

December

2020
Edition



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
900 Edgewater Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

In This Issue:

Reflections from the
Interim Rector.....P 1

Announcements.....P 2

Every Gift Matters.....P 3

Youth Ministry.....P 4-5

Hymns for
December.....P 6

Outreach.....P 7-9

Sea Breeze
School News.....P 10

Editor's Corner.....P 11

Birthdays &
Anniversaries.....P 12

Editor
Yvonne Sidell

From Father Shane

The 'O' antiphons that we commonly know from the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, can be traced back to the first centuries of Christianity. Each antiphon, beginning with 'O', addresses Jesus with a unique title taken from the prophecies of Isaiah. The seven titles attributed to Christ in the antiphons are:

- 1 Wisdom (Sapientia)
- 2 Ruler (Adonai)
- 3 Root of Jesse (Radix)
- 4 Key of David (Clavis)
- 5 Rising Dawn (Oriens)
- 6 King of the Nations (Rex)
- 7 God With Us (Emmanuel)

Taking the first letter of each in Latin and reversing the order - *Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia* - gives the Latin words *ERO CRAS* which means "*I come tomorrow*". The Anglican priest and poet, Fr Malcolm Guite (one of my favorites!) recently wrote the following poem on *Clavis (key)* which I want to share with you as we all have a much deeper experience of darkness and loneliness after a year of pandemic. The original antiphon is:

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death

Fr Guite's poem from *Sounding the Seasons (Canterbury Press)*:

O Clavis

Even in the darkness where I sit
And huddle in the midst of misery
I can remember freedom, but forget
That every lock must answer to a key,
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard,
Particular, exact and intimate,
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.
I cry out for the key I threw away
That turned and over turned with certain touch



And with the lovely lifting of a latch
Opened my darkness to the light of day.
O come again, come quickly, set me free
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.

Announcements

Contemplative Meditation at St. Ambrose

In 2020, we have faced unprecedented challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently, with the elections. Coping with the stress and anxiety that both have generated is a priority for all of us.

Recently, the Vestry reached out to the congregation with a survey to help identify ways to come together as a community despite social distancing. One of the suggestions we received was to have facilitated meditation via Zoom.

We're very excited to announce that our own Father Shane will be guiding a thirty-minute weekly contemplative meditation on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., beginning on Wednesday, December 9. We're fortunate that in his previous life, Father Shane was a monk and are looking forward to sharing this experience with him.

Please send an email to Hamilton Fong (hfongster@gmail.com) or to Nilda Chong (nchongmd@gmail.com) if you wish to be included in the Zoom invitation.

Mark Your Calendars

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 1 Advent 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:30 AM Sandwiches on Sundays, Fair Oaks Community Center 11:30 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	30 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	1	2 7:00 AM Father Shane Conference	3 7:00 AM Father Shane Conference	4	5
6 2 Advent 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:30 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 3:30 PM InGathering Drive Through 4:00 PM Youth Group	7 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	8	9 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation 5:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting, Zoom 6:00 PM Zoom Building and Grounds Meeting	10	11	12
13 3 Advent 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:30 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	14 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	15	16 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting, Zoom	17	18	19
20 4 Advent 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:30 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	21 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	22	23 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy 5:00 PM Zoom Champagne Hour	25	26
27 1 Christmas 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:30 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	28 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	29	30 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	31	1	2

Virtual Sunday Liturgys

[The Rev'd Canon Shane Scott-Hamblen;](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfCRkqxS1li-yYov5kMpvDg)

You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfCRkqxS1li-yYov5kMpvDg>

- Virtual Sunday Liturgy of the Word from the Holy Eucharist: Rite II: **Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:00 am**
- Zoom Coffee Hour, **Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11:00 am** To be invited contact Shelley Keefe at 650 787-7614
- Zoom Youth Group Meeting, **Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4:00 pm** To be invited contact Daniel Tate at ym_stambrosefc@att.net or 650-799-7084
- Zoom Altar Guild Meeting **Wednesday, December 9 at 5:00 pm**
- Zoom Building and Grounds Meeting, **Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00 pm**
- Zoom Vestry Meeting, **Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm.** To be invited contact April Cherrington at aprilcherrington@gmail.com or 650-574-7449
- Zoom Contemplative Meditation, **Wednesdays, December 9, 16, 23, 30 10:00 am** Send an email to Hamilton Fong (hfangster@gmail.com) or to Nilda Chong (nchongmd@gmail.com) if you wish to be included in the Zoom invitation

Every Gift Matters – by Shelley Keefe



and we need every gift!

