



Fourth
Sunday
of



MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6; the 12 days count from December 25 until January 6). Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the time the three Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus.

The origin of the Twelve Days is complicated, but modern folklore claims that the song's lyrics were written as a "catechism song" to help young Catholics learn their faith, at a time when practicing Catholicism was discouraged in England. Whatever the origin, these are useful symbolisms for us today in learning our Catholic faith.

RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

1. True Love refers to God
2. Turtle Doves refers to the Old and new Testaments
3. French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
11. Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

GIFT GIVING

Sometimes at this time of year, we wonder about giving gifts as we are not wealthy and can't compete with others in our family.

It might be helpful for us all to realize that gift giving is not a competition. It is an expression of love and small is as good as large if it comes from the heart.

Also, we might look at alternatives to the excessive clothes and toy gifts. Purchasing a bond or opening a mutual fund for the children will be far more appreciated in the future than a game or toy that has long since been discarded.

Another great gift we can give as family members is something no one else can give—the gift of time and love. For example, a grandparent can give the gift of a sleepover for the kids, including selecting their own movie and dinner. A grandparent can teach the children to sew, knit or bake. Other grandparents can make a doll house and spend hours with a child making miniature furniture and clothes for the dolls. One-on-one time is the greatest gift a person can give. Also, swimming, dance, music, karate, can be great gifts. Once started, the child ends up with a lifetime skill, not a room full of stuff.



*Through
Christmas a
light will shine
upon us,
For the Lord is
born for us;
And he will be
called
Wondrous God,
Prince of
peace, Father
of future ages:
And his reign
will be without
end.*

MENSAJE DEL RECTOR

Los doce días de Navidad son los días desde la Navidad hasta el comienzo de la Epifanía (6 de enero; los 12 días son a contar desde diciembre 25 hasta el 6 de enero). En la Epifanía se celebra tradicionalmente como los tres sabios o Reyes Magos que llegaron a presentar los regalos al Niño Jesús.

El origen de los doce días es complicado, pero el folklore moderno afirma que la letra de la canción fue escrita como una "canción de Catecismo" para ayudar a los jóvenes católicos aprender su fe, en un momento cuando se prohibió la práctica del catolicismo en Inglaterra. Sea cual fuere el origen, estos son simbolismos útiles para nosotros hoy en el aprendizaje de nuestra fe católica.

SIMBOLISMO RELIGIOSO DE LOS DOCE DÍAS DE NAVIDAD

1. El verdadero amor se refiere a Dios
2. Palomas de tortuga se refiere al antiguo y Nuevo Testamento
3. Las gallinas Francésas se refiere a la Fe, Esperanza y Caridad, las Virtudes Teológicas
4. Llamar a aves se refiere a los Cuatro Evangelios y los Cuatro Evangelistas
5. Anillos de oro se refiere a los primeros cinco libros del Antiguo Testamento, el "Pentateuco", que da la historia de la caída del hombre de la gracia.
6. Gansos se refiere a los seis días de la creación
7. Cisnes echados se refiere a los siete dones del Espíritu Santo, los Siete Sacramentos
8. Sirvientas ordeñando se refiere a las Ocho Beatitudes
9. Señoras bailando se refiere a los nueve frutos del Espíritu Santo
10. Señores saltando se refiere a los diez mandamientos
11. Flauteros se refiere a los once apóstoles fieles
12. Bateristas de tambor se refiere a los doce puntos de doctrina en el Credo Apostólico

LOS 12 DÍAS DE NAVIDAD



REGALOS

A veces en esta época del año, nos preguntamos acerca de dar regalos como no somos ricos y no podemos competir con los demás en nuestra familia.

Podría ser conveniente para todos nosotros hacer realidad ese regalo que no es una competencia. Es una expresión de amor pequeño o grande sale del corazón.

También, podríamos mirar alternativas a la excesiva ropa y regalos de juguete. Compra un bono o abrir un fondo de inversión para los niños será mucho más apreciado en el futuro que un juego o un juguete que pronto será descartado.

