

# SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

[www.sjcpinole.church](http://www.sjcpinole.church)

December 21, 2025

## REGULAR MASS TIMES

**DAILY MASS:** 9:00 am  
**FIRST FRIDAY:** 7:30 pm  
Mass Adoration until 10pm  
**SATURDAY:** 9:00 am  
(Vigil) 4:30 pm  
(en español) 6:00 pm  
**SUNDAY:** 8:00 am  
10:00 am  
12:00 pm  
(Youth) 5:00 pm

## RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## PRIESTS & DEACONS

### PASTOR

Fr. Geoffrey Baraan

### PAROCHIAL VICARS

Fr. Salvador Lopez-Ramirez  
SdeJ.

### RETIRED IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Francisco Figueroa-Esquer

### DEACONS

Dn. Ben Agustin

## OFFICE STAFF:

Aura Mendieta, Business  
Manager  
Teena Posas, Youth Ministry  
Director  
Christine Suarez, Faith  
Formation & RCIA Director  
Michael Chio, Music Director  
Sr. Christine Le, Bookkeeper

## SACRAMENTS:

### Baptism

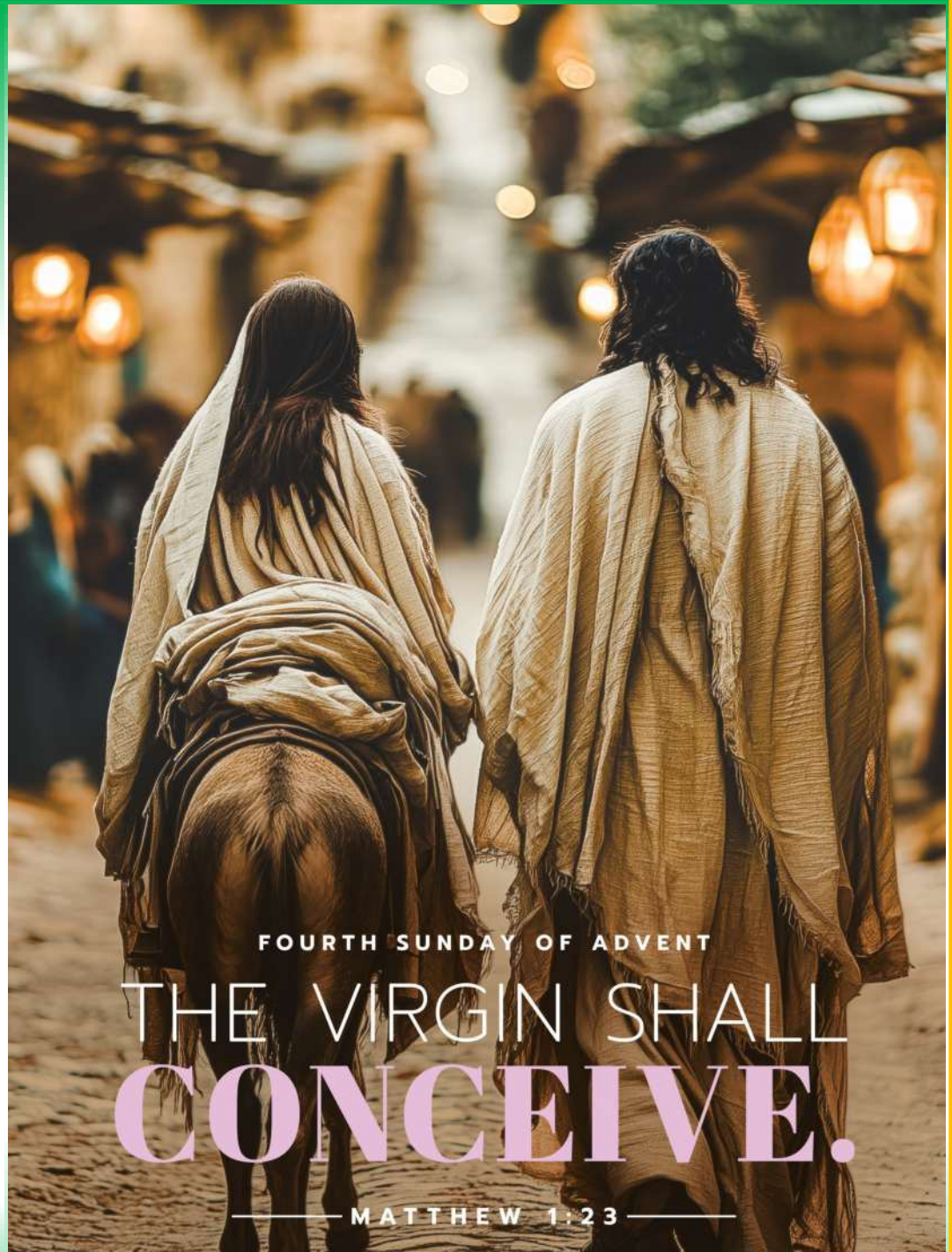
4th Saturday of the month call  
the Parish Office.

### Wedding

Call the Parish Office at least 6  
months ahead.

### Funeral

Call to coordinate with a priest or



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE VIRGIN SHALL  
**CONCEIVE.**

— MATTHEW 1:23 —

In observance of Christmas, the office will be closed on December  
24, 25, and 26. We will resume regular operations on December 29.

Church Address: 837 Tennent Avenue, Pinole, CA 94564, Parish Office: 2100 Pear Street, Pinole, CA Phone: (510) 741-4900;  
Fax (510) 724-9185 Monday-Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturdays: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th of each month: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
E-mail: [contact.sjcpinole@gmail.com](mailto:contact.sjcpinole@gmail.com) Visit: <https://www.sjcpinole.church/> St. Vincent de Paul Assistant 510-691-1813  
Saint Joseph School 1961 Plum Street, Pinole, CA Phone: (510) 724-0242 Fax (510) 724-9886 Principal: Natalie Lenz-Acuña  
Email: [nlenz-acuna@csdo.org](mailto:nlenz-acuna@csdo.org) Visit: [www.stjosephpinole.com](http://www.stjosephpinole.com)



### **My dear friends in Christ,**

As we approach the final week of our Advent preparation for the celebration of Christmas, I ask: Are you still with us on this journey? What have you experienced in these weeks of waiting and reflection? What challenges have you faced along the way?

These questions are vital. As I have shared before, the demands of life can easily weigh us down, and sometimes, as Christmas draws near, we may find ourselves stumbling towards the finish line, lacking the strength and spirit we need to fully embrace the season.

Over the past two Sundays, we have heard the voice of John the Baptist, calling us to repentance and to prepare the way for the Lord. His message, though clear, is difficult. John's appearance, as we know, was not exactly inviting. He came from the wilderness—filthy, dressed in tattered clothes—and his message often invited mockery or skepticism. People questioned, "Who is this man?" And yet, those who listened and followed were transformed, while those who did not go astray.

John's mission was unequivocal: he prepared the way for the Good News of Jesus Christ. In today's Gospel from Matthew, we hear the angel's message to Joseph, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

The child born to Mary, Jesus, will fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall call Him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" This is the heart of Christmas—God coming to dwell with us, to save us from our sins, and to restore us to Himself.

To help us better understand the meaning of Christmas, let me share this story:

It was Christmas time in a middle-class community, and the parish priest received several gifts from his parishioners—each beautifully wrapped with ribbons and bows. One by one, they came, presenting their gifts. A son of a bakery owner handed the priest a package, and with a smile, the priest said, "Ah, I know what's inside—chocolate cakes!"

Next, a meat shop owner gave a gift. The priest sniffed the box and said, "I know what this is—my favorite homemade sausages!"

Then came a gift from the owner of a wine store. The priest, confident in his ability, took a sniff, but could not quite place the scent. He shook the box but did not hear the familiar clink of bottles. Finally, some fluid leaked out, and after tasting it, he exclaimed, "This doesn't taste like wine!"

Intrigued, he opened the box and was surprised to find a puppy inside.

Just as the priest could not predict the contents of that last gift, we cannot presume to understand the value of God's gift to us this Christmas without opening our hearts. Christmas is not a time for guessing the contents of our gifts, but for appreciating them. The true gift within every gift is not only the contents but the love and sacrifice of the giver.

This Christmas, let us celebrate the peace, joy, and love that God has poured into our lives. Christmas is not just a beautiful memory to revisit—it is the living reality of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ. It is a love that should remain alive in our hearts throughout the year. As Psalm 24 reminds us, "Let the Lord enter!" Let us make room for Him this Christmas and every day.

For those who may not be with us on Christmas Day, I wish you a **Merry Christmas!**

In peace and gratitude,

**Fr. Geoffrey**

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULT FAITH FORMATION/PARISH EVENTS



### CONFIRMATION

#### **THIS WEEK for Grades 7 to 12**

For attendance or questions, please contact your child's teachers as soon as possible. Schedules are available from <https://campsite.bio/ymsjcpinole>. For specific questions, contact Teena Posas - Youth Ministry Director at 510-741-4900 extension 1010 or by email [tp.sjcpinole@gmail.com](mailto:tp.sjcpinole@gmail.com).

#### **\*\* MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY (7th & 8th gr)**

- Everyone attends the Sunday 5 PM Mass on January 11 and goes to the assigned area after the music ends to check in for attendance. REMINDER: Parents and students need to follow our MANDATORY traffic rules to keep everyone safe! This group returns to their classroom on Wed. January 14. Class is from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Students must BRING their book bag of supplies. Questions, contact Ms. Diona or Mr. Marwin.

#### **\*\* YOUTH FIRST COMMUNION (2nd yr, 7th and up)**

- Everyone attends the Sunday 5 PM Mass on January 11 and goes to the assigned area after the music ends to check in for attendance. REMINDER: Parents and students need to follow our MANDATORY traffic rules to keep everyone safe! This group returns to their classroom on Wed. January 14. Class is from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Students must BRING their book bag of supplies. Questions, contact Ms. Cecilia.

#### **\*\* YOUTH MINISTRY (1st yr, 9th to 12th gr) -**

Everyone attends the Sunday 5 PM Mass on January 11 and goes to the assigned area after the music ends to check in for attendance. We return to class on Monday January 12. Class is from 6:30 to 8:10 PM. Questions, **contact the Youth Ministry Director.**

#### **\*\* CONFIRMATION (2nd yr, 10th to 12th gr) -**

ALL items for the upcoming retreat were due on December 7th. The retreat is January 9 to 11 for all candidates. Candidates must be at the church on January 9 at 3:10 PM; the bus will leave on time. Questions, contact your teachers. REMINDER: Pre-approval for the required Works of Mercy projects is ongoing; visit <https://campsite.bio/ymsjcpinole>.

### GRIEF SUPPORT:

An Evening with Wanda & Jonathan It is on Tuesday evening from 7pm to 8pm. It is a peer ministry and drop in session. That means that we are group of peo-



ple sharing our experience of grief along with each other. Being a drop in session means you can come when you can if you are not

able to make it one week that's okay. You can come the next week or when you can. Here is the link there is no password necessary. If you would like to reach out to Wanda: [wandatziemba@gmail.com](mailto:wandatziemba@gmail.com) or Jonathan: [Jonathan.lisowski@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.lisowski@gmail.com)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://ccsf-edu.zoom.us/j/85965778722>



### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Rejoice in your marriage. Attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on March 4-6, 2026 in Danville, April 10-12, 2026 in Zephyr Point NV or May 1-3, 2026 in San Juan Bautista. Go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) to find the Experience that is just right for you!

