



January 9, 2005 – The Baptism of The Lord

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Mt 3:17

† Servant Leader †

As the Christmas Season draws to a close, we take time to reflect on the many blessings that the season has given us. While we have celebrated the tremendous gift of Christ's birth, and the gifts of the kings, and the gifts we have shared with our loved ones, and the gifts we have been able to offer those less fortunate this season, we have continued to receive and share the greatest gift of all - the Eucharist, gifted to us by Christ and offered to us continually in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The liturgies we have shared through the Christmas Season have been spirit-filled and uplifting, and have helped us to keep our focus on what truly matters in this world. These liturgies are the celebration of the whole community, and each one of us has had a tremendous part in making them come to life. In addition, dozens of parishioners have helped in special ways to make our Christmas Masses special experiences by fulfilling roles in liturgical ministry. Fr. Santiago, Deacon Mark and I would like to offer our sincere gratitude to all those who made such contributions to our liturgies.

"Thank You" to all whose gifts enhanced our worship environment - to those who donated the beautiful poinsettias, their color adorning the sanctuary area, to David John for donating all the trees surrounding the manger, and especially to those whose hard work transformed our church into God's own Winter Wonderland by decorating the sanctuary, the vestibule and the whole church so beautifully for the Season.

"Thank You" to those who planned the liturgies of the season - individuals from Catholic Faith Formation, Holy Family School, Youth Ministry, the Hispanic Apostolate and the parish at large who worked with the Liturgy Council to prepare the celebrations that marked the season so wonderfully.

"Thank You" to the Sacristans who took responsibility for all that is needed to celebrate the various liturgies, to the altar servers who assisted so wonderfully at all the masses and drew particular praise from Bishop Weigand for assisting him at Midnight Mass, to the Lectors who prepared diligently and proclaimed the Word at the celebrations of its birth, to the Extraordinary Ministers who shared the greatest gift of the season - the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and to the greeters who welcomed the family home and to those who carried out the offertory collections. I would like to particularly thank the children, youth and young adults who shared in these ministries, giving us a glimpse of the promise that the future, near and distant, holds for our church.

"Thank You" to the members of the Music Ministry who poured their hearts and souls, not to mention hours and hours of preparation, into enhancing the liturgies of the season in a way that only music can. The choirs, cantors and musicians lifted our spirits and inspired us to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior.

There is always a risk in expressing gratitude that someone will be overlooked - if I have left anyone out, I sincerely apologize and assure you that your contributions were appreciated just the same.

VOCATIONS: This weekend our diocese joins in National Vocations Awareness Week. You are invited to renew your baptismal commitment and celebrate God's call to follow Jesus. Each of us is called to answer with our life. Let us open our hearts to how we are being called. In a special way we ask God to bless the church with new Brothers, Sisters and Priests who are so central to the mission of Christ. Is God calling you to be a Priest, Brother or Sister?

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS:

In union with the Catholic Church throughout the nation and the world, Holy Family is taking up a special collection this weekend, January 8 & 9, to aid the victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami that have devastated South Asia. From a statement issued by the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "We commend the souls of the departed to the merciful care of our Savior, whose birth we have just celebrated. We express our ecclesial solidarity with the Bishops and faithful of the Church in each of the lands so devastated this week. And we offer our prayers and support to all whose lives and livelihoods were overwhelmed by the tsunamis."

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST:

Join your parish family this morning in St. Joseph Hall for breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. The food is always good, the price is right and the company is great!



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.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday: Richard Bardwil +; Nellie Artajo +; Francis Eichler +; Catalino P. Rubio & Family +
- Tuesday: Beverly R. Jeffries & Family -Int. Tom Smoot +
- Friday: Juan B. Perez +



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

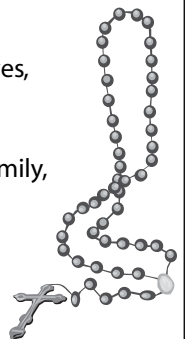
- Mon: Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20
- Tue: Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
- Wed: Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
- Thu: Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45 (St. Hilary)
- Fri: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
- Sat: Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17 (Blessed Virgin Mary)



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





Holy Family School

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: Holy Family School students are preparing for Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 30 - Feb. 4, 2005. The theme for this year's celebration, which highlights the contributions Catholic Education makes to the nation, is "Faith in Every Student." To showcase the unique talents of every student in the school, the faculty and staff will host an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, January 30, after the 9 am Mass until noon. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend to see firsthand what our parish school is doing!

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HOLY HOUR

Including Adoration and Benediction

in celebration of the

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Wednesday, January 19th, 7:30 p.m. in the church

See next week's bulletin for full details.

Stewardship ~ a way of life ~

Our society tolerates religion. We often exclude God from entire areas of our everyday lives. Two important areas people tend to keep God-free are politics, where politicians fail to bring faith into their political decision-making, and money, even though Jesus speaks more in the Gospel about money than about sex. He spoke in Luke 16 about a wise steward, and in our lives we are all called to **STEWARDSHIP**.

The steward in the Gospel was not doing his job well, but once he became aware that he was in trouble, he got his act together quickly to make friends for the time when he would not have a job. The point Jesus made in the parable is that a steward must be prudent. Prudence means taking initiative, coming up with a plan and being willing to sacrifice present pleasure for long-term benefits. The moral of the story? It's ironic that non-spiritual people often take more initiative, exercise more creativity and expend more effort than spiritual people when it comes to getting what they want.

Stewardship means realizing that all we have is entrusted to us by God and that we have an obligation to grow it and make it as fruitful as possible for the glory of God. The steward, as a good parishioner, asks three questions: How can I free up the most of my time for the most important things - God, the church and my family? How can I develop my talents so as to be most effective for God's glory? How can I generate more income so as to give more?

Making smart and just profitable decisions in this regard is a holy thing to do. Jesus tells us we cannot serve God and serve mammon. If your smart financial decisions result in self-indulgence at the expense of honesty and justice, then you are serving mammon. If your increased profits finance your family, your parish, Christian education, evangelism, a crisis pregnancy center, local homeless shelters, St. Vincent de Paul, Feed the Needy, Catholic Ladies Relief Society, the Bishop's monthly appeal - then, chances are, you are serving God.

Fr. Kiernan

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE MASS: The Diocese will be celebrating the Annual Pro-Life Mass on January 18, 2005, at 10:30 am. The Mass will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 711 T Street, Sacramento, with Bishop Richard Garcia presiding. Come join us as we pray to promote a culture of life in our State and in our Nation! The Mass will be preceded at 10:00 am by a Pro-Life Rosary. St. Francis High School Chamber Singers will be providing the music. If you have any questions, please call the Respect Life Office at (916) 722-1140.

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: It's almost time for our annual men's retreat weekend. Sign up now for the weekend of January 21 - 23, 2005, at Christ the King Retreat Center. Are you running so hard you can't catch up? Do you know where your goal is? 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.



HEAR, YE! HEAR, YE!: Once again the Women's Council invites you to our Annual Bishop Gallego's "Baby Shower." The event is Jan. 16th in St. Joseph's Hall from 1 to 3 pm. Please bring an unwrapped baby gift. Lunch will be served.

STEWARDSHIP - TREASURE

GENERAL COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 10,000.00
Dec 12	\$ 11,129.00
Dec 19	\$ 9,689.00
Dec 26	\$ 10,536.50
Jan 2	\$ 10,453.50
Year-to-Date	\$ 259,287.00
Goal-to-Date (27 Weeks)	\$ 270,000.00
% of Goal Collected-to-Date	96.03 %
Annual Goal	\$ 520,000.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 3,750.00
Dec 12	\$ 899.00
Dec 19	\$ 1,835.00
Dec 26	\$ 6,662.50
Jan 2	\$ 3,644.27
Year-to-Date	\$ 66,627.18
Goal-to-Date (27 Weeks)	\$ 101,250.00
% of Goal Collected-to-Date	65.80 %
Annual Goal	\$ 195,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Solemnity of Mary (Jan 1)	\$ 2,200.50
Catholic Faith Formation (Jan 1-2)	\$ 2,493.00
... All that I have and cherish, you have given me ...	

CHRISTMAS GIVING UPDATE: As promised, we have finalized the numbers for the Christmas collections. The total collected at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, as well as a handful of additional donations marked specifically for Christmas totalled a fantastic **\$20,105!** Thank you, again and again, for your tremendous generosity.

50/50 Raffle Winning Ticket from Jan. 2nd - #6411774

Please contact the Parish Office, 723-2494.