

# January 2, 2005 – The Epiphany of The Lord

*Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. . . Mt 2:11*



## † Servant Leader †

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord which is connected with the appearance of the newborn Savior to the three kings who were symbolic of the peoples of the world. Each of us, no matter what our lot in life, was represented by the kings. Christ has "appeared" in the world for us, bringing us salvation, redemption and the promise of everlasting happiness.

Just as the kings brought gifts to Christ, so must we. We cannot pay Christ for what He has done for us; we can only accept the priceless things He offers us and give Him gratitude and praise. The three gifts of the kings are symbolic of what our gratitude should be: gold - love, frankincense - prayer, and myrrh - sacrifice.

Love, of which gold is only a symbol, is what Christ wants from us all. This love may be defined simply as complete surrender to His will. The will of God, made known through Christ, is our only happiness.

The bible speaks of prayer rising like incense to the throne of God. It is as a symbol of prayer that incense is used in solemn liturgical celebrations. The reality is always greater than the symbol. Christ asks all of us constantly to offer Him the gift of our prayers. Prayer is important in two ways. First, we need it; we must pray often - in the morning, in the evening, during the day, in times of temptation, in our formal worship of God. Secondly, Christ longs for our prayers as sign and proof of our gratitude to Him.

Myrrh was a bitter but valuable liquid known to ancient peoples as a preservative. It makes a rich symbol for the sacrifices and sufferings Christ asks from His lovers. As always, when we look closely at this gift Christ asks us to give Him, we find that in giving the gift we enrich ourselves. Christ asks none of His lovers to suffer anything that He does not relate to their happiness in some way. He told us that we would all have sorrows, but in the same breath He added that every sorrow would be turned into unbelievable joy. He asks us to give Him our sufferings - in overcoming sin, in accepting the heartaches of life - as if they were gifts, without any strings. Yet, in giving Him these small gifts, we become the possessors of the Kingdom of God.

### MASS INTENTIONS

- Tuesday: Jose Bagtas +
- Wednesday: John Sadro +; Guy Francescon + Dale Meisner - Int.
- Friday: Ginny Brown - Int.; Josephine Farkas + Valeria Christine Carney Berendt +



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 (Most Holy Name of Jesus)
- Tue: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
- Wed: St. John Neumann: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
- Thu: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22a (Bl. André Bessette)
- Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16 (St. Raymond of Peñafort)
- Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30



### BAPTISM OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE:

- Saturday, Jan. 8th Vigil Mass 4:30 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 9th 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 12 noon, 6 pm & 10:30 am (Spanish)



As you can see, we have returned to our regular weekend mass schedule. Incense will be used on the Baptism of the Lord with the exception of the Saturday 4:30 pm mass. As previously mentioned, if you have difficulty with incense, please contact the parish office so we can notify you directly of future mass times with and without incense throughout the liturgical year.

**YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** If you itemize your deductions and will be requiring a contribution statement for the year end, please contact the parish office. As usual, we will only be mailing statements to those who request them.

Mark your calendar...

### ANNUAL PRO-LIFE MASS

JANUARY 18, 2005, 10:30 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church - 711 T Street, Sacramento

Celebrant: Bishop Richard Garcia

Come join us as we pray to promote a culture of life in our State and in our Nation!

*Special Note: Pro-Life Rosary will be said at 10:00 am.*

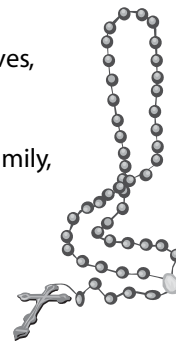
St. Francis High School Chamber Singers will be providing the music.

Questions? Call the Respect Life Office (916) 722-1140.

### PRAYER CORNER

Remember in your prayers:

- Mary Avila, Fr. Chris-Paul Egege, Evelyn Gonsalves, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, J. Gutierrez, R. Gutierrez, Amanda Hallmark, Gary Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Nikki LaTona, Tila Lenz, Mafua Family, Earl Mattingly, Bud Phelps, Peter Popjevalo, Fr. Troy Powers, Christine Regan, Zan Rockett, Charles Schneider, Jo Ster, Clement Sweeney, D. Sweeney, I. Thompson, X. Thompson, Bishop William Weigand, Jessie Williams



### FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTH ASIA:

No words can express the depth of the tragedy that struck South Asia Dec. 26. The horror in the loss of tens of thousands of lives is matched only by the suffering of the thousands more who barely survived and now face the unimaginable task of rebuilding their lives and their communities. Bishop Weigand has asked all parishes to consider taking up a collection to aid our brothers and sisters in the hardest hit areas. Together with the Church everywhere, we pray for the victims of this disaster and assure the survivors of our solidarity. Holy Family will take up a special collection next weekend, January 8 & 9.



# Holy Family School

School will be back in session Monday, January 3, 2005...

### **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM:**

All four area Catholic High Schools will be administering the exam for the Class of 2009 on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Watch for additional details.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### **YOUTH MASS TONIGHT:**

Tonight at 6:00 pm we will celebrate the first youth mass of the new year. All Jr. High and High School youth and their families are invited to share in this special liturgy.

### **MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT:**

Time for another New Year's resolution? This year, let the Holy Spirit be your Personal Trainer in wisdom, in hope and in the power to live a productive life! Experience God's closeness and care for you. Join us this year on the weekend of January 21 - 23, 2005, for our annual parish men's retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center, right here in Citrus Heights. Learn how to find your direction and the energy to live the truly good life! For reservations, call Chuck Rose or Ed Clark at 725-7119 or the Retreat Center at 725-4720.

### **GETTING ON THE ROAD IN THE NEW YEAR:**

Day and Evening Prayer  
Christ the King Retreat Center  
January 5, 2005



9:30 am - 2:30 pm includes Lunch and Mass  
5:30 - 9:30 pm includes Dinner and Mass



Free will offering.

Please call for reservations 725-4720.

### **CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB:**

Catholic Professional & Business Club meets next on Weds., Jan. 12th from 7:00 to 8:30 am at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St., Sacramento (Business 80 & Arden Way West.) Roy Schoeman, author of *Salvation Is From The Jews* will speak on the topic: "Journey from Judaism to Catholicism." To reserve your place, please register by calling (916) 930-1144 by Monday, January 10th at 12:00 noon.

**WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP:** Catholic Social Service will be starting a Women's Support Group in Jan. or Feb. 2005. This group is being offered to women over 18 who would like some extra support in their lives or need a place to come and discuss issues and/or problems with which they are trying to cope. The group is being led by Sheila Hirsch, LCSW and Clinical Director of the counseling center, and Debi Rufi-Hoffman, Psychology Doctorate trainee. The group will be limited to 8 women. Sessions will cost \$20 each. For more information or to reserve a space, please call office at 452-7481.

**PARENTING CLASSES:** Parenting classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm Feb. 9, 2005 through Mar. 16, 2005. The cost is \$55 for individuals and \$95 for couples per 6-week class. Please call Catholic Social Service/New Pathways Counseling at 452-7481 for further information and to enroll. The deadline to enroll is Feb. 3, 2005.

# Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

### **Thank You, Thank You:**

Over the last several months as your servant leader I have asked a lot of Holy Family parishioners - especially in regards to stewardship donations. Week after week I have been so encouraged by your generous response. What a committed, giving and faith-filled people our parish is! Even the weekend before Christmas and the Sunday a day after Christmas held up so well when these are often a challenge to people. Christmas giving has been especially generous.

As we move into the new year it will be vital to keep the same high achievement level. If we can keep at about \$10,000 each Sunday, we will be able to do the work of the Lord. Also, to those who have made pledges to the Capital Campaign, you will note we still have a ways to go, having realized 64% of our goal so far. Please do your best to help on this.

God bless you in your generosity. May all your plans for the new year prosper, and may you have an abundance for every good work in the Lord.

Fr. Kiernan

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING:**

You will notice that the Christmas collection does not appear in the chart below. The collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were wonderful, and we have continued to receive donations marked specifically for the Christmas season. Next week we will finalize the numbers for the season and include them in the stewardship report.

## STEWARDSHIP - TREASURE

GENERAL COLLECTION	
<b>Weekly Goal</b>	\$ 10,000.00
Dec 5 .....	\$ 12,294.20
Dec 12 .....	\$ 11,129.00
Dec 19 .....	\$ 9,689.00
Dec 26 .....	\$ 10,536.50
<b>Year-to-Date</b>	\$ 248,833.00
Goal-to-Date (26 Weeks)	\$ 260,000.00
% of Goal Collected-to-Date	95.71 %
<b>Annual Goal</b>	\$ 520,000.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION	
<b>Weekly Goal</b>	\$ 3,750.00
Dec 5 .....	\$ 3,046.27
Dec 12 .....	\$ 899.00
Dec 19 .....	\$ 1,835.00
Dec 26 .....	\$ 6,662.50
<b>Year-to-Date</b>	\$ 62,982.91
Goal-to-Date (26 Weeks)	\$ 97,500.00
% of Goal Collected-to-Date	64.60 %
<b>Annual Goal</b>	\$ 195,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Christmas Collection .....	Details to follow
<i>In the word "family" we imagine warmth and love and generosity...</i>	