

**FIRST READING**

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways.

Isaiah 55: 6-9

**PSALM**

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.  
Psalms 145

**SECOND READING**

Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Philippians 1: 20-24, 27

**GOSPEL**

The last will be first, and the first will be last.

Matthew 20: 1-16



# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 21 SEPTEMBER 2008

As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are My ways above your ways.

Isaiah 55: 9

## CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 21-27 SEP

<b>SAT</b>	<b>05:00 PM</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Masses</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>MON</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	John Giovanzana
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Ira Castain
<b>TUE</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† James Alloro
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Maria De Jesus Graham
<b>WED</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Souls in Purgatory
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	The Storm and Bajanov families, living and deceased
<b>THU</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	The Heller and Niesen family
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	† Mary Diken and family
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Carolina Sylvestri
<b>FRI</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Marilyn Gula
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Amaury Oliveira
<b>SAT</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Kelly Cannard

### MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MON-FRI</b>	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
<b>MON-FRI</b>	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
<b>SAT</b>	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
<b>21 SEP</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour
<b>22 SEP</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
	07:30 PM	RCIA
	07:30 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society
<b>23 SEP</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Acts
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Acts
<b>24 SEP</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
<b>25 SEP</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
<b>26 SEP</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	
	06:00 PM	YPCW Evening of Reflection
<b>27 SEP</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
	03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Confessions (parish priest)



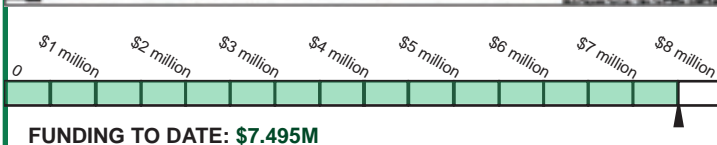
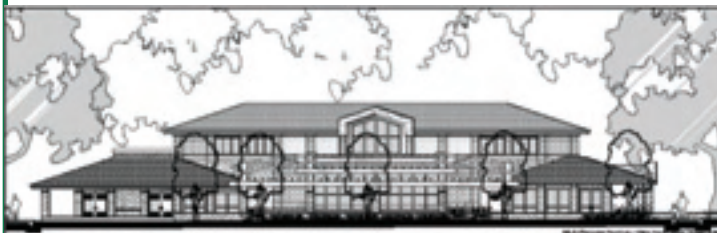
### 2<sup>nd</sup> SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a **second collection** at all Masses this week for the **Priests' Retirement Fund**.



### NATIVITY PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE I

#### MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILION AND KINDERGARTEN



### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS REMINDER

Deadline for item submissions is **12:00 noon Friday** by email to [nativity.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:nativity.bulletin@gmail.com), for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin 9 days later (e.g., due **26 Sep** to run **04-05 Oct**).



### PARISH OFFERINGS

		WEEK OF <b>06-07 SEP</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$	<b>11,865</b>
Annual Appeal Progress:	\$	<b>35,170</b>
2008 Annual Appeal Goal:	\$	<b>109,500</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

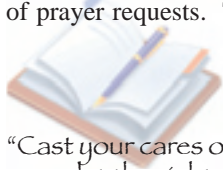
## 23 SEP (Tuesday): SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA, Priest (1887-1968)

A Capuchin priest, Padre Pio spent 50 years at the monastery of San Stefano Rotundo, where he was much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. He was known to pray the Rosary almost continuously throughout the day, and he bore the stigmata.



### ARE YOUR INTENTIONS "IN THE BOOK"?

Our legion of dedicated Eucharistic Adorers begin each hour by praying for (among others) all the intentions entered into our book of prayer requests. Tap into the unimaginable power of focused communal (and global) prayer and let your loving community lift your needs up before our Father.



"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." -- **Psalm 55: 22**

"Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." -- **John 16: 24**

## 27 SEP (Saturday): SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, Priest (1580-1660)

Like his fellow saint, **Francis de Sales**, who was his friend and contemporary, **Vincent de Paul** performed an invaluable service to the Catholic Church in a period of confusion and laxness. For men about to take Holy Orders, Vincent devised a set of spiritual exercises, and special exercises also for those desiring to make general Confession, or to settle on a vocation. He conferred frequently with the clergy on the correction of the shocking slackness, ignorance, and abuses that were all around them. To the Biblical injunction, "Thou art thy brother's keeper," he gave new practical meaning, by laying down patterns of philanthropy that have been followed ever since.



# MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

## EVENING OF REFLECTION CONTINUES

**Friday, 26 September 2008**, Nativity's own **Father Davenport** will be speaking. He will share a bit of his life story and about his devotion to the Divine Mercy. O'Hare Center opens at **07:00 PM**, talk starts at **07:30 PM**. For more information, please contact **Christine Broesamle** at [christine.therese@yahoo.com](mailto:christine.therese@yahoo.com) and join our yahoo group email list, [nativitycommunity@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nativitycommunity@yahoogroups.com)

## CHURCH DIRECTORY NEWS

If you had your picture taken for the directory please stop by the rectory and pick up your free copy. The office hours are **09:00 AM - 04:00 PM**, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions please call **650/323-7914**.

## ALTAR SERVER NEWS

Training for new altar servers will take place on **23-25 September 2008**, in the church from **03:00-04:00 PM**. If you are already an altar server and would like to brush up on your skills you are welcome also. Applications are available in the vestibule of the church or at [www.nativitystars.com/contact.html](http://www.nativitystars.com/contact.html). If you have any questions please call **Fr. Roland** at **650/323-7914**.

## FATIMA CELEBRATION

On **Monday, 13 October 2008**, we will hold our final monthly Fatima celebration for this year. It begins with Holy Mass at **07:30 PM**, followed by a talk on the appearance, rosary procession, and Eucharistic healing service. Please join us. For questions, contact **Deacon Dominick** or **Mary Ellen Peloso** at **650/322-3013**.



## NATIVITY BLOOD DRIVE

Our third **Nativity Community Blood Drive** will be held **28 September 2008** at Church. The Stanford Bloodmobile and staff will be waiting- to gratefully accept our generous donations, to restock their shelves. Please call **Maryclair Thomas** today to schedule your appointment (**650/327-9452**). Remember **THE BLOOD YOU GIVE MAY HELP SAVE A LIFE!**



## SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS

Sign-ups for the **Small Faith Sharing Groups** for the Fall Season will take place after all Masses on the weekend of **27-28 September 2008**. The resource materials will include prayers, reflections on the Sunday readings, faith sharing questions and ideas for action responses. Groups will begin the week of **12 October 2008** for six weekly sessions. Any questions, please call **Tim Kennedy** at **650/321-4818**.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:

**MON: 12:00 AM (midnight) - 01:00 AM**

**TUE: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**WED: 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM**

**FRI: 02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

**SAT: 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Please call **650/322-3013** for more information or to sign up.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OUR PARISH FAMILY



Please welcome the newest members of our Christian community:

- **Abigail Gabriela** daughter of **Gary Clarke** and **Jozefa Stefaniak**
- **Cole Lewis** son of **Joseph** and **Lindsey Galvin**
- **McKenzie Grace** daughter of **David** and **Colleen Kahn**
- **Liliana Isabel** daughter of **Hector Peraza** and **Yesenia Silva**
- **Griffin Remington** son of **Adam** and **Melissa Morey**
- **Stella Ann** daughter of **Erick** and **Janna Stonebarger**
- **Madeline Ann** daughter of **Jon** and **Nancy Wallace**

May these children and their families grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

We congratulate

- **David Kamrar** and **Vy Tran**
- **Jeffrey Hushley** and **Anne Tran**



on their recent marriages at Nativity. May these couples grow in grace, aided by the prayerful support of their parish family.

Nativity welcomes our newest parishioners:

- **Robert DeCou** and **Jeena Jiampetti**
- **Ashley Morgan**
- **Erin** and **Brian Armer** (*Katherine, Brooke, Ethan*)
- **Rachel** and **Joseph Lim** (*Joshua-Thomas, Jonah-William*)



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Checks for all second collections should be made out to the **Church of the Nativity**. In the memo line write what the appropriate reference for your donation, for example: *Priests' Retirement Fund*. This weekend there will be a second collection for the **Priests' Retirement Fund**. The money from this collection stays in this archdiocese and is used to help our retired priests, like our own Fr. Davenport, who have served our community so faithfully and so well for so many years. Please be generous.

## RESTORATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Our beautiful and much beloved old stained glass windows are in the process of being restored. The *Sacred Heart* window and the two windows beside it have already been removed and should be replaced by the end of October. The Parish Finance Council has approved this project, which may take up to five years to complete. Donors have already come forward with the funds for the rose window, the *Sacred Heart*, the *Blessed Mother* and several other windows. The remaining windows range from \$2400 to \$6000 each, except for the beautiful window in the bell tower, which is \$13,000. In October the window in the bell tower will be removed and restored in conjunction with the painting of the tower. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to this effort in any amount, please contact **Msgr. Otellini, 650/323-7914**.

## LOST AND FOUND

**Lost:** a large jasper and silver rosary with an ornate crucifix in a pouch. This rosary has much sentimental value for the owner. Please call **650/323-7914**.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## ICA GALA DINNER

**Immaculate Conception Academy** is celebrating **125 years** of educating young women by hosting our **First Annual Gala Dinner** on **04 October 2008**. Graduates, alumnae and family, along with all friends of the Academy, are invited to celebrate our history and an exciting new direction ICA will be taking in the future. You won't want to miss this night. For more information, please contact **Patricia Cavagnaro** at **415/824-2052, x31** or email at **pcavagnaro@icacademy.org**.

## WOMENS CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE STUDY

Come join women from parishes around the Bay Area for our upcoming study based on the text *Understanding the Scriptures: A Complete Course in Bible Study* by Scott Hahn. The format includes individual home study and small group discussions. We meet at **St. Marks** parish in Belmont on **Thursdays, 10:00-11:45 AM**, beginning **11 September 2008** through **28 May 2009** (with holiday breaks). For more information, visit **www.cssbelmont.com** or contact **Christine Fenwick** at **650/573-7942 (cssbelmont@gmail.com)**.

## FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The Archdiocese of San Francisco invites you to a Faithful Citizenship Workshop, for a discussion about *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a compelling document prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Workshops will be held from **07:00-08:30 PM** in the following locations:

**24 September 2008:** St. Bartholomew's Auditorium (San Mateo)

**25 September 2008:** St. Sebastian's Hall (Marin)

**26 September 2008:** Holy Name of Jesus Hall (San Francisco)

For more information: **415/614-5570**,

**www.sflifeandjustice.org**,

**publicpolicy@sfarchdiocese.org**.

## CCWF PRESENTATION

CCWF Presents *Our Bodies, Our Souls – Fertility Technology Challenges and Informed Consent*, **11 October 2008 08:30 AM-01:30 PM**, lunch included. Sheraton Sunnyvale. For more information contact **Michele Coldiron**, Executive Director, California Catholic Women's Forum.

**www.ccwf.org, 650/814-1995**

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact the Juan Diego Society at 408/258-2008 or the Gabriel Project at 800/910-0191.

*You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.*

# THE DIGNITY OF MARRIAGE

## WHO CREATED MARRIAGE?

“Sacred Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of ‘the wedding feast of the Lamb’, Scripture speaks throughout of marriage and its ‘mystery,’ its institution and the meaning God has given it, its origin and its end, and its various realizations throughout the history of salvation....”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1602)*

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole life, is by nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.”

*(CCC 1601)*

“The intimate community of life and love which constitutes the married state has been established by the Creator and endowed by him with its own proper laws...God himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution.... The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life.”

*(CCC 1603)*

Thus, through the Teaching of Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, we can know for certain that God is the author of marriage, and that He has written that gift in the “very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator.”

*(CCC Ibid.)*

## GOD CREATED MARRIAGE AND WROTE IT INTO OUR VERY NATURE

## WHAT IS THE NATURAL LAW, AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

“Man participates in the wisdom and goodness of the Creator who gives him mastery over his acts and the ability to govern himself with a view to the true and the good. The natural law expresses the original moral sense which enables man to discern by reason the good and the evil, the truth and the lie.”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1954)*

“The natural law is written and engraved in the soul of each and every man, because it is human reason ordaining him to do good and forbidding him to sin...But this command of human reason would not have the force of law if it were not the voice and interpreter of a higher reason to which our spirit and our freedom must be submitted.”

