Mass Schedule

Sunday  
7:30 am - 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
12:30 pm (Spanish) 4:30 pm (Vietnamese)

Saturday  
8:15 am - 4:30 pm (Vigil)

Daily (Monday to Friday) 7:00 am - 8:15 am

Holy Days  
7:00 am  8:15 am  7:00 pm

1st Friday Exposition — 12:30 to 4:45 pm

Sacraments

Reconciliation—Saturday, 3:15 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism—4th Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m.  
Contact Parish Office for information

Marriage—Arrangements to be made 6 months prior to the wedding.

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Tuesday  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday - Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas Khue  
Parochial Administrator  
Ext. 286

Rev. Eddie Castañas  
Parochial Vicar  
Ext. 297

Rev. Tran T. Dinh  
In residence  
351-5221

Deacon Timothy Myers  
timothykentmyers@gmail.com

Mercey Zamora  
Pastoral Assoc./Spanish Ministry  
347-1293

Sr. Mary Anh Cong (LHC)  
Liturgical Ministries  
Vietnamese Community  
Altar Servers  
347-1283

Sr. Ancilla Marie Le (LHC)  
Pastoral Care  
347-1287

Sharon Clancy  
Office Secretary  
351-5244

Judi Lema  
Bulletin  
347-1284

Convent  
351-5577

Parish School  
357-2530

1650 Manor Blvd.  
Fax: 357-5358

Meghan Jorgensen  
Principal

Religious Education Office

Sandi Walton  
Director of Religious Education  
347-1282

Fax: 510-351-5730  
stfelicitasccd@comcast.net

Geri Lara  
Youth Services  
347-1285 or 326-5693  
stfelicitasym@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul  
706-1972

EMERGENCY NUMBER (510) 309-8097  
(During non-office hours)
My dear friends,

This year 2015, Saint Felicitas Parish here in San Leandro joyfully celebrates and welcomes you to our first Simbang Gabi celebration! Early morning masses during the Christmas Season at 5:00 a.m. – Simbang Gabi is a typical Filipino way of preparing for the great feast of Christmas. It has its liturgical relevance in connection with the Season of Advent, being the time of spiritual preparation and purification to worthily welcome and receive the Child Jesus in our midst. The Mass at Dawn, Simbang Gabi, is a nine-day novena to the Blessed Mother. It starts every December 16th and is one of the longest and most important religious celebrations in the Philippines that had been practiced for over 600 years.

The rich history of this tradition traces its roots to Mexico when in 1587, the pope granted the petition of Fray Diego de Soria, prior of the convent of San Agustin Acolman, to hold Christmas Mass outdoors because there were huge number of people attending the evening Mass that they could not accommodate. Originally, Simbang Gabi was popularly known as Misa de Aguinaldo and Misa de Gallo (Rooster’s Mass) in the traditional Spanish. These Masses were celebrated in the early morning hours, when the roosters crow to announce the coming of a new day.

“Aguinaldo” means “gift” which is peculiar to Christmas. Along with this idea, Filipino Catholics wakes up early in the morning for nine consecutive days before Christmas to participate in this festivity. This observance is a kind of “Aguinaldo” to God for the great gift of Jesus, the second divine person of the Holy Trinity who embraced fully our humanity. It can also mean as the preparation of the faithful to receive from God the great gift or “Aguinaldo” of Christmas, which is Jesus, the Savior of the world. Furthermore, Simbang Gabi is also an expression of the Filipino Catholics undying devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. This nine-day dawn masses that start on December 16 are masses that are considered as a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Catholic faithful. We, Catholics, believe that completing the novena is also supposed to mean that God might grant the devotee’s special wish or favor.

During the First Plenary Council of the Philippines in 1953, a formal petition to Rome was made to formalize Simbang Gabi. The Papal Indult permitted the request with these conditions: “On the nine days preceding the Nativity of our Lord, i.e., from December 16 to 24, the solemn votive Mass Rorate Coeli Desuper is sung especially in parish and convent churches, but only once a day with great solemnity and with a big attendance of the faithful.” (Acta et Decreta Primi Concilii Plenarii Ins. Phil, 1953, n. 356: J. Ylla, OP, Indultos y Privilegios de Filipinas, UST Press, 1960, p. 24.) On March 24, 1961, Rome granted the continuation of this Indult for five years. (Cf. A. Santamaria, “Misas de Aguinaldo” in Boletin Ecclesiastico de Filipinas, April 1961, pp. 470-471) Today, everywhere in the Philippines, the Simbang Gabi is celebrated with great solemnity, with the singing of the “Gloria”, in white vestments, and with Christmas carols and festive ornamentations, in contrast with the sober character of the Advent season.

