

# CHRISTMAS 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

## CHRISTMAS PRESENT

It seems to many that the true spirit of Christmas disappeared from American life some time ago. The traditional manger, with shepherds and angels adoring the infant Savior, is no longer seen in department store windows, and when one appears in a public space, it quickly becomes an occasion for litigation. Offering the traditional greeting “Merry Christmas” has become an affirmative act of Christian self-identification. In advertising and casual conversation it has been replaced by “Happy Holidays,” because, though the vast majority of Americans profess to be Christians, in this age of interfaith sensibilities Christmas shares billing with Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.



All the religious feasts of the season, however, are swallowed up in a consumerist frenzy of spending. Economists and

broadcast journalists take the fiscal pulse of the nation by counting off the length of the shopping line at Best Buy on Black Friday. The biblical Christmas stories have been replaced by “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and “Frosty the Snowman.” Even Frank Capra’s “It’s a Wonderful Life,” which attempted to redeem the spirit of generosity, in tune with the Gospel message, from the grasp of unregulated capitalism, has been replaced as a Christmas ritual by the nonstop broadcast of Jean Shepherd’s satirical film “A Christmas Story.” Culturally there is no doubt the Christian Christmas has been displaced, subverted and buried under a mountain of commercial trivialities and cultural kitsch.

It would be comforting, of course, if the wider culture reinforced our faith and if pious Christian customs, like manger scenes and caroling, had broader appeal. The crass secularization of the season, however, could well spur us to reflection on a kind of spiritual asceticism that renounces unchallenging sentimentalism about Christmases past. For appropriating the Gospel spirit of identifying with the poor, as presented throughout Luke’s narrative, or with the persecuted and refugees, as in Matthew’s account of the flight into Egypt, is far more important for Christians than preserving reassuring public images of the Nativity.

Such attitudes are also more in keeping with the Evangelists’ intentions than the representation of their narratives. Neither Mark’s Gospel nor John’s contains an

infancy narrative, and John’s majestic prologue—“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us”—focuses on the mystery of the Incarnation and our share in its blessings. If we feel deprived by the vapid secularity of “the holidays,” we would do well to consider instead how we who belong to the body of Christ can extend the grace of the Incarnation to our contemporary world.

Knowing that every person shares in the grace of the Incarnation, how should we celebrate? First, let us rejoice that God is with us, not just at Christmas but at all times, and that there is no corner of the world in which Christ is not present. The rest of the answer will be found in the morning headlines and evening television news from Afghanistan, Haiti and the Sudan. We will find it in a walk through the soup kitchens, homeless shelters and crime-ridden neighborhoods of our hometowns. There we will find, as Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., wrote, “Christ plays in ten thousand faces/ lovely in limb and lovely in eyes not his.” Our hearts will tell us what to do next. It is in our service of the world, in our defense of human rights, in our welcoming of migrants, in the promotion of forgiveness and the fostering of unity among peoples that the power of the Incarnation courses through today’s world.

At the same time, we should not neglect works of imagination that attempt to infuse the popular mind with the Christmas spirit. When Charles Dickens wrote “A Christmas Carol,” he intended to redeem the bleak work ethic of Victorian England with a renewal of Christian charity, just as in the wake of the Great Depression Frank Capra sought with “It’s a Wonderful Life” to revive a sense of community and the common good. Transforming imaginations is integral to incarnation. We who are the church—especially artists, writers, filmmakers, advertisers and broadcasters—need to do today what Dickens and Capra did for their times.

New campaigns of evangelization should enlist artists of every sort and utilize every new medium to spread the good news. Christian artists and communicators must find one another and imagine ways to communicate God’s love in an urban, digital culture, as St. Francis did with his crèche in the pastoral Italy of his day. Those with other talents should offer financial support and patronage to the promotion of new Christian art.

Even as we live out the Incarnation in charity and social commitment, through our creativity and inventiveness, Christians need to retell the Christmas story in ways that awaken the hearts of today’s Scrooges to the meaning of Christmas present.

MENSAJE DEL RECTOR

## REGALO DE NAVIDAD

Le parece a muchos que el verdadero espíritu de Navidad desapareció de la vida en los Estados Unidos hace algún tiempo. El pesebre tradicional, con pastores y Ángeles adorando al niño Salvador, ya no se ve en las ventanas de las tiendas, y si aparece en algún lugar público, se convierte rápidamente en una ocasión de pleitos. Ofrecer el tradicional saludo de "Feliz Navidad" se ha convertido en un acto afirmativo de auto identificación Cristiana. En una conversación informal y publicada ha sido sustituido por "Felices Fiestas", porque, aunque la gran mayoría de los estadounidenses profesan ser Cristianos, en esta época de sensibilidades interreligiosas la Navidad comparte facturas.

