

Dear Friends,

Once again I am pleased to have the opportunity to write to you at Christmas. In doing so, I would like to extend to you and your loved ones my heartfelt wishes that your celebrations of the Birth of the Lord will be a source of joy for you all.

As our beautiful Valley of Saint Clare moves ever closer to winter's long, cold nights, the darkness is pierced here and there by the lights of the season. These lights are more than decorative; they are signs of hope, offering witness to our celebration of the Birth of the One we call "Light from Light."

The light of Christ pierces the darkness of fear, despair and loneliness. The human condition –with its weaknesses, its struggles and even its sinfulness, yet with its singular inherent goodness – finds new meaning and new hope in the coming of the Christ in the flesh.

The miracle of the Incarnation – of the only begotten Son of God becoming truly human – continues to shine in all of the dark places of our world. Jesus, our Lord, is truly our brother. He became one of us. Jesus, our Lord, was born of Mary and knew a father's love in Joseph. He continues to be present to us in the gift of the Eucharist and all of the sacraments, in his holy Word and in our sisters and brothers, "the least" who are hungry, homeless, ill, in prison; we meet him in strangers and newcomers, immigrants, orphans and widows.

In reaching out to Christ who continues to suffer as long as the least suffer, you and I have the wonderful opportunity of being bearers of light, Jesus, "the true light which gives light to everyone" (John 1:9). May we do so always.

I pray that the coming Feast of Christmas allows you to experience the grace, light and peace of the Lord and to share these gifts with all whom you encounter in this blessed season.

With every best wish and kind regard, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

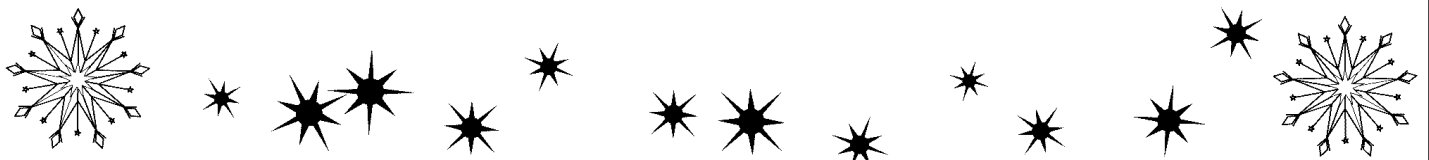
On behalf of the Religious, the Clergy, our School Administrators, Faculty and all the Parish Staff I wish you one and all a most blessed Christmastide. We rightly continue the celebration of that holy night when Christ was born over 2000 years ago. In that birth we see that our God is the God who forever is with us, our Emmanuel.

We pray that throughout this Holy Season you will know the nearness and the love of Emmanuel and that in your own sharing in this great mystery you will bring that same love and nearness to all you meet.

The year 2011 is coming to an end and with it the promise of a new year. To all who have assisted us in the mission of Christ through the gifts of your time, your amazing talents and most generous treasure, thank you, thank you, thank you. We count ourselves most blest in this ministry and mission of the Church and we know that without you and your commitment and wonderful support we would be wanting greatly.

Christmas blessings,

*Fr Warwick*



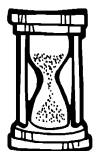
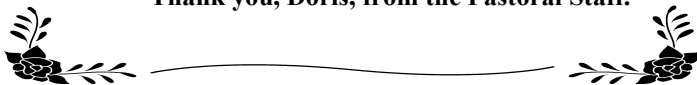


**DORIS IS RETIRING!**

It is with our deepest thanks and appreciation for her 17 years of work for St. Simon Parish that we say farewell to Doris DeFranco. Doris will be leaving us at the end of December to begin her life in retirement with her husband, Tom.

We will truly miss her in the Rectory office and send her off with our best wishes and all God's blessings always.

Thank you, Doris, from the Pastoral Staff.



**CHRISTMAS AND YEAR END GIVING**

As the end of the year approaches, please consider St. Simon Parish in your year end giving plans. We recognize that this may not be an option for all parishioners, but the parish would be grateful for those who can contribute more at this time and take

advantage of the end of the calendar year.

Our intention is that these year end contributions be used for facility improvements and to help balance our operating budget. We would like to offer some suggestions for those who would like to contribute:

- \* Gifts made on or before December 31 are tax deductible for the tax year in which your gift was made.
- \* Celebrate the joy of Christmas by giving in the true spirit of the season.
- \* "Carry Over Deduction", depending on your age, income and the size of your gift, you may be able to "carry over" your charitable gift tax deduction to subsequent years.
- \* Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) are some of the best gifts to make whether they have appreciated or depreciated in value.

