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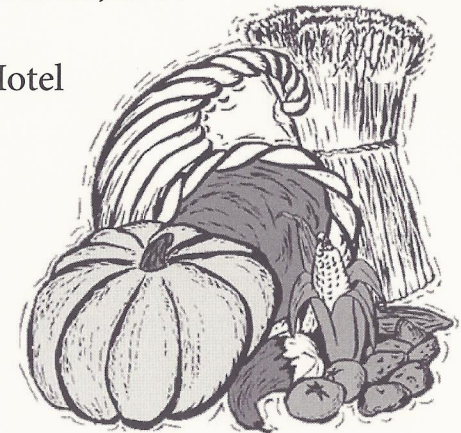
# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

**Feeding the Hungry:  
Honoring Congregations and the  
San Francisco Food Bank**

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

7:00 - 9:00 AM

Cathedral Hill Hotel  
San Francisco



Sponsored by:  
The San Francisco Interfaith Council

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**San Francisco  
INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL**



*Celebrating our diverse faith  
and spiritual traditions,  
the San Francisco Interfaith Council  
brings people together  
to build understanding  
and serve our community.*



## PROGRAM



7:00-7:30 a.m. Breakfast/Registration

Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell  
*Rev. Jordan Thorn, San Francisco Zen Center*

Welcome  
*Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Congregation Sherith Israel*  
*Joan M. Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*

President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation  
*Rev. Carmen Rosales, Mission Presbyterian Church*

Call to Prayer  
*Muhammad Abu Noor, Islamic Society of San Francisco*

Opening Prayer  
*The Most Rev. George H. Niederauer, Archbishop*  
*Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco*

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal  
*Rabbi Marvin Goodman, Executive Director*  
*Northern California Board of Rabbis*

Global to Local: United Nations Millennium Development Goals  
*The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus*  
*Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California*

The Religious Pulse in San Francisco  
*Rev. James DeLange, Chair*

"Open My Eyes" & "Let Us Break Bread Together"  
*St. Mary's Chinese Day School*  
*Ms. Satoko Fujiwara, Director*



## PROGRAM



Role and Work of the San Francisco Interfaith Council  
*Michael Pappas, M. Div., Executive Director*

The Impact on our Community by Faith Based Organizations  
*Rita R. Semel, Executive Vice Chair*

*St. Anthony Foundation - 1950*  
*Catholic Charities CYO - 1907*  
*Episcopal Community Services - 1894*  
*Glide Foundation - 1929*  
*Jewish Family and Children's Services - 1850*  
*Lutheran Social Services - 1884*  
*St. Vincent de Paul Society - 1860*  
*San Francisco Food Bank - 1987*  
*Salvation Army - 1883*

Congregations and Coalitions of Congregations

Special Recognition of the San Francisco Food Bank  
*Response from Paul Ash, Executive Director*

Keynote Address  
*Mayor Gavin Newsom*

"Blessings Upon Blessings"  
*Sr. Elizabeth Padilla & Bro. Mario Reyes*  
*Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

Closing Prayer  
*Rev. Aurelius Walker, True Hope Church Of God In Christ*





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### **Sustaining Sponsor - \$500**

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### **Special Thanks**

Flowers  
*Alma Angeles & Rossana Herrera*

Decorations  
*Accent On Flowers*

Music  
*Bro. Mario Reyes*

Coffee  
*Ben Corey Moran*  
*Thanksgiving Coffee Company*



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2007 - 2008**

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First United Lutheran Church  
Grace Cathedral  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
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Star of the Sea Catholic Church  
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Archdiocese of San Francisco  
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**Our Special Thanks to those who have  
provided financial support to the San  
Francisco Interfaith Council.**



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Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House

November 25, 2008

Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast  
San Francisco, California

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to support the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer breakfast. I want to thank Mayor Gavin Newsom for recognizing the critical role of the faith community in our city and for convening this breakfast. I also want to extend my thanks to the San Francisco Interfaith Council for sponsoring the event this morning.

Our diverse community of faith here in San Francisco is a critical part of the foundation of our city. The countless hours and financial resources that our faith thank Mayor Gavin Newsom for recognizing the critical role of the our congregations and organizations. This morning we will recognize publicly the unsung local hero congregations and organizations that serve the "least of these" in our city.

I am proud to call San Francisco my home. The patron saint of our city Saint Francis of Assisi prayed, "*Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; where there is darkness may we bring light, where there is hatred may we bring love, and where there is despair, may we bring hope.*"

The many congregations and organizations gathered here this morning are fulfilling this prayer daily. Thank you for your commitment, service and dedication.

Best Regards,

*Nancy Pelosi*

NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House



## President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to, feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

**Meal Blessing\***

*offered by*  
*Most Reverend George H. Niederauer*  
*Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco*

Let us never stop thanking God,  
 with constant words of praise.  
 Join me in praising the Lord,  
 together let us tell of God's name.

All: Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe,

Creator of many kinds of food.  
 Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
 who raises up those bowed down.  
 Blessed are You, Lord, Ruler of the Universe,  
 Who bestows good beyond our deserving  
 and has granted every goodness to us.

God's angel defends the faithful,  
 guards them on every side.

Drink in the richness of God,  
 enjoy the strength of the Lord.  
 Live in awe of God, you saints:  
 you will want for nothing.  
 Even if lions go hungry  
 those seeking God are fed. Amen.

*\*Based on traditional Jewish blessings and Psalm 34:2,4, 8-11*  
*from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy,*  
*The Psalter, 1994, adapted.*

**Islamic Messages for Feeding the Hungry  
 And Caring for the Needy**

*Quotation from the Quran*

*2:177*

It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the  
 East or towards the West. But it is righteousness:  
 To believe in God, And the Day of Judgment, And the Angels  
 And the Book, And the Messengers, To spend out of your earnings  
 Out of Love for God, For your relatives, For the orphans  
 For the Needy, For the traveler, For those who ask  
 And for the ransom of slaves, And practice regular charity.

*2:184*

If you feed the indigent and take care of needy  
 God will give you more out of his own Free Will

*90: 10 to 17*

And what is the path that is steep (difficult)  
 It is to free the bondman  
 To give food in day of famine  
 To adopt orphans (treating them as relatives)  
 And to help the indigent in street.

*107: 1 to 7*

You will see one who denies the Judgment to come  
 Repulses the orphan with harshness and  
 He does not encourages feeding the hungry  
 So – Shame on those worshippers, who neglect  
 Their prayers and who just want to be seen as  
 Prayerful – these are the ones who refuse to supply  
 The neighborly needs (of feeding and caring for poor)

*Prepared by:*  
*Imam Abu Qadir Al Amin*  
*Muslim Community Association, S.F.*

### A Midrash on Feeding the Hungry

In the world to come, man will be asked, 'What was your occupation?'

If he replies, 'I fed the hungry,' then he will be told,

'This is the gate of the Lord; he who feeds the hungry, let him enter.'

So with giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, with those that look after orphans, and with those, generally, who do deeds of loving kindness.

All these are gates of the Lord, and those who do such deeds shall enter within them.

- *Midrash on Psalm 118 from the Jewish Tradition*

### ברכת המזון ~ Blessing After Eating ~ Birkat HaMazon

Praised be our God, of whose abundance we have eaten, and by whose goodness we live.

Praised be the Eternal God.

Sovereign God of the universe, we praise You:

Your goodness sustains the world.

You are the God of grace, love and compassion, the Source of bread for all who Live; for Your love is everlasting.

In your great goodness we need never lack for food;

You provide food enough for all.

We praise You, O God, Source of food for all who live.

As it is written:

When you have eaten and are satisfied,

Give praise to your God who has given you this good earth.

We praise you, O god, for the earth and for its sustenance.

### Nourishment for the Soul

May peace be filled within me  
and give me strength  
to come face to face  
with the things that are  
tearing our human family apart

Greed, anger, ego,  
attachment and lust  
have destroyed our peace  
and brought sorrow in the world

May God's company be constant  
and nourish me with the power of peace.  
May God's love end the poverty of human values.

I know it is not a question of going off  
to remote places of quiet or turning  
away from the world to find peace.

I know it is a question of learning  
Humility  
and emerging humanity's  
Mercy.

Surrendering myself to God is the beginning.  
Together, we can then create a World of Peace.

- *Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization*



**Prayers of the People**

"Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.  
Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,  
the will to reorder our lives,  
that all may have their rightful share of the food,  
medical care, and shelter,  
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer."

*Prayers of the People, Book of Common Worship,  
for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

**A Prayer for President-elect Obama**

Almighty God, our Father who has granted favor  
to your servant, Barack Hussein Obama, and  
has ordained him to be the President of our great  
nation, for such a time as this; we beseech You to send  
down upon him the spirit of wisdom, compassion, and  
justice. We pray that You will secure him, and his family,  
in the palms of Your hands that they will find safety  
and protection, enabling him to successfully carry  
out his assignment that our nation  
will prosper and be in peace.

Let the nations rejoice with us  
and be thankful for what You have done,  
for it is Your doing and it is marvelous  
in our eyes. Unto You be the glory in the church  
by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,  
world without end. Amen.

*Bishop Ernest L. Jackson  
Grace Tabernacle Community Church*

### A Thanksgiving Prayer from the Iroquois People

Gwa! Gwa! Gwa!  
 Now the time has come!  
 Hear us, Lord of the Sky!  
 We are your children, Lord of the Sky.

You said that food should be placed beside us  
 And it should be ours in exchange for our labor.  
 You thought that ours should be a world  
 where green grass of many kinds should grow.

You said that some should be medicines  
 And that one should be Ona'ó  
 the sacred food, our sister corn.  
 You gave to her two clinging sisters  
 beautiful Oa'geta, our sister beans  
 and bountiful Nyo'sowane, our sister squash.  
 The three sacred sisters; they who sustain us.

This is what you thought, Lord of the Sky.  
 Thus did you think to provide for us.  
 And you ordered that when the warm season comes,  
 That we should see the return of life  
 And remember you, and be thankful,  
 and gather here by the sacred fire.

So now again the smoke arises.  
 We the people offer our prayers.  
 We speak to you through the rising smoke.  
 We are thankful, Lord of the Sky.

### Bahai' Prayer for Kindness

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.  
 Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be  
 a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home  
 to the stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding  
 light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to  
 the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the  
 human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

*Bahá'u'lláh*

### Buddhist Mealtime Prayers

This food is the gift of the whole universe,  
 Each morsel is a sacrifice of life,  
 May I be worthy to receive it.  
 May the energy in this food,  
 Give me the strength,  
 To transform my unwholesome qualities  
 into wholesome ones.

I am grateful for this food,  
 May I realize the Path of Awakening,  
 For the sake of all beings.

~

Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space  
 combine to make this food.  
 Numberless beings gave their lives  
 and labors that we may eat.  
 May we be nourished  
 that we may nourish life.