Todas las fiestas religiosas de la temporada, sin embargo, son engullidas en un frenesí consumista de gastos. Economistas y periodistas toman el pulso fiscal de la nación contando la longitud de la línea comercial en las mejores compras del viernes negro (El viernes después del día de Gracias). Las historias bíblicas de la Navidad ha sido reemplazada por "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" y "Frosty the Snowman." Incluso Frank Capra en la película "Es una vida maravillosa" intentó rescatar el espíritu de generosidad, en sintonía con el mensaje del Evangelio, de la comprensión del capitalismo desregulado, ha sido sustituido como un ritual de Navidad por la emisión de película satírica de Jean Shepherd "Un cuento de Navidad". Culturalmente, sin duda la Navidad Cristiana ha sido desplazada, subvertida y enterrada bajo una montaña de trivialidades comerciales y culturales.

Sería reconfortante, por supuesto, si la cultura más amplia reforzara nuestra fe y piadosas costumbres cristianas, como escenas del pesebre, y cantos de Navidad tendría mayor atractivo. La insensibilidad de la temporada, sin embargo, podría bien estimularnos a reflexionar sobre una especie de ascetismo espiritual que renuncie a personajes sentimentalismo sobre las pasadas navidades. Para apropiarse del espíritu del Evangelio de identificarse con los pobres, tal como se presenta a lo largo de la narración de San Lucas, o con los perseguidos y refugiados, como nos narra San Mateo la huida a Egipto, es mucho más importante para los cristianos que conservar la aprobación pública de la Natividad.

Tales actitudes son también más en consonancia con las intenciones de los Evangelistas que nos representan sus relatos. Ni el Evangelio de San Marco ni de Juan contiene un relato de la infancia y Juan en su majestuoso prólogo: "La palabra se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros", se centra en el misterio de la Encarnación y nuestra participación en sus

bendiciones. Si nos sentimos necesitados por la laicidad insípida "de los días de fiesta", haríamos bien en considerar que perteneciendo al cuerpo de Cristo como podríamos ampliar la gracia de la Encarnación a nuestro mundo contemporáneo.

Sabiendo que cada persona comparte en la gracia de la Encarnación, ¿cómo deberíamos celebrar? En primer lugar, alegrémonos que Dios está con nosotros, no sólo en Navidad sino en todo momento, y que no hay ningún rincón del mundo en el que Cristo no está presente. El resto de la respuesta se encontrará en las noticias y titulares de la mañana y de televisión por la noche desde Afganistán, Haití y el Sudán. Lo encontraremos en un paseo a través de los comedores públicos, refugios sin hogar y en los barrios donde abunda el crimen en nuestros pueblos. Allí nos encontraremos, como escribió Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., "Cristo juega en diez mil caras / encantador en las extremidades y encantador en los ojos no suyos". Nuestro corazón nos dirá qué hacer a continuación. Es en nuestro servicio del mundo, en nuestra defensa de los derechos humanos, nuestra bienvenida de los inmigrantes, en la promoción del perdón y el fomento de la unidad entre los pueblos que el poder de la Encarnación tomara su curso a través del mundo de hoy.



Al mismo tiempo, no debemos descuidar obras de imaginación que intentan infundir la mente popular con el espíritu de la Navidad. Cuando Charles Dickens escribió "A Christmas Carol", que pretendía rescatar la ética de trabajo sombría de la Inglaterra victoriana con una renovación de la caridad cristiana, al igual

que en la raíz de la gran depresión Frank Capra busco con la obra "Es una vida maravillosa" revivir un sentido de comunidad y el común bienestar. Transformar la imaginación es parte integrante de la Encarnación. Nosotros, que somos la iglesia, especialmente artistas, escritores, cineastas, publicistas y locutores — necesitan hacer hoy lo que Dickens y Capra hicieron por sus tiempos.

Nuevas campañas de evangelización deben reclutar a artistas de todo tipo y utilizar cada nuevo medio para difundir la buena noticia. Comunicadores y artistas cristianos deben encontrarse uno con el otro y imaginar formas de comunicar el amor de Dios en una cultura urbana, digital, como San Francisco lo hizo con su guardería en la Italia pastoral de su día. Aquellos con otros talentos deben ofrecer apoyo financiero y patrocinio para la promoción de un nuevo arte Cristiana.

Aun cuando vivimos fuera la Encarnación de la caridad y el compromiso social, a través de nuestra creatividad e inventiva, cristianos que narran la historia de la Navidad de maneras que despierten en los corazones de los tacaños (Scrooges) de hoy el significado de la Navidad presente.



## THANK YOU FROM THE RECTOR

As we celebrate Christmas, I thank all of you for your faith, love for the Cathedral Parish and your generosity. I hope you find the following helpful as ways to enrich the Cathedral Parish and as an opportunity to do good in a practical, direct way. May God bless and reward you for your Stewardship of the Time, Talent, and Treasure you have been given by God.

