

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 30, 2007

Over all (other virtues) put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

-Colossians 3:14

TRUST IN GOD

Saint Matthew's account of the flight into Egypt takes center stage today as we continue to follow the story of the Holy Family. Once again the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him to take the child Jesus and his mother to Egypt. Joseph heeds the command and takes them on what must have been a strenuous journey. Saint Matthew does not give us any of the details, but we can only imagine what this journey must have been like. Where did they eat? Where did they find shelter? What were the roads like? Was Joseph able to find work? The Holy Family survived in no small measure because they put their trust in God. This is exactly what today's feast calls us, God's holy family, to do.

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Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps. 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

New Years Day is a Holy Day of Obligation

On New Year's Day we celebrate **Holy Mary Mother of God**, a holy day of obligation. We will offer two Masses:

New Year's Eve at 6:30 pm

New Year's Day at 10:00 am.

Please attend one of these Masses. It is a good way to start the New Year.



Computer Class

Computer class for beginners will be held at St. Thomas More on Tuesday afternoons in January. Classes will begin January 8th and run through January 29th from 1pm-4pm.

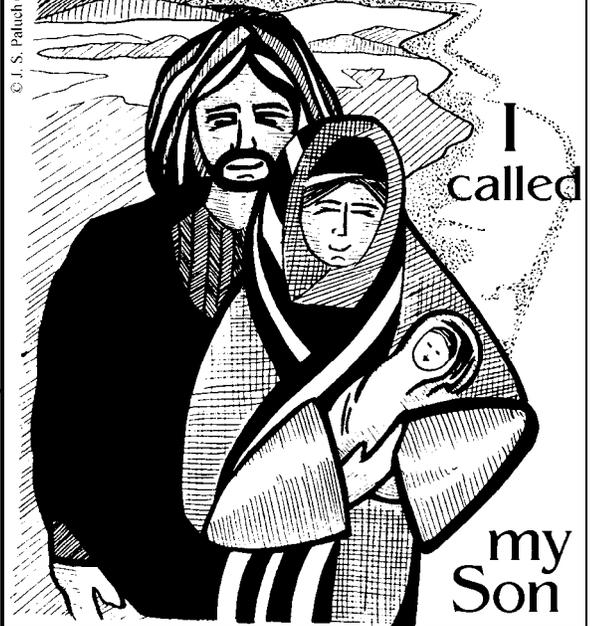
Please call Butchie Griffin at 877.1431 for information and to sign up. We currently have room for 10 students.



Please do not call the church office regarding the computer classes.

Out of Egypt

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Secular Franciscans

The Brothers and Sisters of Francis will be meeting on January 5, 2008 in the small conference room. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Secular Franciscans are invited to join us at 10am. Professed members and candidates will meet at 9am. Mass is at 8:30am.

The Secular Franciscans are a worldwide secular order dedicated to following the gospel life through the footsteps of St. Francis. This is a calling that requires discernment, lifelong devotion and commitment to the vows of obedience, poverty and chastity. If you feel you are up to the challenge feel free to come and find out what being a Secular Franciscan is all about. More information can be had at Dirk Wohlau, sfo 876.1613



Missal reading for December 30th is located on page 45.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Second Collection: St. Vincent de Paul
 Coffee and Donuts, St. Vincent de Paul



Monday, December 31

6:30pm Vigil Mass for Holy Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1

Holy Day of Obligation

The Octave Day of Christmas: The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
 World Day of Prayer for Peace
 New Year's Day

Parish Office Closed

10 am Mass



Wednesday, January 2

Parish Office Closed

NO Mother's and Others meeting

7:00pm Joyful Noise music practice, church

7:00pm Liturgy Board, small conf. room

Thursday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:15am Legion of Mary, small conf. room

7:00pm RCIA Inquiry, small conf. room

Friday, January 4

First Friday

9am-6pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am CRS Immigration Concerns film & discussion
 coffee served, small hall

9:30am Intercessory Prayer Group, small conf. room

10:30-Noon Table of Plenty Food Distribution, garage

Saturday, January 5

First Saturday

Second Collection: Building Repair & Maintenance, and Youth

9:00am Secular Franciscan meeting, small conf. room

Sunday, January 6

The Epiphany of the Lord

Second Collection: Building Repair & Maintenance, and Youth
 Coffee and Donuts: Ladies Guild

Scripture Classes will resume January 17th.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day on Friday January 4th. Adoration will begin after the 8:30am Mass and will last until 6:00pm.

Come spend time with Jesus.

Office Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

The parish office will be open Monday and closed Tuesday and Wednesday for New Years. Mass continues always as per the schedule for the Holy Day on the 1st and at the regular 8:30am schedule on Wednesday.