Otro gran regalo que podemos dar como miembros de la familia es algo que nadie más puede dar: el regalo del tiempo y el amor. Por ejemplo, un abuelo puede dar el regalo de invitar los niños a pasar la noche, incluyendo la selección de su propia película y cena. Los abuelos pueden enseñar a los niños a coser, tejer y hornear. Otros abuelos pueden hacer una casa de muñecas y pasar horas con un niño haciendo muebles en miniatura y ropa para las muñecas. Tiempo de uno-a-uno es el regalo más grande que una persona puede dar. También, natación, danza, música, karate, pueden ser grandes regalos. Una vez iniciado, el niño termina con una habilidad de toda la vida, no una habitación llena de cosas.

*A través de Navidad brillara una luz sobre nosotros,
Porque el Señor nace entre nosotros;
Y él será llamado el Dios maravilloso,
Príncipe de Paz, Padre de las edades futuras:
Y su reinado no tendrá fin.*



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS

On Saturday, January 21, 2012 all Sacramento Area Catholic High Schools will be holding their Placement Testing. You must be in 8th grade & register prior to the test date at the school of your choice. All contact information is below. Each student should bring two #2 pencils. Calculators are not permitted.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

Students are automatically registered when they apply online. www.cbhs-sacramento.org Please arrive no later than 8:45a.m. The test will end by 1:00p.m. Kelly Harrington (916) 733-3690 kharrington@cbhs-sacramento.org

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

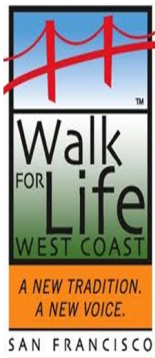
Register for the test online at www.stfrancis.org Please arrive no later than 7:45a.m. The test will end by 12:15p.m. Snacks will be provided. Moira O'Brien (916) 737-5095 mobrien@stfrancis.org

JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

Registration begins online December 1, 2011 at www.jhssac.org Please arrive no later than 8:00a.m. The test will end by 12:15p.m. Debbie Case (916) 482-6060 ext.227 cased@jhssac.org

CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL

Register for the test by calling the Admissions Office at (916) 400-3478 Please arrive no later than 8:00a.m. Ileana Oseguera (916) 400-3478 ioseguera@crstorey sacramento.org



WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST

Come with us to this peaceful walk in favor of life. Be a witness for Christ and his Church. January 21, 2012 Bus leaves from the Cathedral at 9am. Donation per seat 25.00 dollars Call Leticia or Edgar at 916-519-3188

CAMINATA POR LA VIDA COSTA OESTE

Sea un testigo de Cristo y su Iglesia. Caminaremos pacíficamente por la defensa de la vida. Enero 21, 2012 El camión parte de la catedral a las 9am. Donación por asiento es 25.00 dólares Llame a Leticia o Edgar al 916-519-3188

IMMACULATE HEART RADIO

Immaculate Heart Radio's year end pledge drive is fast approaching and for the first time in history, they have been offered up to \$1,000,000 in matching grants. For every dollar you donate prior to December 31, an anonymous donor will match your donation on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The Winter Pledge Drive is December 27, 28, 29, and 30. 6am to 6pm. 4 days of inspiring testimonies and interviews plus exciting prize giveaways and so much more.

TUNE 1620 AM

IHRADIO.COM to stream radio

ATTENTION YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

You're invited to attend the

First Diocesan Posada Juvenil

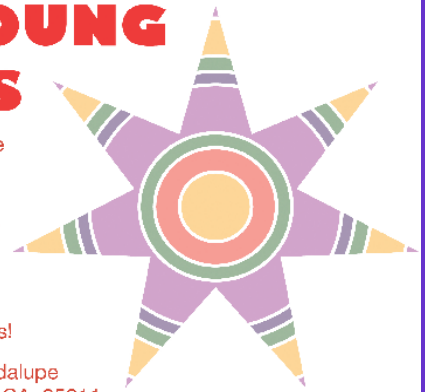
December 22, 2011

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Starting with bilingual mass!

