

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 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Our
Savior
will come

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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,

Let's continue to look at the liturgy, using some of our upcoming celebrations as a lens. First, Simbang Gabi.

Simbang Gabi, which means “dawn Mass” in Tagalog, is a tradition that developed in the Philippines in the late 16th to early 17th centuries. It is a novena of Masses which take place nine days before Christmas, commonly referred to as “missa de gallo,” or, “rooster’s Mass,” because they take place before sunrise as the rooster is waking everyone up. This tradition began in order to accommodate the many Filipino farmers who had to be at work before dawn and had no chance to attend daily Mass before Christmas. One of the main traditions is the lighting of the “parol”, or star-shaped lantern, which symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, a symbol of hope guiding us on our spiritual journey to Christ. At St. Joseph Basilica, we celebrate the novena from December 15-23 at 5:30am with visiting priests, followed by breakfast.

This tradition is a beautiful one, which calls our attention to one of the main motifs of Advent, light and darkness, which is also present in another Advent tradition called the Rorate Mass. This is a candlelight Mass, also said before dawn, whose name comes from the entrance antiphon for the Mass, *“Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem,”* which means *“Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior,”* a text taken from Isaiah 45.

The Rorate Mass is a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who, in giving her “yes” to the Angel Gabriel, received in her womb the “Light of the World” (Jn 8:12), Jesus Christ. He is the true light that shines in the darkness, and “the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5). This coming of the Light is what we prepare for in Advent, and there is no better way to prepare for His coming (at the end of our lives, at the end of time, and even now), than by turning to Mary, who awaited his birth with such great love. We might look to Our Lady of Guadalupe this week (as we celebrate her feast day on Friday the 12th with special celebrations). In that image, the Virgin is depicted with a black band around her waist (a symbol of pregnancy) and standing in front of the sun. The Aztecs interpreted this as a sign that she bore in her womb the true God – the true light – more powerful than their sun God.

All of these celebrations, from Simbang Gabi to Our Lady of Guadalupe, draw our attention to something specific to Advent, but also something that is present in every Mass, the necessity of joyful anticipation and preparation for Christ’s coming. There are a couple of places that call our attention to this at every Mass throughout the year.

First, in what’s called the “Memorial Acclamation,” perhaps one of the most undervalued parts of the Mass. This takes place after the consecration of the Body and Blood of Christ, when the priest says, “the mystery of faith.” The congregation then responds with one of three responses:

- “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.”
- “Save us, Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.”
- When we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.”

At least two of these acclamations explicitly mention this anticipation of Christ’s Second Coming, and our preparation for the event by our proclamation of the Gospel, not simply at Mass but out in the world. It is a communal shout of exaltation that the liturgy is not simply the remembrance of past events, but encapsulates all of time; past, present, and future. It is an exclamation of hope, that no matter how bleak or how dark the world seems, it will be illuminated and restored in Christ the Lord, but also that, in the liturgy, we get a foretaste of Christ’s victory already.

The next moment comes not long after the Memorial Acclamation, the Lord’s Prayer. In that prayer we say together, “thy Kingdom come...” Again, this is an attitude of joyful expectation of the coming of Christ’s Kingdom, not only at the end of time, but even now. And how do we prepare for the coming of Christ’s Kingdom? with what follows, the sharing of the “Sign of Peace.” This is how the Light of the World scatters the darkness of our times, with the giving of peace, the forgiving of sins, the exchange of merciful love.

On certain feast days, like Christ the King, Trinity Sunday, or Corpus Christi, I have remarked that every Sunday is a Christ the King Sunday, or a Trinity Sunday, or a Corpus Christi Sunday. The same can be said of Advent. Each liturgy has an element of Advent in it because every time the Church gathers to pray, we are being invited to look back at what Christ has done, as well as look ahead and prepare for what He will do, come again.

