



**Welcome to Resurrection Catholic Community**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 19, 2021**

*“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled.” - Luke 1:39-45*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Wednesday, December 22—7:00 PM**  
**Advent Reconciliation Service**  
 and by Appointment

**CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve**  
 3:30 PM Christmas Carols  
 4:00 PM Christmas Mass  
 9:00 PM Christmas Carols\*  
 9:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass\*

**Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day**  
 10:00 AM Mass\*  
 (No 5:00 PM Mass)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**December 26**  
 8:15 AM & 10:15 AM\*

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**January 1, 2022**  
 10:00 AM Mass\*

**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 January 1—5:00 PM Mass  
 January 2—8:15 AM & 10:15 AM\* Masses

*\* also Livestreamed*

**WALK FOR LIFE:** Walk for Life West Coast, an annual gathering and march in San Francisco to witness to the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, will take place on **Saturday, January 22**. We have a 57-passenger bus leaving from Resurrection parking lot at 7:30 am. We'll attend the Mass for Life at the St. Mary's Cathedral, then join the Walk for Life rally and march. We'll return to Resurrection around 5:30 PM.



Cost is \$45 for adults and \$20 for youth and children. To reserve a seat, advance, non-refundable payment to Resurrection Church for "Walk for Life Bus" is required. (We have already paid the bus company in full and it is non-refundable.) You may drop off or mail payment to the parish office, or you can pay at the parish website (<https://resurrection-aptos.org>) by selecting "Donate Now" in the upper right, then on the donation page scrolling down to "Other". Enter the amount and type in "Bus for Life". Since the price for youth and children is less than half the actual cost per seat, we are asking for donations to help out families with youth and children who wish to attend. If you wish to make a donation, type in "Bus for Life donation." Don't delay! Seats will go quickly. For more information, contact "Deacon for Life" Patrick at 831-840-3750 or [pfconway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pfconway@sbcglobal.net).

**LITURGY & SPIRITUALITY**

**LOOKING FOR ACOLYTES:** Is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve at the Lord's table as an acolyte? For information, please contact Carol Laflin [cjmflaflin@gmail.com](mailto:cjmflaflin@gmail.com) or (cell) 831-251-4951.

**SATURDAY MORNING MEDITATION:** The Saturday Morning Interdenominational Meditation Group meets at 8:30 AM in the main church. All are welcome to join the group for about 30 minutes of silent meditation. Please come even if you do not have a regular meditation practice but would like to learn more about it. We will not meet over the holiday break on December 25 or January 1. For more information, call Pat O'Brien (831) 566-8234. Thank you.


**WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!**

We have **three masses each weekend:**  
**Saturday at 5 PM & Sunday at 8:15 & 10:15 AM**

**Facemasks are required for everyone.**

Thank you for your patience, prayers, and amazing support as we continue to act with concern for everyone's health.

The Bishop has suspended the Sunday mass obligation.



The parish office will be closed  
 December 24-January 3, 2022 for the  
 Christmas Holidays.

We will continue to live stream our 8:30 AM weekday and our 10:15 AM Sunday masses. See below for more information.

### SUNDAY MORNING LIVESTREAM MASS

Our live stream Sunday mass is at **10:15 AM**  
Anytime after 10:00 AM on Sunday, here's how to join us:

#### Option 1: YouTube (non-interactive)

Go to our YouTube channel [Resurrection Church, Aptos](#) and look for the "Live Now" video. You'll be able to see and hear everything, but we won't be able to hear you if you want to share a prayer intention or peace greeting (but God will hear you!)

#### Option 2: Zoom (interactive)

##### From a computer:

1. Go to: <https://zoom.us/j/429472279>
2. Enter your name (so we'll know you're there!)

##### From a smart phone or tablet:

1. Download the Zoom app (if you don't already have it)
2. Start the app and select "Join a Meeting"
3. Enter Meeting ID 429 472 279

##### From any phone: (audio only)

1. Dial 1-669-900-6833 (a San Jose number)
2. Enter Meeting ID 429 472 279 and #
3. (Enter # again (no "Participant ID" needed)

An email will be sent each Saturday with a convenient one-click link and a link to a worship aid. Links are also on our website. A Zoom Visual Aid is available on our website as well.

