



PARISH COMMUNITY

Santa Clara, California

Christmas
December 25, 2023
Navidad



Please keep for reference throughout 2024

Christmas Greeting.....	page 2	Faith Formation.....	pages 5 - 7	Outreach & Justice.....	page 10
Mission Statement/News.....	page 3	Consultative Bodies.....	page 8	Associated Organizations.....	page 11
Liturgical Ministry.....	pages 4 - 5	Ethnic Communities.....	page 9	Contact Information.....	page 12

Our Christmas Bulletin is an annual publication that includes descriptions of various ministries and organizations associated with the parish. If you would like more information about – or join – this work, please reach out to the designated contact person (located on page 12). You are also welcome to contact the Parish Office for additional follow up.

If there is something we are not doing and you are interested in, give us a call!

Dear Parishioners,

During this time, we have looked back to the hopeful preaching of the prophets and the coming - of - time of the Lord Whose Birth we now celebrate.

This season also invites us to look towards the future, when the Lord will come to us again - at the end of our time on earth and on the day that time meets eternity. We should welcome those appearances of the Lord Jesus with the same joyful expectation of our Christmas celebrations.

Finally, on these days - and all days - we hear the invitation to recognize the Lord among us:



Now the Lord comes to meet us, in every person and in every time, so that we may receive Him in faith and charity as we bear witness to the glorious hope of God's reign.

- Advent Preface I-A, Portuguese Roman Missal

May the Lord - present in our midst - enlighten the path of your lives now and always! Christmas prayers and blessings from all of us to all of you

Sincerely,

Monsignor Fran, Father Victor, Ryan Bao, Linda O. Brisuela, Roxana Cruz, Catherine Kogura, Esteban Lugardo, Sandra Quintanilla, and Anai Torres

About the cover. . . 2023 marks the 800th year since Saint Francis of Assisi built the first creche, or manger scene. To mark this anniversary, we chose a depiction of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, our Patroness, adoring the Child Jesus.

Thank you for your support of all we do, especially during these days. Thank you to those who prepared our church for this Feast, for the gifts of Poinsettias, and your generous Christmas offerings.

We are all so fortunate for your love of our parish.

The Parish Office Will Be Closed for Christmas Week

The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2. While our receptionists will not be available, our priests will be covering the telephones and the door, as they are able. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Mass on Tuesday, December 26th will be at 9:00 am.



Gracias por su apoyo a todo lo que hacemos, especialmente durante estos días. Gracias a los que prepararon nuestra iglesia para esta Fiesta, por los regalos de Nochebuenas y sus generosas ofrendas navideñas.

Todos somos muy afortunados por su amor por nuestra parroquia.

La Oficina Parroquial Estará Cerrada

La oficina parroquial reabrirá el martes, 2 de enero. Aunque nuestras recepcionistas no estarán disponibles, nuestros sacerdotes estar contestando el teléfono y abriendo la puerta a conforme puedan. Gracias por su paciencia y su comprensión.

Misa, el martes, 26 de diciembre será alas 9:00 am.



Parish Mission Statement

Founded in 1777, Saint Clare Parish is an ethnically diverse Catholic community of faith, united in worship, discipleship and service. In welcoming immigrants, newcomers and strangers, we strive to live the virtues of justice and love, so as to be the face of Christ in the world, becoming in Him a sign of unity and an instrument of God's peace.



Liturgical Ministry

In addition to helping our liturgies flow smoothly, these ministries offer an opportunity for members of our parish community to live out the call of the Baptism that we share. “Liturgy,” which means “the work of the people,” can only be successful when this work is shared by many. The following are opportunities for our parishioners, young and old, to share in this work.

Altar Servers

Service at the altar is open to all who are in fifth grade or older. For many years, this ministry was restricted to boys and men; now, however, it is open to all. Servers add solemnity to our liturgies and provide needed assistance to the celebrant. If you or your child is interested in helping in this way, please see Ryan Bao, our Youth Minister, or one of the priests.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest celebrant of Mass in the distribution of Communion. Since the dawn of the epidemic, reception of Communion by the faithful has been restricted to the Species of consecrated Bread. We look forward to the time when Holy Communion will be offered again under both Sacred Species. Until then, however, the happily growing number of those participating in Sunday Masses presents a need for additional Extraordinary Ministers. If you exercised this ministry in the past or would like to be prepared to do so now, please contact one of the priests.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at our liturgies. At least one – and often two – lectors at each Mass read from Sacred Scripture in a way that helps God’s Word come alive in the minds and hearts of listeners. If you have the gift of effective public speaking and would like to be part of this ministry, please contact one of the priests who will refer you to one of the lector coordinators at our various Masses.