Special Thanks to Special Ladies

Some of the unsung heroes of our parish are those who work tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes. We have a group of ladies who take special care of the altar linens, purifiers, and other material used in the Mass. Every week they care for these items, cleansing them with their special care, and helping keep our services beautiful and Holy. Thank you ladies, one and all!



Father Steven Foppiano

God's Gardeners and Greg's Helpers

Thanks to those who help Greg Kidder keep our grounds beautiful and those who helped Peter Schrader and Greg to set up the nativity. What a beautiful job they did. Thank you from all of us!



Greg is always looking for more help. Fridays is the most common day to come in and help him but other days can be arranged. A few hours a week can go a long way toward keeping our parish a thing of beauty that attracts worshippers to God. Contact Greg at 877.4501.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

On this feast day we honor the holy family. The best way to give them honor is by bringing up your own family to know and love Jesus Christ and to understand the gift which Mary and Joseph helped bring into the world. It is a wonderful thing that God chose to bring salvation to the world with the very human help of Mary and Joseph. He thus allows humanity to participate in its own salvation.

You can give the Holy Family honor by honoring your own family. It too needs to participate in its own salvation. You can do this by making time for prayer, insisting on at least some meals to be taken together, by discussing your faith with your spouse and children and by sharing your faith with your extended family. The Church begins in the home. Without strong and holy families there will be no strong and holy Church.

By helping your family with its faith you help give witness to the Lord and you help your family lead lives that are fulfilling and happy. Do we really want our kids and loved ones to be obsessed with money and the pop culture? There is nothing wrong with success but without faith it becomes empty and self destructive. Only by keeping God near do we see life as the gift it is and live out lives that are pleasing to God, and to ourselves.

Take some time today to discuss God with your family and what your faith means to you or could mean to you. Allow them to share as well. What are you really looking for in life? In Jesus? In each other? How can the Church and your practiced faith help you better understand what God wants for you?



The Question of the Week is a great starting point. Prayer is a good follow up and scripture reading in the home can bring forth much of what God offers. Sunday Mass is a must and the Church offers many other programs and items to help you. Let today be that day in which you begin to make a positive change for your family. Let this day be the beginning of that new life found in Jesus Christ.

Father Steven Joppiano

Holy Mary Mother of God

This title drives many non-Catholics a bit nuts. They think we are declaring Mary is responsible for the existence of God. Well, she did birth Him into the world but we know this was the result of God's action as well as Mary's faith response.

Holy Mary Mother of God is an appropriate title for Mary and a theologically necessary one. It does two things. It affirms that Jesus is God and it gives witness to His being truly human. Only a human is born of a woman. In this case God chose Mary to be His vessel for arriving into our world. This was always God's plan, thus the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary being born without sin as was necessary for her to carry out God's plans. Jesus could not be born into the world subject to evil so Mary was kept free from sin from the beginning.

She is the Mother of God because she gave birth to Jesus. He is the Christ. "Jesus" is His human name and points to His human origin in Mary. Christ is a title and refers to Him being the Savior from heaven. Christ has always existed. The prologue of John explains the Christ is the creative Word of God that we find in Genesis. God merely speaks and things come into being.



Now the Christ has taken on human form. God humbles Himself to become a seed within Mary that will grow into a human child. God still exists eternally as God in the Father and Spirit but the Son now joins our human nature. He is born as any other child, helpless and dependent on others, but as He grows into adulthood the Christ in Him will become ever more evident. Finally it is fully called forth at the Resurrection.

In His rising from the dead, the Christ has shared with His human nature a divine gift. The Christ that always existed now shares with His human nature the gift of everlasting life. In doing so He extends that gift to all humanity. He makes us all children of God with a divine goal.

So Mary is the Mother of God because Jesus is God born into the world. Mary did not cause it to happen, she allows it to happen within her. She freely gives herself over to the Will of God. In doing so she becomes part of His divine plan. She becomes the first Christian and will follow her Son forever.

Father Steven Joppiano

New Evangelization Committee

Father Steven is looking for volunteers for a committee on Evangelization. The responsibility will be to meet once monthly (more if the committee decides) and plan strategies and efforts to bring back the many Catholics who



have dropped out of the parish or who never had come here in the first place. The emphasis will be on those who are already baptized into the faith, which may or may not have received their Sacraments but for who Church is not a major player in their lives. How do we reach them?

Other groups may be appealed to but the non churched Catholics will be the first priority. Contact Father Steven or set up an appointment at the office if you are interested in serving on this committee. 877-4501.

