

May it be done to me  
according  
to your  
word



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## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

1300 Junipero Serra Blvd.  
(off Brotherhood Way)  
San Francisco, CA 94132-2913  
Office: (415) 452-9634  
Fax: (415) 452-9653  
[www.stmchurch.com](http://www.stmchurch.com)

### Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2008

The child to be born will be  
called holy, the Son of God.

—*Luke 1:35*

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." (Lk 1:28) Our frequent repetition of these words can dull our sense of awe for the fantastic event which they announced: the incarnation of God. The blessed virgin Mary, saluted as "full of grace" by the angel, freely chooses to cooperate with God's plan, such that our Savior was "conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit," as we recite in the Creed. "From the first formulations of her faith, the Church has confessed that Jesus was conceived solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, affirming also the corporeal aspect of this event: Jesus was conceived 'by the Holy Spirit without human seed.' (Council of the Lateran, 469)."

This faith we profess was described by St. Ignatius of Antioch at the beginning of the second century thusly: "You are firmly convinced about our Lord, who is truly of the race of David according to the flesh, Son of God according to the will and power of God, truly born of a virgin,...he was truly nailed to a tree for us in his flesh under Pontius Pilate...he truly suffered, as he is also truly risen." (CCC 496)

Through the miracle of faith, belief in things unseen, we encounter Christ and grow in our love of him now. Christ is really and truly born for us only if we are prepared to celebrate the anniversary of his birth as a moment of faith. Advent is a time for renewal of faith, and faith grows only with a deeper commitment to renounce sin. Our preparation for our guests would be patently insincere and a charade were we to commence our celebration before their arrival. How much more should our spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ be accomplished through ardent offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice, personal prayer, spiritual reading and Confession. Such are the marks of our sincerity even as we string lights, wrap gifts and fight traffic in the search of the 'perfect' holiday. The 'holy day' is the best holiday.

It is a continuing miracle that the whole world pauses to celebrate at Christmas. Far more marvelous is the blessed Christian for whom the lights, festive parties and gift-giving are only signs of the real source of abiding joy: the gift of Jesus, "he who saves his people from their sins."

**Prepare well [in these final few days before Christmas], for a truly merry, blessed, 'Christ-Mass'.**

-Father Cusick, jspaluch

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul  
"Pray without ceasing" -- St. Paul

Great convert and Apostle of the Gentiles, you became Christlike and knew only Christ Crucified. Though extremely learned, you relied completely on the Wisdom received from the Spirit and taught from the abundance of your heart. Instruct modern evangelists--those who preach Christ to others. Let them realize that their actions speak louder in conveying their God-given message but to rely above all on the promptings of the Spirit. Amen.

**Staff**

**Pastor: Church & School**

Msgr: Labib Kobti

**Parochial Vicar:**

Fr Andrew Johnson

**Priest Brazilian Community**

Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141

**Deacon:**

Khaled Abu Shaer

**Admin Assistant:**

Elvira Garcia

**Receptionist:**

Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF

**Campus Ministry:**

Verbum Dei Sisters,

(650) 994-6919

**RCIC:**

**Kathy Sanford**

(650) 738-0646

**RCIA & Music:**

**Suzanne Hockel**

(415) 826-6834

**STM School:**

**Principal, Joe Elsbernd**

(415) 337-0100



This Week's Parish

Events

Tue. Dec. 23rd --

**Legion of Mary,**

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

**Communion & Liberation, 7:30 pm**

Christmas Novena ends tonight. Potluck in Scanlan Hall after the Novena Mass.

Wed. Dec. 24th --

**Christmas Eve Masses**

(refer to schedule)

Fri. Dec 26th --

Sat. Dec 20th --

**Young Adults Meeting**

Scanlan Hall, 2—5 pm

**Bible Study & Prayer Group**

Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry,

check schedule for Masses & meetings on church board at the entrance.

**Read the Bible in the Land of the Bible,** STM's 16-day pilgrimage in the Holy Land visiting Biblical sites — Old and New Testaments — and meeting local Christians. See Petra, one of the new "Seven Wonders of the World" [where the Magi would have procured frankincense]. Daily liturgy. Small groups. Private room with bath in Christian guesthouses. Pilgrimage in March. Call the office to make reservations. Visit [www.holylandinstitute.org](http://www.holylandinstitute.org). fpr details.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil Mass: 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

Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM

**Sacrament of Baptism (infants):** Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

**Communion to the homebound and the ill:** Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

**Funeral arrangements:** Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

Regular Activities

Parish Council  
 Liturgy Committee  
 Legion of Mary  
 Communion & Liberation

To Be Announced  
 As Announced  
 Tuesday, 6:30 PM  
 Tuesday, 7:30 PM

& Prayer  
 AACC Youth Group  
 Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino  
 Prince of Peace

