

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 19, 2004**



(For the Week of December 20-December 26, 2004)

Monday	12:10PM	Kent Delventhal†
Tuesday	12:10PM	Luvisminda Bradford
Wednesday	12:10PM	David Hoffman
Thursday	12:10PM	Agnes M. Spooler†
Friday	12:10PM	Charles Gittings, Jr.
	5:00PM	Ricardo Aduato†
	7:30PM	John "Jean" Sagouspe†
Saturday	8:30AM	Charles Friman†
	11:00AM	Ricci Family

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 5:00PM MASS TODAY**

Sunday	8:30AM	Teresa Montez Delgado† & Andrew Montez†
	11:00AM	Parishioners of St. Leo's

**SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24.

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: Frank Corey, Theodora Gamboa, Dora Ghilarducci, Remigia Grego, Emmy Lou Henry, Paul Johnson, Peter McNally, Lauren Moody, Fred Peterson, Elizabeth Rodoni, Ethel Steckler, Jacqueline Yamnitsky, and all other parishioners who are ill.



**CATCHING UP**

Thank you to those who contributed last week to our "Catch-Up" Collection and, thus, helped us decrease our shortfall. You gave another \$290.00 which brings our "Catch-Up" collection to \$1,646.00. Last week, we asked those of you who are choosing not to contribute to tell us your reasons after the Masses. We received many suggestions on how to save money. Unfortunately, although these ideas have their merit, it would be impractical to implement some of the suggestions and highly unpopular with a majority of our parishioners to implement others. Please know that we are working with a "bare bones" budget already. We have taken every step we can to keep the utility bills, etc., as low as possible. We appreciate your input regarding money-saving ideas. What we really want to hear from you, though, is why you are choosing not to contribute to your parish. Please contact the parish office or one of the staff and let us know why we are not receiving your support.

**2005 CALENDARS**

Thanks this year to Albert Brown Mortuary and Mercy Retirement and Care Center for donating the beautiful 2005 calendars. There are two types from which to choose, and there are plenty to go around. They are located on the altar rails and on the table in the vestibule of the church.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**ST. LEO'S  
SENIOR ACTIVITY  
CENTER**  
 Co-Sponsored with the Oakland Unified  
 School District: Pleasant Valley Adult School  
**Welcomes you!**  
**WEDNESDAYS from 8:30 -1:30 pm**  
 Make New Friends/Participate in:  
 ⇒ free classes  
 ⇒ special programs  
 ⇒ community resources  
 ⇒ low-cost lunch available  
 \*\*\*\*\*

This Week's Calendar (Week of December 20-December 26, 2004)			
Tues.	7:00PM	Scripture Study	Rectory
Wed.	6:30PM	Advent Evening Prayer	Church
Sun.	9:45AM	Choir Practice	Church

**THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS**  
**Friday, December 24**  
 5:00 p.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy: Family Celebration  
 7:30 p.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy: Choir  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Saturday, December 25**  
 8:30 a.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy  
 11:00 a.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy: Choir  
**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
**NO CONFESSIONS**  
**NO 5:00 p.m. MASS**  
**Sunday, December 26**  
 8:30 a.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy  
 11:00 a.m. – Eucharistic Liturgy

**SAN MARTIN SISTER PARISH COLLECTION**

This weekend, baskets will be available at all the exits of the church for our quarterly donations to our sister parish, San Martin Sacatepequez, in Guatemala. We thank you for your continued generosity. We are most grateful for your kindness.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

The Holiday Bake Sale will take place Sunday, December 19, after the 8:30AM and 11:00AM Masses. The Garden benches are on a 90-day hold because of a rock quarry delay. Targeted completion is mid-January. A series of discussions for returning Catholics is scheduled to begin on January 11 at 7:30PM. Contact Norah Hippolyte, Pastoral Assistant, for more information.

**HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!**

Get your baked goods on Sunday! There is a bake sale on Sunday following the 8:30 and 11:00AM Masses in the vestibule. Buy for yourself. Buy for your friends. Buy for your neighbors. Buy for Christmas.

	Our Weekly Offering	
	December 11/12, 2004	Year-to-Date Sundays/HolyDays
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$3,849.00</b>	<b>\$242,972.00</b>
<b>Goal</b>	<b>\$5,248.00</b>	<b>\$257,152.00</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$1,399.00</b>	<b>\$14,180.00</b>

Our shortfall has decreased slightly. We are now approximately 2.7 weeks behind in funds budgeted to keep the parish operating as it does now. The collection for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception amounted to \$1,592 and you donated \$263 to the Religious Retirement Fund. Please read the article entitled "Catching Up" on this page. We are still in serious danger of falling even farther behind if we do not start doing something about the problem right now. Thank you to our loyal supporters.

**CHRISTIAN ENRICHMENT CORNER**



**On-Going Christian Enrichment**

The intermediate level (grades 3-6) meet today, Sunday, December 19, at 9:45AM in the Fr. Lacey Room. The junior and senior high levels meet next on Sunday, January 2 at 9:45AM in the Fr. Lacey Room. (FYI - **All** children, ages 8 to 17, who participate in reception of the Eucharist on Sundays should be attending an On-Going Christian Enrichment session.)

**Christian Initiation of Children**

Families with school age children preparing for the sacraments of Baptism and/or First Eucharist have a meeting on Monday, January 3 at 6:30PM in the Fr. Lacey Room. Please see Norah if you are enable to attend.

