

434 Alida Way, So. San Francisco, California 94080

Office: (650) 588 -1455 Website: stveronicassf.com Fax: (650) 588 - 1481

Mass Intentions

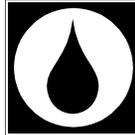
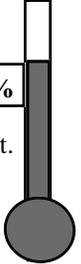
WEEK of December 21, 2008

Sun	12/21	6:45	† Mary & Arcadio Nunez
		8:00	† Cornelius Murphy
		9:30	† Emanuel Borg
		11:00	† Sean Nathan Crespo
		12:30	People of St. Veronica
Mon	12/22	6:30	† Ed Fabian
		8:30	† Mr. & Mrs. Ignatius D'Souza
Tue	12/23	6:30	† Fortunato & Eleanor Risso
		8:30	† Steve Tonegato
Wed	12/24	6:30	† Guadalupe Fasquelle
		8:30	† Juanita Riel
		5:00	† Alfred Psaila
		9:00	† Oscar Mariano
Thu	12/25		Christmas Day
Fri	12/26	6:30	† Margaret Gibson
		8:30	† Alma Colombo
Sat	12/27	6:30	† Pilar Afuang
		8:30	† Barbara Prawicki
		5:00	† Cornelius Murphy

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
COLLECTION UPDATE**

Thank you to all of those who have already given. **88.5%**
Please don't forget to send in your donation, we still have until **December 31st** to reach our assessment.

Parish Assessment: **\$58,200**
As of **Dec. 17th**, we have collected: **\$51,545**
Remaining balance: **\$ 6,655**



Blood Drive
St. Veronica Parish
Sunday, January 18, 2009
Falcon Hall

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm.

Please sign up in church vestibule to donate.

Please say a Prayer
for our many sick, homebound
and hospitalized parishioners
who are unable to attend Mass.

Pray for those who have recently died...
Patrick Canavan & Tom Rancatore
"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord..."

Church Support

\$ 6,930.50 - Sunday Collection
3,275.50- Retirement for Religious
\$10,206.00 Total

Saint Veronica Parish depends on your support.



NO BINGO

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24TH

&

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31ST

BINGO WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7TH

Rev. Charles Puthota, Ph.D., Pastor
Rev. Warlito Namu, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edmund (Ted) Shipp, In Residence
Deacon Roger Beaudry
Deacon Joseph LeBlanc

St. Veronica Rectory: 588-1455 / Fax 588-1481
Office Hours: Monday to Friday - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Administrative Assistant: Gail Andrews
Office Manager: Pat Weber

St. Veronica School: 589-3909
Principal: Teri Pallitto

Religious Education Office: 871-5607

Music Director: Christopher Lindstrom (209) 952-0209

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm
Sundays: 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM,
and 12:30PM
Eve of Holy Days: 5:30PM
Holy Days: 6:30, 8:30AM, & 7:30PM
Monday-Saturday: 6:30 & 8:30AM
Holidays: 8:30AM

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30-5:00PM

Liturgy of the Hours

Monday-Saturday: Morning Prayer at 6:00AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday: 9:00AM — 9:00PM
Sunday: 1:30PM — 9:00PM

Welcome New Parishioners!

Please fill this out and return it to the parish rectory, or simply drop it in the collection basket.

Name(s) _____

E-mail: _____

Name(s) _____

___ Updating Current Parish Registration

Address _____

___ Send Sunday Envelopes

City & Zip _____

___ Moving / Please remove from mailing list.

Phone _____

___ Please call me.

CHRISTMAS RHAPSODY

(A Spiritual Reflection by Father Charles Puthota)

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ---Norman Vincent Peale

Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling. --- Edna Ferber

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. --- W. T. Ellis

There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child. --- Erma Bombeck

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world---stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death---and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.--- Henry Van Dyke

Reflection: If Tony Bennett celebrates the beauty of San Francisco in his famous song "I left my heart in San Francisco," Vic Damone sings of Christmas in this fabled city: "Christmas in San Francisco / What a lovely place to be / Seeing the hills being all lit up / Like a diamond Christmas tree / Hearing children singing carols / People come from everywhere / To sing along with the children / Standing all around Union Square.... / Christmas in San Francisco / There is no place quite so dear / It's the closest thing to heaven / How I wish that you were here." Not to be outdone, Barry De Vorzon, referring to "the mission bells ringing," is ecstatic: "It's Christmas once again in San Francisco / There is not a snowflake to be found / No sleigh rides, / No snowmen / Like you see on the Christmas cards / Oh, but we got a lot of Christmas in our hearts."