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." This Advent make the decision to grow in your marriage by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on March 4-6, 2026 in Danville, April 10-12, 2026 in Zephyr Point NV or May 1-3, 2026 in San Juan Bautista. Go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) to find the Experience that is just right for you!

### **Remembrance Candle**



November is the traditional month of remembrance of our loved ones who have gone before us. Candles can be renewed for the next yearly period (November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026) by visiting the Parish Center and submitting your dedication.

## **Stay Connected! Follow us on Social Media**



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St. Joseph Church - Pinole  
@stjosephchurchpinole - nonprofit organization

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

**Psalms:** Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

**Second Reading:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

**Gospel:** "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

### PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILIES

**Air Force-** Gino Dela Rosa, Niko Dela

Rosa, Jenna Keomany, Maxine Lucas, Alan

Serrano, Chris Trias, Julian Trias

**Army-** Angel Caliz, Shawn Bets Chart,

Andrew Fontejon, Darryl Jason Garcia, Jack

Moneymaker, Justine RB Sangui, Benjamin Serrano, Darren Espeleta

**Coast Guard-** Meagan Toomey

**Navy-** Terrence Bauer, Austin Bressler, Leslie Lag

Damen, Carlo Evangelista, Dean Trias, Jasmin Trias

**National Guard-** Rebecca Sabatini,

**Marines-** Carlos Aguilera, Richard Antonucci, Joseph Belman, Julian Chan, Carlo Spampinato, Pedro Mazar Egos, Jacob Rudis

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Ron Acuna, Sally Aguilera, Virginia P. Alday, Jeannette

Alm, Harper Ananyev, Dan Aquino, Joseph Avalos,

Kristal Librato Baughn, Gil Bautista, William Black,

Larry Burkhart, Diane Butson, Dennis Chattell, Pamela



Chong, Laura Corona, Kevin Coughlin, Patria & Manolito Crizaldo, Erin Curry, Ludelia Datlag, Virgilio de la Vega, Marietta Domingo, Denise Elias, Elizabeth Espanola, Aurora Fronda, Mary Ellen Gillis, Flor Gonzalez, Alexandra Gorgoletis, Elam & Claire Goundar, Alicia Guzman, Ceretta Morgan Hardin, Bill Harper, Michael Edward Rossi, Jeff M. Ibrahim, Joe Knoblauch, Tony Lagasca, Jack Lam, Jerin Lazaro, Ethan Benjamin Layne, Paulette Lemmon, Xavier Manga Lindan, Antonio Lopez, Joseph Magaoay, Imelda F. Magat, Flor Malicsi, Nida Monzon, Jaime Ocampo, Ruby Ochoa, Severina Olivito, Claudette Peters, Jenna Peters, Maria Isabal Perez, Leticia F. Poblete, Patricia Rangel, Connie Ibara Ramirez, Deborah Reyna, Jim Richards, Flo Rodich, Lee Rondeau, Edwin Salgado, Lolita Santos, Romeo Santos, Leo Sendaydiego, Helene Staniszewski, Tim & Tom Taliaferro, Bernard F. & Abraham S. Trinidad, Joseph S. Trinidad, Jeffrey Tayag, Yolanda Tayag, Joy Wi, Peter Wongworavit

