

† Servant Leader †
THE QUIET CARPENTER

I hope you find this article by Robert P. Maloney in America Magazine helpful as Advent comes to an end and the Christmas season begins...

What can St. Joseph teach us?

A few years ago my sister visited me in Rome. As we toured the little chapel in the house where I lived, she asked, me, "Where's Joseph? I was taken aback; there was no trace of the saint in the chapel at all. Later I showed her a small stone statue of Joseph in the yard behind the house (set up by one of the brothers named Joseph), which always had a candle burning before it. She was not very satisfied.

Joseph receives little attention these days, even in Advent. But if we read the infancy narratives carefully, we find that Joseph stands with Mary at center stage. In fact, whereas Mary is the heroine in Luke's story of Jesus' birth and childhood, in Matthew's account Joseph has the primary role. During Advent, the church encourages us to reflect on this great man, who accompanied Mary through life. What can Joseph's life teach believers?

Folk Tales About Joseph

Most of what we commonly say about Joseph comes from apocryphal literature, early Christian writings that were not accepted into the New Testament canon. In these stories, popular imagination fills the vacuum left by the Gospels' lack of historical detail about Joseph with delightful tales. There is Joseph the old man, for instance. In paintings, nativity scenes and Christmas plays, St. Joseph is usually portrayed as quite old, a grandfatherly figure in the stable at Bethlehem, or an elderly man with a flowering staff or, in deathbed scenes, a grey-haired patriarch whom Jesus and a young Mary stand by and console.

Yet the Scriptures offer no evidence of Joseph's advanced age, and they give no details whatsoever about the time or place of his birth or death. Instead, these ideas come from The Protoevangelium of James, one of the most influential of the apocrypha. Written around the middle of the second century, The Protoevangelium attempted to reconcile Mary's virginity with scriptural references to Jesus' "brothers." As explanation, the writing imagines Joseph as an old widower with children who was appointed to be the 12-year-old Mary's guardian, after a dove flew from his staff and hovered over his head in the presence of the high priest

Nowhere has the popular imagination about Joseph flourished more than in stories about the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Coptic legends have Joseph sailing hundred of miles down the Nile, fleeing with his family. Other stories tell of miracles that made the journey easier: palm trees bowed down to feed the family with their fruit; lions and leopards, instead of attacking them, wagged their tails in homage to Jesus. At Hermopolis, 175 miles south of Cairo, the idols of the pagan temple fell down as Joseph led the family through. Fifty miles

farther south, near Kuskam-where Joseph and the family are said to have stayed six months-two robbers accosted them, but one, upon seeing Mary's tears, repented. According to the legend, these were the robbers later crucified with Jesus; the one who repented was the "good thief."

Art has illustrated these legends. Caravaggio's "Rest on the Flight into Egypt" depicts Joseph holding the music as a gorgeous angel plays the violin, lulling Mary and Jesus to sleep. Filippo Lippi, Bartolomeo Murillo and Georges de la Tour painted similar scenes.

The Syriac-Arabic Infancy Gospel and other apocrypha add further embellishments to the story of Joseph's life. Joseph the carpenter makes plows, yokes and other tools for farmers, as well as wooden beds for homes. At age 40 he marries Melcha (some stories call her Escha), and during their 49 year of marriage they have four sons and two daughters. Joseph encounters Mary after he has been widowed for one year. The annunciation takes place two years later. Joseph, it is written, is out searching for a midwife when Jesus is born.

A final apocryphal work worth noting is the fourth-century Story of Joseph the Carpenter. This tale imagines Jesus working side by side with Joseph in the carpenter's shop and later treats Joseph's last days. Strong and alert until the age of 111, Joseph falls ill and confesses his sins on his deathbed, where he is consoled by Jesus and Mary. Jesus then beckons the archangels Michael and Gabriel to take Joseph's soul.

The Historical Joseph

The early church rejected these texts, even though they have some value as literary expressions of the popular religious imagination. Today we too recognize that many of these apocryphal stories are much too fantastic to be regarded a historical.

Given the scarcity of relevant historical detail in the New Testament, we are left with only a general outline about Joseph. It can be argued that he was of the lineage of David, at least in a broad sense. There is evidence that he came from either Bethlehem or Nazareth. He labored as a woodworker, a trade in which Jesus followed him. His language was a Palestinian dialect of Aramaic, though he probably knew enough Greek to bargain and write receipts in his trade. Most likely he also understood some Hebrew, which he heard read aloud in the synagogue.

According to the New Testament, Joseph became legally betrothed to Mary, probably when she was very young, which was the custom at the time. He then married her, in spite of her mysterious pregnancy, and became Jesus' legal father. He was just, upright and devoted to the Law, but compassionate in its interpretation. He accompanied Mary during the events surrounding the birth of Jesus and into the early years of Jesus' life. He settled the family in Nazareth. With Mary, he would

Continued on Page 6...

RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

Advent, like Lent, is a time of reconciliation. The birth of Christ bridges the gap that sin creates between God and his children. It is important to make time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent.

Individual Reconciliation/Confession

Monday, Dec. 22nd – 6–7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Dec. 24th – 12–1 p.m.

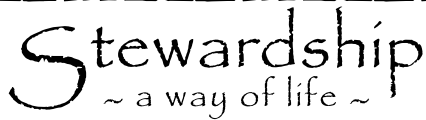
Communal Anointing of the Sick

Tuesday, Dec. 23rd – 10:30 a.m.



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND SINGALONG
 TONIGHT, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST:**

After the 6:00 pm mass, Joyful Noize (the 6:00 Choir) presents an evening of spirit-filled songs of the season sure to fill your heart with holiday cheer! All are invited to bring a coat, blanket, pack of socks, gloves, hat or other article of warm clothing as the “price of admission.”



ADOPT A FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

Many local families are in need of assistance for Christmas. Catholic Charities is seeking individuals, families or workgroups who could provide gifts and a grocery store gift card for a family who is unable to provide for themselves this year. Please call the Catholic Charities office at 733-0253 for more information or visit our website at www.diocese-sacramento.org to obtain a donor registration form or to apply online. If you can't adopt a family this year, you can make a monetary donation on behalf of the program. Please make your check payable to Catholic Charities and include “Adopt-A-Family Program” in the memo field.

Send to us at: Catholic Charities
 2110 Broadway
 Sacramento, CA 95818

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS: Holy Family Parish is now collecting food for Christmas food baskets. Just as at Thanksgiving, we will be collecting the needed items each week. We will need turkeys and canned hams, which can be delivered to the parish office on Monday, December 22. This week we would like to collect potatoes, vegetables, stuffing mix, cake mix and/or frosting, cranberry sauce or applesauce, chicken broth, gravy, and onions. These items can be placed in baskets in the sanctuary, left inside the church entrance by the chapel, or brought to the Parish Office. In these particularly trying economic times, please help us to continue to help others through the blessed seasons ahead.

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

WINTER IS ON ITS WAY - HELP IS NEEDED

As we approach winter, we recognize an increased need for warm jackets and sweatshirts, socks, gloves, hats, blankets and other protection from the cold for the homeless. Since the cold weather will be upon us soon we would like to appeal to you for any gently used items (in adult sizes only) that will help. Collection will continue throughout the winter. Please leave any items you can contribute at any of the church doors for pick-up.

HOLY FAMILY VINCENTIAN RECEIVES AWARD

Chyrl Marquez, one of the founding members of the Holy Family Conference of St Vincent de Paul, received the Ozanam Award at the Sacramento Council's Top Hat dinner on Dec 7th. The Ozanam award is named after Frederic Ozanam who founded the Society of St Vincent de Paul in 1833. Chyrl was recognized for her continuing work as the conference Treasurer and home team visit member. Chyrl goes well beyond the expected in serving those in need in Citrus Heights. She is mindful of the spiritual needs of those she visits and provides spiritual resources as well as physical help to those in need. She constantly inspires the members of the Holy Family Conference with her generous spirit and hard work. Congratulations, Chyrl!

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE	
GENERAL COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Nov 23	\$ 10,059.00
Nov 30	\$ 10,261.00
Dec 7	\$ 12,066.00
Dec 14	\$ 9,604.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 247,520.00
Goal-to-Date (24 Weeks)	\$ 264,000.00
% of Goal Collected	93.76 %
Annual Goal (52 Weeks)	\$ 572,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Legacy Restoration Appeal	\$ TBD
<i>In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." – that the promise finds fulfillment.</i>	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Tue: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Wed: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 ; Lk 1:67-79
Thu: The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Fri: St. Stephen: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Sat: St. John, Apostle: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1, 2-8
Sun: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40



QUESTION OF THE DAY

Children: If you were to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would you say?

Youth: God loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

Adults: How has God surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy?

MASS INTENTIONS

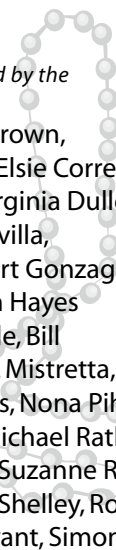
Tue: Fenecia Campagna +
Wed: Jerry Lambirth +; Alan Smith +
Thu: Jerry Lambirth +; Francescon Family +
John & Michael Hickey -Int.
Sun: 7:30 am Mass Pro Populo
9:00 am Mass Rick Gutierrez +
James Tinsley & Family +
Robert Campbell +



PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:
(Names will appear for 2 months unless a call is received by the Parish Office to extend the time or to remove a name.)

Bernadette Baniecki, Marie Baniecki, Audrey Brown, Elisa Bulhoes, Bernard Burke, Carl Campagna, Elsie Correia, Darren Crose, Scott Crose, Julie Desrochers, Virginia Dulley, Betty France, Gazella Erickson, Henrietta Escovilla, Lillian Flaherty, Olivia Garcia, Bob Gokey, Robert Gonzaga, Carolyn Graham, Joe Grom, Rita Gularte, Jason Hayes Family, Irene Hertel, Michele Hock, Rosalie Ingle, Bill Keenan, Charlotte Maguire, Kim Malone, Msgr. Mistretta, Jason Murphy, Chester Pallach, Loretta Parsons, Nona Piha, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Charlie Rasher, Michael Rath, Christine Regan, Margaret and Bob Reynolds, Suzanne Rose, Nikelle Schafer, Katherine Schottgen, Theresa Shelley, Ron Skolte, Jardee Stanley, Jo Ster, Connie Sturdevant, Simon Sucharski, Xavier Thompson, Jovita Vargar, Sharel Wilson



MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: The men of the parish are invited to our annual retreat at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center on the weekend of Jan 16-18, 2009. Don't miss out on this great experience of rest and spiritual renewal. Space is limited, so make your reservation early. Phone Chuck Rose at 725-7119 or Ed Clark at 725-3371 to register or call the Retreat Center at 725-4720. Relatives and friends are welcome to attend the weekend together. You can view the Center at: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheking.



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS



BACK TO BACK PARISH BREAKFASTS!

The Knights will be serving breakfast after morning Masses on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 28, **AND** the usual first Sunday, January 4, 2009. Watch for more details!

FREE THROW CONTEST

The 2009 Council Basketball Free-Throw Contest will be held at the Rusch Park Gymnasium at 7801 Auburn Blvd. on Saturday, January 10, 2009. Registration will begin at 6:30 PM with the contest starting at 7:00 PM.

The contest is open to all boys and girls ages 10 to 14 based upon their age as of January 1, 2009. Awards will be presented to each boy and girl in each age category. The winners will advance to the District competition.

This Contest is sponsored for the twenty-third consecutive year by the Sunrise Recreation and Park District and the Infant Mary Council #4964 Knights of Columbus.

For further information contact Bob Churchill at 987-2471.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones however we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home? As baptized, practicing Catholics we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Secondly, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons.

Many non-practicing Catholics carry a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church so they are afraid to approach the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like them to come back home to our Church family.

Here at Holy Family we have a special program to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church called Catholics Returning Home. The next series begins in January. We will meet on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm for six weeks. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested. For more information, please call Jim or Beth at 223-2648.

www.holyfamilych.org

POINSETTIAS

This Christmas season, honor and remember your loved ones, help beautify and decorate the church, AND support the youth of the parish all at the same time with a beautiful Christmas poinsettia for only \$10! Please see the special insert in today's bulletin.



Prayer Opportunities

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA:

Pope Benedict XVI has elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army), 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 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 at Holy Family on the first Saturday of each month in St. Mary Hall, 12:30–3:00 pm. Come 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 information call Phyllis Sale, 725-5358.



“Love to pray. Feel often during the day the need for prayer, and take trouble to pray. Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of Himself. Ask and seek and your heart will grow big enough to receive Him”

Mother Theresa

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

HELP US HELP OTHERS!

The Youth of the Parish are once again collecting new or gently used coats and new toys for the needy. Please bring donations to the Youth Ministry Office or Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!

UNTIL JANUARY...

There will be no Youth Group meetings, EDGE or Teen Drop-In until January. See you at Mass in the meantime!

YOUNG ADULTS:

The Scoop on Theology is coming up on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Check out our Blogspot: www.holyfamilyyam.blogspot.com or contact Victor 721-8329 for more info...



Holy Family School

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ AUCTION AT HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

It's **ALMOST HERE**. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for March 7, 2009. If you have not joined us before, you don't want to miss out on this event! Puttin'on the Ritz auctions traditionally sell out. Invitations will be available in the Parish Office in late January with details.

The event consists of Live and Silent Auctions, a formal sit-down dinner, live entertainment and dancing until the nights end. So get ready to "Pass Go" and take a "Chance" with us as we fill our "Community Chest."

Want to know what's going on at Holy Family School? Just visit our web site at: www.ch-holyfamilyschool

SIMBANG GABI

Novena Masses in Preparation for Christmas

The Filipino-American Community of North American River Area has organized this festive celebration.

Schedule of remaining Masses:
 Sunday, December 21, 4:00 PM
 Monday, December 22, 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, December 23, 6:00 PM

For more information, please contact the Parish Office, 723-2494, or Vicky Alonzo (916) 761-5325.

† Servant Leader †

Continued from Page 2...

have tended to Jesus' religious education. By the time of Jesus' public ministry, however, Joseph had disappeared completely. Apparently he had died by this time, though we have no details about his death.

A Subject for Mediation

Year after year the church presents Joseph as a subject for mediation, especially during Advent. Three facets of the New Testament picture of Joseph merit our attention.

First, a central Gospel theme: Joseph, like Mary, listened to the word of God and acted on it. In the Gospels Joseph never speaks. But in Matthew, God speaks to Joseph at four critical moments in the history of Jesus, and in each instance, Joseph immediately responds. When the angel tells Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, Joseph receives her into his home. Upon being told he should take Jesus and his mother and flee to Egypt, Joseph leaves that very night. So, too, he later returns to Israel upon the direction of the angel. And when Joseph is warned in a dream not to go to Judea, he immediately changes course and settles the family in Galilee. His persistently faithful response to God's commands parallels the presentation of Mary in the Gospel of Luke. Both know how to "listen to the word of God and act upon it."

Second, in Matthew's Gospel Joseph is brought before the transcendent mystery of God again and again, sometimes with hesitation but always with alertness, and he faces it with faith. Surely Joseph cannot fathom the virginal conception of Jesus. But from the darkness of his own limited understanding, he responds to the mystery of God with awe

and acceptance, tempering his strict observance of the Law with loving compassion and bowing in reverence to God's incomprehensible ways. He cannot possibly understand how this child, who seems like any other, would be "God with us," but in faith Joseph abandons himself to the task of loving the child and educating him.

Third, Joseph's life was steeped in daily dealings with the world around him; he was not set apart. Indeed, the life of the Holy Family at Nazareth was far from the idyllic monastery-like existence we sometimes imagine. Joseph was a woodworker, a neighborhood craftsman who made furniture and carved other objects, and spent time apprenticing his son in the same trade. Like many believers over the course of history, Joseph walked with God as a family man, laboring in his shop and living at home with Mary and Jesus. He combined prayer, hard work and the responsibilities of being a husband and father.

This year especially, after the Synod of Bishops on the Word of God, the church urges us to renew our love for the word of God. For Joseph, as for Mary his wife, heeding the word of God was paramount. His example challenges us to ask ourselves: Is the word of God really central for us, as it was for him? Is it water that gives us life when our hearts and minds are dry (Isaiah)? Is it a hammer to knock us loose when we are too set to budge (Jeremiah)? Is it food sweeter than honey for those times when life tastes bitter (Psalms)? Is it a two-edged sword, which when applied to others cut us, too (Hebrews)?

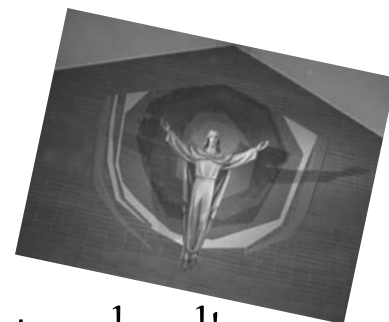
Advent is upon us. Imagine how Joseph felt as the birth of his mysterious son approached: puzzled, excited, awed. Yet in his puzzlement, the word of God was his strength. Deep faith gave him light in the darkness and enabled him to see the presence of God in a world where suffering, privation and violence appeared to reign.

GUESS WHO'S TURNING 60!

Come celebrate our parish feast day
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Saturday, December 27 & Sunday, December 28
as we kick-off the celebration of the **60th Anniversary**
of our beloved parish!



The Knights of Columbus are serving a special breakfast after the morning Masses and there will be fellowship after all Masses next weekend!



Join your parish family as we continue the blessed Christmas Season...

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND...

WALK FOR LIFE-WEST COAST JANUARY 24, 2009

The Walk For Life - West Coast bus will leave the St. Rose rear parking lot, 615 Vine Street, Roseville, at 8:00 am and return at 6:30 pm. We only have 9 seats left on this bus. The cost is \$20.00 per seat. Fee must be paid at time of registration. For information, contact Paula Shortt, 773-8202.

BUS TRIP TO SILVER LEGACY, RENO

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a Bus Trip to Silver Legacy, Reno on Sunday, January 25th. 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. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the following activity notice.

CHRIST THE KING RETREAT CENTER EVENTS:

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Overnight Retreat. Dec. 31 - 6:30 pm dinner to Jan 1, 2009 - 10 am Cost: \$85 Double Room! \$95. Single Room

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: Our Hearts Are Restless: The Life and Teachings of St. Augustine Presented by: Deacon Red Cheever 7-9 pm Cost: \$10 per session (\$8 Seniors)

For further information on any/all of these programs, call Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center: 725-4720

UNIVERSITY OF SACRAMENTO SPRING 2009 COURSES:

The University of Sacramento is excited to announce the Spring 2009 course offerings for all four of our programs in Catholic Faith Formation:

- Master of Arts in Education with an Emphasis in Catholic Faith Formation
- Advanced Certificate in Catechetics
- Basic Certificate in Catechetics
- Certificate in Marriage & Family

If you are interested and have questions, or would like to register for a class, please feel free to contact Lesley Luppino, Coordinator of Student Services, at 443-4760, ext. 16, or at LLuppino@universityofsacramento.org. Applications and Registration Forms may be located online at www.universityofsacramento.org.

POSITION OPEN

St. Francis High School, Sacramento is now accepting applications for the position of Principal, effective July 1, 2009. Candidates must be active practicing Catholics, possess a Teaching Credential, an Administrative Credential or a Masters in Educational Leadership, and have at least three years of successful high school Catholic administration. The job description and application packet are available on the St. Francis website at www.stfrancishs.org. Application deadline is January 16.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for the Feast of the Holy Innocents Candlelight Rosary Procession and Mass, Sunday, December 28. Meet at the Cathedral at 6:30 pm and walk in procession to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for Mass at 7:30 pm. This annual March for Life commemorates the male infants of Bethlehem who were killed by decree of King Herod, and commemorates the innocent, unborn babies killed by abortion today. Candles will be provided. Carpool shuttles will return participants to their cars. Bring umbrellas if needed. Call 791-1819 for information.

RIB DINNER AND AUCTION

Friends of Pendola are sponsoring a Rib Dinner and Auction to benefit Camp Pendola. It will be held on February 21, 2009 at St. John the Baptist in Folsom. Tickets are on sale at the Pendola Center Office in the Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818. The cost is \$30 for the dinner. Contact Kim at 733-0127 if you have questions.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP)

The Creighton Model FertilityCare system teaches couples how to live in harmony with God's gift of fertility, rather than looking for ways to alter or interrupt the natural process. While highly effective at avoiding pregnancy, it is also used effectively to achieve pregnancy, making it a true method of family planning. In addition, it can assist a trained medical consultant in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and other gynecologic problems. Our next Introductory Session is Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m., at Mercy Women's Center, 650 Howe Ave., Suite 530, Sacramento, CA 95825. Please call 614-2200 to pre-register.

CATHOLIC HIGH-SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

The High School Placement Test for prospective students of all five Catholic High Schools in Sacramento will be on Saturday, January 24, 2009 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
- Cristo Rey High School: 733-2660 or www.cristoreysacramento.org
- Jesuit High School: 482-6060 x 227 or register on line @ jhssac.org
- Loretto High School: 482-7793 x 103 or www.loretto.net
- St. Francis High School: 452-3461 x 195 or www.stfrancishs.org