

Christmas 2004 & Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Parishioners,

There are some words in the Christmas story that leap out and touch our hearts. The words of the angel to the shepherds: "I proclaim to you good news of great joy. Today there is born for you, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!" Similar words stand out in the reading from Paul to Titus: "The grace of God has appeared, saving all..."

Our reaction to the Feast of Christmas should embody some of the feelings of these words and should lead us to seek what the Scriptures call: "peace to people of good will."

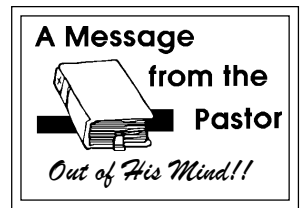
I've often thought that Christmas will have the most meaning for those who know that they need a Savior! The language and the imagery of the Christmas story certainly highlight the reality of the poverty in which Christ Jesus was born; the economically poor can identify with that easier than you and I who have spent a great deal of money on gifts and decorations for Christmas. The economically poor, throughout the world, need help. They know that they need a Savior.

The word, "Savior," itself highlights that someone is in need of being saved! And unless you and I admit that there is something wrong in our lives, something about which we are not in control, we will not need nor experience a desire for a Savior. The question should bother us: What do I need salvation from: greed, self complacency, having too much, not sharing enough, insensitivity to the sufferings of others, unawareness of the immense problems in the world around us. We often spend much of our time trying to insulate ourselves from all these realities and these sufferings. But rather than insulate ourselves from them by frantic activities and buying, maybe we need to humbly say: "Lord have mercy on me, a poor sinner." And then we will know we need a Savior.

Finally, we will all say many times in the next few days, "I wish you a Merry Christmas." And this is where the "peace of the Lord" must enter in. The Lord's peace is a balance between our own personal awareness of our failures, our needs, our goodness and the experience we have had of God's forgiveness, our experience of the gift of His salvation in our lives. God's peace blends together our desire for goodness, our openness to Christ's love, our struggles for goodness in our lives and in the world, and our willingness to do whatever God inspires us to do to help others and to make the world a better place.

"God's peace to those of good will" is an active peace that brings with it a sense of purpose, a sense of accomplishment, a desire to better our world, a willingness to be misunderstood and to struggle for justice in the world, peace amongst nations, Christian forgiveness in our dealings with one another, a trust that if we do our best, God will give us peace. Have a happy, blessed and peace-filled Christmas!

Fr. Dan and the Parish Staff



Thank You/Muchas Gracias!!!

A special thank you to all who donated poinsettias or money towards the decorations of our church and chapel and to all who gave their time to help prepare the environment for our Christmas celebrations. Your time, talents, and gifts are most appreciated.

Damos las gracias a todas aquellas personas que donaron flores ó dinero para comprarlas para decorar la iglesia y la capilla. Gracias también a todos por su tiempo que dieron para adornar y preparar para la celebración de Navidad. Apreciamos de todo corazón su tiempo, talentos y donaciones.

Weekly Collection Report

December 18/19

Weekly Goal: \$ 21,000
Actual: \$ 16,648

Thank you for your continued support to the works of our Parish.

St. Mary School Office: (408) 842-2827

Happy Holidays!

The students, faculty and staff of Saint Mary School extend wishes for a happy and holy Christmas and all the best in the New Year. The School Office will be closed from December 17 at 1:00 p.m. until school resumes on Monday, January 3, 2005 at 8:15 a.m.

An Evening of Wine Tasting



St. Mary School Development Office will host an Evening of Wine Tasting at Leal Vineyards in Hollister. This evening will benefit the St. Mary School Endowment Fund. We invite you to join us on Saturday, February 5, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. for wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. The cost is \$35 per person. For reservations or information please call Vicki at 842-8425.

Tree of Hope

Thanks to all who have given so generously to the Tree of Hope. We appreciate the gifts, turkeys, canned and dry goods.

Thank you for sharing the magic of Christmas!



2005 Calendars & A Note of Thanks!



St. Mary Parish wants to thank the Habing Family Funeral Home for the beautiful 2005 calendars.