Ushers/Ministry of Hospitality

The first person people see when arriving for weekend Mass might be the one who greets them and shares a worship aid for the liturgy. Studies show that the kind of welcome people receive is as important to them as liturgical music or the homily. Parishioners who serve in this ministry offer hospitality, assistance to newcomers and the elderly, and have the responsibility to place the Sunday collection into tamper-proof bags. Would you or your family like to be the “face” of Saint Clare to all? If so, please see one of the priests.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

The Liturgy of the Word with Children ministry is an opportunity for children (grades K-6) to engage with each Sunday's readings with their peers led by a volunteer from the parish. Each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon Masses, children are briefly dismissed to hear that day's readings at their grade level and participate in an interactive reflection on those readings. When they return to the community for the Eucharist they have a fuller, more age-appropriate understanding of what that Sunday's lessons were.

Please invite your children to join in when you come to the 10:30am Mass (English) and the 12 noon Mass (Spanish). No registration needed!



Liturgical Music

Do you sing or play an instrument? Are you looking to improve your skill in a supportive and fun environment? Are you between 2nd grade and retirement age? Come join St. Clare's choir! In addition to making great music weekly, we develop young people to be liturgical music leaders. Regularly, students starting out on a new instrument build their skill in the context of the ensemble, and we scale a song's difficulty according to each person's ability level. We've had violins, pianists (sometimes playing duets), cellos, trumpets, guitars, percussion...and we're always looking for more talent! Our director, who also serves as assistant director for the San Francisco Bach Choir and was the former director of liturgy and music for the diocese, strives to bring the best musical experience possible to this ensemble.

During rehearsals, we play music theory games, reflect on our experiences as liturgical music leaders, and nurture liturgical composers - including teens in our own ensemble - write new music for us to try. If you're looking for a fun, prayerful, strengths based space to deepen your music talents, this might be your new home!

Rehearsals are on Sundays from 11:45 - 12:45pm in the parish hall, immediately after the 10:30am English Mass. The ensemble mainly offers music at the 10:30am Mass, with some members also helping at the 7:30am Mass.

For more information, contact the ensemble director, Chris Wemp, at cmwemp@gmail.com

Faith Formation

Parish Catechetical Program

For Children:

Sunday Faith Formation (a two year preparation for the First Eucharist) serves TK through 7th Grade. Our sessions, follow the Liturgical Calendar in our teaching to enhance the potential learning of all children, especially those who attend Liturgy of the Word for children during Mass. This is our first year catechizing our TK children. It truly is a blessing to witness the happiness of our youngest group and the patient work of our Catechist. Also, in February of 2023, we began Liturgy of the Word for children during our Spanish Mass at Noon, opening up additional opportunities for our children to expand their understanding of the Liturgy. Bilingual families and/or monolingual families can now attend either Mass to support our community and gather heart stickers for their child's Name Hearts. This gesture captures the commitment of attending Mass as part of their catechetical journey.



All grades take time to gather the parents and children with an experienced Catechist who will lead activities, lessons, and will provide resources for parent engagement during family time. Our books are bilingual to support the need of our families. It is important to us to journey together during this time of preparation of the Sacraments, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation. It is also important to recognize the children who come to us who

have not been baptized and we gladly meet with them for their preparation of Sacraments of Initiation, during our Rite of Christian Initiation for Children sessions that meet on Monday afternoons.

[Continue to next page...](#)

We work closely and collaborate with our school partners, especially the second-grade class, for those children preparing for their First Sacraments. We will be ready to celebrate together!

Formation of Young Women (Quinceañera Preparation):

For those young ladies preparing for their *Quinceañera* and in collaboration with Youth Ministry, we share the importance of understanding this beautiful tradition. This is not a sacrament, but a celebration of coming of age and enjoying the blessing of womanhood and family.

