

December 28, 2008

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

What have you waited a long time to see? How will you know when you're done waiting?

Simeon knew he would see the Messiah before he died. What did he expect to see? The day arrived when he knew he was done waiting.

Anna lived a long, widowed life. For decades she never stopped going to the Temple. Why was this day different? The moment she saw this child, she began praising God; redemption was here now.

Both waited a long time. When they saw this child, both knew their wait was over.

It's interesting to see the reaction in the child's parents when Simeon spoke about their

son: they were amazed. What had they expected to happen that day? The Law given through Moses told the child's father and mother when it was time for them to take him to the Temple. They were reaching into the deep roots of their tradition. Something different was happening this time. *They* had expected to fulfill what Moses had instructed them to do. Now they heard what the *child* would do.

Alternative readings for today's Mass offer two themes. One is how to get along in our families. The other is how to understand Abraham. These themes are like two bookends holding up Christian families today. Abraham's story of faith is shown to us in struggle, in anguish, and in the gifts of God. The book of Sirach speaks of *honor* and *respect*. Colossians would have us remember *compassion, kindness, humility, and patience*.

Families today know struggle and anguish. They can know the gift of God too. We know what waiting is. Yet we can remember the power of hope even when we are worried. We can recognize what faith looks like in very down-to-earth terms.



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Today's Readings

Sir 3:2-7, 12-14
or Gn 15:1-6;
21:1-3
Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or
Hb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19
Lk 2:22-40 or
2:22, 39-40

Liguori

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Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)
Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 27	6:00 PM	Peace	<i>Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Sunday	December 28	8:00 AM	Faithful Departed	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
		10:45 AM	Catie Lusk	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>La Familia Santa de Jesús, Mary, y Joseph</i>
Monday	December 29	8:45 AM	Irma Fuhrmann, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr</i>
Tuesday	December 30	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Weekday</i>
Wednesday	December 31	8:45 AM	Charles Milliken, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Sylvester I, pope</i>
Thursday	January 1	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving	<i>The Octave of Christmas</i>
Friday	January 2	8:45 AM	Catherine McClaine, RIP	<i>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God</i>
				<i>Memorial of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the church</i>
				<i>Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>
Saturday	January 3	6:00 PM	Our Community	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
Sunday	January 4	8:00 AM	Our Youth	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
		10:45 AM	Faithful Departed	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
		12:30 PM	Manuel & Martha Granado, RIP	<i>La Epifanía del Señor</i>

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTION

December 20-21
\$9,720.00



*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are A Gift from
Mike & Julie Gremminger
In Memory of The Sam Carter Family
and Walter & Louise Gremminger
And
The Milliken Family
In Memory of Charles Milliken*



Holy Family
Families need blessings of patience, forgiveness, gratefulness, and love. What will you do to show your love for your family? Ask for the grace to be holy. (Colossians 3:12-21)

La Sagrada Familia
Tuya no sera La Sagrada Familia, pero perteneces a una sagrada familia. Comparte una expresión de gratitud por el don de tu familia. Reza por la integridad y santidad de todos los miembros de la familia de Dios. (Colosenses 3:12-21)

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00
Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00
Total Contributions to Date—\$65,806.59
Interest Paid to Date—\$59,219.31

There will be no Religious Education Classes, Adult Bible Study, Adult Catechism, or breakfast on Sunday, December 28 and January 4. All classes and activities will resume as scheduled on January 11 at 9:15 and 11:15.

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thursday, January 1
10 AM

*The Church Office will be closed
December 24 - January 4.*

2009 COLLECTION ENVELOPES are available in the church foyer. They are arranged alphabetically, so it should be easy for you to find your name. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box for 2009, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

BULLETIN NOTICES. Because of the holidays, bulletin notices for the weekend January 2 & 3 are due in the church office by 12 Noon the Monday before.

ENGLISH BAPTISM INSTRUCTION CLASS normally scheduled for the 1st Thursday of the month will be re-scheduled for **Thursday, January 8, at 7 PM.** Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate.

HELP WANTED. Couples on Friday afternoon, 1-4 PM for Parker County Jail Ministry. **Wages:** Countless Blessings and a good deposit in your Heavenly account. **Contact:** Paul or Barb Claffey at 817-220-2681.

On January 17 and 18 we will be taking up a second collection for the Catholic Charities USA office in Puerto Rico (Cáritas de Puerto Rico). Cáritas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit outreach of the Catholic Church, and your donations make an enormous difference in the lives of the people living there.

Facts About Puerto Rico

- Last major unincorporated U.S. Territory.
- Caribbean island about the size of Connecticut.
- Everyone born there is a U.S. citizen; 4 million American citizens live in Puerto Rico.
- 50% of the people live below the poverty line; 15% unemployment.
- By far, the poorest place in America; poorer than Louisiana, Mississippi or Appalachia.
- 85% of the 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico are Catholic.

El 17 y 18 de enero, llevaremos a cabo una colecta para la oficina de Catholic Charities USA en Puerto Rico (Cáritas de Puerto Rico). Cáritas es una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) de la Iglesia Católica, y sus donativos hacen una gran diferencia en las vidas de los puertorriqueños más necesitados.

Hechos sobre Puerto Rico

- El último mayor territorio no incorporado de los EE. UU.
- Una isla caribeña que supera el tamaño de Connecticut.
- Todos los nacidos allí son ciudadanos de los EE.UU.; 4 millones de ciudadanos americanos viven en Puerto Rico.
- 50% de la gente vive bajo el nivel de pobreza; y hay un 15% de desempleo.
- En gran medida, es el lugar más pobre de los Estados Unidos: más pobre que Louisiana, Mississippi o Appalachia.
- 85% de los 4 millones de ciudadanos americanos viviendo en Puerto Rico son católicos.

2009 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE-THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

WHO: Girls and Boys Ages 10-14
Proof of age and written parental consent required
WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2009
Registration at 8:30 AM, Start at 9:00 AM
WHERE: Poolville Jr. High Gym, 16025 FM 920, Poolville
CONTACT: Jesse Chavez 817-269 4865 or Chuck Schabow
817-597-6120

Come and See Weekend— Learn what it means to be a prophet in our time. January 16-18, 2009 (5 PM on Friday until noon on Sunday); Holy Spirit Convent, 301 Yucca Street, San Antonio, TX 78203. Any woman (between ages 18 and 45) who feels God is inviting her to be a Sister of the Holy Spirit! For more information contact Sister Gabriel Hession at 210-533-5149, sghession@hotmail.com or call Sr. Mildred at 817-596-9587. **Pick up flyer to register in the church office—deadline to register January 11.**

Ministry Formation Day, Saturday, January 10, 2009, Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth, TX 76103, 8 AM—3 PM. To register call 817-560-3300 or call the church office at 817-596-9585.

Día de Formación. El sábado 10 de enero 2009, Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth TX 76103. 8 AM—3 PM. Registrar llamada 817-560-3300 o llamar la oficina de iglesia en 817-596-9585.

Respect Life Mass. Please join Most Reverend Kevin Vann, Bishop of Fort Worth, on **Friday, January 16, 2009** for the Annual **Respect Life Mass** at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, TX. Mass will be at 7 PM.

Retrouvaille is a program sponsored by the Fort Worth Catholic Family Life Office. It is designed to heal and renew troubled or unhappy marriages. The next weekend program is January 16-18, 2009. For more information or registration call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.retrouvaille.org. All names and conversation will be kept confidential.

TEEN CORNER

YOUTH GROUP. Our next meeting will on **Wednesday, January 7, 2009.**

PURE REALITY RALLY: SIGN-UP NOW—STILL TIME.

Youth rally for grades 8-12 presented by the Catholic Pro-Life Committee and Catholics Respect Life on **Sunday, February 8, 2009, 4-9:30 PM in Arlington.** The rally will focus on teaching teens that chastity and abstinence are the true paths to freedom. Cost is \$25.00 to include transportation, entrance, dinner, and t-shirt. Contact Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872 or Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All activities held at Bethel Road)

Thursday, January 1
10:00 AM The Octave of Christmas
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God
Friday, January 2
7:30 PM Adoration of the Sacred Heart
Saturday, January 3
7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Bilingual

dear Padre

Monday December 29



The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday December 30



The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12-17 / Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday December 31



The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

Thursday January 1



Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Friday January 2



Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28 / Jn 1:19-28

Saturday January 3



Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Sunday January 4



The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

How do I explain unanswered prayers?

Q My son and his wife recently separated. My eight-year-old granddaughter has been praying for their reconciliation and recently asked me why God “won’t make them love each other again.” What do I tell her?

Heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken,

I’m sure your granddaughter has heard people, maybe even you, talk about having their prayers answered. Therefore, it’s logical that she would question why God hasn’t quickly answered a prayer as important as this one.

Explain to your granddaughter that God doesn’t “make” us do anything. He gave us the Ten Commandments and told us how to live our lives in the best way possible, but it’s completely up to us to live our lives the best we can.

Make it clear to your granddaughter that if her parents don’t get back together it won’t be God’s fault, nor will it be her fault. It may not even be her parents’ “fault.” You will probably need to remind her of this more than once.

Encourage your granddaughter to continue praying, but instead of asking God to make

her parents reconcile, she should ask God to give her and the rest of her family the strength to accept whatever changes lie ahead. She may be a little young to understand that, while prayers should be very specific in some circumstances, at other times the best prayer opens us up and places our trust in God’s hands.

Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.



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