

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH OFFICE: 1244 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

Phone (707) 539-4495, FAX 707.539.3343

Email: holy-spirit@sbcglobal.net Website: www.holyspirit-sr.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon.— Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (CLOSED 12/25, 12/26, 1/1)

Pastor

Father Ron Serban

Deacon

John Storm 707.479.5424

jstorm@srdiocese.org

Liturgical Music Director

Francis Oliveira

Director of Religious Education

Matt Conley, matt@holyspiritsr.org

707.539.4495 ext.108

Office Administrator

Ruth Canniff, 707.539.4495

St. Vincent De Paul Society

707.537.7835 helpline

call Mon. 2-3:30 pm

Men's Club

Jack Tolin, 707-695-4744

Women's Club

Lynne DeCota, 707-981.8619

Holy Communion Visitation

Ruth Canniff, 707-539.4495

Prayer Chain

Diane Bowman. Call the office.

Parish Finance Council Chair

Brian Connolly,

brian@brianconnolly.net

Parish Advisory Council Chair

Weekend of December 23,24,25, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas

MASS & SERVICE SCHEDULE

See Christmas Schedule inside

Weekdays: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., at 9 am

Tuesday there is a communion service at 9 am.

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 5 pm & on Youtube

Sunday Masses: 8 am, 10:30 am & on Youtube

1st Saturday of the Month: 9 am



- A Sunday Mass is recorded each week and uploaded to our Youtube channel, **Holy Spirit—Santa Rosa.**

SACRAMENTS: Please call the office 707.539.4495

Reconciliation: Call the office to schedule.

Marriage: Call 6 months in advance.

Baptism: Call 3 months in advance.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

You may register in person, on our website or by email.

ONLINE DONATING AVAILABLE

Parishioners now have the option to donate online to Holy Spirit Church. Links are available on our website and Facebook page.

Do you know someone who would like Holy Communion at home? Contact the office 707.539.4495.

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas ~ December 23-25, 2023

For unto us this day is born a Savior

Christ is born for us! That is the clear message of our celebration today. Christ is born— He didn't just 'appear' but was born, just as we were all born. We believe that Christ, although Divine, is truly human like us in all things except sin.

Christ is born—there is no illusion in his birth, He is fully human. Christ is born—born of Mary, born of a virgin, born as a tiny baby. The eternal God, the infinite One, came in the incarnation as a tiny child.



This immense contrast between the infinity of God and the absolute fragility of a tiny baby is incredible. Why did He do it? He did it for us! Christ is born for us - to be with us! Christ takes on our humanity so that we can share in His Divinity.

We have, at one level, absolutely no idea what that might mean—except that God loves us more than we can imagine. God comes to our world to set us free from sin, but also that we might share in the Divine life. That we might begin to have eternal experiences here and now.

So - into the silence of the night came the birth of a baby who was God. Into the silence of the night came the birth of the Word. The Word of God comes as a baby who does not know how to speak at all and must learn speaking as you and I do. Incredible - isn't it?

That is, God, Jesus, was born, grew up, and lived life just exactly as we all do- yes, as infinite, almighty God, but also as a flesh and blood human being, really and truly like us all-yet still really and truly God. How can this be? That is the mystery of the Trinity.

Do you see then what these words - "God became flesh, God is with us" - really mean? They mean that our religion must not lead us to seek God someplace outside of this world, like only in heaven, someplace outside of our human history. They mean that the Christian religion, right from the very beginning with the birth of Jesus at Christmas, specifically teaches the direct opposite—that God came into the world, that God is right here, with us, STILL in the world, in daily human history with all of its good and bad, with all of its ambiguity; that for us this is the place where we can find God.

Emmanuel-God IS with us! To me, this is the special, particular message of Christmas that, like Jesus, we must make our way by whom we are, and where we are, and when we are. That is it; that is all; that is the whole story.

And that is the kind of understanding to which Christmas calls us in these simple Scripture words; "God became flesh; God is with us". God is here.

God knows what it is like to be like you.
God knows you.
God loves you.
God will never hurt or abandon you.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Fr. Ron

MASS INTENTIONS: December 23-January 1

12/23	Sat	5:00 PM	† Daniel P. Foster
12/24	Sun	8:00 am	For the
12/24	Sun	10:30 am	† Gerry Steele
12/24	Sun	4:00 pm	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
12/25	Mon	12 am	MIDNIGHT MASS
12/25	Mon	9:00 am	CHRISTMAS MASS
12/25	Mon	12 noon	CHRISTMAS MASS/ Derek Dunn
12/26	Tue	9:00 am	Available
12/27	Wed	9:00 am	† Gino & Iolanda Manfredi
12/28	Thur	9:00 am	† Wayne Cardoza
12/29	Fri	9:00 am	† Robert Hayes
12/30	Sat	5:00 PM	† Maria Skarzynska
12/31	Sun	8:00 am	† Elaine Darling
12/31	Sun	10:30am	For the People
MIDNIGHT MASS			Available
01/01	Mon	9:00 am	SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23 – 5 pm

