

**“MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE SEASON BE UPON ALL OF YOU”**

St. George Catholic Church is supported by many who are unnamed and unseen. For those who are in ministries acknowledged below, MAHALO NUI LOA!!!. For those who work faithfully behind the scenes, YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!!

MUSIC/CHOIR  
 FAMILY PROMISE  
 SACRISTANS  
 BEREAVEMENT  
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
 ALOHA (HOSPITALITY)  
 YOUTH  
 YOUNG ADULTS  
 FINANCE  
 RCIA  
 BIBLE STUDY

PASTORAL COUNCIL  
 HOMEBOUND SENIORS  
 FUNDRAISING  
 FCC  
 ALTAR SERVERS  
 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION  
 RESPECT FOR LIFE  
 STEWARDSHIP  
 MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING  
 USHERS  
 LECTORS  
 OUTREACH

The Blessings Of  
*Christmas*  
 PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE



May...



**GIVE THE FOLLOWING GIFTS:**

- To your enemy . . .forgiveness,
- To your opponent . . .tolerance.
- To a friend . . . your heart.
- To a customer . . . service.
- To all men . . .charity.
- To every child . . . a good example
- To yourself . . .respect

- There be harmony in all your relationships
- Sharp words and envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved
- You give and receive love generously
- This love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a December day
- Each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ
- The honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence
- The hope of this sacred season settle into your soul
- It be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land
- The wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you
- It lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted



*How Poor Are You?*

One day a rich dad took his son on a trip to a village. He wanted to show him how poor someone can be. They spent time on the farm of a poor family. Dad asked, “Did you see how poor they are? What did you learn?”

The son said, “We have one dog, they have four, we have a pool, they have rivers, we have lanterns at night, they have stars, we buy food, they grow theirs, we have walls to protect us, they have friends, we have encyclopedias, they have the Bible. How poor we are!”, said the son.

**Moral: It’s not about money that make us rich, it’s about the simplicity of having God in our lives.**

*Christmas Prayer*

*Heavenly Father,*

*May our Christmas season be a time of reconciliation and peace.*

*May the love of Christ be with us.*

*May His peace surround us.*

*May our Christmas be a time of healing, giving and sharing.*

*May Your spirit be with us as we share and care in Jesus’ blessed birth. Amen.*



*Christmas Thoughts...*

- The Magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in HIS PRESENCE!
- He who doesn’t have Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.
- Fear less, hope more; eat less, chew more; whine less, breathe more; talk less, say more; hate less, love more!
- It is easy to think Christmas, and it is easy to believe Christmas, but it is hard to ACT Christmas.
  - Christmas is “Glory to God”, “Good will to man”, and “Joy to the world”.
  - Christmas is one day of the year that carries real hope and promise for all mankind.



*Precious Presents by Heather Price*

Some come to us wrapped packages of glitter and gold.

Some are wrapped in paper of brown—a beauty yet to unfold.

These presents will never be found under a Christmas tree, For these precious presents are found in each child we see.

Precious presents God sends for the Earth to borrow—laughter, hugs and toothless grins—the future of tomorrow.

We find them in our classrooms with hearts full of love—tiny blessings that remind us of our calling from above.

They are miracles of God: touched by His love and grace—believing in magic and hoping we keep the world a safe place.

They wait for us to unwrap them so they can spread their wings and fly—

Once tiny caterpillars that emerge as fragile and beautiful butterflies.

These precious presents are never tied with ribbons or bows—they are God’s promise after the storm—beautiful rainbows.

So unwrap these precious presents and keep them safe from harm.

Love them, treasure them, and hold them in your arms.

When you open these precious presents, love them from the start.

Hold tight to God’s little blessings because they are treasures of the heart.



## Poinsettias



The poinsettia, a native plant of Central America, is very popular. The bright, red leaves symbolize the burning divine love of our Redeemer in his sacrifice for us. The shape of the cluster of leaves and the contrast of the red with the green also reminds us of the Star of Bethlehem that shone so brightly the night our Savior was born and then guided the Magi to visit Him.

