

Catholic Community at Stanford

P.O. Box 20301, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94309 http://catholic.stanford.edu/ main office: 650-725-0080

For emergencies, call 650-723-8222, pager #17736

Sunday Masses

10:30am Tresidder Oak Room4:30pm Memorial Church

>>>Next Sunday, 12/19 4:30pm only<<<

Daily Eucharist

Daily Masses will resume on January 3, 2011

Confessions

by appointment only: call 725-0080

Marriage

To arrange a Catholic Wedding, call the wedding coordinator at Memorial Church at 650-723-9531.

Infant Baptisms

Baptism is celebrated once per quarter. For more information, please visit http://catholic.stanford.edu/baptisms/eligibility.html or contact Teresa Pleins tpleins@stanford.edu.

Information about Catholic liturgies in Palo Alto, call 650-494-2496 or www.paloaltocatholic.org.

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Religious Ramblings Look!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 12, 2010

fr Bruno Clifton tells us that the incarnation is not an idea but a visible reality.

'Don't think, but look!'

The Austrian philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, with this advice, was trying to get us to consider things as they are in each case and not as we think they should be or as we are used to them. When we inquire into reality, we should not presume we have understood simply through a previous suggestion or by what we expect to be the case. We must encounter things and see what is in front of us and not remain within our mind, thinking 'this must be' or 'this can't be'.

So, experience has to give shape to what we know and believe. It is how we know anything: how we learn.

The Jews in Exile are experiencing the harshness of God's anger; learning a lesson we could say, as prisoners far from their home. Yet now, the prophecy of Isaiah comes to bring hope. 'God will come and save you.' So, how do we know these are not empty words?

In the real pains of exile and imprisonment, hope must take the form of the prospect of an equally real joy of salvation. Isaiah gives us the vision of what this joy, this salvation will look like: how we shall know it - through the visible reversal of pain and defect.

'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped...' Why? '...because the ransomed of the Lord shall return.'

Is it a coincidence that it is the restoration of inhibited senses that is among the signs that we experience, and so know God has come to save us? We are able to see and hear anew, because the arrival of God allows all to see and hear. The sign is what it signifies; God does what he shows us - open our senses to what is real.

So we know that sorrow will be ended, not in theory, but in practice. Don't think, look.

John in prison can't look, but he can do the next best thing, which is hear. He can hear the Good News from those who have seen - 'he heard of the deeds of Christ.' So John sends to ask Jesus if he can trust what he has learnt - are you the one who comes to save us?

Listen to Jesus's response: 'tell John what you hear and see...' It is that appeal to what is in front of us; to what is the case.

Jesus goes on to ask the crowd, 'What did you go out into the desert to see...?' We are called to look, to encounter the living God.

This brings the answer to our inquiry. Is Jesus the Messiah? Has our salvation come? Well, do the blind see and lame walk? See what is in front of you, for how else will you know?

And yet, of course, this is not uncomplicated. Or rather let us say, it must be given to us to see, just as the eyes of the blind are opened. As we said, it is not coincidental that by the very sign of the Lord's advent, we can see what is the case.

The fact that the advent of salvation is experienced then, points to something deeper. As we know, our season of Advent prepares for God's entry into the world, his 'dwelling among us', as we read at the beginning of John's Gospel.

Let's read a little further into John's account of the story, Jesus being seen at the Jordan River. Right at the beginning of his appearance among us in this Gospel, Jesus is asked by the disciples of John the Baptist who have seen him, where he dwells.

'Come and see', he says. They have heard the Baptist; they have seen Jesus and they encounter the signs of salvation. Meeting Jesus is the greatest sign these disciples of the Baptist can experience. Seeing the one who has come into the world, seeing the one who brings the lame to walk and the deaf to hear, is the fundamental experience when we look to see what is the case, because it is the simple encounter with God, who made all there is.

The revelation we celebrate at Christmas is that God comes looking for us in our exile of sin. We are not talking about concept or suggestion, but the reality of being found by God and being able to see him. And this visibility in our world is in the grace given to us when we love our enemy; when we care for the poor; when we see the image of God in all our brothers and sisters.

So at Christmas, we have a response when the world asks us as it asked the psalmist all the day long, 'where is your god...?'

Come and see.

fr Bruno Clifton lives at Santa Sabina in Rome, and is studying at the Pontifical Biblical Institute.

GENERAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Choir:

Would you like to sing in the Christmas Choir? Everyone is welcome to come work on holiday music during the month of December. We have a harpist and organist for accompaniment. Rehearsals are the following dates: Wed, Dec. 8, 8-10:00pm.; Sun, Dec. 12, 2-3:30pm.; Wed, Dec. 15, 8-10:00pm.; Sun, Dec. 19, 2-3:30pm.; Wed, Dec. 22, 8-10:00pm. (with harp). Christmas Eve Mass is at Midnight, Christmas Day is at 10:30am. For info, contact Teresa, tpleins@stanford.edu

Holiday Mass Schedule:

Dec. 12 10:30 Mass in Tresidder, 4:30 Mass in Mem Chu

Dec. 19 4:30 Mass in Memorial Church

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass at Midnight in Mem Chu

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass at 10:30 a.m. in Mem Chu

Dec. 26 NO MASSES on campus,, due to University closure

Jan. 2 4:30 and 10:00 p.m. Masses in Memorial Church

Jan. 9 Regular Sunday Mass schedule begins

Baptisms and Preparation Classes:

We will celebrate infant baptisms on Sunday, Jan. 16. There is a preparation class on Saturday, Jan. 8, 10-11:30 a.m. Any registered permanent community members, students, faculty or staff families interested should contact Teresa as soon as possible, tpleins@stanford.edu.

Prep Class: January 8, 2011, 10-11:30 am.

Baptisms: January 16, during the 10:30 am. Mass in

Tresidder AND the 4:30 Mass in Memorial Church

Prep Class: May 14, 10-11:30 am.

Baptisms: May 22, during the 10:30 am. Mass in Tresidder

AND the 4:30 Mass in Memorial Church

Adult Confirmation:

For Permanent Community Members, Grads and Undergrads interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, classes will start on January 19th at 7:30pm in Old Union. Materials cost is \$40, due on January 7th, payable to the CCAS. If questions, please contact Fr. Isaiah.

Tired of the usual New Year's Eve Parties?

Want to start 2011 in a more meaningful way? Join the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose and friends who will gather for a sixth year to Welcome the New Year!

We'll share a Reflective Evening beginning at 7pm ... time to connect with friends and meet new people ... time to be with all that 2010 has held ... We'll use the book "The Shack" as a lens to look at our year ... quotes and questions will be provided so if you haven't read the book, you will still be able to participate ... time to look ahead to 2011 ... time to pray with Taize – Prayer Around the Cross ... time to celebrate our faith together with a Mass starting at 11:30pm followed by a potluck celebration ...

Come for any part or all of the evening at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose 43326 Mission Blvd. (entrance on Mission Tierra Place), Fremont CA, 94539. For more information, specific times on the schedule or to RSVP call S. Frances Mary Pierson at blessings@msjdominicans.org or 510-933-6335. If you need to reach us on New Year's Eve, December 31st, for any reason, call S. Beth Quire, O.P. @ 510-449-7554.

UNDER GRADS

St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday afternoons, approx 12:30pm. We are beginning our work with the St. Vincent de Paul ministry at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto this week! Volunteers will help provide food bags as well as interview and counsel clients. This first week will be a training, so please come if you are at all interested in volunteering with SVdP in the future. Contact Sara Cullinane at smc14@stanford.edu if you have any questions or want to join!



CCAS Monthly Financial Update Oct-2009 Oct-2010 Y2Y change Y2Y \$5,280 \$672 15% Collections \$4,608 Gifts & Donations \$34,635 \$14,235 70% \$20,400 Jul-Oct-2009 Jul-Oct-2010 **FYTD** Y2Y change Y2Y \$13,273 (\$2,893)-18% Collections \$16,166 \$9,529 Gifts & Donations \$121,392 \$130,922

nnouncements for

Thanks to the community for making the 2010 CCAS fiscal year a successful one. CCAS exceeded its break-even goal in both collections and gifts & donations and finished the year profitably for the first time in several years. We continue to aim to restore services that were scaled back during the downturn and fund future growth in the ministry. Through October, we are tracking below last year's run-rate for collections but ahead on gifts and donations.

Living Faith Society (LFS)*	October	Change from last month	Goal
-	99	-2	200

LFS membership trended down slightly to 99 members. The Finance Council hopes to reach enroll 200 members by the end of the fiscal year ending June 30th.

