



Second Sunday of ADVENT

Parish Staff

Pastor Monsignor Labib Kobti
Parochial Vicars Father Andrew Johnson
 Father Richard VanDeWater
Deacon: Khaled Abu Shaer
Administrative Assistant Elvira Garcia
Receptionist Sister Teresa Malave, VMF

Campus Ministry

Sisters of Verbum Dei (650) 994-6919
RCIC: Kathy Sanford (650) 738-0646
RCIA: Suzanne Hockel (415) 826-6834

St. Thomas More School (415) 337-0100
 Principal Joe Elsbernd

Sacrament of Baptism (infants):

Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sundays 9:15—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM
 Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony:

Contact a priest at least six months prior to planned wedding date.

ST THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

1300 Junipero Serra Boulevard
 (at Brotherhood Way)

San Francisco, CA 94132-2913

Office: (415) 452-9634

Fax: (415) 452-9653 Wwww.stmchurch.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian
 10:00 AM English
 11:45 AM Arabic
 8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.)
 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM
 First Saturdays:
 10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM
 7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 8:00 PM Mass for healing

Communion to the homebound and the ill:

Please call the office if you know of anyone who is ill and unable to come to Mass so we could bring Communion to them.

Anointing of the Sick:

Any time upon request.
 If any parishioner is ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit and Communion.

Funeral arrangements:

Funeral Director will contact us. If relative dies elsewhere, contact Parish Office.



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active

and consistent presence at worship each week and will respond consistently by my financial giving even when I cannot be present.

Name _____ Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribu-

tion. Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com



Second Sunday of Advent Dec. 10, 2006

Take off your robe of mourning and misery;
put on the splendor of glory from God forever.

—*Baruch 5:1*

Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Dec. 11—
Bible Study & Prayer Group,
7:30 pm, Chapel

Tue. Dec 12—
Communione Lib-
erazione, 7:30 PM,
Scanlan Hall

Wed. Dec. 6 13—
Boy Scouts, 7:30
pm. Carroll Hall

Fri. Dec 15—

AACC Youth Grp,
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

Prince of Peace
8:30 pm

Sat Dec 16—
RCIC, 9 am, Sac-
risty

**Teen Confirma-
tion Group**, 10:30
AM, Sacristy

Prayer Group,
Scanlan Hall
6:30pm

Don't Miss This Special Christmas Offer! (Valid until Dec. 23)

By Father Rick VanDeWater

Christmas holds a warm place in our hearts as no other time of the year. It is the joyful celebration of God's love in the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh. The Christmas season is already in full swing, and everyone is busy preparing for the big day: shopping for presents, finding the right tree and decorating it, putting up lights around the house, sending off those greeting cards, finding food for the festivities, etc. While all those material preparations help to make Christmas a joyful time, it is also important to think about preparing spiritually to receive Christ into our hearts at this holy season. One of the traditional ways of doing that is to participate in the Christmas novena.

What is a novena? It is like a spiritual retreat, a nine-day prayer for the purpose of obtaining special graces. The model and the first of all novenas was that of the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin after the ascension of our Lord, in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:12-14). The Christmas novena is likewise very ancient, being the earliest ecclesiastical novena that the Church has on record. Its nine days commemorate the nine months during which the Christ-child was carried in His mother's womb. Like the Blessed Virgin who "pondered all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51), we too will meditate on the glorious mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. Listening to the prophecies of old, we will be reminded of their fulfillment in Christ's birth. We will have the opportunity to offer to the Savior all the special intentions that we carry in our hearts.

Attending the Christmas novena in its entirety, with appropriate piety and reception of the sacraments, carries a plenary indulgence. The word *indulgence* (Lat. *indulgentia*, from *indulgeo*, "to be kind or tender") originally meant "kindness" or "favor." In the special sense in which it is here considered, an indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment due to sin, the guilt of which has already been forgiven. What does that mean? It means that when we confess our sins to Christ, the guilt of sin is removed, and with it the eternal punishment due to mortal sin; but there still remains the temporal punishment required by Divine justice, and this requirement must be fulfilled either in the present life or in the world to come, i.e., in **Purgatory**. An indulgence offers the penitent sinner the means of discharging that debt during this life on earth. What a great opportunity to receive this favor from the Lord at the Christmas novena!