**Teen Confirmation Preparation**

The next meeting is Saturday, January 8 at 6:30PM in the Rectory.

**CATHOLICISM FOR ADULTS**

Remember when confession was in a dark closet or when the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick was called Extreme Unction? Welcome to the Church of your adult life. The **Returning Catholics** series, which begins on Tuesday, January 11, at 7:30PM in the Old Prayer Room, will highlight what is different and what has stayed the same in the Church.

**LATE EFT PROCESSING**

Those of you who contribute to the parish through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) may have noticed that the transfers that would have normally occurred on December 5 were delayed until December 9. This was due to a system problem at the company who processes the transfers. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this might have caused you.

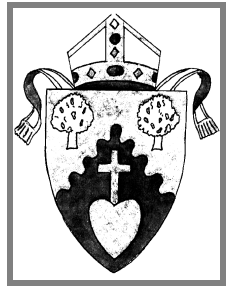


**GARDEN GALLERY**

World-renowned sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz has been seeking an appropriate "gallery" in which to show his latest work, "Agony in the Garden". This is four life-sized statues of Jesus, James, John, and Peter (pictured at left). The artist

believes that our garden would be the perfect setting in which to "show" these pieces. Because of this, the sculpture could be commissioned for only \$46,000, the cost of the casting, delivery, and installation. The cost of one such figure would normally be \$25,000 to \$30,000. We could do this if parishioners are interested in it. We have already received four pledges. Please see the poster in the church vestibule for pictures of the models and for more details. If we have enough money pledged to pay for the whole project, then we could collect the pledges and commission the work. If you are interested in making a pledge toward the acquisition of these sculptures, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one, please contact one of the parish staff.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**



**From Catholic Charities of the East Bay**  
Catholic Charities of the East Bay - Departments of Detention Ministry & Community Violence Prevention is pleased to announce a three-part training to prepare volunteers interested in joining their efforts in the following program components: "Operation New Hope - Life Skills Program for youth incarcerated at Camp Sweeney in San Leandro (25 hours required training on January 22, 29, and February 5), Ministry to Inmates - Liturgy of the Word Services for adults and juveniles incarcerated within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (6 hours required training on February 12), and Victim/Offender Mediation - Transformative Mediation Services for youth offenders (40 hours required training on February 3-26). To secure your space in the *required portion* of the training in which you are interested, please reply as soon as possible to Jacqueline Manibusan at 510-768-3158 or email her at [Jacqueline@cceb.org](mailto:Jacqueline@cceb.org). All efforts will be made to accommodate prospective volunteers with scheduling conflicts by providing make-up training dates.

**CAROLING ALONG PIEDMONT AVENUE**

Come one. Come all. Join us as we carol our way through the Piedmont Avenue District. We will meet in front of the church at 3:00PM on Sunday, December 19. Everyone is welcome (even if you did not attend any practices). Bring a thermos full of something warm and comforting to drink, if you like. We hope to see you there!

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**POINSETTIAS FOR REMEMBRANCE**  
At Christmastime, St. Leo's parishioners are afforded the opportunity to have a poinsettia placed in the church in memory of a loved one. If you are interested, please pick up an order form from the table in the vestibule of the Church or the side altar rails.  
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**ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER**

If you are curious about the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) program that we often refer to, please pick up one of the packets located in the church vestibule or visit our website at [www.stleothegreat.org](http://www.stleothegreat.org).



**SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY CORNER**

**Death Penalty Focus**

Death Penalty Focus is a large and diverse member-based organization made up of people from all walks of life who come to this issue from many different perspectives — religious, moral, economic, legal, political, social, personal — but who share a common view that capital punishment is unnecessary and inappropriate in our modern society. The organization is dedicated to constructing a safe society for everyone. They in no way oppose consequences for unlawful or inappropriate behavior. On the contrary, they support them. They believe, however, that those consequences must be consistent with our stated ideals. Therefore, just as we in the United States have put away such once-embraced practices as slavery and physical torture, they believe the time has come to recognize that because we have it within our power to safely and permanently separate from society those unwilling or unable to live by the social contract, the killing of our own citizens is unnecessary. Death Penalty Focus' goal is to educate the public on the myths and facts of the death penalty, and to help propel our country to a more humane and fair justice system. For further information, please visit [www.deathpenalty.org](http://www.deathpenalty.org).

-- \$3,432,501.15: TOTAL COST OF RENOVATION

**DEBT REDUCTION**

**\$1,440,464.12: DEBT OWED TO THE DIOCESE**

**THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS: \$684.64**

We now have **\$8,912.10** which will be paid at the end of the fourth quarter to cover our interest on the debt and to reduce our principal. Thank you for your generosity.

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**Help Us Help Others**

- **Fall 2004 Invitation to Serve:** Watch for St. Vincent de Paul presentations, tours and orientations. Join a new world of service and fellowship that allows you to act upon your faith.
- **Donate to Special Works:** Support the Dining Room, Visitation Center and Champion Guidance Men's Center in Oakland. See [www.svdp-alameda.org](http://www.svdp-alameda.org) to learn about our efforts.
- **Shop Smart:** Support our stores in Alameda, Oakland, Fremont and Livermore. Your donations allow us to help others.

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