

# WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH



*"Rejoice,  
O highly favored daughter!  
The Lord is with you."*



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
ADVENT

Dec. 18, 2011

- Luke 1: 28

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Schedule of Masses for Christmas



#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24, 2011  
8:30 am Mass  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Children's Mass)  
11:00 pm - 11:45 pm Christmas Carols  
12:00 am Midnight Mass

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2011  
7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:00 noon  
\* NO 5:00 pm Mass \*

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday, December 31, 2011  
8:30 am Mass  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Sunday, January 01, 2012  
(Holy Day of Obligation)  
7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:00 noon ~ 5:00 pm

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE LORD'S EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 08, 2012  
7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:00 noon ~ 5:00 pm



### From The Parish Office . . .

In celebration of the upcoming holiday season, our Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

- ◆ December 23<sup>rd</sup>      ◆ December 26<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ December 30<sup>th</sup>      ◆ January 2, 2012

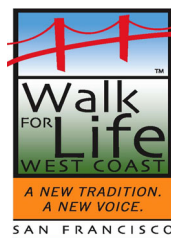
### Merry Christmas!



*The staff and office volunteers together with their families had their Annual Christmas Party at the rectory last Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Good food, drinks and laughter were shared by everyone!*



The Knights of Columbus will collect blankets, coats, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens **after every Mass until the weekend of December 17 - 18**. Items must be new or gently used, clean and for adults only. The donations collected will be given to a local charity. For further questions, **please call Ron Martin at (916) 419-4827**. If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact **Eric Watson at (916) 419-9940** or **Bill Gilsdorf at (916) 285-6067**.



Divine Mercy Catholic Church will have a pilgrimage bus trip to the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast Walk For Life in San Francisco on Saturday, January 21, 2012**. Cost is **\$25 for adults and \$20 for 18 years or younger**. Tickets can be purchased at the **Parish Office** or contact **Jim Stutz at (916) 285-0706**.

**SIMBANG GABI**



*Simbang Gabi*  
*A Nine Day Nightly Celebration Of Masses*

December 15 - 23, 2011  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Divine Mercy Catholic Church  
 2231 Club Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95835

For more information, please contact **Johneli Ignacio (916) 339-7164, Parish Office - Michelle (916) 256-3134** or email **SG@divinemergynatomas.com**. If you would like to be a sponsor or offer thanksgiving, please contact **Vicky Watson at (916) 419-9940**. We also have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Maraming Salamat Po! Thank You!*



We would like to sincerely thank **JOHN KLOTZ and EUGENE DECLARADOR** for building the stand for the Our Lady of Guadalupe statue. Our heartfelt thanks for your great job!

**FOOD FOR THE POOR**



**THANK YOU** so much for all your donations of non-perishable food items for the poor! **Special thanks to the Youth Ministry for their successful "Hunt to Fight Hunger Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt"**. Our needy brothers and sisters served by Our Lady of Lourdes

Parish and Operation Cratchit-Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center's Christmas Basket Program benefited from your great generosity. **Our sincerest appreciation to Kahleen Hack for patiently dropping the donated items to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.** *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." - Matthew 5:7*

*Thank You*

We wish to thank the following volunteers who helped with the installation of the projectors in time for the Capital Campaign Kick-Off and implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Roman Missal:

Leo Villacampa and Family  
 Jim Fisher  
 Jun Delfin  
 Elvis Molina  
 Eugene Declarador  
 Albert Aninzo

Thank you for all your hard work!

**REMINDER**

Please email your bulletin items by **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm** to be included in the January 1, 2012 bulletin.

Thank you.

**ST. FAUSTINA'S ROSARY MAKERS**



**St. Faustina's Rosary Makers normally gathers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 pm** to make rosaries and provide them to missions abroad and those in need who cannot otherwise afford one.

If you are interested in participating, please send email to **faustinas\_rosaries@sbcglobal.net** or call **Eric Watson at (916) 419-9940**.

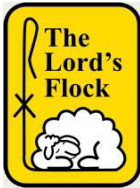
**St. Faustina's Rosary Makers** has a stock of rosaries available for purchase to give as gifts on birthdays and holidays. Please consider a new rosary for yourself or as a gift for family and friends. ALL proceeds are used to make mission rosaries for those less fortunate.



