



December 24, 2006 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Luke 1:45

† Servant Leader †

CHRISTMAS IS UPON US

I thought you might enjoy this Catholic News Service article written by Cindy Wooden:

Christmas is a Reminder of the Greatest Gift Ever Given, Pope Says

Making, buying and giving gifts at Christmas should be a reminder of Christ, the greatest gift ever given to humanity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting Dec. 14 with Rome university students after they attended an evening Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said it is right to consider Christmas "the feast of gifts."

"Christmas gifts remind us of the gift par excellence, that which the son of God made of himself in the Incarnation," the pope told the students from state and private universities in Rome.

Exchanging gifts at Christmas time has real meaning only if it is a symbol of "the principal gift" remembered as people celebrate the birth of Jesus, he said.

Pope Benedict urged the Italian young people not only to "fix your gaze on the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger," but also to contemplate and adore him in the Eucharist.

"Under the appearance of a small piece of bread," the pope told the students, "it is Jesus who gives himself and who wants to enter into our hearts."

"In the manger at Bethlehem, we adore the same Lord who, in the eucharistic sacrament, wanted to be our spiritual food in order to transform the world from the inside, beginning from the human heart," Pope Benedict said.

Christmas and Family

This time of year we all feel a little closer to one another in our own family, and especially to that humble and happy family of Bethlehem. It is a time to show our thanks for past kindnesses and love by offering gifts as a sign of our friendship and devotion. Each year Christmas allows us to express our deep and heartfelt thanksgiving for the blessings we have received during the past year.

May you keep the shining example of the love of the Holy Family in your heart on Christmas and throughout the coming year. Please spread "glad tidings of great joy" at this Christmas time by inviting those who do not regularly attend church or anyone you know who might be searching to join us as we celebrate Christ's birthday. Let us open our eyes to the world around us and bring Christ's life and love to all we can.

I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas day and season.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon:	Christmas
Tue:	Mr. & Mrs. Rubano -Int. Msgr. Patrick Nolan +
Wed:	Mrs. Lu Zemba -Int. Arman Araham -Int.
Thu:	Mr. Tony Zemba -Int. Poor Souls in Purgatory +
Fri:	Madeline Ferlisi -Int. Iona Kennedy + Mrs. Sophie Jedrysek -Int.
Sat:	8:30 am Mass Mary Jo Padilla +
Sun:	7:30 am Mass Pro Populo



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Tue:	St. Stephen: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wed:	St John, Apostle: 1 John 1:1-4; Jn 20: 2-8
Thu:	The Holy Innocents: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Fri:	1 John 2: 3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Sat:	1 John 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Sun:	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

Questions of the Week:

For Adults: Can you describe a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?

For Teens: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

For Children: Tell about a time when you felt great joy.

PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:

Barbie Adorno, Peter Alvarez, Marcel Arnal, Mary Avila, Jack Barca, Pam Bardwil, Cody Bartley, Teresa Bennett Smith, Charles Black, Jill Boyd, John Boyle, Shirley Bryant, Bernard Burke, John Bustabade, Marge Caron, Bob Cleveland, Darren Crose, James Crutcher, Julie Desrochers, Maria Dixon, John Dooney, Jim Espinoza, Lois Espinoza, Andrew Flores, Walt Fogleman, Loretta Francescon, Genny Giles, Frances & Leo Girard, Bob Gokey, Evelyn Gonsalves, Robert Gonzaga, Manuel Guerra, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, Rick Gutierrez, Kathleen Hansen, Eric Hayes, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Allison Herring, Glean & Kathryn Hollier, Randy Kennedy, Kimberly Kolodzie, Jonnie Kuennen, Ian Larmore, Karen Lewis, Maria Mamaog, Maria Martinez, Earl Mattingly, Luke McCord, June McMaught, Jenine Michilena, Paul Moran Jr., Paul Moran Sr., Mary Nekrassoff, Eleanor Obmann, Betty O'Neil, Lee Ann Parrott, Nita Parrott, Bud Phelps, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Zan Rockett, Nikelle Schafer, Charles Schneider, Katherine Schottgen, Theresa Silva, Diane & Mike Smith, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Kyle Steele, Phyllis Steele, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, D. Sweeney, Maureana Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, X. Thompson, Jean Villanueva, Frank Vogel, Emily Walsh, Marvin Webster, Bishop Weigand, Mike Williams, Ken Zebroski, Claudette Zompetta

Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

PLANNED GIVING

End-of-the-Year Contributions

Giving at Christmas and at Year's End is not only a Catholic tradition, but a special way to commemorate the Greatest Gift - God's gift of His only Son, Jesus. This time of year gives us more than a financial opportunity, but a spiritual opportunity to be good stewards of the many gifts bestowed on us this year.

The opportunity is spiritual in that it represents a return to God of His blessings on us to assist our parish to achieve its objective to serve God's people in our faith community and beyond. This spiritual giving is truly a celebration of the joy of Christmas by sharing with our community the true spirit of the season.

The financial opportunity is significant as well. More money is contributed to charities in the month of December than any other month of the year, as many individuals will make charitable contributions late in the calendar year to take advantage of this year's tax benefits.

In order to do so, checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked on or before December 31, 2006.

If you are in the position to make end-of-the-year contributions, please consider Holy Family Parish as a beneficiary of your support. Many different forms of year-end contributions are available, all of which carry tax benefits.

Remembering Holy Family

The people of our parish family are so generous in the general and special collections. How wonderful it is when, on occasion, people leave all or part of their will to Holy Family, depending on their circumstances. If everyone in the parish were to do this in some amount, it would be a marvelous, long-term blessing for our parish community.

Knowing how giving our people are, I am confident of a generous response to this will request. Thank you for considering this opportunity to build up Holy Family. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like the available material explaining this process.

For More Information

Visit the parish website at www.holyfamilych.org. In the left column of the home page there is a link to more detailed information on planned giving.

Please take a look at this material, or call Fr. Kiernan in the Parish Office for assistance in this area.

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A VINCENTIAN?

Holy Family Conference of St Vincent de Paul invites you to join us in silent works of charity by quietly and discretely aiding needy families. The purpose of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to fulfill the two great commandments - love of God and love of neighbor. We seek out God's needy, both materially and spiritually, and help where we can. We believe that by coming closer to the needy we are coming closer to God.

Vincentians are not professionally trained social workers. The important thing is the desire to serve as Jesus served. All of us have a great deal of expertise in various areas; by working together, we can move mountains. Many Vincentians have raised families, run a household, built buildings, repaired autos or done just what you do so very well. The needy have need of your talents, your concern, and your love. If you would like more information about joining us in our service to those in need, call 722-0264 and leave us your name and phone number.

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE	
GENERAL COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Nov 26	\$ 8,936.00
Dec 3	\$ 12,905.00
Dec 10	\$ 9,631.00
Dec 17	\$ 11,139.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 253,398.00
Goal-to-Date (25 Weeks)	\$ 275,000.00
% of Goal Collected	92.14 %
Annual Goal	\$ 572,000.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 3,750.00
Nov 26	\$ 645.00
Dec 3	\$ 1,817.50
Dec 10	\$ 3,311.50
Dec 17	\$ 1,057.50
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 40,730.00
Goal-to-Date (25 Weeks)	\$ 93,750.00
% of Goal Collected	43.44 %
Annual Goal	\$ 195,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Religious Retirement Collection	\$ TBD
<i>The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship. she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others, as well.</i>	



Holy Family School

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL students wish all parishioners, visitors, and all those whom they love a Blessed Christmas Season! The students are currently enjoying Christmas Vacation and will return to school on January 8, 2007.

Merry Christmas

YOUTH MINISTRY

SANDWICH DRIVE- DECEMBER 26TH

All Parishioners are invited to give food/cash donations to the Youth Ministry and Joyful Noise effort to feed the hungry on the day after Christmas. Donations of turkey/ham leftovers, loaves of bread, mayo, mustard, lettuce, bottled water, canned soda, snacks are needed! Please drop off your items on the 26th at St. Joseph Hall at 9:00 am.

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE A WARM BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG to the CYM Blanket Drive!

Please consider giving the gift of warmth this season to someone in need. Bring your donations to St. Joseph Hall on Tuesday, December 26 between 9 and 10 am. Thank you for your generosity.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Mark your calendars: All 7th Grade Students from the parish and the school who are preparing for Confirmation, there will be a special Rite of Blessing at the 6pm Mass on January 7th with a reception to follow. More info will be sent home.



MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT:

This is the First Call for the men of the parish to our annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on the weekend of Jan 19—21, 2007. Don't miss out on this great experience of spiritual and physical renewal. Space is limited, so make your reservation early. Phone Chuck Rose at 725-7119 or Ed Clark at 725-3371 to make a reservation, or call the Retreat Center at 725-4720. Relatives and friends are welcome to come together. View the Center at: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheking.



**Christ the King
Passionist Retreat Center**

Holy Family Christmas Schedule 2006

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass and 12 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. in English and
10:30 a.m. in Spanish (*No 6:00 p.m. Mass*)

Holy Family: Saturday & Sunday, December 30-31
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Vigil
Sunday: 7:30 & 9:00 a.m., 12:30 & 6:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m. in Spanish

New Year's Day: Monday, January 1st, 9:00 a.m.

Epiphany: Saturday & Sunday, January 6-7
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Vigil
Sunday: 7:30 & 9:00 a.m., 12:30 & 6:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m. in Spanish

Baptism of the Lord: Monday, January 8th - 8:30 a.m.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone at Holy Family Church and my brother Knights for prayers, get well cards, calls, visits and support that I received after suffering a heart attack. I am also appreciative of the cards and condolences received after the passing of my mother. God bless you all during this Holy Season and thank you once again.
Johnnie P. Guerra

Diocese of Sacramento Office of Worship Liturgical Commission

21st Congress on Parish Worship - "Nourished by the Word"

Saturday, January 27, 2007 - 8:00 am - 3:30 PM
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Rocklin

Saturday, February 3, 2007 - 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Bishop Quinn High School, Palo Cedro

Keynote addresses in both Spanish and English

Registration forms available mid-December.
For additional information please contact
worship@diocese-sacramento.org

Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Garcia Named Bishop of Monterey

Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Garcia to succeed Bishop Sylvester Ryan as bishop of Monterey.



Bishop Garcia has served as auxiliary bishop of Sacramento for the past nine years. He is also Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese and Vicar for Hispanics and Other Ethnic Ministries.

During his ministry among us, Bishop Garcia brought a strong pastoral commitment to Catholic schools, Spanish-speaking Catholics, new immigrants, migrant workers, youth, and inmates in state prisons. He traveled continually to parishes throughout the 20-county diocese, which stretches from Solano County to the Oregon border and east to Nevada.

Bishop Garcia will be installed as the fourth bishop of Monterey during a Mass in Monterey on Jan. 30, 2007. The Diocese of Monterey encompasses 46 parishes and 18 schools in the four Central Coast counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo. Bishop Garcia is truly a credit to the Church.

We are happy for the Diocese of Monterey, but we are sad to see him leave the Diocese of Sacramento. There will be two farewell Masses and receptions for Bishop Garcia on Sunday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Redding and on Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

The Feast of the Holy Innocents Rosary Procession and Mass will take place on Thursday, Dec. 28. Families are invited to meet at the Cathedral (11th & K) at 5:45 p.m. and walk with our priests to Our Lady of Guadalupe (7th & T) for Mass at 7 p.m. This annual procession commemorates those male infants of Bethlehem killed by decree of King Herod, as well as the innocent unborn babies lost by abortion today. Candles will be provided. Bring umbrellas if needed. Carpools will shuttle people back to their cars. Info: please call Carol at 791-1819

Prayer Opportunities

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA:

Pope Benedict XVI has elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army.) It is now officially associated with the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome. We are happy to offer these prayers here at Holy Family. All are welcome to join us Mondays after the 8:30 am Mass in St. Mary Hall. For information, please call Phyllis, 725-0218 or Phyllis, 725-5358.

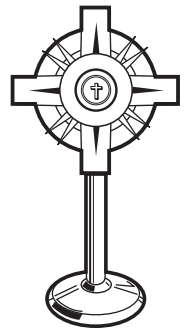
VOCATIONS CROSS



Each week a parish family is presented with the Vocations Cross to take home for the week and asked to pray daily for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The next Sunday, the family returns the cross and another family is presented the cross to pray for vocations. If you are interested in taking the Vocation Cross home, please contact Young Stewart at 332-8732.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Jesus stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament, blessing us with the grace that encourages us, consoles us, strengthens us, guides us and inspires us to place our trust in Him. We stay with the Real Presence of Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration to be more personally involved with Him and to keep the Eucharist central in our lives. Spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist enables us to build a truly personal relationship with Him. Come into His presence in our beautiful chapel - He is looking forward to your visit!



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL VISITING HOURS:

Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Sunday	1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Also in the chapel: Each day at 9:00 am a community Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy are prayed, and at 3:00 pm the Chaplet of Mercy is prayed.

DOMINICAN LAITY AT HOLY FAMILY

The Dominican Laity meets here at Holy Family on the first Sunday of every month in St. Mary Hall from 1–3 pm. Come and join us in a way of life of prayer, both private and liturgical, the study of the sacred truth, the sharing of our spiritual life with others in the community, and in our apostolic outreach. For further information call Phyllis Sale at 725-5358.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE - AND BEYOND

BUS TRIP TO SILVER LEGACY, RENO

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a bus trip to the Silver Legacy, Reno, on Sunday, January 28th. The cost is \$25 per person prepaid with approximately \$15 returned at the casino. Checks should be made payable to Knights Of Columbus #4540. Please call Sue or Dave Mirtoni for reservations and details at 782-3242.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic Priest? You are invited to attend a Discernment Retreat, 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 26 through 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 28, 2007 at St Patrick's Seminary to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you! Single Catholic men, 21 years of age or older, are invited to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation. The weekend is designed to provide the tools needed to help you determine if God might be calling you to a vocation to the priesthood. Discernment Retreat will include prayer, discussion and presentations about the priesthood, group interaction and following the daily routine of a seminarian. For further information, please see your parish priest.

CATHOLIC HIGH-SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM

The High School Placement Exam for prospective students of all four Catholic high schools will be on Saturday, January 27 at 8:00 a.m. Registration for the exam should be done at the school you plan to attend in the fall. For more information contact the individual school's admission's offices at:

Christian Brothers High School:

733-3690 or www.cbhs-sacramento.org

Jesuit High School:

482-6060 x 227 or register on line @ www.ihssac.org

Loretto High School:

482-7793 x 103 or www.loretto.net

St. Francis High School:

452-3461 x 195 or www.stfrancishs.org

CHRIST THE KING RETREAT CENTER offers counseling for individuals and couples. Cost is based on a sliding fee scale. Evening appointments are available. Call Christ the King Institute for Counseling and Spiritual Direction: (916) 783-9005 for information or appointment.

DIRECTOR OF PARISH OPERATIONS

The Diocese of Sacramento announces an opening for a full-time Director of Parish Operations position at a Catholic parish in Sacramento County. This person implements and maintains the policies and procedures approved by the Diocese for the effective and sound financial management of the parish and parish-related organizations. In supporting the Pastor, the chief administrator of the parish, this person provides leadership, management, and resource development of the financial aspects of the parish and its administration. Strong interpersonal skills, flexibility, patience, a strong self-starter, the ability to attract volunteers to accomplish a project and confidentiality are hallmarks of this person. For consideration, a BA or equivalent experience in business with at least five years of successful managerial experience, a background in business administration, finance, budgeting and basic internal controls is required. Knowledge of QuickBooks Pro, Excel, and Word are important. Complete benefit package and retirement plans are available. For more information regarding this position and its job description, please see the Diocesan website at www.diocese-sacramento.org/ and go to the link for "Employment Opportunities." If you are the person described here, please forward your resume with salary requirements to personnel@diocese-sacramento.org. Christ the King Retreat Center offers counseling for individuals and couples. Cost is based on a sliding fee scale. Evening appointments are available. Call Christ the King Institute for Counseling and Spiritual Direction: (916) 783-9005 for information or appointment.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

The Diocese of Sacramento Youth Office is collaborating with the Los Embajadores Missionary Program to take 24 teens and 6 adults from our Diocese to Tijuana, Mexico in June 2007. Grounded in service work, the program is a week-long experience that serves as a conduit for building relationship with the Mexican people, allows the youth to learn how to form a supportive and interdependent community, and gain a firmer understanding of the social justice issues that underlie poverty. The cost for the week is \$350. Participation is based on an application process and is open to high school students currently in grades 9-12. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Diocesan Youth Office (916-733-0152) for an application for the program. Hurry as space is limited!

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

For more information please contact Dr. Holly Peterson, Coordinator for Evangelization and Catechesis at 916.733.0153.

January Programs

"The Gospel of Luke" presented by Art Wehr, S.J.-St. Ignatius Church, Sacramento, January 9, 16,23,30; 10-11:30 am session or 7-8:30 pm session. Cost: \$10 for the series.

"Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation" Catechetical Leader Workshop presented by Diocesan Committee for RCIA, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Sacramento, January 25th 9:30 am-noon. Cost: \$20. "A Methodology for Teaching" presented by Holly Peterson, Ed.D., St. Anthony Parish, Mt. Shasta, January 31, 7-9 pm. Cost: free.

Lay Formation Institute

The Lay Formation Institute begins in January in Sacramento, and it is open to all adults interested in developing their faith. For more information on the Institute please contact the Pastoral Center. The first of seven courses will be: Foundations of Faith-Foundations of Catholicism, taught by Rev. Edward Fassett, S.J.-Pastoral Center, Sacramento, January 26th (6:30-9 pm) and January 27th (8:30 am-4:00 pm). Course will fulfill 8 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25.