Main, a Benedictine Monk, who uses a combination of silence, stillness and prayer. Those who are drawn to silent meditation as a way of experiencing the divine presence in their lives are encouraged to attend. "God is not only out there but also within."

To learn more about the group's practice, go online to

The World Community of Christian Meditation at www.wccm.com.



KNIGHTS NEWS

SFDS Knights will have its monthly clothing and non-perishable food collection for the poor and homeless in our community every First Sunday of the month.

Please bring your items to the Church and drop off before or after Masses in the bins provided.

Loaves and Fishes is in real need for the increased number of people requiring assistance.

EARNING 4 LEARNING

at The Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks

Participating in Earning 4 Learning is easy! Westfield Sherman Oaks Fashion Square is donating to local schools as part of their customer appreciation program. They give SFDS 10 points for every dollar spent for most shops & food court eateries at the mall (5 points per dollar for Macy's and Bloomingdales). The more points we have, the more money SFDS School earns. There is no catch and no cost to you. Just buy the things you normally would at the Sherman Oaks Fashion Square & then show your receipts to the Concierge (located on the first floor by Pottery Barn.) Receipts are logged, stamped and returned to you. All of your regular and holiday shopping, as well as your food court purchases qualify! The program runs from November 1st to May 31st. From November to December, please collect your receipts as the turn in dates do not start until January 1st. (However, November and December receipts apply once registered in January.)

For more information, you can log onto http://www.shoppingpartnership.com/points/westfield_fashion_square.htm

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Thank you for your generous offering of \$3,079.00 to the second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious last weekend. This retirement appeal benefits our retired men and women in religious orders or religious communities (not our archdiocesan priests). This nationwide appeal directly assists in the cost of elder care for our retired religious men and women. Thank you.

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

There is an old saying that good gifts come in small packages. This is certainly borne out in today's scriptures. In the first reading the Lord announces that it is from Bethlehem, described as "too small to be among the clans of Judah" (Micah 5:1), that the Messiah would spring forth. In the Gospel story of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, we can only imagine Mary, probably a young teenager, a small woman, bearing within herself the greatest gift the world would ever know. These scriptures have much to say to us as we look forward to opening Christmas gifts over the next few days. Nothing in any package beneath any tree can compare to the gift given to the world two thousand years ago. As we share the joy of Christmas, let us remember the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who came into this world to save us and set us free.

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IS THIS MOVIE SUITABLE FOR MY CHILDREN?

Reviews and ratings of an extensive list of movies, both current and archived is available at www.usccb.org/movies/. This service is provided by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Office of Film and Broadcasting.

LEO BAECK TEMPLE CONFERENCE

Please join us at Leo Baeck Temple's 2nd Annual Conference on Homelessness. The topic will be "Homelessness and Affordable Housing: The Next Steps." On Sunday January 10, 2010 from 9:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. at Leo Baeck Temple, 1300 North Sepulveda Blvd. LA. 90049. The Keynote Speaker will be Police Chief Charlie Beck. No Conference Fee. Hear from experts in various aspects of helping the low income population of Los Angeles find affordable housing.

Join with members of Leo Baeck Temple and other religious organizations for an informative discussion on how we can help solve this most important problem in our city. Meet and hear Leo Baeck's own Imagine LA success story. Maria Oliva and her son Danny who have beaten the odds and are living in their own apartment will be here to share their inspiring story with you.

R.S.V.P to :Matt Smith, Assistant to Rabbi Timoner at Leo Baeck Temple -by phone at 310-476-2861 or by E-mail to Matt@leobaecktemple.org January 7,2010 if you plan to attend.

Year-End Financial Planning and Charitable Gifts

As you consider how best to make your charitable gifts this fall, you may want to pay special attention to what to give and the timing of your gifts. Cash and checks are the most popular ways to make charitable gifts. When such gifts are deducted on your federal tax return, it can be possible to eliminate tax of up to half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Larger gifts may be used to reduce taxes in up to five additional years. Also, unlike certain other deductions, charitable gifts are deductible from both regular and alternative minimum taxes. To make a gift to St. Francis de Sales Church or School, the correct designation is: "The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole for the benefit of St. Francis de Sales Church (or School)."

PERPETUAL CANDLES

Honor the memory of a loved one by having a Perpetual Candle lit in his/her name. The Perpetual Candles are located at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and remain lit for the entire year. A plaque is placed above the candle with the name of the individual being memorialized. Orders are now being taken for the 2010 year. Please contact Jeannie Bas at 818-784-0105 if you wish to place an order or renew your candle.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST?

For further information, please contact or H. Richard Closson, Director, Trust and Estate Programs (213) 637-7472, or e-mail HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org or the website www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc.

DID YOU KNOW?

Know the 'Parent Warning Codes'

Text messaging is an increasingly integral part of the way young people communicate with their friends. But like other forms of communication, it can expose children to outside threats and unwanted contacts, even from sexual predators. That's why it is important for parents to monitor their child's use of text messaging. Young people are aware of their parents' supervision and have developed text codes in response. These parent warning codes are codes that kids use to let whomever they are talking to know that it is not safe to talk. If you see these codes, you should instantly be suspicious. For example, "MOS" means "Mom over shoulder," and "PIR" means "Parent in room." A helpful tutorial for parents is located at www.mahalo.com. Type: "How to understand your kids' text messages" in the search box.

For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at 213- 637-7650.

SFDS ADULT CLUB 2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Luncheon Meetings: - Every 3rd Monday of the month. Call Maurine Backus at 818-784-0605 or Renee O'Malley at (818) 986-6369 for reservations..

Club Membership: Join the SFDS Adult Club and its many year-long activities and projects for only \$15. Call Cora Kinsella for membership at (818) 990-5196.

Board Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Executive Committee Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month in Parish Center at 1:30 pm.

Free Beach Parking at County Beaches for 62+: obtain your parking passes (M-F) by sending a copy of your driver's license and car registration to Department of Beaches and Harbors, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 or call (310) 305-9503.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to place your news items in the Bulletin, cut off times and dates for this holiday season are Sunday, Dec.20th at 12 noon for the Dec.27th bulletin and Sunday, Dec. 27th for the Jan, 3, 2010 bulletin., you may do so via e-mail. The address is: sfdsbulletin@sbcglobal.net.

