



Saint Joan of Arc CATHOLIC CHURCH

"To be Christ for Others as Christ is for Us."... Learn it, Live it!

2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon, CA 94583-1630



PASTOR

Rev. Johnson Abraham

DEACON

Rev. Mr. John Durden

Rev. Mr. Fred Seril

Rev. Mr. Brendan Coffey (transitional)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Bob Cummings

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

M-Th: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Weekday Mass

9:00 AM

Vigil Liturgy

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Weekend Masses

Sunday, 8:00 , 10:00 AM
and 12:00 PM

Daily 9 AM Mass and Sunday 8 AM
Mass are livestreamed on our Parish
website at www.sjasr.org

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

M-Th: 8:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. — Noon

Chapel also open for private prayer

EUCCHARIST TO SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Arranged with Homebound Ministry

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3– 4 p.m. or by appt.

PRAY THE ROSARY

Monday - Friday after the 9 AM Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Beginning January 2024: 1st Friday of
the month, after 9 a.m. Daily Mass
until 12 Noon. Closes w/ Benediction

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT



"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Lk 28:28

Cover design ©Liturgical Publications Inc. Photographer, Sheryl Kasper, bigstockphoto.com



Adults: Mary, in humility, assents with her famous "fiat" in today's Gospel— "May it be done to me according to your word." Have you ever had to say "yes" to God when you did not know where it would lead you? Was there a joyful expectation that came with it?

Children: In today's Gospel, the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary with news that she would bear a child and call him Jesus. Mary's "yes" allows Jesus to come into the world—and her "yes" brings us Christmas! Are there ways that you say "yes" to God or Jesus? Can your "yes" to doing good be an act of thanksgiving or gratitude?

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION**PARISH OFFICE** 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon, CA 94583-1630**Phone:** 925-830-0600**Fax:** 925 830-5059**Email:** ParishOffice@sjasr.org**Website:** www.sjasr.org**Realm:** <https://onrealm.org/sjasr>**FORMED:** <https://sjasr.formed.org>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/stjoansr>**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/stjoansr>**Twitter:** <https://www.twitter.com/stjoansr>**Hours:** M-Th: 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.; Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12 Noon

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John Cummings - Facilities Plant Manager

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Agatha Lee - Music/Choir

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Rosemarie McKenney - Director

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Maureen Tiffany - RCIA

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Marie Pena - Office Administrator

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Beverly Fung - LIGHT (High school)

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YouthMinistry@sjasr.orgbfung@sjasr.org

Gina Camp - Confirmation/EDGE (6-8 grade)

x233

gcamp@sjasr.org**YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

If your contact information changes please notify the Parish Office.

**RESOURCES TO ASSIST YOU WITH A STRUGGLE
YOU MAY BE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING****Autism and Special Needs Support**will not be meeting on a regular basis until further notice. For questions or concerns, contact Sue Walsh at sbwjobs1@mac.com, or 925-708-5671**Divorce and Separated Support**

Sue Pieraccini 925 819-1809

smc9@sbcglobal.net**Financial Needs and/or donations:**St. Vincent de Paul
Leave message at office:
925-830-0600, X246**General Social Service Needs**Addiction, Domestic Violence, Education and more. Visit Faith in Action Catholic Social Services at faithinactionoakdiocese.org**Job Support**

Rosemarie McKenney 925 830-0600

rmckenney@sjasr.org**Marriage Trouble - Get Hope**HelpOurMarriage.com
www.sjasr.org/MARRIAGE**SACRAMENTS****BAPTISM** Private baptisms are now available on Saturdays. To make an appointment, please send an email to the parish office at baptism@sjasr.org**CONFIRMATION** Preparation for teens begins in grade nine. Contact the Youth Ministry Office. Adults, over 18, contact Maureen Tiffany at 830-0600.**MARRIAGE** The bride, the groom or their parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joan of Arc. The couple must also meet with a priest at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.**ANointing OF THE SICK** For anyone experiencing chronic illness or preparing for medical treatment, surgery, long-term care, etc., please call the Parish Office to arrange an appointment with a priest.**CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)**

For individuals interested in becoming Catholic, and for adult Catholics who have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, contact the Parish Office.



