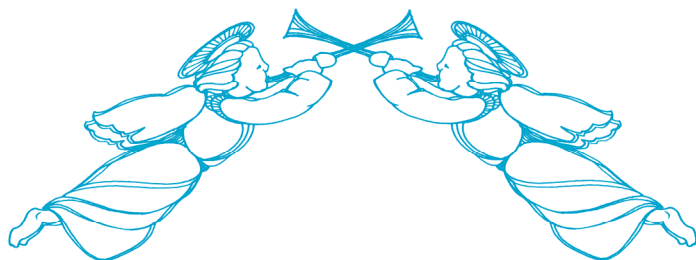


# St. Callistus Church

3580 San Pablo Dam Road  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

## REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading**—Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

**Psalm**—Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

**Second Reading**—Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

**Gospel**—John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy: be honest: do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

### Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass.....8:30 A.M.  
Saturday Vigil ..... 5:15 P.M.  
Sunday Masses ..... 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon  
Weekday Mass .....8:30 A.M. Daily  
*After each Weekday Mass the Rosary is recited and the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, is prayed.*  
Holy Day Masses ..... 8:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 P.M. (Other times by appointment with Priest)

### Pastoral Staff

**Rev. Jimmy Thottapally**  
Pastoral Administrator .....(510) 223-1153  
**Rev. Nick Reina, SDB** .....Pastoral Support  
**Sister Angela Burke, SHJM**  
Pastoral Associate & RCIA Coordinator .....(510) 222-0432

### Parish Staff

Geny S. Fabella, Office Manager / Bookkeeper  
Estrell Bautista, Office Secretary  
Gilbert Estrada, Administrative Assistant  
Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday - Friday  
(12:00 Noon to 12:30 P.M. closed for lunch)  
(510) 223-1153  
Fax No.: (510) 223-1137 – E-mail: [stcallistus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stcallistus@sbcglobal.net)  
website: [www.stcallistus-es.org](http://www.stcallistus-es.org)

### Parish Ministries

**Children's Faith Formation (CCD/RCIC)**  
Pat Morgan, Director (510) 222-2538  
E-mail: [pmorgan.stcallistus@gmail.com](mailto:pmorgan.stcallistus@gmail.com)

#### RCIA

Sr. Angela, SHJM.....222-0432

#### Pastoral Council

Vy Nguyen, Facilitator.....758-2874

#### Youth Ministry & Confirmation Program

Liz Remigio, Director.....223-1240

#### The Guild

Josie Rocco, President.....222-9411

#### Baptism of Infants (510) 223-1153

Make arrangements with priest at least six (6) weeks in advance. Parents must be registered parishioners for 3 months.

#### Weddings (510) 223-1153

Make arrangements with priest at least six (6) months in advance.

### Other Ministries/Services:

#### Senior Center (510) 548-2617

Marge Essel, Coordinator

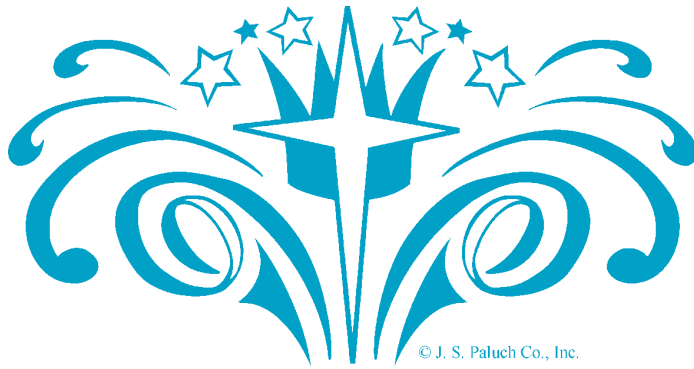
Mondays only, 8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

#### Knights of Columbus

Ray Tianero, Grand Knight.....758-4127

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference** .....243-7501

**St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery**.....234-2012



## REFLECTIONS

Last week I shared with you some of my reflections based on the life of the Little Flower. Today let me do the same with the life of St. John Marie Vianney, patron saint of parish priests. Though this great saint is a unique model for priests, his life teaches so much to every follower of Jesus.

