CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST
Saturday: 8:15 AM, 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12:00PM
Weekdays: 8:15 AM
Holy Days: 8:15 AM, 7:00 PM

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays: 3:30 to 4:00 PM

Perpetual Help Devotions:
Tuesday mornings after 8:15 AM Liturgy

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Every Wednesday 8:45-9:45 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2018  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. — Luke 1:42

This week marks the fourth Sunday in Advent and this coming Wednesday is Christmas. Really? Already? What happened to the Summer and Fall? I’ve previously written about this phenomenon of time quickly passing and how as we grow older time seems to fly by. I think, for myself anyway, the older I get the less important material things become. Indeed I do collect things, art objects and things of that sort, but if I had to chose one thing over the other it wouldn’t really make any difference as most things can be replaced. There are certain things that cannot, i.e. family photos, heirlooms, etc, and certainly family and friends as well. And here we are smack dab at the end of the Advent season and going into Christmas, New Year and Epiphany.

Which brings me to some important observations about the present and our future together as a community. Since arriving nearly four years ago, I have noticed certain changes occurring.

1. Our pew numbers and collections are down. As most parishes in our diocese are seeing a drop in numbers, something that concerns not only myself, but the finance council, long time parishioners and our bishop. The bishop has made great strides to keep the diocese abreast of the diocesan wide decline in numbers of people attending mass and contributing to their respective parish communities. And with that the parish council has been working hard to provide new and varied events for both the parish and school families to enjoy and share.

2. This past year alone we have seen many new events come, and as I mentioned on the first Sunday of Advent how well received they were. September and October saw two fundraisers that were successful in bringing people in but also a good amount of money. The Brats, Beer and Bingo was a success as was the Wine Tasting fundraiser for the parish. Both events were well attended; with this success we’re hoping to bring in more parishioners and school families.

3. Another great event that we just celebrated was the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This was not just a celebration for our Hispanic brothers and sisters, but a celebration for everyone of us in this parish. We received many compliments about the inclusivity the event brought in and how the parish included all cultures during the mass. This I thought was significant as it demonstrated to me the importance of sharing one community and religious event with all people of color, race and culture. It felt darn good to hear nothing but positive and complimentary statements. Many parishioners were so excited about this event they were asking if we are going to continue this next year? Yes of course, I replied. This singular event, again in my opinion, bought many different walks of life tougher sharing this beautiful devotion to Mary our mother.  

May God bless us all.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 25TH

9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

January 1, 2020
10a.m.
Social Action Team

December 21st is the day of our visit to the Alameda County Food Bank.

Give the Gift of Life! American Red Cross Blood Drives
Tuesday, December 24th, 8:30 am - 1 pm in the Small Hall

The holidays are a great time to give back to the community by giving blood. Your donation will save 3 lives. Due to the recent fires, the Red Cross has had to cancel many blood drives. You can help pick up the slack and join one of our drives—you can make a difference in somebody’s life! Please contact Jan at jkehoe.blood@yahoo.com or 510-352-2624 for an appointment.

Thank you

A big thank you to all who worked on the Christmas caroling, Santa’s breakfast and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass. December has been such a busy month for all of us and it was great to see our community come together.

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure traveling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord’s words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

Upcoming events in 2020

January 26th Catholic Schools’ week begin.
Presentation of the 8th grade class of 2020
First Reconciliation for 2nd graders
Parish Crab Feed February 8
Dad’s Club crab feed February 27th
March 15th St. Patrick’s dinner

More information to come!!!
St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God. This weekend members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul distributed Christmas boxes to needy families in our neighborhood. The boxes filled with food included a Christmas message to help those we serve to find Emmanuel and they also come to know that "God is with us." This was only possible through your generous gifts. Merry Christmas and thank you. Please remember that next weekend, Dec. 28-29 is the Fifth Sunday St. Vincent de Paul second collection. Assumption will donating a large sum of the collection to the SVdP conferences impacted by the recent Kinkade Fires in North California.