Dear Fellow St. Ambrose Parishioners,

To celebrate the end of our 2020 Stewardship Campaign, we cordially invite you to a socially-distanced Ingathering Event on the Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In our worship service on this day, we will also honor the patron saint of our church, Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.

The Ingathering Event will be a drive-through the parking lot. You will be able to drop off your pledge cards, meet and greet Fr. Shane, depart with your 2021 pledge envelopes and thank you gift. Due to the status of COVID-19 in San Mateo County, we request that all participants wear a face covering.

Please RSVP to the [Evite Invitation](http://evite.me/czaRj8xTeH) (<http://evite.me/czaRj8xTeH>) or to the church office (stambrosefc@att.net) if you will attend the event in person.

Thank you for supporting our mission. Your support is critical and, as a result of the feedback you gave us in the recent congregational survey, we plan several new initiatives in 2021.

Please join us on December 6!

Respectfully,

Shelley, Junior Warden

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News – by Daniel Tate

Sandwiches on Sunday

Last month, several of us prepared lunches for Sandwiches on Sunday with our Outreach Leader Stephen Yuen. On Saturday at the church, we made about 80 sandwiches, put together some fruit and snacks into lunch bags and prepared them for giving out to people at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. We made the sandwiches and lunch packages outdoors under one of the overhangs and practiced safe distancing, with gloves provided. It was good to have some fellowship in person and get outside on a nice sunny day. It was a good service project and we are planning to do it again in January.

Christmas Pageant

This month, we are looking for volunteers for this year's Christmas Pageant, an annual tradition at St Ambrose. This year it will be a virtual event! Recordings can be made at home or at the church. Once submitted, they will be edited together to make a wonderful holiday event. The finished video will be part of our Christmas Eve Service. The pageant will be 100% virtual and the youth and children will not need to attend church. If you want to participate or have questions, please email Daniel (ym_stambrosefc@att.net) or call 650-799-7084. Once we find out who wants to participate, we will be reaching out regarding roles, scripts, logistics, etc.

St. Ambrose Garden

In October, the Youth Group planted a garden in the plot where we planted wheat in the past. Plants are coming up! Chard, carrots, and spinach – also some of the paperwhite / other bulbs and a few nasturtiums are showing up. It might be good to revisit this project in December and/ or January 2021. Maybe we can do a little weeding, and some more planting to make sure our winter garden turns out full.

St. Ambrose Workday/Cleanup

Also, for December or January we are thinking about putting together a service project workday/cleanup at the church. I'll be sending more information and dates for these December and January activities by email soon.

Zoom Meetings for Youth

St. Ambrose Youth Group has a Zoom meeting every Sunday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. College, high school, and middle school youth, including those who have just completed the fifth grade are all welcome. Friends are welcome too! Please contact Daniel Tate by e-mail (ym_stambrosefc@att.net) if you or a friend would like to join in and have not yet received a link. Usually five to ten youth participate in each meeting. Each meeting includes talking about the highs and lows that we've had during the past week, reflection on scripture, and an activity or game. Please join us!

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News (continued)

St. Ambrose Youth Service/Learning Opportunities

Also, here are a few service and learning opportunities at St Ambrose youth might be interested in doing in order to keep active, get out of the house and away from the online life -- and to be around some nice people at the church! *During the pandemic, we are observing safe social distancing and allow only 10 people in the sanctuary at a time, and everyone is required to wear a mask.* We do all we can to create a safe environment. If you are interested in any of the above chances for service in the church, maybe learning and doing something new, and seeing some of your church community in person, please contact me:

Technicians: Every Sunday, we produce an online YouTube broadcast of our worship service. Lydia McIntyre set the system up from the beginning and has been doing an incredible service for the church. But now, Lydia needs some relief from time to time and she and her father David, are looking to train some people to help out.

Readers: During each worship service, church members read the lectionary scripture for the day, and the Prayers of the People. Traditionally, adults have filled these roles, but now we're looking for our youth to take part too.

Musicians: If you like to sing or play an instrument, there are still plenty of opportunities to do that at St. Ambrose. On Saturdays, we record the music to be spliced into the live broadcast recordings on Sundays. During the service, the prelude, the postlude, the main anthem, the offertory, and the hymns, all offer a chance for singing or playing an instrument. If you are a beginner or expert (either one), Maureen Fromme and Frank Saunders, our music leaders are happy to teach, assist, and accompany.