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	St. Barnabas
5:00 pm	3:30 pm singing of carols
10:30 pm singing of carols	4:30 pm, with incense
11:00 pm, with incense	

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

St. Joseph	St. Barnabas
7:30 am	9:00 am, with incense
9:30 am, with incense	11:00 am, with incense
12:00 pm	

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

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

St. Joseph	St. Barnabas
8:00 am	9:00 am
7:00 pm, with incense	

This Week at St. Joseph & St. Barnabas

- **December 15:** Men's Power Hour, Rosary at 6:00 pm followed by Lectio, Basilica
- **December 18:** Thursday Scripture Reflection, 10:30 -11:30 am, weekly online reflection and sharing on upcoming Sunday's readings through Dialpad Meetings (<https://meetings.dialpad.com/room/stjosephbasilica/4b84nr6g6y>)
- **December 18:** Thursday Women's Rosary, 6:00 pm, Basilica
- *For a complete listing of Basilica schedule of events, please visit Parish website: <https://sjbalameda.org/events-1>*



Basilica Choir

Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome!

Please note: The Parish Offices will be closed for the Christmas holidays, December 24 through December 26

St. Joseph's 8:00 am Mass will be celebrated as usual on Dec 24 and 26. At St. Barnabas, no 12:10 Mass on Dec 24 and on Dec 26 at 9:00 am instead of 12:10 pm (holiday schedule).

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Friday, Dec 26

3:00 pm, Basilica

On the last Friday of each month, the Community is invited to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm during the Eucharistic Adoration. Please join us.

SENSORY FRIENDLY MASS



Alameda Deanery Sensory Friendly Mass

Saturday, December 20, 4:30 pm Vigil Mass,

St. Barnabas Church (3rd Saturday)

The Mass will be "sensory friendly" with quieter music to offer a sacred space more welcoming to those for whom "less is more."

For more information contact: specialneeds@sjbalameda.org

Taizé in the Basilica

Friday, December 19

8:00 - 9:00 pm

Have you attended Taizé before?

Taizé is a simple, ecumenical, candlelit service of prayer offered as a witness to peace and reconciliation, for which we gather each month on the fourth Friday of the month, November and December on the third Friday. All are welcome to participate!

(Follow the Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TaizeOnTheIsland)

End of Year Potluck Party!

All are welcome for the 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: gtnasse@sjbalameda.org if you would like to lend a hand to help with the event. Sign up sheets for food donation are available at the back of the Church.

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 13

8:00 am Belgica-Eusebio Families - Thanksgiving
5:00 pm People of the Parish - Living & Deceased

Sunday, December 14

7:30 am +Ismael Mondares
9:30 am +Eufrecina Yalung
12:00 pm +Flor Vito
7:00 pm +Jim McDonough

Monday, December 15

8:00 am Fr. Erwin Chavez-Belgica

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 am Teddy B. Eusebio & Joseph B. Eusebio

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am +Paul Thai Nguyen - Death Anniversary

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am +Jorge Vidal & Mario Vidal

Friday, December 19

8:00 am John & Jackie Myovich & Family

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
9:30 am +Phu Nguyen
12:00 pm Chavez Belgica - Birthday
7:00 pm 1)+Joao Batista - Death Anniversary
2) +Gessi Fernandes de Souza

Note: December Mass Intention requests are closed since all dates are filled.

Missals for Advent-Lent, November 30, 2025 - March 28, 2026: Limited copies for personal use are available for purchase at \$5.00 to cover printing costs, while stock last. You can buy them at the St. Joseph Rectory during office hours from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Please note that the office is closed for lunch from 1 pm to 2 pm.

