

Saint Robert's Church



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

Rev. Roberto A. Andrey, Parish Administrator
Rev. Paul O'Dell, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Vincent Ring, *Retired In Residence*
Deacon Rusty Duffey, Pastoral Associate
Deacon John Meyer, Pastoral Associate
Sister Sheral Marshall, OSF,
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy
Sister Patricia O'Sullivan, PBVM, **589-0104**
Pastoral Associate for Sick and Homebound

In residence **763-8822**
Sister Ita Cleary, PBVM
Sister Antonio Heaphy, PBVM
Sister Vianney Buckley, PBVM

Mrs. Kathy Hanley, **589-2800**
Office Administrator
Mrs. Judy DeMartini, **589-2800**
Parish Receptionist/Bookkeeper

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

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (CCD)-**588-0477**
Ms. Joanne Bartolotti - Director
Mrs. Leslie Fong, Office Manager

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.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

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

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

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter into the second week of Advent and light our second purple candle of the Advent Wreath we ought to pause and reflect on how well we used this first quarter of Advent preparing for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Perhaps, we did a wonderful job spiritually or perhaps we fell short of our own expectations. We still have three weeks remaining to improve on or continue the momentum of last week.

Christians believe in the threefold coming of Christ. History, Majesty and Mystery.

In the first coming the Lord Jesus was seen on earth, dwelling among us. Jesus came in History on that first Christ Night.

The third or final coming "all flesh shall see the salvation of our God" We call this the final or general judgment when Jesus will appear in Majesty and all the angels with Him and He will judge each on how we worked at spreading His Kingdom here on earth.

The second coming is hidden and only His chosen will recognize Him. This second coming is the road we travel daily among our fellow brothers and sisters. We are called to make the presence of Jesus real to one another. Jesus comes in Mystery everyday and it is our responsibility to solve this mystery for ourselves and others.

During the remaining weeks of Advent, let's work hard in spreading the Kingdom of God and prepare our families, friends and community for the Birth of Christ

Sister Patricia



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.

THE WEEK AHEAD



Monday-December 7th

Mass Intention 6:30 Msgr. Bruce Dreier †
8:30 Aldo Alchera †

Advent Reconciliation 7:30pm Church

Tuesday-December 8th

Mass Intention 6:30 Andrea Wong †
8:30 Nancy Curtis †
6pm John Bourne, Jr. †

Adult Rel Ed 9:15am Mary's Chapel
Rel Education 3:30pm Church & Hall
Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
Confirmation 7:00pm Hall

Wednesday-December 9th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
8:30 Grace Marcheschi †

Advent Concert 5:00pm Hall
Scripture Study 7:30pm Mary's Chapel

Thursday-December 10th

Mass Intention 6:30 Communion Service
8:30 Denis Collins †

Women's Guild 6:30pm Hall
RCIA 7:00pm Convent Chapel

Friday-December 11th

Mass Intention 6:30 Fr. Raymond Smith †
8:30 Gloria Sutterfield †

Inbetweeners 6:30pm Hall

Saturday-December 12th

Mass Intention 8:30 Paul & Rosina Vella †
4:30 Charles & Rita Agius †

Breakfast with Santa 8:30am Hall
AA 10:00am Mahoney Room
Reconciliation 3:00pm Church
Fil/Am
Christmas Party 6:00pm Hall

Sunday-December 13th

Mass Intention 7:30 Bernardo Mocelin †
9:30 Vittoria Fanti †
11:30 People of St. Robert's
5:00 Luciana Bertolli †



As a Parish Community we pray ... THAT OUR PARISH FAMILY WILL SEE THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE WEAK, THE POOR, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE ELDERLY, THE UNBORN CHILD AND ALL WHO SUFFER IN MIND, BODY OR SPIRIT.

GIFTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND:

Many members of our Parish Family are homebound or in nursing facilities due to serious illness or advanced years. During Advent, we say to Our Lord: "Come, Lord Jesus!" This hope is in their hearts as well. We can bring Jesus' love to them by placing a gift in the basket on our altar steps. Some suggestions are: white knee socks, lap robes, slippers, robes, dusters, nightgowns, pajamas, notes of encouragement. The only requisite is that your gifts be new, not used, and unwrapped. Cut-off date is December 20th.

Thank you.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of **Salvatore Salvato** who died recently.



AIDS LUNCH –December 9th

The second Wednesday of the month, is our donation day. If you can help by providing your favorite dish for up to 12 people that would be great. Please put in a non-returnable container and leave in the little church room in the vestibule of the Church by 9:30 am. Frozen items are acceptable.



Thank you for your continued assistance.



ADOPT A FAMILY

Once again this year we will have an Adopt-a-Family tree in front of church for the Christmas Season.

The tree will have paper ornaments profiling families that can use some help during this time of year. We've received our families from our own St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, Child and Family Services of San Mateo County and again this year we've gotten some families from our adopted parish in Mississippi.

If you have the means to help, look for the tree after Mass this weekend.

Thank you, as always!!!



THE GIVING TREE

During the season of Advent we will again have our Christmas "Giving Tree". Please take the time to visit our tree and remove one of the ornaments with a gift suggestion. We ask that you return the unwrapped gifts before December 20th so that we can deliver them in time for Christmas. Gift suggestions are for young children, teens and needy adults at several homeless shelters.

We thank you for your generosity and for taking the time to help others during the Christmas season.

The Children's Liturgy Team

WEEKLY COLLECTION

July 1st to Nov. 29th (goal)	221,100.00
July 1st to Nov. 22nd (actual)	200,131.83
July 1st to Nov. 29th (actual)	208,818.82
7/1/09-6/30/10 Weekly Goal	10,050.00
Collection (actual 11/22)	10,654.29
Collection (actual 11/29)	7,912.99

Thank you for your generous donation of **\$2,380.52** to the Campaign for Human Development and **\$4,961.58** for our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**NEXT WEEKEND'S 2ND COLLECTION
DECEMBER 13TH**

Retirement Fund helps senior religious.

"As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. www.retiredreligious.org.

2009 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

As of 12/1/09 **over 500 families** have pledged **\$94,592.09.**

Our goal this year is \$98,400

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 12 & 13

Saturday/4:30 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Hanley (C)

A. Ciraulo, D. Hageman, C. Holland, M. Murphy,
J. Waldvogel, Y. Olcomendy, J. Scannell, D. Bisagno

Lectors: J. Cronin and P. Scannell

Altar Servers: J. Jauregui and K. Ravelo

Sunday/7:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Ring

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Noce (C)

A. Doherty, C. Noce, A. Buelow, J. Jackson

Lectors: P. Lusic and A. Reyes

Altar Servers: L. O'Reilly and B. Cronin

Sunday/9:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Obet

Eucharistic Ministers: L. Cesca (C)

M. Salazar, S. Salazar, M. Quilici, L. Flodr, M. Lopez,
S. Murray, M. Bologna, U. Uniacke

Lectors: D. Wilson and D. Rollins

Altar Servers: G. Tocchini, M. Lynch, D. Rodriguez

Children's Liturgy: Michael and Ben & Lisa

Sunday/11:30 A.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Paul

Eucharistic Ministers: B. Chester (C)

T. Estelita, N. Bamba, H. Mantler, C. Forsell,
R. Benavente, M. Giusti, L. Jovero, M. Nuti

Lectors: M. Benavente and C. Benavente

Altar Servers: A. Ayllon and J. Kelly

Sunday/5:00 P.M. Mass

Presider: Fr. Jim

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Dowden (C)

V. Hawkins, G. Landholt, P. Landholt, M. Aberouette,
M. Elmore, K. Welch, D. Ferris, P. Lusic

Lector: H. Lowood and M. Innes

Altar Servers: D. Marty and J. Marty

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday-December 7th

Readings: Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday-December 8th

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

Wednesday-December 9th

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

Thursday-December 10th

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

Friday-December 11th

Readings: Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday-December 12th

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

Sunday-December 13th

Readings: Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

Centerplate....SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Day / Date	Teams / Events	Departure	Game Time
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, December 14	49er's vs. Arizona	12:30pm	5:30pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, December 26	Emerald Nut Bowl at AT&T	TBD	TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, December 27	49er's vs. Detroit	8:15am	1:05pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, January 30, 2010	Motorcross at AT&T	TBD	TBD

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Sign up on-line at saintroberts.org and click on the Centerplate button.