Vianney was born on May 8, 1786. His life is the story of a humble and holy man. He was so poor in his studies that he barely made it to the priesthood. But once ordained, and sent to the small farming-village parish of Ars as its Curé (parish priest) he literally worked miracles.

The post-revolution France was plenty of vices and sins. God was forgotten/ignored by so many, that parishes were almost deserted. Ars was no exception. Blasphemy, cursing, profanation of Sundays, drinking, immorality,....., were the order of the day. Through his own life of prayer, fervent preaching, and long hours in hearing confessions,....., Vianney converted the parish. His church which was initially sparsely attended by parishioners, began to be packed on Sundays. Eventually people began to flock to Vianney's church from the neighboring towns, then from all over France, the neighboring countries and even from America to listen to his homilies and to make confession to him.

Vianney died on August 4, 1859. People soon began to flock to his tomb. He was canonized in 1925. Even today over 500,000 people visit Ars annually to seek his intercessions and to see his **incorrupt** body.

What are some of the most important things for anyone to learn from this short and simple man? Vianney took the duty to be holy seriously. How serious are we about living holy lives? Sin is what destroys our relationship to God and endangers our salvation. What is our attitude to sin? Do we take the maximum care to avoid sin? So many have lost the sense of sin and for them almost anything is o.k. Am I one of them?

Vianney spent hours and hours hearing confessions. Towards the end of his life he spent 16 to 18 hours a day in the confessional! How often do I receive this sacrament?

Personal prayer was the means of Vianney's holyness. Without prayer, true relationship to God and personal sanctity are impossible. Am I a person of prayer? (*con't to next column*)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2009

“With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.”

— *Isaiah 12:3*

How much time do I spend in prayer?

Vianney had a very special devotion to Mary, our Blessed Mother. What is my relationship to Mary?

A word also about Vianney's parents: they were both very religious people, who lived lives of fidelity and commitment to God. Especially so was his mother. A person of great piety, his mother led him into the way of religion at an early age. Vianney used to say: "I owe a debt to my mother. ... Virtues go easily from mothers into the hearts of their children". What kind of examples do I give to my children?



As we prepare for Christmas, for the coming of Our Lord into our hearts and homes, let us think about these and learn from the examples of this great saint.

St. John Vianney, pray for us and intercede for us.

*Fr. Jimmy.*

### ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

In preparation for Christmas, our Communal Penance Service will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 P.M.** There will be several priests to hear confessions. Please make sure to use this opportunity to receive the Lord in your heart and soul.

### VISITING THE SICK AND THE ELDERLY

Please contact Sr. Angela at 510-222-0432.



**Please Pray for the Sick and/or Home-bound....**in our parish family, may they experience love and support of others, especially.....

Fr. Larry Byrne	Louie Silva	Max Poehnelt
Gilbert Estrada, Sr.	Theresa Dang	David Gutierrez
Hermie Asuncion	Ruth P. Caluya	Erika Montoya
Raymundo Aldana	Gloria Villaroman	Jose Victorino
Frances Arnold		

**Let us pray also for our parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes.** Names on this list will be deleted after 3 months, unless the office staff is notified. **Please inform the bulletin editor if a name needs to be added.**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND POTLUCK—Sunday, Dec. 13 4:00  
P.M. in the parish hall.**

**SIMBANG GABI — Dec. 17 and Dec. 18 at 8:00 P.M.; and  
Dec. 19 at 5:00 A.M.—Breakfast in the hall will follow. All are  
not only welcome but encouraged to come for these 3 Masses.**

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**HOLIDAY TOY PROGRAM**

Thank you to all those who have already donated to the Richmond/El Cerrito Fire & Police Holiday Toy Program. We are still in need of new, unused toys for the economically disadvantaged children of West Contra Costa County. The Knights will be available after each Saturday and Sunday Mass **until Dec. 13** to collect unwrapped toys and monetary donations for the program. Please support and bring joy to a child in need this holiday season. Jordan Villa jvilla\_10@yahoo.com

