December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." - Matthew 1:23

97 Shady Lane, PO Box 1061, Ross, CA 94957
Parish Office: (415) 453-2342
Office Fax: (415) 453-8713

Clergy:
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor ext. 15
Email: Fr.Shaji@saintanselm.org
Deacon Bernie O’Halloran
Deacon Ed Cunningham
Deacon Bob Meave

Parish Secretary:
Sissy Ratto ext. 10

Religious Education:
Natalie Larraga D.R.E. ext. 20
Dre@saintanselm.org

Health-Senior Ministry:
Rose Shadduck (415) 453-6533

Music Director:
Michael Mello (415) 453-2342

St. Anselm School:
Kim Orendorff, Principal
School Office: (415) 454-8667
School Fax: (415) 454-4730
info@SaintAnselm.org

Parish Email:
Parish Website: www.SaintAnselm.org
School Website: www.StAnselmSchool.com
CYO Website: www.stanselmcyo.org

Mass Schedule:
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm,
Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass:
Monday through Friday 8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 5:30pm

Parish Office Hours:
8:30am-1:00pm, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Holy Day Masses:
8:00am, 11:00am, 5:30pm

Reconciliation:
Saturdays 4:00pm-4:45pm
or by appointment

Baptism:
Preparation Class required,
call parish office

Sacrament of the Sick:
Anytime upon request.
Contact Pastor.

Matrimony:
Six months notification required prior to
desired date. Contact Pastor.

St. Vincent de Paul Help Desk: (415) 454-0366
Helping Hands: (415) 453-2342
Eucharist for Homebound: (415)-453-2342

St. Anselm’s Parish is a Catholic community formed by families, individuals and clergy that worship
together, celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, and seek to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
everyday. We welcome, serve, and educate.
Dear Parishioners,
During the Advent and Christmas season the focus of our attention is on Mary and the child, Jesus. We tend to overlook the role of Joseph. The Gospel reading taken from Matthew speaks about Joseph. Joseph is portrayed as a devout and sensitive man. We overlook the fact that Joseph was a courageous man who took the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife in response to a dream. He did not dismiss it as a dream, but looked at it as a message from God. What can we learn from this response from Joseph? We can learn that God is active in our lives as he was in the life of Joseph. God uses simple ways to inspire us and to tell us what we need to do in our lives. If we can spend a few minutes to reflect on our lives, we will see many instances wherein God inspired us. We will also realize that every time we responded to those inspirations God made a difference in our lives. During this Advent and Christmas season let us keep our hearts and minds open to God’s inspirations so that God can continue to work in us and transform us.

We are coming close to the end of the year and I want to remind you that we are short of our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal by $22,410. If you have not made a contribution this year, I would request you to prayerfully consider making a donation to AAA so that we will not have to pay the amount from our regular collection.

Yours Sincerely,
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor.

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ADOPT-A-FAMILY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS TREES
We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took a gift request ornament from our Christmas tree last weekend. We look forward to every wish being fulfilled by the very generous and thoughtful parishioners of our St. Anselm Church community. Return wrapped gifts, with the name tag attached, to the church no later than December 17th-18th. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and can be made by picking up an Adopt-A-Family envelope from the vestibule of the Church. Help spread Christmas Cheer to others in need, and make our 25th Anniversary our most successful year of giving.

AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT
We are fast approaching another Christmas and the often frantic rush to buy the right gift for our spouse or loved one. How about a wholly different take on the season of giving—give him or her a 3 day retreat free of home responsibilities and full of the spirit of Christmas, a Cursillo weekend? Cursillo, a Spanish word meaning a “short course” in Christian living, is a unique retreat experience that is presented largely by lay individuals who share their Christian walk in life through a series of informal talks and discussions. It is open to adult men and women of all Christian denominations and provides an opportunity to reflect on values and goals as Christians and is filled with music, great food, and tremendous humor. Cursillo weekends are held at the Angela Center in Santa Rosa. Our next weekend will be March 23rd –26th for men, and March 30th-April 2nd for women. January 29th, at the 10:00am Mass, you will hear from parishioners who have made Cursillo, and after Mass, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and pick up an application.

Come join us and give the gift that may last a lifetime!

GREEN TIP: HOW GREEN IS YOUR HOLIDAY?
Here are a few tips to make it fun and eco-friendly.
* Remember to bring your own reusable bags when shopping;
* Add rechargeable batteries and a charger to gifts of battery operated toys;
* Give a living plant to your favorite aunt instead of scented candles;
* If you are buying candles, look for beeswax, not (petroleum based) paraffin;
* Use greeting cards and gift wrap from recycled paper;
* Tie packages with fabric ribbons, not plastic;
* Use LED outdoor lights, on a timer.

What are some of your family’s favorite green practices? Let’s share!

BRINGING HOLY COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you know of a parishioner who is unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Rectory so that arrangements can be made for a Eucharistic Minister to bring the parishioner Holy Communion. Homebound includes anyone who is unable to attend Mass on an ongoing basis or anyone who is temporarily unable to go to Mass due to, for instance, a surgery, illness or injury.

