WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas

December 25, 2011

"Come adore the Lord."

- Alleluia Verse: John 1

"Today a great light has come to the earth."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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

Our CFF students held a successful ***Christmas Pageant last Sunday, December 18th****. Parents, friends and their families enjoyed a re-enactment of the Nativity scene. Light refreshments and snacks were shared by all after the presentation.*

From The Parish Office . . .

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

- **December 26th**
- **December 30th**
- **January 2, 2012**

The Knights of Columbus Council 14158 meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.** 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.**

Simbang Gabi

*The **3rd Annual Simbang Gabi** kicked off to a great start with about 300 people participating each night.*

***Fr. Soane Kaniseli and Fr. Bert Selga concelebrated with Fr. Aldo Ranin** to start the nine-day nightly celebration of Masses in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.*

The Mass is immediately followed by a simple potluck fellowship in the narthex in which our parishioners brought their favorite dishes to share. THANK YOU to all those who made this another successful year for our Simbang Gabi.

"Sign"

God's sign is His humility. God's sign is that He makes Himself small; He becomes a child; He lets us touch Him and He asks for our love. How we would prefer a different sign, an imposing, irresistible sign of God's power and greatness! But His sign summons us to faith and love, and thus it gives us hope: this is what God is like. He has power, He is Goodness itself. He invites us to become like Him. Yes indeed, we become like God if we allow ourselves to be shaped by this sign; if we ourselves learn humility and hence true greatness; if we renounce violence and use only the weapons of truth and love.

~ Homily at Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 24, 2009

Excerpted from "Christmas: Pope Benedict XVI Spiritual Thoughts Series." www.usccb.org

Divine Mercy Catholic Church will have a pilgrimage bus trip to the **8th 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.**

ST. FAUSTINA'S ROSARY MAKERS

St. Faustina's Rosary Makers normally gathers on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th 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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION MINISTRY

OBEDIENCE

(During a time of suffering) Mother came at once. As soon as she entered the cell she said, *"In the name of holy obedience get up from the ground."* Immediately some force raised me up from the ground and I stood up , close to the dear Mother Directress. **(24)**

By **obedience** you give great glory to Me and gain merit for yourself. **(28)**

However, in all these sufferings and struggles, (Saint Faustina was undergoing intense spiritual trials) I was not omitting Holy Communion. When it seemed to me that I should not communicate, I went, before Holy Communion, to the Directress and told her that I could not approach the Sacrament, because it seemed to me that I should not do so. But she would not permit me to omit Holy Communion, so I went, and I understand now, that it was only obedience that saved me. The Directress told me later that my trials had passed quickly, *"and this solely because you were obedient, Sister: and it was through the power of obedience that you struggled through this so bravely."* It is true that it was the Lord himself who brought me out of this torment, but my fidelity to obedience did please him. **(105)**

As I was talking to a certain person who was to paint the image but, for certain reasons, was not painting it, I heard this voice in my soul: ***I want her to be more obedient.*** I understood that our efforts, no matter how great, are not pleasing to God if theydo not bear the seal of obedience; I am speaking about a religious soul. O God, how easy it is to know Your will in the convent! **(354)**

When I left the confessional and started to recite my penance, I heard these words. I have granted the grace you asked for on behalf of that soul, but not because of the mortification you chose for yourself. Rather, it was because of your act of completeobedience to My representative that I granted this grace to that soul for whom you interceded and begged mercy. Know that when you mortify your own self-will, then Mine reigns within you. **(365)**

Yes, when you are obedient I take away your weakness and replace it with My strength. I am very surprised that souls do not want to make that exchange with Me. I said to the Lord, "Jesus, enlighten my heart, or else I, too, will not understand much from these words." **(381)**

My daughter, know that you give Me greater glory by a single act of obedience than by long prayers and mortifications. ***(894)***

My daughter, you please me more by eating the oranges out of obedience and love of Me than by fasting and mortifying yourself of your own will. A soul that loves Me very much must, ought to live by My will. **(1023)**

I felt worse today, and I went to Mother Superior intending to ask her for permission to go to bed. However, before I could ask for permission, Mother Superior said to me, *"Sister, you must somehow manage by yourself at the gate, because I am taking the girl to work at the cabbage, since there is no one else for the cabbage."* I said - good, and left the room. When I got to the gate, I felt unusually strong, and I was at my post all day and felt well. I experienced the power of holy obedience. **(1378)**

