

FIRST READING

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19

PSALM

In Your justice rescue me, and deliver me.
Psalms 71

SECOND READING

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12: 31 - 13: 3

GOSPEL

He said, *Amen I say to you. No prophet is accepted in his own native place.*

Luke 4: 21-30



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31 JANUARY 2010

"They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Jeremiah 1: 19

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 31 JAN - 06 FEB

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	† Anthony Zele
	05:30 PM	† Virginia Finney
TUE	07:30 AM	Peg Chandler
	05:30 PM	† Ben O'Riordan; † May and Joan Landers
WED	07:30 AM	† Marie Harpster
	05:30 PM	† Ben Arenas
THU	07:30 AM	† Elynor Demse
	05:30 PM	† Wade Perritt
FRI	07:30 AM	† Judith Cancino
	05:30 PM	† Meke and Soni Haunga
SAT	08:00 AM	† Erminia D'Amante



There will be a blessing of the throats after all Masses on Wednesday, 03 FEB 2010, the feast day of Saint Blaise

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MON-FRI	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
MON-FRI	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
SAT	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
31 JAN	(Sunday)	
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
01 FEB	(Monday)	
		<i>Adoration in O'Hare Center (08:00AM - 05:00PM)</i>
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
02 FEB	(Tuesday)	
		<i>Adoration in O'Hare Center (08:00AM - 05:00PM)</i>
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Catechism
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Catechism
03 FEB	(Wednesday)	
		<i>Adoration in O'Hare Center (08:00AM - 05:00PM)</i>
	07:00 PM	CCD Confirmation Class
04 FEB	(Thursday)	
		<i>Adoration in O'Hare Center (08:00AM - 05:00PM)</i>
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
	06:30 PM	ICF Dinner and Meeting
05 FEB	(Friday)	1st <i>Adoration in O'Hare Center (08:00AM - 05:00PM)</i>
06 FEB	(Saturday)	1st
	09:00 AM	Baptism Class
	10:00 AM -	Confessions
	12:00 PM	(Opus Dei priest)
	03:30 PM -	Confessions
	04:30 PM	(parish priest)



PARISH OFFERINGS

WEEK OF
16-17 JAN

TOTAL:	\$	11,091
Haiti Relief:	\$	10,773
Annual Appeal Progress:	\$	123,025
2009 Annual Appeal Goal:	\$	123,300



"BROWN BAG" SUNDAY

This week the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be collecting donations after the Masses.

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

02 FEB (Tuesday):

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

According to the Law of Moses, Jesus would have been brought to the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after His birth to be presented to God. It was then that **Simeon** and **Anna** made their prophecies concerning the lives of the child and His mother. At the beginning of the 8th century, **Pope Sergius** inaugurated a candlelight procession to commemorate this event, including the blessing and distribution of candles. This gave the feast its popular name: **Candlemas**.



05 FEB (Friday):

SAINT AGATHA, Virgin and Martyr (d. ~250)

We have little reliable information about this martyr, who has been honored since ancient times, and whose name is included in the canon of the Mass. Legend says that carrying her veil, taken from her tomb in Catania, in procession has averted eruptions of Mount Etna. Her intercession is reported to have saved Malta from Turkish invasion in 1551.



03 FEB (Wednesday):

SAINT BLAISE, Bishop and Martyr (d. ~316)

Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He was arrested and persecuted under the governor Agricola. While in prison, he saved a child who was choking on a fish bone (leading to the blessing of throats on his feast day). Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and join him to prove the power of their gods: they all drowned. He was then martyred by being beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs, and beheaded.

SAINT ANSGAR, Archbishop (801-865)

Benedictine monk and Archbishop of Hamburg. He established the first Christian school in Denmark and was responsible for many conversions in Scandinavia, including Erik, the King of Jutland.

06 FEB (Saturday):

SAINTS PAUL MIKI and COMPANIONS, Martyrs (d. 1597)

Paul, the son of a Japanese military leader, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching. He was crucified with 25 other Japanese Catholics (the Martyrs of Nagasaki), mostly laymen, during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruler of Japan in the name of the emperor. Paul delivered his final sermon from the cross.