*(CCC Ibid)*

“The natural law, present in the heart of each man and established by reason, is universal in its precepts and its authority extends to all men. It expresses the dignity of the person and determines the basis for his fundamental rights and duties”

*(CCC 1956)*

“The natural law is immutable and permanent throughout the variations of history.... Even when it is rejected in its very principles, it cannot be destroyed or removed from the heart of man. It always rises again in the life of individuals and societies.”

*(CCC 1958)*

“The natural law, the Creator’s very good work, provides the solid foundation on which man can build the structure of moral rules to guide his choices. It also provides the indispensable moral foundation for building the human community. Finally, it provides the necessary basis for the civil law with which it is connected....”

*(CCC 1959)*

Thus we can see, that God is the author of the natural law from which all other law must evolve; the law on which marriage has been established by God Himself. The natural law is man’s rational participation in God’s Eternal Law, whose first principle is to “do good and avoid evil”.

## THE NATURAL LAW, FROM GOD’S ETERNAL LAW, IS IMMUTABLE

## WHAT DOES IMMUTABLE MEAN?

Immutable -not changeable, unalterable and permanent. Nature’s immutable laws are unalterable. A characteristic of the Divine Perfection. In short, God’s perfect laws can’t be changed.

*(The Concise Catholic Dictionary)*

(continued next week)



The **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** (USCCB) invites U.S. Catholics to pray before the November election a novena for life, justice, and peace called **Novena for Faithful Citizenship**. It is a podcast and available for download: ([www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts))

### DISCUSSING FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** has posted on [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) a series of articles by USCCB experts on issues pertinent to the November elections. Articles are in both English and Spanish. Topics include Immigration, Voting by Conscience, the Environment, Poverty, Iraq, Stem Cells, Gay Marriage, Abortion, Health Care and Economic Policy.

Please also see the schedule of **workshops** on **faithful citizenship** in the *In the Community* section of this bulletin.

### OTHER RESOURCES

[www.ewtn.com/vote](http://www.ewtn.com/vote)  
[www.cacatholic.org](http://www.cacatholic.org)



### PRAYER AND FASTING FOR PROPOSITIONS 4 AND 8

In November, Californians will be going to the polls to decide critical moral issues for the state: **Prop. 4** establishes a waiting period and parental notification for a minor seeking to obtain an abortion and **Prop. 8** would solidify in the California Constitution the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. Nativity invites you to participate in prayer and fasting. As to prayer, first we would ask that everyone say a **54-Day Rosary Novena** for their passage. This daily rosary would begin on **12 September** and end on **03 November**. The first 27 days are said in petition, and the second 27 in thanksgiving for hearing our request. Secondly, on **Sunday, 05 October**, we will be saying the **2,000 Hail Mary Prayer**: 2,000 Hail Mary's along with meditations and petitions will be said in church beginning at **01:30 PM** and ending about **10:00 PM** (with a break for 05:00 PM Mass). Please join us for all or even just part of the prayer. Finally, we should all give up something we enjoy (a certain food, TV, etc.) until 03 November for this intention. *"Fasting adds wings to our prayer."* Even a small sacrifice can make a big difference. Let us join with our bishops to work for passage of these two important propositions. For any questions about this, call **Deacon Dominick** or **Mary Ellen Peloso** at **650/322-3013**.

## Young Believers

### FIND-A-WORD

Can you locate all these words in the square full of letters?

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| HIGHER     | WAYS    |
| THOUGHTS   | LORD    |
| NEAR       | CONDUCT |
| YOURSELVES | WORTHY  |
| LAST       | FIRST   |
| GENEROUS   | WAGES   |

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Y L T G O D N X Z S
V O C A L E X L T N
T R U E A I R H L F
G D D R R G G I J I
E C N O S U S E J R
N H O Y O E O O O S
E E C H L S L A S T
R R T T E S T V O X
O U T R G O U S E S
U B U O N A W A Y S
S S T W A G E S N I
    
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(Just like in our lives, JESUS is always there, too.)

Nicodemus learned that he must believe in Jesus to be saved from sins. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

