

FIRST READING

Would that the Lord might bestow His Spirit on them all!

Numbers 11: 25-29

PSALM

Cleanse me from my unknown faults.

Psalms 19

SECOND READING

The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

James 5: 1-6

GOSPEL

"Whoever is not against us is for us."

Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27 SEPTEMBER 2009

"There is no one who performs a mighty deed in My name who can at the same time speak ill of Me."

Mark 9: 39

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS

WEEK OF 27 SEP - 03 OCT

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	Alice Moya
	05:30 PM	† Marie Romeo
TUE	07:30 AM	The Neylan and Cardine families
	05:30 PM	† Miriam and Rolly Somer; † Tom Del Sarto
WED	07:30 AM	† Nick Gideon
	05:30 PM	† Elizabeth Safui
THU	07:30 AM	† Lou Ciardella
	05:30 PM	Special intention
FRI	07:30 AM	† Alexander James Baer
	05:30 PM	† Rosario Martin
SAT	08:00 AM	† Swede Lenz

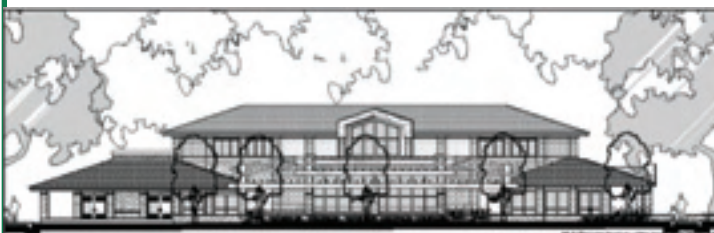
MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MON-FRI	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
MON-FRI	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
SAT	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
27 SEP	(Sunday)	
	06:30 PM	Youth Group
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
28 SEP	(Monday)	
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	RCIA
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
	07:30 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society
	07:30 PM	Choir Practice: Christmas Concert
29 SEP	(Tuesday)	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Catechism
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Catechism
30 SEP	(Wednesday)	
	07:00 PM	CCD Confirmation Class
01 OCT	(Thursday)	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
02 OCT	1st (Friday)	
03 OCT	1st (Saturday)	
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
	03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Confessions (parish priest)



NATIVITY PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE I

MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILION AND KINDERGARTEN



FUNDING TO DATE: \$7.747M



PARISH OFFERINGS

WEEK OF
12-13 SEP

TOTAL:	\$	10,397
Annual Appeal Progress:	\$	27,106
2009 Annual Appeal Goal:	\$	123,300

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

28 SEP (Monday):
SAINT WENCESLAUS, Martyr (907-929)
SAINT LORENZO RUIZ and COMPANIONS, Martyrs
(d. 1637)

29 SEP (Tuesday):
SAINT MICHAEL, SAINT GABRIEL, SAINT RAPHAEL,
Archangels

30 SEP (Wednesday):
SAINT JEROME, Priest and Doctor of the Church
(342-420)

01 OCT (Thursday):
SAINT TERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church (1873-1897)

02 OCT (Friday):
GUARDIAN ANGELS

03 OCT (Saturday):
SAINT THEODORE GUERIN, Virgin
(1798-1856)



MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Please join **Nativity Respect Life** in saying our monthly Rosary outside an abortion clinic in Redwood City, First **Saturday, 03 October 2009**. We meet between the **O'Hare Center** and the Church after the **08:00 AM** Mass on Saturday before heading over. Please contact **Eileen** at **650/799-4722** for more information.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A BABY SHOWER!

Please join the **Nativity Respect Life Group** in sponsoring a **Shower of Support** for four mothers on **Sunday, 18 October 2009** after the **11:30 AM** Mass. Please join us for food, fellowship and fun. Next weekend, **26-27 September 2009**, there will be sign-up tables outside the Church for RSVPs on attendance and gift selections/donations; gift drop-off after the weekend Masses on **10-11 October 2009**. Volunteers for set-up, clean-up, decorations, transportation, food preparation and service are very much appreciated. More info: **Eileen** at **650/799-4722**.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Event: **Bible Study/Praise and Worship**
Date: **Sunday, 27 September 2009**
Time: **06:30-08:00 PM**
Place: **O'Hare Center**

Selah Lyford, a great young musician, will lead us in song. The **Hendricks** will lead the Bible study. For more information contact **Monica** at **650/324-0297**.

FATIMA CELEBRATION

On **Tuesday, 13 October 2009**, we will hold our final monthly Fatima celebration for this year. It begins with Holy Mass at **07:30 PM**, followed by a talk on the appearance, rosary procession, and Eucharistic healing service. Please join us. For questions, contact **Deacon Dominick** or **Mary Ellen Peloso** at **650/322-3013**.



CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

Our Nativity rosary prayer group continues to pray to end the culture of death. All are invited to come! We pray two rosaries together and offer up a fast each week. We meet at **06:00 PM** in the church each **Tuesday** evening.

