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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)

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6th, 2009

*“ God has commanded that every  
lofty mountain be made low” —Baruch 5:7*

### **Gospel Summary:**

Luke's elaborate attempt to locate the arrival of John the Baptist in the context of secular history seems to be the answer to every historian's prayer. In fact, however, these references are very imprecise, and none more so than the apparently decisive "fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar." The problem is that the Roman emperor Tiberius shared power with Augustus for two years and we do not know when Luke is beginning his count of the years of Tiberius' reign. One must wonder whether Luke is not perhaps smiling to himself as he teases historians in this way.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that Luke is very much interested in history. But it is a history that includes God's intervention to bring final salvation from the human scourge of sin and death. This divine "taking charge" of history will be announced by John the Baptist and brought into being by Jesus. However, only those who are ready to embrace God's gracious purposes will participate in the final victory.

John's "baptism of repentance" is a ritual that signifies one's readiness to remove all obstacles to the coming of the Lord. Such obstacles would be, first and foremost, a prideful self-will that wishes to dictate where and how and when the Lord should come. "Making straight the way of Lord" is, therefore, a metaphor for personal conversion from prideful controlling tendencies to humble and grateful acceptance of God's sovereign rights in human life.

### **Life Implications:**

The most certain way to miss the promised "salvation of God" is to be too busy, too engrossed in one's work and too distracted to think about God or to prepare for his coming. It is true, of course, that Christ came some 2000 years ago. But that is no guarantee that we have welcomed him. For Christ continues to come to each generation of us humans and to challenge us to let his ideals govern our lives. In that sense, God is always coming and we are constantly being asked to welcome him.

This does not mean that we need to devote large amounts of time to welcoming Christ into our lives. It is more a matter of quality than of quantity. The ideal is set forth in the famous, "Hear, O Israel," of Deuteronomy 6:4. We are told there that we should never be totally unmindful of the reality and the presence of God in our lives. In time of explicit prayer, God is at center stage, as it were, while at other times he moves into the wings but never far from full consciousness on our part.

I like to think of this consciousness of God's presence as a "benign distraction" which, far from interfering with our work, actually helps us to focus more clearly on what we are doing. Moreover, it should not be surprising, when we think of God's love for us, that a smile should play occasionally across our faces, as is customary with those who are in love. Such a benign distraction not only makes us more productive but it also gives us a deep sense of peace and security.

It is our recognition of the presence of God in our world, whether in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, or in December 2009, that constitutes the true meaning of history for us.

**Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.**

**Advent Prayer**  
By Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

**Staff**

**Pastor: Church & School**

Msgr: Labib Kobti

**Parochial Vicar:**

Fr Andrew Johnson

**Deacon:**

Khaled Abu Shaer

**Admin Assistant:**

Elvira Garcia

**Receptionist:**

Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF

**Campus Ministry:**

Verbum Dei Sisters

Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF

(415) 573-9062

**RCIC:**

**Kathy Sanford**

650) 738-0646

**RCIA & Music:**

**Suzanne Hockel**

(415) 826-6834

**STM School:**

**Principal, Joe Elsbernd**

(415) 337-0100

**This Week's Events**

**Tue. Dec.8th**

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass Times: 8:30am & 8pm  
(no 5:30pm Mass)

**Legion of Mary,**

Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm

**Communion & Liberation,**

Scanlan Hall, 8 pm

**Saturday, Dec 12th**

**RCIC Classes**

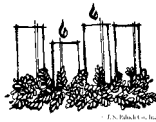
9am in Flower Sacristy

**SBYAG Meeting**

1pm in Scanlan Hall

**Bible Study Group,**

Alma Via, 7:00pm



**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.

**For Children and Youth:** Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children's Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

**For Adults:** English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM: St. Benedict's Group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) [Pls call the office for contact numbers.]

**For Families:** Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion & Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration.

