God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low. - Baruch 5:7
Dear Parishioners, 

In the Gospel reading of today Luke introduces us to the Messiah and his herald, John the Baptist. To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets the event within the framework of world history. Like most prophets of the Old Testament, John sets out to prepare the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah. Many years ago when I was a Parochial Vicar at St Hilary in Tiburon, I would often sit on the bench in the garden in front of the parish office. The view was partially blocked by trees with thick foliage. But then, when fall came the trees would shed their leaves and the view became spectacular. I was able to look through the skeletal branches to the Richardson bay, Belvedere Island and Sausalito. It was breath taking! Advent is a time of reflection and introspection. It is a time when we can let go of all the distractions of daily life, our worries, anxieties and problems and look through to the ultimate reality, “God out of his love for us send us his Son, born as a man to make us sons and daughters of God.” May these days of Advent be a peaceful and serene time in spite of our busy lives. May we be able to look beyond to know and experience God’s love for us in the person of Jesus!

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

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**Confessions**

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Advent Confessions-On, **Tuesday, December 18th**, from 6:00pm-7:00pm, there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation individually at St. Anselm Church. This will be a wonderful preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

**Christmas Eve Masses:** Monday, December 24th
- 4:00pm Children’s Choir
- 6:00pm Cantor
- 9:00pm Adult Choir/String Quartet, Organ & Harpsichord

**Christmas Day Masses:** Tuesday, December 25th
- 8:00am Cantor, Organ & Harpsichord
- 10:00am Adult Choir/String Quartet, Organ & Harpsichord
- 11:30am Cantor, Organ & Harpsichord

**New Year’s Eve Mass:** Monday, December 31st
- 8:00am

**New Year's Day Masses:** Tuesday, January 1st
- 8:00am, 12:00pm, 5:30pm

**St. Anselm Church Stewardship**
Registered Parishioner Families 2018-1675
1st Collection: $4,465
2nd Collection: St. Anselm School - $1,055
Electronic Weekly Donations - $2,625.00

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

**Second Collections:**
- Retirement for Religious-December 9
- Building & Maintenance – December 16
- St. Vincent de Paul – December 30

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

| Mon. | Dec. 10 | 8:00am | Eleanor Lubinger (D) |
| Tues. | Dec. 11 | 8:00am | Communion Service Claire Muller (INT) |
| Wed. | Dec. 12 | 8:00am | Larry Gentilello (INT) |
| Thurs | Dec. 13 | 8:00am | All Souls Chantal Krey (D) |
| Fri. | Dec. 14 | 8:00am | Angelo Camozzi (D) |
| Sat. | Dec. 15 | 5:00pm | Norma & Charles Cavagnetto-65th Wedding Anniversary (INT) |
| Sun. | Dec. 16 | 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm | Randa Stenson (D), Regina Stenson (D), Parish People |

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**Sick Relatives & Friends**

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

For the Repose of the Soul of:
- Gail Pierce, Edward Wynne, Mary F. Kennedy

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

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-15
- Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
AAA Archdiocese Annual Appeal 2018

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Adopt A Family Thanks-
Many thanks to everyone who took a gift tag from our Giving Tree last week. Roughly 100 tags were gone by the end of the 10 A.M. Mass. Our adopted families will be so grateful. If you did not bring your gifts today, be sure to bring them next weekend-wrapped and with the tag attached. We hope to deliver the gifts on December 19th. Call Dorothy, 415-215-1242 if there is any problem. May God Bless You for keeping this tradition alive here at St. Anselm’s. This is our 28th Year!!!

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.

Healing Mass at St. Anselm Church, Saturday, December 15th 5:00pm
There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. You are encouraged to come to this special anointing and to bring anyone with you who might also benefit from this special Mass.
A Wine & Cheese Reception to follow in Centennial Hall. If a ride is needed, please call the office 415-453-2342.

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

HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS
John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today’s Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John’s listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John’s listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

EARTH-MOVING
Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God’s work and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today and acknowledge our ongoing need for God’s mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God’s forgiveness so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God’s earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God’s path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God’s help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God’s earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God. J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
**St. Anselm Church Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Healing Mass-5:00pm– Wine &amp; Cheese Reception to follow–Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant– 10:00am &amp; 5:00pm Masses</td>
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**Events Near St. Anselm Parish**

**Advent Resources** on Archdiocesan Website sfarchdiocese.org/advent. Advent began on Sunday, December 2. Advent begins a new liturgical year. This initial season of the Church’s calendar of worship is four weeks long. And it is a time of preparation for the incarnation of God in Christ. As Pope Benedict XVI has written, "Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope…. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." Visit the Advent webpage (above) for an array of Advent resources (prayers, reflections, devotions, activities, projects, and traditions) for yourself, your family, and your community.

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.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Vehicle Program**

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 http://vinnies.careasy.org/HOME.html. Your gift supports the SVDP Free Dining Room in San Rafael which serves over 500 meals daily.

**The Catholic Adult Singles Association of Marin** 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 & Event information, please call Bob at 415 897-0639.
The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas—Fr. Jose delightfully surprised parishioners by hiring television actor Frank Runyeon to kick off the season of Advent. On Sunday, December 2nd at 3pm, Mr. Runyeon did an audience interactive show retelling the story of Christmas from the view point of the Christmas Angel. He started with explaining the light of God in the beginning of creation, to father Abraham, to the light of God being incarnated in Christ. With creative lighting and an irresistible presence that broke through any reluctance to participate, Frank Runyeon captured his audience with a spirited adventure that included 3 Kings turning into camels galloping down the aisle. The children of the parish became angels and shepherds. Adults of the parish became Mary, Joseph, Herod. Then, leaving us with the message that we all are God’s light in this world and it is up to us to help share God’s light especially in times of darkness. Happy Advent! May we all remember in whose image we were created and remember to help be God’s light incarnated for others. A reception in Centennial Hall celebrated the fine performances. Thank you to all who helped with the performance, adult-youth- children volunteers, and a special thank you to our Pastor, Spiritual Life Committee, and Hospitality.
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513520

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