## END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

More money is contributed to charities in the month of December than any other month of the year. Many individuals will make advantage of this year's tax benefits. In order to do so, checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked on or before December 31, 2011. If you are in the position to make end-of-the-year contributions, please consider the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish as a beneficiary of your support.

Donating securities such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds can give special tax benefits. If you would like to contribute securities to the Cathedral Parish, please contact me directly to discuss the specifics as to tax benefits and safe and secure ways to turn the securities over to the parish. Keep in mind, contributions must be finalized and/or postmarked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Among the many blessings of our church is the opportunity to have masses offered for special intentions. Masses can be offered for deceased persons, persons who are ill or going through difficult times, birthdays and anniversaries, masses for the poor, for peace, and for many other intentions.

Simply decide on the mass intention, write a note with the person's name, or an unnamed intention, the date you would like the mass offered (though, if it can be an unspecific date, it is simpler to calendar) and send or bring it to the parish office with a donation of your choice. These days people donate \$10 to \$20 or more if they are able, but no one is denied a mass intention on the basis of their donation.

May God bless you for your love, support, and concern for the Cathedral Parish.

## GRACIAS DEL RECTOR

Mientras celebramos Navidad, les doy las gracias a todos ustedes por su fe, amor, y su generosidad hacia la Parroquia de La Catedral. Espero que encuentres serviciales las siguientes maneras de enriquecer la Parroquia de La Catedral y como una oportunidad de hacer el bien de una manera directa y practica. Que Dios los bendiga y los recompense por su Corresponsabilidad de se Tiempo, Talento, y Tesoro que les ha dado Dios.

## CONTRIBUCIONES DE FIN DE AÑO

Más dinero es contribuido a caridades en el mes de Diciembre que en ningun mes del año. Muchos individuos tomara ventaja de los beneficios de impuestos de este año. Para poder hacer esto, los cheques deben tener la fecha o el sello del correo en o antes del 31 de Diciembre 2011. Si usted tiene la oportunidad de hacer una contribucion de fin de año, porfavor considere La Parroquia de la Catedral del Sagrado Sacramento como beneficiario de su contribucion.

Donar seguros como acciones, bonos, or fondos mutuos le puede dar beneficios especiales de impuestos. Si le gustaria contribuir seguros a la Parroquia de La Catedral, porfavor de contactarme directamente a mi para discutir las formas especificas del beneficio de impuestos y formas seguras de donar los seguros a la parroquia. Tenga en mente, las contribuciones deben estan finalizadas o selladas por el correo en o antes del 31 de Diciembre.

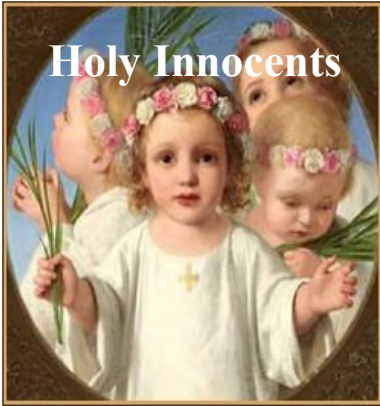
## INTENCIONES PARA UNA MISA

Entre tantas bendiciones de la iglesia esta la oportunidad de ofrecer misa por intenciones especiales. La Misa puede ser ofrecida por un difunto, personas que estan enfermas, o que estan pasando por alguna dificultad, cumpleaños y aniversarios, misa para los pobres, por la paz, y por muchas mas intenciones.

Simplemente decida sobre la intencion, escriba una nota con el nombre de la persona, o una intencion sin nombre, la fecha que le gustaria ofrecer la misa (aunque, si puede ser un dia no especificado, es mas sencillo en el calendario) y mandela o traigala a la oficina parroquial con la donacion que guste. Estos dias las personas donan \$10 a \$20 o mas si tienen la posibilidad, pero a nadie se le negara una intencion para una misa a base de su donacion.

Que Dios los bendiga por su amor, apoyo, y preocupacion por la Parroquia de La Catedral.





**HOLY INNOCENTS  
CANDLELIGHT  
PROCESSION AND  
MASS**

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, **Wednesday, Dec. 28**, Catholics for Life will sponsor a candlelight rosary procession and Mass. The public is invited to attend.

At 5 p.m., families and participants are invited to gather with **Bishop Jaime Soto** to light their candles in front of the steps of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, located at 1017 11<sup>th</sup> St. in Sacramento, and begin a procession through the streets to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, located at 711 T Street. The rosary procession will wind its way through the streets of the city, pausing to pray for life in front of the state Capitol and the Sacramento County courthouse.

Bishop Soto will preside at Mass in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 6 p.m. Carpools will shuttle people back to their cars following the Mass. This annual march for life commemorates the infants of Bethlehem who were killed by decrees of King Herod, and also the innocent unborn lost to abortion around the world today. For more information about the procession and Mass on Dec. 28, call Carol Schoner at (916) 791-1819.