**Queenofpeacefoundation.org**, an independent Foundation created to serve the needy.

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

**Regular Activities**

Parish Council  
Liturgy Committee  
Legion of Mary  
Communion & Liberation  
Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced  
As Announced  
Tuesday, 6:30 PM  
Tuesday, 8:00 PM  
See schedule  
Bible Study & Prayer  
AACC Youth Group  
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino  
Prince of Peace  
FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via  
Friday, 6:00 PM  
Third Friday, 7 PM  
Friday, 8:30 PM  
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

**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 pack of pasta, 1 can of beef or chicken, 1 can of tomato sauce, 1 can of fruit or fruit juice. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.



\***Tuesday Dec 8th** we will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** with Masses at 8:30am & 8pm (there will be no 5:30pm Mass).



\*Today's second collection is for **Tithing**; it is helping us to pay part of our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal; as in other parishes we encourage you to pledge for this assessment. Thank you for your generosity!

\*Please take home our **Advent & Christmas schedule 2009** flyers and books that are in the vestibule & side entrances of the church. Don't miss the upcoming events for this December!

\*We now have our **new calendar for 2010**, we encourage everyone to book **Mass Intentions** early to ensure dates are still available. Please call the office anytime on Monday thru Friday, during regular office hours.

### Ethnic Community News

\***Our International Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi** starts on **Dec 15th** at 7PM & will be daily till Dec 23rd, ending with a pot luck dinner in Carroll Hall. All are welcome!

\***AACC Annual Christmas Party** will be **Sat. Dec 19th** at 7pm in the "Patio Español" For tickets and info please call the parish office (415) 452-9634.



### Campus Ministry

\*A special **Mass** for the **Immaculate Conception** will be on SFSU Campus **Dec 8th** at 1:10pm at Rosa Parks C.

### Temporary Liturgical Modifications During Flu Season (from the Archbishop's office):

\*Distribution of Holy Communion from the Cup is suspended.

\*Receive Holy Communion by the hand. [No change for those who take Communion by the tongue.]

\*Shaking hands is not recommended during the Sign of Peace, a nod, a smile, saying Peace be with you would suffice at this time of the flu season.

\*Refrain from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.

\*Extraordinary ministers are to cleanse their hands with an alcohol-based, anti-bacterial gel before and after administering the Sacrament.

\*Non-communicants in the Communion procession may be blessed, but not touched.

\*Priests, other ministers are to cleanse their hands after greeting people arriving for worship, before the Entrance Procession.

[All are encouraged to use the cleanser in the holy water fount before & after blessing themselves.]

\*Holy water fountains at the entrances are cleaned & refreshed weekly, esp. before weekend Masses.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Dec 6th — Dec 12th, 2009**

- 12/06 Sun 10:00am People of STM  
8:00pm Juan & Natalia Soriano (Thanksg)
- 12/07 Mon 8:30am Irene & Russell De Haven †  
8:00pm All Souls in Purgatory †
- 12/08 Tue 8:30am The Medina Family (Thanksg)  
8:00pm All Souls in Purgatory †
- 12/09 Wed 8:30am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 12/10 Thu 5:30pm Corazón Ramirez †
- 12/11 Fri 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 12/12 Sat 8:30 am Special Intention  
5:00 pm Joan Carew †

Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



### All the sick people in our parish, to be read during Masses:

especially Jesus Uchi, Anthony Angeles, Tina Bish, Jeff Semelka, Anita Soliz, Cecilia Reyes, Brigit Suazon, Christian Yousef, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Gordon Lu, Ann, and for all who are ill in our parish.

Let us also pray for all the deceased in our parish, especially Kathy Sakhal & Alan Rellosa.

(Please call the office for names of people we should pray for. To facilitate this process, names will also need to be taken off after 3 weeks, pls. call the office for names to be put back in. Thanks.)

### Weekly Offering



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#### Weekend of Nov 22nd:

\$ 4,749.95

2nd Collection (CCHD): 472.60

#### Weekend of Nov 29th:

\$ 3,162.14

2nd Collection (poor): \$ 920.19

(Next weeks' second collection is for Retirement for Religious)

**Thank you for your Generosity!**



### REGISTRATION SLIP FOR ST. THOMAS MORE

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)