

Saint Robert's Church

Rev. Msgr. Bruce A. Dreier, Pastor
Rev. Paul O'Dell, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Vincent Ring, *Retired In Residence*
Seminarist Hansel Tomaneng, *In Residence*
Deacon Rusty Duffey, Pastoral Associate
Deacon John Meyer, Pastoral Associate
Sister Patricia O'Sullivan, PBVM, **589-0104**
Pastoral Associate for Sick and Homebound
Sister Sheral Marshall, OSF, **589-2800**
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy
In residence **583-2544**
Sister Ita Cleary, PBVM
Sister Antonio Heaphy, PBVM
Sister Vianney Buckley, PBVM

Rectory Office: 1380 Crystal Springs Rd.
San Bruno, CA 94066 Phone: **(650) 589-2800**
FAX: **(650) 588-9628**
Web Site: www.saintroberts.org

Mrs. Kathy Hanley, **589-2800**
Parish Secretary
Mrs. Judy DeMartini, **589-2800**
Parish Receptionist

PARISH SCHOOL – **583-5065**
Ms. Yvonne Olcomendy, Principal

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (CCD)-**588-0477**
Ms. Joanne Bartolotti - Director
Mrs. Leslie Fong, Secretary
PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY – **589-2800**
Mr. Kevin Imbimbo

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

There is a six month period of preparation for the celebration of this Sacrament. Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the rectory in case of serious illness and before surgery and hospital care.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

High school students call the Religious Education Office. Adult confirmation is available on an individual basis. Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

There is a period of preparation for the celebration of this Sacrament. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal class. Please contact the rectory in advance.



SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

Vigil Mass 4:30 pm (Saturday)
Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 5:00 pm
Holy Days: Please consult weekly bulletin.
Weekdays: Masses are on Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 6:30 a.m. and Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
Communion Services are held Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

Communion for the Sick

If there is someone ill in your family or recovering from surgery or chemotherapy who is unable to come to Mass, please call Sister Patricia at 589-0104 and she will ask someone to bring Holy Communion. Or contact S. Sheral at 589-2800 about the option of bringing your family member Communion yourself. There is a very simple procedure to be followed and either of us will be happy to go through it with you.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm or call 589-2800 to make an appointment.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

During our spiritual journey, we often fall. Falls, great and small, can and do offer us an opportunity to grow, provided we are sincerely repentant. Jesus says to each of us: *"Come to Me all who are heavily burdened, I will refresh you."* We are invited to confess our sins, be reconciled with God and begin life anew on:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, AT 7:30PM.

Dear Parishioners,

Snuggly bundled in a sweater and a jacket, I sit on our deck with Gene wearing his short-sleeve shirt. He is right – It is a beautiful day. Between sips of mango tea, we share with each other what we were doing on this day, 67 years ago.

GENE: We heard of the bombing of Pearl Harbor when my family and I returned home from Mass. My first thought was: “How soon could I get into the service?” I wasn't quite old enough – only 17 – but felt qualified because I had had four years of R.O.T.C. training at Cretin, a Christian Brothers Military High School. The motto for guys my age was: “Gung Ho; Let's go!” When, at last, I hit the age of 18, I went to a government building in downtown St. Paul, where each of the branches of the service was recruiting. I got in the line for the Army Air Force. Three of my friends and I were inducted on November 6, 1942. I was trained to be a Radio Operator, a Telephone Operator and a Cryptographer. On Christmas Eve of 1944, we landed on the Island of Tinian in the South Pacific. There were times on the beach when I was shot at by Japanese snipers but I was too young and foolhardy to be scared.

ANNA MAY: It was December 7th, the second Sunday afternoon in Advent. My family and I were sitting in the darkened Coliseum Theater on 9th and Clement in San Francisco. In the midst of an exciting black and white Western, the projector suddenly stopped rolling; the lights went on and the theater manager appeared from behind the screen. He solemnly told us that the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor. I was a terrified nine year old. “Would San Francisco be next?” We headed for the safety of our home.