**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](http://www.cbhs-sacramento.org) Please arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. The test will end by 1:00 p.m. Kelly Harrington (916) 733-3690 [kharrington@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:kharrington@cbhs-sacramento.org)

**ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL**

Registration begins online December 1, 2011 at [www.jhssac.org](http://www.jhssac.org) Please arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. The test will end by 12:15 p.m. Debbie Case (916) 482-6060 ext.227 [cased@jhssac.org](mailto: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 8:00 a.m. Ileana Oseguera (916) 400-3478 [ioseguera@crestorey-sacramento.org](mailto:ioseguera@crestorey-sacramento.org)

# Christmas

## Proclamation

**T**oday, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

**S**everal thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

**T**wenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

**E**leven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

**I**n the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the City of Rome.

**T**he forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.



**T**oday is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

## CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

(CHRISTMAS SEASON)

- MON 12/26/2011**      **ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**  
**ACTS 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; MT 10: 17-22**  
 12:10 pm: Maria Becerril & Family  
 5:10 pm: Norberto T. Adviento +
- TUES 12/27/2011** **ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**  
**1 JN 1: 1-4; JN 20: 1A, 2-8**  
 12:10 pm: Pedro Agbuya Ramos +  
 5:10 pm: Custaguia Gagarin Ramos +
- WED 12/28/2011**      **HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**  
**1 JN 1: 5—2: 2; MT 2: 13-18**  
 12:10 pm: Veronica Roe, S.I.  
 5:10 pm: **BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
- THUR 12/29/2011**      **ST. THOMAS BECKET, MARTYR**  
**1 JN 2: 3-11; LK 2: 22-35**  
 12:10 pm: For our Lady of Guadalupe  
 5:10 pm: Antonio Rodriguez +
- FRI 12/30/2010**      **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**SIR 3: 2-6, 12-14; COL 3: 12-21; LK 2: 22-40**  
 5:00 pm Muoi Dang +

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

### CHRISTMAS READINGS

**VIGIL: IS 62: 1-5; ACTS 13: 16, 17, 22-25; MT 1: 18-25**  
**MIDNIGHT: IS 9: 1-6; TI 2: 11-14; LK 2: 1-14**  
**DAWN: IS 62: 11-12; TI 3: 4-7; LK 2: 15-20**  
**DAY: IS 52: 7-10; HEB 1: 1-6; JOHN 1: 1-18**

### CATHEDRAL PRAYER CORNER

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

### FESTIVAL OF TREES AND LIGHTS

#### RAFFLE WINNERS

Candice Chen – Grand Prize – Hawaiian Vacation 5 nights at the Aston Waikiki Circle Hotel

Dawn Ruffing - \$1000  
 Dawn Ruffing - \$500  
 Vic Sablan - \$250  
 Teresa Glenn - \$150  
 Daphne Ruffing - \$100  
 John Hertzog – Stained Glass Art – Horse theme  
 Shannon Lahey – 2 bottles of wine  
 Maximina Lopez – See’s Candy Gift Certificates  
 Dawn Ruffing – Dinnerware Hostess Set

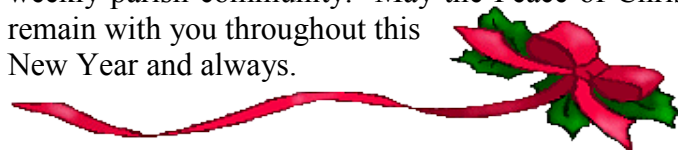


## WEEK AT A GLANCE

- SUN 12/25/2011**      **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**MON 12/26/2011**  
 6:30 pm Evening Prayer RCIA classes  
 7:00 pm RCIA Classes  
 7:30 pm SVDP Feed the Homeless Program
- TUES 12/27/2011**  
 7:00 pm Spanish Choir
- WED 12/28/2011**  
 7:00 pm Youth Group  
 7:00 pm Communion and Liberation
- THUR 12/29/2011**  
 7:00 pm Spanish Choir practice
- FRIDAY 12/30/2011**  
**SAT 12/31/2011**

**NOTE: All CCD classes are on vacation until January 7. The English Choir will be on tour in Spain December 28 through January 8.**

The priests and staff of the Cathedral Parish extend a warm welcome to those who infrequently participate in our liturgies every week. We hope you will consider coming to the Cathedral Church more often. Research has shown that the main reason Catholics come back to church is the Mass. They feel an intense longing for the Eucharist. Sometimes that longing hits them at a wedding, a First Communion, or a special occasion like Christmas. It is never too late to come home again, to become part of our weekly parish community. May the Peace of Christ remain with you throughout this New Year and always.



### EUCHARISTIC 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