



† Servant Leader †

TOP 10 REASONS TO COME BACK TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

You Can't Go Home Again is the title of a once-famous novel by Thomas Wolfe. There is deep wistfulness in his novel, for he believed that going home again is bound to be a great disappointment. Not so with the Catholic Church.

No matter how long you've been away, you can always come home. You can start coming to Mass. You can become a part of a parish community. You can enter into the faith far more deeply than when you left.

If you're away from the church, chances are, you're already feeling a strange inner pull. No matter what anyone else tells you, the spiritual longing you feel is God trying to draw you back to himself. But God never forces. God only invites. Whether you return to the Catholic Church is a decision that only you can make.

There are as many reasons for coming back to the Church as there are people who left. While God is at the center of each person's decision to return, the circumstances are varied. Here are ten reasons that influenced the decision of others to return to the practice of the Catholic faith.

10 - Because they want meaning in life.

In the hustle of today's busy lifestyles, lots of people suddenly realize that their lives have lost a sense of meaning or purpose. They begin to ask themselves, "What is my life all about? Why do I do what I do?" There is widespread confusion in our culture with regard to morality and truth. The Catholic Church offers a beacon of light that gives meaning to our existence and leads to eternal life.

9 - Because childhood memories surface.

Some people say childhood memories of feeling connected to God surface in later life. They begin to ask themselves, "Is it possible to recapture that simplicity of faith? Can I ever really believe that God is watching out for me?" The secularization of our society leads people away from the spiritual side of themselves. The Catholic Church offers both religious and mystical experiences that feed the heart, the mind, the body, and the soul.

8 - Because they made mistakes.

Some people become burdened with the weight of accumulated sin. They want to get rid of the guilt of having hurt themselves or others. They begin to ask themselves, "Will God ever forgive me? Is there any way I can start over with a clean slate?" You can always tell God that you're sorry. But if you want the complete assurance of God's forgiveness and the grace to start again, the Catholic Church offers absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

7 - Because they need to forgive others.

Sometimes people hold on to anger and resentment toward individuals who have hurt them deeply. Maybe it was a family member or a friend. Maybe it was someone or something in the Church. Our modern culture condones and encourages anger and revenge. But hatred and bitterness

are spiritual cancers that eat at the heart of a person. The Catholic Church provides the opportunity to seek God's help in forgiving others, even when the other person does not ask for forgiveness or does not deserve it. The ability to forgive is a gift that opens a person's heart more fully to God's love and peace.

6 - Because they want to be healed.

Some people carry deep spiritual wounds. They struggle with anger at God over bad things - a terminal illness, a debilitating injury, a broken relationship, mental or emotional problems, an act of violence against an innocent person, an unexplainable accident, some natural disaster, the death of a loved one, or some other deep disappointment. The Catholic Church cannot change these situations or explain why they happened. But there are people in the Church who can assist in spiritual healing and help you get on with your life.

5 - Because the Catholic Church has the fullness of truth and grace.

Many people who leave the Catholic Church are blessed by the experience of worshiping for a while in another Christian denomination. But some people come back when they realize that Catholicism has the fullness of truth and grace. The Catholic Church was not founded by a single reformer or historical movement. It is not fragmented by individual interpretation of Scripture. There are thousands of Christian denominations, but only one Catholic Church, which has been guided and protected by the Holy Spirit from generation to generation for some two thousand years.

4 - Because they want their children to have a faith foundation.

Some people return to the Catholic Church because they recognize that raising children in a culture that promotes "doing your own thing" can lead to disaster. Children need to experience the spiritual dimension of life. They need a structured system of belief and a firm moral foundation that goes beyond human logic and reasoning. People return because they want a solid foundation upon which their children can build their lives.

3 - Because they want to be part of a faith community.

Many people seek a sense of belonging. But community is more than just friendly people, good sermons, and interesting activities. A Catholic Christian community is a group of people who gather around the person of Jesus Christ to worship God and live in the light of the Holy Spirit. Catholics come together at Mass, in the sacraments, and in parish activities to pray, to celebrate joys, to mourn losses, to serve others, to provide support, and to receive strength for daily life. A Catholic parish offers all of this and much more - to people who recognize the importance of walking with others toward union with God.

(Continued on the next page)

CATHEDRAL EVENT - UNITY WEEK

Each year the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is celebrated January 18–25. This year will mark the 40th anniversary with this name and the 100th Anniversary of Unity Week prayer. Christians in the region will celebrate this special year with a grand ecumenical worship service **next Sunday, January 20, at 3:00 pm** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and the public is invited to participate. Bishop Weigand will be officiating the ceremony hosted by the North State Ecumenical Conference. In years past there have been multiple prayer services over the eight days, but this year there is just one such prayer opportunity, so don't miss out! Fr. Kiernan and the Liturgy Council would like to encourage the people of Holy Family to make a special effort to be a part of this extraordinary event and support the crucial mission toward unity. Please mark your calendar.

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2 - Because they want to help other people.

There are lots of opportunities within the secular world to volunteer. What's missing is the spiritual dimension that service within the Catholic Church provides. It's more than just a "feel-good" activity. It's part of the great commandment (see Mark 12:28) to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. In reaching out to others, Catholic volunteers become instruments of God's love. The Catholic Church offers opportunities to touch the lives of people at home or around the world.

1 - Because they hunger for the Eucharist.

Many people come back to the Catholic Church because they feel an intense longing for the Eucharist. Sometimes it happens at a wedding, a funeral, a baptism, a First Communion, or a confirmation. Sometimes it happens when people are alone or facing difficulties in life. They describe it as a deep hunger for the spiritual nourishment that comes when they receive the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. This hunger for the Eucharist triggers a recognition of the presence of Christ in other sacraments, which draws them even more deeply into the practice of their faith. It is, without exception, the number one reason people come back to the Catholic Church.

Most people discover that coming back to the Church is not an event as much as it is a process that involves a little pain, a little laughter, some thinking, some prayer, some discernment, and a lot of letting go. "My actual return to full participation in a parish took about three years after I felt the first longing," one person admitted.

And what do they get in return? The Catholic Church offers union with Jesus Christ in Scripture, in prayer, in the community of others, in the Eucharist, and in the other sacraments. It offers spiritual support in good times and bad. It offers divine wisdom that is thousands of years old. It offers meaning and purpose in this life and the promise of life after death.

You'll know you are home when you begin to feel a deep sense of peace.

Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

A NOTE FROM THE CATHOLIC LADIES RELIEF SOCIETY

The Catholic Ladies Relief Society is so very grateful for all the thoughtfulness, generosity, and hard work we received throughout the 2007 year from Holy Family. We have so many people to thank. The parishioners of Holy Family, Sister Arlene and the school children, Knights of Columbus, the two gentlemen who pick up and deliver food from Senior Gleaners weekly, also the daily pickups from local vendors, the three lovely ladies who volunteer to keep our food closet neat and filled with food so we are able to service daily food to the needy, and last but not least Father Kiernan for being so kind and supportive of our mission.

LIVING DIOCESAN SYNOD PASTORAL INITIATIVE 7

Ensure an ongoing commitment to the advancement of the social mission of the church... Can you help?

Catholic Ladies Relief Society

Call Joyce Schweitzer 781-8753

Feed the Needy

Call Nora Martinez 721-1176

Loaves & Fishes

Call Evelyn Campangna 782-8976

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Call Bill Swars 722-0264

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL COMING SOON!

Watch the bulletin and your mailbox for information on the Annual Catholic Appeal coming in early February.



STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE

GENERAL COLLECTION

Weekly Goal	\$	11,000.00
Dec 16	\$	10,153.00
Dec 23	\$	9,895.00
Dec 30	\$	10,371.00
Jan 6	\$	12,846.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$	294,016.00
Goal-to-Date (28 Weeks)	\$	308,000.00
% of Goal Collected		95.46 %
Annual Goal	\$	572,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Catholic Faith Formation	\$	2,400.00
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Our baptism, like the Lord's, is a consecration to service. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us that "...there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism that people place their gifts, their resources — their selves — at God's service in and through the Church."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
Tue: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thu: St. Anthony: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1; Mk 2:13-17
Sun: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Is 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



Questions of the Week:

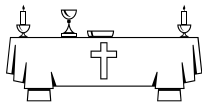
Children: If someone were to ask you, "Who is Jesus?" how would you answer?

Youth: How can you more fully embrace your baptism?

Adults: How do you experience God's loving words: "You are my own. My favor is upon you."?

MASS INTENTIONS

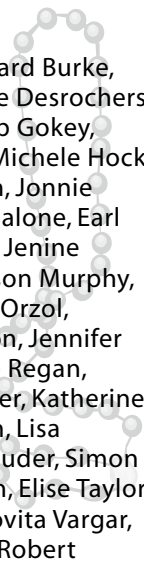
Mon: Marquis Deveaux -Int.
Adelaida Aspecto Asuncion +
Sun: 6:00 pm Mass Pro Populo



PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:

Mary Avila, Richard Blanco, Elisa Bulhoes, Bernard Burke, Bob Cleveland, Marie Crane, Darren Crose, Julie Desrochers, Virginia Dulley, Frank Gaul, Ralph Gingrich, Bob Gokey, Robert Gonzaga, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Michele Hock, Kathleen Johnson, Phyllis Johnson, Bill Keenan, Jonnie Kuennen, Karen Lewis, Donald Maguire, Kim Malone, Earl Mattingly, Dean McGinty, Rigoberto Mendoza, Jenine Michilena, Xochitl Montano, Mariah Morris, Jason Murphy, Elliott Jerome Neal, Andy Ngo, Scott Ngo, Cora Orzol, LeeAnn Parrott, Maryanne Pelzel, Gilbert Perron, Jennifer Pinnow, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Suzanne Rose, Nikelle Schafer, Katherine Schottgen, Diane & Mike Smith, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Jardee Stanley, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, Maureena Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, Larry Thompson, X. Thompson, Jovita Vargar, Jean Villanueva, Emily Walsh, Marvin Webster, Robert Westbrook, Sharel Wilson



Holy Family School

Holy Family School students are busily preparing for your visit on OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, January 27, 10 – noon. Each classroom will feature samples of the work of all students, and photo collages will highlight many of the year's activities. The newest additions to each class's photo gallery will feature pictures of the January 12 Catholic Schools Department annual Speech Contest; the January 16 Loretto High School Math-a-Thon; the January 17 8th grade Ice Skating trip; and the appearance of the Varsity Boys' Basketball team at Arco Arena on January 22. The annual Open House is the first activity of the school's observance of Catholic Schools Week, which will be kicked off with the Rally at the Capitol on Thursday, January 24. Holy Family's Student Council officers and Catholic School Band members will participate in this event.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On the Feast of the Holy Family three years ago, my family started to feed the homeless on the streets every Sunday. This year, through the kindness of many in our parish, we were able to bring jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, canvas bags, blankets and sleeping bags. We also received peanut butter and jelly to make our sandwiches.

In thanksgiving to all, I have been and will continue to be in the chapel at 3:00 pm during the weekdays of January to offer the Chaplet of Mercy for all your intentions. Join me if you can.

God bless you, Ginny Brown

P.S. I'm still collecting winter clothing in large and larger sizes.

SPECIAL ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Fr. John Sullivan will offer a series of classes on the historical development of the sacraments. The talks and discussions will involve the theological and liturgical development of each sacrament. Meetings began Thursday, January 10, and continue January 17, 24, and 31 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Holy Family School Library. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in your Catholic faith.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

1/17	Penance and Sacrament of the Sick
1/24	Marriage and Ordination
1/31	The Eucharist

MONTHLY COMMUNAL ANOINTING

On the first Saturday of each month beginning on January 5th, Holy Family Church will offer an Anointing of the Sick at the 8:30 am Mass.

4th ANNUAL WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, 2008

It is that time of year again to march for life in San Francisco!!! Join thousands of pro-life women, men, families, Priests, Sisters and laity as we take the message to the streets proclaiming "women deserve better than abortion". Walk to proclaim that Life is the best choice for women! Featured speakers before the Walk begins are: Dr. Alveda King, Gianna Jessen (abortion survivor), Fr. Frank Pavone (National Director for Priests for Life), Jesse Romero (Radio Host) and more!

We will be busing down to the Walk. The closest bus to Holy Family Church will be leaving from St. John the Evangelist Church in Carmichael. There will be no buses leaving from Holy Family. Tickets are still only \$20.00 each...get your reservations in ASAP!!! The contact person in Carmichael is: Mrs. Bunny Collins at 332-4791. If you wish to inquire about other bus locations please contact Sally Fisher at 780-5305.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

The annual Baby Shower for the Bishop Gallegos Home next Sunday, January 20, 2008. Please see the insert in today's bulletin.

FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO:

Everyone is invited to celebrate the feast of Santo Niño, also known as the feast of the Infant of Prague, next Saturday, January 19th. The celebration will begin with mass at 11:00am Saturday morning, followed by a reception in the Community Center.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you or someone you know has not completed their Sacraments of Initiation, Holy Family Parish will be offering Adult Confirmation classes beginning January 31st from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation class room of the Community Center. Please contact Becky in the Faith Formation Office at 726-7217 for more information and to register.

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 3RD:

Sunday, February 3rd, is our next blood drive, starting at 8:30 am through 12:30 pm. Those wishing to make an appointment may call Larry Larsen @ 961-1036 in the evenings. We'll be looking forward to seeing you regulars and "newbies."

ATTENTION CURSILLISTAS FOURTH DAY:

Fourth Day will be held on Monday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room in the Community Center. Prior to the meeting, if you desire, we will meet in the Chapel for Adoration at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Young Stewart at 332-8732.

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: It's almost time for our annual men's retreat weekend. Sign up now for the weekend of Jan 18-20 at Christ the King. If the decisions in your life have become burdensome; if daily challenges are robbing you of God's intended joy, then come and discover how being more attentive to God's flow of grace can transform your life. Phone Chuck Rose at 725-7119 or Ed Clark at 725-3371 to make a reservation or call the Retreat Center at 725-4720.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: You are invited to experience rest and renewal as you grow closer to God through liturgy and prayer, silence & solitude, conversation & contemplation, sacrament & song. Join us this year on the weekend of Feb 29-Mar 2 at Christ the King Retreat Center. For reservations call Chyrl Marquez at 723-1468 or Barbie Meistas at 725-5973 or the Retreat Center at 725-4720. View the Center at: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheking.



Christ the King
Passionist Retreat Center

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.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP (www.tovpil.org).

In this 15-week Workshop you will learn different methods of praying, from basic prayer to contemplative prayer. In the process you will acquire traits of serenity, love, patience, forgiveness and humility, and you will establish a personal relationship with the Lord. The Workshop will be held on Wednesday evenings starting January 16, 2008, from 7 - 9 PM at Holy Family Church (Math Lab), 7817 Old Auburn Road, Citrus. Heights. For more information and to reserve a place, call Irene Cervantes, 972-8585.

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 Silver Legacy, Reno on Sunday, January 27th. The cost is \$28 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.

CATHOLIC HIGH-SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM

The High School Placement Exam for prospective students of all Catholic high schools will be on Saturday, January 26 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: 733-3690; www.cbhs-sacramento.org

Cristo Rey: 733-2660 x2004; www.cristoreysacramento.org

Jesuit: 482-6060 x 227; www.jhssac.org

Loretto: 482-7793 x 103; www.loretto.net

St. Francis: 452-3461 x195; www.stfrancis.org

WEEKEND PROGRAM

The "Beginning Experience of Sacramento" support group is offering a special weekend program of healing, hope and encouragement for divorced, separated or widowed persons of all faiths. The weekend retreat is Friday, February 15 through Sunday, February 17, 2008 at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat Center near Applegate, CA. For more information or to request an application, please call (916) 835-2282 or visit our website at: www.sacramentobe.org.

ENCOUNTERING LIFE ALONE

The "Beginning Experience of Sacramento" support group is offering its "Encountering Life Alone" program of healing, hope and encouragement for divorced, separated or widowed persons of all faiths. This 10 week program starts on February 21, 2008 at St Michael's Episcopal Church 2140 Mission Ave., Carmichael. The meetings are held from 7:00-9:00 P.M. There is a one-time registration fee of \$10.00 and a \$5.00 weekly fee. For more information please call 835-2282 or visit our website at: www.sacramentobe.org.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

GOD May be Calling YOU! Would you like to find out more about the will of God for you?

Come & join others for a DISCERNMENT RETREAT! (Bilingual-English/Spanish) There is no cost for this retreat. Find out where God is calling you!

Select a weekend that best fits your schedule: February 15 -16, 2008 or March 14 -15, 2008.

For more information, please contact: Office of Priestly & Religious Vocations Diocese of Sacramento - 2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818 Telephone: (916) 733-0258 - E-Mail: callserve@diocese-sacramento.org

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL SPEAKERS SERIES

On Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008, the St. Francis High School Alumnae Association will host California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Executive Director of the California Catholic Conference Edward "Ned" Dolejsi for a Speakers Series presentation, "California Catholics: Legislation, Elections and Social Justice." With the California Presidential Primary Elections on February 5th, Debra Bowen and Ned Dolejsi will provide timely information about the electronic voting process and the Catholic Church's stand on some of the major ballot measures in the 2008 elections. Location: St. Francis High School Theatre: 5900 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento. Doors open at 6:30 pm; presentations 7 pm - 9 pm. \$5 per person - proceeds benefit the St. Francis High School Scholarship Fund. Please RSVP: Carrie Harcharik, 737-5020 or CHarcharik@stfrancis.org.

INTERESTED IN GIVING A YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AS A LAY VOLUNTEER?

Mercy Volunteer Corps, a lay volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy provides opportunities for men and women over the age of 21 to give a year of service to those in need. The emphasis of the program is service, community and prayer. Volunteer possibilities include teaching or nursing, working in homeless shelters, clinics and social service agencies in urban and rural settings throughout the United States. Room, board, medical insurance and a small stipend are provided. Loan deferments are available. For more information contact: Mercy Volunteer Corps Office (215) 641-5535 or Sheila Devereux, RSM (415) 751-9574.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY:

Time is running out to register for the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Let a cozy weekend for just the two of you keep you warm on these long winter nights. For more information, or to register for the upcoming weekend: Feb 15-17, Sacramento, call Raul & Gayla Ponce, 866-825-2046, or email: srsregistrar@comcast.net.

ST. IGNATIUS PARISH CRAB FEED DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday, February 9, 2008, 6:30 p.m. All-You-Can-Eat pasta, salad, bread, dungeness crab, ice cream, and coffee. Price: \$45.00 per person. Location: St. Ignatius Parish Center, 3236 Arden Way. Please stop by our rectory office to purchase your dinners in advance, Early reservations are encouraged. Monday- Friday 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome - if space is available.

JANUARY 22ND PRO-LIFE MASS

Bishop Jaime Soto will be celebrating the annual Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday, January 22nd at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento, 1017 11th Street in Sacramento at 10:30 am in reparation for the sin of abortion. Come join us as we pray to promote a culture of life! Pro-life rosary will be recited at 10 am. For more information, contact the Respect Life Office at (916) 733 -0133.