

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 22, 2024

Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

*“Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we
shall be saved.”*



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic
Parish Inspired by Dominican
Spirituality Igniting the Faith
for the Salvation of Souls**

Altar Flowers in Memory of Norman Turley

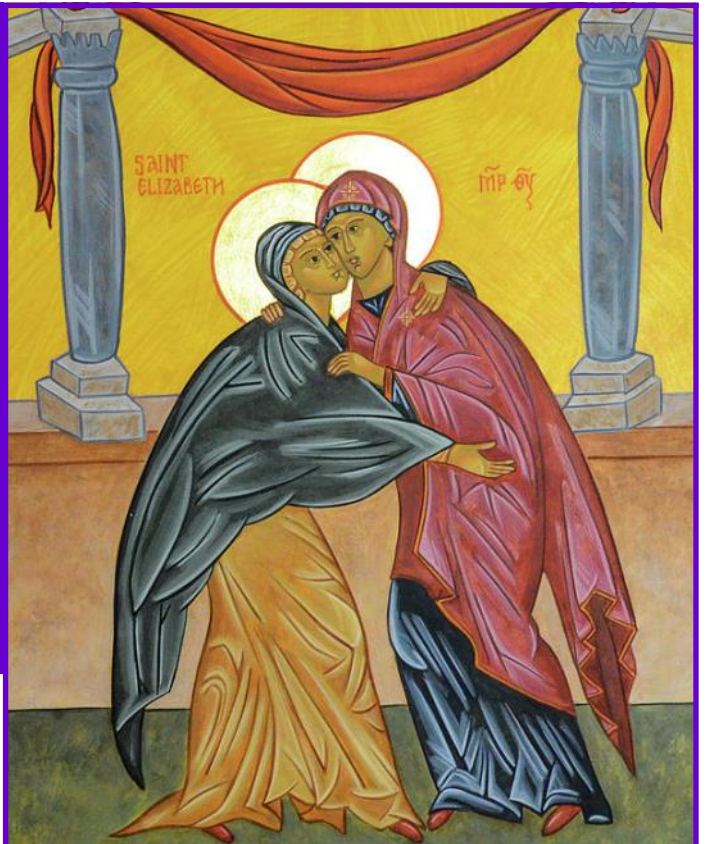
Mass Intentions

Sat	12/21	5:00 p.m.	(R) Joseph Bettencourt
Sun	12/22	7:30 a.m.	(R) William Woods
		9:00 a.m.	(A) Peter & Gigi Lee
		11:00 a.m.	(B) Gregory Daly
		1:00 p.m.	(T) People of the Parish
Mon	12/23	6:45 a.m.	(B) Lootsee Lustan
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Victoria Montgomery
Tues	12/24	6:45 a.m.	(B) Kurt Maragigan
		8:15 a.m.	(T) Dominican Friars
Wed	12/25	Merry Christmas - See Mass Schedule	
		Merry Christmas - See Mass Schedule	
Thurs	12/26	6:45 a.m.	(R) Jason Hickley
		8:15 a.m.	(H) Sung Tae Han
Fri	12/27	6:45 a.m.	(A) Marta Lopez & Benjamin Soria
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Barbara Piepho
Sat	12/28	8:15 a.m.	(R) Brett Watson
		5:00 p.m.	(P) Donna Ernst
Sun	12/29	7:30 a.m.	(T) People of the Parish
		9:00 a.m.	(B) Monique Hull
		11:00 a.m.	(R) Cortez Family Members
		1:00 p.m.	(B) Noe Soria

Legend:

(R) Repose of the Soul (H) Health (P) Prayerful Intention
(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving

February 2025 Intentions Opens January 2



**Please pray for the recovery of the sick
listed in our Book of Intentions
and the following:**

Evangeline Chua, Neil Black, Maria Kim, Michelle Garcia, Dennis Kolkebeck, Adrienne Varin, Sandra K. Andrakin, Patricia Butler, Hau Thi Vu Nguyen, Pauline Soop, Rose Marie Watterson, Elaine Paschal, Maria Bongco, Ramon Dela Cruz, Carol Marsh, Francisco Gan, Dino Tan, Donna Wade, Jenny Quandt, Michael Raymundo Co, Christian Salcedo, Marsha Morse, Sean Salvatin, Rolando Cortez, Paul Cruel, Meredith Morrow, Laura Starkey, Maria de Fatima Pereira, Eileen Hayes, Barbara Donley, Cecilia Tan, Sherry Thomas, Barbara Helms, Colin Larkin, Jerry Schilz, Alma Johnson, Lisa Santini, Liz Thurin, Rosie & Don Klatt, Aurora Basilio, Leonor Cruel, Mark Nees, Albert Tan Co, Ron Pearman, Patricia Weber, Bernice Cure, Margaret Haddad, Monika Pangelinan, Gladys Haddad, Julia Haddad

