



CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and
Sharing the Love of Christ

3200 Harbor Street ~ Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: 925-432-6404

Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org

www.facebook.com/goodshepherdpittsburg



WATCH THEREFORE;
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN
THE LORD OF THE HOUSE IS COMING,
WHETHER IN THE EVENING, OR AT MIDNIGHT,
OR AT COCKCROW, OR IN THE MORNING.

MARK 13:35



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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**The Parish Office is operating virtually
during the pandemic.
We will answer your phone calls and
emails as soon as possible.**

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

Updated 11/17/20

Monday - Friday

7:30am - Livestream Only

Saturday

8:00am; 5:30pm Vigil – Livestream Only

Sunday

8:00am - Relivestream 5:30pm Mass

10:00am (in the garden) - Livestream

12pm (in the garden) - Livestream

3pm (Spanish) - Livestream Only

Communion

Drive through communion after each Mass
in front of the church.

Adoration Livestream

Fridays 8am – 9am

Confession in Front of the Church

Fridays 8am-9am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706-ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE 925-432-6404—Ext. 25



Happy New Year!

Dearest Friends in Christ,

Today we begin a new liturgical year (Year B). When you enter the church, you will notice right away the changing of the environment. You see something new, something different than usual. You see the evergreen Advent wreath with four candles which stands for life and four weeks of Advent. You see the color purple, which gives us a sense of hope and anticipation for Christmas. The church begins Advent with this changing of the environment to remind us of our spiritual waking up. Waking up is not always easy. We all feel good staying in bed. However, if we don't get up to have the Lord's works done, we would never achieve our journey to heaven. Each time Advent season comes, the world around us is fascinated with gifts, parties, cards, and decorations. But the Church invites us to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is coming to us as the Gospel says: *Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come*" (Mk 13:33).

Waking up is at the core of the message of Advent. It is like having a pail of cold water thrown on us to revive us, and get our attention. New year, new beginning! Advent is an opportunity for us all to begin anew. Think about it. Wouldn't it be nice to start anew? Are there things in your life that you'd like to leave behind or change? Most likely there are; and Advent may just be the time to do so. Beginning anew means that we take the past and give it over to our Divine Lord. It means that we let go of our past sin and hurt and ask Jesus to enter in. It means we turn to Him for a fresh start and have hope in all that He wants to accomplish in our lives. It is time to begin again!

Let us be mindful that when we go shopping for Christmas, we don't forget to do our spiritual shopping; to prepare our hearts for Jesus to come. May this Advent, the liturgical new year, be a time of new life for us all.

The Two Parts of Advent

Part 1: up until December 16

While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day. After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Savior.

So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfillment or connection with the gospel.

Part 2: December 17 - 24

In these last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel.

So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfillment builds as we read the story of the preparation for Jesus' first coming into this world for us.

Have a grace-filled Advent.

Fr. Thi Hoang



Feliz Año Nuevo!

Queridos Amigos en Cristo,

Hoy comenzamos un nuevo año litúrgico (Año A). Cuando entramos en la iglesia, notamos de inmediato el cambio del entorno. Ves algo nuevo, algo diferente de lo habitual. Ves la corona de Adviento con cuatro velas que significa vida y cuatro semanas de Adviento. Ves el color en morado que nos da una sensación de esperanza y anticipación para la Navidad. La iglesia comienza el Adviento con este cambio de ambiente para recordarnos nuestro despertar espiritual. Despertar no siempre es fácil. Todos nos sentimos bien quedándonos en la cama. Sin embargo, si no nos levantamos para hacer las obras del Señor, nunca podremos garantizar nuestro viaje al cielo. Cada vez que llega la temporada de Adviento, el mundo que nos rodea está fascinado con regalos, fiestas, tarjetas y decoraciones. Pero la Iglesia nos invita a fijar nuestros ojos en Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador que viene a nosotros como dice el Evangelio: ***"También debes estar preparado, porque a una hora no esperada, vendrá el Hijo del Hombre."***