For information regarding year end giving, please contact the parish office at 650-967-8311. May God bless you in your efforts. Know that our prayers and thoughts will be with you at Christmas and all the year round.



**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will be closed until Friday, December 30, 2011. The office will open on Monday, January 2, 2012.

*Thank You*

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR HELPERS!**

The members of SVdP would like to thank everyone who helped with the Giving Tree. You helped buy for the angels, sort, package, wrap, pack food boxes and deliver to very grateful families. We could not do this without your wonderful, enthusiastic help and generous donations. We thank the Lord for all of our St. Simon parishioners and wish you and your families a blessed, holy Christmas and a very Happy New Year.  
The members of St. Vincent de Paul.

*January* **EVENTS AT ST. SIMON PARISH**

**"YOUNG AT HEART"**

We will not be gathering in January. We will resume on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Happy Holidays!!



**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please note that beginning January 2012, there will be Anointing of the Sick every First Saturday of the month at the 8:30am Mass.

**KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the St. Simon Holy Family Room. On the first Tuesday, **January 3, we will meet from 1:00-2:30pm** and on the third Tuesday, **January 17, we will meet from 7:00-8:30pm**. Bring knitting needles size 11 or 13 and 3 skeins of yarn. Crocheters should bring a size K hook. If you know of someone who is in need of being wrapped in a prayer and love shawl please contact Bonnie Gebhart for information at 650-387-9001 or email [bonniegebhart@gmail.com](mailto:bonniegebhart@gmail.com)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament over the Christmas break. **Adoration will recommence January 3** from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Have a blessed and joyful Christmas!

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS**

The next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents will be Tuesday, **January 10, 7:00-8:30pm** in the Rectory Conference Room. All baptisms and registration for the preparation classes are planned ahead with one of our parish priests. Please contact the Parish Office at 650-967-8311 to sign up for the class and to schedule your child's baptism.

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)**

All mothers of children ages infant through kindergarten interested in deepening your spiritual life as a woman and as a mother, please join us for the journey. The St. Simon MOPS group meets every second Tuesday of the month from 9:15am - 11:15am at the Parish Center in the Simon Room. **Our January meeting will be on January 10.** Onsite childcare, coffee, friendship and fun provided. For additional information: [mops@stsimon.org](mailto:mops@stsimon.org).

**VISITING MINISTRY MEETING**

Are you interested in a visit or would like to visit someone who needs uplifting? If there is anyone who cannot attend Mass and would like Communion brought to them, please call Doris DeFranco at 408-739-0974 to schedule a visit. If you are interested in joining this wonderful Ministry, please our next meeting will be Tuesday, **January 10, 2012** from 1:30-2:30 pm in the Rectory.

**I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME**

Caring people needed to visit the sick at El Camino Hospital. If this would be of interest to you, please call Jean Rousseau at 650-964-0374 for a tour of the hospital.





**HOMELESS COLLECTION**

The Dominican Sisters will be collecting sleeping bags, new white socks and small toiletries for the winter season. Also Needed: small combs, small deodorants, small toothpastes, toothbrushes, small flashlights. Please drop them off at the back door of the convent. Thank you for your generous help once again! Please call Sr. Joan for more info: 650-968-2135 or joanie@msjdominicans.org

**SCRIPTURE SHARING  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE SHARING**

Wednesday Bible Sharing will be from 9:30-11:00am in the Simon Room. We will discuss the book of Matthew. We extend an open invitation to join us. Joan Winkler, 650-967-8398.

**THURSDAY FAITH SHARING**

We meet in the Simon Room from 7:00-8:15am. For more information contact Jean Rousseau at 650-964-0374. We go over the Scriptures for the next Sunday at our meeting.

**THE CHINESE BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

We meet on the first and third Friday of each month in the rectory from 10:00 - 11:30pm. If anyone is interested in joining our Chinese Bible Study Group, they can call John Yu at 650-625-8816.

**SACRED HEALING OF JESUS**

**CANCER HEALING**

Our faith in God brings us together to encourage one another's life journey focusing on mind, body and spiritual growth. This group is open to those newly diagnosed with cancer as well as long time cancer survivors. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays. Our next gathering will be on **January 13** in the Convent Chapel and **January 27** in the Cry Room from 10:00am-12:00 noon. Contact Keeth Courpet at 408-733-1110 for information.