**TAGALOG MASS**

Please join us as we celebrate **Tagalog Mass on JANUARY 14, 2012 at 6:30 pm (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month)**

## THE LORD'S FLOCK



Every Saturday at 7:00 pm (7:30 pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays) at the Divine Mercy Narthex.

For more information about The Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Community, please contact Sis. Dina Espino at (916) 595-8006, Bro. Derick Santiago at (916) 439-3351, Bro. Rudy Bonifacio at (916) 849-7685 or Bro. Danny Barnaja at (916) 201-4344 or you can visit our website at <http://www.lordsflock.org/>

### "Waiting"



The question is: *Is the humanity of our time still waiting for a Savior?* One has the feeling that many consider God as foreign to their own interests. Apparently, they do not need him. They live as though he did not exist and, worse still, as though he were an "obstacle" to remove in order to fulfill themselves. Even among believers - we are sure of it - some let themselves be attracted by enticing dreams and distracted by misleading doctrines that suggest deceptive shortcuts to happiness. Yet, despite its contradictions, worries and tragedies, and perhaps precisely because of them, humanity today seeks a path of renewal, of salvation, it seeks a Savior and awaits, sometimes unconsciously, the coming of the Savior who renews the world and our life, the coming of Christ, the one true Redeemer of man and of the whole of man.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, December 20, 2006

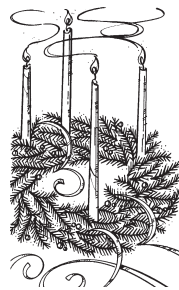


### "Preparation"

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore, let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

~ General Audience, December 17, 2008

These quotes and reflections from the Holy Father, are excerpted from "Christmas: Pope Benedict XVI Spiritual Thoughts Series." [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)



## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION MINISTRY

### HOLY COMMUNION AND THE EUCHARIST

(Part 2)

Hidden Jesus, in You lies all my strength. From my most tender years, the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament has attracted me to Himself. Once, when I was seven years old, at a Vesper Service, conducted before the Lord Jesus in the monstrance, the love of God was imparted to me for the first time and filled my little heart; and the Lord gave me understanding of divine things. From that day, until this, my love for the hidden God has been growing constantly to the point of closest intimacy. All the strength of my soul flows from the Blessed Sacrament. I spend all my free moments in conversation with Him. He is my Master. **(1404)**



When I steeped myself in prayer, I was transported in spirit to the Chapel, where I saw the Lord Jesus, exposed in the Monstrance. In place of the Monsrance I saw the glorious face of the Lord, and He said to me, "*What you see in reality, these souls see through faith. Oh, how pleasing to Me is their great faith! You see, although there appears to be no trace of life in Me, in reality it is present in its fullness in each and every Host. But for Me to be able to act upon the soul, the soul must have faith. O how pleasing to Me is living faith!*" **(1420)**

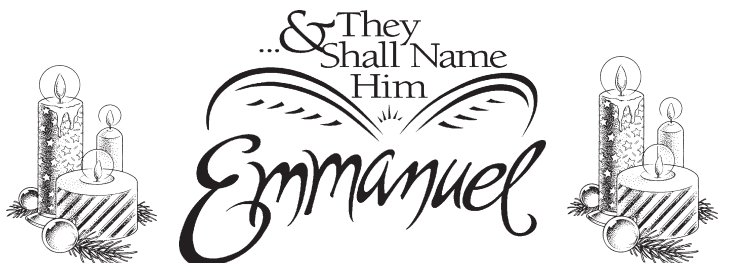
*But understand that the strength by which you bear sufferings comes from frequent Communion. So approach this fountain of mercy often, to draw with the vessel of trust whatever you need.* **(1487 - Jesus to Suffering Souls)**

*My child, that you may answer My call worthily, receive Me daily in Holy Communion. It will give you strength.* **(1489)**



I saw how unwillingly the Lord Jesus came to certain souls in Holy Communion. And He spoke these words to me: *I enter into certain hearts as into a second Passion.* **(1598)**

*Now you shall consider My love in the Blessed Sacrament. Here, I am entirely yours, soul, body and divinity, as your Bridegroom. You know what love demands: one thing only, reciprocity.* **(1770)**



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**December 17 Saturday**

7:30pm Olive Neri (*Birthday*)

**December 18 Sunday**

7:30am Divine Mercy Parishioners (*Pro Populo*)  
 9:30am Vicente Orillo †, Elena Mohs †  
 12noon Maria Cariño †, Karen Ann Crespo (*Speedy Recovery*)  
 5:00pm David Momoh (*Speedy Recovery*),  
 Harvey Parker †, Felizarda Miguel †

**December 19 Monday**

6:30pm Socorro Baron (*Special Intention*)

**December 21 Wednesday**

7:30pm Dominador Aganon †,  
 Jeffrey Lagman (*Birthday*)

**December 22 Thursday**

8:30am Isaac Gomez †,  
 Violet Stenhouse †



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

*"In the Eucharistic celebration, the Son of God comes to meet us. In Eucharistic adoration, we go to meet the Son of God."*  
 ~ Pope Benedict XVI



**We have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday of the month.** Adorers are needed to fill the hours from **9:00 am to 6:00 pm.** We would like to have **at least two people commit to each hour.**

If you would like to participate in this ministry of prayer in the Real Presence of Jesus, please call **Cora Belen at (916) 419-5662 or (408) 761-2493.**



**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**December 19 Monday**

7:30pm Simbang Gabi (5<sup>th</sup> Day)

**December 20 Tuesday**

6:30pm K of C Officers' Meeting  
 7:30pm Simbang Gabi (6<sup>th</sup> Day)

**December 21 Wednesday**

10:00am School of the Faith (Narthex)  
 6:30pm Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
 7:30pm Simbang Gabi (7<sup>th</sup> Day)

**December 22 Thursday**

7:30pm Simbang Gabi (8<sup>th</sup> Day)  
 7:00pm Rosary in Spanish

**December 23 Friday**

9:00am Altar Society - Flower Arranging (Narthex)  
 3:00pm Holy Hour  
 7:30pm Simbang Gabi (9<sup>th</sup> Day)

**December 24 Saturday**

3:45pm Confession  
 5:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
 12:00am Midnight Mass

**December 25 Sunday**

7:30am Mass  
 9:30am Mass  
 12noon Mass  
 NO 5:00 PM MASS



**Remember Those in the Military**

**Saints & Readings for the Week**

**4- Sun ADVENT • 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38**  
**Monday • Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 / Lk 1:5-25**  
**Tuesday • Isa 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38**  
**Wed • St Peter Canisius (Ch Dr) • Sg2: 8-14 or Zep 3:14-18 / Lk 1:39-45**  
**Thursday • 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56**  
**Friday • St John of Kanty • Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66**  
**Saturday • BVM • 2 Sm 7:1-5 8-12, 14, 16 / Lk 1:67**  
**Christmas (Jesus' Birthday) • Isa 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn1:1-18**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

- |                        |                     |                   |                    |                       |                   |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Sarah Adjemian         | Raymundo Briones    | Tracy Fejeran     | Liwayway Magsarili | Arsenia Nudas         | Stacie Shaffer    |
| Consolatrix Ageas      | Gemma Caliguiran    | S. Fernandez      | Jun Malabunga      | Isle Nziramazanga     | Alfreda Sim       |
| Adam Agot              | Gloria Caliguiran   | Albina Francisco  | Lourdes Malabunga  | Nathaniel Offenheiser | Juanita Sonja     |
| Aldan Family           | Joanne A. Cepeda    | Gambrell Family   | Tony Manalo        | Fernando Omega        | Bill Spallas      |
| Muriel Alex            | Cesar Chaves        | Mercedes Gatus    | Cindy Marek        | Alden Ortiz           | Will Sutter       |
| Oma Alice              | Mr. Colvis          | Emmanuel Gonzalez | Dominga Marzan     | Van Ostrand           | Matt Thode        |
| Shauna Anderson        | Austin Cooper       | Amelia Guibao     | Susan Mejares      | Mario Pagaragan       | Damacia Torres    |
| Aristotle Arreola, Sr. | Raymond Cruz        | Jocella Gutierrez | Benny Melendez     | Fam Peralta           | Narciso Torres    |
| Christopher Balaoro    | Cruz Family         | Jose Gutierrez    | Mesa Family        | Sharen Phillips       | Nanay Trias       |
| Ester Bandong          | Anthony Dang        | Forrest Huff      | Rosalina Miles     | Teresa Ponciano       | Zenaida Uson      |
| Ken Benavente          | Hung Dang           | Mary Isham        | Tyronne Miles      | Florencio Recendiz    | Marlyn Q. Uy      |
| Benavente Family       | Walter Dennis       | Kent Kim          | Leticia Mostajo    | W. Lee Roberts        | Maria J. Vakaahi  |
| Isabelo Bolongaita     | Dueñas Family       | Joe King          | Rico Mostajo       | Jesus Rojas           | Tessie Villanueva |
| Marcelina Brecht       | Maria Elena         | Pricilla Lazo     | Boy Neri           | Sharon Ross           | Phin Vu           |
| Natividad Briones      | Shirley Espiritu    | Lucila Liwanag    | Chason Neri        | Armando Sagario       | Marvin Williams   |
|                        | Evangelista Estaris | Judith Lladoc     | Rica Norbraten     | Pedro Santos          | Aaron Yan         |

**...and all in need of prayers including those who serve in the Military.**

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In the **First Reading**, we hear about another covenant God made. Many covenants are made in the Old Testament between God and His people: with Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua and here we find the one with David. David wants to build the Lord a temple to house the Arc of the Covenant. The Lord, however, seems to be more interested in fidelity to Him, than in a building. He promises David a dynasty wherein his sons will reign forever, if they remain faithful to the Lord. The Lord promises a father's closeness and love for his son. This promise or covenant, with David came to fruition in Jesus, a son of David.

The **Responsorial** celebrates the Lord's fidelity to His covenants and promises to David and Israel. His fidelity is rock solid, His love like a father's, and as Savior, He always rescues us from our enemies. Our only response can be praise.

The **Second Reading** is a hymn of praise (*doxology*), as is often found at the end of St. Paul's Letters. He celebrates the Lord's goodness and fidelity to His promises. As He fulfilled His promises of old, so now again, through the birth of the Savior in our midst. This miracle of Jesus' birth, of grace in our world, is proclaimed to all nations of the earth.

Today's **Gospel**, is the Annunciation account, wherein Jesus becomes incarnate into the world via Our Lady. The dialogue between the angel Gabriel and Mary is given. She was already filled with grace prior to his arrival, hence his greeting, 'Hail, full of grace!' Our Lady is well disposed, by Her Immaculate Conception, to respond to God's invitation with great generosity, even though She does not fully understand. She has



**'Hail, full of grace!'** placed herself at God's disposal. Contrary to worldly logic, Her virginity will remain intact while she gives birth to God's son, Jesus. God gifting St. Elizabeth with a child is a sign and precursor of His ability to overcome nature, for nothing is impossible to Him; so certainly the Virgin Mary can bear Jesus, the Eternal King, while remaining a virgin. We are overcome with awe. May we be ready to receive Him.

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**MONTHLY DRAWING**

Please use your envelopes or ePay when you make your donations and qualify to participate in the monthly prize drawing. The drawing prizes are donated and will not be paid from the church collections. If you need collection envelopes or information on the ePay system, please contact the Parish Office.



NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP every Wednesday during the 6:30 pm Mass.




Everyone is invited to pray the **Rosary in Spanish** every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Church.



*"Bonded by Love, Building Our Stairway to Heaven" Campaign Prayer*

*God, Our Father, we come to you with a grateful heart for everything you have given us. You called us to be bonded by love and to offer our time, talent and treasure for the needs of our parish family. As we face our challenges ahead, fill us with faith and hope. Give us a spirit of cooperation; create in us a wise and generous heart that knows how to face the responsibilities and challenges of our parish project. We know there is much to do, but we believe that our goals are rooted in your promise. We ask you to guide us, send the Holy Spirit to give us strength. Divine Mercy, have mercy on us now and forever. Amen.*