The mass will be available for on-demand viewing immediately on our parish YouTube channel (search "[Resurrection Church Aptos](#)")

### WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 AM

Live and On-Demand on our YouTube Channel

Live on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98470808627>

### MORNING PRAYER (Mondays)

On-Demand on our YouTube Channel: [Resurrection Church, Aptos](#)

NIGHT PRAYER (Nightly) On-Demand on our YouTube Channel: [Resurrection Church, Aptos](#)

### GOOD NEWS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19;  
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
- Monday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
- Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
- Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79
- Saturday: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5; 9-14
- Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28; Ps 84:2-3,5-6,9-10;  
1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

### THE MASS NEVER ENDS—IT MUST BE LIVED!

We are invited to continue to reflect upon the Gospel reading (Luke 1:39-45) and homily as we live out our Eucharist this week. Reflect upon it in your heart and mind, and discuss it with your family, friends and faith community members.



- Do you carry within you personal knowledge of God's goodness and love for you? Can you share this "secret" with others?
- Are you aware of how God is doing something good in someone else's life? Can you let them know that you see this in them?
- How has believing God's word brought blessings into your life?

### Mass Intentions for December 18-26

#### Saturday, 12/18

5:00 PM (RE) +Mary Boyce Anderson,  
+DeDe Mariani,  
+Victor & Virginia Ardizzone

#### Sunday, 12/19

8:15 AM (RE) The People of the Parish,  
+Jane McCormick-Crowley,  
+Craig Rice

10:15 AM (RE) Mary Jane Drinkwater,  
+Ruby Maitoza, +Todd Schouten,  
+Sylvia & Vincent Cordoni,  
+Stephen McGuire,  
Men & Women in the Armed Forces,  
hose in harm's way and those  
wounded physically & spiritually

#### Monday, 12/20

On-demand Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday, 12/21

8:30 AM (LP) +Ron DeGroot, +Harry Reichstein

#### Wednesday, 12/22

8:30 AM (RE) +John Feci, +Ramon Belleza

#### Thursday, 12/23

8:30 AM (RE) +Doris Andrade

#### Friday, 12/24

4:00 PM (RE) +The People of the Parish,  
+John O'Hara,  
+Luis Fernando Navarro

9:30 PM (RE) The Nance Family, +Maurice Garvey



#### Saturday, 12/25

10:00 AM (RE) The People of the Parish,  
+June Caballero,  
+Harold & Dorris Brogan

#### Sunday, 12/26

8:15 AM (RE) +Sue Burkley

10:15 AM (RE) Mary Jane Drinkwater,  
+Felipe Silveira, +James John Rosa,  
+Geraldine Perrelli Holt,  
+Linda Alcalá,  
+Jose Manuel Quintero

Celebrants: RE=Fr. Romeo Evangelista, LP=Fr. Larry Percell

<b>Stewardship of Treasure PLATE COLLECTION December 11 &amp; 12, 2021</b>	
<b>Weekly Plate Collection:</b>	
• Mailed In & All Masses	<b>\$5,499.00</b>
• Electronic	<b>\$4,121.20</b>
• Total	<b>\$9,620.20</b>
<b>Weekly Plate Collection Need (Budget)</b>	<b>\$10,448.00</b>
<b>Plate Collection Average</b>	<b>\$9,191.00</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT!**

If you miss a week your donation can be mailed to the parish office at P.O. Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001-0087 or you go to <https://resurrection-aptos.org> and

Remember Resurrection Catholic Community in your will.  
Contact Karen Victorino in the parish office.

**My Weekly Offering**

Your weekly offering can be given securely to Resurrection via our website

<https://resurrection-aptos.org>

or by scanning the QR Code



or by  
downloading the free app  
**Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** in the Google Play Store or Apple Store

or by mailing your donation to  
**Resurrection Church, PO Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001**

Your weekly offering helps pay for 70% of our operating expenses. We thank you for your continued support of the parish!