Adults:

- We were so excited to add the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in Spanish (RICA) this past September! We meet Monday evenings. Again, this was a venture we gladly embraced to fill a missing need in our community!
- We have an English group of RCIA that meets Tuesday evenings (See Next Page).
- We offer monthly Baptism classes for Parents and Godparents in English (Monday evenings) and Spanish (Thursday evenings).

Please pray for us and for the good work our Catechetical Volunteers do. If you have an interest or questions regarding any of our Catechetical programs please contact Sandra Quintanilla at (669) 270-2702 or email at sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org.

Youth Ministry

What have we done in the last year? Thanks to so many of you, we have welcomed and engaged many young people through...

Our first group of Young Adults fundraised and made their trip to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, during the summer. There, we made friends with hundreds of thousands of other young people, saw Pope Francis, and made lasting memories to enrich our faith.



35 young people celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in September and many are still engaged through liturgical ministries and leadership roles.

We soft-opened a youth center that is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for young people to study in and hang out with friends. We continue to develop this space and are very thankful for generous donations that have already been given.

We took 11 youth to the annual Diocesan Youth Retreat in Lake Tahoe; Father Victor was the chaplain of the retreat. This would not have been possible without donations to our scholarship funds.

We hosted a four-week summer movie night for families and help in multiple parish events throughout the year.

If you want to get involved, you can view our calendar on our website stclareparish.org/ymc or follow us on Instagram at [@stclare.ymc](https://www.instagram.com/stclare.ymc). We continue to have youth ministry sessions open to all young people and have our youth center open often. Our Confirmation program also begins in January and registrations are still OPEN until Dec 31st. Hope to see you around!



Rite (Order) of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)



The RCIA Team at Saint Clare Parish welcomes those who wish to be baptized into the Catholic Faith as well as those who wish to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Eucharist).

Those who are fully initiated in the Catholic Faith and who desire to learn more of their faith are also welcome. We meet Tuesday evenings on Zoom with some in-person sessions. We ask Jesus, the Word-made-Flesh, to bless each of you with Grace, Peace and Joy this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year 2024.



Saint Clare School, A Parish Ministry

Saint Clare School's Mission and Vision include the joyful embodiment of the Gospel mission entrusted by Christ to His Church. Made in the image and likeness of God, our community values diversity, embracing all backgrounds and cultures. With a rigorous curriculum and student-centered instruction, we, together with parents as the primary educators of their children, form learners with strong academic and spiritual foundations to become moral and ethical student leaders.

Saint Clare School, with support from the Jesuits at Santa Clara University, was established in 1856 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. As the only Catholic elementary school in Santa Clara County that has continuously operated for 167 years, Saint Clare has produced local leaders and philanthropists. Today, our graduates go on to succeed at Catholic high schools and universities, taking with them the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Rooted in God's love and working for justice. We offer generous tuition assistance to make Catholic education accessible to all.

Research has established that individuals who have a background in Catholic education continue to be active and contributing members of the Church in their adult years. While some may veer during their college and/or young adult years, it is that Catholic foundation that brings them back as young families and adults.

It is with your prayers and support and the prayers and support of our parents, teachers, staff, and school benefactors, both current and past, that we are able to thrive. Saint Clare School is fortunate to be a part of such a vibrant and supportive parish community. We thank you.

Visit us at www.stclare.school



Consultative Bodies

Parish Finance Council



Jerome Alabado, Chair

The Finance Council serves as a trusted advisor to the Pastor and helps with the management and stewardship of parish financial resources. We build the budget for every fiscal year and meet quarterly (October, January, April, July) to monitor our progress. The Council is also responsible for supporting new initiatives/projects and complying with diocesan guidelines. While the Parish Finance Council is primarily consultative - information sharing, listening, and contributing to discussions - there are also certain canonical responsibilities that guide the Council's work. We welcome parishioners to join the Council and help ensure the long-term success of the parish.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body that serves our parishioners by sharing with Monsignor Fran and Father Victor about the thoughts, concerns and needs expressed by Saint Clare parishioners.

Newly formed in Fall 2023, the Council's purpose is to foster engagement of the entire parish in the life and mission of Saint Clare and of the universal Church.