A popular legend surrounds the poinsettia taken from a Mexican story from the 17th century. Long ago, on Christmas Eve, a little girl from Mexico was sad because she didn't have anything to give to the baby Jesus, lying in the creche at her Church. Being very poor, she could not buy a gift, as did the other children of the town. Her cousin tried to cheer her up and encouraged her to give even the smallest gift with great love. So on the way to Church, she gathered some green weeds along the roadside and put them in a bouquet. Like the other children, she walked down the aisle of the Church and approached the nativity scene. Slightly embarrassed but confident that she was giving Jesus the best that she could give, she placed her bouquet at the creche. Suddenly, the green weeds turned a beautiful red. Because she had given the most wonderful gift of all, the gift of genuine love, the weeds were transformed into a beautiful red poinsettia. The plant is known in Mexico as *flores de la Noche Buena* or "Flowers of the Holy Night".

There will be the blessing of the Rosary Garden as well as the newly planted gardens around the church...

Sunday, December 29th following the 7:00am Mass.



**Congratulations to Fr. Raymund Ellorin!**  
On December 20th, Fr. Ray celebrated 28 years in service to the Lord as a priest. Mahalo and Aloha! May you be blessed with many more!



St. George's 'Ohana Christmas Luncheon  
Saturday, December 28  
11:00am  
Come and Share Christmas Fellowship

### Tips for Today's Parents

- Prepare children for a world with great diversity by teaching **respect and tolerance**.
- Give them **opportunities to make responsible decisions**, to gain self-esteem.
- **Encourage and praise**. BUT, do not be afraid to **discipline**, to **limit freedom of action**.
- Let your children know you are always ready to **listen to their questions and problems**.
- Offer love that is **unconditional** but **not over-indulgent**.
- Above all, love your children and remind them to **love God with all their hearts, minds and souls AND to love one another**.

### Family Promise Hosting

The week of *January 5—12, 2020*, St. George will be hosting working, homeless families with children. We ask for your *kokua* in supporting them with meals, fellowship, supplies and overnight sleepovers. Prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute and let us know. Mahalo!

Coordinators: *Daniel and Beth Ann Lockert*  
703-980-5925



# St. George Church

Christmas Bulletin 2019



## Christmas is about a Savior

Our world doesn't know. They think that Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn't nearly as good as the Real Christmas.

The real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Savior for you—to save you from your sins and to help you in this life—to lift your burden and ease your fears. That's it! A Savior who is Christ the Lord—God Himself!

The world is gripped by fear. But fear's hold has been broken in those of us who believe the angel's words: "**Fear not... for a Savior is born to you—Christ the Lord!**"



## Christmas Gifts

A favorite story is O. Henry's, "The Gift of the Magi". It is about a young couple who were poor. She had long, beautiful brown hair and used to look longingly at some tortoise-shell combs in the shop window. He had an old pocket watch that belonged to his grandfather. He used to look at a gold watch chain that would have gone well with the watch, in the shop window. But they were poor newly weds and window shopping was all they could afford. That Christmas, she cut and sold her beautiful hair to a wig maker so that she could buy her husband the gold watch chain. He, meanwhile, sold his prized watch to buy her the beautiful tortoise-shell combs. Each gave up what they most prized to buy something the other wanted.

God gave his son Jesus to us. The Son of the Most High, whom angels adore, comes into our midst as a helpless, powerless baby. He truly becomes part of us. It is in loving that we are loved. It is in comforting that we are comforted. Instead of being satiated with too much drink, food, presents and noise, let us be life-giving to one another. Let this be a celebration of Jesus' birth. Give the Prince of Peace entry into your family relationships. Give Jesus your hands to be his hands and your voice to be his voice. Let us reconcile with and forgive those who hurt us. Let us help out at home, the Parish and neighborhood in small acts of service that are unnoticed but reach out in love. Let us forget about ourselves to be life-giving to others. How precious are those gifts given with love and not with expectation?

