

St. Ignatius of Antioch

December 24, 2017– Fourth Sunday of Advent

Address: 3351 Contra Loma Boulevard, Antioch CA 94509-5468

Parish Office: (925) 778-0768 ● Fax: (925) 778-0845 ● Faith Formation: (925) 778-1631 ● Rectory: (925) 470-3253

E-mail: st.ignatius@sbcglobal.net ● Website: www.stignatiusofantioch.org

● facebook: www.facebook.com/stignatiusofantiochchurch

Fourth Sunday of Advent Candle of Love



Mission Statement:

United in Faith, Ignited by the Spirit, We Reflect the Light of the Living Christ

Fr. Robert K. Rien
Pastor

Fr. George Griener, S.J.
Assisting Clergy

Fr. Richard Mangini
Assisting Clergy

Deacon Gary Hack
Permanent Deacon

Don Pearson
Director of Music, Organist,
Artist in Residence

Frances Rojek
Pastoral Associate,
Formation & Administration

Peter Degl'Innocenti
Pastoral Associate, Pastoral Care

Carolyn Krantz, M.Div.
Pastoral Associate, Social Justice

Maryann Peddicord
Pastoral Secretary

Estrella Rusk
Financial Secretary

Rich Confetti
Facilities Manager

Eucharist Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4 pm (New Time)
Sunday: 8 am & 10 am
Mon., Wed., Fri.: 8 am Holy Eucharist
Tue., Thur.: 8 am Liturgy of the Word
and Holy Communion

Holy Days: 8 am & 7:30 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday, 2:45 to 3:30 pm

Faith Formation Office: (925) 778-1631

Sacraments: Contact Parish Office: (925) 778-0768

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

For Ministries, Activities & Outreaches in Parish: see
Parish handbook, available in the Office.



December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday
of Advent

*The child to be born will be called
holy, the Son of God.*
— Luke 1:35

Stewardship

Thank you for the gift of your Time, your Talent and your Treasure to St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.” —Matthew 6:21

Stewardship of Treasure

Our goal for weekly plate collections is: \$12,500.00

Weekend Offering for December 9-10

Weekend Offering.....\$9,940.00

Second Collection (Religious Retirement).....\$3,006.00

Immaculate Conception.....\$1,436.00

Looking Ahead

December 24: Please note, only one morning Liturgy for the 4th Sunday of Advent at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Liturgies are at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

December 25: There will be two morning Liturgies on Christmas Day at 9 am and 11 am.

January 1: There will be one Liturgy on New Years Day at 11 am.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays: 9:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. - Hula Class in the Parish Hall. Contact Samantha Peralto at 726-7117 for information or questions.

Thursday: Growing in Faith Together (G I F T) sessions - 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. - Parish Hall. Call the Faith Formation office for more details (778-1631).

Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 24

- Simbang Gabi - 5 am Liturgy - Church
- 10 am Liturgy only - 4th Sunday of Advent
- Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
- 4 pm - Christmas Eve - Eucharist for Families with Children
- 9 pm - Christmas Eve - The Solemn Eucharist of Christmas Night

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

- Parish and Faith Formation Offices Closed
- Eucharist - 9 am & 11 am
- No SPRED this month
- No RCIA

Tuesday, December 26

- Parish and Faith Formation Offices Closed
- Rosary - 7:25 am - Church
- Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion - 8 am

Wednesday, December 27

- Rosary - 7:25 am - Church
- Eucharist - 8 am with Novena following - Church
- No Faith Formation Classes - Christmas Break

Thursday, December 28

- Rosary - 7:25 am - Church
- Eucharist - 8 am
- Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) sessions - 9 to 10:30 am - Parish Hall
- Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 pm to 9 pm – Church

Friday, December 29

- Rosary - 7:25 am - Church
- Eucharist - 8 am

Saturday, December 30

- 4 pm Liturgy
- Second Collection for Parish Assessment

Sunday, December 31

- 5th Sunday Rosary - Knights of Columbus - 7:30 am at the Grotto
- Eucharist 9 am & 11 am
- Second Collection for Parish Assessment

Pray for the Sick

Remember in your prayers all those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially:

Angelina Alphonso	Robin Goncalves	Mike Ricker
Rocco Battaglia	Avelina Gordovez	Tylor Rideau
Rosita Bonayon	Emilia Amezcua-	Kim Tank
Tom Bresciani	Gutierrez	Peter Villalpando
Todd Campbell	Linda Morrison	Theresa Weathers
Dorothy	Jose Guillermino Ramos	Guy Worth

Members of our Parish Family who are in the Military, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins and all those who have no one to pray for them.