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS

Sign-ups for the Spring Session of the Small Faith-Sharing Groups will take place after all Masses on the weekend of **06-07 February 2010**. The resource materials for this next session will include prayers, reflections on the Sunday readings, faith sharing questions and ideas for action responses. This new session will begin the week of **14 February 2010** for six weekly sessions. Any questions, please call **Tim Kennedy** at **650/321-4818**.

PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

Please mark your calendars: On **Saturday, 20 February 2010**, Nativity Parish will have a one-half day Lenten retreat. As this is the first Saturday of Lent, it will be a great way to begin that season in prayer and reflection. It will begin with Holy Mass at **08:00AM** and end with Benediction at **12:00 PM**.

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:



MON: 09:00 AM, 01:00 PM

WED: 11:00 AM

FRI: 04:00 AM

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

NATIVITY MOMS GROUP

Attention all Nativity Moms! The Moms' group will meet on **Friday, 19 February 2010** from **10:30 AM to 12:00 PM** in the **O'Hare Center**. Come meet other moms, share the joys and challenges of motherhood, and pray a rosary for our families! Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your little ones with you. Contact **Christine Semler** at **650/594-4637** for more information.

*Dear Monsignor Otellini,
Thank you very much for the generous World Mission Sunday contribution of \$3,758.25 from the people of the Church of the Nativity.
You and your parish family may learn about the good their support on World Mission Sunday accomplishes by visiting our website: www.onefamilyinmission.org.
Again, I am most grateful to you for encouraging the missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among your parishioners. Know that you and they remain in my prayers and in the prayers of the people of the Missions.*

Sincerely,

Genevieve Elizondo, Archdiocesan Mission Director

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

HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, is responding to victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti. To donate, please call **1877/HELP-CRS**, donate online at www.crs.org or send a check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo portion of your check, please write: *Haiti Earthquake*.

NATIVITY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Nativity School is currently accepting applications for grades K-7. Please call the school office, **650/325-7304**, to request an application or visit our website at www.nativityschool.com > **Admissions**. Nativity School, mindful of its mission to be witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. Nativity School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Archbishop George Niederauer will be celebrating **World Day of the Sick 2010** on **Saturday, 06 February 2010** at Saint Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street, San Francisco, beginning at **09:00 AM**. The Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Order of Malta are sponsoring this celebration which will include Mass, Laying on of Hands, Anointing the Sick and Blessing the Hands of Caregivers. This is a wonderful opportunity for the sick of our parish and their caregivers to receive God's special healing graces. All are invited to attend. Questions? Call **Gene and John Kates** at **650/364-3644**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Spiritual Care Service** at **Stanford Hospital** is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to patients and families. Volunteers must be willing to commit to two hours a week for a year and attend 5 evenings of training. The training program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto on five Monday evenings: **22 February, 01, 08, 15, 22 March 2010, 07:00-09:00 PM**. If you are interested in volunteering, please request an application by calling the Spiritual Care Service office at **650/723-5101** or email ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org. Remember to leave your name, phone number, church affiliation and email address.

Beginning **25 January 2010** we will be undertaking work in the church to replace the sprinkler heads for the fire control system. The original heads have been de-certified by the State Fire Marshal. Since this necessitates the scaffolding of the interior of the church we will also take advantage of its presence to paint the ceiling and walls. The work will be carried out during the weekdays and should not affect the weekend schedules at all. We hope to have it completed by **12 February 2010**. Adoration during the day will be moved to the **O'Hare Center**. I am sorry for the disruption this may cause, but the work is essential to keep Nativity safe.