I will never forget the many frightening nights when the air raid siren blasted us awake. Our Mom and Dad quickly herded us downstairs to our kitchen, where we huddled close together under the table. It was pitch black! My Mom handed each of us a Hershey bar and my Dad headed out the door wearing his air raid warden helmet and carrying a flashlight. What a relief it was when the 'all clear' siren sounded and Dad (our hero) smilingly walked through our front door. These were very scary times.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and once again Americans are feeling fearful and dealing with numerous challenges. Today's First Reading from Isaiah tells us: “*Like a shepherd He feeds His flock; in His arms He gathers the lambs carrying them in His bosom, and leading the ewes with care.*” We are living in an Advent of hope – a time to place our trust in God for *He is with us!*

May God bless and comfort each of you –

Gene and Anna Ma

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday–December 8th

Mass Intention 6:30 Tom Scott †
8:30 Grace Marcheschi †
6pm Charles Xuereb †

Cheerleading Pract. 1:45pm Hall
St. Vincent de Paul 7pm Mahoney Room

Tuesday–December 9th

Mass Intention 6:30 Leslie Zenner †
8:30 John Interdonato †

Adult Religious Ed 9:15am Mary's Chapel
Rel Ed/Gr 1-5 3:30pm Church & Hall
Confirmation Yr 1 6pm Mahoney Rm/Hall
Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library

Wednesday–December 10th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
8:30 Sophia & Bob Conley †

9:30am Mass Choir 7pm Church
Scripture Study 7:30pm Convent Chapel

Thursday–December 11th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
8:30 Rose O'Connor †

Women's Guilt Mtg 6:30pm Hall
RCIA 7pm Convent Chapel

Friday–December 12th

Mass Intention 6:30 Loretta Albiar †
8:30 Charles & Rita Agius †

InBetweener's 6:30pm Hall

Saturday–December 13th

Mass Intention 8:30 Paul & Rosina Vella †
4:30 People of St. Robert's

AA Meeting 10am Mahoney Room
Fil/Am Christmas Party 7pm Hall

Sunday–December 14th

Mass Intention 7:30 Bernardo Mocelin †
9:30 Mary Shick †
11:30 Judith Daansen †
5pm Sandra Dill

Tongan Mass 2pm Church

Monday, December 8th, is the feast of
The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is a Holy Day of Obligation
with Masses
at **6:30am, 8:30am and 6pm.**



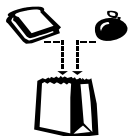
As a Parish Community we pray ...
 FOR ALL CHRISTIANS. TOGETHER MAY WE
 SHARE THE MISSION OF PROCLAIMING THE
 GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S COMING BY
 LIVING HIS MERCY AND LOVE.



Our sincere sympathy to the families of
Stanley Plante, Ramon and Josephine Castillo
 who died recently



*We continue to ask each week that parishioners
 pray for the chronically ill of our parish.
 If you have a friend
 or loved one in need of our parish prayers
 please call the Rectory at 589-2800.
 This week we pray for, Michael Casella*



AIDS LUNCH-December 10th

We are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday
 of each month. If you can prepare a
 favorite cookie, snack or lunch item for 10 to
 12 people, please drop it off at the Children's Chapel,
 in the back of Church, by 9 a.m. on **December 10th**.
 Please pack the items in a non-returnable container.
 Frozen items *are ok!*
Thanks to everyone who contributes!

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of weekly bulletin
 announcements is **Tuesday at noon**. Please
 submit announcements in writing to Kathy or Judy
 in the Rectory Office, fax us at 588-9628 or email
 parishsec@saintroberts.org. - **Thank you!**

Schedules for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Altar
 Servers are also available on the web at
www.saintroberts.org.

LOOKING FOR A MASS

While you are away during the the holidays
 check www.masstimes.org for Mass
 schedule in other cities.



Anointing of the Sick --- December 14th

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of
 the church and let them pray over him, anointing him
 with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith
 will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up; and
 if he has committed sins he will be forgiven" James
 5:14-15

Sunday, December 14, we as a parish will celebrate the
 sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during the 11:30
 Liturgy. This sacred anointing of the sick was instituted
 by Christ our Lord as a true and proper sacrament of the
 New Testament. Saint James encouraged his followers to
 pay special attention to those sick among them. We,
 today, are following his advice and our priests will anoint
 and pray for all in need of healing.

What better Christmas gift to give to your ailing or aging
 relatives than to bring them to Saint Robert's Sunday
 morning to receive this very special Sacrament of the
 Sick.

GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Let us bring Jesus' love to our sisters and brothers who
 are homebound or in nursing facilities due to serious illness
 or advanced years. During this Advent, as we have in the
 past, we ask that you place gifts for them in the baskets on
 our altar steps. Some suggestions are: white knee socks,
 lap robes, slippers, robes, dusters, nightgowns, sweaters,
 pajamas, a note of encouragement. The only requisite is
 that your gifts be new, not used, and unwrapped. Knowing
 that someone does care, will give joy and hope to these
 precious members of our Parish Family.

STEWARDSHIP

July 1st to Nov. 30th (goal)	221,100.00
July 1st to Nov. 30th (actual)	227,530.38
7/1/08-6/30/09 Weekly Goal	10,050.00
Collection (actual 11/23)	9,937.04
Collection (actual 11/30)	8,370.82

Thank you for your generous donation of **\$2,431.27**
 to the Campaign for Human Development and
\$5,242.55 for our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
 As of 12/2/08 **360 Families** have pledged
\$85,125.10.
Our goal this year is \$95,100.00
Thank you for your generous donation.

Sign up for E-Contributions

Go to www.saintroberts.org and click on the
 e-contributions button.

There is no cost to you for this service.

MINISTER SCHEDULE/DEC 13 & 14

Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. O'Dell

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Hanley (C)

D. Bisagno, J. Finnegan, K. Hornung, C. Holland,
M. Murphy, D. Hageman, J. Scannell, Y. Olcomendy

Lectors: P. Scannell and C. Aveson

Altar Servers: M. Lara and K. Mitchell

Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Ring

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Noce (C)

C. Noce, T. Montross, B. Albright, R. Lahoz

Lectors: R. Rolfes and T. Clifford

Altar Servers: B. Cronin and N. Nussbaum

Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Msgr. Dreier

Eucharistic Ministers: A. Solis (C)

R. Valdez, J. Valdez, H. Mar, S. Murray, G. Tolentino,
M. Lopez, M. Blumenthal, T. Jones

Lectors: T. Tullius

Altar Servers: N. Jauregui, N. Barbieri and K. Uroz

Children's Liturgy: MaryAnn and Gus

Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Msgr. Dreier

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Giusti (C)

B. Chester, A. Maron, V. Valle, V/C Picinini, H. Mantler,
L. Welch, P. Estelita, H. Madayag

Lectors: D. Maron and C. Maron

Altar Servers: C. McCann and B. Alvergue

Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Schaukowitz

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Salvato (C)

M. Huntington, C. Browne, G. Lynch, J. Huddleston,
C. Innes, M. Elmore, P. Landholt, G. Landholt

Lector: L. Avila and J. Marty

Altar Servers: T. Lopez and S. Delucchi

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday-December 8th

Readings: Gn 3:9-15,20 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday-December 9th

Readings: Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday-December 10th

Readings: Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday-December 11th

Readings: Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15

Friday-December 12th

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday-December 13th

Readings: Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Mt 17:9a,10-13

Sunday-December 14th

Readings: Is 61:1-2a,10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Living the Liturgy

Prepare the Way

This weekend, we hear glorious passages of scripture: "Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" The Isaiah passage proclaims to the Israelites that their time of exile is ended and that the God who has always been with them will again be evident because of their change of heart. Perhaps, you remember the bumper sticker from years ago which read, "If God seems far away, guess who moved."

"According to God's promise we await a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." We rarely hear from any of the letters of Peter, but in this passage his community is reminding the people that Jesus **will** return, though it may seem as though he is taking his time. [The early Christians thought he would return during their lifetime.] The important thing is that they (and we) use this time of waiting to open ourselves to God's promptings so we will have nothing to fear when that day comes. November's daily prayers for the dead brought back memories of my parents; perhaps, it did the same for you. I remembered their faithfulness to following the gospel and their passing on to us, their daughters, their active concern for others.

"One mightier than I is coming after me." John the Baptist, we recall from this gospel or *The Messiah* or *Godspell*, comes out of the desert, strangely dressed and announcing that the One they had been awaiting was now here. He prepares the way for the Lord, the same mission we each have as baptized Christians. Which "valleys" in my own life need to be filled in? What "mountains" need to be made low? Though Advent is distinct from Lent, both seasons involve a long, gentle look at ourselves and a willingness to change. Our reconciliation service **Monday the 15th at 7:30 pm** is a great opportunity to open ourselves to God's healing touch so we can confess our wrongdoing and start over again. What in my life is blocking the coming of Jesus more fully into my heart, my attitudes, my actions? Reconciliation is a wonderful way to get in touch with whatever that may be. [If it's been a while since you went to confession, contact me and I'll be happy to meet with you or give you a helpful article to read.]