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

711 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95811



Bring your entire group for bicultural Food, Music, Piñatas and Lots of Fun

All activities will be done in English and Spanish

Please bring a dessert or pan dulce to share

For more information and to confirm your participation please call Karla Marquez at 916-733-0151

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CATHEDRAL PARISH REGISTRATION & UPDATE

THANK YOU

NAME #1: _____
(LAST NAME, FIRST NAME)

NAME #2: _____
(LAST NAME, FIRST NAME)

ADDRESS: _____
(STREET ADDRESS) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

PHONE: () _____ () _____ () _____
(HOME) (CELL) (WORK)

EMAIL: HOME _____ WORK _____

PREFERRED METHOD OF WEEKLY OFFERING:

- _____ OFFERING ENVELOPES (WILL BE SENT TO YOUR HOME)
- _____ BILLPAY THROUGH YOUR BANK (USUALLY DONE ON-LINE ON YOUR BANK'S WEB SITE)
- _____ CATHEDRAL WEB SITE: WWW.CATHEDRALSACRAMENTO.ORG (ONLINE DONATIONS)

(MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL.)

PLEASE RETURN BY: 1) PUT INTO COLLECTION BASKET AT MASS; 2) SCAN TO PDF FILE AND EMAIL TO: BLESSED@CATHEDRALSACRAMENTO.ORG; 3) FAX TO: 916-443-2749; OR 4) MAIL TO: 1017 11TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814.

MSGR. MURPHY TO SERVE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

On January 1, 2012, Msgr. James Murphy will leave the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. He will be Priest in Residence at



Msgr.
James
Murphy

Immaculate Conception Parish. Msgr. Murphy will celebrate two more Masses at the Cathedral: the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and the 7 p.m. Spanish Mass on New Year's Eve.

These will be good opportunities for parishioners to celebrate one more time with Msgr. Murphy, who, with Bishop Weigand, is responsible for the

beautiful renovation of the Cathedral. He has done countless other great works during his time as Rector. He has been a great blessing to me since I came to the Cathedral. I benefited greatly from what he had put in place, his help and advice over the past two years, and his easy, humble, faith-filled presence with the congregation. He will be greatly missed but will do great ministry at Immaculate Conception, where the need is clear.

Thank you, Msgr. Murphy. God bless your work as Vicar General of the Diocese and Priest at Immaculate Conception. You are loved and appreciated greatly at the Cathedral. You are welcome here whenever you can visit or celebrate Mass, weekday or weekend as you will always be part of the Cathedral family. God bless you with health and happiness in this new ministry.

AD MULTOS ANNOS.

Fr. Michael F. Kiernan

MONSEÑOR MURPHY SERVIRÁ EN LA PARROQUIA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

El 1 de enero del 2012, el Monseñor James Murphy dejará la Catedral del Santísimo Sacramento. Será el Sacerdote en residencia de la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción.

El Monseñor Murphy va a celebrar dos Misas más en la Catedral: la Misa de las 9 p.m. de Nochebuena, y en español la Misa de las 7 p.m. el 31 de Diciembre (Víspera del Año Nuevo.) Esta es una buena oportunidad para que los feligreses celebren una vez más con el Monseñor Murphy, quien, junto con el Obispo Weigand, es responsable de la hermosa renovación de la Catedral. El realizo innumerables y grandes obras durante su tiempo como Rector. El ha sido una gran bendición para mí desde que llegué a la Catedral. Yo me he beneficiado enormemente de lo que él puso en su lugar, y su ayuda y asesoramiento sobre los últimos dos años y de su presencia sencilla, humilde, llena de fe con la congregación. Lo extrañaremos mucho pero ahora tendrá un gran Ministerio en la Inmaculada Concepción, donde la necesidad es clara.