At St. Thomas More Church, the Christmas novena will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. For nine consecutive nights, this spiritual retreat will consist of the holy mass, highlighted by seasonal music, special novena prayers and some guest celebrants. Food and fellowship will follow. There will be priests available for confession. What an opportunity to make Christmas what it was intended to be – an authentic experience of re-birth!

Regular Activities

AACC Youth Group	Friday, 6:30 PM	Bible Study & Prayer Group	Mon 7:20 PM; Sat 6:00 PM
Campus Ministry/Newman Club	Tue, 12 PM, Stdnt Ctr	Legion of Mary	1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7 PM
Liturgy Committee	To Be Announced	Parish Council	4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino	Last Friday, 7 PM	Prince of Peace	Friday, 8:30 PM

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Dec. menu items: 1 bag of rice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned ham (or other canned meat), 1 plastic bottle of cooking oil, 1 can of fruit juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.



*Everyone is urged to join with all the ethnic communities for our **International Christmas Novena** starting on December 15th. Masses start at 7 PM. We hope to see you then. Coming together in prayer provides a great opportunity for our children to appreciate and cherish our rich cultural diversity here at STM.

*The **mini-raffle drawing** has been moved to after the 10:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day. **Prizes are:** 1st prize: the bronze sculpture of The Last Supper (in the vestibule of the church); 2nd prize: weekend in Napa Valley (for up to 6 persons); 3rd prize: \$250.00 in cash. There is still time to get your tickets!

***Thanksgiving Once A Month** is asking for our help to collect macaroni & cheese and cans of mushroom soup during Advent to help feed the needy at Christmas. Boxes will be in the vestibule for your donation. Please call Linda Shah at (415) 218-0401 if there is any question.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
In preparation
Dec. 15—17,
5:00 PM:

Advent Spiritual Retreat with Verbum Dei, 583 St. Francis Blvd., Daly City

Dec. 15-23: 7:00 PM:
International Novena

Dec. 18: Confessions
6:30 PM & during Novena

Christmas Eve, Sunday
December 24th

Note: We will do our regular masses on Sunday Morning as the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Dec 24 in the Evening:

4:30 **Children's Mass**
7: 00 PM **Mass in English**
9: 00 PM **Mass In Arabic**
Midnight, **Mass in English**

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25th

Mass at 10:00 AM
No Arabic Mass
Mass at 4:00 PM Brazilian
Mass at 8: 00 PM

Sunday December 31

Feast of the of the Holy Family As regular Sunday. Beside our regular Mass, at the 8:00 PM Mass, we will celebrate New Year's Eve.

Sunday January 7: Epiphany

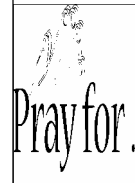
Regular Sunday Mass schedule.

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 10—Dec. 17, 2006

- 12/10 Sun 10:00 am Carmen A. Mercado†
8:00 pm People of STM
- 12/11 Mon 8:30am Margaret Mary Burns †
- 12/12 Tue 5:30 pm Jacinta Saba†
- 12/13 Wed 8:30 am Ramon Sobremont†
- 12/14 Thu 5:30 pm Percy Smith†
- 12/15 Fri 8:30 am Kobti Family
- 12/16 Sat 8:30 am Juanita Omar
5:00 pm Pacifico & Lydia Pineda -Sp Int

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the Mass you offer is appreciated.



All the sick people in our parish specially
Harrison

Leonardo ,
John Silva,

Zenaida Salamat, Martha Panaszewicz, Rhona Palencia, Mary Lee Burke, George Crawford, William & Deena Tannous, Nazzal Nazzal; for those recently deceased in our parish especially Placido Tongol and for all the poor souls in purgatory.

***Please, remember** that at Christmas we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. Prepare yourself and your children in this spirit.

***Please, remember** to go to confession and make from your heart and family a great manger to Jesus.

***Please, remember** that as you make gifts to your children the church expects the same.

Your **offerings** for the weekend of **Dec 3rd:**
\$4,252

Tithing offertory:
\$2,089

School collection:
\$1,153.91

Thank you for your contributions.