



Fourth 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.

SAINT 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
 Www.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



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4th Sunday of Advent Dec 24, 2006

O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted.

— Psalm 80:15-16

Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Dec. 25—

Merry Christmas, Christmas Day
Masses are at:
10:00 AM. NO Arabic Mass. 4:00 PM Brazilian Community Mass and 8:00 PM

Fri. Dec 29—

Novena to Santo Nino, 7pm, Chapel

AACC Youth Grp, 6:30 pm, Scanlan Hall.
Prince of Peace Group

Sat Dec 30—

RCIC, 9 am,
Sacristy and Confirmation group.
Please visit their Christmas Tree at the Entrance of our Church

Prayer Group, 6:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Sun Dec 31 — Happy New Year!

The need of a Messiah: Christmas

By Msgr. Labib Kobti

Why did the Jews wait and still wait for a Messiah? What is the need of a Messiah for them yesterday, today and for the future? What would the messiah bring to them?

How did the Messiah of the Christians, who came on the first Christmas, respond to the needs and expectations of the Jews (the first Christians) and to the Christians of today? Are the Messiah awaited by the Jews, and the Messiah who came on the first Christmas, the same?

The Bible speaks about the Messiah whose lineage should be from King David, please read: Linage Genesis 3:15; 9:26; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; 49:10; 2 & Samuel 7:12-16 be Son of David. He should be born by a Virgin, read, please: Virgin birth Isaiah 7:14. He should be born in Bethlehem, please read: Birthplace Micah 5:2. He should be called prince of peace, and should bring peace forever, please read Isaiah 9:1-16. He should save people from their sins and die for our salvation, please read Isaiah 53:12, Isaiah 59:16, Isaiah 53:5, Psalms 69:9, Psalms 22:17-18. He will rise from death, please read Psalms 16:10, Psalms 118:17, Hosea 6:2; Psalm 30:3,9; Isaiah 53:10. By his death he will establish a new Covenant that we see in the Sacraments: Isaiah 55:3-4, Jeremiah 31:31. The gentiles will be part of the people of God: Isaiah 9:2, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 65:1.

The Messiah by his incarnation (Christmas), death and resurrection Psalms 45:6-7, Psalms 102:25-27, Psalms 2:7, Proverbs 30:4, Psalm 110:1; 68:18; Proverbs 30:4; 24:3-10 will bear all suffering and make from it a sharing of love. In fact suffering stops when you see in it a sharing of love. He will bring an everlasting peace, because as he brought us back to our Original relation with God, then when we are with God nothing can disturb us. Nothing can separate us from God, as St. Paul says: "What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us. He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us, how will he not also give us everything else along with him...What will separate us... Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword....? Romans 8:31-39.

Our Messiah destroyed also death. After his death and resurrection, death has no power on us. Through our death we share the eternity of God.

This is what the Jews were waiting for, a messiah who can bring all of the above to them. And this is what our Messiah brought to the world.

This is why many Jews starting with the disciples who were the first not to believe started to believe and announce Him as the Messiah, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. And this is why many prominent Jews, even rabbis have converted to Christianity.

Christmas brings again to all of us the fulfillment of what the so awaited Messiah had given to the world.

Merry Christmas to all of you.

Regular Activities

AACC Youth Group	Friday, 6:30 PM	Bible Study & Prayer Group	Monday, 7:20 PM
Campus Ministry/Newman Club	Tuesday, 12-1PM, Student Center	Legion of Mary	Saturday, 6:00 PM
Liturgy Committee	To Be Announced	Parish Council	1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7 PM
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino	Last Friday, 7 PM	Prince of Peace	4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
			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 mashed potatoes, 1 can of meat gravy, 1 can of cranberries, 1 canned turkey (or chicken meat), 1 fruit juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.



***The Team of Priests** serving you at STM, Msgr. Labib Kobti, Fr. Andrew Johnson and Fr. Rick Van De Water offer to all of you, our family Parishioners all the best for a **Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.** Pray for us.

*Everyone is **invited** to come early and enjoy a special treat from our Music Ministers: **harp music in our church** from 6:30 to 7:00 PM this afternoon — prior to the 7 PM Mass. Special thanks to Suzanne Hockel and all who sing and enhance our worship services.

*During this time of gift-giving, we at **STM would like to thank each and everyone of you**, our parishioners, and all who come to worship with us, for giving us the chance to serve you, for being such wonderful people, for forming a family with the team of Priests, for all the support and the love you have extended to us as priests and as workers in the vineyard of the Lord. For your Christmas greetings and generosity, for the Novena and all who make it happen, for the choirs and priests. We thank the parish Council, the Finance Committee and the many ministries and all who have made from our church a **CHURCH-FAMILY OF LOVE.**

* If you know of **any sick person** who needs a visit of a communion pls call our office, the Priests and Eucharistic ministers would like to visit and help. We are also creating a Senior/Homebound ministry. Pls call the office if you can help with this ministry.



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***HELP 2-YEAR-OLD HARRISON LEONARD BEAT LEUKEMIA!** SF Firefighter O.J. Leonardo risks his life every day to help keep our community safe. Now he needs our help with saving his 2-yr old son, Harrison, who has leukemia. He needs an immediate bone marrow transplant to save his life. Pls sign up as a donor and see if you are a match for Harrison. [There is a severe shortage of Filipino and Asian donors in the National Marrow Donor Program database, hence there is no bone marrow donor match for Harrison.] Visit www.HelpHarrison.com and/or a.a.d.p.o.r.g/become_a_donor.html or call (800) 593-6667. Pls get tested for the most important holiday gift you can provide!

***Single Catholic men, 21 years of older:** Do you think God might be calling you? Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic Priest? You are invited to attend a Discernment Retreat, 4 pm on Friday, January 26 through 1 pm on Sunday, January 28, 2007 at St. Patrick's Seminary to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you! Retreat will include prayer, discussion and presentations about the priesthood, group interaction and following the daily routine of a seminarian. For further info, pls see one of our priests.

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 24—Dec 30, 2006

- 12/24 Sun 10:00am People of STM
4:30pm Miguel Lobetos†
7:00pm George Escolta†
12:00am People of STM
- 12/25 Mon 10:00am Randy/Leonora Cayabyab
8:00pm De Guzman/Sotto Families
- 12/26 Tue 5:30 pm Teresita Arguelles†
- 12/27 Wed 8:30am Constancio Lopez†
- 12/28 Thu 10:00 am Innocenta Perez†
- 12/29 Fri 8:30 am Special Intention
- 12/30 Sat 8:30 am Kobti Family
5:00 pm Joseph Small†

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



All the sick people in our parish especially John Silva, Zenaida Salamat, Martha Panaszewicz, Rhona Palencia, Mary Lee Burke, George Crawford, William & Deena Tannous, Nazzal Nazzal, Abdallah Bajalieh; for those recently deceased in our parish especially Widad Hanna and Jonny Martha.

Your **offerings** for the weekend of **Dec. 17th:**
\$6,150

Thank you for your contributions.

***Heads up:** Our second collection next Sunday will be for Saint Vincent de Paul Society and we will have a second collection for the victims of the typhoons in the Philippines on the third Sunday of January. As usual, we count on your generosity. Thank you.

***Thank you** for your financial support of your church and we pray that the Lord bless your family and give you back a hundred fold of what you have given.

*Soon we will be sending you the **tax-deductible letter** for your contributions during the whole year as we do every year.