Our Centerplate totals as of November 16th are \$55,202.19

ST. ROBERT'S WOMEN'S GUILD

Holiday Ornament Exchange!



Thursday, December 10th + 6:30pm
\$12 Dinner & Drinks + Raffle! + good cheer!

Please bring a wrapped ornament to participate in the ornament exchange!

RSVP: stwomensguild@yahoo.com



**FIL –AM CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 12th**

Come and enjoy the night of fine dining and dancing to be held on December 12th (Saturday) at 7 p.m. at Hennessy Hall with door prizes. Everyone is invited. \$20.00 for Adults and \$10 for Children (9 to 15 year old) For reservation please call Dada Gallagher at (650) 871-9063.

Please pick up your Woman of the Year form to nominate an outstanding woman in our Parish and/or School who is deserving of recognition for her Past and/or Present service to St. Robert's. Forms are available in the vestibule and are due January 6, 2010.

Caroling! Caroling! Here We Go!



Yes, it's that time of year. It's time for the choir's annual caroling trip to Emmanuel Convalescent Hospital to give a little holiday cheer to those who may not get it any other way. This is the seventh year that we have been invited to sing.

We will gather on Sun. Dec. 13th at 1PM to have a short "rehearsal". Then caravan to the hospital to sing for about 45 minutes. We plan to arrive there at 2PM. As we did last year, we are inviting those of you who can give about 2 hours of your time and voice to join us. There will be familiar carols, so that everyone can feel comfortable singing. All are welcome. It will give you another chance to sing Christmas carols besides Christmas Eve.

The healing power of music is tremendous and the giving of your time can be an important way of showing your faith. The smiles and tears from some of the elderly makes our short time with them a moving experience.

After caroling trip, we will gather for a wassail party at the home of one of our choir members. No need to bring anything; the choir will supply some food, and of course, the spiced cider!

This is something we can do during the holiday season that can make a difference in the lives of some of our elderly. I hope that many of you can join us for an afternoon of caroling. -Kevin Imbimbo

**Come on a Magical Journey for a
PJ's, Pancakes and Polar Express Train Adventure
in St. Robert's Hennessy Hall
on
Saturday, December 12, 2009
for
The Annual Women's Guild
"Breakfast with Santa"**

-PAJAMAS REQUIRED FOR ALL PASSENGERS-

Family Name: _____ Grade: _____ Phone #: _____

Seating Time (please check one): _____ 8:30am _____ 10:30am

Adults: _____ @ \$8.00 per person = _____

Children: _____ @ \$6.00 per person = _____

Children under 2: _____ FREE = _____

Photos with Santa: _____ @ \$2.00 each = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ \$ _____

Please send Reservation Form and Checks (made payable to St. Robert's Women's Guild) to: Jenny Spataro c/o Juliana (Grade 2)
Any questions email jenspataro@aol.com or call 415.716.5674

The St. Robert's Scrip Program will be selling gift cards on the weekend of Dec. 13th and the weekend of Dec. 19th after every Mass.

History Of "*Simbang Gabi*" (Advent Novena of Masses)

It was in or about 1660, during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines, that the "*Simbang Gabi*" or the "*Misa de Gallo*" became a Filipino religious tradition. During Advent, in preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, the missionary friars held nine days of Masses to usher in the event of Christ's birth. These Masses were celebrated in the early morning hours, typically at about 4:00 AM when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day.

