December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

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,
We are in the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation like the Israelites waiting in anticipation for the birth of the Messiah who would bring them freedom. During this period of advent we are invited to wait and prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. In today’s gospel from Luke, Jesus reminds us how easy it is to get lost in the busy activities of December. He warns us: *Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.* Without prayer and embracing intentional stillness in the season of Advent, it is so easy to feel as if the weeks before Christmas are racing by at a breathless pace. May our minds during this advent be not preoccupied with worries and anxiety! May these days of advent be a time of peace and serenity!

Yours Sincerely,
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

**December 8th is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Because the Holy Day lands on a Saturday, we will have a Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7th, at 5:30pm and then an 8:00am Mass on Saturday, December 8th.

From our Office of Worship: "When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations."

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**St. Anselm Church Stewardship**
Registered Parishioner Families 2018-1675
1st Collection: 11/18-$4,015, 11/25-$5,690
2nd Collection: Campaign for Human Development: 11/18-$876
Building & Maintenance: 11/25-$1,074
For Fire Victims: 11/25-$805
Ecumenical Service-11/21-$1,262
Electronic Weekly Donations-$2,625.00

Please visit our church website to sign-up for Electronic Donations

**Second Collections:**
St. Anselm School-December 2
Retirement for Religious-December 9

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

| Mon. | Dec. 3 | 8:00am | Dino Ratto (D)  
Peter Smiley (D) |
| Tues. | Dec. 4 | 8:00am | Communion Service  
John & Dinka Velcich (D) |
| Wed. | Dec. 5 | 8:00am | Fr. John Mitchell, S.J.  
(INT) |
| Thurs | Dec. 6 | 8:00am | Erin Thompson (D)  
Judy O’Connell-Allen (D) |
| Fri. | Dec. 7 | 8:00am | Special Intentions  
St. Anselm Mothers  
Parish People |
| Sat. | Dec. 8 | 8:00am | Concepcion Aguilar (D)  
Susan Palsa (INT) |
| Sun. | Dec. 9 | 8:00am | Erin Thompson (D)  
Fr. Peter McDonald (D)  
Parish People |

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**As a community we ask God’s blessing for the ill:**

**For the Repose of the Soul of:**
Gail Pierce, Mary Fahy

**For Our Military:**
Robert Gebhardt, Tyler Lopez, Alex Boatwright, Sean Courtz, Elizabeth Baumsteiger, Christian Miller, Robert Kent, Shane Morgan, John Loughran, William Ghiringhelli

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**
Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Lk 10:21-24
Tuesday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;  
Lk 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;  
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;  
Lk 3:1-6
St. Anselm’s Adopt a Family
28th Annual Christmas Appeal!
We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our “giving tree” over the past 28 years. Again this year we are reaching out to our generous parishioners of the St. Anselm Church community to help us fulfill Christmas wishes for local families in need. This weekend, please take a gift request tag from our “giving tree”, return the tag attached to the wrapped gift to the church by December 8th & 9th and no later than December 15th & 16th. Financial donations are always 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. THANK YOU very much. Questions please call: Paulette 415 453-9596

Advent Program, December 2nd, 3pm. – Church Actor Frank Runyeon presents The 3½ Stories of Christmas, a joy-filled story of light coming into the world, told from the angel’s point of view with laughter and music. Runyeon is a noted actor and performer of Biblical texts who in addition to numerous television credits, such as All My Children, studied at Fuller Seminary and Yale Divinity School. Adults and children of all ages are invited to join us for a thoughtful and entertaining program. Christmas treats will be served.

'Tis the Season for Wreaths & Gingerbread Houses
Help support the St. Anselm School community by purchasing a Holiday Wreath and/or Gingerbread House to enhance your holiday décor.

This Sunday, at 11:00am, join the St. Anselm School community in Centennial Hall to decorate your own Gingerbread House for the holidays! This is a fun way to celebrate the season and get into the merriment of the holidays. And, don't forget you can also get a "to-go" house if you can't make the event or you want a fun holiday gift for family or friends. Reserve a house online at www.stanselmschool.com and go to community, events and click on the link; or stop by the St. Anselm school office and complete a registration form. Questions – email Angela Quinlan at angmquinlan@gmail.com

ATTENTION LECTORS – Please pick up your 2019 Workbook from the back of the church. Please take the one with your name on it. Thank you for your continued dedication to such a vital Ministry in our Parish.

LITTLE BLUE BOOK- Please take a “Little Blue Book” home and read the daily stories and reflections for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. What a beautiful and simple way to truly grasp the “Reason for the Season”.

