

January 2009

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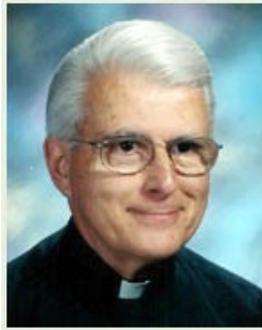


## Building a People of Faith

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## What is Happening in Our Church? A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas



Greetings to you as we enter the new year and celebrate our faith-filled community in the spirit of hope and peace. May the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, open our hearts and allow us to be mindful of the special role each of us is called to play in our walk together through life as we know it on earth.

The month of December was quite busy on all levels of Parish life here at St. Joseph. All of you participated in the sacred season of Advent and the special liturgies surrounding Christmas. Our church was vibrant and filled with eager anticipation. We continue that same celebration through the New Year and 2009 as it unfolds before us.

Our Coordinating and Finance committees met in December and finalized the budget for 2009. We further solidified our required actions to strengthen our financial position in preparation for target construction of our new Church in 2010. Our plan for campaign pledge commitments will be communicated to you in the coming months. Additionally, with increased exposure and continued guidance and instruction, our goal is to heighten and enhance the plate collection to achieve and surpass the minimum level required to maintain our Church and our many important ministries. In order to grow and better serve our community, we must develop and improve what we have to offer. The solution is not to decrease and omit our vital components, but to improve our efforts and appropriately fund the ministries and positions that are the lifeline of our Church family.

The culmination of our efforts will result in the next step of our master plan—the building of our new Church. As we work together to establish a solid foundation steadfast and rich in devotion, we further affirm our support and work towards the promise of a radiant future, filled with hope and opportunity. This is an achievable reality.

The fact is, the building of our new Church and its operating expenses could be fully funded by our weekly plate collection if everyone participated in financial stewardship at even a fraction of a true tithe. This is a very interesting aspect that probably many do not realize. Look around you at the churches and congregations being built. Many of our fellow Christian churches and churches of other religious denominations are sprouting up everywhere. These churches are fully funded by the people who belong to them.

Diligently we endeavor to educate and develop fiscal awareness among the members of our Church family. Taking an active role in financial stewardship is part of the responsibility of being a constructive member of our Parish family.

Since the inception of our monthly TBC communications and the weekly reports from our Finance Committee in the bulletin, we are slowly seeing steady progress. The plate collection is increasing gradually. We will continue to strive toward our goal of 100% participation from all our members. We owe this significant consideration to each other and to God.

We gather together warmly, as a family, and we continue our journey with open arms.

Peace and love,

*Father Manny*

Monsignor Manuel Simas

### Capital Campaign Corner

- Shortfall \$9,486,000
- Other Income \$700,000
- Property Sales \$5,275,000
- 2nd Campaign \$2,439,000
- 1st Campaign \$4,100,000

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510/656-2364 x103  
Or pledge online at:  
[www.saintjosephmsj.org](http://www.saintjosephmsj.org)





View of worship space from rear plaza.

### From the Coordinating Committee

Communication is a key element in the success of any group effort.

The Coordinating Committee will be issuing this newsletter as a regular insert into the bulletin and other church mailers to keep the parish at large informed on the progress of our project.

- Monsignor Manuel Simas
- Father Joseph Nguyen
- Ashley Weerpass
- Matthew Au
- Bob Ballecer
- Scott Bergstrom
- Don and Lauri Kaefer
- Tony Miranda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- Richard Sekar
- Bill Utic

Look for each issue of the TBC Times to give you the latest update on how we are doing, what we are doing, and what more is to come as we rebuild our church together.



Renderings of new church interiors:  
 Top: Narthex before entering worship space.  
 Above: Inside worship space looking from choir area.

## How Will the New Church Benefit You? We Asked and You Answered

We asked you to share your thoughts about the benefits of our new Church in your own words. In the next several issues we will reveal the responses from different members and ministries within our Parish.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides services to the poor, needy and suffering. Coordinator, Marie Maguire, expresses her thoughts and vision for our future.

“We are hoping to have a pantry for Saint Vincent de Paul with storage space for food, a refrigerator and a freezer. We are spending a large amount of money on food gift cards. If we bought food at Saint Vincent de Paul in Oakland, our money would go much further. It would be nice for us to have our own space as we have a computer, printer, copy machine and files. We also stock sleeping bags and tarmacs to go under them. We need more room.”

The Women of Saint Joseph (WOSJ) provides a special ministry for the women of our parish. Their mission is to develop friendships and support each other’s needs and those of the parish and local community. 2008-2009 President, Nancy Dorigi, shares her thoughts.

“The new Church would provide us with a more appropriate venue for our events/functions (fashion show, tea, shop night, guest speakers) and a meeting place with better acoustics. We currently meet in the hall and have to compete with CYO practice, rehearsals, and religious functions including the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday evenings. A remodeled/redecorated setting would be wonderful and a place we would be proud to host events and invite the community.”

## How Can I Plan My Giving Throughout the Year? Scheduled Collection Dates for 2009

Just trying to stay on track with planned giving to our Church may seem difficult when you don’t really know what is coming up around the bend. In addition to the fifty-two (52) Sundays each year, there are forty (40) **second** collections scheduled for 2009. Holy Days, Christmas, Easter and the Capital Campaign are additional collections which remain with the Parish.

01/01 Mary Mother of God	03/08 Aid to Eastern Europe	05/03 Capital Campaign	08/02 Capital Campaign	11/01 All Saints’ Day
01/04	03/22	05/17	08/15	11/01
01/18	03/29	05/31	08/30	11/22
01/25	04/05	06/07	09/06	11/29
02/01	04/09	06/14	09/20—Holy Father	12/06
02/08 Bishop’s Appeal	04/10 Good Friday, Holy Land	07/05 Capital Campaign	10/04 Capital Campaign	12/08 Immaculate Conception
02/25	04/12	07/19—Cath. Univ.	10/11	12/13—Religious
03/01	04/26	TBA (May-September)	10/18	12/25

Giving to the second collection should **never** be intended to replace or lessen your offering to the first collection. The first collection is used solely for the budget created for our own Parish. You would never decide not to pay your water bill because you paid your VISA bill. Same thing with the Church. One does not replace the other. Second collection monies are given to the organizations/charities represented.

The Capital Campaign is another facet of our planned giving. Term pledges and second plate collections that occur the first Sunday of each month can be factored into your yearly plan and if budgeted, are quite successful.

The plate collection is the stable, underlying current that carries us through our daily life in the Church. It provides a secure and perpetual cash flow that is essential to the operation of our Parish. As we improve our mindset and gain active participation from all of our members, we will see how it is indeed possible to budget for and be successful incorporating both plate collections and new Church pledges and support.