



50 Years

1966-2016

Celebrating Our 50 Years

Journey of Faith



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 18, 2016



Our Lady Of Good Counsel Church

2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro, CA

Mailing address : 14112 Azores Place, San Leandro, CA 94577

OFFICE : (510) 614-2765 www.olgcsanleandro.com RECTORY: (510) 969-7013

Administrator: FR. JAN RUDZEWICZ Deacon Thomas Martin

Parish Office hour : 9:30 AM—2:30 PM Monday to Friday

Secretary: LINO POBLETE

MASSES:

Saturday Vigil : 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 11:00am & 12:30 pm (in Polish)

Second Sunday: 3:00 pm - El Shaddai

Third Sunday: 2:00 pm - Virgin of Penafrancia

Holy Days: 9:00 am & 7:30 pm

Weekdays: (Monday - Friday) 9:00 am

First Saturday—8:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 4:00 -4:45 pm

First Friday— 8 pm

BAPTISMS AND WEDDING

By appointment : (510) 614-2765

ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL

Monday—Saturday—9:30am—7 pm

First Friday— 8pm-9pm—at the Church

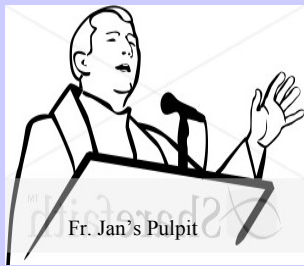
9pm-12mn—at the Chapel

PARISH HALL INFORMATION

Call: (510) 501-4894 -Tuesday & Thursday

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ CCD

Sunday morning – All grades after 8:30 Mass



CHRISTMAS IN MY "OLD COUNTRY"

Each year, as Christmas approaches, I can't help but think of my ancestral country Poland, and joyfully recall all the activities, celebrations and customs that are still dear to my heart.

In my family we all were involved in preparation for Christmas. There was a lot of cleaning around the house. The windows had to be washed and the floors and walls had to be cleaned.

Mom was very busy with the baking and cooking. We children couldn't wait to try at least some of these goodies.

Our Christmas tree was put up not earlier than one day before Christmas. It had to be a real one brought in from the nearby forest and its natural aroma always filled the entire house. The ornaments, made of blown glass and painted by hand, were very delicate so we had to be careful not to drop them on the floor. They came in different shapes - some round, others like icicles, pine cones or angels. We also had our own ornaments made from paper, wood, straw, or hallowed eggs. Candies rapt in colorful shiny papers were hung on the tree too. They couldn't be touched till Christmas season was over.

The most beloved and beautiful of all traditions was always Christmas Eve Supper called "Wigilia" (pronounced: *vee-GHEE-lee-uh* – meaning 'Vigil'). Before sitting down at the table, the head of the family read the gospel about Jesus' birth and led all in prayer. Next, each family member took a piece of a traditional wafer ("*Oplatek*") in his/her hands and shared it with others. At the same time we exchanged our good wishes for health, wealth and happiness in the New Year. This was such a deeply moving moment that often evoked the tears of love and joy from the family members who were breaking this symbolic bread. The "*Oplatek*" was a thin, unleavened wafer similar to altar bread. It was stamped with the figures of the Holy Family and the angles. Until now this wafer is known as the bread of love that symbolizes Jesus himself and is often sent by mail to the absent members of the family.

Finally it was a time to enjoy the meal. Traditionally it consisted of twelve meatless dishes (*symbolizing 12 Apostles*) and included many kinds of fish, beet or mushroom soup, various dishes made from cabbage, mushrooms, or potatoes, "pierogi" (*dumplings*), followed by dried fruit compote and delicious pastries for dessert.

An extra place setting was added in memory of those who were not able to join the family for that special night.

When the traditional Christmas Eve Supper was over, we gathered next to the tree, to exchange gifts and sing our beautiful carols. Shortly before midnight, we were getting ready to go together as a family to our small parish church to welcome Jesus at the Shepherds' Mass.

For the next two days we continued our Christmas celebrations by going to the church and enjoying good food and the presence of our cousins and friends who were visiting us.

THIS WEEKS MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 17	Mark Rettig +
Sun	Dec 18	8:30 AM Cesar Tunay + 11:00 AM Rudy & Terrie Arrieta ++ Adoracion Velasco +
Mon	Dec 19	Rafael da Rosa ++ Anselmo Cunha Silva + Anna Dore Cunha
Tue	Dec 20	Deceased members of Duarte Family Pura de la Vega + All Souls in Purgatory
Wed	Dec 21	Deceased member of Oleveira Family Colin Suarez (BD) All Souls in Purgatory
Thu	Dec 22	Fatima & Beatriz Moniz (BD) Domingo Sousa Neto Nidia Pereira +
Fri	Dec 23	Cruz & Antonio Family (Thanksgiving) Rudy Ocasion + Honorato Legaspi + Ursita Roque +
Sat	Dec 24	
Sun	Dec 25	8:30 Joseph Pereira + 11:00 Anna Lippi Shannon & Mykel Vallar (BD) Thanksgiving to Jesus and Mary Jimmy Cruz & Family Juan Lapenias Sr.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Thursday:	St. John of Kanty
Friday:	The Vigil of Christmas
Saturday:	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday:	<u>Vigil</u> : Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