Parishioners, we would like to urge you **NOT** to leave valuables in your cars while on the church grounds. Unfortunately, we have had another car broken into last week. I would also like to ask all women attending Mass to

**please take your purses with you when coming to receive Eucharist.**

Fr. Warwick

**YOU ARE INVITED**

**25 AND 50+ SILVER AND GOLDEN  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2012, 2:00PM**

Bishop P.J. McGrath invites all couples celebrating their 25th, 40th and 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversaries in 2012 to participate in the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph, 80 South Market Street, San José. Couples will be invited to renew their wedding vows and will receive a blessing from Bishop McGrath, presider over the celebration. Each couple will receive a certificate signed by the Bishop. A short reception will follow after. Please visit your parish office or call Sylvia Blanch (blanch@dsj.org) at 408-983-0128, or [www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass](http://www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass) for information/register. **Pre registration is required by January 25, 2012.** Due to limited seats, please reserve seats only for anniversary couples and handicapped. Doors open at 12:30pm. Please limit number of guests attending to 8 people.

**MARRIAGE FOR LIFE**

This program is available to all engaged couples, and space is guaranteed. This program satisfies the San Francisco Archdiocese, Oakland, San Jose and Santa Rosa Dioceses requirement for marriage preparation. This Archdiocesan approved program focuses on viewing marriages as: *a lifelong commitment; a journey of love and renewal; a relationship that includes Christ; an integral part of our Church.* **2012 Sessions: February 4; March 24; May 5; August 4 and October 20.** Programs are one day, all day, on a Saturday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Location: St Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. @ Geary Blvd., San Francisco, 94109. Cost: \$200 per couple – **Includes** Lunch. Lead Couple: Joe & Connie D'Aura. For information: call: 415-664-8108, or email: [daura@ccwear.com](mailto:daura@ccwear.com)



**ST. SIMON CRABFEED IS COMING!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

You won't want to miss the Annual CrabFeed sponsored by St. Simon Youth Ministries. Mark your calendars for Friday, **February 10** and come on out to an All-you-can-eat Buffet of fresh crab, pasta, special sauce and delectable desserts! More information to follow.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

Question of the week - *How might you enter into the JOY of these Scriptures today?*

Dear parishioners, Each week we will have a new question for you to share with your family, friends and fellow parishioners. Minister Leaders, you can even use it for your opening prayer at your meeting. God's blessing, **your Sr. Rebecca**

**WELCOME VISITORS**

Thank you for joining us at Mass today. We invite you to become a registered member of the St. Simon Parish Community. Registration forms can be found in the main vestibule or can be downloaded at [www.stsimon.org](http://www.stsimon.org) For more information regarding registration, or St. Simon Parish's ministries and organizations contact Brenda Moceyunas at [Bmoceyunas@stsimon.org](mailto:Bmoceyunas@stsimon.org) or the Parish Office at (650) 967-8311.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CCM



*The birth of Jesus  
was not just about a baby  
born in a cold stable  
many years ago.*

*The birth of Jesus was part of a bigger picture,  
a plan God had promised His people.  
Jesus was the Messiah,  
an answer to thousands of years of waiting.*

*Each of us is part of something bigger.  
God has a plan for our lives,  
As we celebrate this Christmas season,  
let us remember how important God's plan is  
for each of us.*

*God loved us enough to give us a purpose.  
Let us rejoice and celebrate  
God's love - a true reality in our lives.*

*(Adapted from "Advent and Christmas Reflection"  
by Sarah Reinhard)*

*May Christ, born to Mary, be born in you.  
The entire Catechetical staff and our dedicated  
Catechists wish you a safe and joyous Christmas.*

*Sr. Kathleen Hanley*



**EDGE for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades** - Meets TWO Sundays a month for the catechetical portion and TWO Friday Nights per month for the Social, Hot Topics and Service related activities. **You can still sign up at the Rectory.**

**ONE WARM COAT Collection** January 1- 31. Start saving your coats, jackets, sweats, hats & gloves. Collection Box is in the front of the Church.

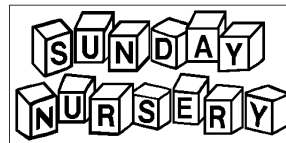
**LIFE TEEN meets each Sunday at 6PM after the LIFE TEEN Mass – ARE you signed up for LIFE TEEN?** You must be in High School or first year after Graduation.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY of Silicon Valley** - will sponsor the building of an All Faiths House in Cupertino this fall. Imagine a place where people of different faiths – Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Christian-work together to achieve a common goal. Each building day will include people from different faith communities. No construction experience is needed – other needs will be preparing & serving meals, checking in workers, cleanup – Jobs for everyone! This will be a great opportunity for our teens 14 and above to work with volunteer parents -Teens will not only be doing service to the community but leaning lifelong skills. More Information will be coming out on Goggle Docs – Sign up forms.

