

## ~ THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ~

Christmas Day is not the end of this great season – it's the beginning. The season contains several great opportunities for worship and celebration which can be ongoing. I hope you like this wrap-up as the season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord.

### ~ HOLY FAMILY ~

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families, too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ and his Church the center of family and individual life – reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family – all done together as a family.

The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.

#### Holy Family Prayer:

Father, we look to Your loving guidance and order as the pattern of all family life. By following the example of the holy family of your Son in mutual love and respect, may we come to the joy of our home in heaven. Amen

### ~ MARY. MOTHER OF GOD ~

In early church the title of Mary was a subject of much debate. Mary was called the mother of God, but some objected, suggesting that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature. Ultimately the Church decided that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human.

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary

Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace" This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace.

#### Mary Mother of God Prayer:

God our Father, may we always profit by the prayers of the Virgin Mother Mary, for you bring us life and salvation through Jesus Christ her Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

### ~ EPIPHANY ~

The story of the Magi traveling from the East to see the Christ child appears in the Gospel According to St. Matthew. Upon seeing a star rising in the East, they realized it was a sign that the king of the Jews had been born. The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem of Judea, and to Jesus' dwelling there. Having arrived, they worshipped the infant Jesus, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." The Magi were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, nations, and races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited.

Epiphany is a time to focus on the mission of the Church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people.

#### Epiphany Prayer:

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and great of every land that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be brought into captivity through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ~ BAPTISM OF CHRIST ~

The Christmas Season draws to a close with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. We will look more deeply into this celebration in next week's letter.

#### Prayer for the Baptism of Christ:

Almighty, eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan, You revealed Him as Your own beloved Son. Keep us, Your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling. Amen

## ~ LA TEMPORADA DE NAVIDAD ~

Navidad no es el final de esta gran temporada – es el comienzo. La temporada contiene varias oportunidades para la adoración y celebración que pueden ser continuadas. Espero que os guste esta conclusión la temporada termina con el Bautismo del Señor.

### ~ LA SAGRADA FAMILIA ~

La fiesta de la Sagrada Familia no es sólo de la Sagrada Familia, sino que también es la fiesta de nuestras propias familias. El propósito principal de la fiesta es para presentar la Sagrada Familia como el modelo para todas las familias cristianas y para la vida doméstica en general. Nuestra vida familiar se santifica cuando vivimos la vida de la iglesia dentro de nuestras casas. Cómo vive uno la iglesia en la familia? La mejor manera es cuando decidimos que Cristo y su iglesia son el centro de la familia y de la vida individual – leyendo las escrituras regularmente, rezando diariamente, asistiendo a Misa al menos los domingos y días de Santa Oblación, imitando las acciones de la Sagrada Familia – haciendo todo juntos como una familia.

La fiesta de la Sagrada Familia es un buen momento para recordar la unidad familiar y orar para nuestras familias humanas y espirituales. También aprovecharemos esta fiesta para reflexionar sobre el valor y la santidad de la unidad de la familia y evaluar nuestra propia vida familiar. ¿De qué manera puede mejorarse? ¿Qué haría Jesús, ¿María y José? Por último, podemos usar esta fiesta para preguntarnos qué estamos haciendo para promover la familia dentro de nuestras propias culturas, barrios, y comunidades.

#### Oración para la Sagrada Familia:

Padre, te pedimos que nos guíes con tu amor. Siguiendo el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia por tu Hijo, en el amor y respeto mutuo, para que lleguemos con alegría a nuestra casa en el cielo. Amén

### ~ MARIA MADRE DE DIOS ~

En la Iglesia el título de María fue un tema de mucho debate. María fue llamada la madre de Dios, pero algunos discutían, que María fue sólo la madre de la naturaleza humana de Jesús, pero no su divina naturaleza. En última instancia la Iglesia decidió que Cristo era completamente Dios y plenamente humanos y estos se unieron en una persona, Jesucristo. Por lo tanto María podría ser llamada "Madre de Dios", ya que dio a luz a Jesús que fue totalmente divino así como humano.

La solemnidad de María madre de Dios cae exactamente una semana después de Navidad, el final de la octava de Navidad. Es natural honrar a María como madre de Jesús, después del nacimiento de Cristo. Cuando los católicos celebramos la solemnidad de María Madre de Dios, no sólo honramos a María, que fue elegida entre todas las mujeres a lo largo de la

historia para encarnar a Dios, pero también estamos honrando a nuestro Señor, que es completamente Dios y plenamente humano. Llamar a María "Madre de Dios" es el más alto honor que podemos dar a María. Igual que Navidad rinde homenaje a Jesús como el "Príncipe de Paz," la solemnidad de María Madre de Dios honra a María como la "Reina de la Paz" Esta solemnidad, que cae en el Día de Año Nuevo, también esta designado como el Día Mundial de Paz.

#### Oración - María Madre de Dios:

Dios Padre nuestro, que podamos siempre beneficiarnos por las oraciones de la Virgen María, que Tu nos des vida y salvación a través de Jesucristo su hijo que vive y reina contigo y con el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios por los siglos y los siglos. Amén

### ~ EPIFANÍA ~

La historia de los Reyes Magos viajando desde el Este para ver al niño Jesús aparece en el Evangelio según San Mateo. Al ver un estrella que aparecía en el Este, se dieron cuenta que era una señal de que el Rey de los Judíos había nacido. Los sabios siguieron la estrella a Belén de Judea para ver a Jesús. Habiendo llegado, adoraron al Niño Jesús, y le dieron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra.

El termino Epifanía significa "mostrar" o "para dar a conocer" o incluso "para revelar". Los Reyes Magos fueron los primeros gentiles que reconocen a Jesús como el "Rey" y por lo tanto fueron los primeros de "mostrar" o "revelar" a Jesús al mundo más amplio como la encarnación de Cristo. Este acto de adoración de los Magos fue una de las primeras indicaciones de que Jesús vino para todas las personas, las Naciones y razas y que la obra de Dios en el mundo no sería limitada.

Epifanía es un tiempo para centrarse en la misión de la Iglesia en llegar a otros "mostrar" a Jesús como el Salvador del todas las personas.

#### Oración de la Epifanía:

Oh Dios, que con una estrella guiaste a los sabios y poderoso a la adoración de tu Hijo, te pedimos ahora que guíes a los sabio y grandes de la tierra para que te conozcan y se arrodillen ante Ti, y todos sus pensamiento sean cautivados a través de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amén.

### BAUTISMO DE CRISTO

La temporada de Navidad señala su fin con la celebración del Bautismo del Señor. Veremos más profundamente esta celebración en la carta de la próxima semana.

#### Oración del Bautismo de Cristo:

Todopoderoso, Dios eterno, cuando el Espíritu descendió sobre Jesús en su bautismo en el Río Jordán, revelaste que El es tu propio Hijo amado. Mantén a todos tus hijos nacidos del agua y el espíritu, fieles a nuestro llamado. Amén

## ~ BLESS YOUR HOUSE DOOR ON THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~

I am glad to provide you a blessing for your home on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I had hoped to have it for you last Sunday but this feast or anytime in January is a fine time to do the blessing.

The gospel tells us that the magi found Christ "on entering the house." The door to your home is a holy threshold. It is unfortunate today, that homes are often not blessed. This may be accounted for in part by our modern mobility and lack of home ownership. Let us revive this Epiphany tradition, which is a practice appreciated by children and adults alike.

You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk, especially blessed for the occasion, the first two numbers of the year + C + M + B + the last two numbers of the year. This year, the legend will read:

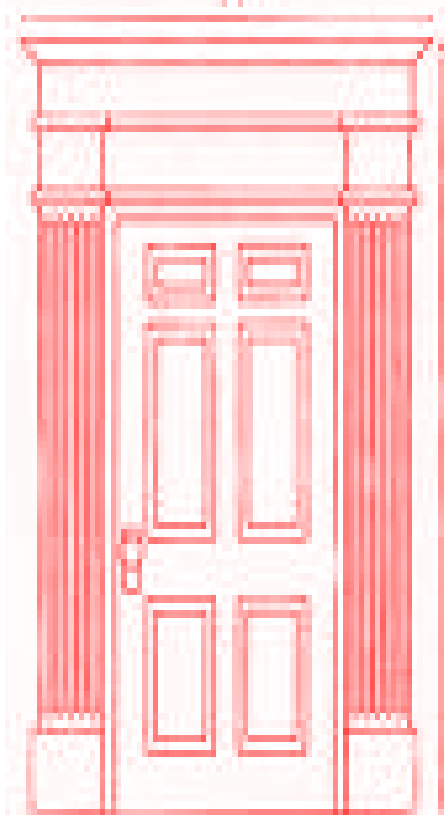
**20+C+M+B+10**

Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this dwelling." It's appropriate to bless your door in January - janua means "door" and the first month is the door to the new year.

In religious houses the legend is written over the door of every room. Like the other blessings of homes, this one is meant to invoke protection over the mind and body of those who dwell within. In this instance the priest prays:

"Bless, O Lord, Almighty God, this home, that in it there may be hearth, chastity, strength of victory, humility, goodness, and industry, a fullness of law and the action of graces through God the Father and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that this blessing may remain on this home and on those who frequent it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

After inscribing the doorway, say this prayer:



God of Bethlehem and Cana,  
God of Jordan's leaping waters,  
in baptism you bring us  
into your family.  
You wed us and embrace us  
as your beloved.  
May we fill this place  
with kindness to one another,  
with hospitality to guests,  
and with abundant care  
for every stranger,  
By the gentle light of a star  
guide home all who seek you  
on paths of faith, hope and love.  
Then we will join the angels  
in proclaiming your praise  
Glory in heaven and peace on earth,  
now and for ever. Amen.

[Then sing a Christmas carol if you wish.]

## ~ BENDIGA A SU PUERTA EN BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR ~

Me complace darles una bendición para su hogar en esta fiesta del Bautismo del Señor. Yo esperaba tenerla para usted el domingo pasado, pero esta bendición puede hacerse en cualquier momento en enero.

El evangelio nos dice que los magos encontraron a Jesús "al entrar en la casa". La puerta de su casa es un umbral Santo. Hoy, es lamentable que a menudo no se bendigan los hogares. Esto puede explicarse en parte por nuestra movilidad moderna y la falta de la propiedad de la vivienda. Permítanos revivir esta tradición de Epifanía, que es una práctica apreciada por niños y adultos por igual.

Usted puede bendecir a aquellos que llegan y salen de su casa al poner sobre la puerta con carbón, una bendición especialmente para la ocasión, los dos primeros números del año + G + M + B + los dos últimos números del año. Este año, la leyenda leerá:

### 20 + G + M + B + 10

La tradición nos dice que las letras representan los nombres de los Magos, Gaspar, Melchor y Baltasar. Adolph Adam señala que también puede significar "Christus mansionem benedictat" or "Cristo bendice esta vivienda." Es apropiado bendecir su puerta en enero – enero significa "puerta" y el primer mes es la puerta para el nuevo año.

En las casas religiosas la leyenda se escribe sobre la puerta de cada habitación. Como las otras bendiciones de hogares, ésta sirve para invocar la protección sobre la mente y el cuerpo de quienes habitan dentro. En esta instancia el sacerdote reza:

"Bendice, oh Señor, Dios Todopoderoso, esta casa, que en este hogar no falte, la castidad, la fuerza la victoria, la humildad, la bondad y la abundancia, el cumplimiento de la ley y la acción de gracias a Dios Padre el Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo; y que esta bendición pueda permanecer en esta casa y sobre los que la frecuentan. A través de Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén."

Después de escribir esto en la puerta, diga esta oración:

Dios de Belén y Cana,  
Dios de las aguas corrientes de Jordan,  
En el bautismo nos unes  
A Tu familia.  
Tú te unes a nosotros y nos abrazar  
como tus amados.  
Que nosotros llenemos este lugar  
con amabilidad de uno por el otro,  
con hospitalidad a los huéspedes,  
y con cuidado abundante  
para todos los extraño,  
Por la luz suave de una estrella  
Guía a tu casa a todos aquellos que te buscan  
en rutas de fe, esperanza y amor.  
Entonces se unirá a los Ángeles  
Al proclamar tus alabanza  
Gloria en el cielo y la paz en la tierra,  
Ahora y siempre. Amén.

[Entonces pueden cantar un villancico si lo desea.]

## PARISH DIRECTORY AT A GLANCE

MINISTRY	LEAD	TELEPHONE
Parish Council	Peter Rufing	478-1198
Liturgy Committee	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Finance Committee	Robert Ingenito	Rectory 444-3071
Cantor	Lola Krist	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-English	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-Spanish	Jerry Vanoye	Rectory 444-3071
Docents	Denise Fracchia	Rectory 444-3071
Environment Committee	Chris Houlemard	Rectory 444-3071
Eucharistic Adoration	Isabella Cazares	391-1760
Festival of Trees & Lights	Valerie Chun	Rectory 444-3071
Gift Shop	Sister Jenny	444-5364
Hispanic Apostolate	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Hospitality Committee	Maria Balaskin	Rectory 444-3071
Knights of Columbus	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Liturgical Ministries (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altarservers)	Mike Ognisty	Rectory 444-3071
Marriage Preparation	Steve and Mariana Rose	421-2281
Parish Vocation Committee	Matthew Mlakar	648-3073
Rectory Volunteers & Staff	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Religious Education & RCIA	Sr. Jenny	444-5364
Social Committee	Dawn Ruffing	Rectory 444-3071
Social Justice Committee	David Clements	646-1800
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Deacon Jorge Usi	Rectory 444-3071
Ushers	Tom Waddock	Rectory 444-3071
Visiting the Sick	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Welcome Back Program	Tim Longdon	Rectory 444-3071
Youth Spanish Group	Edgar & Leticia Hilbert	440-6211 or 261-6504

I am grateful to all who serve our parish in these ministries. We need more to help in these areas and new ministries can develop as in God's grace people come forward. May the Holy Spirit lead us and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, inspire us.

~ DAY OF REPARATION JANUARY 22 ~

Bishop Jaime Soto invites all Catholic men and women in the Diocese of Sacramento to join together for a day of fasting, abstinence, prayer, and works of charity in observance of Friday January 22, 2010, as a Day of Reparation for the sinful national scourge of abortion. We mark this day in this manner because it is the lamentable anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade. There will be a Mass celebrated at the Cathedral on that day at 12:10pm.

As a guide to those who are able to fast on that day, it is recommended that those fasting limit themselves to one full meal. Works of charity are particularly encouraged; visiting the sick, assisting at shelters for women and children. Through our acts of penance and works of charity on this day, we will express our desire to restore a culture of life and a civilization of love in this country so marred by the Roe v. Wade decision and other acts of violence against the innocent.

~ CATHEDRAL YOUTH GROUP ~

The Cathedral Youth Group (English and Spanish young people) meets every other Wednesday evening in the Lower Level from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 13, 2009. For more information, contact Leticia and Edgar Hilbert at 457-1552 or Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

~ PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO ~

**PILGRIMAGE to Shrines and Martyrs of Mexico with Fr. Art Wehr, SJ** 8 day Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Zapopan, Basilicas of Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos and Our Lady of Guanajuato, and the Martyrs of Guadalajara. We leave from Sacramento on May 14 and return May 21, 2010. For more information call: Karen 916-652-7560 or email [karen@chappelear.com](mailto:karen@chappelear.com). **DEADLINE March 15**

~ MARIAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS ~

The Central California Marian Eucharistic Congress will be held January 8, 9, and 10 in Paso Robles at the Mid-State Fairgrounds Auditorium. The congress will feature Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey, Sr. Brieger McKenna, OSC. , Fr. Tom Sullivan, CPM, and Fr. Pat Martin, among many others. Visit our web-site [www.ccmec.net/firms.com](http://www.ccmec.net/firms.com) To register by phone contact Toni Clevenger 805-441-2131 other inquires phone Pat Borba 805.461.5358 or Lynn Stroble 805.239-1597.

**HEALING AFTER ABORTION 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 @ (916)733-0161 or send email to [projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org). Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

~ COPING WITH LIFE ALONE ~

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE SUPPORT GROUP**

The focus of Coping with Life Alone is to offer you the support and encouragement you need to deal with the pain of your loss and to help you look with renewed hope towards a fulfilling future.

**When:** Fridays, Starting January 8, 2010 (For 10 consecutive weeks)

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Please come by 6:45 the first week to register)

**Place:** Our Lady of Assumption Church 5057 Cottage Way Carmichael, CA 95608

**Fee:** A registration fee of \$10.00 and a weekly meeting fee of \$5 per week or you can prepay \$40 for all ten sessions (\$50.00 including the registration fee.)

**Contact:**For more information call (916) 835-2282 or visit our web site at: [www.sacramentobe.org](http://www.sacramentobe.org)

Beginning Experience Support Group has been offering special programs for more than 30 years. Its purpose is to offer a community for friendship, guidance, strength and companionship for men and women of all faiths who are now alone due to the death, divorce or separation from a loved one.

**CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE**

**MON 1/11/2010**

**1 Sm 1: 1-8; Mk 1: 14-20**

12:10 pm: Teresa Dial, S.I.

5:10 pm: Dionicio Fox, S.I.

**TUES 1/12/2010**

**1 Sm 1: 9-20; Mk 1: 21-28**

12:10 pm: Chris Ransom, S.I.

5:10 pm: Felippi Family, S.I.

**WED 1/13/2010**

**ST. HILLARY, BISHOP**

**1 Sm 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mk 1: 29-39**

12:10 pm: Alberto Vazquez, S.I.

5:10 pm: Carol Lumagui, S.I.

**THUR 1/14/2010**

**1 Sm 4: 1-11; Mk 1: 40-45**

12:10 pm: Tom & Nancy Finn & Family, S.I.

5:10 pm: Phuong Maduell

**FRI 1/15/2010**

**1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22; Mk 2: 1-12**

12:10 pm: Marco Antonio Vazquez, S.I.

**NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM**

**TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,**

**OR E-MAIL [BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET)**

**CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY**

**AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES**