



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

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**OAKLAND APOSTOLATE AT
SAINT MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Mailing Address:
1219 Excelsior Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY
(Mass Propers available in the Parish Bulletin)

Dear faithful,

“This day you shall know that the Lord will come, and save us” (Ex. 16:6-7). We celebrate this Sunday the Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord, **Christmas Eve**, and this Monday we will celebrate the great feast of **Christmas**. We live now in the hopeful expectation of Our Lord’s return to earth, when He will return as Judge to save the elect and condemn the reprobate. May we live our Faith always so as to be found in His friendship on that all-important day.

The Mass times **this Sunday** are the usual 7 am and 12:30 pm. The Christmas Day Mass times (**this Monday**) are 12 am Midnight (**Christmas Carols** at 11:30 pm Sunday night), 7 am and 12:30 pm. There is **no 6 pm Mass** on Monday. It is necessary to attend one of the Masses on both Sunday and Monday.

A big thank you to all who contributed to our **Christmas Eve Toy Drive!** Your Christian charity towards the less fortunate families of Oakland is a most agreeable gift not only to them, but also to Our Savior who gave us the gift of His Incarnation.

They’re here! Beautiful, hardbound copies of the excellent traditional catechism, **My Catholic Faith**, have recently arrived. Get yours for \$25, a discount of almost fifty percent compared to the online sellers!

The Seminary Society sent out **107 Christmas cards to the seminary** last week. Many thanks to Thomas and Diana Henriksson for continuing this tradition. Thank you as well to all who signed cards, and the volunteers who helped in this effort. A few words from the faithful to the seminarians go a long way in encouraging them in their work and studies. Please keep the seminarians in your prayers!

There is, as of recently, more controversy in the Church and the world over Catholic doctrine, this time regarding the blessing of irregular and even disordered unions. Let us always recall the words of St. Paul: “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema” (Gal. 1:8). We must be clear: **God cannot bless sin, and this includes such sinful unions.**

The Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop of St. Mary of Astana, not to mention other bishops, have responded with a clear reiteration of the **perennial doctrine** of the Church, in stating that such a blessing directly and seriously contradicts Divine Revelation and the uninterrupted, bimillennial doctrine and practice of the Catholic Church. Please pray for all courageous shepherds! See the full article here: <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2023/12/archdiocese-of-saint-mary-in-astana.html>.

Christmas is a time of giving gifts, above all the great gift of the Son of God to the human race, who took flesh among us to redeem us and save us from Hell. Gifts of course should beget gratitude, and I would like to express **my profound gratitude** to all who give of their time and talents throughout the year to build up our humble apostolate.

Though I’m sure I don’t say it often enough, **thank you sincerely for all you do.** It is hard to sufficiently thank you all in a few short paragraphs. The Schola members who practice weekly and lend their voices for Sundays and feasts, the ladies who with grit and determination make sure that our altar flowers, linens and vestments are always looking their best, those who help prepare the bulletin each



The Adoration of the Shepherds,
Gerard van Honthorst, 1622

week, the Altar Servers who sacrifice in order to ensure the dignity of the Sacred Liturgy, and so many more. For those not mentioned here, please excuse me for the absence. Please know that I truly appreciate all who help in whatever way possible.

Sometimes we can’t be as involved in the life of the Apostolate as we would like, owing to sickness, changes in employment or other reasons. Are you at a distance from the Oakland Apostolate, or not able to attend regularly? Would you like to stay in touch with the Apostolate? Do you need a home visit, or priestly assistance? Please text me at (408) 600-4218, or email me canon.norman@institute-christ-king.org.

There will be the **St. John’s Blessing of Wine** this Wednesday, December 27 after the 6 pm Mass. Please find attached in Flocknote an English translation of the Blessing.

There are two opportunities for **plenary indulgences** coming up, under the usual conditions: Next **Sunday, December 31**, there will be a Solemn **Te Deum** and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the 12:30 pm Mass, in thanksgiving for all the graces received during the last year. Next **Monday, January 1**, the **Veni Creator** will be chanted before the 12:30 Mass. There will **not be a 6 pm Mass** on January 1.

Because of the Christmas preparations, there will **not be a reception** after the 12:30 Mass this Sunday. Looking forward to seeing you at Midnight Mass!

