

Welcome to St. Barnabas and St. Joseph Basilica Parishes

We, the family of St. Joseph Basilica and St. Barnabas, invite all people into our spiritual home to encounter Jesus Christ through an authentically Catholic experience of worship, learning, gathering, and service.

December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

The Lord
has not
forgotten us



Thank you Knights of Columbus (& volunteers!) for hosting the wonderful Parish Pancake Breakfast with Santa on December 8!

St. Barnabas

1427 Sixth Street, Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510.522.8933

email: sbparishoffice@comcast.net

Website: sbarnabas.weebly.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/barnabasinalameda/>

Office Hours: Wednesday through Friday

9 am - 4 pm (closed for lunch 12 - 1 pm)

Available remotely through email & voicemail

Church Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 12:10 pm

Saturday: 4:30 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9 am & 11 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:30 - 4 pm

St. Joseph Basilica

1109 Chestnut Street, Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510.522.0181

email: parish@sjbalameda.org

Website: sjbalameda.org

Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

9 am - 4 pm (closed for lunch 1 - 2 pm)

Basilica Hours: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 8 am / First Friday: 7:00 pm

Saturday: 8 am & 5 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 12 pm & 7 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Friday: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Saturday: Following Morning Mass, ending at 9 am,
and 3:30 - 4:30 pm



Dear Family,

A Blessed Fourth Week of Advent to you. Let's continue to look at some important aspects of the liturgy. Since the beginning of Advent, we have looked at: the liturgy in general and how it is the "Source and Summit" of our lives (Week 1), the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession (Week 2), and the liturgy as an anticipation of Christ's Second Coming (Week 3). For the Fourth Week of Advent, as we hear in the Gospel about Jesus being conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, I would like to look at the role of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy, since the Holy Spirit, although very active, can often be forgotten.

Let us begin by recalling how we invoke the Holy Spirit in explicit ways, firstly, with the Sign of the Cross. When we gather to pray, we do so in God's name, which includes the Holy Spirit. We do not pray under our own authority or jurisdiction. In the liturgy, we are invited by God to participate in **His** work, not create something of our own, and His work that is presented in the liturgy is the work of our salvation. This was accomplished through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, which is more than the death and Resurrection, but also His Ascension into heaven and His sending of the Holy Spirit. Without the sending of the Holy Spirit, we would not be sanctified or saved, since the Spirit is the living water (Jn 4:10), the breath of life (Jn 20:22); literally, *ruah* in Hebrew, meaning "breath." We also recall the Spirit's essential role in our salvation in the Nicene Creed when we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life..." In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation especially, we receive a tangible sign of our reception of the Holy Spirit through the anointing of Sacred Chrism, which not only gives us new spiritual life, but gives us a share in Christ's priesthood, enabling us to offer the liturgy with Him. This is one of the major roles the Holy Spirit plays in the liturgy, **He prepares the faithful to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul said, "*no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the holy Spirit*" (1 Cor 13:3). Similarly, to the Romans he said, "*the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings*" (Rom 8:26). Think of it this way, the Apostles were not sent to proclaim the Gospel at Pentecost until they had been prepared by the Holy Spirit. Similarly, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare us before Mass begins so that we can encounter Christ, **Whom the Holy Spirit manifests in the liturgy.**

This manifestation of Christ is known as *anamnesis*, a Greek word for "memorial, a word we have discussed before. In the liturgy, memorial means much more than a mental remembering, but a literal representation of the saving moments, or mysteries. As the Catechism so beautifully, and mysteriously states, "the Holy Spirit is the Church's living memory" (#1099). The Holy Spirit makes these saving moments present to us now and draws us into them now, making us contemporaries with Christ, since the Holy Spirit is Christ's spirit. We see are prepared for the *anamnesis* in a very tangible way in the liturgy, especially the Mass, during a prior moment known as the *epiclesis* - the calling down of the Holy Spirit. At Mass, the priest extends his hands over the bread and wine and begs the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon them so that they may be transformed into Christ's body and blood. The *epiclesis*, along with the *anamnesis*, two actions of the Holy Spirit, are "at the heart of each sacramental celebration" (catechism no. 1106).

One other transformative effect of the Holy Spirit's in the liturgy is the **transformation of the people**. After the *epiclesis* and *anamnesis*, the faithful are brought into Communion with God through the reception of His true Body and Blood. This communion is not meant to take place between individuals and God alone, but amongst one another. As Jesus said on the night of the Last Supper, "*I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me*" (Jn 17:20-21). This is why Jesus spoke of the Eucharist as His body, for "*as a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ*" (1 Cor 12:12). Jesus came to unite us to God and to one another, and just as our individual body parts are held together by our individual spiritual soul, so the many members of Christ's body are held together by His spirit. Sometimes, after Holy Communion, I am struck by the reality that the body of believers, having just received Communion, is more closely united to each other than we are to our blood relatives, for it is the Spirit of God that flows through us, making us one.

As you prepare for the next liturgy you will participate in, try praying this simple, but ancient prayer, "Veni, Sancte Spiritus," "Come, Holy Spirit."