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

8 am—Sunday Mass

10:30 am—Sunday Mass

4 pm - Children's Mass

Monday, December 25 Christmas

12 am - Midnight Mass

9 am - Christmas Mass

12 pm - Christmas Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Laura Zabatta, Jon DeVault, Bruce Marts, Kathy Hauck, John McHugh, Laura Pontes, Nancy Carrey, Larry Darling, Renee Ralls, Marion Fairbank, Tim Coyne, John Scrempo, Mike and Nancy Cusack, Cecelia Bautista, Bob Spalding, Donald Brent, Tristan Humble, Pat LaRussa, Marlene Knivila, Jenny Lemp, Doug Harman, Karin Lee, Margaret Duffy, Maria Alvarez, Mary Jo Toth, Mary Davis, Arthur Tyler, Lisa Bennett, Ruth Ann Haisey, Lew & Margie Chase, Anthony Ibarra, the Pisenti family, The Holy Spirit Prayer Chain.

FOR THE SOULS

Terry McNally, Derek Dunn, Bill Pinella, George Macaulay, Barbara Nowacki, Phyllis Smith, Ed McCarthy, Laura Dole, Arlene Figueroa, Mike Milano, Bob Jenness, Doris Gianini DeFord, Bill Davis, Kathy Stoddard, Dominica Mollahan, William Ouimette, Kim Seghezzi, Stephen Otis, Sister Rosann Fraher, Joe Darling, Dan Ann Hansen, Helen Keefer, Joan Martin, Toni Drucker, Frank Siroky, Kristi Allen, Mary Ann O'Leary, David Simko, Phyllis Sweeley, Marianne Majer, Cathy Zugar, Mary Mendez, Gabor Toth, Charlie Schelter.

FUNERALS

Terry McNally ~ Dec. 30, 2023 at 10 am
Ed McCarthy ~ Feb. 17, 2023 at 9 am

MINISTRY SCHEDULE: December 30-31

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Min.
Sat. 5:00 pm	#1—Mary H. #2—Pat B.	Judith M. Shirley S. Tim S.
Sun. 8:00 am	#1—Bob A. #2—Kathy L.	Cindy D-H Kurt K. Robin K.
Sun. 10:30am	#1—Jane G. #2—Mary L.	Loyde J. Sherry J. Jacky M.

Last Week's General Fund Collection \$ 5888.
Online General Fund Offering \$ 1,345.63
**NEXT week's 2nd Collection is for
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.**
Please write separate checks for each offering.
Thank you!

**The church office will be closed on
December 25th & 26th and January 1st.**

TEENS!

This year, the 2nd year Confirmation class will be going on a weekend retreat! Because we believe this to be such a meaningful experience we are offering the retreat to all recently Confirmed teens (under the age of 18). This is a pivotal moment in their faith journey and something they can build upon for their continuing faith life.

The youth retreat will be held at CYO

Retreat Center in Occidental Jan. 19th-21st, 2024.

Programs like this are what keep our young people engaged and make them feel like they have a place in the Church.

Our parish is teaming with St. Elizabeth Parish to make this a larger and more powerful experience for our young people. As a team we have run hundreds of retreats that have positively impacted youth and created enthusiastic disciples and faith leaders.

If you have a teen that is interested contact me at 707.539.4495 ext. 8 or email matt@holyspiritsr.org

HOLY SPIRIT WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL

Blessed Mother Baby Shower

Thursday, January 11th, 2024

6:00 pm ~ Cost: \$25.00

Includes Dinner, 2 Beverage tickets

Center Pieces Raffle 6 for \$5.00

Please bring a new unwrapped Infant item such as, Clothes, Diapers, Blankets, etc.

Sizes Preemie and Newborn up to 24 months. We cannot accept used items. These items will be donated to Catholic Charity & The Living Room

Ticket Sales Start After each Mass on:

December 30-31, 2023

January 6-7, 2024

If you cannot attend and want to donate you may drop off your items at Nora's home. Please call (707) 484-0542.

Please no walk ins...it is hard for us to accommodate enough food to serve if our women don't sign up. The cooks thank you oh so much...Any questions call Lynne

DeCota at 707-981-8619.

"Happy New Year and Blessings to All"

Sarah Hart



TWO EVENTS

JANUARY 12th at 7 pm
CONCERT—An Evening with Sarah
—FREE WILL OFFERING

JANUARY 13th from 9am to 3pm
WOMEN'S RETREAT
—\$25 includes Pasta and Salad Lunch
(Call 707.433.5536 to RSVP)

Sarah Hart will lead us in day of song, stories, laughter, prayer, reflection, and sharing! Bring yourself, your daughter, sister, neighbor or friend and be renewed in spirit and reaffirm our feminine hearts!

St. John the Baptist Church
208 Matheson St., Healdsburg, CA

FAITH FORMATION

ALL CLASSES MEET FOR THE NEXT
TWO WEEKS. No classes from
12/24/2023 to 1/8/2024

K-5 Whole Family Wednesdays 4:30-6pm
First Year Confirmation Wed. 6:15-7:30pm
Second Year Confirmation Sun. 12-1:15 pm

Director of Faith Formation: Matt Conley

Ph: 707-539-4495 ext. 108

Email: Matt@holyspiritsr.org