What is good for San Francisco is good for the city south of San Francisco! Christmas has almost come to South San Francisco as well and to the whole world. The magic of the mystery of God becoming one of us hovers over us like the famous fog in South San Francisco. The sheer beauty of this festival pervades us like the ocean in the bay. The magnificence of the birth of Christ washes over us like the gentle rain drenching our city. The weather, however, has nothing to do with Christmas. It's not the snowflakes that make Christmas because, as De Vorzon would say later in the song, there were no snowflakes in Bethlehem when Christ was born. The hot countries, too, around the world in sweltering heat celebrate Christmas. It's summertime in Australia at Christmas! Christmas lives in our hearts, rain or shine.

The cards we sent and received, the gifts we have shared, the decorations in our homes and the stores, the carols we sing, the art and music special in this season---all these make one statement loud and clear: Christmas is in our hearts. It's not the external things that put Christmas in our hearts, but it's Christmas in our hearts that puts up all the external symbols because the hearts brimming with joy and peace need a creative and uplifting outlet. It's as if we are in a trance as Christmas waves the magic wand, as Peale says, and the whole world is softer and more beautiful.

Have you ever thought about why people never get tired of Christmas? Year after year, people are always excited about this feast and are prepared to go to any length to make it as special as possible. The simple answer is: Christmas is beautiful. There is nothing more beautiful than Christmas. That's why poets, playwrights, singers, and painters go wild over the theme of the holy baby born in a manger surrounded by his parents, shepherds, the wise men, and even animals. There are many painters who place the modern city in the background of the manger in an effort to inspire people to see that the birth of Christ is really taking place in the cities and towns around the world, that it is not something that happened 20 centuries

ago without immediate meaning for us, that it's a dynamic reality taking place in our midst in the 21st century. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness," says John Keats. He also says, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty. That's all ye know on earth and all ye need to know." Christmas is the most beautiful thing, linking the past, present and the future as no other event can do. It's pregnant with truth. Its truth declares that the baby born is the embodiment of truth, the truth that makes us free, the truth shining brightly in our lives, dispelling our darkness and emerging as the light of the world. Christmas, this thing of beauty, this truth, no one can resist. Everyone is charmed by and converted to this beauty-truth.

Part of the beauty of Christmas comes from the truth that it is *the* family festival, with its endless capacity to speak to the heart of marriage and family, the place where most intimate relationships are forged and cherished on a daily basis. The family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, started on Christmas day is part of every family for all time. The baby brings each family unimaginable grace and blessing. Because of this baby born then and being born now, our families have strength to cope with sad things in life, we can grow in love and forgiveness, overcome all obstacles to peace and joy, find meaning in our human quest, and fulfill our human destiny. Because of our lifestyles, economics and cultural forces, we see family under siege in our times. Christmas speaks to the family not only as a social institution but also as the smallest unit of the church---domestic church---where the human and the divine come to mingle, making the family relationships stronger, closer---and more sacred.

Christmas is too precious to be confined to twenty-four hours on December 25th. It's too grand a reality to last such a short period of time. It is too glorious to be bound by a season of a few days or weeks. Christmas is not a day, a time, or a season. It's a feeling. It is to do with the disposition of the mind and the heart. It's a mystery. An attitude. A remembrance. A mood. A beauty. A hope. A mystique. Christmas is love, joy, and peace. No matter how hard, dark, and evil the world can turn, Christmas holds the power to overcome the tragedies and trials. It consists of eternal beauty and charm. No one of goodwill can resist its power and glory. The spirit of Christmas lasts everyday of the year, year after year, now and forever, here and everywhere, into all space and time.

Ultimately, Christmas is the baby. It's the person. It's God who has become not only like us but one of us. My friend Joseph R. Walsh says, "At creation, human beings were made in God's image and likeness. At Christmas, God is made in the image and likeness of human beings." Our image and likeness is much to the liking of God and his son Jesus. Hence the good news that "God so loved the world that He sent His only son that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). Our hearts at Christmas are set on the baby born for us. We will not be distracted by abstractions, theories, concepts, and ideologies. Our eyes are on this baby. We hold this baby in our arms and on our chest and hear his heart beating for us. We let the baby hear our heartbeat. This baby knows that often times our heartbeat is out of sync with his. He will come into our hearts, touch them, and heal them so our hearts would beat for this baby, for love, for beauty, for joy and peace, for everything that is connected with this baby, Jesus, who is the center of our existence and fulfillment.

Action: This Christmas, can you let yourself be charmed by its unending beauty? Would you be willing to let the spirit of Christmas last much longer than one day or one season? Can you prepare your mind and heart to encounter and experience this holy baby--- God in flesh and blood---and begin a life-long relationship with him? Because of Christmas, can you appreciate deeply the truth that the "earth is crammed with heaven"?

**St. Veronica Community Parish
Directory News**

Online Sign-Ups are now available for you to schedule your portrait sessions!

Visit: <http://www.stveronicassf.com>, Monday through Fridays only to schedule your portrait sessions online and look for this link:

**Be a part of our
“Family Album”**

**PORTRAIT
SIGN-UP**

Any questions or you wish to volunteer as a host or hostess, feel free to contact Sandy Kearney at:

svkearn@aol.com or (650) 888-3340.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Preparation classes are held once a month.
Call the Parish Office 588-1455

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Classes start in October and end on Pentecost.
Call the Parish Office to register 588-1455

St. Veronica School: 589-3909

Principal: Teri Pallitto

Religious Education: 871-5607

Director: Lynn Claire Chittick
Catechetical instructions (1st to 8th grades)

Confirmation Classes: 588-1455

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers: Fr. Warlito Namó - Parish Office - 588-1455

Altar Society: Barbara Lozar - 873-6195

Baptism Preparation: Deacon Joe LeBlanc - 952-7594

BLD Bay Area: Mario & Joji Tolentino - 438-0849

Events Coordinator / Reservations: Rita Buscher 869-4939
e-mail ritabuscher@att.net

Charismatic Prayer Group: Norma Guerrero - 219-4556

Charismatic Prayer Group (español): Concepción Blanco - 794-1932

Children's Liturgy: Jeanne Dimech 589-2111

Church Environment Committee: Suzanne Nazario - 588-5209

Eucharistic Adoration: Patty Sadaya - (415) 350-2507

Homebound Ministry: James Kelly - 465-5176

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Barbara Lozar -
873-6195

Finance Committee: Ron Derenzi - 737-9484

First Friday Devotions to Sacred Heart: Ofie Albrecht - 871-4176

Grief Ministry: Nita Ricotta - 873-6049

Knights of Columbus Council #9604: Romy Soriben - 742-9340

Lectors Ministry: Deacon Joe LeBlanc - 952-7594

Legion Of Mary: Ando Perlas - 873-9020 or
Carmella Da San Martino - 697-7000

Liturgy Committee: Deacon Joe LeBlanc - 952-7594

Family Praesidium: Jay Naidu - 583-3625

Men's Club: Chris Krol—616-9700

Music Director: Christopher Lindstrom - 588-1455

Religious Education: Religious Education Office - 871-5607

Respect Life: Mary Beaudry - 583-9120

School Guild: School - 589-3909

Social Justice Committee: Deacon Roger Beaudry - 588-1455

St. Vincent de Paul Society: June Heise - 871-7738

Sunday Morning Hospitality: Joe & Carmella Da San Martino -
615-0479

Ushers: Lee Heise - 871-7738

Wedding Coordinator: Karen Guglielmoni - 415-587-8282



Christmas Masses
Christmas Eve (Vigil)

Wednesday - December 24

5 pm (Children's Mass)

9 pm (Christmas Caroling at 8:30pm)

Christmas Day

Tuesday - December 25

6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11 am, & 12:30 pm

New Year's Eve Prayer Service - 10:30 pm

"Midnight Mass" - 11:30 pm

Season's Greetings
From All Of Us To
All Of You

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed on Wednesday Dec. 24th through Sunday, Dec. 28th for Christmas.

St. Veronica Catholic School
New Parent Information Night
Tuesday, January 13, 2008

7:00 p.m. - Falcon Hall (School Cafeteria)

Is your child ready for Kindergarten?

Are you new to the parish?

Are you thinking of St. Veronica Catholic School as a new beginning for your child's education?

Come to our informational session and learn everything you need to know about enrolling your child(ren) at St. Veronica Catholic School. Application packets will be available at this time.

Please note: If you are thinking of enrolling your child for a grade other than kindergarten, availability will be determined after Easter. Come to information night for an update.

St. Veronica Catholic School, mindful of its mission to be witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, program and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. St. Veronica Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.