Despertar es la esencia del mensaje de Adviento. Es como derramar un cubo de agua fría sobre nosotros para revivirnos, y llamar nuestra atención. ¡Año nuevo, nuevo comienzo! El Adviento es una oportunidad para que todos comenzamos de nuevo. Piénsalo. ¿No sería bueno empezar de nuevo? ¿Hay cosas en tu vida que te gustaría dejar atrás o cambiar? Lo más probable es que los haya; y el Adviento puede ser el momento de hacerlo. Comenzar de nuevo significa que tomamos el pasado y se lo entregamos a nuestro Señor Divino. Significa que dejamos nuestro pecado pasado y sufrimiento y le pedimos a Jesús que entre en nosotros. Significa que nos dirigimos a El para un nuevo comienzo y tenemos esperanza en todo lo que El quiere lograr en nuestra vidas. **¡Es hora de empezar de nuevo!**

Seamos conscientes de que cuando vayamos de compras para la Navidad, no nos olvidamos de hacer nuestras compras espirituales para preparar nuestros corazones para que Jesús venga. Que este Adviento, el nuevo año litúrgico, sea un tiempo de vida nueva para todos nosotros.

Tengan un Adviento-lleño de gracia.

Padre Thi Hoang

Virtual encuentro para compartir "Fratelli Tutti"

El pasado 4 de octubre en la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís, el Papa Francisco firmó su nueva encíclica "Fratelli Tutti" "Sobre la Fraternidad y la Amistad Social". La encíclica nos llama a todos a amarnos y a cuidarnos unos a otros como una familia humana. La encíclica tiene 8 capítulos. Vamos a abrir un foro en línea virtual para leer y compartir ideas sobre esta carta encíclica del Papa. Nos vamos a reunir una vez a la semana los lunes a las 7pm, comenzando el 23 de noviembre. No necesita inscribirse.

Lea la encíclica aquí: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Este es el link para participar: <https://zoom.us/j/98655845021>

ZOOM MEETING DISCUSSION ON FRATELLI TUTTI

As you know, on Oct 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis, our Holy Father issued the new encyclical called Fratelli Tutti– All Brothers. The encyclical calls us to love and care for one another as a human family. There are 8 chapters in the encyclical. We, Church of the Good Shepherd, are going to open an online forum to read and discuss this papal letter via the ZOOM Meeting format.

We will meet once a week on Thursdays at 7pm, starting Nov. 19. Here is the ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/97050699697>

There is no need to register for the forum. Make sure you read the encyclical. Here is the link. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-10/pope-francis-fratelli-tutti-introduce-angelus-fraternity-friend.html>

Advent Season

Sunday, November 29 to Sunday December 20, Vigil Masses on Saturday's at 5:30 pm
 Sunday Masses 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon &
[3pm Spanish Mass](#)

Daily Mass 7:30 am M-F, 8 am Saturday

Dec. 8- Feast of the Immaculate Conception: 7:30am & 7:00pm

Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe at 8 am & 7 pm in Spanish

Dec 16 to 24 - Simbang Gabi—9 Dawn Masses 5:30 am daily.



SIMBANG GABI NEWS!

We will celebrate our yearly tradition of Simbang Gabi masses on December 16-24, 2020 with some changes. The mass will start at 5:30 am and follow current guidance and protocols for indoor masses and it is also going to be livestreamed. There will be no reception after the mass, only mass sponsorships. For inquiries, please contact:



Cecille Perez at 925-300-6234,
Cynthia Auza at 925-427-0778, or
Leilani Andes at 925-212-8408.



BEAUTIFUL CLOTH MASKS FOR SALE JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Donated by the Padre Pio Ministry

Wouldn't you love a colorful mask that expresses your faith or celebrates the season? Masks are on sale for just \$10 each or 3 for \$25 outside of mass today. Buy one for yourself or give one as a gift! We're pretty sure this is Fr. Thi's

favorite one!

