

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019

**Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy
Christmas!**

I renew the joyous proclamation of
Bethlehem: ***“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors”*** (Lk 2:14)

Like the shepherds who first went hasty to the
stable, let us halt in wonder before the sign
that God has given: ***“A baby wrapped in
swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”***
(Lk 2:12). In silence, let us fall to our knees
and worship.

What does that Child, born for us of the
Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the
universal message of Christmas? It is that
God is a good Father and we are all brothers
and sisters.

This truth is the basis of the Christian vision
of humanity. Without the *fraternity* that Jesus
Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a
more just world fall short, and even our best
plans and projects risk being soulless and
empty.

For this reason, my wish for a happy
Christmas is a *wish for fraternity*.

Fraternity among individuals of every nation
and culture.

Fraternity among people with different ideas,
yet capable of respecting and listening to one
another.

Fraternity among persons of different
religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of
God to all those who seek him.

The face of God has been revealed in a
human face. It did not appear in an angel, but
in one man, born in a specific time and place.

By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us
that salvation comes through love,
acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of
ours, which we all share in a great variety of
races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us
are *brother and sisters in humanity!*

Our differences, then, are not a detriment or a
danger; they are a source of richness. As
when an artist is about to make a mosaic: it is
better to have tiles of many colors available,
rather than just a few!

The experience of families teaches us this: as
brothers and sisters, we are all different from
each other. We do not always agree, but there
is an unbreakable bond uniting us, and the
love of our parents helps us to love one
another. The same is true for the large human
family, but here, God is our “parent”, the
foundation and strength of our fraternity.

May this Christmas help us to rediscover the
bonds of fraternity linking us together as
individuals and joining all peoples.

A particular thought goes to our brothers and
sisters who celebrate the Birth of the Lord in
difficult, if not hostile situations, especially
where the Christian community is a minority,
often vulnerable or not taken into account.

May the Lord grant that they, and all
minorities, may live in peace and see their
rights recognized, especially the right to
religious freedom.

May the little Child whom we contemplate
today in the manger, in the cold of the night,
watch over all the children of the world, and
every frail, vulnerable and discarded person.
May all of us receive peace and consolation
from the birth of the Savior and, in the
knowledge that we are loved by the one
heavenly Father, realize anew that we are
brothers and sisters and come to live as such!
Pope Francis.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage

Call the office for an appointment.

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and all
Men.

MASS INTENTIONS - December 21 - 27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + John Evan Hench

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday 5:00 p.m. Mountains Families

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. + Martina Durham

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Gerardo Fuentes

**Friday 8:00 a.m. Adrienne & Marc Guest
9th Wedding Anniversary**

Stewardship of Treasury

Report Sunday December 14 & 15, 2019

TOTAL \$1,793.00

Thank you and May God bless you!

**We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday
at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray for the
families and our Country.**

Men's Club Meeting

**Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30
PM. on Wednesday January 8, 2020**

**“Together, supporting each other, we can do
great things!”**

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month,
January 22nd from 1 to 2:30 pm.

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

Please contact Ruth McCormick

ruthmcc@flash.net

HAPPY NEW WORLD

**An Interfaith Call to Care for Mother Earth
15th New Year's Eve Vigil for Peace**

Tuesday 12/31

6:00pm to 10:30pm

Holy Cross Parish Hall

Across from Mission Plaza, Santa Cruz

The focus of the 2019 Interfaith New Year's Eve
Peace Vigil will be on “Youth” and their
response to our climate crisis. Middle School,
High School and Young Adults. From many
local religious communities, have designed an
evening that includes interactive games, art-
making, food, and creative presentations from
their traditions.

We will open with an Ohlone/Mutsun blessing
followed by representatives from our local
Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Bahia
Traditions.

Sponsored by: Sangha Shantivanam

www.sanghshanti.net

Hosted by: Holy Cross Catholic Church.

BABY BOTTLE – THANK YOU!

Our deepest thanks from **Birthright of San Jose**
to all the generous people of Christ Child for
your continued support of our work.

In October we raised over \$1500 with the baby
bottle campaign alone and another \$442 with the
Respect Life 2nd collection. With your help we
have helped homeless pregnant women this year
to find shelter and many others to receive the
material and emotional help they need to feel
they can choose life.

**May God bless you all with a joyous
Christmas season and a healthy peaceful
New Year 2020**