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** The poinsettias decorating the Church at Christmas are placed as a memorial. Each poinsettia will represent a departed loved one and his/her name will be inscribed on a scroll which will be placed at the Christmas Nativity scene. A donation of \$10.00 for each name is suggested. Envelopes for this Christmas memorial are now available on the back tables. **Please print name(s) clearly.**

**CLEAN UP OF CHURCH PREMISES:** We shall have a common clean up of our Church compound in preparation for Christmas on **Saturday, Dec. 19 at 11:00 A.M.** We need plenty of help. **Please bring tools and equipments.** The Guild will provide lunch.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:** Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection. [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

**DAILY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS—THANK YOU**

Individuals/Families participating in the daily prayer dedicated to priests:

12/13	Kathy Marshall	12/17	Cynthia Sta. Elena
12/14	Byron & Belen Cobb	12/18	Carmen Revecho
12/15	Mario & Ancel Yao	12/19	Loreto Vickroy
12/16	Josie Mendoza	12/20	Sabiha Campbell

**PRAYER IN SPANISH**

The El Grupo Hispano Guadalupaño will meet on **Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 P.M.** in the hall. Everyone is invited.



We welcome **Julian Lai Molejona** through the waters of Baptism last Saturday, December 5th. May our community embrace this child and may our word and example be reflections of God's love for children.



Sunday Collection 12/6 \$4,772.15  
Parish Maintenance 12/6 \$1,501.85

**Second Collection for December 20th - Church Flowers**  
*Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to the weekly offerings.*  
**Will you please remember St. Callistus in your will?**

**~ SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2009 ~**

SUN.	10:00 A.M. RCIA Class
	11:00 A.M. High School Youth Group Meeting
MON.	7:00 P.M. Confirmation Class
TUE.	9:30 A.M. Bible Study
	6:30 P.M. Junior High School Youth Group Meeting
	7:00 P.M. Census Takers Meeting
WED.	9:00 A.M. Holy Hour/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 P.M. All Seasons Choir Practice
THUR.	9:00 A.M. Mother of Perpetual Help Novena
	7:00 P.M. Guadalupaño Group
FRI.	7:00 P.M. Faith Formation - 1st Reconciliation Meeting
	7:00 P.M. Youth Choir Practice
	8:00 P.M. Fil-Am Choir Practice
SAT.	9:30 A.M. Faith Formation Class
	11:00 A.M. Parish Cleanup

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Week of December 13th - December 19th

SAT	5:15 P.M. Florence MacGregor ☩ by Sandy MacGregor
SUN	8:00 A.M. People of the Parish of St. Callistus Church
	10:00 A.M. Gerardo Ancheta ☩ by Lilian Esguerra
	12:00 Noon Rosario Cruz ☩ by Onie & Josie Cuaresma
MON	8:30 A.M. Leonor Roxas (Living, Birthday) by Joseph & Rebecca Balagot
TUE	8:30 A.M. Flora Victorino ☩ by Enrique & Amada Victorino
WED	8:30 A.M. Bong & Annie Magsino (Wedding Anniv.) by The Magsino Family
THU	8:30 A.M. Crispina Reyes ☩ by Enrique & Amada Victorino
	8:00 P.M. Miguel Zante ☩ by Chat Suarez
FRI	8:30 A.M. Amin & Nahida Alhaik ☩☩ by The Yousif Family
	8:00 P.M. Miguel Zante ☩ by Romy & Lydia Matundan
SAT	5:00 A.M. Deceased & Living Members of the Block Rosary Group
	8:30 A.M. Marie D. Smith ☩ by Tina Peña

**Welcome!** Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether longtime residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God for you! We invite you to fill out the contact information below and place in the collection basket, or mail to the rectory, if you are interested in registering in our parish. An official registration form will be mailed to you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New to the Parish     New Address     New phone number     Moving-remove from list     Send Sunday Envelopes