**Please remember the following recently
deceased (and their families) in your prayers:**

Stanley Mellor, Peter Boss, Carol Keating, Gladyne Mitchell, Brett Watson, Peter Szabo, Carol Burch, Robert (Bob) Haight, Barbara Peck, David Barnhardt, Jane Gasper, Renato Duey, Margaret McClune O.P.L., Fr. Donald Bramble, O.P., Helen Sapp, Cindy Tarantino, Dolores Franko, Nina Hurst

~names will be listed approximately 3 months as space allows~



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510
707.747.7220 www.stdombenicia.org
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Pastor's Corner



Last Saturday morning before the Benicia Christmas Parade, as I grabbed my coat and stepped out of the office and into the wind and rain, wincing, I said to myself, "Are we really doing this?" Approaching our meeting location in front of the Yacht Club, we found ourselves driving through deep water that had flooded a large section of the street.

I synched up my hood, and we unloaded our wagon full of candy cane bags for the kids and Christmas mass schedule flyers. Many of the folks we had expected to join us understandably canceled, but we did manage to have roughly twenty-five present in our group, including six cheerleaders, which was a relief since they were leading our routine in front of the judges. As our participants arrived, I went out and scouted for where our group's spot in the queue. This required a bit of extra effort because while we had an assigned parade group-number, several groups who were scheduled to be in the parade opted to stay home. This meant those of us who did walk had to do our best to compare assigned group-numbers to figure out where we belonged in the queue with some numbers missing. Once that was sorted, I rejoined our party to find one of our cheer moms with her own wagon containing thermoses of hot chocolate and a waterproof sound system for the cheer routine. This mom got out her phone and, using a Bluetooth connection to the sound system, played Christmas music for us to enjoy. As we waited to enter the parade's queue, the light rain fell, the gusty wind blew, Nat King Cole sang of "chestnuts roasting on an open fire," and I put on my Santa hat, finding that the whole experience was turning magical. Soon after, the parade began, and we marched toward the entry point. Right before we stepped into the line, I gathered the group together for a prayer and reminded our kids that, as Christians, we were called to follow Jesus come rain or shine. The cheerleaders helped me rev up the participants with a call-and-response cheer we like to do at sports games, and then onto 1st Street we marched! A delightful surprise was that many Benicia folks, including parishioners, did turn up to watch and wave from underneath the storefront overhangs. And within a few minutes, the rain stopped, and the overall vibe lifted even more as parishioners distributed mass flyers to spectators, the kids passed out candy canes, and our sound system blared Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You." I certainly have wonderful memories of our march in last year's Christmas parade with our much bigger number of participants and ideal weather. I suspect, however, that this year's parade will prove to have been even more memorable!

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P. - Pastor
frandy@stdombenicia.org 707-335-4668

Upcoming Events

Christmas Office Hours Office is Closed

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Thursday, December 26
Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 p.m. (Church & Hall)
7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - Vietnamese Mass
12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. Spanish/English

New Year's Eve (Vigil) Mass

Tuesday, December 31
6:00 & 11:00 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
9:00 a.m.

VOTIVE MASS

In Honor of the Divine Infant Jesus Mahal na Poong Santo Niño

*Mahal na Poong
Sto. Niño de Tondo
Maawa Ka sa amin!*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

MASS AT 10:00 A.M.

Followed by Reception in the Hall

Please bring all your
images of the Santo Niño
for a yearly blessing after
the Mass.



St. Dominic's Catholic Church
475 East I St., Benicia, CA 94510
www.stdombenicia.org

Advent

What is a Nativity Crèche?

Did you know that the first nativity set was created by Francis of Assisi in 1223? Nowadays, you see nativity scenes on Christmas cards, in town centers, at the mall, outside churches, and in homes all across the world. Traditionally a nativity set, also known as a nativity crèche or manger scene, is a set of figures that create the Christmas scene: baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the angel, the shepherds, the three kings, and a variety of farm animals. Catholics traditionally hide the baby Jesus and only add him to the scene on Christmas Day. This is a great visual way to help young children understand what we prepare for during Advent.