With much love,
Fr. Mario

Upcoming Events

2025 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi Novena Masses

December 15 through 23

5:30 am at St. Joseph, followed by breakfast

Communal Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 22

7:00 pm at St. Joseph

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

St. Joseph

5:00 pm

10:30 pm singing of carols

11:00 pm, with incense

St. Barnabas

3:30 pm singing of carols

4:30 pm, with incense

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

St. Joseph

7:30 am

9:30 am, with incense

12:00 pm

St. Barnabas

9:00 am, with incense

11:00 am, with incense

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1, 2026 (Holy Day of Obligation)

St. Joseph

8:00 am

7:00 pm, with incense

St. Barnabas

9:00 am

Parish Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 for the Christmas holidays, and reopen on Monday, December 29 at 9:00 am as usual.

On behalf of Frs. Mario, Kenneth, Steve & Alvaro and the Parish Staff, we wish you and your family a joyful Christmas!

Note:

Wednesday, December 24

⇒ 8:00 am Mass at St. Joseph as usual

⇒ No 12:10 pm Mass at St. Barnabas

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Both Churches will be closed to personal prayers after St. Barnabas 11:00 am and St. Joseph's Noon Masses.

Friday, December 26:

⇒ 8:00 am Mass as usual at St. Joseph

⇒ 9:00 am Mass at St. Barnabas (Holiday schedule)



God With Us!

In choosing to be born with us, God chose to be known by us. He therefore reveals himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of his love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding.

Today the magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the magi see clearly, swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.

Today the magi graze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain how enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die...

Today Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John himself testifies that this is why he has come: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world...

Today Christ works the first of his signs from heaven by turning water into wine. But water mixed with wine has still to be changed into the sacrament of his blood, so that Christ may offer spiritual drink from the chalice of his body. —St. Peter Chrysologus

This Week at St. Joseph & St. Barnabas

- **December 22:** Men's Power Hour, Rosary at 6:00 pm followed by Lectio, Basilica
- **December 25:** Thursday Scripture Reflection & Thursday Women's Rosary on break and will resume as usual on January 8, 2026
- **December 26: Communal Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayer** (last Friday of each month) Friday, 3:00 pm, Basilica
- For a complete listing of Basilica scheduled events, please visit Parish website: <https://sibalameda.org/events-1>

End of the Year Party!

All are welcome for a End of Year potluck celebration on Tuesday, December 30, 5:00 - 9:00 pm at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School's Kelly Gym. One last fun party for our parishes before we say farewell to 2025! There will be plenty of food, music and fellowship.

Contact Gisele, gitanasse@sibalameda.org if you would like to lend a hand to help with the event.

Note: Sign-up sheets for food donations are available at the back of the Basilica.

Praying Together

Devotions

Daily Rosary: St. Joseph, Monday - Saturday, 7:30 am

Men's Power Hour: St. Joseph, Mondays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
(Note: Rosary at 6:00 pm & Lectio at 6:30 pm)

First Monday Eucharistic Adoration in Vietnamese
St. Joseph, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wednesdays
St. Joseph, following the 8:00 am Mass
St. Barnabas, following the 12:10 pm Mass

Women's Rosary: St. Joseph, Thursdays, 6:00 - 6:30 pm

First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:
St. Barnabas, 11:30 am

Eucharistic Adoration: St. Joseph, Fridays, 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayer: St. Joseph, last Friday of the month, 3:00 - 3:45 pm

The Communal First Saturdays, St. Joseph, 7:15 am

Mass Intentions: St. Joseph

Saturday, December 20

8:00 am +Diane Dean
5:00 pm Fr. Mario - Baptism Anniversary

Sunday, December 21

7:30 am People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
9:30 am +Phu Nguyen
12:00 pm Chavez Belgica - Birthday
7:00 pm 1)+Joao Batista - Death Anniversary
2)+Gessi Fernandes de Souza

Monday, December 22

8:00 am +Ed & Yolanda Barrantes

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am +Segundo Soriano

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 am Alcontin Family - Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Vigil: 5:00 pm

5:00 pm & 11:00 pm: People of the Parish—Living & Deceased

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

7:30 am, 9:30 am and 12:00 pm

People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
(No 7:00 pm Mass)

Friday, December 26

8:00 am 1)+Pericles Paradiang
2) Erlinda Gacad - Birthday

Saturday, December 27

8:00 am Joseph La Nguyen+ & An Nguyen
- Wedding Anniversary
5:00 pm Living & Deceased Family members of
Harnett & Curtin Families & Anna Harnett
(Death Anniversary)

Sunday, December 28

7:30 am +Shirley Binesh
9:30 am People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
12:00 pm +Roger Sanchez - Death Anniversary
7:00 pm Pericles Paradiang

Prayer for Advent – Miracles

God,
You are in the miracle business. I still believe that You can move mountains and separate seas. Break into every unknown and astound us with Your goodness and grace.
Amen.