It'll help you to remember the preparation aspect of this season if you wait a bit to jump into Christmas! Wear purple instead of red and green, light a candle for each week of Advent even if you don't have greens around it, and take some time to read over the Sunday readings, cited in the bulletin, before you come to Mass. It will make a difference.

This week holds several important days: the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on Wednesday, and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday. Let us pray for all who died in the Second World War and in all the wars, declared and undeclared, going on in Zimbabwe, Congo, the Gaza, and Somalia. Let us rejoice as North Americans as we celebrate the patronage of Our Lady in both of these feasts through which God's mercy is present.

Please take a moment after Mass **today** to taste the Fair Trade coffee the Social Concerns group is selling the following weekend. Almost 50% of the price goes to the Guatemalan and Mexican farming families who raise, roast, grind and package the beans. We will also have Fair Trade chocolate for sale.

Peace, S. Sheral

***The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
is
this Monday, December 8th
and a Holy Day of Obligation;
Masses are at
6:30 a.m., 8:30a.m. and 6p.m.***

The weather outside may be frightful
but the cocktails at **Women's Guild** will be delightful!
Ornament Exchange (please bring a wrapped ornament)
December 11, 2008 Doors open at 6:30pm Hennessy
Hall Cost: \$10.00 for Open Bar, Dinner & Dessert
RSVP: srwomensguild@yahoo.com
or call Tina Cava at 650-871-8009.



Annual St. Robert's Women's Guild "Breakfast with Santa" Saturday, December 13th



Seating Times: 8:30 am and 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy a full breakfast, raffle, crafts, pictures with Santa and Santa Treats. Please bring an unwrapped child's gift for the needy! Any questions contact Jenny Spataro at jenspataro@aol.com or call (415) 716-5674.
****Tickets will be on sale after the 9:30 a.m. Mass
This weekend.**

FIL-AM CHRISTMAS PARTY A Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at 7p.m. in Hennessy Hall.



Everyone is invited to the night of fine dining and dancing. Also, there will be door prizes. Tickets are now available at \$30 each. Children up to 7 years old are free, 8 to 15 years old at \$10 each.
For more information, please call Dada Gallagher at (650) 871-9063, Veronica Valle at (650) 580-5267 or Encar Sanchez at (650) 588-7153.

THE FIRST ANNUAL ST. ROBERT'S GROWNUPS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-Dec. 17th



The luncheon will be held at the Basque Cultural Center, 559 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco. The cost is \$26 per person. Please send your reservations to Vera Hannon, 440 Madison Ave., San Bruno. The Social Hour will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch following.

Hope to see you there!!

*****For further information please call Helen Mantler at 589-2497. Reservations must be received by Dec. 8th.***

*******St. Robert's School will be selling paper scrip and scrip gift cards after Mass the two weekends before Christmas on Dec. 13th and 14th and Dec. 20th and 21st.**

ADOPT A FAMILY
THIS WEEKEND IS THE LAST WEEKEND
December 6th and 7th.

*If you have the means to share your Christmas spirit
stop by after one of the Masses this weekend and pick an ornament.
If you have any questions please call Rob or Cathy Aveson at 583-4757.*



Children's Liturgy Giving Tree

The Children's Liturgy team is again sponsoring a Giving Tree. All parishioners are invited to take an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift suggested by the ornament, and return it to the box under the tree in the church vestibule. We thank you very kindly for your generous spirit during this wonderful season.

Advent Reconciliation Service

*As you make preparations for Christmas,
come prepare your heart as well!*

*Parishioners and priests from our five neighboring parishes
and our priests will gather here*

Monday, December 15 at 7:30 pm

to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We will hear readings from the Advent scriptures, sing, and have the opportunity for individual confessions.



2008 Centerplate Schedule



____ Sunday December 28th 49ers vs Redskins 8:00 a.m. 1:15 p.m.

Dress Code: Full length Black Slacks (no jeans, capris, spandex), white shirt with collar, closed toe shoes (black or white).

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sign up on-line at www.saintroberts.org. Click on the Centerplate button.

As of December 1st we have received

\$59,298.47

Thanks to the many people who have volunteered.