**CELL PHONE RECYCLING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER – NEW ITEMS.** Now accepting working laptops/ notebook computers with batteries, MP3 Players, I Pods & digital and point & shoot cameras, Video games, E books, GPS Devices, Radar Devices, PS3,Xbox 360 Wii, Ipads & tablets. Money received from phone recycle goes right into our Scholarship Fund. **Cell Phone Box is now in Spooner Hall next to the Spiritual Library.**

**FACEBOOK & LIFETEEN & EDGE** - Visit our Website at [www.stsimon.org](http://www.stsimon.org) and just click on Children & Youth Ministry/Youth Ministry for EDGE & LIFE youth ministry TEEN information. Ask to be invited as a friend into the LIFE TEEN-stsimonFacebook.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Val Liberty-Director of LIFE TEEN at 650-967-8311 X 31; Cell 650-465-4170, [valiberty@stsimon.org](mailto:valiberty@stsimon.org) or [parish.stsimon.org/ff-youth](http://parish.stsimon.org/ff-youth).



**HAVE AN ACTIVE OR WIGGLY TODDLER DURING MASS? ARE YOU DISTRACTED BECAUSE YOUR CHILDREN ARE RESTLESS, NOISY, OR CRYING DURING MASS?**

**FREE BABYSITTING SERVICES PROVIDED DURING THE SUNDAY 9:00am MASS**

Come drop your child off at the ST. SIMON NURSERY offered during the Sunday 9:00am Mass. It allows parents to attend Mass peacefully knowing that their children are in good hands. The nursery is in the Little Saints Preschool (Extended Learning Center) behind the Parish office for children newborn to age 4 years. There is a regular adult childcare provider every Sunday, except holidays. The nursery opens 15 minutes prior to mass. Contact the nursery to obtain required gate code for entry. Contact Pearl Scott 650-575-8881 [Nursery@stsimon.org](mailto:Nursery@stsimon.org) or Stephanie Brennan 206-39-3857 [stephbrennan619@gmail.com](mailto:stephbrennan619@gmail.com) for more information.

*Young  
ADULTS*

**Dinner at Slider Bar Café** - Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30pm, 324 University Ave., Palo Alto. The Young Adult group meets for its monthly social gathering. Please confirm your attendance on our Facebook Page "Young Adult Circle" or contact us at [yacircle@gmail.com](mailto:yacircle@gmail.com).

**Young Adult Mass at St. Simon Church** - Tuesday, January 31 at 7:30pm. The Young Adult Circle will gather for Mass in the Small Chapel at St. Simon Church, 1860 Grant Rd, Los Altos. Celebrate the Eucharist with young adults (20's and 30's, single or married) from this and neighboring parishes with fellowship to follow. If you have questions or would like more information on the Mass, please contact us at [yacircle@gmail.com](mailto:yacircle@gmail.com).

For more info, see our website, [www.YoungAdultCircle.org](http://www.YoungAdultCircle.org), check the Facebook Fan Page "Young Adult Circle", or contact us at [yacircle@gmail.com](mailto:yacircle@gmail.com).

**Adult Formation ... WITH SR. REBECCA!**

**MEN'S SPIRITUALITY** - meets the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of every month from 7:30-8:30 am in the Rectory Conference Room. Our upcoming meetings will be on **January 7 and 21**. For further information email Dave Lipscomb at [cowboy.lipscomb@gmail.com](mailto:cowboy.lipscomb@gmail.com)!

**SOUL SISTERS** - Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, **January 11** from 10:00—11:00am in the Convent Chapel with refreshments following in the dining room. We will continue our journey with the *Seven Sacred Pauses* by Macrina Wiederkehr. Please know that there is “no catch up”, each session is new and fresh. All are welcome, please bring your friends. For more information email Sr. Rebecca at [rebecca@stsimon.org](mailto:rebecca@stsimon.org).

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY** - Calling women of all ages. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 7:30-8:30am and do Lectio Divina on the upcoming Sunday reading. Upcoming meetings will be held on **January 14 and 28** in the Rectory Conference Room. For more information, contact Rose Lue at [roselue@gmail.com](mailto:roselue@gmail.com).