Muchas gracias, Monseñor Murphy. Dios bendiga su trabajo como Vicario General de la Diócesis y Sacerdote de la Inmaculada Concepción. Es usted muy amado y apreciado aquí en la Catedral y siempre será bienvenido, nos puede visitar o celebrar Misa, cualquier día de la semana o fin de semana por que siempre serás parte de nuestra familia de la Catedral. Dios lo bendiga con salud y felicidad en este nuevo Ministerio de servicio.

AD MULTOS ANNOS.

Fr. Michael F. Kiernan

Christmas 2011

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM Vigil Mass (Children's Mass)

Rev. Fr. Michael F. Kiernan

7:00 PM (Spanish)

Most Rev. William K. Weigand

9:00 PM Rev. Msgr. James T. Murphy

11:30 PM – Musical Prelude

12:00 Midnight – Midnight Mass of
Christmas

Most Rev. Jaime Soto

Cathedral Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Sunday, December 25

7:30 AM, Rev. Fr. Kieran McMahon

9:00 AM Most Rev. Jaime Soto

11:00 AM – Rev. Msgr. T. Brendan

O'Sullivan

Cathedral Choir

1:00 PM – (Spanish)

Most Rev. William K. Weigand

3:00 PM - (Chinese) Rev. Fr. Nicholas Ho

5:00 PM - Rev. Fr. Michael F. Kiernan

NO 7:00 pm Spanish Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31

5 PM, 7PM (Spanish) Vigil Masses

Sunday, January 1

Regular Sunday Schedule



A Familiar Home

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 • Rom 16: 25-27 • Lk 1: 26-38

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. - Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent

familiar and our rootedness in the reality that Christ is with us.

Today's first reading shows us David after he had become king of Israel. After many bloody battles to bring unity, there was finally peace in his kingdom. David was now able to build a palace, which he had to do. A palace speaks of power, and it can send a message of stability.

It occurred to David that God needed a symbol of His power, so David proposed building a Temple. Surprisingly, God refused the offer. God's power is found in what God has done, what He continues to do, and what He will do in the future. In a play on words, David wished to build God a house, meaning a building, but God was going to build his own house, meaning a dynasty, the House of David, that would last forever.

A priest remembers feeling very lonely on Christmas Eve when he was a young seminarian studying in Rome despite the presence of many of his friends. After Christmas Eve dinner, anticipating attending Midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, most seminarians went to nap. Unable to fall asleep, the priest said he went to sit by the seminary's Christmas tree where he could simply sit in the darkness and find comfort in the tree and its multicolored lights.

Another seminarian who also felt lonely found his friend in front of the tree and asked what he was doing. The priest said he told his friend he hoped that sitting by the tree would help him feel connected with home and family. The two men sat together and began singing Christmas carols. Within the hour, most of the student body had come to sit in the front of the brightly lit tree and sing carols.



The new translation of today's Collect should sound familiar to many Catholics. It is the closing prayer of the Angelus. The Angelus is the prayer of the Incarnation that goes back at least 700 years and has for centuries been recited by Catholics three times daily: 6 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. Its use has fallen off in recent years, but not so long ago it was one of the most familiar prayers in our Catholic tradition. Though they don't

know why, non-Catholics and even non-Christians refer to church bells rung at 6 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. as the Angelus Bells. Once more it is the person of Christ of the House of David that takes us home, takes us to the place that is familiar.

During Advent we work hard to establish the familiar because we want everything to feel like "home." Christmas trees and stockings can help, and reliving family traditions can help, but these things don't last. Advent has called us to look to the one thing that has never changed and that will remain constant. If we want a familiar home, we need look no further than the House of David and the newborn King whose throne will last forever.