Please Pray For The Sick & The Suffering In Our Communities

Brother Mary Conrad, Romelita Bautista, Kwame Cunningham, Mary Butler, PJ Deschenes, Calito Franco, Chris Kapowich, Theresa Lambert, Mario Lopez, Madeline Lontiong, Nory Antonette Reyes, Erica Rivard, Amelito Santiago, Edita Supremo, Ramon Normandy Tirona, Rina Tobis, Maureen Thomas, 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 13

4:30 pm +Julita Gomez

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am People of the Parish
11:00 am Holy Souls of Purgatory

Monday, December 15

12:10 pm +Reynaldo Ciceron

Tuesday, December 16

12:10 pm Deceased Member of David Family

Wednesday, December 17

12:10 pm Raphael Baligaya

Thursday, December 18

12:10 pm +Virginio Reynoso

Friday, December 19

12:10 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 20

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

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am +Cora Brandt
11:00 am People of the Parish

Estate Plan up to date? Please consider including a bequest to St. Joseph or St. Barnabas.

Other News

Faith Formation Update: As we enter this third week of Advent, our Faith Formation programs slow down. There are some children's classes today (Dec 14) and Christian Initiation Inquiry will meet Wednesday, but then we break until the new year. Only the dismissal of catechumens (those preparing for baptism) from the 9:30 Mass continues year-round. Join us January 4 for a Parish Family Activity to honor the Feast of Epiphany. In the meantime, check out the diverse offerings at www.formed.org or resources on our website under "Parish Events."

Basilica's ANGEL GIVING PROJECT is still accepting financial donations through December 23!

To donate, make a check payable to St. Joseph Basilica with "Angel Giving Project" or "Midway Shelter" on the memo line. Place check in the collection basket, mail it to 1109 Chestnut St, Alameda, CA 94501, or drop it off at the Rectory.

You can also donate online at <https://onrealm.org/sjbalameda/give/AGP> or scan the QR code.



Parish Information

Clergy Contacts:

Rev. Mario Rizzo, Parochial Administrator
Phone: 510.995.9421 / email: fmario@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

Celebrating Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation for registered and active parishioners
please contact:

St. Joseph: Fr. Mario Rizzo - 510.995.9421 / email:
fmario@sjbalameda.org

St. Barnabas: Fr. Kenneth - phone: 510.995.9406 /
email: fatherkennethnobrega@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Hotlines:

St. Barnabas: 510.995.9475 / St. Joseph: 510.995.9471

Have you moved? Changed your phone number or email? If any of your contact information has changed, please contact either of the parish offices, or log into your REALM account and update your information. This will ensure that you will receive any important updates or communications from us.

St. Barnabas: 510.995.9401, or email:
sbparishoffice@comcast.net

St. Joseph: 510.995.9420, or email:
secretary@sjbalameda.org



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2025

St. Barnabas Community

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is a St. Barnabas tradition. It is an opportunity to give a Christmas gift to families served by the St. Barnabas Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Every gift is for a neighbor in need - a family living within our parish boundaries that needs a little help this holiday season.

Our Christmas Giving Tree will be decorated with paper 'Angels' and 'Stars'. The Angels will be labeled with specific detailed request along with gender and age. The Stars will be labeled "groceries" that can be used at stores like Lucky's, Safeway's, Grocery Outlet, or Target. There will also be Stars labeled "gas card".

How do you participate

Please select one or more Angels and bring back the wrapped gift(s) with the 'Angel' attached securely to the package. If you have chosen a 'Star' please place the gift card, the gift receipt securely attached to the Star in an envelope. Please remember that, if our neighbors have made requests for specific Christmas gifts, we don't want to disappoint anyone. If you are unable to find the item requested, just return the Angel to the tree. PLEASE don't substitute a different item or get a different size.

When should the gifts be returned

Everything must be returned by noon on Sunday, December 14th. Please place your wrapped gifts and envelopes under the Giving Tree. Conference members will pick up the gifts after every Saturday and Sunday Mass. Please do not leave gifts at weekday Masses. We don't want your gift to get lost.

Parishioners are invited to join us on either dates to assist with gift assembly/wrapping or delivery: Sunday, December 14th, from 12-3 PM for gift wrapping/bag assembly
Saturday, December 20th from 1-3 PM, to distribute gifts to our neighbors.

Any questions, please contact Cindy at 510-517-1289 or email cindyharless@gmail.com.

God bless you and thank you for your generous support.



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