Msgr. Steven Otellini



A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

Nativity School's annual dinner, dance and auctions will be held on **20 February 2010** beginning at **05:30 PM**. Invitations have been mailed. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, you may pick one up in the vestibule of the Church or in the parish office. Reservations are due by **01 February 2010**.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost: 2-tone blue lady's hooded jacket. **650/323-7914**.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY

This is a fifth Sunday of the month so members of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be outside church after Mass to accept your donations. Your generous donations make it possible for them to help many families each month with food, rent and utilities assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

IN THE COMMUNITY

BEFORE HE WAS POPE: LOLEK, THE PLAY

California Catholic Women's Forum is hosting a play on the young adulthood of **Pope John Paul II** on **07 February 2010**, including an authentic Polish dinner. "Lolek" tells the inspiring story of the young Karol Wojtyla growing up in Nazi-occupied Poland and his call to the priesthood. This stylish, riveting drama by actor/writer **Jeremy Stanbary** offers profound insights into John Paul's heart. **Sunday, 07 February 2010, 06:30 PM:** Polish dinner and **07:30 PM:** "*Lolek*" at **Our Lady of Peace Family Learning Center**, 2800 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara. Questions? Call **Michele** at **650/814-1995** or **Suzanne** at **408/530-9848**.

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 **January 2010**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

General: That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.



Missionary: That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

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

44. (cont'd.) *Morally responsible openness to life represents a rich social and economic resource.* Populous nations have been able to emerge from poverty thanks not least to the size of their population and the talents of their people. On the other hand, formerly prosperous nations are presently passing through a phase of uncertainty and in some cases decline, precisely because of their falling birth rates; this has become a crucial problem for highly affluent societies. The decline in births, falling at times beneath the so-called “replacement level”, also puts a strain on social welfare systems, increases their cost, eats into savings and hence the financial resources needed for investment, reduces the availability of qualified labourers, and narrows the “brain pool” upon which nations can draw for their needs. Furthermore, smaller and at times miniscule families run the risk of impoverishing social relations, and failing to ensure effective forms of solidarity. These situations are symptomatic of scant confidence in the future and moral weariness. It is thus becoming a social and even economic necessity once more to hold up to future generations the beauty of marriage and the family, and the fact that these institutions correspond to the deepest needs and dignity of the person. In view of this, States are called to enact policies promoting the centrality and the integrity of the family founded on marriage between a man and a woman, the primary vital cell of society, and to assume responsibility for its economic and fiscal needs, while respecting its essentially relational character.

45. Striving to meet the deepest moral needs of the person also has important and beneficial repercussions at the level of economics. *The economy needs ethics in order to function correctly* — not any ethics whatsoever, but an ethics which is people-centred. Today we hear much talk of ethics in the world of economy, finance and business. Research centres and seminars in business ethics are on the rise; the system of ethical certification is spreading throughout the developed world as part of the movement of ideas associated with the responsibilities of business towards society. Banks are proposing “ethical” accounts and investment funds. “Ethical financing” is being developed, especially through micro-credit and, more generally, micro-finance. These processes are praiseworthy and deserve much support. Their positive effects are also being felt in the less developed areas of the world. It would be advisable, however, to develop a sound criterion of discernment, since the adjective “ethical” can be abused. When the word is used generically, it can lend itself to any number of interpretations, even to the point where it includes decisions and choices contrary to justice and authentic human welfare.

Much in fact depends on the underlying system of morality. On this subject the Church's social doctrine can make a specific contribution, since it is based on man's creation “in the image of God” (Gen 1:27), a datum which gives rise to the inviolable dignity of the human person and the transcendent value of natural moral norms. When business ethics prescind from these two pillars, it inevitably risks losing its distinctive nature and it falls prey to forms of exploitation; more specifically, it risks becoming subservient to existing economic and financial systems rather than correcting their dysfunctional aspects. Among other things, it risks being used to justify the financing of projects that are in reality unethical. The word “ethical”, then, should not be used to make ideological distinctions, as if to suggest that initiatives not formally so designated would not be ethical. Efforts are needed — and it is essential to say this — not only to create “ethical” sectors or segments of the economy or the world of finance, but to ensure that the whole economy — the whole of finance — is ethical, not merely by virtue of an external label, but by its respect for requirements intrinsic to its very nature. The Church's social teaching is quite clear on the subject, recalling that the economy, in all its branches, constitutes a sector of human activity.

