

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 Mass December 18, 2011

4:30pm Memorial Church

Daily Eucharist

Daily Masses will resume January 9th, 2012

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.

Baptisms for the 2011-2012 academic year: January 29, 2012 May 20, 2012

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Religious Ramblings

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2011

House of Gold

fr Leon Pereira urges us to accept Our Lady as our Mother, in accordance with Christ's command.

Everyone seems to have an opinion on 'What Would Jesus Do', the catchphrase of our times. In contrast, Catholicism is not about what we can do for God; it is about what Jesus does for us. It is not about wondering 'What Would Jesus Do' in this or that situation. Catholicism is the affirmation of what Jesus did do: he founded the Catholic Church, he sent her the Holy Spirit, he established her on Peter and the apostles, he promised that the Gates of Hell would never prevail against her.

The dream for (pre-)apostolic 'purity and simplicity' – one which differs radically from the nature of the Catholic Church – is a vain and fond illusion. Instead, the reality we inherit – of bishops, priests, and deacons, the seven sacraments, the teaching authority of the Church – are all what Jesus left us. If we truly want what Jesus wants of us, we become members of his body on his terms, not ours. It is not something we do for God, but something he does for us.

It is this truth we sing from the psalms, 'Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Unless the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it' (Psalm 126).

Yet King David, psalmist par excellence, provoked God by conducting a census, the implication being that David – not God – was in charge, and later sought to build God a temple. The Lord, through the prophet Nathan, told David, 'Would you build me a house to dwell in? ... the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house' (2 Samuel 7.4, 11).

David wanted to build God a house, and was told he should not. David is the one who must rely on God, not the other way around. In the Gospel, Mary is asked by God to become the Mother of Jesus. And she replies that she is God's handmaid, that without him she would be nothing. Through her God does build himself a house. In fact, God fulfils his promise to David in Mary. Mary knows she cannot do anything without God's grace. The angel greets her 'Hail, full of grace', but this grace is something she has received freely and continued freely to receive. Through her God builds himself a house: the Body of Christ. Jesus and his followers who are part of his body, a kingdom which will never end, the Catholic Church perfected in glory.

Our Lord begins his ministry with this challenge: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days'. But the temple he spoke of was his body (cf. John 2.19, 21). The other temple, the one David proposed to build and his son Solomon completed (and was rebuilt later by others) became theologically redundant. Only the house built by God, the Body of Christ, is to endure.

David sought to exalt his kingship by conducting a census, and failed. Our Lady, bearing the King of kings in utero, submits herself humbly to a census, trusting that God would fulfil his promises in his way, in his time. For this we call her the Ark of the New Covenant, and indeed, the 'House of Gold'. She is God's true Temple because she did things God's way, and not her own. And she tells those who have ears to hear, 'Do whatever he tells you' (John 2.5).

When considering what Jesus actually did do, we should not neglect the fact that He gave Mary to us to be our mother (John 19.27). She, the Mother of the Messiah (cf. Rev 12.5), is revealed also to be the mother of those 'who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ' (Rev 12.17). If what matters is what Jesus actually did, then receiving his mother as our own must rank high in our priorities, no matter our preferences. In her company, we watch and pray for the Lord to come, and that his will be done. Amen.

fr. Leon Kuriakos Pereira works in the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary and St Dominic, London.

Holiday Mass Schedule:

Dec. 18, 4:30pm Mass

Dec. 24, Midnight Mass (at Midnight) Dec. 25, Christmas Day Mass (NOON)

All Masses are in Memorial Church.

Shop for Children's Christmas presents:

Use your special skills at Christmas shopping to make up wonderful bags of toys for the many children of the 300 families being helped by St Vincent de Paul in East Palo Alto. The toys have been supplied by "Giving Trees" at churches, from "Toys for Tots" and from "The Family Giving Tree". Selecting, packing and delivering of these Christmas gifts will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, (12/21, 12/22 & 12/23), between 1 and 5 pm. To help, just show up at the small school located at the far end of the St Francis of Assisi Church parking lot. The address is 1425 Bay Rd. East Palo Alto. For information call George Chippendale, 856-6350 (home) or 391-4199 (cell).

Christmas Choir:

Would you consider singing for our special Christmas choir? We will have a Midnight Christmas Eve Mass and noon Christmas Day Mass with choir, organ, and harp.

Three rehearsals--Dec. 14 (7:30-9:30pm.), Dec. 18 (2:00-3:30pm.), Dec. 21 (7:30-9:30pm.) Contact Teresa for more information, tpleins@stanford.edu.

High School Confirmation:

We are assessing the need for a high school confirmation group. If your high school-age child would be interested in receiving the sacrament this coming April 29th, please contact Teresa, tpleins@stanford.edu, as soon as possible.

Altar Servers:

We are looking for 4 students to help with the ministry of altar serving for the 4:30 Sunday Mass. You would be scheduled about every 4 weeks and trained for special liturgies such as Holy Week, in addition to the Sunday Masses. Altar servers arrive at 3:45 to help with set up. This is a vital ministry to our liturgies, so if you could help out once a month, we would be grateful. For info, contact Teresa, tpleins@stanford.edu.