This was fun, but still it was not home. Later that evening, the priest said, he went to St. Peter's for Midnight Mass. People from all over the earth were in attendance, so the Mass was in multiple languages. The Pope delivered his homily in Italian, which the priest said he had to struggle to follow. Finally, at the moment the Pope raised the host at the Consecration, it was instantaneous—Christmas was rescued. The young seminarian found in the familiar presence of the Body of Christ the one thing that would always connect him to home.

Advent preparations can help us find our sense of home. Most couples work to blend family traditions from their childhood Christmases so that each finds something familiar in their decorations and schedules. Their personal traditions learned in the past ground them once more. The point of Advent, however, is not to get the decorations hung. The point of Advent is to give Christians time to prepare spiritually for finding the familiar in the celebration of Christmas. We position ourselves to find once more the

Having received the pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that the nearer the feast day of salvation comes, the more eager our progress may be toward celebrating worthily the mystery of the birth of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. - Prayer after Communion

The Priest

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

(FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT)

MON 12/19/2011 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

JGS 13: 2-7, 24-25A; LK 1: 5-25
12:10 pm: Gerald Corgiat +
5:10 pm: Ausencio Avila +

TUES 12/20/2011 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven; come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and lead your captive people into freedom.

Is 7: 10-14; LK 1: 26-38
12:10 pm: All Souls +
5:10 pm: Robert Clarence Rapozo +

WED 12/21/2011 ST. PETER CANISIUS, DOCTOR
O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice; come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

SG 2: 8-14; LK 1: 39-45
12:10 pm: Virginia & Jose Joel Martinez, S.I.
5:10 pm: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

THU 12/22/2011 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
O King of all the nations, the joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56
12:10 pm: Paulina R. Adviento +
5:10 pm: Raúl Luis, Vicente Rodriguez, Lorenzo Gallegos +

FRI 12/23/2011 ST. JOHN KANTY, PRIEST
O Emmanuel, King and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people. come and set us free, Lord our God.

MAL 3: 1-4, 23-24; LK 1: 57-66
12:10 pm: Wilma Herr +

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Adoration, Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Benediction with the Relic of St. Faustina after 12:10 Mass

CATHEDRAL PRAYER CORNER

JOHN D. AMARO	DIANA GUTIERREZ	NICHOLAS NELSON
ANGELA CAVAGNERO	LUIS GUTIERREZ JR.	LORRAINE SCHNEIDER
HOWIE COOKE	DOE INCIONG	BENITA & GABRIELA
MICHAEL DWYER	CHARLY & SUZANN K	URANGA
JOHN ENDERLE	DONNA KONENSKY	KAREN & PAUL VON
REGINA FAGAN	THOMAS P. OGNISTY	IRA WEE

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN 12/18/11

9:00 am RCIA For Children and Teens
9:30 am RCIA Breaking of the Word
11:15 am CCD Spanish

MON 12/19/11

6:30 pm Evening Prayer RCIA Team
7:00 pm RCIA Classes
7:30 pm SVDP Feed the Homeless Program

TUES 12/20/11

7:00 pm Spanish Choir Practice (for 7 pm Mass)

WED 12/21/11

7:00 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Communion and Liberation
7:00 pm English Choir Practice

THUR 12/22/11

7:15 pm Spanish Choir Practice

FRI 12/23/11

SAT 12/24/11 Christmas Eve Schedule, see page 5

TODAY'S READINGS

2 SM 7: 1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16: THE KINGDOM OF DAVID SHALL ENDURE FOREVER BEFORE THE LORD.

ROM 16: 25-27: THE MYSTERY KEPT SECRET FOR LONG AGES HAS NOW BEEN MANIFESTED.

LK 1: 26-38: BEHOLD, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM
TO SIGN UP CALL TITI KALA (916) 206-7846 OR (707) 628-0340 OR E-MAIL TO CATHEDRALADORATION@GMAIL.COM

CATHEDRAL TOURS

EVERY SUNDAY AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

MONDAY-THURSDAY 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 AM--3:00 PM