ROSARY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Please join us on **Saturday, 10 October 2009**, at **02:00 PM**; we will have our annual **Rosary in the Public Square**, a national effort to put our Christian faith out in the open. We will meet in front of the church, have a brief prayer and organizing meeting, process out to the El Camino Real, pray the rosary and hand out leaflets, and then process back to the church. The whole event will be done by **04:00 PM**. This is a great opportunity to make many people aware of our nation's need for prayer. We will be one of about 3,000 sites throughout the nation doing the same thing. We also need people to pray in church during the event for its success. For information, call **Deacon Dominick** or **Mary Ellen Peloso**, **650/269-6279**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:

SUN: 12:30-02:00 PM
MON: 09:00 AM
TUE: 03:00 AM, 04:00 AM
FRI: 09:00 AM

Please call **650/269-7794** for more information or to sign up.



Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact First Resort (888/252-1822), the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008) or the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please welcome the newest members of our Christian community:

- **Dominic Robert** son of **Robert** and **Carrie Herrera**



May this family grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

We congratulate

- **Chang-Yup Kim** and **Jennifer O Kim**

on their recent marriage at Nativity. May this couple grow in grace, aided by the prayerful support of their parish family.



Nativity welcomes our newest parishioners:

- **Allyson** and **Victor Santos**
- **Patty** and **Jim Pflaging** (*James, Matthew, Michael*)
- **Miriam** and **Fernando Mancera** (*Alessandra*)



SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS

Sign-ups for the Fall Session of the **Small Faith-Sharing Groups** will take place after all the Masses this weekend. The resource materials for this next session will include prayers, reflections on Sunday readings, faith-sharing questions and ideas for action responses. This new session will begin the week of **11 October 2009** for six weekly sessions. Any questions, please call **Tim Kennedy** at **650/321-4818**.

NATIVITY'S FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The concert is to be held on **Sunday, 06 December 2009**, in the afternoon. This year's concert is at **St. Patrick's Seminary Chapel** and will once again be under the direction of **Margaret Sullivan Durando**. The choir is made up of Nativity parishioners and pastor, Msgr. Steven Otellini, students from St. Francis High School, and parishioners from other local parishes.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On the feast day of **St. Francis of Assisi, 04 October 2009**, there will be a blessing of the animals at **01:00 PM**. The blessing will take place at **Nativity School**, 1250 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on the basketball courts behind the pavilion. All are welcome to bring their pets.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

It has been increasingly difficult to assure a supply of visiting priests in order for us to maintain the current Sunday Mass schedule. Presently we have 6 Masses on the weekend just for the Sunday Mass Obligation (including the Saturday vigil), this in addition to weddings and other liturgies on Saturday. Priests are only permitted by canon law to celebrate two Masses a day. In addition, on some special Holy Days, because of our presently "tight" Mass schedule it becomes very difficult to empty and fill the parking lot with only a few minutes between Masses. For these reasons I have decided to combine the 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM Masses into one Mass that will begin at 11:30 AM. The 12:30 PM Mass has always been our least attended. By combining the two we will have more time between Masses, and a less chaotic parking problem on important Holy Days. I am sorry if this inconveniences some who have become accustomed to their Sunday routines. In doing this Nativity still offers more Mass times than any neighboring parish. This change will take effect the **first Sunday of October** (04 October 2009).

Thank you for your understanding,

Msgr. Steven Otellini



LOST AND FOUND

Sunglasses—"Ralph" brand; the frames are tortoise shell on the outside and light blue on the inside. **650/323-7914**.

ATTENTION CLASSES OF '97, '98, '99 OF NATIVITY SCHOOL

We will be meeting at the *Dutch Goose* in Menlo Park on **Saturday, 14 November 2009** at **04:00 PM** to reminisce about the old days of being a Panther. Bring your families and any "memorabilia" you would like to share. If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Amy Nieva (Neylan)** at **650/280-0171** or **nievafamily@comcast.net**. Hope to see you there!

IN THE COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Rosalie Rendu Center**, a Catholic non-profit organization, serving the communities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, is seeking volunteers for the **After School Homework Club** (K-6) from **03:30-05:00 PM** on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. Volunteer opportunities are also available in our Conversation Club for adults (1-1 sessions with English learners), and evening English classes where volunteers can teach a small classroom setting with about 9 students. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact us at **rosalierendu@att.net** or call us at **650/473-9522**.

WIDOWED, SEPARATED OR DIVORCED WEEKEND

23-25 October 2009, at **Vallombrosa Retreat Center** in Menlo Park. For information and a brochure contact **La Vern** at **650/355-3978**, **Helen** at **415/388-9651**, **Ward** at **415/821-3390**, or email us at **sjbeginexp@aol.com** or see our website **www.geocities.com/sanjosebe/**.

You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness Benedict XVI** asks for general and missionary prayer intentions.

For **October 2009**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

General: That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist.



Mission: That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER *CARITAS IN VERITATE* OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF BENEDICT XVI (cont'd.)