Thank you,

Daniel

Hymns for December – by Maureen Fromme

As we arrive at December, we have made it through masks and social-distancing, and through Covid and Zoom. Now we come to a favorite time of year for many of us: Advent and Christmas.

For me, one of the quintessential carols in the Anglican and Episcopal church is “*Once In Royal David's City*”. The lone boy soprano begins the carol, then all others join in as the hymn continues. It encapsulates the Christmas story in six verses.

The Anglo-Irish poet Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) wrote the poem and included it in her book, *Hymns for Little Children*. A year later, the English organist Henry Gaunlett read the poem and set it to music. She compiled her set of poems to help children understand the 'Apostles' Creed', and, in this case, to explain the story of the nativity. Eight of her texts appear in The Hymnal 1982, including the hymn, “*All Things Bright and Beautiful*”.

This carol begins with the scene in the stable with Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, the humbleness of the birth, the example they showed of the love we should have for one another, the exemplary life Jesus lived while here on earth, and that He continues to lead and care for us as His children as He now is surrounded by saints in heaven.

During the month of December, it might be interesting for families to read the words of some familiar carols that we sing and help children to understand what the hymn is really about. Often, the words used in hymns were written from the 8th century to the 20th century, with florid, poetic words that are not easy for children to understand. I found that in teaching such carols and hymns to children, it is very helpful for them if we, as adults, can share the text in words more understandable to them. Singing carols as a family can also be most pleasant, especially while most of us will still need to be 'hibernating' because of Covid. There are so many beautiful carols and Christmas hymns for all of us to enjoy!

Wishing everyone a blessed, peaceful and healthy month of December AND time listening to some carols.

“Once in Royal David's City”- King's College Cambridge: <https://youtu.be/TT3cfXd3Shk>

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed,
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

More Christmas carols for your enjoyment: <https://youtu.be/sfETrmnZK5w>

Thank you,

Maureen

December Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

Sandwiches on Saturday

On Saturday, November 28, St. Ambrose organized a sandwich assembly line in the church playground. Our volunteers produced 80 bag lunches consisting of sandwiches, chips, and fresh fruit for anyone who will show up at the Fair Oaks Community Center, Redwood City on November 29 (we'll report on this event next month).

Thanks go to Rob Richards for procuring all the materials and to Daniel Tate for putting together the Saturday activity. On the assembly line were:

Elliot Dun
Aurelia Gerber
Alison LeBlanc
David McIntyre
Lydia McIntyre
Cathy Rincon
Daniel Tate

We were blessed with sunshine on a cool, breezeless day, and our initial effort at making sandwiches went smoothly.

In previous years St. Ambrose members would prepare a hot lunch of salad and baked chicken or lasagna, which were served cafeteria style. St. Pius Catholic Church would furnish the sandwiches to be handed out when people were leaving. The attrition of volunteers has caused St. Pius to discontinue the sandwich-making, and now all the churches that participate in Sandwiches on Sunday are making brown bag lunches only.

Cambodia Academy

Michael Chang, Amarine Gerber, and Aurelia Gerber corresponded with two children that St. Ambrose sponsors at the Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei. The letters were scanned and sent electronically. Shown below are Chheng Vipha (left) and Mai Chantra (right) with our letters on their laptop display.



