Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. -- Luke 1:42

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

Weekday Mass: Monday through Friday 8:00am  
(Tuesday is a Communion Service)  
Tuesday & Thursday 5:30pm

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

Holy Day Masses: 8:00am, 12:00pm, 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
Dear Parishioners, The Gospel reading of today is about Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary is pregnant with Jesus, and Elizabeth, with John the Baptist. Elizabeth greets Mary, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Mary knew that she was the privileged one because she was chosen to be the mother of the Savior. But she decides to visit her cousin Elizabeth, stay with her and serve her. If we realize that we are blessed by God, we should show a willingness to serve.

Christmas is a time of opportunity. Christmas creates a climate that encourages us to reveal our better natures. Just as the spring assures the growth of crops, so Christmas assures the growth of love. Christmas was born out of love and carries on out of love. It reveals to us what the heart of God is like. It all started when God gave his Son to the world. It also reveals to us what the human heart is capable of. Christmas forces us to open our hearts. The extent to which we open our hearts to God and to one another will be the extent to which we experience the great joy the angels announced to the shepherds. Joy is the fruit of love! May this season of Christmas be a time when we open our hearts and receive love and joy!

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas! May God bless you with his love, peace and joy!

Yours Sincerely,
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

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**Sick Relatives & Friends**

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

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**: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Tuesday**: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:11-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Wednesday**: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Thursday**: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday**: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday**: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Sunday**: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

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** MASS INTENTIONS **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Joe McGarry (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Erin Thompson (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>Claude Wundrow (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Parish People</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>John Nicholas Klingel (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Linda Gill (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Dec. 26</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Jennifer Gardenswartz (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Dec. 27</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Dino Ratto (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Special Intention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Francesco Emma (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Christine Rigby (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Parish People</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Harland Zimmer (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Loretta Gertrude Theis (D)</td>
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**Christmas Schedule...**

**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**
The Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God
8:00am, 12:00pm, 5:30pm

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**St. Anselm Church Stewardship**
Registered Parishioner Families 2018-1675

1st Collection: See next week’s bulletin
2nd Collection: Building & Maintenance:

Electronic Weekly Donations-$2,625.00
*Please visit our church website to sign-up for Electronic Donations*

Second Collections:
St. Vincent de Paul– December 30
**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God-The Solemnity of Mary is on Tuesday, January 1st, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Holy Day Masses will be at 8:00am, 12:00pm, and 5:30pm.**

**MEMORIES AND DREAMS-**Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord’s words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

**AAA Giving Table**

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**

To help you calculate your assessment for your contribution, we have prepared an AAA giving table.

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<th>Weekly Giving</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yearly Giving</th>
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<tr>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
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**FROM SCANDAL TO HONOR**

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary’s situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has accepted joining in this work. Unlike Elizabeth’s husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel’s message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary’s heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God’s specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

**PREGNANT WITH GOD**

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts. Like pregnancy, at times God’s activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through the fruit of our own wombs, God will bring blessing to the world.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society†**

The Fairfax and San Anselmo chapters of the St. Vincent’s de Paul Society attempt to answer this call by helping our neighboring senior citizens, families, children who are in need and living on the economic margins of our community.

Mary is 70 plus year old single woman who has been helped by SVdP. She will lose her apartment on Jan. 1st. If we cannot find housing she will become homeless. Mary is quiet and responsible and can afford a modest monthly rent for a room, an in-law apartment or whatever housing accommodations can be offered to her.

We are asking parishioners in the Ross Valley area if they have or know of any housing resources that might be available for Mary.

Please call Jack Hayes at 415-454-6420.

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St. Anselm Church Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATES:
February 9– First Reconciliation– 10:00am
May 4– First Communion– 10:00am
May 12– Confirmation-2:00pm

Events Near St. Anselm Parish

Register for Wedding Anniversaries Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral Saturday, February 9, 2019, 10:00 am St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco Ed Hopfner, Office of Marriage and Family Life 415-614-5547 hopfner@sarch.org The Archdiocese of San Francisco will offer its annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on February 9 at the Cathedral. All couples who in 2019 will celebrate anniversaries ending in 5 or 0 (5 years, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40) and all couples married more than 40 years, are invited to celebrate with us. Bishop Robert F. Christian, O.P. will be the principal celebrant. Register at anniversarymass.info or call 415-614-5547 for more information.

NEW YEAR’S EVE RETREAT “For all that has been— Thanks—For all that will be — Yes!”
Dag Hammarskjold
Monday December 31, 2018 NEW TIME for this retreat! 7:00pm - 10:30pm Reflection Eucharist
Festive Dessert (provided by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose)
Free will offering
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Chapel 43326 Mission Circle (of Mission Tierra) Fremont, CA 94539

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.
Christmas Flowers Donated
In Memory Of:

Christmas Flowers Donated
In Honor Of:
Bulletin Number:
513520

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

Telephone:  415-453-2342

Contact Person:  Sissy Ratto

Email:  st.anselmoffice@att.net

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   Windows 10
   Adobe Acrobat DC

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