Readings for the Week

Monday	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Tuesday	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Friday	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday	1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]

Lay Ministers—Week of Dec 30th & Dec 31st

Minister signup sheets on the wall adjacent to the Sacristy

Dec. 30th - Fr. Robert Presiding and Preaching at 4 pm
 Dec. 31st - Fr. Robert Presiding Preaching at 8 & 10 am

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat. 4:00 pm	John Fraga †
Sun. 5:00 am	The Freking Family
Sun. 10:00 am	Joseph Stralovich †
Sun. 4 pm & 9 pm	Our Parish Family
Mon. 9:00 &	Our Parish Family
Tues. 8:00 am	All Priests & Deacons
Wed. 8:00 am	All Care Givers
Thur. 8:00 am	All Military Men & Women
Fri. 8:00 am	Gus Favalora †

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the soul of **Cal-Fire Firefighter Cory Iverson**. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is requesting the following food items:

- 2 lb. bag White Rice**
- Canned Tuna - 5 oz.**
- Chicken Noodle Soup - 10. 5 oz.**

Please bring your donations to weekend liturgies or place them in the donation barrel in the Narthex.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

If you can help or need help call (925)757-0941
 Food Pantry - Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9-10 am - Parish Center *

Food Bank Fresh Food Truck - 1st & 3rd Friday of the month 1-2 pm Church Parking lot *Most Holy Rosary.

If you can just once a month visit a needy family with us to offer them help call (925)757-0941

For every type of help from the country call 211 or go to: www.211database.org

Marriage Preparation Programs

“A Program to Prepare Couples for the Sacrament of Marriage.” The last Marriage Preparation Registration for the Summer Sessions is as follows:

Saturday, January 13th - 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Location: St. Vincent’s Marinwood -
1 Saint Vincents Drive San Rafael, CA

The cost is \$325.00 per couple. For more information, call (415) 699-8348.

Most Holy Rosary School

Holy Rosary School is now Accepting Applications for grades Pre-K through 8th grade for the School Year 2018-2019.

Holy Rosary also offers Pre-School Learning Center for 2 & 3 year olds.

Application packets are available for pick up at the school office, or visit the website at www.holyrosarycatholicschool.org. For questions or to schedule a tour: Call 925-757-1270.

St. Joseph Missals Have Arrived

If you would like to purchase a St. Joseph Missal for the new liturgical year through the parish, please contact the parish office at (925) 778-0768. The cost is \$4.00.

Shelter Inc.—Contra Costa

Help needed to provide, cook and serve dinner at Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter.

Volunteers are needed to provide and serve dinner for homeless families living at this emergency shelter in Martinez. By providing a meal, you’re providing a family dining experience while ensuring no one goes hungry. Your participation and support is greatly appreciated.

Location: 1391 Shell Avenue, Martinez, CA (entrance is on Orchard Avenue).

For more information or questions about volunteering, please contact Stephanie Harrison at (925) 228-6920 or at StephanieH@shelterinc.org.

Adult Confirmation Classes

All those seeking the benefits of the sacrament of Confirmation who are already baptized and will be 18 years of age or older on January 13th, are urged to call Pastoral Associate, Peter Degl’Innocenti, immediately at (925) 756-6172. Four classes will be given on Tuesday nights starting December 19th at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office. Confirmation will be held on January 13th at the Cathedral of Christ the Light at 10:00 am. Registration deadline is December 22nd. Call now!

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

Seeking In-Kind Donations

- *DIAPERS* (regular) size 3, 4, 5 for families in our programs.
- Cleaning supplies for our Scattered Site/FISH clients (Comet; Windex, Simple Green, Buckets; mops; etc.) Incentive prizes for Homework Club. \$1-\$5 prizes for K-8th graders for doing excellent work during the week. This is your opportunity to clean out the birthday party leftover drawer from over the years.
- Raffle prizes for resident monthly community meeting (NEW items; \$5 - \$20 value).
- Paper products for after school snacks; printer paper for after school programming.
- Used, working Laptops for families with children in school; Wi-Fi ready. We have 2 families whose children stay afterschool to use the computers and work schedules will make this harder on the family.