Thank you for your generosity. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance please call our Help-Line at 510 352-6079

E-mail Scam

Please be aware of an ongoing phishing scam that involves emails purportedly people you many know in our parish. It appears that the sender is phishing for valid email addresses and if you respond, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance. In at least one instance, a request was made for gift cards. It's truly unfortunate that cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. There are common sense ways to avoid being scammed. If an e-mail contains an unusual request, contact the person directly. Do not use any phone number provided in the e-mail or click on any links in the email. In many, but not all cases, grammatical errors are present. For more information on phishing scams and email security, you can google (or search for) “RECOGNIZING PHISHING EMAILS.” The FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint: https://www.ic3.gov

The Office will be closed on December 25-27

Financial Update for
Plate collection..............$
EFT.........................$
Total........................$
Goal........................$
Over/(Under)................$
TBA

O COME, LONG FORETOLD
O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.

Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St.
WE REMEMBER AT THE EUCHARIST

Weekly Mass Intentions
December 21—December 28

Saturday  5:00 Polly Smith +

Sunday  7:30 Ruth McDonnell (L)
         9:00 Tony Gonsalves +
         10:30 Anna & Jeremiah Gomez +
         12:00 Italo DiTano +

Monday  8:15 Manuel G. Rodrigues +

Tuesday  8:15 Amelia Gonsalves
        5:00 Luis Costa +
        10:00 Douglas & Lucille Danielsen +

Wednesday 8:15 Maurice Gracias &
           Alex & Brigida Fernandes +
           11:00 Arcadop Galapon Jr. +

Thursday 8:15 Elizabeth Galapon

Friday  8:15 Delfin Tinio +

Saturday 8:15 Agnes Keating +
         5:00 Claire Canning +

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday  GYM  CYO
Monday  GYM  CYO 3:30
Tuesday GYM  CYO 3:30
         CR1  RCIA 7 p.m.
Wednesday CFR1 Lecture Series 10 a.m.
           H  Boys Scout 7 p.m.
           Gym  CYO 3:30 p.m.
Thursday Merry Christmas
Friday   Gym  CYO
Saturday GYM  CYO
         GYM  CYO

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:
Head Lector:
  Cathy Ralph………………………….510 895-0420
Altar Server Coordinators:
  Dennis Burigsay……………………510 895-1628
  Mike Tedeschi…………………….510 357-9447
Head Communion Minister:
  Faye Caruso…………………………510 882-5002
Head Usher: Ed Hernandez………………510 351-7025
Head Greeter: Hanne Gerardi………510-393-9989
Ministry Scheduler:
  Giovanna Giuliani…………………..510 872-9035

Faith Formation & Teen Confirmation:
  Mary Schirmer……………………510 352-1537
St. Vincent de Paul
  Denis Ducy…………………………510 352-6079
Pastoral Council:
  Doug Taylor…………………………510 638-3050
School Board:
  Paul Carney…………………………510 872-2452
Finance Committee:
  George Brandt……………………..510-410-5819
Tuesdays with Larry:
  Larry Graves……………………….510 352-4777
Rosary Makers:
  Irene Haines……………………….510 483-7975

CYO:
  Nathaniel Fripp………………………510 789-5565
  Tom Shaddle………………………..510 357-1342
All Saints Skilled Nursing
  Lizette Rocha………………………510 351-1342
Communion to the Homebound:
  Mary Croak…………………………510 352-1537
Communion to Kindred Hospital:
  Susan Sequeira……………………..510 352-5614
Prayer Chain:
  JoMarie Stavosky……………………510 889-9469
Knit/Crochet Group
  Gloria Calegari……………………510 357-0943
Linens:
  Anita De Marais……………………510 357-9172
Cursillo
  Jennie Gisslow………………………510 875-9170
Hospitality Team

Assumption Parish Mission Statement

Assumption Parish is a culturally diverse and vibrant Catholic community which strives to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting the challenge to build a Christ-centered community that draws on the wisdom of our seniors and the energy of our youth. We are committed to Catholic education at various levels. We are nurtured by liturgy and faith formation programs, which enable us to share our gifts of time, talent, treasure and vision with our parish family and surrounding communities.