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent: December 22, 2024

Light all four candles

Read from Scripture: "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)



What concerns, joys, worries, and prayers do you want to bring to Jesus this Christmas

Prayer: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." –John 3:16

The Herrera Family

Angelina (9) Noelle (14) Antoinette & Neil Herrera

It is an honor for our family to be chosen on lighting the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

One of our family tradition is decorating a Christmas tree together, we all have old and new ornaments that brings joy & reflection. We top the tree with a beautiful capiz shell angel. This reminds us of our Filipino heritage and most importantly, the anticipation of Jesus's birth.

Let the warmth of this candle inspire us to carry the spirit of love, joy & goodwill throughout the season.



Becoming Catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)

**Congratulations to our newly accepted
Catechumens and Candidates!**



Back row: Rachel Wigen-Toccalino, Melody Schulte, Bryan Gilley, James Cowan Jr., Donald O'Brien, Diederich Burton

Front row: Felicia Perez, Erinn Gilley, Megan Huttenhain, Mia Ingram, Suzanne Artz, Desiree Mendoza

Not pictured: Madeline Schneider, Lailah Ayala-Garcia

Last Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we celebrated the Rite of Acceptance.

We welcomed 6 adults and 3 children into the catechumenate (preparation for Baptism into the Catholic Church), 5 adults into candidacy for full communion into the Catholic Church (First Communion and Confirmation).

Within the past few months, these individuals have heard the initial proclamation of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and have made the decision to enter the Church and take the next steps toward it.

Please keep these individuals in your prayers as they embark on a new journey towards becoming full members of our Catholic Faith community on Easter Vigil.

For more information, questions, and inquiries, contact Brianne Dela Cruz
bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org || 707-335-4674



December 24, 2024
To
January 6, 2026



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

“Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing in the glory of God... Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:1-2.5).

The Catholic Church will celebrate the Year of Jubilee in 2025, a yearlong event that marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of the Lord. The year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". The Jubilee Year starts on December 24, 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door in Rome. In our Diocese, we will celebrate a special Vigil mass to proclaim the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral on Saturday, December 28, 2024 (The Feast of the Holy Family). The Holy Doors in Rome will close on December 28, 2025 and the Jubilee will formally conclude in Rome on January 6, 2026 (The Solemnity of Epiphany).

PILGRIMAGE

Bishop Soto has designated **12 Pilgrimage Sites** for the Jubilee Year and encourages all Catholics to make a pilgrimage and visit these sites and to reflect and pray upon the three diocesan themes for the Jubilee. Partial and plenary indulgences can be earned for pilgrimage and/or practice. **St. Dominic’s, Benicia is honored to be chosen as one of the 12 Pilgrimage Sites!** <https://www.scd.org/Jubilee2025-Pilgrimage-Sites>
MARK YOUR VISIT

Once you have visited the pilgrimage site and spent some time in prayer, place the sticker on the corresponding location in the Jubilee brochure. We will have brochures available in our church soon! When you go on pilgrimage please take a picture or a selfie and share it on social media with hashtags #hopefulpilgrims and #stdombenicia

Our 35th Season! FOUR EASY WAYS TO RECYCLE YOUR TREE

- **Drop Off**
Benicia Community Park or
First Baptist Church | 1055 Southhampton Road
(Across from Middle School)
- **Pick Up**
Call the Recycle Hotline 707-551-4520
and leave your information.

- **Pick Up**
Visit beniciascouts.org
to register your tree online or
by scanning the QR Code
- **Pick Up**
Send this buckslip to: Christmas Tree Recycling
P.O. Box 485 | Benicia, CA 94510



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____



Hours 9AM - 4PM | Suggested Donator \$22 | Tree Pickup in Benicia Only
SAT DEC 28 2024 SUN DEC 29 2024 SAT JAN 4 2025 SUN JAN 5 2025 SAT JAN 11 2025

Christmas Tree Recycling
by the Benicia Scouts



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 p.m. (Church & Hall)
7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - Vietnamese Mass
12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses
Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. Spanish/English

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475 East I St., Benicia, CA 94510
www.stdombenicia.org

Legacy & IRA Giving

You can remember St. Dominic's, Benicia in your estate plans through your will, retirement plan or other assets. Legacy gifts are used for capital projects that may otherwise not be possible and are never used for day to day expenses. For example the parish hall renovations! You can even designate your gift to a specific fund (i.e. building fund).