Bible Study  
 Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via  
 Friday, 6:00 PM  
 Last Friday, 7 PM  
 Friday, 8:30 PM

*Enrich your faith, tune in to 24-hour 1260 AM, Immaculate Heart Radio*

**Full Plate Program:** Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 canned meat, 1 bag of pasta, peanut butter, 1 box of cereal. No glass items, please. Thanks.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

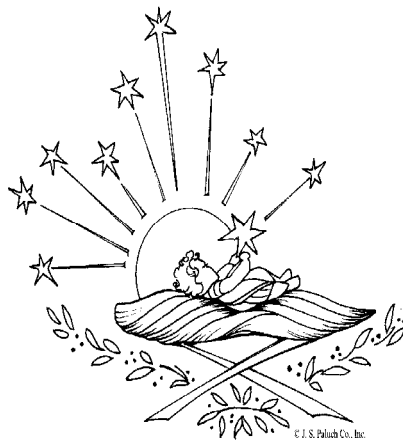
**\*The Giving Tree.** Please note there are a few tags left on the Giving Tree. Take an ornament, purchase some or all of the items. Wrap them, attach the ornament to the gift and place it under the tree. Please bring your wrapped items by the 10 AM Mass on Christmas Day. Thank you for keeping this generous tradition for those less fortunate than we are.

**\*Coloring Contest.** Have your child color the front page picture & send it to the rectory. The best colored one will be picked, & the winner will get to pick something from the gift shop as a prize. Kids have to be 10 years old or younger.

**\*Carols by Cable Car.** Thank you to all who came and joined us for Carolling for a Cause. It was heartwarming to witness the joy we brought to those we visited, and the fun all carolers had — in the pouring rain. See you again next year.

**\*Thank you** to all who came to our Christmas party yesterday. A great time was had by all and we all look forward to next year's party.

**\*Potluck.** Tonight (the 8 pm Mass) will be the seventh Mass of our Christmas Novena of Masses. The Novena ends on Tuesday night, Mass will be at the usual time, 7 pm. There will be a potluck in Carroll Hall after the Novena.



**\*Security cameras.** One of our many expenses this year has been the security cameras, on which we spent about \$5,000. We are also looking to upgrade our church bathrooms to make them accessible to the handicapped and the elderly.

**\*Christmas Season TV on EWTN.** Telecasts include: Pope Benedict XVI offering Midnight Mass, 12/24 @ 3pm (live), encores 12/25 @ 5am & 1 pm. Choral meditations & the Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve, live from the National Shrine in Washington, DC, 12/24 @ 7pm. The Pope's Christmas Message to the World airs 12/25 @t 7 pm & 12/26 @ 12am & 2pm. All times are Pacific. EWTN is carried 24 hours a day on Comcast 229, Astound Ch. 80, DISH Satellite Ch. 261 & Direct TV Ch. 370.

**\*Walk for Life—West Coast.** Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 24th, 2009. Join upwards of 25,000 pro-lifer's for the 5th Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. For more information, visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com). To volunteer call (415) 586-1576.

## MASS INTENTIONS December 21st– Dec 27th 2008

- 12/21 Sun 10:00am People of STM  
8:00 pm Juan-Anatalia Soriano&Family
- 12/22 Mon 8:30am Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 12/23 Tue 5:30 pm Josephine Ryan†
- 12/24 Wed 8:30 am Roger Agcaoil†  
5:30 pm Sara & Collin F-Noguera  
7:00 pm Tomasa Cannon†  
12:00 am Medina Family
- 12/25 Thu 10:00 am People of STM  
4:00 pm [Brazilian Mass]  
8:00 pm Sotto-De Guzman Families
- 12/26 Fri 8:30 am Teresita Arguelles†
- 12/27 Sat 8:30 am Roman Chavez†  
5:00 pm Josephine G. Sanchez(Thnksvgv)

Please call the office to schedule your Mass.  
**Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.**



**Pray for ...** All the sick people in our parish, especially Linda Biagini, Frankie Barabad, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Pepito Paraiso, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosaura Tan, Jean Lu and for all who are battling cancer of whatever form in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish.

## Weekly Offering



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**Weekend of 12/14/08:**  
**\$4,059**  
**Religious Retirement:**  
**\$476**

**Thank you for your generosity.**



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 & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please \_\_\_\_\_ No, thanks. \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: [stmchurch@aol.com](mailto:stmchurch@aol.com)