**SECOND COLLECTION**  
December 17 - 18  
**CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION**



**SHARING OUR TREASURE**

Offertory Collections	
20-Nov	\$ 7,267
27-Nov	\$ 6,535
04-Dec	\$ 6,844
11-Dec	\$ 9,326
Goal This Week	\$ 8,000
<b>Variance this Week</b>	<b>\$ 1,326</b>
FY Collection to Date	\$ 163,624
<b>Deficit to Date</b>	<b>\$ (28,376)</b>

Building Fund Collections	
20-Nov	\$ 876
27-Nov	\$ 5,246
04-Dec	\$ 7,978
11-Dec	\$ 2,235
<b>FY Collection to Date</b>	<b>\$ 63,743</b>

Special Collections	
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 906
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,504
Christmas Flowers	\$ 847

*Thank you for your generous financial contributions to support Parish operations and repayment of our loan obligation.*

## News From Around The Diocese



### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT POSADA

Join us for the first ever **Diocese of Sacramento Posada Juvenil (Posada for Youth)** at **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Sacramento on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm.** Try something new. Bring your entire group for Mass with Bishop Soto, Food, Music, Piñatas and lots of Fun! Bring a dessert or Pan Dulce to share. **Contact Karla Marquez for more information at (916) 733-0151.**

### STO. NIÑO FIESTA



Everyone is cordially invited to the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sto. Nino Fiesta Celebration!**

**When:** January 14, 2012

**Where:** Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 1017 11<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95814

**Mass starts at 11:00 am,** reception follow at the lower level of the Cathedral

**Main Celebrant:** Bishop Jaime Soto

**Concelebrants:** Rev. Michael Kiernan and Rev. Arlon Vergara

### YOUNG ADULT E-CONFERENCE

Join us for the First Annual State-Wide Catholic e-Conference for young adults (20's and 30's) by going to <http://yacatholicyouth.com> on **January 25, 26, & 27 at 9:30 pm** and joining us for one of two live events at **St. Rose in Sacramento, CA** and at a parish in **Orange, CA** that start at **6:00 pm.** Speakers will be announced soon at <http://youngadultconversion.com>.

### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

Join parents from all over the diocese for an excellent talk on **Theology of the Body for parents of teens.** **Brian Butler** will speak on *"Love and Relationships: Building a Culture of Chastity in Your Home"* at **St. Clare Catholic Church in Roseville on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** Admission is FREE. A free will donation will be taken to defray the costs of the event. Please contact **Kevin Staszko** for more information at **(916) 733-0152.**

### MONTHLY ROSARY FOR PRIESTS



You are invited to join in a special **monthly Rosary for Priests** at **Easter's Catholic Books and Gifts, 5290 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95841** on the **last Saturday of every month.** This month the rosary will be on **Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am.** This Rosary includes all four mysteries, with special prayers for priests before each decade.

Mark your calendars for the **last Saturday of every month** and come to **Easter's on New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am.** As Catholics, we do have a very important duty to **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS.** For more information, please call **Easter's at (916) 338-7272.**

### VOCATIONS ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

The Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations invites community members to visit our seminarian website [considerpriesthood.com](http://considerpriesthood.com) to become familiar with the seminarians of the Diocese of Sacramento who are discerning a vocation to priesthood. If you would like to contact the **Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations,** you may call **(916) 733-0258** or email [callserve@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:callserve@diocese-sacramento.org).

#### Vocations Annual Celebration Dates:

- National Vocation Awareness Week, January 9 - 14, 2012
- World Day for Consecrated Life, February 5, 2012
- World Day of Prayer, April 29, 2012



### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS

The Diocese of Sacramento is sponsoring trainer and speaker **Brian Butler** for two training days on **Theology of the Body for Teens.** On **Tuesday, January 24, 2012 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm** at **St. Clare in Roseville** he will train participants on Theology of the Body for Middle School Students and on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Fairfield** he will train participants on Theology of the Body for High School students. **Trainings cost \$45 each** and include lunch, a Leader's Guide for Ascension Press' program, plus many helpful handouts and other materials. Register online at <http://icatholicyouth.com>. For more information, please email **Kevin** at [kstaszko@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:kstaszko@diocese-sacramento.org).