**PLEASE PRAY for ALL THOSE  
in NEED OF HEALING**



- |                           |                      |                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Cyrella Ashley            | Greg Finegan         | Rios            |
| Cross/Boettcher/          | Mark Emmet Fisher    | Joel Rivera     |
| Burghart families         | Jen Garvey           | Chellie Roberts |
| Lorenzo Abeyta            | Andre Grier          | Suzie Roberts   |
| Gregory Ackerson          | Lita Hebert          | Jose Rufino     |
| Marc Adato                | Kelly Jo Hebert      | Valerie Ruschke |
| Javier Anaya              | Mary Ann Herlihy     | John Sargetis   |
| Baby Luke                 | Robert Higgins       | Joseph Saucier  |
| Becki Bailey              | Debra Hightower      | Anna Seely      |
| Emi Baldenegro            | Bea Holmes           | Kim Sessa       |
| Adeline Bautista          | Rick Housouer        | Jill Schauf     |
| Dennis Berbach            | Barbara Howley       | Kelly Scott     |
| Maria Bernstein-Brumbaugh | Patrick Howley       | Therese Skrenes |
| Stacy Bischoff            | Allan Hughes         | Alisha Smith    |
| Jeraldine Boger           | Jim Jackson          | William Smith   |
| Vera Borroel              | Francisco Jimenez    | Diane Spoto     |
| Tracy Boyd                | Johnathan            | Greg Stewart    |
| Rick Braun                | Ariel Johnson        | Agnes Subbiondo |
| Joe Brechel               | John Jones           | Donald Tavares  |
| Michelle Brown            | D.B.K.               | Paul Thompson   |
| Betsy Burrows             | Tony K.              | Sharon Turner   |
| Wren Buse                 | Geri Karleen         | Amy V.F.        |
| Carlos C.                 | Dylan Kinion         | Mark Vaught     |
| Tony Cacache              | Kathy Klapheke       | Vlad            |
| Dante Calcagno            | Mary Klaus           | Lawrence W.     |
| Ardith Campbell           | Elizabeth Knacke     | Stephanie Walsh |
| Delores Carano            | Joshua Kobinski      | Mike & Pauline  |
| John & Marion Cernac      | Marion Kusanovich    | Whalen          |
| Lucy Chacon               | Michael Laffin       | Gina Wilson     |
| Chelsea & Family          | Matt Lane            | Mary Ann Wright |
| Mary Church               | Joan Lawlor          | Michele Wright  |
| John Conway               | Eric Lee             | Tannis Welch    |
| Trish Cronin              | Frank Leonetti       | Thom Windsor    |
| Ralph Cross               | Carrie Levin         | Maggie Young    |
| Edith Cuevas              | Donald Lowery        | Rosemary Zamora |
| Nancy Daves               | Matthew Ludlow       |                 |
| Larry Davis               | Danny Lucas          |                 |
| Carrie deHart             | Rob Mallard          |                 |
| Tavish deHart             | Jackie McDow         |                 |
| Lynnette Delgadello       | Connie McGill-Fergus |                 |
| Nicole Dennis             | John McLeod          |                 |
| Sr. Joan Derry            | Mary McMenemy        |                 |
| Ralph Desmond             | Elaine McMenemy      |                 |
| Mary Donatoni             | George Mungai        |                 |
| Sharon Dougan             | Joleen Munoz         |                 |
| Mark Duggan               | Judy Navarro         |                 |
| Robert Duggan             | Zoe Nink             |                 |
| Wyatt Duino               | Leo Olson            |                 |
| Pat Emard                 | Teresa Orosco        |                 |
| Sophia Emmons             | Connor Paulbitski    |                 |
| Peter Empson              | Becca Pava           |                 |
| Annie Enright             | Dave Peasley         |                 |
| Sean Enright              | Anita Perry          |                 |
| Alicia Enriquez           | Gabe Ponce           |                 |
| Irma Enriquez             | Oliver Potts         |                 |
| Terry Erwin               | Pablo R.             |                 |
| Dee Feci                  | Chris Randolph       |                 |
| Trent Feliss              | Dawn Renz            |                 |
|                           | Mary Repetti         |                 |
|                           | Suzette & Soraya     |                 |

Please let the office know when a name can be removed from this prayer list. Thank you.

**PRAYER LINE:** Please call Rosalie Flores-Aguon (831-359-9799) or Mary Soltis (688-8326) if you or someone you know is in need of prayer or email [resurrection.aptos.prayerline@gmail.com](mailto:resurrection.aptos.prayerline@gmail.com)

## WOULD YOU LIKE A MASS OFFERED FOR A LOVED ONE?

We are still able to take mass requests for daily mass or for the weekend. Please email Jolene at [jamcfeely@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamcfeely@sbcglobal.net) and she will be happy to set up a date for you or come by the office during office hours. The donation per mass is \$10.00. You can mail in a check or pay with your credit card. Thank you!



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** A poinsettia is a nice way to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas. We invite you to make a contribution to our Christmas flower fund in memory or honor of a loved one. Honors/Memorials will be listed in an Christmas Season eBulletin. Donation envelopes were mailed to all registered parishioners. Your envelopes can be brought to church and placed in the collection, mailed to the parish PO Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001, or dropped by the office during office hours, or you can go directly online to our website, click on "Donate Now" and make an online donation under "Flowers". If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of someone please type the names in the box provided on our online donation page. Additional envelopes are available on the counter in the church entrance.



## FAITH FORMATION

### FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION CONTINUES!

Registration Forms are available on our website: <https://resurrection-aptos.org> under the Resource Center, under Faith Formation. There is also a Faith Formation newsletter on our website which explains all our programs this year.

### IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

If you'd like to explore this possibility, please contact Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 or [pfconway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pfconway@sbcglobal.net)

### CONFIRMATION FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS

Please contact Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 or [pfconway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pfconway@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### K-5 FAITH FORMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

For information please contact Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 or [pfconway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pfconway@sbcglobal.net)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact Gabe Summers at [gb-summers@att.net](mailto:gb-summers@att.net) or 831-688-4300 x22 for information about any of your Youth Ministry Programs.

### Middle School & High School Youth Ministry:

In light of the current circumstances due the Corona-virus we will not be running our Middle School and High School Youth Group programs through December. We will re-evaluate the situation at that time.

### Youth Confirmation:

- Confirmation is open to all High School Youth, beginning in 9th Grade. It is a two-year program. Classes have already begun. Please contact Gabe for more information.

## OUTREACH

### THE ASSOCIATION OF FAITH COMMUNITIES (AFC)

Several years ago Resurrection joined with other faith communities in the county to form the AFC to address the needs of our sisters and brothers without homes. AFC currently runs three programs: the Faith Community Shelter—a nightly rotating shelter that provides a warm bed, a meal and support to those experiencing homelessness, Safe Spaces—a safe parking program that allows those sleeping in their vehicles a place to sleep soundly, and a mobile shower program that provides a hot shower to those living in camps and shelters. To financially support these AFC programs, go online at <https://www.afcsantacruz.org/give.html>, or mail a check made out to "AFC" to AFC, 532 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. If you have questions or want more information, email Sam Altis at [sam.altis@afcsantacruz.org](mailto:sam.altis@afcsantacruz.org).

### FUNDS TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS AVAILABLE!

Housing vouchers are available for those without homes, and our Association of Faith Communities (our shelter organization) is looking for rental units to house people currently in our shelter and Safe Spaces (parking) programs. If you have a rental unit available, the AFC will refer our best candidates to you for consideration. The County Housing Authority will pay the rent at market value, and is currently offering a \$2,000 bonus to most landlords who rent to individuals with a voucher. Also, Landlords can be reimbursed up to \$5000 for damages that exceed the security deposit, unpaid rent, vacancy loss or legal fees. Landlords have the benefit of direct deposit, a landlord portal, a single point of contact (a Leasing Specialist), and the security of knowing that the rent will be paid, even if a tenant's income decreases. The properties eligible must not be a room in your house but an area with a separate entrance and bath/cooking areas. If you are interested in renting to an AFC shelter or Safe Spaces member, contact AFC shelter director Sam Altis at 831-515-6964 or [sam.altis@afcsantacruz.org](mailto:sam.altis@afcsantacruz.org).

**SOCKS for PEOPLE IN NEED (SPIN):** SPIN is back in action, collecting NEW socks and delivering them to our brothers and sisters in need around the Santa Cruz area! Since the program started at Resurrection almost 10 years ago, SPIN has collected and distributed more than 47,000 pairs of clean, new socks. SPIN operates year-round because the need for socks is ongoing. YOU or YOUR FAMILY can help in one of these simple ways

- Donate NEW socks by placing them in the well-marked SPIN box conveniently located in the church entrance. Basic white crew socks are appreciated by everyone, but you can also choose to donate socks specifically for women or children.
- Make a financial contribution toward the purchase of socks; we will then buy socks and deliver them to various churches or community organizations.
- Organize a "sock collection drive" at your school or office, in your neighborhood or among friends and family members.

Your support and participation in this important community outreach project is deeply appreciated. For more information, please contact Pat Lorenzo (831-708-2068) or [pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com](mailto:pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com).

**RESURRECTION CARD-CRAFTERS:** The card crafting group will be selling hand-made Christmas cards **after mass this weekend—after the 5:00 PM mass on Saturday, December 18 and 10:15 AM mass on Sunday, December 19.** There are also wide array of hand-made cards available, from general cards, Birthday, New Baby, Thinking of You, Thank You, Sympathy, Congratulations, and Wedding Wishes.. Cards are \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10, then \$3.00 per card after that. Please contact Pat Lorenzo for further information: e-mail at [pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com](mailto:pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com) or phone (831)708-2068. As always, materials are donated, so all of the profits from card sales go to support the Faith Community Shelter at Resurrection.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS!** This week we are giving a shout out to Benito & Azzaro Pacific Gardens Chapel. See the attached advertising page for all our advertisers. We are grateful for our advertisers continued support of the parish.

**ALTAR LINENS:** We are looking for a few volunteers to help launder and iron our altar linens in 2022! This would require a one month commitment. We need help in the months of **April and July.** Please contact Jolene in the parish office if you can assist with this ministry.

**2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be emailed again this year unless you let us know that you'd prefer a copy mailed to you. If you don't have an email address, your statement will be mailed to you. If you would like your statement mailed please call Karen Victorino at 831-688-4300 x10 or email [kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net)

**FIRST ANNUAL WHITE MASS:** All doctors, PAs, NPs, RNs, Pharmacists, healthcare providers as well as your families, and all Catholics who pray for or support healthcare providers: You are invited to participate in the first annual **White Mass** for the Diocese of Monterey. Bishop Garcia will preside the White Mass on **February 19th at 11 AM** at Madonna del Sasso Parish in Salinas. The White Mass gets its name from the color worn by those in this healing profession and originated with the national Catholic Medical Association (CMA) in the 1930s. We encourage you as well to wear your white coat. Please spread the word to all healthcare providers. To learn more, participate in the Mass, join the local CMA, or ask a questions, please contact the local CMA secretary Tiffany Magallanes, MS, CPNP at [tmagallanescpnp@gmail.com](mailto:tmagallanescpnp@gmail.com).

**ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MASS:** The annual Respect Life Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Daniel E. Garcia, D. D. will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2022, at 11:00 AM at Madonna Del Sasso Pro-Cathedral in Salinas. Bishop Garcia invites all parishioners in the Monterey Diocese to come and attend this annual mass.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN THE DIOCESE OF MONTEREY: THE POPE FRANCIS SCHOOL OF MINISTRY BEGINS A NEW YEAR** on February 5, 2022. The School of Ministry forms competent lay ministers to work together with the ordained to further the mission of the church. If you would like more formation in Scripture, Sacraments & Liturgy, & Pastoral Theology for Ministry and more, **please register NOW** for the new year! **Space is limited.** For session dates, more information and to register, please go to <https://www.dioceseofmonterey.org/school-of-ministry> Sessions begin early February. Locations are in three different areas for your convenience: Atascadero, Capitola & Spreckels. Early registration discount applies through January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Questions? Call Ann Ventura, Program Coordinator, at 831-645-2848 or email at [mailto:aventura@dioceseofmonterey.org](mailto:mailto:aventura@dioceseofmonterey.org)

**COVERED CALIFORNIA:** Good options for affordable health insurance are available to California households through Covered California. Consumers can sign up to benefit from increased levels of financial help available through the American Rescue Plan and potentially lower their premiums, enabling them to get high quality care – and thanks to the California Premium Credit, starting next year many will be eligible for a \$0 net premium per member, per month! Visit [www.coveredca.com/](http://www.coveredca.com/) or contact a local agent for help with your application.