**TAIZE PRAYER** - There will be **NO Taize prayer service in January.**

**SAFETY RULES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

Because of the number of people attending the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, we would like to remind you of the Santa Clara County Fire Code. All of the exits and entrances must remain open for emergency purposes. We would like you to experience a beautiful Christmas liturgy and to ensure safety for all. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

**EXTENDED CARE**

Extended Care is currently in search of a fun energetic, friendly aide who is passionate about working with children. If you are interested please contact Ms. Rema Batmani at [rbatmani@stsimon.org](mailto:rbatmani@stsimon.org) or 650-967-3293.



**VOCATION CORNER**

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC PRIEST?**

Interested? Attend a Discernment Retreat, **January 13-15, 2012** at St. Patrick's Seminary and University to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you. To obtain further information call 650-3255-5621 ext. 125.

**SERRA CLUB**

Working and praying for vocations. We meet at St. Simon on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. For details call John Fleming at 650-968-3285 or [serraclub@stsimon.org](mailto:serraclub@stsimon.org).

**VOCATION VIEW**

God speaks to us through His Son, the Heir of all things. To be a priest or religious is to be drawn into a deeper relationship with the Son, so that we might also draw others closer to Christ. (Heb 1:1-6)

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, visit our website at [vocations@dsj.org](mailto:vocations@dsj.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 24/25**

Christmas Eve	3:00pm	Scott Busick	Fr. Warwick
	5:00pm	Walter & Paul O'Neill	Fr. Mark
	Midnight	For St. Simon Parishioners	Fr. Warwick
Christmas Day	7:30	For the Marchetti Family	Fr. Anthony
	9:00	For St. Simon Parishioners	Fr. Mark
(Forum)	10:30	*PPI	Fr. Mike
	11:15	For St. Simon Parishioners	Fr. Warwick
	5:00	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Mon	6:30	Sp. Int. for Mr. Brice	Mmgr. Mike
	8:30	Leon Pothin	Fr. Mark
Tues	6:30	*PPI	Fr. Mark
	8:30	Daisy Kalman	Fr. Anthony
Wed	6:30	*PPI	Fr. Anthony
	8:30	Nora Yaley	Fr. Warwick
Thur	6:30	*PPI	Fr. Warwick
	8:30	Harold Clark	Fr. Mark
Fri	6:30	*PPI	Fr. Warwick
	8:30	John Wendt	Fr. Mike
Sat	8:30	Sp. Int. of Margaret Bellotti	Fr. Warwick
	5:00	For St. Simon Parishioners	Fr. Anthony
Sun	7:30	Scott Busick	Fr. Mark
	9:00	For St. Simon Parishioners	Fr. Anthony
(Forum)	10:30	*PPI	Fr. Mike
	11:15	Jill Heller	Fr. Warwick
	5:00	<b>NO MASS</b>	

Please pray for the repose of the souls who died this week.  
\*PPI means priest's personal intention

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Please pray for our sick, homebound and those with special prayer needs. Remember that names will appear in this section of our bulletin for three weeks only. If you wish to have your name left on or included on the list please call 650-967-8311. Marlo Corman, Richard Baker, Mary Allamandola, Nancy Bettini, Margaret Casanova, John Edwards, Sam Lemon, Louise Dougherty, Mike Arya, Maria Paula Riofrio, Trent Feliss, David Fladlien, Jackie Oswald, Susan Mackey, Joe Dore, Margaret Riley, Glenn Warren, Laura Toby, Catherine Bruck, Lori Hanel, Ingrid Quirk, Muncie McCarthy, Ainsley Carmichael, Joanna Malvino, Janet Shaffer, Jim Pierce, Mary Thompson, Betty Clarke, Jenifer Hanel Samuels, Virginia Jean, Emma Rose, Andy and Michael Napoli, Sally Dalton, John Fox, Tom Rollins, Ron Essary, Connie Hall, Gina Giagiar, and all the sick of our parish.

*Thank You*

*Following is the budgeted and actual money received from Sunday and Holy Day collections.*

	December 11, 2011
YTD BUDGETED**	\$ 418,143.00
YTD COLLECTED	\$ 407,954.00
YTD VARIANCE	-\$ 10,189.00
The Children's Collection was \$2.00 with 2 good deeds	

\*\*Our 2012 Budget, because of the economy, reflects an anticipated loss of -\$30,185. Therefore, a positive variance in the actual collection helps to offset this loss for the year. Thank you.