Please take one home today!!

Queridos Hermanos:

Cristo vino a traer la alegre esperanza de una vida nueva, que llene esa esperanza sus corazones y les alegre siempre con el amor y la buena voluntad, a fin de que podamos ir compartiendo en el encuentro diario con quienes nos aman y a quien amamos, y derramemos la luz en aquellos que viven lejos de nosotros y que nos desconocen pero que invitamos a vivir esta alegre noticia.

Espero que todas las familias de la comunidad hayan pasado una muy alegre navidad, y hayan compartido con sus familiares y amigos no solamente los deseos de una vida mejor sino que la reunión haya sido el comienzo de muchas cosas buenas, siempre pensando en la ternura que el nacimiento de Cristo ha despertado en nuestros corazones y que siempre cuidaremos que siga creciendo y dándose a conocer entre nosotros y la comunidad.

Así podremos desde esta realidad seguir anunciando al mundo y a otras familias que Cristo ha nacido, ya no en Belén sino aquí, entre nosotros y que su amor reina entre nuestras familias, que ya los padres de familia, se dejan conducir por esa figura amable y justa de José, que se supo abrir al llamado de Dios Padre y cuidó con amor de María y el niño, así, hoy los padres cuidan de su familia, las mujeres toman el papel de madres a ejemplo de María, sencilla y humilde, inteligente y llena de fe y ternura, y los hijos a ejemplo de Jesús creciendo en sabiduría y estatura, en un respeto profundo por su autoridad y atentos al llamado de su amor.

FELIZ NAVIDAD! Y QUE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA SIGA SIENDO UN MODELO PARA LAS NUESTRAS EN NUESTROS TIEMPOS.

Dios les bendiga y proteja siempre con su eterno y misericordioso amor.

Fraternalmente,

P. Francisco



Les damos a todos la más cálida bienvenida y nos alegramos con los que nos visitan y se unen con nosotros en la celebración de la Eucaristía este fin de semana.

Si usted es nuevo en esta comunidad parroquial, le invitamos a llenar la forma incluida en este boletín y le enviaremos por correo el paquete de membresía.

El Arbol de la Esperanza

Les damos las gracias a todas las personas que tan generosamente han dado al "Arbol de la Esperanza."

Les pedimos que sigan compartiendo comida en bote, harina, pastas y arroz. Los invitamos a dejar su donación junto al Arbol.

Gracias por compartir la Magia de Navidad!!

Calendarios 2005 &
Una Nota de Agradecimiento!



La Parroquia de Santa María agradece a la Funeraria Habing por los hermosos calendarios.

Por favor lleven uno a su casa!

Catechetical Ministry

Office: (408) 847-2652

Religious Education classes will resume for children on January 2, 3, & 4, 2005.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!

We invite you to bring your children to the Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. to enjoy the Parish Christmas Pageant.



The Youth Group will not meet this Sunday, so they can enjoy this season with their families.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

Masses for the Week

December 2004/January 2005

Mon	27	7:15am	Dolores Semino
		8:30am	Gracias al Divino Jesus
Tue	28	7:15am	Jacinto Jaso
		8:30am	Jesus & Amando Blanco
Wed	29	7:15am	Saint Jude
		8:30am	Mike Pirozzoli (A)
		12:10pm	Rosa Cunha & Jose Jesus Guerrero (A)
Thu	30	7:15am	Joseph Vuky & Vu Ngoan
		8:30am	Ramona Santamaria
Fri	31	7:15am	Joseph Dellanini (A)
		8:30am	Thomas Medeiros
Sat	01		Solemnity of Mary

(A) Anniversary of Death

(MM) Months Mind

An offering to the work of the Parish has been made in memory of, or on behalf of, these persons who are hereby included in the special prayers of our community at our daily Masses this week.

The priests of the Parish celebrate Sunday Eucharist for the intentions of all the Parish. Please pray for the ill of the Parish and for the recently deceased, especially for Manuel Reyes and Eleanor Silacci.