Since the beginning, the Simbang Gabi has always been celebrated at an early hour, from 4:00 to 5:00 AM. It is this Mass alone that is considered Simbang Gabi or Misa de Aguinaldo. Other Masses celebrated during the nine days before Christmas are celebrated as Masses of the Advent season, and should follow the norms of the liturgy of the Advent season.

For Filipino Catholics, we should not forget the significance of Simbang Gabi to us. It is not just the tradition that is celebrated because we need to do so. The importance of this event is not only to bring us closer with one another but it is also a moment for us to intensify our faith and make it as our gift to others. This is the very moment when we are to ponder Christ’s presence in our midst and be able to respond of His invitation of making Him better known to others. The blessing of observing Simbang Gabi does not depend on the number of mass attended, or whether we completed the whole 9-day mass, but what is important is the disposition of the person who receives the Lord’s blessing and our openness to warmly and actively engaged in the joyous hope and preparation of Christ’s coming.

Through Simbang Gabi, the Filipino Association of Saint Felicitas Church here in San Leandro hopes to offer not only to Filipinos but for everyone, a deeper spiritual experience of our faith that will guide us to have a more meaningful Christmas season. It is also our fervent prayer that this celebration will facilitate better sharing of faith and culture in our church, thereby strengthening our fellowship with another as one family of God with diverse gifts. We hope to see Filipino and non-Filipinos to participate in this joyous event in order to embrace this opportunity for sharing and experiencing diverse religious expressions and cultural traditions. Mass sponsors and donations are all welcome for this event in our parish. Come and join us in our Simbang Gabi celebration from December 16th- 24th every 5:00 o’clock in the morning followed by breakfast at the school gym. Have a wonderful and holy Advent Season everyone!

Halina Hesus, Halina! (O Come, O Come Emmanuel!)
Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

Events for Today

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Faith Formation—K to 6th Grade
9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the School
Confirmation I—5:00 p.m.—Gym
Confirmation II—6:30 p.m.—Gym

Second Collection
This Week: Maintenance
Next Week: Religious Retirement

Events for the Week December 7, 2015

Mon 12/7
6:45 pm  Jr. High Faith Formation  School

Tues 12/8
3:00 pm  Faith Formation - Parent Faith Share  SMC
7:00 pm  Spanish Bible Study  AE Room

Wed 12/9
7:00 pm  Altar Servers Meeting  Church
7:00 pm  Family Choir Practice (10:30)  SJC Chapel
7:00 pm  Spanish Catechist Meeting  SMC
7:00 pm  Spanish Juvenile and Adult Choir Practice  AE Room

Thurs 12/10
6:30 pm  Filipino Meeting  AE room
7:00 pm  Spanish Youth Group  Soc. Hall

Fri 12/11
7:00 pm  Spanish Children's Choir  Soc. Hall
7:30 pm  Vietnamese Choir Practice  AE Room

Sat 12/12
7:00 pm  Vietnamese Children's Choir Practice  AE Room
7:00 pm  Vietnamese Nativity Play Practice  Church

Support Elderly Religious. A parishioner writes, “As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful.” Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement fund for Religious.

To New Altar Servers and Parents:
For those who have not attended the last meeting on Nov. 11 it is mandatory that you attend this meeting which is on:
Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.
at Church. For more information please call:
Sister Mary Anh at 351-5577 or E-mail her at sistermaryanhcong@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL CORNER

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<td><strong>Our Weekly Goal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Collection—</strong></td>
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**Our Weekly Goal**

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Thank you for your continued generosity

Flowers for our Christmas Altar
Would you like a Poinsettia on the altar in memory of a loved one or to honor your family or someone special? We are in need of donations to make our altar more festive as we welcome the Christ Child once again into our hearts. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church for you to use or you may simply use a plain envelope and mark it “Poinsettia” and drop it in the collection basket. If you use a plain envelope don’t forget to enclose a note with the name of the person you wish to honor. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones. Please be sure to write the name the way you would like it to appear on a special page in the bulletin. All donations must be received by December 20th.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This is a Holy Day of Obligation

Masses are as follows:
December 7, 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
December 8 Masses are at 7:00 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mass starts the “Jubilee Year of Mercy.”

Advent Reconciliation
December 10 at 1:30-2:30
For those who are unable to come to the evening service.

Parish Communal Penance Service
December 22 at 7:00 p.m.
There will be several priests available to hear confessions in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Filipino.

Simbang Gabi or Misa De Gallo
December 16 to 24.
Daily Mass at 5:00 a.m.
Chairperson—Linda Laxamana 510-614-2209
Please Pray for . . .

Ursula Abella  Natividad Hollman  Peter Purificacions
Roseann Adam  Linda Holt  Raul Quintero
Paul Bartels  Rich Hulsmann  Raul Retumalta
Dan Bautista  James Jandik  Joel Rivera
Raymond Bautista  Sharon Jandik  Dora Romero
Maria Beam  Sonia Lagos  Edgar Romero
Robert Billmire  Sara Le Fargo  Max Romero
Olivia Camcarm  Virgilio Legaspi  Brandon Lee Salazar
Pearle Cezair  Agnes Lemos  Joseph Sanches
Carl Conti  Joseph Leo  Darryl Shields
Suzanne Cook  Josefinia Lopez  Laverne Shold
Angelita Corral  Barbara Maloon  Mike Silva
Dee Darbo  Madeline Marks  Amy Smith
Rebecca Diaz  Angela Martinez  Peter Smith
Richardo Duenas  LaVerne Marts  Sheryl Smith
Juanita Estrellas  Rose Matty  Toni Soulis
Victoria Felix  Mary Jane McSharry  Arthur Spencer
Margarita Ferreira  Rosemary Medeiros  Robert Spencer
David Fiscus  Mel Mederious  Patricia Scott
Melba Fiscus  Peggy Miller  Nguyen Duc Tan
Edward Fletcher  Carmen Moeller  Anne Tran
Jasmine Fortuna  Eppie Montano  Mary Valladon
Ken Frakes  Pete Muskopf  Elizabeth Valdez
Caroline Francis  Khoat Nguyen  Daniella Varella
Jeanette Frazee  Maria Nguyen  Adeleine Vargas
Ruth Gemma  Tu Nguyen  John Vargas
Bailey Gendreau  Wyatt Norell  Maria Jesus Vargas
Sabina Gonsalzes  John O’Keefe  Mariah ‘Mia’ Vicedo
Rudy Grego  Armando Ortiz  Janal Watkins
Connie Guaraglia  Aria Pardo (Baby)  Denise Wehrman
Joyce Guaraglia  Ruth Peguero  Joyce White
matilde guerro  Ella Pennington  Dolores Williams
Leo Gutierrez  MaPham  Michael
Mae Heasley  George Peraldi  Witherspoon
Paul Prado  Mary Young

A name posted in dark print was added to the prayer list this week!

Please pray for Alex Bradley and his brother, Preston Ridgway, who are serving in the Middle East

Second Sunday of Advent

This Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will open the “Holy Door” in Saint Peter’s Basilica, symbolically opening the Jubilee Year of Mercy. In today’s scriptures, Baruch confidently anticipates God’s healing of the brokenness of humanity, and Paul sees God bringing our discernment, knowledge, and love to fulfillment. Our experience of life and of ourselves can make such prophecies seem wildly optimistic, even hopelessly naïve. Pope Francis challenges us to live this Jubilee Year as a graced time, when God’s mercy reawakens our enthusiasm to live our baptismal call as gospel people, our hope renewed and ourselves recommitted to selfless charity. Notice that in Luke’s Gospel today, God bypasses the religious elite and politically powerful to speak to a humble believer in the barren desert the saving word that will transform history. So God’s mercy continues to accomplish humanity’s salvation in and through ordinary, flawed, and least likely instruments—even us.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
St. Felicitas Parish Christmas Pageant
December 24, 2015
5:00 p.m. Mass

Children attending St. Felicitas School or Faith Formation Classes, from Kindergarten through sixth grade, are invited to participate in the Children’s Christmas Pageant at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

All interested children will be members of our choir; there are limited parts of the Nativity, which will be assigned randomly to the children. Practices will be held in the church on:

Wednesday, December 16 – 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
Monday, December 21 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

If your child/children are interested in participating in the Pageant, please contact Sandi in the Faith Formation office at 347-1282.

Our Lady of Guadalupe — A Model of Compassion and Respect

On December 12, we honor Mary as “Our Lady of Guadalupe,” the patroness of the Americas. This feast day offers an opportunity to reflect on living our faith with the love, compassion, and respect that Mary herself exhibited.

On the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we recall the appearance of Mary before Saint Juan Diego, a poor Aztec Indian peasant, on a hill in Mexico in 1531. Clothed like an Aztec princess, Mary spoke to Juan in his own language. Her request—that Juan go to the local bishop and instruct him to build a church on that very spot—took Juan by surprise. Why, he wondered, would a bishop listen to someone as lowly and humble as he? Yet Mary entrusted him with this important task. After first being refused by the bishop, Juan returned to the bishop with a sign given to him by Mary—roses that bloomed, impossibly, in winter. When he opened his tilma, or cloak, the roses spilled out, and inside the tilma was imprinted the beautiful image of Mary as she appeared to Juan. The bishop built the church, and Mary’s love and compassion were extended to the people of Mexico and beyond.

Mary’s kindness and respect toward Juan and sensitivity to his culture are powerful reminders to respect the dignity of others, especially those who are poor or “different” from us. Mary also evangelizes. Over the centuries, she has brought the love of her Son to millions of people who otherwise might not have known Him. Her example is one to emulate in our roles as teachers, parents, catechists, and believers.

Let us celebrate on December 12th the feast of Our Lady O Guadalupe with a great enthusiastic love.
INVITACION

Fiesta en Honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sábado Diciembre 12, 2015

6:00 a.m.   Alborada, Acto Mariano, Poemas, Rosario
7:00 a.m.   Homenaje a Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe,
            Mañanitas y Loores, Mariachi
            “Los Alcones de Oakland”
8:15 a.m.   Tributo a Maria: Danza Azteca
8:30 a.m.   Celebración de la Eucaristía
            Liturgia musical: Mariachi
            “Los Alcones de Oakland”
10:00 a.m.  Después de Misa Procesión al Gimnasio
            “Monseñor McGinty,” donde tendremos un
            alegre convivivio, amenizado por el Mariachi:
            “Los Alcones de Oakland” y un apetitoso
            “Brunch”. ¡Venid a rendir tributo a Maria!
            “¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí, que soy tu Madre?”

Apareció entonces en el cielo una figura prodigiosa: una mujer envuelta por el sol, con la luna bajo sus pies y con una corona de doce estrellas en la cabeza.

Apocalipsis 12:1
Take Action – Stand in solidarity with Syrian refugees

By Eric L. Steckel

In the wake of the tragic events in Paris on November 13, 2015, Catholic Charities of the East Bay urges the community to stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of Syrians and others displaced by the violence in their homeland.

While this is a complex issue, we urge our community to avoid the impulse to blame all refugees for the actions of terrorist organizations. They, too, are victims of violence and persecution and seek a place of safety and freedom. Instead, let us stand firm and serve the marginalized, just as we pray for continued healing and safety in our communities.

We urge you to take action Today:

Call your Representative and Senators: 1-866-961-4293 or:

Senator Barbara Boxer: (202) 224-3553
Senator Diane Feinstein: (202) 224-3841
Rep. Mike Thompson (District 5): (202) 225-3311
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (District 11): (202) 225-2095
Rep. Barbara Lee (District 13): (202) 225-2661

Email the House Speaker’s office: duppler@mail.house.gov

**In addition, Representative Hudson (NC-08) has drafted legislation that aims to essentially stop all Syrian resettlement. His effort is gaining traction quickly. It is very important that his office is flooded with positive calls about refugees and refugee resettlement TODAY. Please call his DC office at 202-225-3715 and/or his district office at 704-786-1612. To e-mail him please go to: https://hudson.house.gov/email-me**

When you call, tell the receptionist that as a constituent, you want to help WELCOME Syrian refugees and that you are against the calls of some governors to reject Syrian refugees. Example: “I’m a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the Senator / Representative / Governor to represent me and other constituents who seek to welcome Syrian refugees.”

Here are some helpful points that you may want to mention, but the most important point is your story and why your community wants to welcome Syrian refugees!

- Welcoming refugees is the American way and an important part of the Catholic Christian calling.
- The US government handpicks the refugees who resettle here, and refugees are the most thoroughly vetted people to come to the United States.
- All refugees resettled in the United States undergo rigorous security screenings by the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies, including biometric checks, forensic testing, medical screenings and in-person interviews.
- This is not an either/or situation. The United States can continue to welcome refugees while also continuing to ensure national security. We must do both.