If you own a traditional IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, the IRS requires that you take yearly distributions (MRD's). But did you know you can designate the MRD to St. Dominic's Church and you don't have to pay taxes on the distribution? For more information, visit the IRS website or contact your tax or financial consultant.

For more information or to explore your options please contact
Teresa Stone at
tstone@stdombenicia.org or
707-335-4672

Global Holiday Faire

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and joined us at the 27th Annual Global Holiday Faire

We raised \$13,000 this year for nonprofits and local and international groups serving the needs of the poor. A successful ecumenical effort St. Dominic's supports each Advent.



Thank You!

SVDP's Holiday Giving Tree



Thank you to all of our help assisting those in need this year! The giving tree was once again a huge success and we were able to help everyone on our list! Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

Want more information?

St. Vincent de Paul ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and get involved this holiday season! To learn more about these events, our ministry, or to get involved contact svdp@gmail.com or svdp@stdombenicia.org.

Please help us stock our pantry. We are in need of mayo, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups, beef stew, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, fruit cups, etc.

If you know anyone who could use St. Vincent de Paul's help, please have them call **707-746-1773**.



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 7:30 (livestreamed), 9:00 11:00 a.m.
 & 1:00 p.m. (Spanish/English)
 First Sunday of month Vietnamese Mass – 3:00 p.m.
Daily Mass
 Monday – Friday: 6:45 a.m.
 Monday – Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

Confession Times

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Ministries at St. Dominic's

- ◆ **Adoration**
 Euly Legro - adoration@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Altar Servers**
 Theodore Diepenbrock - altarservers@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Choirs**
 Luke Shalz - lshalz@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Consolation/Grief**
 Patti Erickson - grief@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Dominican Laity**
 Dirk Fulton - domlaity@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
 Mike & Sara Monahan - emhc@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Gabriel Project**
 Maria Padrones - gabriel@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Guadalupe Association**
 Patricia Chavez - guadalupe@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Hospitality**
 Kristina Ruiz - hospitality@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Knights of Columbus**
 Dan Swienton - beniciaknights@gmail.com
- ◆ **MOM's Ministry - Magnificence of Motherhood**
 Jamaila Pasternack - mothers@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Lectors Ministry**
 Amar Lagrimas - lectors@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Lazarus Ministry**
 Amar Lagrimas - lazarus@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **Parish Pastoral Council**
 Kaitlin Demers - ppc@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**
 Brianne Dela Cruz—bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **St. Vincent de Paul**
 Michael Munn - svdp@stdombenicia.org
- ◆ **St. Dominic's Cemetery**
 Lisa Sarnicola - lsarnicola@opwest.org
- ◆ **Ushers**
 Tom Sarnicola & Manny Roldan – usher@stdombenicia.org

**Our ministries are open to
 all parishioners.
 Please contact our ministry leaders
 and join one today! We can't wait to
 hear from you!**

Parish Office

475 East I Street, Benicia
Current Office Hours
 Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 707.747.7220
Religious Education Office Hours
 Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Parish Staff

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P. frandy@stdombenicia.org	Pastor
Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P. gliu@stdombenicia.org	Parochial Vicar
Mike Scafani mscafani@stdombenicia.org	Deacon
Teresa Stone tstone@stdombenicia.org	Business Manager
Luke Shalz lshalz@stdombenicia.org	Music Director
Lori Telepak ltelepak@stdombenicia.org	Communications
Brianne Dela Cruz bdelacruz@stdombenicia.org	Dir. of Religious Ed.
Debi Thurin dthurin@stdombenicia.org	Children's Sacraments
Delores Rodriguez drodriguez@stdombenicia.org	RE Admin. Assistant
Justin Reyes jreyes@stdombenicia.org	Liturgy Coordinator
Scott Schilz sschilz@stdombenicia.org	Weddings & Quince's
Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.	Maintenance
Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.	In Residence / Retired In Residence / Retired

St. Dominic School

935 East 5th Street, Benicia
www.sdschoolbenicia.org 707.745.1266

Penelope Ogden (K-8th grade) pogden@sdschoolbenicia.org	Principal
Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK) tsanchez@sdschoolbenicia.org	Preschool Director

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT			
07/1/24-11/30/24			
	YTD	YTD	+ / -
	Actual	Budget	Budget
Sunday Offertory			
Online donations	\$ 176,053		
Sunday/Mail-in donations	\$ 235,025		
	\$ 411,078	\$ 420,000	\$ (8,922)
Second Collections:			
Building Improvement	\$ 18,586	\$ 16,667	\$ 1,919
Faith Formation	\$ 4,686	\$ 4,458	\$ 228
Total Operating Income	\$ 525,659	\$ 516,679	\$ 8,979
Operating Expenses	\$ 618,349	\$ 554,727	\$ 63,623
Net Income/Loss	\$ (92,691)	\$ (38,048)	\$ (54,643)

