

St. Joseph Community Mid-Week Bulletin

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Our Mission Learning to Live as Jesus Teaches

Toni's Tidbits

Our thoughts this month naturally move toward Thanksgiving – the marvelous ability to notice and to acknowledge that truly, in our lives, ALL IS GIFT. I found the following meditation in The Book of Awakening, by Mark Nepo. Enjoy!

The Kinship of Gratitude.

The goal of all experience is to remove whatever might keep us from being whole. The things we learn through love and pain reduce our walls and bring our inner and outer life together, and all the while the friction of being alive erodes whatever impediments remain.

But the simplest and deepest way to make who we are at one with the world is through the kinship of gratitude. Nothing brings the worlds of spirit and earth together more quickly.

To be grateful means giving thanks for more than just the things we want, but also for the things that surmount out pride and stubbornness. Sometimes the things I've wanted and worked for, if I actually received them, would have crushed me.

Sometimes just giving thanks for the mystery of it all brings everything and everyone closer, the way suction pulls streams of water together. So take a chance and openly give thanks, even if you're not sure what for, and feel the plenitude of all that is living brush up against your heart.

- ❖ *Sit quietly and meditate on what keeps you from knowing yourself.*
- ❖ *Breathe deeply, and lower your walls with an offering of gratitude that is not attached to any one thing.*
- ❖ *Now exhale with gratitude and exhale what remains in the way.*
- ❖ *Repeat this several times throughout your day.*

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May you be truly blessed in your giving thanks! Happy week before Thanksgiving!

Upcoming Events

No Women Sharing Tonight
The group will resume meeting on December 17

Catholic Voice Online

You can view the current issue of The Catholic Voice online at:

<http://www.catholicvoiceoakland.org>

Taizé

An Evening of Prayer Around the Cross
Friday, November 21, at 8:00pm in the Basilica

Pray for Peace: Nov. 21 - Taizé: An Evening of Prayer Around the Cross at 8 p.m. in the Basilica. Taizé is an ecumenical, candlelit service of prayer offered in simple chant,

Scripture readings, silent worship and veneration of the Cross. Brother Roger established the Taize Community in 1940 in Taize, France as a witness to peace and reconciliation, for which our community gathers in prayer. All are welcome. (Due to the Holidays we switch to the 3rd Fridays for November, 11/21, and December, 12/19.) For further information E-mail taizeontheisland@yahoo.com or www.geocities.com/taizeontheisland

**Concern America Crafts Faire
This Weekend after ALL Masses**

The very popular Concern America Crafts Faire will return to St. Joseph this weekend after ALL Masses. We warmly welcome Concern America with their array of meaningful international handicrafts. This is a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping (**today is 5 weeks & 1 day before Christmas**) and to help people who live in impoverished communities earn a living.

**Blessed Damien Award
This Sunday at the 10:30 Mass**

The recipients of this year's Blessed Damien Award are: **Judy Maritzen, Dan Lydon, Manuel Robinson & Dan & Mary Ann Montandon**. They bless us with their faith and their gifts. Please join us at the 10:30 Mass this Sunday to celebrate them as they receive their awards.

**Island Wide Youth Ministry:
Small group faith sharing during Advent**

What are we really getting ready for during Advent? How can preparing for Christmas make a difference in your life, you family and your world? Take a break and come join us for 3 evenings of small group discussions, fun, desserts and faith sharing. Wednesdays: **December 3, 10, and 17 7:00-8:30** in the Youth Ministry office at Barnabas. All high school youth are welcome.

**14th Annual Sing It Yourself "Messiah"
Sunday, December 7th at 4:00pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
www.alamedasingityourselfmessiah.org**

From Jessica Dubow

My name is Jessica Dubow, and I am a sixteen years old parishioner of St. Josephs. This summer, I am participating in a program called *Amigos de las Americas*. For over forty years, Amigos empowers young leaders, advances community development and strengthens multicultural understanding by sending hundreds of youth volunteers to communities in Latin America every year. This summer, I will be one of those volunteers and I will participate in a variety of projects like building latrines, teaching children about personal hygiene, planting trees, teaching English classes, establishing community centers, or anything else the community needs. I'm extremely excited because I will get to help people while improving my Spanish and learning about the world. In order to fund my trip and the various projects, I need support from the community. I'm selling grapefruit, poinsettias, coffee, and pecans in the month of November and beginning of December.

Pecans	1 lb	\$12	The finest quality of Mammoth Half Pecans
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Coffee	1 lb	\$14	Delicious, organic Fair Trade coffee from the Santa Cruz Roasting Company; beans or ground
Poinsettia	1 flower	\$12	Florist quality flower, 16-20 inches tall with 5-7 bracts
Grapefruit	1 case (18-20 grapefruit) or 1/2 case (9-10 grapefruit)	\$20 for 1 case, \$10 for 1/2 case	Delicious and juicy ruby red grapefruit from Texas

I deliver the products directly to you on November 23 or December 6.

If you are interested in supporting the program but do not want any of these products, I will be happy to deliver a donated product in your name to the Alameda Food Bank, the church, or any other organization or person.

If you have any questions or are interested in purchasing products, please call me at (510)523-1168.

If you would like to learn more about Amigos, go to amigoslink.org

Save The Dates
Parish Advent Retreat
December 1, 2 & 3 at 8:45am and 7:00pm
In the Basilica
With Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM

Yuletide at the Basilica
The St. Joseph Basilica Choir
The St. Joseph Children's Choir
In Concert
Sunday, December 14 at 3:00pm

December Events

Monday, December 8 Masses at 8:00am & 7:30pm
Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 11
St. Joseph Elementary School Christmas Concert, 1:00pm & 7:00pm in the Basilica

Friday, December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass at 8:00am & 7:30pm (bilingual)
Reception in the Learning Center follows the evening Mass.

Sunday, December 14
Yuletide at the Basilica Choir Concert at 3:00pm in the Basilica

Monday, December 15
Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:30pm in the Basilica

Friday, December 19
Taizé Service, 8:00pm in the Basilica

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00pm (Children's Mass)
5:30pm (Quiet Mass)
7:30pm (Music provided by the 7:00pm Spirit Ensemble)
Midnight (poetry and musical prelude starting at 11:00pm)

Christmas Day: Masses: 9:00am, 10:30am & Noon only

December 31, Masses at 8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)

January 1, 2009 Mass at 10:00am only
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Church Chuckle
TWO LITTLE BOYS...

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew all about it. If any mischief occurred in their town, the two boys were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open.

So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer.
The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?!"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room,
ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"
The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in **BIG** trouble
this time, *GOD* is missing, and they think we did it!"