Wishing you a blessed Sunday,
Canon Norman

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date	Time	Mass of the Day	Celebrant	Intention
Sun. 12/24	7:00 am <i>Low Mass</i>	Vigil of the Nativity <i>1st Class / Violet</i>	Canon Norman	Monica Roberts
	12:30 pm <i>High Mass</i>			Ba Van Dinh †
Mon. 12/25	12:00 am <i>High Mass</i>	Nativity of Our Lord <i>1st Class / White</i>	Canon Norman	Scholastica Keimon †
	7:00 am <i>Low Mass</i>			Eric Menn
	12:30 pm <i>High Mass</i>			Martha Gonzalez †
Tue. 12/26	6:00 pm <i>Low Mass</i>	St. Stephen, First Martyr <i>2nd Class / Red</i>	Canon Norman	Barbara Powell †
Wed. 12/27	6:00 pm <i>Low Mass</i>	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist <i>2nd Class / White</i>	Canon Norman	Theresa Nguyen Thi Hat †
Thurs. 12/28	12:00 pm <i>Low Mass</i>	The Holy Innocents <i>2nd Class / Red</i>	Canon Norman	Martha Gonzalez †
Fri. 12/29	6:00 pm <i>Low Mass</i>	Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas <i>2nd Class / White / Adoration after Mass</i>	Canon Norman	Souls in Purgatory
Sat. 12/30	10:00 am <i>Low Mass</i>	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas <i>2nd Class / White</i>	Canon Norman	Fr. Michael Kowalewski
Sun. 12/31	7:00 am <i>Low Mass</i>	Sunday in the Octave of Christmas <i>2nd Class / White / Te Deum after 12:30 Mass</i>	Canon Norman	Charles Humphrey
	12:30 pm <i>High Mass</i>			Marquez Family

SACRAMENTS

Confessions are heard 30 minutes before each Mass, and also during the Adoration after the 6 pm Mass each Friday. Please contact Canon Norman if you are in need of or have questions regarding reception of any of the Sacraments.

CATECHISM CLASSES

Weekly catechism classes online: Please contact Canon Norman to request the Zoom link.

Youth Class: Tuesdays at 4:00 pm

Adult Class: Saturdays, at 2:30 pm

Prospective Catholics: contact Canon for class times

NB: *My Catholic Faith* is once again available for purchase! (Please contact Canon Norman)

FLOCKNOTE: sign up at [icksopoakland.flocknote.com](https://www.icksopoakland.flocknote.com) or text "ICKSPOakland" to 84576

PRAYER LISTS *

For the sick:

Thomas Henriksson	Gigi Cunningham	Peter Trong Nguyen
Paulann Dymond	Lianne Claver	Msr. David Link
Steve Farinaro	Marianne Martinez	Angie Gonzalez
Eurydice Buenger	Sylvia Duenas	Catherine Willis
Fil Marquez	Joshua Nascimento	Rick Pawek
Catherine Duenas		

For the repose of the souls of our beloved departed:

Rose Stone	Albert Bocek	Rita Soria Bautista
Bea Benham	Valeria Casillas	Carlos San Miguel
Dario Gonzalez	William M. Williams	Fr. Stan Zak
Nancy Duenas	Canon Fragelli	Ernest Jacob
Louisa Siu	Gabriel Fernandez	Camdan McWright
Mme. Guillemette de Guernon	Count Wolfgang von Waldstein	
Bernadette Moreau	Fr. Prokop Jozef Zboron, OCarm	
Thomas Apple	Alan Wong	

Requiescant in pace.

***Prayer lists:** If you wish to add a name or revise an entry on the prayer lists, please send an email to oakland@institute-christ-king.org. A longer list of the Apostolate's faithful departed is attached to the weekly Flocknote. *Thank you!*

UPCOMING EVENTS AND LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

December 25—Nativity of Our Lord (Mass Schedule: Midnight with Christmas Carols at 11:30pm on 12/24, 7am and 12:30pm)

December 27—St. John's Blessing of Wine after Mass

December 31— Sunday Within the Octave (*Te Deum* after the 12:30pm Mass, plenary indulgence available)

January 1—Octave of the Nativity (12:30pm Mass only; chanting of *Veni Creator* before Mass, plenary indulgence available)

January 2— Holy Name of Jesus

January 6— Epiphany of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS NOVENA OF MASSES

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest invites you to enroll your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered from Christmas Eve through the Octave of our Lord's Nativity at the Institute's U.S. Provincial Headquarters for those enrolled and their intentions. This Christmas, give those on your Christmas list the Eternal Gift. Enroll them in the Institute's Christmas Novena of Masses today! To enroll, please visit

<https://bit.ly/NovenaEnrollment>

DONATE TO THE INSTITUTE ONLINE

Please visit <https://institute-christ-king.org/donations>, or scan the QR code. **Thank you for your generosity!**



"ASK A PRIEST LIVE!" RADIO PROGRAM

Canons from the Institute of Christ the King participate in a new LIVE radio show on The Station of the Cross Catholic Media Network, at 6PM eastern time each weekday. <https://thestationofthecross.com/askapriest/>
Canon Norman will be on: Wednesday, December 27, at 3pm PST.

SUNDAY SERMONS AND BULLETINS

Audio recordings of the Sunday sermons and digital copies of the Sunday bulletin can be found at the following links, respectively:

<https://institute-christ-king.org/oakland-sermons>

<https://institute-christ-king.org/bulletins-oakland>