**18TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL FORPEACE HOPE AND HEALING:** A Virtual Event: Chants, Prayers, Meditation, and Music on Friday, December 31, 2021 from 7:30 PM to 9:15 PM. Join Fr. Cyprian Consiglio and other speakers from the local Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Indigenous, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faith communities. Zoom Meeting ID: 846 0644 3323 Passcode: 508659 Sponsored by Sangha Shantivanam [www.sanghashanti.net](http://www.sanghashanti.net)

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:** The owners of Agnus Dei Books and Gifts for Catholics have served the community for the past 28 years. They are looking for volunteers who are willing to help them for an hour or two per week. They are open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Their needs include moving boxes, retrieving items from upstairs, etc. If this touches you, perhaps God is calling. Please contact Carole at 831-295-2738. God bless you!

**AL-ANON & ALATEEN:** Not Everyone trapped by alcohol is an alcoholic. Families and friends are suffering too. Do you worry about how much someone drinks? Al-Anon and Alateen can help. Looking for a meeting? To find in-person and online meetings in Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties, please visit [www.district23alanon.org](http://www.district23alanon.org) or call (831) 462-1818.



## A Reflection by Erma Coty

As the third candle on the Advent wreath represents overwhelming joy, so the fourth candle embodies unconditional love. We remember Mary visiting her cousin Elisabeth and affirming the love that they must feel for each other as they looked forward to becoming mothers. I wonder how they would have felt, and what they might have shared with each other, if they knew that they would also be sharing intense sorrow.

When I was younger, I knew that after we lit the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, Christmas day was not far away. Now, I am more likely to panic because it reminds me that Christmas is almost here and I am not nearly ready for it. Perhaps one of the blessings of getting older is being able to figure out what is still truly important during the holiday season. And for our family it was Midnight Mass and Food.

On Christmas Eve, we celebrated the Feast of Seven Fishes, being mindful of the need for abstinence. In days past, High Mass began at midnight. We needed to arrive at church by 11:30 PM if we expected to find a seat. My dad attended Midnight Mass throughout his life. He always wore a suit to Mass. He would sing carols in his beautiful baritone and my sister and I were always an attentive audience. I still love listening to his favorite carols, but singing along is too emotional after all these years.

We didn't have a set dinner for Christmas day. My Grandmother would make "fried dough" with honey or sugar for the morning and if we were lucky Mama made "homemades" (our word for fresh pasta). But the house always smelled like Christmas: the mixed aromas of pasta sauce, anise cookies, pumpkin pie and fresh bread.

These are the fragrances that represent the unconditional love of the Christmas season that I remember and that I try to duplicate. My sense of smell helps me to recall the sense of wellbeing that is the gift of the first Christmas. The legacy of unconditional love that was passed on to us from the manger.

I know that Advent is a spiritual journey dedicated to preparing for Christmas. And, of course, I try to focus on the holy-day while I am decorating the tree and shopping for the holi-day. In fact, to me, the external preparation for the holiday is an expression of the unconditional love of the holy-day. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

## Seated Tai Chi

Seated Tai Chi with our instructor Pam Mensah will be held in the Markey Community Center on Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM. **All participants must be vaccinated unless medically contraindicated. Masks are required for all as the class will be held indoors in Markey Center.** The class is free to all members of Resurrection. Please note, there will be no Tai Chi on the following dates:

Christmas Break: December 23rd  
New Year's Break: December 30<sup>th</sup>

Donations are welcomed .  
— Erma Coty, [elcoty@att.net](mailto:elcoty@att.net)



## Ensemble Monterey Befana – A Christmas Fable Thursday, January 6—Saturday, January 8 at 7:30pm Sunday, January 9 at 3:00pm Crocker Theater Cabrillo College

We are thrilled and honored to present with Ensemble Monterey Chamber Orchestra, the World Premiere of our new joint commission by renowned composer Kirke Mechem! "Befana: A Christmas Fable" is based on the beloved Italian legend and is a fully staged, one act opera performed in Crocker Theater.

The fable of Befana is a favorite Italian legend of a woman who has lost her husband and her son, and cleans her house endlessly, waiting and hoping for their return. She is visited by the three wise men on their way to Bethlehem who invite her to join them. She turns them down, fearing that she might miss the return of her loved ones, but later regrets her decision and tries, in vain, to find the wise men and the baby Jesus. Every year since that time she travels the world on January Sixth, Epiphany, the Twelfth Night of Christmas, leaving gifts for every little one because she sees love in the eyes of every child. Contact: [cranders@scu.edu](mailto:cranders@scu.edu)