St. Anselm Christmas Pageants -Christmas is coming and the children and youth of our parish are rehearsing and giving their all to put together a wonderful reenactment of the birth of our Savior. Mark your calendars!
Sunday, December 16th at the 10am Mass- Reenactment by Religious Education & First Communion program
Sunday, December 16th at the 5pm Mass- Reenactment by Youth Ministry & Confirmation Program

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: First Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins
Monday: St. Francis Xavier
Tuesday: St. John Damascene
Thursday: St. Nicholas
Friday: St. Ambrose; First Friday Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Saturday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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<tr>
<th>St. Anselm Church Calendar of Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 2— Advent Performance— Live Gospel Presentation by actor Frank Runyeon- 3:00 -Church</td>
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<td>December 2— Decorate Gingerbread Houses- 11:00— Hall</td>
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<td>December 15— Healing Mass-5:00pm— Wine &amp; Cheese Reception to follow-Hall</td>
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<th>Events Near St. Anselm Parish</th>
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<td>Just Be-atitudes - December 8</td>
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<td>10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Healy Hall St. Patrick Parish, Larkspur</td>
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<td>Sr. Margaret Diener, Executive Director of the Santa Sabina Center, will guide us in reflection on the Beatitudes on this Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The morning will end with a simple lunch ($5 contribution). Please RSVP to Anna Biggio at (415) 388-1998 or <a href="mailto:sonoioann@gmail.com">sonoioann@gmail.com</a>. Hosted by the Italian Catholic Federation; open to everyone who is interested in deepening their faith during Advent.</td>
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Persons with special needs (shut-ins, developmentally disabled, etc.) who would enjoy fellowship are cordially invited to the Marin Handicapables Mass and Luncheon on **December 15, 2018**. This event will be held at Marin Catholic High School, 675 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Kentfield, with Mass at noon in the Chapel, followed by lunch and entertainment in the Student Center. Sponsors are The Order of Malta Western Association. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are requested. RSVP: Cheryl Giurlani, 415.308.4608 or cherylgiurlani@gmail.com. |

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<th>St. Vincent de Paul Society Vehicle Program</th>
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<td>St. Vincent de Paul of Marin has launched a new vehicle donation program in collaboration with SVDP National’s vehicle vendor, CARS. If you have a car that you would like to donate for a tax deduction, you can call 800-322-8284 or go online and fill out the donation form at <a href="http://vinnies.careasy.org/HOME.html">http://vinnies.careasy.org/HOME.html</a>. Your gift supports the SVDP Free Dining Room in San Rafael which serves over 500 meals daily.</td>
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<th>The Catholic Adult Singles Association of Marin</th>
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<td>is a group of 50+ single or single again Catholics who are interested in making new friends, taking part in social activities, sharing opportunities for spiritual growth and becoming involved in volunteer projects that will benefit our parishes, our community, and one another. We welcome those who are interested. For Membership &amp; Event information, please call Bob at 415 897-0639.</td>
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Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday. It’s not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God’s love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

History of Advent- The historic origin of Advent is not for certain; no evidence exists around the feast of the Nativity of the Lord before the end of the fourth century. Several homilies and synods made mention of a specific liturgical time before Christmas, but no rule existed until a note on the Mass parts appeared during the time of Pope St. Gregory VII from 1073-1085. Much like a Lenten period of fasting and sacrifice, the early Church urged Christians to dedicate this time to readying themselves for Christ. Their practices remind us that we are also called to be attentive to the message of repentance and the end times. This may seem unexpected considering the extravagant ways we eat, shop, celebrate, and rejoice as Christmas approaches!

Advent Traditions- The four weeks of Advent are popularly considered to symbolize the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ. We set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and decorate wreaths in our homes to signify Christ’s presence coming in the darkness of sin and suffering. Four candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. Advent colors are worn by the priests and deacons and decorate the church. They are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath: Violet: royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent) Rose: abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, joy in Latin) White: light and purity

Scripture and Prayers for Advent- During Advent there are three prevalent themes we see as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. We long for the Messiah, are urged to be alert for Jesus’ Second Coming, and meditate on Christ’s presence in our lives now. The Scripture readings for the four weeks of Advent and the Liturgy of the Hours revolve around the first two of these themes. They encourage proper preparation, point to the grace and humility of Mary, show us how to adore God in the Incarnation, and recognize the glory of Jesus and how he frees us from sin and ingratitude. We hear from the prophet Isaiah and are drawn to the compelling message of John the Baptist in the Gospels. It is important to consider how we can grow in spiritual wholeness during such a busy commercial season. Take time for silence and reflection each day with Scripture, a devotional prayer, or with an Advent calendar. Dwell with the scene of the Nativity. What is it like to imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph and to be with them as the baby Jesus comes into the world? Consider praying with saints or with the Liturgy of the Hours. A prayerful journey with the Holy Family and the Church throughout Advent will lead to gifts of gratitude and joy when we enter the Christmas Season.
Bulletin Number: 513520

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Software
  MS Publisher 2016
  Windows 10
  Adobe Acrobat DC

Transmission Time:
  9:30am Tuesday

Number of Pages sent:
  6 (including information page)