**"The Sacraments are the manifestation of the
Father's tenderness and love
towards each of us."**

~Pope Francis

PREPARE FOR MASS**Read the readings before you come to Mass.** The daily readings can be found in many places, including:

- page three of the bulletin
- online at www.usccb.org
- on the Catholic phone app **Laudate**

RESOURCES FOR YOU**SJASR.FORMED.ORG** - free Catholic movies and books.Join Realm, our parish communication system for the latest parish news, group and ministry updates, and service opportunities. If you'd like to join Realm, please contact Ministry and Communications Coordinator Raymond Figueroa at rfigueroa@sjasr.org or send your request via the parish website.

MASS SCHEDULE, READINGS AND INTENTIONS**Saturday, December 23:**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

4:30 PM Members of St. Joan of Arc**Sunday, December 24:**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/

Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Toni Durden +**10:00 AM Cathy Bartoni + & Sonali McVay +****Christmas Eve Masses:**

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

3:00 PM Ed and Eve Cummings +**5:00 PM Leona A. Gines +****7:00 PM Ted Hoffman, Jr. +****9:00 PM Jovite Solis Abano +****Monday, December 25 — The Nativity of the Lord:**

Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

8:00 AM Rufus & Bonifacio Cordero +**10:00 AM Richard Figueroa, Sr. +****12 Noon Manuel and Connie Soliz +****Tuesday, December 26:**

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

9:00 AM Christine Schmidt +**Wednesday, December 27:**

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

9:00 AM Margot Uceba +**Thursday, December 28:**

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

9:00 AM Keith Ferris +**Friday, December 29:**

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

9:00 AM Miguel Doria, Jr. +**Saturday, December 30:**

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

**4:30 PM Raphael Mathias Reyes +
& Maria L. Reyes +****Sunday, December 31—The Holy Family:**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17, or

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

8:00 AM Rosauero and Richard Michael Reyes +**10:00 AM Esther Schroeder +****12 Noon Members of St. Joan of Arc****PRAYERS**

We add new names to the sick list weekly (generally, names remain on the sick list for three months). To add a name, please email: parishoffice@sjasr.org

LOVED ONES WHO ARE SICK (recently added are in red).

Dear God, Please embrace those who are sick and hurting today and let them feel the warmth of Your love and healing presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Edna Aguadera	Glynnis Hubbard
Chan Belloso	Mary Jabari & Jabari Family
Lois Belmessieri	Ronald and Robert Kopas
Teresita Bernal	Rev. Liam Lacey
Shirin Blessi	Patria Lagbao
Viola Cleo Bradshaw	Tom Leverton
Carina Besana Bucu	Ron Lommori
Frank Canova	Connie Ma
Elma Capisen	Jeremy Ma
Gloria Chapman	Marcie Mach
See Siu Bi Co	Dorothy Mariscal and Family
Fran Coit	Joan McCormack
Don and Paula Coloppy	Irmgard Witzke McMillan
Agnes Cosgrove	Judith Mendaras
Missie Cruz	Angel Moreno
Naff Davis	Joy Muyco
Ramon de Guzman	Barbara Pinto-Choate
Patrick DeLiegro	Julie Quizon
Rev. Jenito Delos Santos	Judy Quadraccia
Gregory Dimmling	Victor Raziano
Danton Dizon	Melba Rebiejo
Cosmo and Patrick Dilliegro	Karen Rivera
Michael Dunkel	Pat Rosecrans
L. Duran	Gualberto Salvatin, Jr.
Bobby Durden	Rick Santi
Rita and Bob Edwards	Jason Scher
Ella Empleo	John Schnaidt
Coleen Franklin	Sinead
Kaleo Gabriel	Jimmy and Doug Smith
Suselyn Gamotion	Camden Stefanik & Family
Jim Ganser	Katherine Stupak
Michael Geib	Betsy Sullivan
Judith Geib	Ashleigh Talbott
Mary Ann Gibbs	Michael Tam
Ronald Gibson	Arildo Villon
Gina and Tom Hajduch	Raquel Villon
Connie Heim	Phil Volta
Deacon Bill Henderson	Bill White
David and Robbie Hiduk	Sean Wilske
Colleen Holmolka	Sheryl Wingard
	Frank Williams



**LOVED ONES WHO ARE DECEASED:
ERIC "AYI" SOLER**

A Christmas message from Fr. Johnson

Dear St. Joan of Arc families,

Merry Christmas! It is said that Joseph and Mary went into the inn asking for a space. The innkeeper said, "Can't you see the 'No Vacancy' sign?" Mary turned to Joseph and said, "I told you to make reservations." Reservations or not, what you see in the Manger is a child, surrounded by his parents and the animals in the cold winter. What you see in the Manger is God in the form of a helpless child or God as a powerless little babe. People sometimes romanticize the manger as we do at the Church with golden fabric and flickering lights. The first Manger was real, dirty and stinky.

In the Incarnation, our understanding of God and the way He relates to us takes on a new meaning. We say God is all-powerful. We say God is all-knowing! We say God is Omni-present. Does the babe in the Manger look all-powerful to you? Does the babe in the Manger look all knowing to you? Does the babe in the Manger sound Omni-present to you? And yet, our faith and our religion are founded on the incarnate God.

St. Paul summarizes who the God of Incarnation is: "though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness." God becomes one of us. Taking the form of a slave - God becomes the least among us.

It is said, when St. Damian first ministered to the lepers, he used to address them as "You lepers" and then, when he contracted leprosy himself, he addressed them as "We lepers."

God Almighty from heaven could call us 'you sinners' but the Incarnate God is one of us in every sense, and he came to make us saints. Fr. Damian, working with lepers, became one of them, but Jesus working with us makes us part of him; we share his divine nature.

This is the mystery of incarnation. In his infinite love, God steps outside of himself, truly embraces humanity with all its limitations and weaknesses, so that he could save us. He comes not to judge the world, but to save it.

My Christmas message to you is: Go forth and love as God loved us. Go forth and save the world as God has saved us. We must step outside of ourselves to save the world. We are Christians by our love. We are Christians by our kindness and compassion. We are Christians by our tolerance.

May the Child Jesus bless us all.

Fr. Johnson

4th Week of Advent

December 24, 2023

"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord." Ps 89



**Beginning January 5, 2024:
First Friday Holy Hour
moves to Friday mornings,
following 9 a.m. Mass—12 Noon**

First Friday Holy Hour moves from evenings to mornings, beginning Friday, January 5, following the 9 a.m. Mass until 12 Noon. This is an ideal time for Adoration, reflection and prayer. We'll conclude with Benediction.

2023 Christmas Season Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

3 p.m. (Family Mass), 5 p.m. (Family Mass), 7 and 9 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 Noon

THE HOLY FAMILY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 1: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9 a.m. Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7:

10 a.m.: Fr. Johnson Abraham's Installation Mass (with main celebrant Fr. Mark Wiesner, from Catholic Community of Pleasanton). Light refreshments to follow.

Santo Niño Mass: 12 Noon Mass (Fr. Johnson will bless Santo Niño statues after Mass)



SAN DAMIANO RETREAT
An Oasis of Peace

Upcoming retreats at San Damiano

To view upcoming events at neighboring San Damiano, log on to sandamiano.org

Installation Mass for Fr. Johnson on Sunday, January 7 at 10 a.m.

We invite you to attend a special **Installation Mass for Fr. Johnson Abraham on Sunday, January 7 at the 10 a.m. Mass.** Fr. Mark Wiesner from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton will be the main celebrant. Light refreshments to follow in the statue side plaza.

Annual Santo Niño Mass: Sunday, January 7, 12 Noon



Please join us at our annual Santo Niño Mass on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at the Noon Mass. After Mass, Fr. Johnson will bless your Santo Niño statues.

Saints and Special Observances

Monday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Sunday:	The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

The Saints Speak...

As they were stoning him, Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord do not hold this sin against them," and when he said this, he fell asleep."

~St. Stephen, Acts 7:59-60

"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands, concerns the Word of life—for the life was made visible, and we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and made visible to us."

~St. John, 1 John 1:1-2

"Remember the sufferings of Christ, the storms that were weathered...the crown that came from those sufferings which gave new radiance to the faith...All saints give testimony to the truth that without real effort, no one ever wins the crown." ~St. Thomas Becket

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE IN NEED OF PRAYER?

+ **Request a Prayer Shawl** The EDGE Prayer Shawl ministry makes & prays over Prayer Shawls for recipients. To make a request, please contact Gina at 830-4720 or gcamp@sjasr.org

2nd Collection for St. Vincent de Paul on Dec. 30/31



The 2nd collection on December 30/31 will be for **St. Vincent de Paul**. Your generosity allows us to continue to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters in our community. You can donate online through our [parish website](#), US mail to our Parish Office, or place your donation or envelopes in the collection baskets.

Walk for Life: Saturday, January 20

Join us on Saturday, January 20 for the 20th Annual West Coast Walk for Life. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Joan of Arc statue and caravan to West Dublin BART. Prayer rally begins at 12:30 p.m., and walk at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Vic David at (925) 997-8867.

Eucharistic Revival Reflection

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world." ~Pope St. John Paul II

WINGS: Women in God's Spirit

All women are invited to join WINGS, a faith sharing and spiritual enhancement group. We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings for inspirational speakers, prayer and sharing time with women of all ages.

Join the St. Raymond **Winter Season of WINGS** as *We Seek Peace* with the Book of James Bible Study; **"THRIVE."** Winter meetings begin Wednesday, January 10; Social at 9 a.m., program at 9:30 a.m.

For further information or registration, contact us at wings.straymond@gmail.com Join us and bring a friend!

Volunteers Needed for Loaves and Fishes

St. Joan of Arc is looking for a few volunteers to assist with the pick-up of donated food from the generous vendors at the Danville Farmers Market.

The time commitment is approximately 2½ hours on a Saturday once every 5-7 weeks. We pick up donations once at the Danville Farmers Market and deliver to the *Loaves and Fishes* kitchen in Pittsburg.

For more information, please call George and Colleen Homolka at 925-548-6271.

This is a great way for a busy family to participate in a worthwhile ministry. Thank you for your consideration.

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Get your 2014 off to a great start!



Our Winter Bible Study Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

During our recent studies about the Eucharist, the Book of Revelation was referenced so often that we decided we need to delve into this fascinating and misunderstood book of the Bible.

Perhaps no book of the Bible fascinates, intimidates or confuses people more than Revelation. Yet relatively few people have studied it, especially from a Catholic perspective.

Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come is an intriguing eleven-session study program that shows how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven. In this study, we will pull back the veil on the rich symbolism present in Revelation, discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean, see how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the “end times” and explore the Church’s teaching on the second coming of Christ and the Last Judgment. Understand how God, the Divine Bridegroom, and the Church, his spotless bride, enter into a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage every time we celebrate Mass.

In fact, after this study, you will understand why the Book of Revelation may very well be the easiest book of the Bible to understand.

Our Revelation study will begin on Wednesday, **January 10** and will run through **Saturday, March 23** with study groups on these days:

- **Wednesday mornings** at 9:45am beginning January 10 (Lower Conference Room and zoom)
- **Wednesday evenings** at 7pm beginning January 10 (zoom only)
- **Thursday evenings** at 7pm beginning January 11 (Lower Conference Room only)
- **Saturday mornings** at 8:30am beginning January 13 (zoom only)

You can order a study guide at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/revelation-the-kingdom-yet-to-come>

TO SIGN UP, WRITE TO ROSEMARIE AT RMcKenney@sjasr.org



PREPARE FOR SUNDAY MASS at 7pm on Friday nights in the Lower Conference Room

Join us on Friday evenings from 7-8:30 pm when we meet in-person to prepare for the weekend’s Mass by viewing videos from Dr. Brant Pitre that will deepen our understanding of the readings we will hear at Mass each week, blossom our understanding of the Gospels and enhance our relationships with Jesus.

All are welcome! Just drop in or RSVP to Email at mbehraz@gmail.com.

Adult Faith Formation Office

Programs and Services : Rosemarie McKenney
RMckenney@sjasr.org 925 830-0600, x248

Adult Sacraments: Maureen Tiffany
MTiffany@sjasr.org, 925 830-0600, x222

*Adult Faith Formation's mission: to form joyful disciples who know, love
and serve Jesus ... through prayer, learning, community and service*

Join a great study ... or two!



REGISTER NOW FOR OUR Winter Alpha Dinner & Film Series

"Come and See" what the Alpha experience is all about

Our Information Dinner will be on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30pm

Reserve your seat at <https://tinyurl.com/SJA-ALPHA>

If you've experienced an Alpha Dinner & Film Series, you know what a wonderful opportunity it provides for building community, forming friendships, understanding our personal relationships with Jesus and growing closer to God.

Alpha is for everyone! Alpha creates a space where you can be excited to come (even bring your friends, neighbors, and co-workers) to have a conversation about life, faith, meaning ... and Jesus.

Why Alpha?

In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard warriors, Alpha offers a space for honest and judgment-free conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome, and no questions are off-limits.

Alpha creates a space where you can be excited to bring your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to have a conversation about life, faith, meaning ... and Jesus.

Alpha is a 10-week course (with a special Saturday together) that includes a **film** and exciting dialog. Each session looks at a different question designed to inspire stimulating **conversation**.

Alpha gives you (and your guests) an opportunity to encounter Jesus in a life-changing way ... and to be empowered to play a part in each other's journeys.

There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; just an open, informal and honest space to explore life's big questions together.

To learn more, watch the short videos at sjasr.org/Alpha.

Come and see!

For more information contact Rosemarie at RMckenney@sjasr.org

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/SJA-ALPHA>





Knights of Columbus
Annual Christmas
Party on
Saturday, December 9



On Saturday, December 9, St. Joan of Arc's **Knights of Columbus Council 9206** held their annual Christmas Party. Over 65 Knights and family members attended. There was a special visit by Santa Clause and his helper followed by Christmas Carol Karaoke. The Knights sponsored a canned food drive for the *Contra Costa County Food Bank* and gathered more than 100 pounds of canned food to help the less fortunate! Additionally, the Knights collected toys for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District *Toys for Tots* program.

Consider joining the Knights of Columbus and helping your community while enjoying great fellowship! If you're interested in membership, please email Chris Auby at: chrisauby@gmail.com

Children & Youth Faith Formation Office

SJAKids: Grades K-5 EDGE: Grades 6-8 LIGHT: Grades 9-12

Children's Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

Phone: 925-830-4710 Email: CFF@sjasr.org

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Phone: 925-830-4720 Email: YouthMinistry@sjasr.org

WINTER BREAK!!! DEC. 21 - JAN. 5

All Faith Formation programs will **not** meet during this time.

For inquiries, please send us an email at CFF@sjasr.org



Vacation Bible School



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!!!**

JUNE 17 - 21, 2024



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CRAB & PASTA FEED

to benefit the
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
and St. Joan of Arc Church

Saturday, February 10, 2024

in the St. Joan of Arc parish gymnasium



Make your reservations NOW!!

No-host social hour at 5 p.m. / dinner at 6:15 p.m.

\$75 per person or \$750 for a table of 10

Reserve early!

This event has sold out for several years—a great value and great food!

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To make your reservations, go to: www.kofcsr9206.org

Parish Contact: Larry Carilli 925-548-2618

or lrcarilli@yahoo.com



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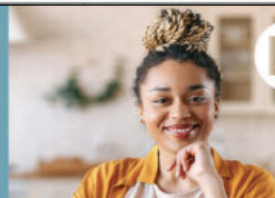
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St. Joan of Arc Church, San Ramon, CA

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John Finnessey

Pre-Arrangement Counselor
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