*The Living Faith Society (LFS) is a group of community members that support the CCAS by meeting their annual gift pledges with a monthly online donation. Members receive a quarterly letter and book of daily reflections. The contributions of the LFS help the community better forecast its finances, providing a stable source of financial support. To join the LFS, please visit catholic stanford edu, and click DONATE.

Weekly Readings

Monday, December 13 Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 14 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-18, 19,23 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 15 Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85:9ab,10,11-12,13-14 Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 16 Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2,4,5-6,11-12a,13b Lk 7:24-30 Friday, December 17 Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2,3-4ab,7-8,17 Mt 1:1-17

Saturday, December 18 Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Sunday, December 19 Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24



Living Faith Society

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers Needed at St. Anthony's Soup Kitchen: for Christmas Day!

Please pay close attention to the CRITICAL DEADLINE for reserving a volunteer position!!!: The Catholic Community at Stanford is committed to serving the needy, elderly and homeless at St. Anthony's Soup Kitchen in Menlo Park. If you are interested in volunteering on Saturday, December 25th (Christmas Day) on the early shift (setup shift) from 8:30am to 11:30am and/or on the late shift (serving line shift) from 11:30am to 2:30pm please contact Peter Barling at peter_barling@hotmail.com no later than November 30th to have a volunteer position reserved for you. Transportation from campus can be arranged!

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference

of the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto is welcoming Stanford students to help in the Society's ministry to those who are less fortunate. In this difficult economy, the need is very great. A typical volunteer day would include: giving out bags of food, issuing food and gas vouchers, bus tokens, referrals to the family food closet and occasionally a home visit. Work assignments are once a week or every other week for 2 hours. We work out of the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center located at 3290 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Telephone number of the Pastoral Center is 650-494-2496 and the St. Vincent de Paul extension is 26. You can also call Roberta Uebbing President at 650-494-2450. Stanford students are asked to register at the Stanford Haas Center for Public Service.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 12

- 10:30 am Tresidder Oak Room
- 4:30 pm Memorial Church
- next 10 pm Mass in January

Monday, Dec. 13 - Friday, Dec. 17

Offices will be closed until January 3rd, 2011

Confessions by appointment only Call: 650-725-0080

Daily Liturgy.

Daily Masses will resume January 3rd, 2011

Christmas Giving Project:

It has become a tradition for our community to donate gifts for TEENS for Christmas. We partner with St. Justins Parish in Santa Clara as they serve food and provide gifts for over 750 families in Santa Clara County. Many times the donations run quite heavy for younger children, but they have almost nothing for 12-18 year olds. Gifts of sports equipment (balls), teen clothing (sweats, etc), gift cards to Target or Old Navy are all great ideas. Gifts should be unwrapped, as they let the parents choose something specific to their own children. We will start collecting gifts, Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Sunday Masses, or you can drop them off to the Catholic Community offices. For more info, contact Teresa Pleins, tpleins@stanford.edu. All gifts must be dropped off by December 12.

A Christmas Gift For Married Couples:

Want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next local Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is: March 4-6, 2011 (Mountain View).

For more information or to register, please visit our website at: www.rekindleyourmarriage.org or contact Paul & Stephanie Francois, 408-287-3996 or Email: PaulandSteph@pacbell.net.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Bible Study:

Tues, Dec. 14th at 7:30pm, Our Lady of the Rosary, 3233 Cowper St, Palo Alto. The Young Adult group meets to continue the study of Book of Revelation.

There will not be a Dinner at Jeffrey's Hamburgers or Young Adult Mass in December. Both of these monthly events will resume in January.

For more info, see our website, www.YoungAdultCircle. org, check the Facebook group "Young Adult Circle", or contact Scott at scott.a.harrison at gmail.com.