**Please support the following businesses owned by members of our parish community.
Their contributions each week underwrite our Parish Bulletin. Thank you!**

<p>A & S Chem Dry, Anthony & Shelly Trevino Serving St. Dominic's Parish for over 25 years! (707) 748-7726</p>	<p>Tim & Jeannie Hamann Foundation fightcancer@hamannfoundation.org Tax ID#47-2189766 hamannfoundation.org</p>	<p>Passalacqua Funeral Chapel John Passalacqua/Greg Silva/Joe Talken (707) 745-3130</p>
<p>A & S Chem Dry - Drier. Cleaner. Healthier. Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning (707) 748-7726 Tile & Stone Clean & Seal</p>	<p>Richard Joyce, O.D. Optometrist Exams, Glasses, Contacts (707) 745-6266, 874 Southampton Rd.</p>	<p>Reyes Electric Co. & Design LIC#32877 Residential/ Commercial (707) 747-6818</p>
<p>Accident Attorney Mark Basil Pappas, Esq. (707) 567-8206 mbpappaslaw@comcast.net</p>	<p>Kindred Spirits Pet/House Sitting Dorothy Doscher (707) 334-3776</p>	<p>Sarita's Garden Consulting www.saritasdrygardenconsulting.com (707) 347-9411 First step in gardening!</p>
<p>Al Caruso Insurance - No Medical Required Life Insurance - Guaranteed Issue age 50-85 (510) 207-4640 Lic#0191914</p>	<p>Law Offices of Barnum & Avila Employment Law (707) 745-3747, www.rmblaw.com</p>	<p>Shutters and More Bill Simpson, Parishioner (707) 746-8187</p>
<p>All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center FD2286 Funeral, Mortuary, Cremation & Burial. (707)-644-5209 cfcsSacramento.org</p>	<p>Law Offices of Thomas R. Healy Wills/Trusts/Estate Planning/General Practice (707) 553-7360</p>	<p>St. Dominic's Cemetery Lisa Sarnicola, Sales Manager (707) 751-0527</p>
<p>Amso Healthy Chiropractic 310 Military West (707) 752-2990</p>	<p>Minuteman Press Copy, Print, Posters & Banners (707) 647- 1000, 812 Tennessee St, Vallejo</p>	<p>Teresa Stone - Notary Services tstone@stdombenicia.org (707) 330-0773</p>
<p>ATS Tax & Financial Solutions Tax Angels to your rescue! Returns/ QB (707) 745-1040</p>	<p>Mr. Lawn Landscape Service Landscaping, Maintenance & Installation (707) 747-5273</p>	<p>Tuolumne Street Auto Repair John McLaughlin, Parishioner (707) 648-3434</p>
<p>Crane Station, Inc. Rex Sevilla—Crane and Electrical Services (707)333-6287</p>	<p>Napoli Pizza and Pasta Chris & Lisa Guerrero- Owners (707) 746-8906, www.napolibenicia.com</p>	<p>Up2Code Plumbing Owner Mike Pitta - 24 hour service (707) 751-1714</p>
<p>Caregiver - Trained - Seeking New Clients You or someone you know need assistance? (707) 330-2941 Contact Gigi</p>	<p>North Point Pest Solutions Inc. Pest Control Services BENICIA (707) 621-0003</p>	<p>Warring & Assoc. Realtors Bill/Diane Brokers/Owners, 829 First St. (707) 746-6990</p>
<p>Hamann Real Estate, 513 First Street Tim and Jeannie Hamann/Broker-Owners (707) 246-6567 DRE01348061</p>	<p>Olson Realty, Inc. Kathleen McInerney Olson/Broker (707) 745-3602</p>	<p>Tim Wright - Carpentry Work 30 years Exp - References Available (707) 319-5357</p>
<p>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER</p>	<p>DEC 08: Immaculate Conception DEC 08: SDS Tuition Assistance DEC 08: Retired Religious Fund</p>	<p>DEC 15: Building Improvement DEC 25: Christmas JAN 01: Solemnity of Mary</p>

Parish Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bulletin & E-mail Submissions, Advertising, Ministries, Scheduling, or Promotion please send to: ltelepak@stdombenicia.org