

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2018

Rejoice in the Lord always! Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty savior. It is he whom John foretold; it is he who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Katie's stocking by the chimney with care

A true story about Christmas transforming grief into hope:

It was the first Christmas since 18-month-old Katie had died of a birth defect. Katie's Mom and Dad and family were gamely going through the motions of celebrating Christmas, but there was an absence in their home and hearts that could not be filled.

As the decorations were pulled from storage, Katie's grandmother found the kids' Christmas stockings – and there, at the top, was Katie's. It couldn't be left off the mantel – it would be as if she had never been part of the family. But it couldn't be left empty, either.

So the family started a new tradition. As Katie had been a blessing in their lives, so they would try to be a blessing for others. Grandma filled Katie's stocking with slips of paper, one for each member of the family. On

each slip was an assignment, something that would be done in Katie's memory: planting a tree, buying school supplies for an underprivileged child, donating a book to the library, volunteering an afternoon at a soup kitchen, working on a church project.

Now, every Christmas, Katie's stocking ought to be the best present of all. (Sarah Gill-Northcutt, Guideposts, December 2004.)

The coming of Christ calls us to the work of making a straight road for him, of transforming the barren deserts around us into harvests of justice and peace, of making the light of his presence in our midst known to all. Katie's family takes on his work of Christmas and, in the process; they begin to transform their grief into an expression of light, their loss into revelation of God's compassion.

As God gives himself to us so completely and unreservedly in the birth of his own Son, may we find our lives' joy and fulfillment in giving completely and unreservedly of ourselves to others.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call for an appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and All Men

MASS INTENTIONS December 15 - 21

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Betty Hughes

Sunday 10:00 a.m. The Stehly Family

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Betty Hughes

Thursday 9:00 a.m. The Stehly Family

Friday 8:00 a.m. Parishioners

All flowers in the church are to honor all of you - especially the children and young people of Christ Child!!!

Report Sunday December 8 & 9, 2018

TOTAL PLATE COLLECTION

\$1,622.00

May God bless your generosity...!

Children's Christmas Pageant

Children who want to participate in the Christmas Eve pageant need to pick up their costumes and join the rehearsal after Mass on Sunday, December 23rd. Please join us – we would love to have you!

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU**

For the warm, generous donations to the 2018 CHRIST CHILD COAT DRIVE.

Your gifts of warmth and comfort put smiles on many faces on Saturday December 8th at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Greenfield CA.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Sincerely,

Joe & Andrea Bruna

Prayer requests: can be emailed to christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com
Or written and placed in the box provided in the church foyer!

15th Annual New Year's Eve Interfaith for Peace

An evening for Meditation with Offerings from many faiths.

Monday, December 31st, 2018

8:00 pm. – 10:45 pm.

Holy Cross Parish Hall, Across from Mission Plaza Park, Santa Cruz, CA.

In the shared hope for Global Peace

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by: Sangha Shantivanam

www.sanghshanti.net

Hosted by: Holy Cross Catholic Community

24 December Monday: VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Mass at 5:00 pm.

25 December Tuesday: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

The Mass at 10:00 am.

The word's of Pope Francis...

In Bethlehem, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. He was born, not by the will of man, but by the gift of the love of God our Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn3:16) The first people to see the humble glory of the Savior, after Mary and Joseph, were the shepherds of Bethlehem. They recognized the sign proclaimed to them by the angels and adored the Child. Those humble and watchful men are an example for believers of every age who, before the mystery of Jesus, are not scandalized by his poverty...

Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, **Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and recognize him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn"** (Luke 2:7).