The Council is reflecting on the feedback from the Synod Listening Sessions conducted in the parish and working to find ways to address the areas of concern to our community:

- Welcoming – Forming Community/Family of Families
- Role of Women/Leadership
- Youth and Young Adults

If you have any questions, concerns or comments to share with the Parish Pastoral Council, please email Council Chair, Cyndi Banaag (cyndibanaag.stclare@gmail.com), or contact any member of the Council:



Cecilia Altamirano



Cyndi Banaag



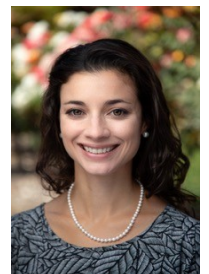
Cathleen Lencioni



Nick Nichols



Christina Nolan



Elyse Raby



Mary Reiland



Lucy Silva



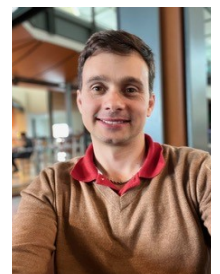
Scot Stennis



Ursula Szeles



Kay Tierney



Leandro Vieira

Ethnic Communities

Saint Clare Portuguese Community

This year, our Portuguese Community is celebrating our Golden Jubilee of the first Portuguese Mass at Saint Clare Parish, in the Spring of 1973. Since then, we have been working very closely with the many priests who have served our community. Join us for weekly Sunday Mass in Portuguese at 9:00 am.

Our Christmas Pageant marks the 48th anniversary of these celebrations, which we have had continuously, except during the pandemic.



The Portuguese Council's current head is Claudia Madruga, whose efforts motivate our Portuguese Community to be active members of Saint Clare Parish. The Council meets monthly on Monday evenings. We plan activities, including social gatherings, liturgical services and fundraisers.



Saint Clare Hispanic Ministry

The Hispanic Community is rich in history, heritage, and diversity. We are proud to express our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our community continues to grow. The Grupo de Oración, Buen Pastor, is a charismatic group that meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and has healing Masses once a month. We are blessed with many different choirs that share their musical talents to praise God. We participate in the Santa Clara Art and Wine Festival selling tacos to help fundraise. Every year, our Hispanic Council prepares the celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe which includes Las Mañanitas and a reception of pan dulce and hot chocolate. Our catechetical program under Sandra Quintanilla ministers to children, bilingual families, converts, and young women preparing for their Quinceañera. Our Parochial Vicar, Father Victor, ministers the Sacraments.

Every Sunday we celebrate Mass together at 12 noon. Hope to see you soon. ¡Feliz Navidad! Merry Christmas!



San José Chinese Catholic Mission



Our Mission is called to be a dynamic Catholic community that is welcoming to all, growing in faith and apostolic love, and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, particularly among the Chinese, in the Diocese of San Jose and beyond.

For forty years the San Jose Chinese Catholic Mission has provide various groups and ministries to serve the Chinese community. Please visit our website for more details at <https://sjccm.com>

Sunday Mass times:
1:30pm (Cantonese)
3:00pm (Mandarin) [Zoom/Streaming](#)
4:30pm (English)

主日彌撒:

1:30pm(粵語) 3:00pm(普通話) 4:30(英語)



Outreach and Justice

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Saint Clare Conference – Founded in 1950

This past year, your generosity toward our Holy Thursday, Thanksgiving day, and “Fifth Sunday Collections,” as well as other donations throughout the year, have provide the following:

Fresh produce, dairy products, pantry staples, personal care items and grocery store vouchers every month to over 200 men, women and children who live in our parish. Rental and utility bill assistance to low-income neighbors food, clothing and personal hygiene products.

Volunteer opportunities for the second and fourth Saturday morning in the school parking lot call (408) 645-0506 for further information Thank you for all of your support. We could not do any of this without you.



Peace and Justice Committee

The Peace and Justice Committee of St. Clare Parish serves as a community resource and catalyst to connect our faith with the work of social justice. We seek to Educate, Advocate, Act, Reflect.

- **Educate** the community about Catholic social teachings.
- **Advocate** for the dignity and rights of all people, especially those who are marginalized and socially, politically or economically disadvantaged.
- **Act** out our faith by creating and participating in opportunities – individually and in community – to implement the Catholic social teachings of justice in service to others in need.
- **Reflect** on the biblical and theological foundations of Catholic social teachings to help inform and discern current and future actions, advocacy and education efforts.

Since its founding in 2011 by St. Clare parishioners, the Peace and Justice Committee has hosted annual Fair Trade sales, Immigration Awareness Weekends, education efforts on Human Trafficking Awareness, Grateful Garment Drive, Stations of the Cross for global solidarity, peace prayer service, advocacy for the Catholic Climate Covenant and care for the earth. The committee has also mobilized St. Clare support for the homeless through Village House Rotating Shelter program in the Bay Area.

The committee is seeking to restart its work with the help of interested parishioners. If you would like to be a part of our work, please contact Anne McMahon at mcmahonam@sbcglobal.net

Associated Organizations

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut. Originally established to provide financial aid to widows and orphans of deceased members, the organization has evolved to become one of the largest and most influential Catholic fraternal organizations globally. The Knights of Columbus is known for a commitment to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

The K of C council for St Clare meets at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the North Hall. All members of our parish are invited.



Saint Clare YLI (Young Ladies Institute)

The YLI is a Catholic women's organization dedicated to prayer and works of charity, and we are honored to have been a part of Saint Clare Parish for almost 90 years. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of the month in the North Hall, during which we socialize, pray the Rosary and have a short business meeting. We welcome all who are interested in learning more about our group; please see our contact information in the bulletin. Wishing all the members of Saint Clare Parish a very blessed holiday season, and a happy New Year.



Mary Reiland, President

The Serra Club



The Santa Clara Chapter of Serra was formed in 1968 to foster and support vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Whatever the need, Serra members are ready to move ahead and follow in the footsteps of Saint Junipero Serra, whose motto was "Always forward, never back." Members pray for the increase and perseverance of vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life, prepare meals for diocesan discernment retreats, host receptions for the ordinations of new priests and deacons, and sponsor a vocation program for 8th-grade students in our Catholic schools.

If you have a call to support future priests and religious, please contact President Jack Oneto at (408) 379-8379 or Cathleen Lencioni at (408) 248-6728.

We invite you to join us at the next Serra Club meeting on January 12, 2024, at 12:00 pm at Bill of Fare, 1069 Saratoga Ave. San Jose, CA 95129.

Please RSVP at email: johnoneto@earthlink.net



PARISH COMMUNITY

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil
5:00 p.m. (*English*)
Livestreamed

Sunday
7:30 a.m. (*English*)
9:00 a.m. (*Portuguesa*)
10:30 a.m. (*English*)
12:00 p.m. (*Español*)
Livestreamed

*Liturgy of the Word
for Children during
10:30 a.m. Mass (English)*

*Liturgia de la Palabra
para Niños durante Misa de
12:00 p.m. (Español)*

Weekday Masses

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.
Holidays - 9:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(In the church)

Office Hours

9am - 5pm
Monday - Friday

Office Address:

725 Washington Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050
www.stclareparish.org

E-mail:

stclareparish@dsj.org

Parish Staff

- **Pastor/Párroco**
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cilia@dsj.org
(669) 270-2700
- **Parochial Vicar/Vicario Parroquial**
Father Victor Trinidad
victor.trinidad@dsj.org
(669) 270-2701
- **Saint Clare School Principal**
Mrs. Catherine Kogura
www.stclare.school
(408) 246-6797
- **Catechetical Coordinator/
Rito de Iniciación para Adultos**
Sandra Quintanilla
Sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org
(669) 270-2702
- **Youth Minister/
Director of Confirmation**
Ryan Bao
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- **Christian Initiation of Adults
(RCIA)**
Diane Madruga
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- **Administrative Staff**
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- **In Residence**
Father Martin Ezeador
martin.ezeador@dsj.org

Main Office Number

(408) 248-7786

Emergencies (for sick & dying):
408-248-7786 Follow the
prompt, then press 9

Parish Organizations *Organizaciones Parroquiales*

Parish Pastoral Council

Cyndi Banaag - *Chairperson*
cyndibanaag.stclare@gmail.com

Parish Finance Council

Jerome Alabado
jerome.alabado@gmail.com

Peace & Justice Committee

Anne McMahon
mcmahonam@sbcglobal.net

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Mick Gonzales
(408) 645-0506

Hispanic Council

Elania Tablada
(408) 482-8234

Portuguese Council

Claudia Madruga
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Eduina Faria
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San José Chinese Catholic Mission

Mandarin Community
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Cantonese Community

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Serra Club of Santa Clara

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Young Ladies Institute (YLI)

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Knights of Columbus

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