

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Phone (707) 539-4495, FAX 707.539.3343

office@holyspiritSR.org Website: www.holyspirit-sr.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*The office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 26th.*

*Voicemails and emails will be checked.*

## Pastor

Father Ron Serban

## Deacons

John Storm 707.479.5424

[jstorm@srdiocese.org](mailto:jstorm@srdiocese.org)

Bob Holgren

[DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org)

## Liturgical Music Director

Francis Oliveira, [francis@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:francis@holyspiritSR.org)

## Director of Religious Education

Matt Conley, [matt@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:matt@holyspiritSR.org)

707.539.4495 ext.108

## Office Administrator

Ruth Canniff, [office@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:office@holyspiritsr.org)

## St. Vincent De Paul Society

707.537.7835, call Mon. 2-3:30 pm

## Men's Club

Jack Tolin, 707.695.4744

## Women's Club

Lynne DeCota, 707.981.8619

## Prayer Chain

Diane Bowman. Call the office.

## Parish Finance Council Chair

Brian Connolly,

[brian@brianconnolly.net](mailto:brian@brianconnolly.net)

## Parish Advisory Council Chair

Loyde Johnson, [loydej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loydej@sbcglobal.net)

707.921.9292

## 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT to CHRISTMAS DEC.21—DEC.25, 2024

### MASS & SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Weekday Mass:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., at 9 am

**Communion Service :** Tuesday at 9 am.

**Saturday Mass of Anticipation:** 5 pm

**Sunday Masses:** 8 am, 10:30 am

**1st Saturday of the Month:** 9 am

**Video Mass:** A Saturday 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 for times.

**Marriage:** Call 6 months in advance.

**Baptism:** Call 3 months in advance.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** In person, online, or by email

**ONLINE DONATING** Go to [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org)

**HOME COMMUNION** Please contact the office.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Thursdays at 7 pm in the church.

### VOLUNTEERING FOR A MINISTRY

(i.e., Flower arranging, Video Board, Eucharistic Ministers, Homebound, Maintenance, Helping Hands, etc.) Please contact the office at 707.539.4495.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Dec.21-22, 2024

.....from the *Pastor's Desk*

## **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.

*Father Ron*

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION —NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**JAN.1, 2025 MASSES**  
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY—MIDNIGHT MASS--12 AM**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY—9 AM MASS**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY—6:30 PM**

# FR. RON HAPPY 70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**  
**NO CLASSES for K-5 on 12/25 & 1/01**  
**Resumes January 8th.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK  
& THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

John O'Connell, Diane Drew, John Scott, Char Lavelle, Jessica Berlo, Kathryn Chere, Mickey Smith, Sharon Larrance, Molly Touchette, Rose-Ann Saporita, Gail Flatt, Sachiko Gomez, Juan Scott, Dean Kennedy, Charlene Abayon, Gerri Peterson, Carlos Perez, Donna McMullen, Sharon Leiberman, Mike Murray, Greg Macy, Fr. John Boettcher, Gabriella Ibarra, John McHugh, Laura Pontes, Nancy Carrey, Marion Fairbank, Tim Coyne, John Scrempo, Mike and Nancy Cusack, Cecelia Bautista, Bob Spalding, Donald Brent, Tristan Humble, Marlene Knivila, Jenny Lemp, Doug Harman, Margaret Duffy, Maria Alvarez, Arthur Tyler, Lisa Bennett, the Piseni family, and our Holy Spirit Phone Tree.

**FOR THE SOULS**

Laura Zabatta, Sharon Vaughn, Barbara Spaulding, Joseph Panara, Larry Darling, Bill Vinson, Ario Bigattini, Joe Piasta, Patricia Breuer, Patrick Rodriguez, Lynda Adams, Gail Azevedo, Gloria McKay, Miriam Castillo, Jeanne Anderson, Mary Jo Toth, Kathy Hauck, Chris Christianson, Jim Weese, Scot Gordon, Arlene Pearson, Karin Lee, Peggy Levy, Regina Dieter, James Barton, Jr., Nancy Bufano, Julia Gromo, Bruce Marts Sr.

**FUNERALS**

Laura Zabatta ~ January 4, 2025 at 11 am

*Please call the office if you wish to add or keep someone on the prayer list. Each name will remain for 3 months from the time we receive a request unless we hear otherwise.*

**ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS:** Our online giving options in 2025 are expanding to include Venmo, ApplePay, Paypal, & Stock/Crypto.

**MASS INTENTIONS: Dec. 21—Dec. 29**

12/21	Sat	5:00 PM	† Mary B. Byrne
12/22	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
12/22	Sun	10:30am	Happy Birthday Fr. Ron & Charlie Vera
12/23	Mon	9:00 am	† Daniel Plagge
<b>12/24</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>4 PM</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE JOHN O'CONNELL</b>
<b>12/25</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>12 am</b>	<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>
<b>12/25</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
<b>12/25</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
<b>12/25</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>1 PM</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
12/26	Thur	9:00 am	† Sharon Vaughn
12/27	Fri	9:00 am	Ken & Susan Di Lillo Anniversary
12/28	Sat	5:00 PM	† Gino & Iolanda Manfredi
12/29	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
12/29	Sun	10:30am	† Daniel Patrick Foster

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Dec. 28-29**

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Min.
Sat. 5:00 pm	#1—Carroll C. #2—John M.	Cheryl D. Judith M. Kathy S.
Sun. 8:00 am	#1—Bob A. #2—Lydia D.	Brian C. Kurt K. Martie S.
Sun. 10:30a	#1—Carole R. #2—Mary L.	Loyde J. Sherry J. Jacky M.

Last Week's General Collection \$ 7,004.—  
 Online General Fund Offering \$ 1,222.50

**Next week's second collection is for  
St. Vincent De Paul.**

*Please write separate checks. Thank you!*

## Christmas Mass Schedule

- \*Christmas Eve 12/24 at 4 p.m.  
~ Children's Mass
- \*Midnight Mass 12/25 at 12 a.m.
- \*Christmas Day 12/25  
8 am, 10:30 am, & 1 pm

**PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGED FOR  
THE CHILDREN'S MASS—4PM**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCIA Front of church 01/08—7-8 pm
- GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 01/08—7-8pm
- WOMEN'S CLUB 01/09—6pm  
Blessed Mother Baby Shower—tickets on  
sale after mass 12/28, 12/29, 1/4, 1/5
- MEN'S CLUB 01/14—6PM BBQ RIBS
- BIBLE REFLECTIONS 01/15—7-8pm



**Wednesday, January 8 from 6-8 p.m.**  
at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 1244 St. Francis Rd,  
In the Church Hall

Did you know there is a group of Catholic men and women who regularly meet to support one another as we grieve the loss of a loved one? Whether your loss was recent or more distant, the feelings and challenges are the same. If you are experiencing feelings about your loss, but don't know how to talk about them, perhaps the next monthly grief group can offer you an alternative in creatively expressing them.

All materials will be provided.

Feel free to drop by and check us out.

We are a friendly, compassionate, down to earth group of people who use Scripture as an anchor to make sense and find comfort in our grief. For further information, call Deanna at 707-595-3050 or Mary at 707-495-3095.

## Calling All Children!

Does your child want to participate in the 4 pm Christmas Eve Children's Mass?



We have a need for animals, shepherds, citizens, wise men, angels and the Holy Family!

If you are interested in joining the pageant, come to mass early on Christmas Eve to get into costume. Costumes provided.

There are no speaking parts. As Father reads the story of Jesus' birth, the children will receive cues to stand in the manger scene near the altar. We will rehearse two Christmas Carols with our Music Director, Francis Oliveira, at 3:40 pm. Please meet at the back of church at 3:15 pm.

## OCIA Order of Christian Initiation for Adults—JANUARY 8 from 7-8pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME ! Front of Church.**  
Consider attending if you are interested in becoming Catholic, are an adult seeking the Sacraments, or would like more information about your Catholic faith.

## Bible Reflections: *The Good News Journey!*

*An opportunity to learn and share*  
**JANUARY 15—IN PARISH HOUSE**  
First and Third Wednesdays of the Month  
7-8 pm with Kenn Vondrak. Scriptures and calendar can be found online or at the back of church.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you need community service hours or would like to learn a new skill? Would you like to join our media team and learn how to run the video board during mass? Teenagers to seniors are welcome.