

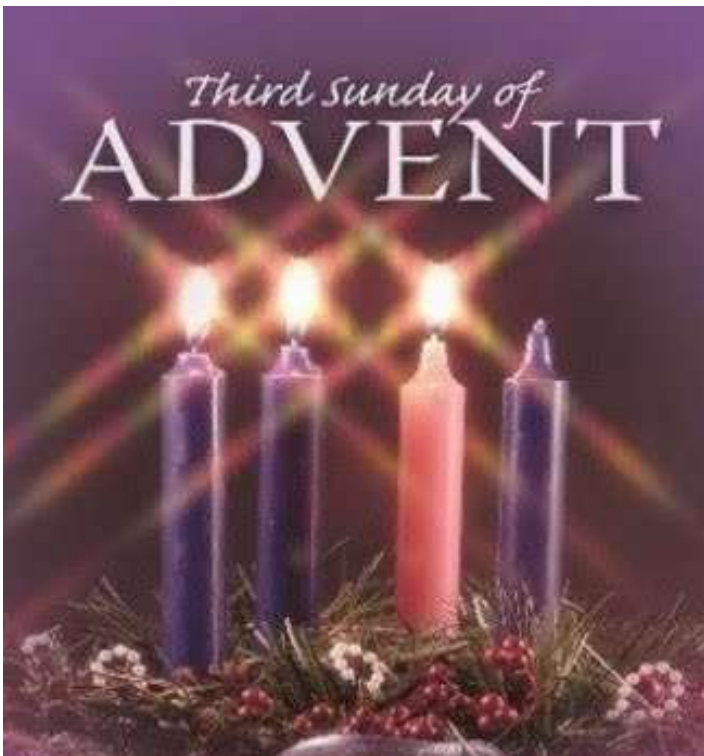
St. Anne's Catholic Church

1600 Rossmoor Parkway
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Email: info@stanneswc.org

Phone: (925) 932-2324
Emergencies: (925) 932-2324 ext. 13
www.stanneswc.org

Third Sunday of Advent / Gaudete Sunday

December 14, 2025



Parish Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am — 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Friday—Sunday: CLOSED

Masses in Church

Monday - Friday 8:15 am
Saturday 8:15 am & 5:00 pm (Vigil)
Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Sacrament of Confession

Tuesday 9:00 am—9:30 am
Saturday 3:30 pm—4:00 pm

Library Hours

Wednesday 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Sunday's Readings/Music:

1. Readings begin on page 40.
 2. Hymns on page 338 (after the grey tabbed pages.)
 3. Psalms follow the readings or may be noted with a Psalm # that can be looked up in the missal past the hymns.
- Gathering: #39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 - 1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
 - Responsorial Psalm: 25 #743
R: To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.
 - 2nd Reading: James 5:7-10
 - Gospel Acclamation
 - Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
 - Presentation of the Gifts: #43 People, Look East
 - Sanctus: #839
 - Communion: #68 Maranatha
 - Sending: #39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning "Rejoice," a midpoint celebration where the Church shifts from penitential purple to joyful rose, lighting a pink candle on the Advent wreath and wearing rose vestments to signify that Christ's coming is near and the wait is almost over, reminding us to find joy in His nearness despite current trials.

Last week I wrote about the Christmas Carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". This week I thought I'd continue with a little history of why we do the things we do. This Sunday I would like to write about what a manger is and why it is significant in the Christmas story. When the child Jesus was born, his mother Mary

laid him in a manger. The word "manger" comes from the Latin word *manducare* which means "to eat." A manger is a wooden or stone feeding trough or food box that holds hay for larger farm animals like cattle, horses, and donkeys. Mangers were located wherever livestock were kept, places like stables, corrals, or caves. Farmers were sure to keep their mangers well-supplied with fodder at all times so the animals would never go hungry. The cattle can walk up to a manger at any time, and then spend long, leisure hours chomping away, chewing and slowly re-chewing their cud.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no room for them at the inn. So they were forced to find lodging elsewhere, probably in a cave where animals were staying. When Jesus was born, Mary would not have wanted to lay her infant on the hard, cold, stone floor. Instead, she had to make do with what was available and the manger proved to be a convenient alternative--- the hay was soft, the box was up and off the ground, and the sides tall enough to keep her child safely inside.

Once laid there, an angel told the shepherds that they would find their newborn Messiah and Lord "lying in a manger". They went in haste and found the child in the feeding trough, and they feasted their eyes on him.