Please Pray For The Sick & The Suffering In Our Communities

Narciso Ayran, Jane Burgelin, Br. Mary Conrad, Romelita Bautista, Kwame Cunningham, Mary Butler, PJ Deschenes, Calito Franco, Chris Kapowich, Mario Lopez, Madeline Lontiong, Nory Antonette Reyes, Erica Rivard, Editia Supremo, Maureen Thomas, Ramon Normandy Tirona, Rina Tobis, Femy Visperas and Daniel Yañez.

The List is refreshed monthly. If you would like a name to be added or removed from the Sick List, please email:
secretary@sjbalameda.org.

Need Anointing of the Sick?

If a member of your family is ill or if you learn that a parishioner is sick or hospitalized and in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, or a pastoral visit from a priest or Communion Minister, please contact any of our Deanery Parish offices to notify them:

- St. Barnabas: 510.995.9401
- St Joseph: 510.522.0181
- St. Philip Neri-St. Albert the Great: 510.373.5215

Mass Intentions: St. Barnabas

Saturday, December 20

4:30 pm +Soledad & +Artemio, +Arnel Garcia

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am +Cora Brant

11:00 am People of the Parish

Monday, December 22

12:10 pm +Cesar Reynado

Tuesday, December 23

12:10 pm Holy Souls of Purgatory

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Vigil (No 12:10 pm Mass)

4:30 pm People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 am & 11:00 am

People of the Parish

Friday, December 26

(Holiday schedule)

9:00 am Holy Souls of Purgatory

Saturday, December 27

4:30 pm +John Murao, & +Cristina Murao

Sunday, December 28

9:00 am People of the Parish
11:00 am +George Kassissia

Other News

Special Envelopes for Christmas

Flower Donations: Your support is needed to help decorate the Churches for our Christmas season. Please pick up an envelope in the pews and drop it in the collection baskets at or Rectories.



Reflections - Everyday Stewardship

The name Emmanuel means, "God is with us." This is a title we use for Jesus frequently during the Advent and Christmas season, but its impact should stay with us throughout the year. The Incarnation, God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ, broke into our world in a profound manner that means that God is not only with us, God is us. The relationship offered to you and I by God is now more intimate and meaningful because of the birth of Jesus Christ.

God is truly with us and our goal is to be truly present to him at all times. To be prayerful is an important characteristic of an Everyday Steward. It means more than reciting prayers and setting aside ten minutes a day. Our goal is to experience the presence of God throughout the day in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living. Offering all the actions and moments of the day to God as we awake, and then examining our day before we go to sleep at night, help lead us closer toward that goal.

When we begin to sense God's presence at all times, and we realize that being with God does not mean one of us has to be talking all the time, then we can truly attest to our reality in a quiet voice at any time, "Emmanuel, God is with us." —LPI



Mark your calendar! Parish Family Activity January 4, 2026

10:45 am, St. Joseph Gathering Space
(in the Elementary School's Learning Center if it rains)
All ages welcome!

Note: Due to early upload of bulletin, events are subject to changes. Possible changes will be updated on the Parish Facebook and E-news platforms.

Parish Information

Clergy Contacts:

Rev. Mario Rizzo, Parochial Administrator

Phone: 510.995.9421 / email: frmario@sjbalameda.org

Rev. Kenneth Nobrega, Parochial Vicar

Phone: 510.995.9406 / email:
fatherkennethnobrega@icloud.com

Staff Contacts

St. Joseph:

Jimmy Jimenez-Garcia - Pastoral Associate,
510.994.0599 / email: jjimenez@sjbalameda.org

Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation,
510.995.9409 / email: afourre@sjbalameda.org

Stan Schonberg - Business Manager, 510.995.9411 /
email: business@sjbalameda.org

Sherley Lim - Parish Secretary, 510.995.9420 / email:
secretary@sjbalameda.org

Dr. Cyril Deaconoff - Music Director, 510.995.9403 /
email: cdeaconoff@sjbalameda.org

Michael Chinnvaso - 7:00pm Music Coordinator,
mchinnvaso@sjbalameda.org

St. Barnabas

Gloria Maldonado - Parish Secretary, 510.995.9401 /
email: gmaldonado@sjbalameda.org

Agatha Leong - Faith Formation, 510.748.9537 / email:
stbarnabasfaithformation@gmail.com

Bernadette Baria - Music Director, 510.522.8933

St. Vincent de Paul Hotlines:

St. Barnabas: 510.995.9475 / St. Joseph: 510.995.9471

****Important Phishing Scam Awareness!****

We want to warn our parish community about phishing scams, especially during the festive season. Please stay vigilant! For tips on protection, visit the FTC website:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts>

Remember, our priests and staff will never ask for gift cards or money transfers. If you receive any suspicious requests, contact the Parish Office. Your safety is our top priority!

Welcome To Our Visitors!

Thank you for worshipping with us today! We hope to see you again. If you would like to be a member of either Parishes:

St. Barnabas: contact Gloria 510.995.9401; email:
gmaldonado@sjbalameda.org

St. Joseph: Pick up a registration form found in the Basilica's Vestibule, Parish website: sjbalameda.org, or Parish Office. Drop off the completed form to the Office or email to: secretary@sjbalameda.org

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