Daily Mass Intentions December 29 , 2007-January 6, 2008

Sat.	8:30am	Grace Couch †
	5:00pm	Lawrence Borg †
Sun.	8:00am	Intentions of Sharon Morris & family
	10:30am	STM Ladies Guild
	5:00pm	People of St. Thomas More
Mon.	8:30am	Ilda Reyes †
	6:30 pm	Intentions of David J. Brown
Tue.	10:00am	Tyson Nunes †
Wed.	8:30am	Jack Hockert †
Thur.	8:30am	Peter Sexton †
Fri.	8:30am	Intentions of Andy & Janet Bertagna
Sat.	8:30am	Jean Kless Iverson†
	5:00pm	Chuck and Carmen Waelbrock †
Sun.	8:00am	People of St. Thomas More
	10:30am	Al Ambrasini †
	5:00pm	Thomas Morris †

† Denotes deceased †

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Michelle Degmetich	Wendy Semon	Margaret Vandergrift
Kay De Prima	Larry & Ann Davis	Robert Bataglia
Elaine Stepp	Bill Mc Carrick	Jeanine Robb
Hanna Voelker	Bob Hess	Daran
Bob Wagner	Lorraine DaRosa	Rose Hassel
Bill Ware	Barbara Richmond	Schuyler Haynes
John Hale	Patty Caswell	Beau Masuen
Sherry Kuory	Howard Johnson	Carol Voss
David J. Brown	Nancy Barnes	Bill Smith
Bob Nute	Agnes Lynch	Hanna Voelker

Natural Family Planning

The Creighton Model Fertility Care system teaches couples how to live in harmony with God's gift of fertility, rather than looking for ways to alter or interrupt the natural process.

While highly effective at avoiding pregnancy, it is also used effectively to achieve pregnancy, making it a *true* method of family planning.



In addition, it can assist a trained medical consultant in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and other gynecologic problems. Our next Introductory Session is Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 7:30pm, at Mercy Women's Center, 650 Howe Ave., Suite 530, Sacramento.

Please call 916.614.2200 to pre-register.

For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.

- Saint Teresa of Avila

Question of the Week: December 30, 2007

Reading I: Sirach 3: 2-7,12-14 **Reading II:** Clossians 3: 12-21 **Gospel:** Matt 2: 13-15,19,23

Listen to the Word-What one word or thought in this reading really strikes you? What overall sense of the Christian life do you get from this reading?

Theme: We honor the relationships of parents and children.

Question for Adults: We are invited to let the word of Christ dwell within us and direct our daily lives. Which one of the life-style suggestions in this reading speaks most loudly to you?



Weekly Offering



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December 22, 23, & 25, 2007

Sunday Collections	\$	928.00
Christmas Collection	\$	11,827.00
Youth Group	\$	15.00
Retirement Fund	\$	100.00
Flower Fund	\$	40.00
	\$	12,910.00

Thank you for your generosity!

December ParishPay

Making it Easier to Give

www.parishpay.com

Sunday Collections	\$	2,478.33
Christmas Collection	\$	155.00
Youth Collection	\$	180.33
Building Maintenance	\$	110.33
Table of Plenty	\$	99.67
Wednesday Hot Lunch	\$	18.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	40.00
Table & Chairs for Hall	\$	10.00
Reach Out Account	\$	20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	15.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$	10.00
Special	\$	60.00
	\$	3,196.66

Inactive Catholic? Alienated Catholic? Confused Catholic?

If you've been away from the church or are drifting away, if you've been hurt by the church, or are confused or angry because of your Catholic experience, please consider our invitation to come and talk with us.

Just talk, we'll listen.

Inviting Catholics home is an 8 week series which begins on Monday January 7, 2008 at 1pm or 7pm. It is held in the small conference room.

For additional information please call coordinators Jean Pergande, at 873.6958 or Cathy Gunter at 877.3919



Table of Plenty Food Ministry

Table of Plenty has received food donations from several groups this holiday season. We are very thankful for their generosity and extend our appreciation to Achieve Charter School, Bell-Carter Foods., Campbell's Soup Co., Grocery Outlet, and Magalia

Youth Community Council. Our sincere thanks go out to all those who were involved in these food donations.

Table of Plenty is currently in need of **cereal, tuna, peanut**

butter, pasta, and pasta sauce. Non-perishable items may be left in the baskets in the vestibule. Thank you for sharing with those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:35,40



Immigration Film

The Peace and Justice Committee will be offering two showings of the film "A Line in the Sand: Stories from the U.S./Mexico Border". Rather than proposing solutions, this Catholic Relief Services production uses the power of theater to tell the personal stories of people, from border guards to immigrants, and to show how they are affected by U.S./Mexico border migration.

The first showing will be this Friday, January 4th at 9:30 AM. The second showing will be Monday evening, January 7th at 7 PM. Both showings will be in the Small Hall.



I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.

-Saint Francis

