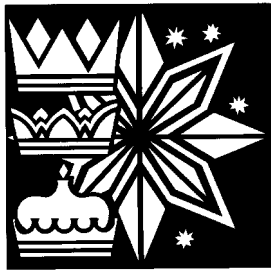


REFLECTION

A BLESSED



EPIPHANY

A favorite game of children of all ages is hide-and-seek. There is a certain thrill in thinking that one can become momentarily invisible to the seeker. Then come the peals of delight and surprise when the hiding place is discovered and once again one's whereabouts are clearly known. Today's feast centers on the hiddenness of God's plan having been revealed to all, without discrimination. For Jew and Gentile alike, God's love bursts forth like a light that pierces the darkness, like a child's squeals of delight when found. There is no hiding from

this wondrous gift as it reaches to the ends of the earth.

There is a tradition in Latin America and in Hispanic communities in the United States that on El Día de los Reyes, the "Day of the Kings," a small plastic baby Jesus is hidden in a cake baked specially for the feast day. The figurine is nestled within the dough, signifying the efforts to hide the child Jesus from the evil intentions of King Herod. As the cake is cut, the slicing knife represents the danger posed to the infant Jesus by the cruel king.

In some places the tradition is that whoever gets the piece of cake with the figurine is obliged to host the next family gathering on Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation. In other places, the one who finds the baby Jesus in his or her portion receives an array of gifts from those present. These traditions make tangible both the danger inherent in the revelation of the Christ and the excitement of the hidden designs of God become manifest. In the Gospel, the danger is most palpable as the exotic visitors from the East wisely discern the true king who has been revealed, in contrast to Rome's puppet king, who wants to engage in a sinister version of hide-and-seek. Herod tries to get the Magi to "search diligently for the child" and then bring Herod word when they find him. But the plan is foiled when a divine warning in a dream directs the Magi to return to their country by another way.

These visitors from an unknown land also lead us to reflect on the gifts that come to us in hidden ways from those we regard as strangers. Their odd dress, their different colored skin and unintelligible tongue immediately put us on guard.

Those who are different are often a source of fear for us, but in today's Gospel they are friends, co-heirs to the promise and the first to recognize the hidden plans of God. In the Gospel narrative, these extraordinary visitors appear only briefly. Would we welcome such strangers, who reveal the hidden Holy One in our midst, if they were to stay?

- America Magazine, January 2010

CRAB FEED

ST. JOSEPH CRAB FEED

January 22, 2010

There are still tickets available for the Crab Feed so get them soon before we sell out.

The Crab Feed tickets are now at the full price of \$42 and are available after all Masses. We are looking for volunteers to help set up, clean up, etc. Sign up to help at the Crab Feed tables after Mass. Silent and live auction gifts can be dropped off at the Parish Office. Please leave us your name and the value of the donation. We are also having a Dessert Silent Auction. If you are interested in donating a dessert, please call Cathy Treece at 449-4423. Our next meeting is January 6 at 7:00 PM in the Church Meeting Room and everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, call Steve & Lynda Abeyta at 447-8377.



CATHOLICS COME HOME



Are you Returning to Your Catholic Roots? Welcome Home! Whether you've

been away from the Church for 1, 5, 10, 15, or even 30 years or more, our parish

family is delighted to welcome you home to the Catholic Church. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the Catholics Come Home website in English at CatholicsComeHome.org or in Spanish: CatolicosRegresen.org. Don't remember how to go to confession? That's alright . . . when you enter the confessional, simply tell the priest you've forgotten how and he will guide you through the process, step by step. [Confessions at St. Joseph Church are held every Saturday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM or by appointment.] Starting February 1, our parish will be offering a series of sessions for returning Catholics, who would like to meet with a group to facilitate answering questions and connecting with people and resources in the parish. For more information about Catholics Come Home call the Parish Office at 447-2354.



Flu Season Reminder - During this flu season, we ask all parishioners to offer a sign of peace other than shaking hands. For example, praying hands, or a nod of the head or some other acknowledgement of those around you. Holding hands during the Our Father is optional as some families may still want to hold hands within their own family. Communion from the Cup will not be suspended, however please exercise your option with care. Also, we are recommending that all people receive Holy Communion in their hand rather than on the tongue.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Change Collection is our last Advent Project this season. Please save your spare change in the bottles (or checks made payable to Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center) and return the bottles no later than this weekend January 2/3.

May the Lord bless all parishioners who shared of themselves and their Advent gifts with the less fortunate in our community this Christmas.

2010 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES will be available to pick up in the Meeting Room this weekend through the end of January. We will do our best to arrange them in alphabetical order. *Please note that if your envelopes are not picked up by January 31, 2010, your envelope number will be reassigned.* If you have any questions, please contact Denise Jones at the Parish Office at 447-2354.



Notre Dame School will be accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year, starting January 4th. These forms are available in the school office. You need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records, and a letter from your parish. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex,, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices. For more information, call the school office at 447-1460, office hours: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday.

Busy Person's Retreat will be January 16, 2010 and the third Saturday of each month through June 2010. These retreats take place from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon at the Christian Brother's Mont La Salle Novitiate (off Highway 29 on Redwood Road), Napa, California. Time is offered for both communal and personal prayers and discussion. There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at each retreat. Refreshments are available throughout the morning. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Start the New Year off with time for our Lord. Retreat Director is Brother Richard Moratto, FSC.

FAITH FORMATION - All Faith Formation classes are on Christmas Break from December 20th to January 8th. Liturgy of the Word and Youth Group will resume NEXT WEEKEND January 10, 2010. Happy New Year!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7-8,10-12; Mt 4:12-17,23-25
 Tues. 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4,7-8; Mk 6:34-44
 Wed. 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2,10-13; Mk 6:45-52
 Thurs. 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2,14,15,17; Lk 4:14-22
 Fri. 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15,19-20; Lk 5:12-16
 Sat. 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6,9; Jn 3:22-30
 Sun. Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29:1-4,9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16,21-22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - Struggling after an abortion? Still seeking peace years after the choice? Come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, February 19-21 in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento. The weekend retreat is a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. There are many exercises to help you grieve your loss and an opportunity to understand and release the deep feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief that frequently accompany an abortion experience. This process is extremely helpful for those who struggle with forgiving themselves or others. Open to women, men, couples and family members touched by abortion. The cost is \$175. Financial assistance is available. For a registration packet or more information, call Debbie at (916) 733-0161 or send e-mail to projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org. Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

Attention: Married & Engaged Couples - Learn a natural method of family planning that is safe, effective (98%) and in accord with Catholic teaching. Great for achieving as well as postponing pregnancy. Classes begin Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 PM at St. Rose Parish in Sacramento in the St. Patrick School Guild Room. Materials should be ordered in advance at www.ccli.org. Online registration is available or contact Suzanne at (916) 498-8309 for more information.

MASS IN CHURCH AND CHAPEL



St. Joseph Parish invites everyone to join together as a community for Mass in our beautiful church. If for some reason such as health, age or other, you choose not to sit in church, you may sit in the chapel where you can still be an active participant at Mass. For parents who are concerned their children may be a distraction, there is a "Preparing Your Child for Mass—Helpful Hints for Parents" handout available in the Narthex.

Effective January 9, 2010, the Meeting Room will not be available for use during Masses. It will be used primarily to support parish ministry functions. It will continue to be used for Faith Formation classes, including children's Liturgy of the Word during Sunday 10:00 AM Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM----- Salud Magayanes, R.I.P.
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Francisco Padaca, R.I.P.
 Wed. 8:15 AM----- Cecilia Hill, R.I.P.
 Thurs. 7:00 AM----- Int. of Robert Harless
 Fri. 10:00 AM----- Int. of Ruperta Lagrisola
 Sat. 8:15 AM----- Grace Velez Serina, R.I.P.
 Sat. 5:00 PM----- Wenceslas Gabriel, R.I.P.
 Sun. 7:00 AM----- Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8:30 AM----- Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 10:00 AM----- The Holy Souls
 Sun. 12:00 PM----- Vocations to the Priesthood