Jesus was not laid in a manger by accident. It is a major spiritual symbol. Animals go to the manger for physical food, but with Jesus lying on the hay, we can go to the manger for spiritual food. Jesus has an infinite storehouse of nourishment available, and we can approach him any time and never go hungry. Jesus feeds us with Word and Sacrament, his gospel and the Eucharist. Jesus wants us to devour his word, chew on it, slowly ruminate on its meaning, swallow and digest it, and make it part of the fabric of our being. Jesus' Word is like no other food; it has the power to save our souls. Not only that, the infant in the feeding trough IS the Bread of Life, the true bread come down from heaven, and whoever eats this bread will live forever. If a person wants to be spiritually well-fed, it is important to read Scripture and receive the Eucharist often.

The manger is a momentous sign that Jesus is sustenance for us. The shepherds feasted first. Now it is our turn. Jesus born on the first Christmas is food for our souls. Amen.



Fr. Leonard L. Marrujo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 16th
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month

11:00 am

Grieving Ministry
St. Anne's Library

Wednesday, December 17th
Christmas Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

1:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec 24th—Friday, Dec 26th
Christmas Holiday — Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, December 31st—January 1st
New Year's Eve/Day — Parish Office Closed

They gave their lives in service— now they need your help.

For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation— it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for religious.



For registered parishioners, there is an envelope for this collection in your box of offering envelopes. For those unregistered, additional envelopes are available at each entrance/exit to the church.



Get the bulletin every week in your email before mass! Send a request to: rharmon@stanneswc.org



A warm and hearty
welcome to our
newest parishioners!

Karen Redwood

Mollie Redwood

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12/13	5:00 PM	† Jose and Isabel Chua
Sunday 12/14	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Parishioners and Benefactors † Carlos Marrujo, Jr.
Monday 12/15	8:15 AM	† Julio Jui
Tuesday 12/16	8:15 AM	† Lois Johnson
Wednesday 12/17	8:15 AM	† Trident Schleicher † Dustin Pearson
Thursday 12/18	8:15 AM	† Barbara Schurhoff
Friday 12/19	8:15 AM	† Esther Cadena
Saturday 12/20	8:15 AM	† Simon Choy



Missing anything? Check our Lost & Found
Monday—Thursday during office hours.

*Let us pray for all
those who have
recently passed*

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| † Josephine Cardaci | † Raymond Gorski |
| † Edward Emil Rinne | † Irene Gorski |
| † Elizabeth Jane Wydner | † Donna Tucker |
| † Bunk Sicotte | † Ida Castillo |
| † Francis Carion | † Dick McLean |
| † Barbara Schurhoff | † Jim Stevens |

GROCERY CARDS STILL NEEDED

Grocery store gift cards for the St. Vincent De Paul food bank at St. Mary's in Walnut Creek are still needed. Gift cards can be dropped in the rectory mail slot near the front office. **PLEASE INCLUDE the dollar amounts** on the gift cards. Thank you for your generosity!



GRIEF MINISTRY

Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion, and sadness.



Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when a loved one is gone.

This ministry provides spiritual, emotional & practical support to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is December 16th at 11 am.

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FORMED brings Catholic content to parishes, families & individuals. There are series, audio books, movies and more! It's available on your phone, tablet/iPad, computer and/or your tv. Think of it as Netflix for Catholics with Catholic content curated by The Augustine Institute & Ignatius Press. This is FREE as a parishioner of St. Anne's. Visit formed.org to get signed up!

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Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrea Puccini	Michelle Sinchak
Sheila Wilkins	Michael Dunn
Annette Burns	Kathleen Rose
William Egan	Charles Krystofiak
Jeanette Egan	Jim Gschwend
Robert Fiore	Jeanette Martini
Joann Holbrook	Joan Roensch
Karen Goldman	Chuck Fontenot
Christina Dwyer	

Names are on the list for 4 weeks. If you wish to be included, removed or continued for another 4 weeks, please contact Fran Long at 925-939-5151.

ADVENT 2025
Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 16
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Father Leonard and Father George will be hearing confessions after the 8:15 am daily mass.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The following non-perishable items are needed at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on a regular basis and are usually in short supply. Please place these items in the St. Anne's collection bin located outside the courtyard entrance.



Cleaning Supplies:	Hygiene/Toiletries:
Toilet Paper	Hand Soap
Paper Towels	Toothpaste
Kleenex	Toothbrushes
Laundry Detergent	Dental Floss
Liquid Dishwashing Detergent	Body Wash
Dishwasher Detergent	Deodorant
	Shampoo/Conditioner
Food Items:	Hand/Body Lotion
Cup of Noodles/Ramen	Cleansing Wipes
Small bottles of Mustard/ Ketchup/Mayo	Combs
Coffee / Tea	Small brushes
Bottled Water	New Socks