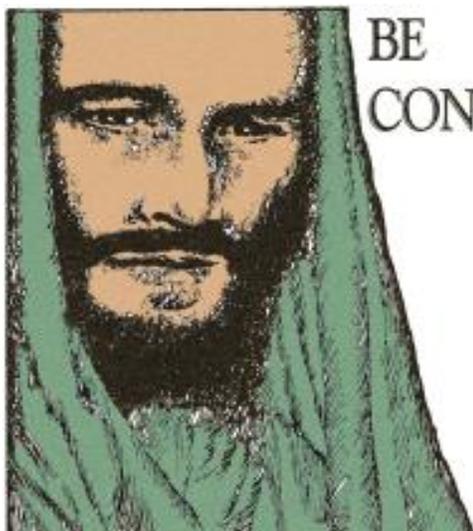


ADORATION

As a reminder, Adoration is on the first Friday of every month fro 8 AM to 6:45 PM, followed by a Mass for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 7 PM.

We need at least one person per hour to sit with the Blessed Sacrament. If you have any questions please call Bill or Ann (432-3995)

Jesus said to His Apostles: "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake with me." And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed. 'My Father,' he said, 'if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not as I would have it.' He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, 'So you had not the strength to stay awake with me for one hour?



**BE
CONSTANTLY
ON THE
WATCH!**

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FAMILY BIBLE CHALLENGE
Encounter Scripture ✨ Encounter Christ

**Engage your family with
The Bible Challenge
to see how much you know about the
Scriptures.**

**Go on this website to try it. It has a Spanish
version as well.**

<https://familybiblechallenge.org/>



Giving Tree 2020

Christmas is the time of giving and this year it feels more important than ever to extend a helping hand.

Please consider purchasing gift cards for distribution to our families in need this Christmas.

Any gift card will be gratefully accepted, however the ideal gift cards will be from stores that provide clothing, toys and food.

In addition cash/check or online donation may be made to Good Shepherd to purchase gift cards.

Simply place gift cards in second collections or drop off at the parish office. **DEADLINE to donate gift cards is December 13th.**

Arbol de Dar de Navidad 2020

La Navidad es el momento de dar y este año es más importante que nunca extender una mano de ayuda.

Considere comprar tarjetas de regalo para distribuirlas a nuestras familias necesitadas esta Navidad.

Cualquier tarjeta de regalo será aceptada con gratitud, sin embargo, las tarjetas de regalo ideales serán las de las tiendas que ofrecen ropa, juguetes y comida.

Además, se puede hacer una donación en efectivo / cheque o en línea a Good Shepherd para comprar tarjetas de regalo.

Simplemente coloque las tarjetas de regalo en la segunda colección durante la misa o déjalas en la oficina parroquial. **La fecha más tardar para donar tarjetas de regalo es el 13 de diciembre.**



SHEPHERD'S CLOSET CHRISTMAS GIVE-AWAY

Due to the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus, Shepherd Closet participants do not feel it is safe to have our annual Christmas Give-away this year. To prevent disappointment to the families who depend on us each year, we will give Shepherd Closet gift cards to our clients. We'll give cards to the many families who are registered with **Shepherd Closet** throughout the year.

Shepherd Closet families must have a registration card on file. Families receiving gift cards from Shepherd Closet are not the same families as those being served by the 2020 GIVING TREE, but we will use the same method to distribute gift cards to our families. Our goal is to provide families enough cards for them to purchase gifts for their children.

We are asking for donations to purchase gift cards for each family we help. We ask that you make your donation to Good Shepherd Church, second collection (memo: Shepherd's Closet). You can also use online donations, or purchase your own gift cards, and drop them off at the parish office. If you purchase a card separately, please write Shepherd Closet on the front of the card or envelope.