46. When we consider the issues involved in the relationship between business and ethics, as well as the evolution currently taking place in methods of production, it would appear that the traditionally valid distinction between profit-based companies and non-profit organizations can no longer do full justice to reality, or offer practical direction for the future. In recent decades a broad intermediate area has emerged between the two types of enterprise. It is made up of traditional companies which nonetheless subscribe to social aid agreements in support of underdeveloped countries, charitable foundations associated with individual companies, groups of companies oriented towards social welfare, and the diversified world of the so-called “civil economy” and the “economy of communion”.

(continued next week)

Love is patient, love is kind.
 It is not jealous, it is not pompous,
 It is not inflated, it is not rude,
 it does not seek its own interests,
 it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood
 over injury,
 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
 but rejoices with the truth.
 It bears all things, believes all things,
 hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please welcome the newest members of our Christian community:

- **Phoebe Alicia** daughter of **Thomas and Lorraine**
- **James Kearns** son of **Patrick and Jenny Donnell**
- **Huxley** son of **Mark Hernandez and Meli Mattes**
- **Graciela Nissa** daughter of **Mark and Gloria Ebner**



May these children and their families grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

Nativity welcomes our newest parishioners:

- **Amy Altmaier and John Trobough** (*Cody, Blake*)
- **Janette Garcia and Grady Kimes**
- **Amy and Francisco Carrizo**
- **Genevieve Bettini**
- **Norlando Laurente**
- **Sela Tangitau**



St. Raymonds

ST. RAYMOND'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us in celebrating 60 years as a parish! A special Mass will be held on **Friday, 05 February 2010** at **07:00 PM** at the original site of St. Raymond's Parish, the Little Theater (now the LDS Church at Arbor Road and Valparaiso in Atherton). A reception will follow. Menlo Park Mayor **Richard Cline** will speak at the **10:00 AM** Mass on Sunday, **07 February 2010** at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. An Historical Photo Exhibit commemorating 60 years of parish and community life in this corner of Menlo Park will follow in St. Raymond's Rectory. All are welcome to come and learn about the history of our spiritual life on the Peninsula!

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Please join **Nativity Respect Life** for saying our monthly Rosary outside an abortion clinic in Redwood City, First **Saturday, 06 February 2010**. 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.

HOPE AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION

Starting **Tuesday, 09 February 2010** at **07:00 PM**, **Our Lady of Angels**, 1721 Hillside Drive, Burlingame, and **First Resort** are sponsoring a post abortion support group and 9-week Scripture study. The group will be led by a grief counselor from First Resort and two women who have gone through the Catholic Church's Project Rachel program. At the end of the scripture study, Fr. Michael will lead a candlelight service. Anyone who has been touched by an abortion is encouraged to attend for this extraordinary healing experience. Contact **Sandy Dillon** at **650/678-8423**.

STANFORD BLOOD DRIVE

NATIVITY BLOOD DRIVE

What better day to possibly save a life than on Valentine's Day? Please consider donating your greatly needed blood at the Stanford Bloodmobile, which will be parked outside Nativity Church on **14 February 2010**. Appointments are available from **08:30AM-01:30PM**. Please log onto: **bloodcenter.stanford.edu** Click on *Find a Blood Drive*, search by city (*Menlo Park*), and choose your donation time! Or you can call **Maryclair Thomas** at **650/327-9452** to schedule your appointment to give! Special thanks from the Stanford Bloodmobile Staffers—they really appreciate us stocking their shelves and will be happily handing out certificates for a free pint of ice cream to all donors. Remember: **THE BLOOD YOU GIVE MAY HELP SAVE A LIFE!**

St. Patricks Seminary

ST. PATRICKS SEMINARY SPEAKER SERIES

Fr. Gladstone Stevens will talk on *The Priest as Teacher*. This talk will be held at **St. Patrick's Seminary & University, Olier Hall**, on **04 February 2010** at **07:00 PM**. Father Gladstone received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Marquette University. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville and has been with the Society of St. Sulpice since 2002. For six years he taught Systematic Theology and Philosophy and St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore Maryland. He now serves as Vice Rector and Academic Dean at St. Patrick's Seminary & University in Menlo Park. This is the third of four lectures held during the *Year for Priests* June 2009-June 2010. For more information: **www.stpatricksseminary.org** > **Upcoming Events** or call **650/289-3321**. \$10 per session.