For more information contact Gloria Bertolozzi at [Gloria @ccinterfaithhousing.org](mailto:Gloria@ccinterfaithhousing.org)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Give your children the best gift possible: the abiding love between their parents. Comfort your children and each other by attending a World Wide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend with your spouse.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are held at **San Damiano Retreat Center**, Danville on January 12-14th or May 18th-20th. Space is VERY limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Greg & Mary @ 925-754-1284 or Joe & Sue @ 925-680-7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org.

Justice Corner

By Carolyn Krantz...Pastoral Associate

Mary and Joseph knew the way to Bethlehem, but they did not have a place to stay. The night was cold and the town's folks unwelcoming. Yet, this was the "night of nights" and they recognized this with Mary's birth pains coming on. After the pains of birth, they were in for a surprise as shepherds came at the behest of the angels' song and the Wise men found their way by the light of a star bearing gifts. The family of three was not finished with their travels. Danger threatened from Herod and they had to race out of town to Egypt, a strange land to them, but not unknown in Israel's history.

As I think about this familiar story, I also imagine it in today's context. Our current world seems cold and missing the element of love. Our current government is unwelcoming to refugees, Muslims, children brought here illegally by their parents. For one sixth of the world's migrating population, there is no room in the inn. Danger and destruction threaten in the form of nuclear threats, climate change and uncivil boasts. Yet there are surprises of light in new discoveries, ecumenical efforts, and the ordinary efforts of love in everyday life. People desire a better world.

The formula to making a better world is in The Story. Life is a journey of unknown proportions. We must put one foot in front of the other in trust that the angels still sing God's glory and the shepherds (the poor) still journey to know the Christ Child. There are wise men and women who look for the guidance of the star and follow it. While our world still has its Herods, we can escape if we are willing to travel to unknown lands. Leaving "the familiar" and trusting in God's guidance are the virtues we need to bring light into the world. The star is still visible with the eyes of faith. We must go from house to house looking for the revelation of God's Spirit present in today's world. When the darkness overwhelms us, we must find the time to sit in God's Presence and hear His Word to us in this time and place.

This is hard to do in the bustle of Christmas tasks. Again I invite you to find a half hour daily, even if you have to get up earlier, to go within and find God's voice in the events of your lives. Maybe you hear the angels in the Christmas Carol your grandchild sings. Maybe you see the Christ Child in the gift the neighbor unexpectedly brings to grace your table. Maybe you see the longing of the shepherds in the meal you serve to the homeless at the shelter. Maybe you recognize the wise men in a word of wisdom someone shares with you. In the quiet and the stillness, maybe you can find the semblance of Mary's trust and humility in your own service to your family and friends.

The important part is that you do not let the Christmas Story of 2017 go unrecognized in your life. He is still being born. The angels are still singing. The poor and disenfranchised still come to the stable to praise God's goodness that He has become one of us. There are still Wise Men and Women who recognize Him and there are still bright stars to guide our way. Spend some time in the quiet of the dawn or evening to name these aspects of Christmas 2017 and give thanks that He comes again to lead us forward into the final days of grace. The Spirit has birthed us to be Christ Bearers into the future.

At the end of the year, I wish to thank all those who have commented on this column. Your reflections help me to improve the content and offer better thoughts to the church at large. Sometimes I feel like John the Baptist, "a voice of one crying in the wilderness", so it helps to get feedback. Written comments are helpful. You can leave them in my box in the office. Happy holidays to all. May 2018 be a year of justice for our world.

Parish Perspective

By Peter Degl'Innocenti...Pastoral Associate

Anticipations

On the evening of Tuesday the 12th, I pulled into the parking lot at church in the hope that someone might show up for the first Adult Confirmation class. Although the notice for the classes had been in the bulletin for three weeks, no one had called to pre-register.

The first sign that something was up, was the number of cars in the parking lot. At least 30 vehicles crowded into the spaces closest to the church. Was there a special Mass? Is an Advent event going on? As I approached the doors I could see about seventy people or more seated, standing, and milling about in the pews and aisles. Then I caught sight of Don Pearson, our Music Director, motioning to the others. Ah, it's a rehearsal for the big choir concert for Saturday. With that realization, I proceeded into the office to set-up for class and had a pleasant chat with Harlan Young, one of our dedicated office volunteers and stalwart member of the Knights of Columbus.

There is a lot more to Harlan than meets the eye. He is one of the ministers in charge of scheduling and training Eucharistic ministers. That is a monumental task. Keeping track of all the ministers who come and go (who needs special days off, who needs to be trained or re-trained, etc.) is enough to give anyone apoplexy. The fortitude of Harlan's mind is also reflected in the history of the many special presentations Harlan has offered to the parish. For example, he presented the program *What Catholics Really Believe*, and a splendid program on the Star of David with all the astronomical science and prophetic meaning about its appearance. Harlan never stops growing in the faith because he never stops learning about it. He has a voracious appetite for reading books on all facets of the Catholic faith. I can't wait for the next presentation that he might give. Anticipation tingles the soul.

As Harlan was leaving, the choir began to vocalize. At first it was a staccato effort of starts and stops, then the voices united into something greater than their parts. The volume rose, the resonance started the church building ringing with thrilling tones of human voice. The counterpoint of voices, high and low, gave the air a rich depth of sound that made the hair on my arm stand up! This is amazing. The sound is traveling through the church doors, snaking its way through the narthex and into the office with its closed door; and still the sound is that thrilling! What will the concert be like? Every time the beautiful singing stopped to receive instruction from Don, it felt like a crime was being committed. Then the singing resumed, and life filled the air once more.

What a delicious torment of anticipation. It was like "musical salvation." I suppose there is a spiritual hunger in all of us that only knowledge and music can fill.

*Catholic Divorced Widowed & Separated of
Contra Costa*

December 2017 Activities

Friday, December 29 - Birthday Dinner - 6:00 pm - "Fuddruckers" 1940 N. Main. Walnut Creek. Post Holiday Feasts, choose a simple meal of Salads or Hamburgers at the poplar Fuddruckers. RSVP to Joan S at (925) 939-1007 or joanapalding@astound.net by Thursday December 28th. Birthday dessert will be served.

Monday, January 1 - Brunch Celebration - 1:00 pm Join old and new friends from other groups to celebrate and cheer this first day of the year. We are meeting at "Peony Garden", 1448 S. Main, Walnut Creek (across from Kaiser Hospital); you make your choice from the menu and the bar, and we get separate checks. Last year there were 24 people having a good time; lets do it again. A head count is needed by Thursday December 28, please contact Ariane (925) 954-8797, or 12agfranc@gmail.com further information and reservations.



Giving Thanks!

As 2017 draws to a close, St. Ignatius of Antioch parish is taking time to reflect upon what we've accomplished this year and all that we have to look forward to in 2018.

Undoubtedly, we are a parish blessed with the love, prayers, and support of so many generous individuals.

Without the kindness and generosity of our parishioners, so much of what we accomplish in ministry and outreach would not be possible.

As you count your blessings this Christmas season, we ask that you prayerfully consider a special year-end gift to St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Please know that every gift, no matter the amount, is both celebrated and appreciated!

Dementia 2.0: Advances in Alzheimer's and Dementia

**Friday, January 19, 2018
7:00pm – 10:00pm**

Join us for a special seminar with Vic Mazmanian, Dementia Caregiving Expert and Ministry Leader. This interactive discussion will focus on advances in Alzheimer's disease and the latest research information on dementia from leading physician researchers. Additional topics of aging and caring for a loved one with memory impairment will also be covered, touching on these common dementia-related questions:

- Why does my loved one repeat questions?
- Where does Alzheimer's come from?
- What does God want from me?
- What resources are there for me?
- What part does spirituality play in helping to care for my loved one?
- What is the difference between mental illness and dementia?
- How do I keep my loved ones dignity and still do the right thing?
- How do I deal with aggressive behaviors and manage incontinence?
- What are the latest tips on prevention?

**RSVP to Vic Mazmanian, Call (855) 226-0281
or email: vmazmanian@silverado.com**

Event will be held at:
St. Ignatius of Antioch
3351 Contra Loma Blvd.
Antioch, CA 94509

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Get Your Tickets to the
6th Annual Knights of Columbus
Crab Feed



Saturday, January 27, 2018
5:30 PM

St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish Hall

All You Can Eat:

Appetizers

Dungeness Crab

Salad – Bread – Pasta – Dessert

No-Host Bar

Raffles

\$50 per person

Tickets sold after Mass

January 6/7 & 13/14 & 20/21

or

Call Steve Rojek at 925-642-2329

(No tickets sold at the door)