The last date to deliver gift cards to the office is Thursday, December 9th. Participants must register for Shepherd's Closet gift cards, please call Ann Abitz at (925) 432-3995 or text messages to Bill Abitz (925) 872-5852. Please include your full name, card number and phone number. Gift cards will be distributed on December 15th. The last date to register for Shepherd Closet is December 1. (Information to follow.)

We know that you are the best parishioners in the world. When we call for help, you're always there. This pandemic has hurt so many families. We need your help to give hope to hopeless families. Let's make it a "Merry Christmas" for those families. Give what you can to either ministry. If possible, don't choose one ministry over the other. Both ministries need your help!

REGALO DE NAVIDAD

Debido a los altos casos del virus Covid-19 en nuestra área, los participantes de Shepherd 's Closet sienten que no es seguro tener nuestro obsequio anual de Navidad este año. Para evitar decepciones a las familias que dependen de nosotros cada año, entregamos tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet a nuestras familias. Daremos tarjetas a las familias que están registradas en Shepherd 's Closet durante todo el año.

Las familias de Shepherd 's Closet deben tener una tarjeta de registro en el archivo. Las familias que reciben tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet no son las mismas familias que reciben el servicio de 2020 GIVING TREE, pero usaremos el mismo método para distribuir las tarjetas de regalo a nuestras familias. Nuestro objetivo es darle a cada familia suficiente tarjetas para que puedan poder comprarle los regalos de navidad a sus hijos.

Estamos solicitando donaciones para comprar tarjetas de regalo para cada familia que vayamos a ayudar. Les pedimos que hagan su donación a Good Shepherd Church, durante la segunda colección (memo: Shepherd 's Closet). También pueden hacer donaciones en línea o comprar sus propias tarjetas de regalo y entregarlas en la oficina parroquial. Si compran una tarjeta por separado, por favor escriban Shepherd 's Closet en frente de la tarjeta o sobre.

La última fecha para entregar las tarjetas de regalo en la oficina es el día jueves 9 de diciembre.

Las familias que quieran registrarse para las tarjetas de regalo de Shepherd 's Closet, por favor llamen a Ann Abitz al (925) 432-3995 o envíe un mensaje de texto a Bill Abitz (925) 872-5852. Incluya su nombre completo, número de tarjeta y número de teléfono. Las tarjetas de regalo se distribuirán el día martes, 15 de diciembre. El último día para registrarse en Shepherd 's Closet será el día martes, 1 de diciembre (información a continuación).

Sabemos que son los mejores feligreses del mundo. Cuando pedimos ayuda, siempre estás ahí. Esta pandemia ha afectado a tantas familias y necesitamos su ayuda para dar esperanza a familias desesperadas. Hagamos que sea una "Feliz Navidad" para esas familias. Da lo que puedas a cualquier ministerio. Si es posible, no elija un ministerio sobre el otro. ¡Ambos ministerios necesitan su ayuda!

Mass Intentions November 30-December 6

Mass Intentions For The Week

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Mon	7:30 am	St. Andrew & the Capupus Family *
Tue	7:30 am	The Capupus Family
Wed	7:30 am	Oscar R. Sarmiento † *
Thu	7:30 am	Rico Fonzi † *
Fri	7:30 am	Asuncion Labian & Guillermo Zabala † *
	7:00 pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory Members of FOSS
Sat	8:00 am	Consolacion Aniban & Death Anniversary of Nelida Masalinto † *
Sat	5:30 pm	Jose Antonio Mosca † *
Sun	8:00 am	In Thanksgiving Buena & Discaya Families *
	10 am	Anthony Giambalvo † *
	12 pm	Gilbert & Glen Dagdagan † *
	3 pm	FOR THE PEOPLE

