

REFLECTION

I give you my word.” I cannot think of another way of framing something to convey that one’s honor, integrity and perhaps even something about one’s very essence are on the line. Word is a dense and powerful term. The Old Testament expresses the power of the word in wonderful ways. Words cause things to happen. Word was also used to mean God’s revelation and even God’s presence in a person’s life.

Given the depth and profundity of the term, it is no mystery that John begins his Gospel, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” Later we hear, “All things came to be through him.... What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race.” Then we hear the shocker: “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” God as Word took on the ultimate adventure by entering time and becoming one of us.

John makes it clear that the message of Christmas is not only about the Word’s birth among us. It must also be about our birth in God. Christmas faith embraces the light. This divine light shines in our gentle love of neighbor. It shines in the joy shared from knowing that we are utterly and irrevocably loved by a God willing to empty himself that we might have his indwelling Spirit and share his glory. May it speak in and through us and fully manifest itself in our lives.

American Magazine—Dec. 2011

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) -
Week of December 25, 2011**

Theme: The genealogy of the Messiah.

Question for Adults: Do you consider your sleep an opportunity to say "yes" to God's communication? Do you pray before retiring? Will you make yourself open to his call as you sleep?

Question for Children: Joseph was asked by the angel to trust God, and he did. Do you trust God in your life? If yes, how and when? If no, why do you think it is hard for you to trust God?



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. Jgs 13:2-7,24-25; Ps 71:3-6,16-17; Lk 1:5-25
- Tues. Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Wed. Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3,11-12,12,20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Thurs. 1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1,4-7,8; Lk 1:46-56
- Fri. Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66
- Sat. 2 Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Ps 89:205,27,29; Lk 1:67-79
- Sun. Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 12/19—7:00 AM ----- Josie Gomez, R.I.P.
- Tues. 12/20—7:00 AM ----- Edmund Dumuk, R.I.P.
- Wed. 12/21—8:15 AM----- Emmanuel Valbuena, J.R., R.I.P.
- Thurs 12/22—7:00 AM ----- Marjorie Gore, R.I.P.
- Fri. 12/23—7:00 AM ----- Thomas Olson, R.I.P.
- Sat. 12/24—8:15 AM --In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
- Sat. 12/24—5:00 PM -----
- Sun. 12/25—8:30 AM----- Members of St. Joseph Parish
- Sun. 12/25—10:00 AM-----
- Sun. 12/25—12:00 PM -----
- Sun. 12/25— 5:00 PM --Misa en Español - Por Vocaciones

FAITH FORMATION

All FF classes will be on Christmas break on 12/19/11 - 1/8/12. Classes resume week of 1/9/12. Thank you to all the children and volunteers in the Christmas Pageant to be held during children's mass on 12/24 at 4P mass. Children's choir meets Wednesday's on 12/21 at 3:15-4:00P to prepare for Children's mass. Have a warm and wonderful Christmas everyone!

YOUTH GROUP

Last Youth Group meeting is on 12/18. SJC will be on Christmas break 12/25 & 1/1. Youth choir meets Tuesday's on 12/13 and 12/20 from 6:00-7:15P to prepare for the Christmas Youth Mass on 12/24 at 7P. Have a great and restful Christmas!

BABY BOTTLES DUE

The Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Change Collections are due **January 7 & 8**. Please deposit your spare change or checks in the bottles (checks made payable to Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center) and return the bottles. Kindly return all bottles even if they are only ½ full or empty as Alpha Center reuses them throughout the year. Thank you for supporting this pro-life fundraiser.

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” Luke 2:11

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive an end of year statement— 447-2354. Statements will only be sent out if requested.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Notre Dame School will accept applications for the 2012-2013 school year from January 4-31. These forms are available in the school office. Please bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate, birth certificate, immunizations 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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ESSAY & ART CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an essay contest for students in the 7th—12th grades and an art contest for age groups 8-11 and 12-14. You may pick up entrance forms in our parish office. The deadlines are Jan 31, 2012—Art Contest and Feb 10—Essay Contest. Contact Frank Billecci at (916) 248-1587 for more information.

WALK FOR LIFE

8th Annual Walk for Life West Coast: Jan 21, 2012

St. Joseph's chartered bus still has a few seats left. The bus leaves at approximately 9:00 a.m., and returns at about 6:00 p.m. Cost per seat: \$21 for anyone 12 and over; \$18 for children under 12; Priests, Religious, and children sitting in parents' laps ride free. For more information about the bus and to purchase tickets, please contact Sherri at sonflower81@hotmail.com or (707) 718-5369. For more information about the event, visit www.walkforlifewc.com/ Space is limited; reserve your seat now!

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

New Year's Eve Mass - Saturday, Dec 31

8:15 AM Saturday Mass
Vigil Mass for Sunday 5:00 PM

New Year's Day Mass - Sunday, January 1

Regular Mass Schedule: 7:00AM, 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 12:00 PM; 5:00 PM Misa en Español

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Remember that church is our home and a place of worship. In the Church we may greet one another **quietly** as we gather, with respect for those who are praying. However, once liturgy begins, the assembly should be reverent.

- Thou shalt enter Mass **BEFORE** the presider (be on time)
- Thou shalt turn off cell phones and refrain from texting
- Thou shalt not chew gum, nor eat, nor drink in church and chapel
- Thou shalt not read the bulletin during Mass
- Thou shalt take thy crying child into the Narthex for a break
- Thou shalt dress appropriately
- Thou shalt audibly sing and pray with the congregation
- Thou shalt receive communion with respect and remember to bow reverently
- That shalt tidy up thy space before leaving Mass
- Thou shalt depart legally (after the final hymn)

DIOCESEAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT POSADA - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011, 6-10PM—Join us for the first ever Diocese of Sacramento Posada Juvenil (Posada for Youth) at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Sacramento on Thursday, December 22 from 6-10pm. Try something new. Bring your entire group for Mass w/ Bishop Soto, Food, Music, Pinatas and lots of Fun. Bring a dessert or Pan Dulce to share. Contact Karla Marquez for more information at 916-733-0151

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