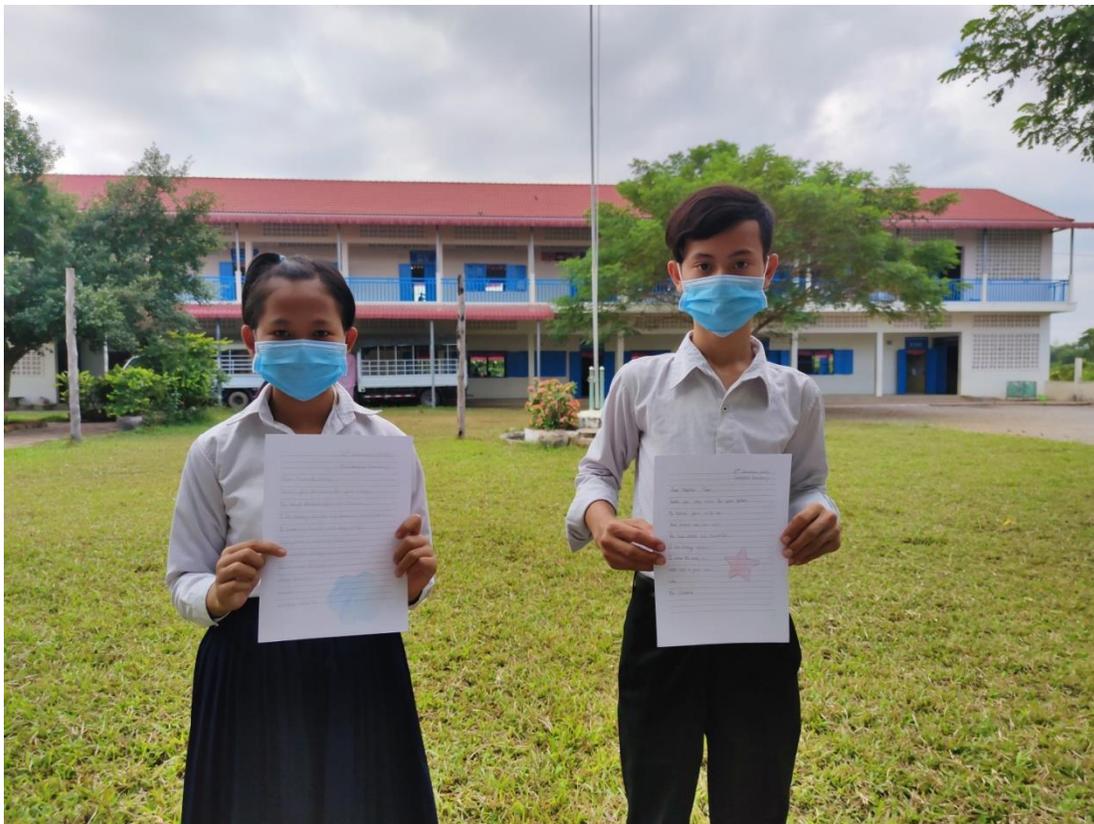
December Outreach Report (continued)

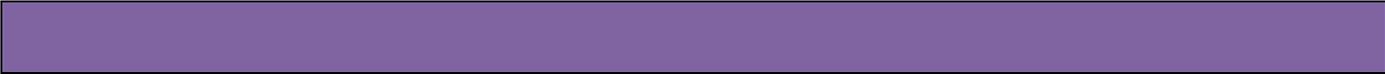
From the Cambodia Academy newsletter:

As of October 1, The Cambodia Academy was reopened with new hygiene and social distancing requirements. We send our great thanks to Dr. Hang Chuon Naron and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport for permission to reopen. We also thank Soviet Miech, Dara Pei, Sa Sok, and the entire faculty and staff for their diligence in preparing the campus to ensure the safety of our students.

Due to the pandemic, we are not able to offer bus service yet and we are not cleared to reopen the cafeteria. Even so, it is wonderful to see the students back on campus and getting back to learning.

Below are Vipha and Chantra with their handwritten responses to our letters.





December Outreach Report (continued)

Samaritan House Family Sharing

In the past, we purchased and delivered Christmas gifts for three Samaritan House families. The gifts were funded by offerings and not from the Church's Outreach budget. The normal annual fundraising goal is \$1,000.

The Samaritan House asked that we make a direct donation to the program, and they will do the shopping for presents and gift cards.

To make an online donation, go to <http://samaritanhousesanmateo.org/donate> and choose "Holiday Program" as your choice in the "Select Cause" section.

You can also mail a check to Samaritan House Holiday Program, 4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403. Please make note that it's for the Holiday Program and that you are a member of St. Ambrose.

Finally, you can also send a check to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church and designate it "Family Sharing." We will collect these donations and send the total to the Samaritan House.

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

As things continue to evolve around campus, I am happy to say all is well given the circumstances.

Our Halloween parade went off without a hitch! While there were no parents on campus for the event, we did have several parents across the street at Foster City Elementary and in the Lucky's parking lot taking pictures and videos. The children lined up in their stable pods in the parking lot, and pod by pod they walked through the parking lot, along Edgewater and back into the parking lot. Everyone listened well and nobody tried to run away! PHEW!!! Many thanks to Nilda (Vestry member) who came by to make sure we had photographers on hand. We did have families on Zoom during the parade and we sent a video of the parade out to everyone. We were blessed by several parents that volunteered their time and donations to decorate the entrance of the school for Halloween. Thanks to Katie Kendall for leading that project.

