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The Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2008

Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Lord. Throughout the Old Testament, God was preparing the people for the gift of the Messiah. In our time of immediate gratification, the idea of preparation is not particularly appreciated. However, it is how God works. Saints are not born. They are formed gradually. Consider your own life. Things that happened in childhood prepared you for things that would come later. Things that are happening now are preparations for your future. Each event is an opportunity to grow and deepen in your faith and commitment to God. Are you seeking to learn and grow or just stumbling along?

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
-Psalm 85 Refrain

MASSSES for the WEEK

Sat 12/6	5:00	†Michael Johnson
Sun 12/7	9:00	†Carol Thornberry
	11:00	†Jose Roel
	5:00	†Anita Fanoe
Mon 12/8	9:00	†Karen Scurrah
	7:00	Our Parish Family
Tue 12/9	9:00	†Casimir Gorczyca, MD
Wed 12/10	9:00	Our Parish Family
Thur 12/11	9:00	
Fri 12/12	9:00	Our Parish Family
Sat 12/13	9:00	†Abel Bianchi Thomas
	5:00	†George & †Nina Sammut
Sun 12/14	9:00	†Carol Thornberry
	11:00	†Innocente Barera
	5:00	Our Parish Family

Remember In Your Prayers

Karen Andresen, Mary Carnazzo, Janet Cohen, Al DeCarli, Cliff Escobar, Jasper Foletta, Adam Garcia, Joey Gardner, Christopher Gomez, John H., Tom, Sr. Marie, Maggie Horowitz, Sylvia Jaksha, Mary Lou Kelner, Joe Leavitt, Bill Lee, Petra Macfarlane, Dan Menke, Bill Moreno, Ryan Perry, Ed Roberti, Paddy Roche, Vicky Scaqua-LaForge, Tamara Shipley, Catherine Shive, Carson & Pam Souza, Suzanne Stewart, Sara Thomas, Jim Thornberry, Gene Tissot, Garrett Weeks, Terry Weldon, Bob Whitaker, and Penny Austin-Wilson.

If you or someone you know would like the faith community of St. Joseph's Parish to join you in prayer for special needs, contact the parish office, 455-2249. We do remove names after one month, so if we have taken a name from the list of a person still in need of prayers, please give us a call and we will happily put him or her back on the list.

Meetings This Week

I-Help	Mon, 6:00, hall
Pageant Rehearsal	Tues, 3:30, church
RCIA	Tues, 7:00, hall
Scripture Study	Weds, 9:30, 7:00, hall
Choir	Weds, 7:00, church
Bridge	Thur, 10:00, rug room
Pageant Rehearsal	Thurs, 3:30, church
H.S. Youth Group	Thurs, 7:00, hall
Altar Servers	Thurs, 7:00, church



Advent News

Evening Prayer on the Monday evenings of Advent @ 7 PM

December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Mass instead of Evening Prayer)

Parish Reconciliation– December 15 @7PM

Children's Christmas Preview @ 10 AM, Sunday, December 14, 2008 in the church.

Giving Tree Reception: after the 5 PM liturgy on Sunday, December 21, 2008 in the hall.



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Sunday Plate

\$7,790.10

**Note: Bridge is on again for this Thursday at 10:00 am in the rug room. If you have any questions or would like to join our group call Jean at 455-8275.

CD's of the Advent Retreat are available in the parish office or by calling Cheyenne Cook at 408-241-4979.



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The Giving Tree

We again invite people to share, through our Giving Tree, their Christmas with others who are less fortunate. This year we are working with Catholic Charities who have supplied us with the names of needy families. The ornaments on the tree this year will bear the names of specific people and things they have requested. Beginning the first

Sunday of Advent, the Parish Giving Tree will be located in the church – complete with ornaments that identify specific needs for our families to brighten their Christmas. Here is what you can do to help:

- *Remove an ornament from the tree
 - *Purchase the item on the ornament
 - *List the details of the package content (ie: size)
 - *Wrap the gift
 - *Tape the paper ornament securely on the bottom of gift
 - *Place the gift back under the Giving Tree no later than noon December 21
- You may choose to include a card or to remain anonymous. ***The important thing to remember is to hang on to the paper ornament so you can securely attach it to the bottom of the wrapped gift.*** This ensures that we get the right gifts to the right families. Since there will be a reception for the Giving Tree families after the 5 PM liturgy on Sunday, December 21 (plan to be there!), make sure all the gifts are returned to the tree before noon on December 21. This gives the Confirmation class enough time to collect and sort the gifts to be distributed at the reception. Also, gifts of nonperishable food items are always greatly appreciated. There will be a collection box near the tree.

We can make the difference in a family's life. Please support our parish mission to minister to others in need, as Jesus did, this Advent Season.



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Breakfast with Santa

Sunday December 7, 2008
Madonna del Sasso Hall
320 E. Laurel, Salinas

Santa will be there from 8:30 - noon with treats for the children- (pictures available) * Mrs. Santa's Kitchen will have Christmas goodies and breakfast will be served from 7:30-11:30 for \$6.00

Please pray for...

Philip Zarate, Mike Albin, Brian Flannery, Jeff Huff, and the other brave men and women serving our country overseas.

If you have a loved one serving in a foreign country, please contact the parish office at 455-2249 so we may include them on our special prayer list.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

December 8

There will be masses on

Monday at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm

Sunday Collections

Many of you put checks, with directions on the memo line, in the collection basket that are for things other than Sunday donations. Since the money counters are only concentrating on the amounts, the memo is not always noted. To make sure these checks get proper credit, please put them in a separate envelope with instructions as to how you want them spent. Also, if you would like a statement of your financial donations at the end of the year, you need to use St. Joseph's envelopes. Loose checks are not posted to any account. If you would like to start getting envelopes, just give us a call at the parish office, 455-2249. ***Thank you.***

Attention Engaged Couples

How long should you take to prepare for marriage? A wedding day takes months of planning yet very little time is given to a lifetime of life-giving marriage. Learn from Catholic couples married 2 to 40 years, as they share their lifetime experiences on the long road to a lasting loving relationship. Attend a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend early in your engagement. For more details and an application visit <http://www.mcee.org>. If you need help or have a question please call Jose or Jule at 831-338-4253 or email Jose.Julie@comcast.net.

You are Invited to an Ultreya: Cursillistas and those interested in Cursillo are invited to join us for faith sharing and fellowship at the Ultreya on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 pm at Holy Cross Mission Chapel in Santa Cruz. This is a great opportunity to find out more about Cursillo and for Cursillistas to rekindle the movement in their lives. If you have any questions, call Cindy Vierra at 831-757-5193 or visit our website at www.montereycursillo.org.

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Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

4 PM Children's Eucharist

7 PM Christmas Vigil

11:30 PM Candlelight Carol Service Preceding The Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

9 AM & 11 AM (There is no 5 PM Mass on Christmas Day)