Christmas & New Year Eves
St. Anselm's is the host for the homeless REST dinners on both Christmas and New Year Eve. We need additional volunteers to prepare and share the meal. Dinner is served at the First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo; we arrive at 5 pm and leave by 8 pm. If you are able to share your holidays with those who are spending their holidays on the hall floor, please email stanselm.restdinners@yahoo.com. You will then receive a link to the online schedule. Thank you.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Friday: St. John of Kanty
Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas

Christmas Schedule for the Rector Office:
The Office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th.

Do you want to make a difference in our community? Volunteer with your neighbors to help us understand homelessness in Marin County.

On Friday, January 27th, Marin County will be conducting our 2017 Point-in-Time Count to understand the number of homeless individuals living throughout the county. We are in need of community volunteers to work alongside currently or previously homeless guides to count the number of homeless individuals they see across all areas of Marin County. There will be a 1-hour training on January 20th to prepare you for the count, and you do not need any experience with homelessness.

The data we collect will be combined with shelter and survey data to give us a valid, accurate snapshot of homeless individuals, youth, and families. The resulting data will also help secure Marin County’s funding for homeless services for the following year. Please visit our online registration link at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017marinpit; or feel free to call Connie Chu, Applied Survey Research, at (408) 813-2419 or Eric Petersen, County of Marin, at (415) 473-3340
**St. Anselm Church Calendar of Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**
December 20– Advent Penance Service - 7:00pm
January 14 & 15– Wine & Cheese after 5:00pm
Mass

**Events Near St. Anselm Parish**

Friday, January 6, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - *Gather@Grand* - An evening with Archbishop John Wester speaking on *The Vocation and Mission of the Laity*. A long-time friend of the Sisters, Archbishop Wester has deep local roots. A fourth generation San Franciscan, he attended Our Lady of Mercy School in Daly City. After seminary, he earned Master’s degrees at the University of San Francisco and Holy Names College in Oakland. Ordained in 1976, he served as an associate pastor at St. Raphael Parish, and as teacher, Director of Campus Ministry, and later President, at Marin Catholic High School. Pope John Paul II appointed him an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1998. He was named Bishop of Salt Lake City in 2007, and was installed as the Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2015. Pope Francis has said that the laity are “Christ’s disciples who are called to animate every place and human activity in the world according to the spirit of the Gospel.” Please come listen to Archbishop Wester’s thoughts on the role of the laity in the Church today. **All are welcome!** *We will have light refreshments and time for your questions.*

- The Gathering Space - Dominican Sisters Center
- 1520 Grand Avenue, San Rafael between Acacia and Locust Sts
- RSVP CommunityRelations@sanrafaelop.org
- or call 415 453 - 8303

**Christmas Volunteer Opportunities with Catholic Charities**– Embrace the Christmas season by taking time to serve others and spread holiday joy throughout our community! There are several ways to get involved:
- Decorate, wrap gifts, or prepare food at any of the program holiday parties and luncheons.
- Donate gift cards to Target, Safeway, or Walgreens to help families in need buy gifts. Visit our website at CatholicCharitiessf.org/All-Opportunities to see the full list of opportunities. To volunteer with Catholic Charities, or for more information, please contact Diane Contreras atmvolunteer@CatholicCharitiesSF.org or 415-972-1297.

**Advent Speaker Series**
St. Patrick Church
114 King Street
Larkspur, CA

God welcomes you to spend one hour each week during Advent to wait for the One who can dramatically change your life for the better. Will you come and join us so we can await His arrival together?

- Candlelit prayer time: 6:30 – 7:00p.m.
- Guest speaker: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**December 21**
Sr. Patricia Bruno, O.P.
“Wisdom Stands at the Door and Waits”
Wine & Cheese Reception
Please RSVP: 415-924-0600
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) News:
For the last two and a half months our two RCIA participates, Marielle Leon and Nate Evans, have been receiving catechetical instruction by our Director of Religious Education. This past Sunday, December 11\textsuperscript{th} 2016, they went through their first RCIA threshold, the “Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance.” In the Rite of Acceptance, a change of identity takes place: those previously known as inquirers (those who are unbaptized) become catechumens. During the Rite of Welcoming, those who have already been baptized but have not received the rest of the sacraments are now acknowledged as Candidates. On Sunday, we accepted Nate Evans as our new Catechumen and welcomed Marielle Leon as our Candidate. We look forward to walking with them on their journey to full communion with the Church. After the Rite, parishioners had an opportunity to welcome them into our community. We thank Cathy Cunningham for coordinating the reception and all those who contributed.

(Marielle, Nate, Natalie)

Marielle was accompanied by her Sponsor Mordecai Boone (far left), while Nate was accompanied by his Godparent Mark Vieira (far right)

Our Candidate and Catechumen with their friends and family
Bulletin Number:
513520

Church Name and Address:
St. Anselm
97 Shady Lane
PO Box 1061
Ross, CA  94957-1061

Telephone:  415-453-2342

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Email:  st.anselmoffice@att.net

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