Enrollment is stable and we are continually looking at creative ways to meet the needs of the families in the community. Foster City Elementary is planning a phased-in return to school in January 2021 and we are hoping to gain more children in our School Age program at that time. Some of the children that attended our virtual program have started to return to campus and this has allowed us to open a new classroom. Both our virtual and on campus programs continue to grow.

November has us thinking of creative ways to celebrate Thanksgiving with our children and we are already brainstorming what our Christmas programs may look like. We never stop planning!

Merry Christmas!

Respectfully,

Jerelyn

Sees Candies Fundraiser

See's CANDIES
Sea Breeze School Storefront



Help Us
Reach Our Goal!

Sea Breeze Families and Friends: Treat yourself to the yummiest candy on earth, AND support our largest fundraiser of the school year at the same time! Order now through Friday, December 4, 2020. Shop online here, https://www.yumraising.com/secure/seabs_sea_breeze_school97/candy?h=Lis_Wal7788 to help us reach our fundraising goals. Here's to achieving sweet success! Thank you and we appreciate your continued support. Sea Breeze School.

SCRIP FUNDRAISING

December 1, 2020

Major Retailers Want to Give Our School Money!

Dear St. Ambrose Parishioners:

We're pleased to share some exciting news about a fundraising program for our school/parish. It's called "scrip", and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop.

Scrip is simply a word that means, "substitute money" – in other words scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including Starbucks, The Gap, Amazon.com, Chipotle, Safeway, Lucky, Target and **MANY, MANY** others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and our school keeps the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeats business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling...
- Our school/parish gets a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our school without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.

Please go to www.shopwithscrip.com

ENROLLMENT CODE: 77D5D73A62822

ShopWithScrip offers an electronic payment method which allows a family to link a bank account to their ShopWithScrip account securely. Families can then choose to have their bank account debited for the entire amount of their ShopWithScrip order when they check out online and then your organization receives credit for the amount the family paid on your next order.

For a small convenience fee of \$0.15 per order, families can order and pay for scrip at any time without having to drop off any checks.

Credit cards are also accepted, but there is a processing fee. **Wednesday, December 9th** is the last day to order for PHYSICAL gift cards. There are also e-gift cards available.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ghiozzi

Scrip Coordinator
dghiozzi@seabreezeschool.com

The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



“Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His faithful love endures forever.”

—Psalm 106:1 (NLT)

As Christmas approaches (and you enjoyed Thanksgiving), please allow me to simply remind you that there is *always* at least one good reason to give thanks and praise His name. Whatever your circumstances, it is this: **God is good.**

Here are three of my favorite ways that God displays His goodness:

1) *God is good because He loves us unconditionally.* God loves us not for what we've done, but for who we are. This is a core truth about God and worthy of our embrace. God's love isn't based on our income. It's not based on our job. It's not based on our looks. It's not based on the way we dress. God's love for us has no strings attached. There's nothing you can do to earn God's love. This is a reason to praise His name!

2) *God is good because he offers us life forever.* In the midst of all of the craziness happening in the world, we can be thankful that God wants our future to include real life! He offers us life to the full—here and now (see John 10:10) and someday, life in heaven. We read in 1 Peter 1:4-5, “and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.” This is a reason to praise His name!

3) *God is good because He gives us free gifts.* Everyone loves a free gift, right? God is good because His gifts are amazing! We read in Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God is so rich in mercy, He loved us so much, that He gave us back our lives again when He raised Christ from the dead. Only by His undeserved favor have we been saved.” Do we deserve God's kindness? No. Do we deserve His mercy? No. Do we deserve His forgiveness? No. God loves us and He gives us these free gifts. This is a reason to praise His name!

God is truly good and wonderful! He gives amazing gifts! He loves you unconditionally! He gives us life now and a future in heaven. There's no need to wait to praise His holy name!

Praise Him!

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

John Mendoza	4
Frank Saunders	4
Nellie Wong	16
Lydia McIntyre	18
Grant Cherrington	19
Rose Umeda	21
Yvonne Sidell	25
Dorothy Matsuo	28
Jamie Briones	29
George Silverman	30
Eva Kwong	31



Anniversaries

John Mendoza and Frances Famacion 3