There was a practical reason behind the missionary father's design to hold early Mass. The Filipinos are a farming people, and they typically greeted the dawn of a new day in the fields while working the land. The missionary fathers decided that they could implant in the hearts and minds of the theretofore heathen people the substance of the Catholic religion, preserve the Catholic faith and continue the propagation of the gospels by integrating a distinctly Filipino custom with the needs of Catholic worship.

The word "gallo" comes from the Spanish word meaning rooster. At first sound of dawn, at the crowing of the rooster, the entire family would get up and walk (or ride their carabao sleds) to their nearest parish church - sometimes up to 10 kilometers away. By 5:00 AM, the Mass was over and the men were off to the fields.

It was thus that *Simbang Gabi* ("*Simba*" means Mass, and "*Gabi*" means night or evening) or *Misa de Gallo* became a Filipino tradition. It was a religious practice that was handed down from parent to child, observed by Filipinos from one generation to the next.

The agricultural roots of "*Misa de Gallo*" or "*Simbang Gabi*" are all but forgotten now. However, the fascination of going to church at dawn, in order to start the new day with worship, is as strong as ever among Filipinos. For the children, it announces that Christmas is just around the corner. For most, the practice has acquired its own smell and flavor, and spiritual significance distinct from any other time of the year.

Vatican Council II, Article 37 of the Sacred Liturgy states: "Even in the Liturgy, the church does not wish to impose a rigid uniformity in matters which do not involve the faith or the good of the whole community. Rather she respects and fosters the qualities and talents of various races and nations. People's way of life which is not indissolubly bound with superstition and error she studies with sympathy, and if possible, preserves intact. She sometimes even admits such things into the liturgy itself, provided they harmonize with its true and authentic spirit."

In keeping with the spirit of the document on Sacred Liturgy (Art.37), the Holy See has granted special permission to the Philippine Church to celebrate the *Simbang Gabi* for nine consecutive days before Christmas. The Holy See is cognizant of the particulars of the *Simbang Gabi* celebration. She knows that to add to the festivities, a local band goes around town playing Christmas songs and inviting people to worship. After the Mass, the band continues to play and a variety of delicacies are displayed in the churchyard for everyone's pleasure. On the sidewalk, lighted lanterns called "*Parols*" (Filipino version of the star of David) add to the joyous atmosphere that pervades the air.

The Filipino immigrants brought this tradition with them when they came to the United States. Since it is not practical to hold a celebration at dawn, the cold December weather will not allow it, local parishes hold the celebration at night. While the form of the celebration is changed, the substance remains.

Here at St. Robert's we will celebrate *Simbang Gabi* Masses
from December 15th–23rd at 7p.m.. Fellowship in the parish hall follows after each Mass.

Living the Liturgy

A Time of Hope

The readings this Sunday sound like Advent! The Prophet Baruch uses great imagery to instill hope in his people during the Babylonian exile. The clothing of mourning will be replaced with a cloak of justice. We can think of many countries whose people have been bent over by oppression – the Palestinians, the Darfurians, Liberians cheated out of their tiny annual budget by "vulture" capitalists who bought their debt only to enlarge it and demand payment. And it is these people to whom the words are addressed, "Up, stand upon the heights!" and see your children being gathered to you now that they have hope, "rejoicing that they are remembered by God." How marvelous to be remembered by God! Can we convey this freeing and consoling statement to our friends and parishioners, unemployed or underemployed? Can we remind ourselves that God never forgets us, not even for a moment?

Paul's letter to the Philippians prays that our love "may increase more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception to discern what is of value." Another good word for us to ponder in these financially difficult times! Can we and our children and grandchildren find free or inexpensive diversions for the Christmas break? Can we extricate ourselves from our iPhones and computers and the young ones from their electronics for a walk by the ocean or a soccer game in the park?

To Begin Again

If we're feeling harried and out of kilter, **the Reconciliation Service THIS MONDAY at 7:30 pm** will be a great opportunity to regain some balance in our lives. We'll pray, sing and have the opportunity to receive the sacrament with seven priests available for confession. What better time to begin again in our relationship with God, our family and our Church? Peace, **S. Sheral**