

GET READY FOR MORE SCAFFOLDING!

Our new windows will be installed in the Cathedral during the second half of January and through the weeks of February. That means that we will have scaffolding in the Cathedral for about six weeks, beginning with the north side of the clerestory and then moving to the south side of the clerestory, and finishing in the balcony. We ask for your patience during this process. We deliberately chose this time of year for the installation because there are few weddings.

The first window was installed at the end of summer; nine remain to be installed. They represent

the Joyful Mysteries and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, and were crafted in the late 1800's or early 1900's. We bought them from a parish in Chilton, Wisconsin, that was selling its church building because the parish has merged with a neighboring parish. The cost of the project is being covered by sponsors who will have their family names appear at the bottom of each window. Four of the ten windows have already been sponsored. **For information call the rectory at 444-3071.**

Pictures of the new windows are shown in the Cathedral entrance foyer.

Thank You to Local Businesses

The Cathedral Parish extends a heartfelt thank you to Bella



Bloom Flowers and Fair Oaks Nursery for generously contributing to our Christmas Tree Fund this year and providing trees and flowers for the Christmas Season.

END OF CALENDAR YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Many individuals will make charitable contributions late in the calendar year to take advantage of this year's tax benefits. Not only are these gifts normally fully tax deductible at their fair market value, but they also allow you to avoid capital gains tax. In order to make a contribution, checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked on or before **December 31, 2007**. If you are in a position to make end-of-year contributions, please consider our Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your support.

CATHOLIC BREAKFAST CLUB

On **Wednesday, January 9**, the Catholic Breakfast Club presents "The Other Pro-Lifers," by Monica Dodds, author of "A Catholic Guide to Caring for Your Aging Parent" and founder of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver, an international Catholic organization that promotes care for family caregiver. Orthodox Catholics typically have no problem expressing the value of the unborn life, but the value of elderly life isn't discussed as often. Monica Dodds insists that elderly care is critical to the pro-life movement. Come to listen and learn about a most important aspect of our Catholic social responsibilities.

The Catholic Breakfast Club is sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento and meets monthly at the Sacramento Hilton, 2200 Harvard Street. Mass is offered at 6:15 a.m., breakfast is served at 7 a.m., and the program begins at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are \$30.00 or \$20.00 for members who pay in advance. Reserve your seat online at <http://www.catholicbreakfastclub.org/> or mail your payment to the **Catholic Breakfast Club at P.O. Box 254848, Sacramento, CA 95865-4848.**

CATHEDRAL SQUARE PROGRAM

Make a Donation to the Cathedral Square Homeless Program as a Christmas Gift! The Cathedral Square Homeless program provides shelter, food, and services to the downtown homeless. Please visit the website at www.cathedralsquareprogram.org and make an online donation or purchase an E-gift for the person that already has everything. We will send a personalized message to the gift recipient and let them know you made a donation on their behalf. If you would rather mail in a donation, please make your checks payable to: **Saint Vincent de Paul, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 1017 11th Street, Sacramento, California 95814.**

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE EAST OF JORDAN RIVER

March 5-12, 2008 — Pilgrims will visit the place where Jacob wrestled with God and the place from where Moses gazed at the Promised Land. They will renew their baptismal vows at the site where the early Christians remembered Jesus' baptism. They will meet local Christians and swim in the Dead Sea. They will see Petra from where the Nabateans controlled the spice trade for 400 years and where Ibelndiana Jones and the Last Crusade was filmed. They will attend Mass celebrated by Michel Sabbah, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Bishop Selim Sayegh of Jordan. Only 16 participants. \$1,200 covers single room with shower, all meals, and site visits. **Contact St. Thomas More Church at (415) 452-9634 or www.HolyLandInstitute.org**

New Year's Day Masses

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, 31 December

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Spanish) Vigil Masses

Tuesday, 1 January

10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. (Spanish) No Evening Mass



Some people think that Christmas is one holiday and New Year's Day is another holiday, but the Church keeps the first of January as one of the days of Christmastime. The rejoicing of December 25 belongs to January 1 as well.

The Gospel for Mass today is short. It gives us several reasons to rejoice. And it also give us the reasons for the



many different titles that the first of January has had over the years. The Gospel, from the second chapter of Luke, is a continuation of the story we began at Midnight Mass on Christmas. We hear that the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the newborn Jesus. Then they went to tell their neighbors that a savior was born.

Mary treasured what was said about her child. In joy, the shepherds sang the angels' song of glory in heaven and peace on earth. Eight days after his birth, Jesus was circumcised and received his name, which means "savior."

One of the oldest solemnities of the Church, Mary, the

Mother of God, has been celebrated since as early as the 5th century although the date has changed over the years from before Christmas to finally the octave of Christmas after Vatican II's reforms. While we celebrate the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Lutheran and Episcopalian Churches celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Byzantine Church celebrates the Circumcision of Jesus. In Greece, January 1 is also St. Basil's Day. Just about everywhere, feasting is customary on January 1.

In addition, January 1 was designated as World Day of Peace by Pope Pius VI over 40 years ago. As Pope John Paul II was to point out in one of his January 1 homilies, "despite serious, repeated attacks on the peaceful, solidarity of peoples, peace is possible and necessary. Indeed, peace is the most precious good to ask of God and to build with every effort, by means of concrete gestures of peace on the part of every man and women of good will."

The priests and staff of the Cathedral Parish extend their warmest greetings to all for a New Year filled with grace and blessed with the Peace of Christ.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 12/31/2007

ST. SYLVESTER

12:10 p.m.

Octavio Plonco +

5:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass in English

7:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass in Spanish

***TUES 1/1/2008**

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 a.m.

Mass in English

1:00 p.m.

Mass in Spanish

WED 1/2/2008

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

12:10 pm:

Mike Tobar +

5:10 pm:

Ray Smith, S.I.

THURS 1/3/2008

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

12:10 am:

Emma Demello, S.I.

5:10 pm:

Regina Katherin &

Michael Guanlas, S.I.

FRI 1/4/2008

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

12:10 p.m.

Edward McClanahan Family

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!