### MASS INTENTION

#### **Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025**

9:00AM Jaime D. Sr./Jaime D. Jr. Birthday

Aurelia Gonzalez ✝

4:30PM Herminigildo Atencion ✝

6:00PM Modesta Blanco ✝

#### **Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025**

8:00AM Stella Housh ✝

10:00AM Jaime Babutazo Sr. & Jr. Birthday

12:00 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph

5:00PM Mark DeYoung ✝

#### **Monday, Dec. 22, 2025**

9:00AM Ricardo Macam ✝

Antonio Briones ✝

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025**

9:00AM Erlinda I, Vitangcol ✝

Christopher Tioseco - Birthday

#### **Wednesday Dec. 24, 2025**

5:00AM Claudio Hernandez ✝

5:00PM Evangelina Galiny ✝

7:00PM Parish Staff

#### **Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025**

12:00AM Fajardo Family

8:00AM Sofia Cuizon ✝

10:00AM Adelaida Villaluz ✝

12:00PM Federico & Melanie Munoz

Family Thanksgiving

Ray Remorin ✝

#### **Friday, Dec. 26, 2025**

9:00AM Ray Remarin ✝

Manuel & Milani Tan ✝



## PARISH, DIOCESAN & OTHER EVENTS/FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP



### St. Joseph School What is Happening at St. Joseph School

Learning through Faith, Service, and Community

#### A Christmas Prayer from the St. Joseph School Community

Loving God, on this holy Christmas season, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, our Light and our Hope. As we gather with family, friends, and our parish community, open our hearts to the wonder of His birth. Fill our homes with peace, our minds with gratitude, and our lives with charity and joy.

Bless all parishioners of St. Joseph and the families we serve. May the example of the Holy Family inspire us to live with faith, patience, and love. Strengthen us in times of challenge, guide us in moments of decision, and help us carry Christ's light into the world.

May this Christmas renew our spirits, deepen our trust in Your care, and draw us closer to You and to one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

Applications for the 2026-2027 School year at St. Joseph School is now open for Preschool, Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten through 8th grades.



Tell your friends and family about the wonderful school that teaches the heart, mind and spirit.

**Pass along this opportunity to your Family and Friends:** <https://www.yumraising.com/store/winter-2025-st-josephs-christmas-2025-fundraiser-cfdf/VanRie6559>

**Check out** our website for the latest happenings at the school at [stjosephpinole.org](http://stjosephpinole.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephSchoolPinole/>  
**Click Here** to check out our Alumni News

#### **Purchase a brick to support St. Joseph School and help "build" community!**

When you sponsor a brick, it can be personalized with words and images reflecting your experience at St. Joseph, including sports and other cherished activities.

You can also personalize a brick in honor of a loved one who has a St. Joseph connection.

The bricks will be placed in the Middle School quad to be viewed for years to come. All bricks will be made of clay, and the same size, color, and font of the already existing bricks in the quad. All verbiage will be approved by the administration before the engraving is ordered. Three lines of 20 characters each can fit on the brick.

### SUNDAY COLLECTION

#### DECEMBER 06& 07

Sunday \$

Building Fund \$

Thank you for your Generous Contribution

#### ONLINE GIVING

- Safety. In times when there are concerns about exposure to disease or spreading of a virus, Online Giving is a convenient option to continue to support your church and its mission. Whether you are attending weekly service at the church or worshipping at home, your vital support can still happen regardless of where you are.
- Forget your envelope? Use Online Giving to keep up on offertory. Click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy. Your support throughout the year helps sustain our church.

Make giving easier. Visit your church website on your mobile device, click the Online Giving link, and begin giving. Your support throughout the year helps sustain our church. Manage gifts. Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift right from your phone. Visit our church website and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our church.



### THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AT CHRISTMAS

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will be collecting monetary donations during Advent to provide needy neighbors this Christmas with food certificates and Target gift cards for the children. Kindly take a tag off the Christmas giving tree. Place your donation in the red collection box.

Thank you for your generosity!

## WEEKLY CONTENT

### **OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025**

Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest  
Wednesday: Christmas Eve  
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord  
Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

### **LAS CONMEMORACIONES DE LA SEMANA DEL 21 DE DICIEMBRE 2025**

Domingo: 4º Domingo de Adviento  
Martes: San Juan Cancio, sacerdote  
Miércoles: Nochebuena  
Jueves: La Natividad del Señor  
Viernes: San Esteban, el primer mártir  
Sábado: San Juan, apóstol y evangelista

### **LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

### **VIVIR LA LITURGIA - INSPIRACIÓN DE LA SEMANA**

A veces queremos que las instrucciones de Dios sean claras y precisas, como el ángel en el sueño de José. Pero el entendimiento de José era tan fuerte como su devoción a la voluntad de Dios. Si entregamos nuestras vidas a Dios como lo hizo José, sabremos lo que él nos pide.