Greeting Ministers Needed for 4:30 Mass:

We need 6 more friendly faces to complete our greeting ministry roster at the 4:30 Mass. This is such an important ministry, as we welcome all who pass through our doors on Sunday. It is very rewarding, as you have the opportunity to meet the face of Christ present in his people. You would be scheduled approximately every 3-4 weeks. For info, contact Iris Clark, iris.ccas@live.com.

Adult Confirmation beginning in January!

Preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation for Stanford students, faculty, staff and registered Permanent Community members will begin on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The process entails 16 90-minutes classes over the course of 20 weeks, from 7:30-9:00pm in the Common Room in the CIRCLE. Confirmation will be celebrated in Sunday April 29, 2012

INTERFAITH@NOON:

-Announcements for December 18, 2011

(RELIGST 28SI, Winter '12, 1 unit) This course will explore how different religious traditions conceive of one's obligation to the stranger - of how to treat the stranger, the foreigner, the outsider - and to relate such perspectives to the issue of how immigrants are treated in contemporary society. A collaboration of the Office for Religious Life, the Haas Center for Public Service and the Religious Studies department, and intended as a companion experience for Stanford's response to President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, the course will feature a series of guest lectures from scholars of religion, law, sociology, cultural studies, education, and social justice. These lectures are open to the public. Location: Arrillaga Dining Commons

Called & Gifted: Topic 1: Deepen Your Faith

Coming soon to our parish is an opportunity for each of us to deepen our relationship with Jesus and to discover God's plan for our lives. In the Called & Gifted discernment process you will learn that every lay Christian—each baptized person without exception—has been given a unique and deeply personal call to work with our Lord. Discerning your call will give you a new perspective on your life and will help you to be more fulfilled in your work and in your relationships. Our parish is sponsoring a teaching team from the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs to offer the introductory Called & Gifted workshop, which will be on Friday, and Saturday, (Feb 10 (7-9pm) & 11 (9am-4pm). Everyone is invited to participate. To register or find out more, email Father Isaiah Mary frisaiah@stanford.edu

Called & Gifted: Topic 2: Career change and development

God calls us to excel in every aspect of our lives, including our careers. Work is an essential part of a Christian disciple's life. The spiritual gifts God has given you help you to be effective at your work and to be a more effective witness to your faith in the workplace. If you are dissatisfied with your job, or are recently unemployed, your spiritual gifts are excellent clues for discerning a new direction. On Friday, and Saturday, (date and time TBA), our parish is sponsoring a teaching team from the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs who will offer the introductory Called & Gifted workshop, which will help you begin to discern your unique mission in life. Everyone is invited to participate. To register or find out more, email Father Isaiah Mary frisaiah@stanford.edu

Easiest ministry in the history of CCAS:

Father Isaiah Mary, the Voice of Catholic Cardinal Reflections (the Podcast of the Catholic Community), is looking for a few able-bodied souls to go the 4:30 Mass, sit in one of the lofts during the Liturgy of the Word, and press two buttons, one before & one after, the preaching of that Sunday. In other words, he's looking for some sound techs. If you are interested in BECOMING FAMOUS, contact Fr. Isaiah Mary. frisaiah@stanford.edu

Weekly Readings

- Monday, December 19 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday, December 20 Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday, December 21 Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45
- Thursday, December 22 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Friday, December 23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab,8-9,10,14 Lk 1:57-66

Saturday, December 24 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Lk 1:67-79

Sunday, December 25 Vigil Mass Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

Christmas Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

More Announcements

GRADS

Grad Bible Study: *New Group Starting up* Join fellow grad students as we pray and study scripture. We'll meet on Sundays from 6:30-7:30pm in EV building 128 apt 104 (behind the GCC and a tree). A homemade dinner will also be provided at 6:15pm. For more information email cgiam@stanford. edu.

Women's Faith Sharing/Prayer Group:

A couple of members from our community are hoping to start a women's Faith Sharing group. They are inviting grad students or spouses of grad students to see if there is enough interest to start a regular meeting. If you are interested in being part of this new group and sharing your faith journey with others, please email Lourdes at lalonso@stanford.edu. She will get you in touch with the group leaders.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Volunteers needed for the Christmas Celebration at St. Anthony's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, December 24th. Two shifts are available: (1) The Set-up shift from 8:30 until 11:30 and (2) the Serving Line shift from 11:30am until 2:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering for either or both shifts, please contact Michael Bova at mpbova2001@yahoo.com to have a spot reserved for you. We have a limited number of volunteer positions available, so please do not hesitate reserving your spot on the Catholic Community at Stanford volunteer team.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 18, 2011

• 4:30 pm - Memorial Church

Monday, December 19 - Friday, December 23 Offices will be closed until January 9th, 2012

> Confessions by appointment only Call: 650-725-0080

Daily Liturgy:

Daily Masses will resume January 9th, 2012

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass at Midnight in Memorial Church

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass at Noon in Memorial Church

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Bible Study:

Tues. Jan. 10th at 7:30pm., Our Lady of the Rosary, 3233 Cowper St, Palo Alto. We will be starting a new topic, "Genesis to Jesus" (http://tinyurl.com/GenesisToJesus) and plan on meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next lesson "On the way to the Promised Land" will focus on God's covenant with Israel at Sinai. Please join us even if you have never attended a Bible study before!