More Announcements

The Catholic Community at Stanford University

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) DECEMBER 12, 2010





First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

The deserts exult and burst into flower. The hills ring with joyful song. The feeble grow strong; the frightened take courage. The Lord comes to save us



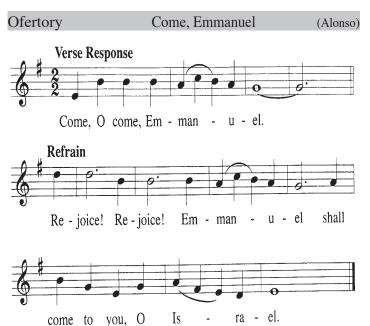
Second Reading James 5:7-10

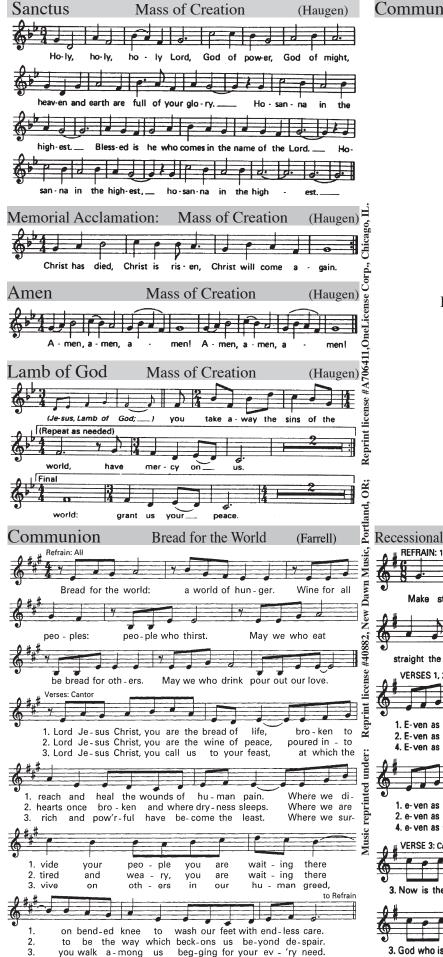
"Be patient until the coming of the Lord," said the author of the letter of James. "The Judge is standing before the gates." Take the prophets as your models in facing hardship. They spoke in the Lord's name.



Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus answered them affirmatively, pointing to the blind who see, the lame who walk, the lepers who are cured, and the poor who hear from him good news of hope.





Communion O Come, Redeemer of the Earth (arr J. Cox)

O come, Redeemer of the earth, Revealed to us in virgin birth: To you in homage now we fall, Whose birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit, you are still The Word of God in flesh arrayed, The promised One to us displayed.

From God the Father you proceed, And back to God you soon will speed; You run a course to death and hell, Returning to God's throne to dwell.

How bright your lowly manger beams! Down earth's dark vale its glory streams, Where endless faith shall shine serene, And twilight never intervene.

O Jesu, virgin-born,
To you all laud and honor now is due,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

O come, Redeemer of the earth, Revealed to us in virgin birth: To you in homage now we fall, Whose birth befits the God of all.

Make Straight the Way

(T. Conry)



Presentation Center: Mark your calendar!

Please save the date for our 2011 Annual Spring Gala on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Our theme is "Tropical Paradise" so wear your best Hawaiian print! The evening will begin with mass leading into the silent auction with time to mingle. The night will continue with a delicious tropical dinner! Proceeds from this event will help us modernize aging electrical and plumbing systems in our historic guest accommodations. Please contact Lindsey at (408) 354-2346 ext. 203 or lcrossl and@presentationcenter.org for more details! We are located at 19480 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, California. www.presentationcenter.org

Community Prayer Corner

If you have a special intention that you would like the community to pray for, send an email to: gcolombetti@yahoo.com

Next Spanish Mass - Sunday January 9 - 3pm

Vallombrosa Retreat Center

Christmas Lessons and Carols:

More Announcements—

with the Vallombrosa Choir. All are invited to celebrate the season with us through music, prayer and reflection as we make our way from Advent towards Christmas. The Christmas Lessons and Carols is Sunday, December 19 at 2PM in the Vallombrosa Chapel and is open to the public. Vallombrosa Center is a retreat and conference center, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, located at 250 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park.

For more information about this event or Vallombrosa visit us at www.vallombrosa.org, or phone (650) 325-5614.



Living Faith Society

'TAIZE' (Prayer Around The Cross): On Friday, Dec. 17 At 8:00-9:15pm (And Every 3rd Fri. Of The Month) At Dominican Sisters Of Msj Motherhouse Chapel, 43326 Mission Blvd, Fremont, (Entrance On Mission Tierra Pl). 510-657-2468 "Behold The Miracles Happening." Vocation Office, Dominican Sisters Of Mission San José, 43326 Mission Blvd.Check Out Our Web Page: Www. msjdominicans.org