Parish Staff

Fr. Thi Van Hoang, Parochial Administrator
925-432-6404 Ext. 11
frthihoang@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Deacon Gustavo Escruceria
925-432-6404 Ext. 23
Deacon.gustavo@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Grace Yvette Ripoli, Business Manager
925-432-6404 Ext. 12
yvette@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary
925-432-6404 Ext. 19
carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Dina Russell, Religious Education Coordinator
432-6404 Ext 21
dina@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Aylin Gonzalez, Faith Formation (Spanish Speaking)
925-432-6404 Ext. 20
aylin@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Please help contribute to the smooth operation and services of our parish, especially during this most difficult time. You can give your donations to any staff member or place in the mail slot in the ministry building door. We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Fr. Thi

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**ISAIAH 3: 16B-17, 19B, 64: 2-7,
1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9,
MARK 13:33-37**

NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

BUILDING FUND



November 18, 2020

Your home is a holy place; worship the Lord there

Dear faithful of the Diocese of Oakland:

When I was based at the US Navy submarine base in Bangor, Washington, from time to time a sailor would come to my office at the chapel. "Father Barber, our boat is going out, and I need some Catholic materials."

"Oh," I'd say. "Where are you going?"

"Sorry, that's classified."

"Okay," I'd reply. "How long will you be gone?"

"Sorry, I can't tell you," he'd say.

"What's your mission?" I would push.

"Father, I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you."

He smiled, like Tom Cruise in "Top Gun."

Then I would give him a dozen rosaries, with leaflets on how to say the rosary. I would give him a supply of Sunday missalettes, St. Christopher medals and holy water. I also gave him a link to Father Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" website, so he could download in advance sermons for the Sundays they would be underway. With these materials, the senior Catholic sailor or officer onboard would be authorized by the Commanding Officer to conduct an informal worship service for the Catholic crewmembers "in the absence of a priest."

Something like that is possible now in our homes because of the COVID-19 lockdown. We just heard this week that Governor Gavin Newsom has halted indoor worship services in 41 California counties, including Alameda and Contra Costa. This comes as a blow, as we were just getting used to going back to indoor Mass, while taking all the precautions. Now we have to move back outdoors, not easy in the coming winter months, or have livestream Mass, or both.

It's the "yo-yo" effect that is particularly frustrating. I believe the reasons the governor gives are sound. Hospitals are at 75% capacity right now. Infection cases are rising. Italy, France, England and parts of the United States are seeing a resurgence of infections, sickness and rising deaths. All are good reasons for Church leadership to follow advice of health professionals to keep all our parishioners safe.

Yet that does not mean we are reduced to "nothing." The first church any of us belong to is the "domestic church" -- meaning the church of our own homes. This was stressed when I was a kid. Our teachers at my Catholic school -- mostly nuns -- had a campaign asking our families to pray the rosary together nightly at home. "The family that prays together, stays together," the Sisters said, echoing Father Patrick Peyton, the "Rosary Priest." My own family was not particularly religious, but I remember us saying the rosary together as a whole family at least for some weeks.

The Mormon Church has a laudable practice called "Family Home Evening," where outside activities take second place to all the family staying home one night a week for prayer and discussion of family issues. Maybe it's time we Catholics rediscover the "domestic church" of our own homes. Do you have a place in your home for the crucifix or the image of Our Lady is placed? Maybe you could pray together before or after participating in a livestream Mass? Maybe you could make a small home altar, with some statues of Christ, Our Lady or your favorite saints? You could write out and place your urgent prayer requests under the feet of the saints. Pope Francis does that with his "Sleeping St. Joseph" statue. I have so many prayer needs, I have two of those statues.

In this time of frustration, trials of patience, and even sickness and death, let's not lose hope. Hope is the hallmark of the Christian. Bring the holiness of God from your parish church into your own home. Your home is a holy place. Worship the Lord there. The first Christians were not free to come together for Mass and worship openly, so they gathered in "house churches." Maybe we can learn from our Catholic sailors in the submarines on months-long underwater deployments, and come together as best we can to recognize Christ in our midst.

And take courage from St. Paul, who certainly endured worse hardships than us. But his suffering, his carrying the cross, only made his faith stronger. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38-39).

With the assurance of my continued prayers and blessing, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland