

~ SERVANT LEADER ~

As we continue the Christmas Season, we take time to reflect on the many blessings that the season gives us. While we have celebrated the tremendous gift of Christ's birth, and the gifts of the kings, and the gifts we have shared with our loved ones, and the gifts we have been able to offer those less fortunate this season, we continue to receive and share the greatest gift of all-the Eucharist, gifted to us by Christ and offered to us continually in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The liturgies we have shared through the Christmas Season have been spirit-filled and uplifting, and have helped us to keep our focus on what truly matters in this world. These liturgies are the celebration of the whole community, and each one of us has had a tremendous part in making them come to life. In addition, dozens of parishioners have helped in special ways to make our Christmas Masses special experiences by fulfilling roles in liturgical ministry. I would like to offer sincere gratitude to all those who made such contributions to our liturgies.

"Thank You" to all whose gifts enhanced our worship environment-to those who donated the beautiful poinsettias, their color adorning the sanctuary area, to Lambs Christmas trees for donating all the trees, and especially to those whose hard work created the Crèche.

"Thank You" to those who planned the liturgies of the season-individuals from Catholic Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, the Hispanic Apostolate and the parish at large who worked with the Liturgy Council to prepare the celebrations that marked the season so wonderfully.

"Thank You" to all who took responsibility for all that is needed to celebrate the various liturgies, to the altar servers who assisted so wonderfully at all the masses and drew particular praise from Bishop Soto for assisting him at Midnight Mass, to the Lectors who prepared diligently and proclaimed the Word at the celebrations of its birth, to the Extraordinary Ministers who shared the greatest gift of the season-the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and to the greeters/ushers who welcomed the family home and to those who carried out the offertory collections. I would like to particularly thank the children, youth and young adults who shared in these ministries, giving us a glimpse of the promise that the future, near and distant, holds for our church.

"Thank You" to the members of the Music Ministry who poured their hearts and souls, not to mention hours and hours of preparation, into enhancing the liturgies of the season in a way that only music can. The choirs, cantors and musicians lifted our spirits and inspired us to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior.

There is always a risk in expressing gratitude that someone will be overlooked-if I have left anyone out, I assure you that

your contributions were appreciated just the same.

This weekend we celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord** which



is connected with the appearance of the newborn Savior to the three kings who were symbolic of the peoples of the world. Each of us, no matter what our lot in life, was represented by the kings. Christ has "appeared" in the world for us, bringing us salvation, redemption and the

promise of everlasting happiness.

Just as the kings brought gifts to Christ, so must we. We cannot pay Christ for what He has done for us; we can only accept the priceless things He offers us and give Him gratitude and praise. The three gifts of the kings are symbolic of what our gratitude should be gold-love, frankincense-prayer, and myrrh-sacrifice.

Love, of which gold is only a symbol, is what Christ wants from us all. This love may be defined simply as complete surrender to His will. The will of God, made known through Christ, is our only happiness.

The bible speaks of prayer rising like incense to the throne of God. It is as a symbol of prayer that incense is used in solemn liturgical celebrations. The reality is always greater than the symbol. Christ asks all of us constantly to offer Him the gift of our prayers. Prayer is important in two ways. First, we need it; we must pray often-in the morning, in the evening, during the day, in times of temptation, in our formal worship of God. Secondly, Christ longs for our prayers as sign and proof of our gratitude to Him.

Myrrh was a bitter but valuable liquid known to ancient peoples as a preservative. It makes a rich symbol for the sacrifices and sufferings Christ asks from His lovers. As always, when we look closely at this gift Christ asks us to give Him, we find that in giving the gift we enrich ourselves. Christ asks none of His lovers to suffer anything that He does not relate to their happiness in some way. He told us that we would all have sorrows, but in the same breath He added that every sorrow would be turned into unbelievable joy. He asks us to give Him our sufferings-in overcoming sin, in accepting the heartaches of life-as if they were gifts, without any strings. Yet, in giving Him these small gifts, we become the possessors of the Kingdom of God.

~ JOIN US FOR THE WALK FOR LIFE ~

The 6th Annual West Coast **Walk For Life** will take place on **Saturday, January 23, 2010** in San Francisco. Last year, this event drew nearly 35,000 men, women and children who participated in this peaceful, prayerful 2 1/2 mile walk along the San Francisco waterfront in support of the sanctity of life in all its stages. A modern tour bus has been chartered for the trip to San Francisco along with 25 other parishes in the Sacramento area. Our bus will leave the St. Mary's Church (58th st. and "M" st.) parking lot at 8:30 AM on Saturday, January 23, 2010 following mass in the church. The cost is \$20.00. For more information and to reserve a seat, please call George Mills at (916) 456-4345.

~ SANTO NINO JANUARY 9 ~

The 2010 Santo Nino Festival will be celebrated by the Filipino-American Community on Saturday January 9 at the Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am, Fr. Michael Kiernan as the

main celebrant, with Fr. Nicholas Ho and Fr. Pol Gumapo concelebrating. Traditionally this Mass has been preceded by a novena of Masses. This year participants are encouraged to attend the regular 5:10 pm Mass in the Cathedral to fulfill this novena.



Following the Mass on January 9, there will be a pot luck meal and reception at the Sisters of Mercy Hall in the Cathedral Lower Level. Families with surnames beginning with a letter (A-I) are asked to bring

Chicken, (J-R) Pansit, (S-Z) Lumpia, and each family is requested to bring 1 dozen of can soda or 1 dozen of bottled water whichever you prefer. This year we shall have Perla and Romy Maulino, Vicky Alonzo, and Lu Capuchino as the Hermano/Hermana Mayor.

The festival commemorates the miraculous preservation of the statue of the Holy Infant from the fire in the City of Cebu in the Philippines during the war between the Spaniards and the natives.

~ 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.

~ 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. Briege McKenna, OSC. , Fr. Tom Sullivan, CPM, and Fr. Pat Martin, among many others. Visit our web-site www.ccmecc.netfirms.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.

~ 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

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 1/4/2010 ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**
1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25
 12:10 pm: Leo Silvestre +
 5:10 pm: Leo Silvestre +
- TUES 1/5/2010 ST. JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP**
1 Jn 4: 7-10; Mk 6: 34-44
 12:10 pm: Nicholas J. Caivano +
 5:10 pm: Msgr. Andrew V. Coffey, S.I.
- WED 1/6/2010 BLESSED ANDRÉ BESSETTE**
1 Jn 4: 11-18; Mk 6: 45-52
 12:10 pm: Pat Wilson +
 5:10 pm: Teresa Navarrete S.I.
- THUR 1/7/2010 ST. RAYMOND PEÑAFORT, PRIEST**
1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4: 14-22a
 12:10 pm: Joette Maria Gonzalez +
 5:10 pm: Conchita Culbeaux +
- FRI 1/8/2010 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY**
1 Jn 5: 5-13; Lk 5: 12-16
 12:10 pm: Armond Diaz, 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

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY
AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES