

St. Philip Neri

3101 Van Buren St., Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510-373-5200 Fax: 510-522-8123

- *St. Albert the Great*

1022 Holly St., Alameda, CA 94502

Phone: 510-373-5220 Fax: 510-522-8123

Website: www.saspn.org

Pastor: *Fr. Joy Kumarthusseril* 510-373-5201 email: joy@saspn.org

Priest in Residence at St. Philip Neri

Fr. Raju Baluvuri 510-373-5202 raju@saspn.org

Priests in Residence at St. Albert the Great:

Rev. George E. Mockel and Rev. Jerrold Kennedy

St. Philip Neri School: 1335 High St. Alameda, 94501

Principal: Janis Allocco 521-0787

Fourth Sunday of Advent (year B) *December 18, 2011*



***The Mission statement of
St. Philip Neri -St. Albert the Great Parish is:***

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
To share our time, talent and treasure,
To educate in faith,
To grow in love,
To act in charity, and
To welcome and serve all God's people.

Living Stewardship Now-

What can you do for a God who has already loved you so much? Give your heart to God and be prepared like Mary to take some risks.



Often during the advent season, I am scared to go out shopping. Isn't it amazing that a baby born in a stable 2,000 years ago can cause traffic jams on our streets and long queues at the counter this week?

Christmas poses a yearly challenge to those of us who have heard the story since we were children. After you have attended 20 or 30 or 40 or more Christmas celebrations, and heard (and sung) every Christmas carols a few hundred times, what more is left to be said that hasn't been said before?

If we know about Christmas at all, we know about Mary and the angel Gabriel, about the dangerous journey to Bethlehem, about Caesar's decree, about Herod's insane jealousy, about the "No Vacancy" at the inn, about the angels and the shepherds, and about the mysterious Wise Men from the east, and the unplanned last-second flight into Egypt. All of these stories are so well known that when we hear them again, we don't really hear them at all because we've heard them all before. In reality, we hear but we don't hear.

That is indeed a problem. *Familiarity can breed, if not contempt, at least a kind of casual disinterest.* This is sad because, the story of Christmas is indeed full of surprises! And after all, it tells the most amazing story: That God invaded human history in the form of a tiny, helpless baby.

One of the best ways to fight such a tendency is to focus on the details. Sometimes it helps to take out the microscope and study just one tiny fragment of the story. By looking closely at a small part, we may see the whole thing in a new light. The verse I have in mind is one that we will be hearing next Sunday and comes from the first Christmas sermon—preached by an angel to some very frightened shepherds. After announcing that a Savior had been born in Bethlehem, the angel tells them how to find the baby. **"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"**.

Let's continue our journey to the manger like the shepherds to love and to behold the Christ born for us all!

Fr. Joy Kumarthusseril, mf

WEEKLY COLLECTION—St. Philip Neri—St. Albert the Great



Weekly Goal	\$ 10,300
Plate Received	\$ 8,912
2011 Bishop's Appeal	Goal \$ 29,275
THANK YOU!	Received to date \$ 35,407

St. Philip Neri

December 17-25

**St. Albert the Great**

December 17-25

Join us for the **5:00 AM SIMBANG GABI Mass at St. Albert the Great Dec. 16-24**
followed by pot-luck breakfast in the Hall.

Sat. Dec. 17	8:30am 5:00pm	Asuncio T. Boglosa † George Quinn †	Sat. Dec. 17	7:30am 5:00pm	Special Intention Victor Asubar †
Sun. Dec. 18	9:00am 11:30am	ICF Branch #10 Denise Maddix †	Sun. Dec. 18	8:00am 10:30am	Pureza Donnelly † Shiu Kin Cheng †
Mon.	8:30am	Natalie & Tony Shomon (b'day)	Mon.	7:30am	Jack Capon †
Tues.	8:30am	Lee Moran †	Tues.	7:30am	Charles Carroll †
Wed.	8:30am	Rob Cooper †	Wed.	7:30am	Nieves Abelardo Pelegrin †
Thurs.	8:30am	Teresa Ratto & Denise Maddix †	Thurs.	7:30am	Michael McDonnell †
Fri.	8:30am	Daryl & Maui	Fri.	7:30am	Michael McDonnell †
Sat. Dec. 24	8:30am 5:00pm	Denise Maddix † People of SPN-SA	Sat. Dec. 24	7:30am 4:00pm	Gil & Naty Pelegrin † People of SPN-SA
Sun. Dec. 25	12:00am 9:00am 11:30am	People of SPN-SA People of SPN-SA & George Quinn † People of SPN-SA	Sun. Dec. 25	12:00am 8:00am 10:30am	People of SPN-SA People of SPN-SA People of SPN-SA

**Due to the Christmas Schedule there will be
NO SATURDAY CONFESSIONS
at either worship site on Dec. 24th.**



Join us at either worship site, 11:30 pm Christmas eve. for the Christmas musical prelude leading up to Midnight Mass

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalms — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

St. Philip Neri Elementary School Open House

Prospective families of incoming students (all grades)
are invited to join us Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00pm.
in the Kindergarten Classroom,
3101 Van Buren St.
Call school office 510-521-0787 for more information.

Santo Nino Prayer Group—Fiesta Celebration!

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012 @ St. Philip Neri - Mass at 5:00 pm

(please bring statues to front of altar no later than 4:45, NOT during Mass)
followed by reception in Msgr. O'Brien Hall— All are Welcome!

Traditional "Karakol" 6:30 pm Dinner @ 7:00pm

Lita & Max 865-3287 Lita & Greg 865-7442 Josie & Efren 522-6461



Sunday, January 15, 2012 @ St. Albert the Great - Mass at 10:30am

(please bring statues to front of altar no later than 10:15, NOT during Mass)

Reception follows in the SA parish hall.



ADVENT GIVING TREE—THANK YOU!!!

Thank you all for your contributions! Parishioners at SPN-SA are always so generous to those in need!

We deeply appreciate all that you have done to make this holiday season brighter for those at St. Mary's Center, A Friendly Manor, St. Vincent DePaul Downtown Center, the clients of our parish St. Vincent DePaul Conference and the HIV/AIDS Ministry clients served by the AIDS Ministry. May God always bless you for your thoughtful consideration of others!

PRAY FOR ... the deceased, Ron Lappa, and Peggy Picillo, and the sick of our parish, especially Linda Morales, Shirley Morrison, Melinda Baiscan, Alwinchell Co, Louie DiGiulio, Connie Servente, Albert Berry, Kathleen, Johnny Pacis, Trudi LeDruillenec, Jewell Pinter, Mary Beth Byrne, Colette Fox, Vichitra Chinnavaso, Lee Davis, Bob Santos, Rick Freitas, Donald Watson, & Jean West, And we pray for all our military personnel in harms way, especially Alvin Garabiles, and Jeff Brandon. Call 373-5200*205 to add or remove a name from the sick list. If you know someone, or are someone who would like to receive Communion from an EM to the Homebound; please call the parish office. If you know someone, or are someone who is in need of hot-meal service, call Rosemary Reilly - Meals On Wheels at 865-6131. If you know someone who would like a "FRIENDLY VISITOR", for companionship to the homebound call Kathy Miranda - Friendly Visitors at 748-0342.





**Alameda Deanery Advent Penance Service will be held
at St. Joseph Basilica Monday, December 19th at 7:00pm**
Individual Confession times can be arranged by calling the priests directly.
Fr. Joy 510-373-5201 Fr. Raju 510-373-5202

The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who made this year such a success. We appreciate your support for our Bake Sales, Garage Sale, Pasta Dinner and the recent Autumn Harvest Sale. The Harvest Sale earned over \$3,000.00 which was possible due to the donations of our "angels" who underwrote the raffle prizes.

After pondering this decision for many months, I am stepping down as president of the Women's Guild.

We wish you and your families a blessed holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Vicki Cuadra, President

Go the extra mile. It's never crowded. ~Author Unknown

We wish to offer our appreciation to Vicki Cuadra for her service to the SPN-SA community as president of the Women's Guild. Thanks for "going the extra mile"!

The Free Dining Room, part of St. Vincent de Paul Community Center in downtown Oakland, is seeking regular, weekday (Monday through Friday) volunteers to help serve 1,000 trays per day. Dining Room volunteers prep the meal, serve the meal and, most importantly, help their neighbors find pathways out of poverty. The shift is from 9am to 1pm, at 675 23rd street in downtown Oakland. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in the Dining Room once per week, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at **877-9252** or volunteer@svdp-alameda.org for more information.

Friends & relatives in town for the Holidays? Looking for something fun to do together on a Tuesday evening?

JOIN US for BINGO at St. Philip Neri, Msgr. O'Brien Hall

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 for our Christmas celebration

December 27th we play as well.

January 3, 2012 we celebrate the NEW YEAR !

Doors open at 5pm, games begin 7pm Dinner. Snack bar, pull-tabs, specials



EWTN will air Christmas liturgies from Rome & Washington as follows: Pope Benedict offers Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24 at 1 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass from the National Shrine in Washington, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Mass for Christmas Day at the National Shrine, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.; Papal Message to Rome & the World, Dec. 25 at 7 p.m. At year's end, the Pope leads a Vespers of Thanksgiving, Dec. 31 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. EWTN is carried 24/7 on Comcast Channel 30 and 229, AT&T Channel 562, DISH Satellite Channel 261 and Direct TV Channel 370.

SPN office hours M-F 9-4 SA office hours M-F 9-noon
Staffed by the Missionaries of Faith since 2008

For Baptisms: call parish office first for interview with Fr. Joy, or Fr. Raju, parish registration & preparation class are required

Individual Confessions: call 373-5201 or 373-5202 for appointment,

Saturday Confessions : SA- 4:00-4:30 pm Saturday SPN- 3:30-4:30pm Saturday

For Weddings: call priest at least 6 months in advance, parish registration & preparation class are required.

St. Philip Neri Mass schedule: Monday-Saturday 8:30 am

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 9:00am and 11:30am Holy Days: Vigil 6:00pm & 8:30 am

St. Philip Neri School: 1335 High St. Alameda, 94501 Principal: Janis Palana 521-0787

St. Albert the Great Mass schedule: Monday-Saturday 7:30 am

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am ,and 10:30am Holy Days: 7:30 am & 6:00pm

Bulletin submissions can be mailed, faxed or E-mailed to SPN office & must be received at least 10 days in advance of publication.

EVENTS AT SA

Prayer & Meditation —1st & 3rd Mon. 7:30pm rectory
Sept.—May

Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina— 1st & 3rd
Tuesdays 7:30pm In the Rectory

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena—
Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Church

Our Lady's Prayer Group—Meets Wednes-
days from 7:30-9:00pm in the Church

Women's Guild—Meets 2nd Wednesday at
9:00am in the Parish Hall

St. Vincent de Paul Society— 2nd Sun..9AM in
the Rectory Meeting Room

Mass of Anointing— First Fridays 9:30am

Legion of Mary—Saturday 11AM Rectory

Rosary Makers— 3rd Sat. 8am Hall

EVENTS AT SPN

Monday Eve. Prayer & Scripture Study—7pm
Church

Monday— 3:15-4:15 children's choir practice in church
during school year

Tuesday INQUIRY—Interested in Catholicism?
7:00-8:45pm Annex

Tuesday BINGO— Parish Hall. 7pm.

Wednesday (2nd & 4th) MOM's Group—
Children's Chapel 1-2:10pm

Thursday— adult choir practice 7-8:30pm church

Knights of Columbus—Meets 2nd Wednesday
of the month 7:00pm Rectory Basement

Direction for our Times—2nd Thursday in
church follows morning Mass

E-Team—3rd Thurs. 7pm annex

3rd Order Carmelites- 3rd Friday 7pm

Parish Staff:

Mary Ann Bachmann, Office Administrator and bulletin editor
373-5200 x 205secretary@saspn.org

JaNet Hancock Music Director 373-5210 x 209...music@saspn.org

Cathy Manzo Youth Ministry 373-5210 x 206 ... action@saspn.org

Margaret Mariani, office support (after 2pm) & facilities coordinator
373-5200 x 210

Janis Allocco SPN Elementary School Principal 521-0787

Jesus Romero CFF director 373-5210 x 208... cff@saspn.org

Greta Rosenberger MDiv, MA, RCIA, adult formation & Evangelization
373-5210 x 207..... aff@saspn.org

Anh Truong, parish bookkeeper 373-5200 x 305.. bookkeeper@saspn.org

PARISH PLANNING COMMITTEES:

Finance Council meets 1st Wed. 5:30pm chair Greg Falkner

Liturgical Committee meets 2nd Monday 6:30pm chair: Diane Bustos

Pastoral Council meets 2nd Tuesday 6:30pm chair: Tom Lewellyn

Stewardship Council 4th Thurs. 7 pm chairs Janice Nelson & Lea Murphy

St. Vincent dePaul Conference, assistance to the needy call 373-5226
chair : Donna Watson

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

If you are new to the parish or never registered, please take a mo-
ment to fill out the form below & drop it in the collection basket in or
the office mail box. We'd love to get to know you better!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: day _____ eve: _____

EMAIL _____

2011 Christmas Mass Schedules

St. Philip Neri

Christmas Eve.

Saturday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Daily Mass
5:00p.m. Family Mass
11:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude
12:00 a.m. MIDNIGHT Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2012

9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

St. Albert the Great

Christmas Eve.

Saturday, December 24

5:00 a.m. Simbang Gabi
7:30 a.m. Daily Mass
4:00 p.m. Family Mass
11:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude
12:00 a.m. MIDNIGHT Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2012

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.