16. In *Populorum Progressio*, Paul VI taught that progress, in its origin and essence, is first and foremost a vocation: “in the design of God, every man is called upon to develop and fulfil himself, for every life is a vocation.” This is what gives legitimacy to the Church’s involvement in the whole question of development. If development were concerned with merely technical aspects of human life, and not with the meaning of man’s pilgrimage through history in company with his fellow human beings, nor with identifying the goal of that journey, then the Church would not be entitled to speak on it. Paul VI, like Leo XIII before him in *Rerum Novarum*, knew that he was carrying out a duty proper to his office by shedding the light of the Gospel on the social questions of his time.

To regard development as a vocation is to recognize, on the one hand, that it derives from a transcendent call, and on the other hand that it is incapable, on its own, of supplying its ultimate meaning. Not without reason the word “vocation” is also found in another passage of the Encyclical, where we read: “There is no true humanism but that which is open to the Absolute, and is conscious of a vocation which gives human life its true meaning.” This vision of development is at the heart of *Populorum Progressio*, and it lies behind all Paul VI’s reflections on freedom, on truth and on charity in development. It is also the principal reason why that Encyclical is still timely in our day.

17. A vocation is a call that requires a free and responsible answer. Integral human development presupposes the responsible freedom of the individual and of peoples: no structure can guarantee this development over and above human responsibility. The “types of messianism which give promises but create illusions” always build their case on a denial of the transcendent dimension of development, in the conviction that it lies entirely at their disposal. This false security becomes a weakness, because it involves reducing man to subservience, to a mere means for development, while the humility of those who accept a vocation is transformed into true autonomy, because it sets them free. Paul VI was in no doubt that obstacles and forms of conditioning hold up development, but he was also certain that “each one remains, whatever be these influences affecting him, the principal agent of his own success or failure.” This freedom concerns the type of development we are considering, but it also affects situations of underdevelopment which are not due to chance or historical necessity, but are attributable to human responsibility. This is why “the peoples in hunger are making a dramatic appeal to the peoples blessed with abundance”. This too is a vocation, a call addressed by free subjects to other free subjects in favour of an assumption of shared responsibility. Paul VI had a keen sense of the importance of economic structures and institutions, but he had an equally clear sense of their nature as instruments of human freedom. Only when it is free can development be integrally human; only in a climate of responsible freedom can it grow in a satisfactory manner.

18. Besides requiring freedom, integral human development as a vocation also demands respect for its truth. The vocation to progress drives us to “do more, know more and have more in order to be more”. But herein lies the problem: what does it mean “to be more”? Paul VI answers the question by indicating the essential quality of “authentic” development: it must be “integral, that is, it has to promote the good of every man and of the whole man”. Amid the various competing anthropological visions put forward in today’s society, even more so than in Paul VI’s time, the Christian vision has the particular characteristic of asserting and justifying the unconditional value of the human person and the meaning of his growth.

(continued next week)

ALL ABOUT ANGELS

This week we will celebrate two "angelic" feast days: Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on Tuesday, and the memorial of all Guardian Angels on Friday.

SO WHAT IS AN ANGEL?

"Angel" is not what they are -- it is what they do. "Spirit" is what these beings "are". "Angel" is the title of their office -- it means they are messengers of God. Saint Thomas Aquinas called them "thoughts that can think". Here is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

I. THE ANGELS

The existence of angels - a truth of faith

328 The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition.

Who are they?

329 St. Augustine says: "'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel.'" With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they "always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" they are the "mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word".

330 As purely spiritual creatures angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness.

... AND WHAT ARE THE "CHOIRS OF ANGELS"?

A number of works throughout history, from Dionysius the Areopagite (often referred to in English translations as St. Denis) to St. Thomas Aquinas ("Summa Theologica") have attempted to classify the angels into a hierarchical set (Dionysius even invented the word "hierarchia", meaning "sacred order"). The commonly-accepting organization for the angelic hosts is three ranks, with three orders in each rank (the higher the rank, the closer to God).

The highest rank contains:
SERAPHIM
CHERUBIM
THRONES

The "middle" rank contains:
DOMINATIONS (DOMINIONS)
VIRTUES (AUTHORITIES)
POWERS

The lowest rank contains:
PRINCIPALITIES
ARCHANGELS
ANGELS



HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL?

The Old Testament tells us so, in Psalm 91 (and again in Matthew, when Satan quotes Psalm 91 to Jesus):

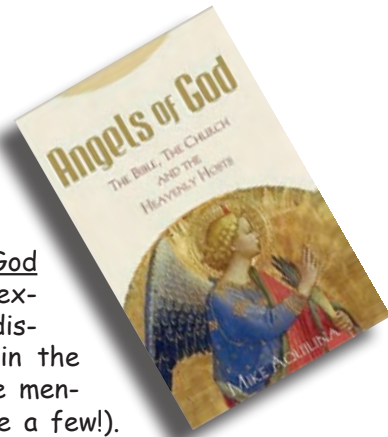
"For He will give His angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."



WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT ANGELS?

The book Angels of God by Mike Aquilina is an excellent resource that discusses all the places in the Bible where angels are mentioned (there are quite a few!).

You can order it from www.ewtnreligiouscatalog.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

Devotion to Michael the Archangel is common to Muslims, Christians and Jews? There are writings about him in all three cultures. He is considered the guardian angel of Israel, and the guardian and protector of the Church.