Dinner at Slider Bar Cafe:

Tues. Jan. 17th at 7:30pm, 324 University Ave., Palo Alto.

The Young Adult group meets for its monthly social gathering. Please confirm your attendence on our Facebook Page "Young Adult Circle" or contact us at yacircle@gmail.com.

Young Adult Mass:

Tues. Jan. 31st at 7:30pm, St. Simon Church, 1860 Grant Rd, Los Altos. We will not be having a Young Adult Mass in December. Details for the January Mass to be announced.

For more info, see our website, www.YoungAdultCircle. org, check the Facebook Fan Page "Young Adult Circle", or contact us at yacircle@gmail.com.

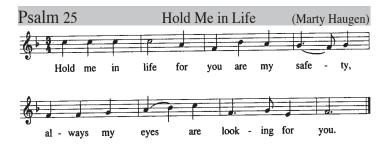
The Catholic Community at Stanford University

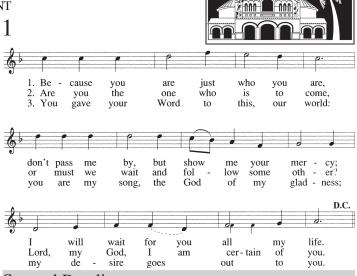
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2011

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First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

With help from the prophet Nathan, King David decided to build a house for the Lord to dwell in. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."





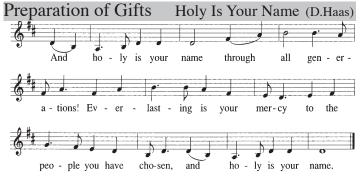
Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

According to Paul, the gospel reveals the mystery hidden for the long ages but now, at God's command, is made manifest in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Advent Alleluia (Pischner)



The angel addressed Mary, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." When Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," she became a model for all.



Verses

- 1. My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior: you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.
- 2. I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward that my name will be remembered, for all will call me blessed.
- 3. I proclaim the pow'r of God, you do marvels for your servants; though you scatter the proud hearted, and destroy the might of princes.
- 4. To the hungry you give food, send the rich away empty. In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen.
- 5. In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people. I will praise you Lord, my savior, everlasting is your mercy.



Vallombrosa Retreat Center

Vallombrosa Center Retreats and Events:

Vallombrosa Center is located at 250 Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park. For more information visit www.vallombrosa.org or phone 650-325-5614.

Join us at Vallombrosa Center this Christmas Season for the following:

Today, December 18, 2011: Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Vallombrosa Choir 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Come celebrate the season with us through music, prayer and reflection as we make our way from Advent towards Christmas. On Sunday, December 18 the Vallombrosa Choir, under the direction of Patrick Feehan will perform a Christmas Lessons and Carols concert. Mr. Feehan is a local composer, teacher, and conductor who has assembled a choir of more than 50 for liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Christmas Lessons and Carols begins at 2:00pm and is open to the public. There is a suggested donation of \$20.00/person.

For more information or to register for an event, please visit www. vallombrosa.org or phone 650-325-5614

Dominicans

DSPT College:

Four public presentations on Catholic Imagination and Contemporary Culture by members of the DSPT College of fellows on Saturday, January 29th at 1:30 pm at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley. Speakers include Congressman Dan Lungren, Fmr. Ambassador Ray Flynn, Barbara Elliott, and Judge John T. Noonan, Jr. RSVP to mzueger@dspt.edu or (510) 883-2086.

Wedding Anniversary Mass:

Greetings! The Diocese of San José will once again acknowledge the couples who have honored the sacrament of matrimony with their faith and love for God and their spouses at a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration. Bishop Patrick J. McGrath invites couples celebrating their 25th, 40th or 50th wedding anniversaries (or more) to a Mass celebrating their commitment at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph on February 4, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. The Mass will be bilingual in English and Spanish, More Announcements and the couples will have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows. A reception in the Cathedral's parish hall will follow. Please make copies of the registration form to distribute to your parishioners and their families who may be interested in participating. They can print or type their information on the form and mail it to the Diocese of San José or fax it to 408-983-0121 (attention: Sylvia Blanch). They may also register online. The deadline for registration is January 25, 2012. Due to limited seats, please reserve seats only for anniversary couples and handicapped. If you need more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sylvia Blanch at 408-983-0128 or email her atsblanch@dsj.org. Please know that the Bishop also invites the pastors to concelebrate at the Mass with him if they are able. Please let Diana Macalintal know if your pastor plans to join him at this celebration.

Thank you for your continued care for the all members of our diocese.

WeddingAnniversaryMass

25 and 50+ Silver and Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration Aniversario de Bodas de Plata y Oro February 4, 2012 / 4 de Febrero, 2012 2:00 pm Cathedral Basílica of Saint Joseph / Catedral Basílica de San José

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