### **WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

#### **Tithing vs. Stewardship**

**Question:** What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

**Answer:** Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that

we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.



### **¿POR QUÉ HACEMOS ESO? - VIDA CATÓLICA EXPLICADA**

#### **El Diezmo vs. la Corresponsabilidad**

##### **Pregunta:**

¿Cuál es la diferencia entre el diezmo y la corresponsabilidad?

##### **Respuesta:**

Tanto el diezmo como la corresponsabilidad son parte de una forma de vida espiritual que nos llama a utilizar todos nuestros recursos para el servicio del Evangelio. Todo lo que somos y todo lo que tenemos viene de Dios. Ofrecer a Dios lo que Él nos ha dado es parte de cómo adoramos y damos gracias a Dios.

El diezmo es la práctica de devolver el 10 por ciento de lo que ganamos. Proviene de la palabra en inglés antiguo para "diez". El primer ejemplo bíblico de diezmo vino de Abraham, quien dio la décima parte de sus posesiones al sacerdote Melquisedec. Lo hizo como un acto de acción de gracias a Dios.

La corresponsabilidad como forma de vida nos llama a usar bien todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos, poniendo todas las cosas al servicio de los demás y de Dios. La corresponsabilidad nos ayuda a ver el bien que podemos lograr al hacer de Dios y nuestra vida espiritual los valores más importantes en nuestra vida. Todo lo que acumulamos en esta vida se queda aquí. ¡No podemos llevárnoslo con nosotros! Tanto el diezmo como la corresponsabilidad nos ayudan a recordar que nada es mío ni siquiera nuestro... todo pertenece a Dios.



Encounter the Holy Spirit! - Do you wish you could lead a fulfilling, purposeful life energized by the power of the Holy Spirit? Now you can learn how! The Augustine Institute has produced an excellent 14-episode series of half-hour videos called, "The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka" that you can watch for free on their FORMED Catholic streaming channel. Just sign up for your free access at this link: <https://formed.org/subscribe>. Provide your full name, email address, phone number, and in the "Find your Parish or Organization" box type in "St. Joseph Catholic Church, Pinole". Now you have free access to FORMED using your email address!

## ADVENT SEASON 2025

**12/16-12/24-** SIMBANG GABI IN THE CHURCH  
5:30AM

**12/21-12/22-** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**12/24-** CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 5PM

FAMILY MASS, 7PM SPANISH, 12AM MIDNIGHT  
MASS

**12/25-** NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHIRTMAS  
MASS 8AM, 10AM, 12NN

**12/28-** HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND  
JOSEPH 8 & 10 AM 12 & 5PM

**12/31-** NEW YEARS EVE MASS 9AM, 5PM

**01/01-** NEW YEARS DAY MASS 10AM, 12NN

### ST. PATRICK'S RODEO GIFT SHOP

Just a reminder that St. Patrick's Rodeo has a Gift Shop managed by the Altar Society and is open after all Masses on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We have a supply of Jubilee items including keychains, magnets and some jewelry. We will also have personalized angel ornaments for sale. Please stop by and see our other religious items. ALL proceeds go toward providing needed items for the church.



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[info@lifemattersinternational.org](mailto:info@lifemattersinternational.org)

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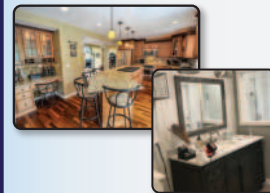


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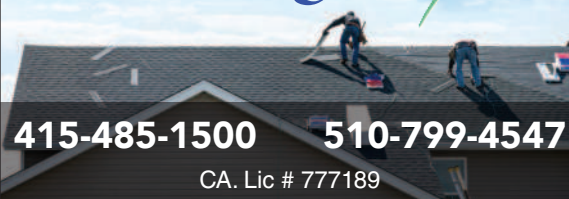
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