December 16th - 23rd - Simbang Gabi Masses

7:30pm. (Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16th after Mass in the parish hall)

December 24th (Saturday) - Concluding Simbang Gabi Mass - 6:00 in the morning

December 24th (Saturday) - Christmas Eve Family Mass with Caroling - 5:00pm

ChildrenChristmas Pageant to Vigil

December 24th/25th - Midnight Mass (12:00am)

December 25th (Sunday) - Christmas Day Masses - 8:30am and 11:00am

12:30 pm Christmas Mass in Polish

LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday collection (for general operating expenses)
Collected **\$1,852.00**

Restricted donations for: (Liability Insurance) **\$639.00**

Immaculate Conception	474.00
Polish Community	1,200.00
El Shaddai (other)	144.00
El Shaddai	700.00
Christmas Flower	232.00
Votive Candle	81.00
Adoration Chapel	121.00
St. Anne (donation box)	33.00
Hall rent (Penafrancia)	250.00
Hall Deposit (Rene Rosario)	300.00
Hall rent (Tanay Club)	1,000.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOS SUPPORT!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the ties of affection and authority that bound Europe's Catholics unraveled in the sixteenth century, many cultures lost time-honored customs of faith. Some customs proved to be especially difficult for the reformers to wrest away from the people, especially those celebrated in the home. This week in Sweden, a country where the Catholic Church was disestablished four hundred years ago, a Catholic martyr from Sicily is the most beloved figure. St. Lucia, Lucy, is celebrated on December 13. The long-story-short is that Lucy was a Christian whose father wanted to marry her off to a pagan fellow, and she rejected her father's authority. To make an example of her, her father had her killed. In the course of the brutal martyrdom, Lucy lost her beautiful eyes, but her vision was miraculously restored. The candles worn today by the eldest daughter of the family are tokens of the fire that refused to harm the saint. So this patroness of light and clear vision is revered on the shortest, darkest days of the Nordic winter. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century, December 13 was the winter solstice.

Today, young girls appear in the morning wearing lighted candles on their crowned heads (battery-operated now after many mishaps), and serve sweet rolls and coffee to everyone in the house. For the Swedes, who are not churchgoers, the "Lucias" are the official heralds of the holiday season and a sign of everyone's yearning for more light in this world. Europe once abounded with customs like this; the survival of this custom in Scandinavia is a sign of God's grace, and how fertile the soil is to receive the true message of Advent.

GETTING EVEN The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you. —*Anonymous*



Catholic Answers

Q. Why was Jesus' Glorified body scarred? From my understanding, our glorified bodies will be restored to proper condition, and we will no longer have any physical needs such as the need for food and drink. Why was Jesus scarred and why did he eat after his resurrection?

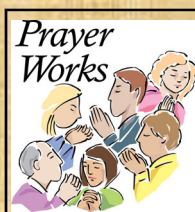
A. He retained the marks of the crucifixion to show those who saw Him that it was truly Himself. He ate to show them, as He said, the He was not merely a spirit; He was flesh and blood

Q. Is it possible for a priest to leave priesthood? It is impossible for a priest to no longer "be" a priest. Ordination makes an indelible mark upon the soul of the man ordained that can never be erased. He is forever a priest.

A. He can leave active ministry. A priest can be released from clerical duties and obligations. However, this is separate from his promise of celibacy. Even once released from public ministry he is required to remain celibate unless separately released from that promise, which only the Pope can do (canon 291). This release from celibacy is not quick, easy, or guaranteed but it is possible.

Q. Since Thomas was not there when Jesus breathed on the disciples, did he receive the Holy Spirit to forgive sins as the rest did?

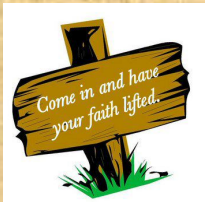
Now **Jesus** did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **St. Thomas** received the authority to bind and loose (Mt 18:18). This authority of binding and loosening involved the forgiveness of sins.



Requesting Your Prayers

Gary Anderson, Erlinda Arrieta, Leonor Yracheta, Andy Dangca, Priscilla Da Rosa, Belen Escondo, Annie Estrella, Mitchell Estrellas, Eddie Exevea, Nilda Falero, Mercy Gallardo, Arlene Goldsborough, Avelino Gapasin, Bill Haggerty, Erlinda Howard, Willie Orpiano, Pacita Macasieb, Bibiana Magat, Edward Mejia, Betty Miralles, Susan Nacu, Gail Ocasion, Frances Pangelinan, Aida Pineda, Patrick Posadas, Romeo Camantigue, Loreta Ramin, Peter Rosario, Maritess Sanchez, Rosa Maria Santos, Minda Santos, Linda Silverio, Augusto Uy, George Ybanez. Let us thank God for what doesn't need healing. Let us know if somebody wishes to receive Holy Communion at home or call Beth Mayor 510-483-1078.

As we pray for peace and end of violence let us pray for members of our community serving as missionaries and those in the military.



Welcome New Parishioners !

If you are not currently registered, please take a moment to fill this out and return it to the parish office, or you may drop it in the collection basket.

Name _____ Phone _____ New Parishioner
 Address _____ City _____ ZIP Code _____ New Address
 Updating Parish Information Send Sunday Envelopes Put on mailing list

OLGC THROUGH THE YEARS