TAGALOG MASS

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

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

EUCHARISTIC 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.**

MASS INTENTIONS

December 24 Saturday
8:30am Mayet Delfin *(Thanksgiving)*
5:00pm Joshua Zuñiga ✞
12:00am Teodulo Botones, Jr. ✞,
Teodulo Botones, Sr. ✞

December 25 Sunday
7:30am Divine Mercy Parishioners *(Pro Populo)*
9:30am Renato Repoldo ✞,
Alejandro Alanis ✞,
Joyce McGinley ✞
12noon Christians in the Holy Land *(Safety & Well-being)*

December 26 Monday
8:30am Crisante Guyala ✞

December 28 Wednesday
6:30pm Imelda Santos *(Special Intention)*

December 30 Friday
6:30pm Edmundo Joaquin ✞,
Ester Balaoro ✞

Let us also pray for the victims and survivors of the recent typhoon 'Sendong' that hit the Southern Mindanao region of the Philippines.

THE LORD'S FLOCK

Every Saturday at 7:00 pm (7:30 pm on 2nd 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/**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

December 26 Monday
7:00pm School of the Faith (Narthex)

December 28 Wednesday
10:00am School of the Faith (Narthex)
6:30pm Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

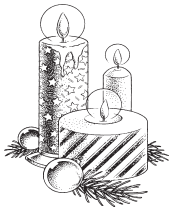
December 29 Thursday
7:00pm School of the Faith (Narthex)
7:00pm Rosary in Spanish (Church)

December 30 Friday
9:00am Altar Society - Flower Arranging (Narthex)
3:00pm Holy Hour
7:30pm Adult Choir Practice (Church)
7:30pm DM Catholic Charismatic Group (Narthex)

December 31 Saturday
3:45pm Confession
7:00pm The Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Group

January 01, 2012 Sunday
NO CFF CLASSES
6:30pm Youth Ministry

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



Saints & Readings for the Week

Christmas (Jesus' Birthday) • Isa 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn1:1-18
Monday • **St Stephen**, protomartyr • Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10: 7-22
Tues • **St John, Apostle & Evangelist** • 1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1-8
Wednesday • **The Holy Innocents** • 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2 / Mt 2:13-18
Thursday • St Thomas Becket • 1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35
Friday • **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph** •
Sir 3: 2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:6; 21:1-3 / Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Saturday • BVM / **Pope St Sylvester I** • 1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18
Mary, Mother of God • Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sera Adjemian
Consolatrix Ageas
Christopher Balaoro
Thezz Bambilla
Ester Bandong
Isabelo Bolongaita, Jr.
Cesar Chaves
Judy Chavez
Walter Dennis
Shirley Espiritu
Evangelista Estaris
Jamora Family
Albina Francisco
Fil Garcia
Mary Gomez
Benjamin Gonzales
Amelia Guibao
Marie Holmes
Mary Isham
Kent Kim
Joe King
Lucila Liwanag
Judith Lladoc
Arvuela Lucero
Liwayway Magsarili
Jun Malabunga
Lourdes Malabunga
Tony Manalo
Cindy Marek
Dominga Marzan
George Mateo
Susan Mejares
Benny Melendez
Naty Mendoza
John Mendoza, Sr.
Ryumi Metcalf
Rosalina Miles
Tyrone Miles
Sally Miller
Ethel Mims
Leticia Mostajo
Rico Mostajo
Boy Neri
Chason Neri
Dolores Noceda
Rica Norbraten
Arsenia Nudas
Isle Nziramazanga
Alden Ortiz
Auring Pagala
Mario Pagaragan
Tillie Prodigalidad
Roland Quaile
Stella Reyes
Sharon Ross
Alfreda Sims
Robert Smith
Simeon Smith
Bill Spallas
Louis Tageant
Sandy Taylor
Edwin Ugalde
Zenaida Uson
Marlyn Q. Uy
Ronald Voss II
Marvin Williams

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

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With Christmas Joy we Adore Him

The **First Reading** praises the Lord for bringing peace, comfort, good news and redemption to peace, comfort, good news and redemption to the world by way of Jerusalem. God Himself will bring this about through the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem, for this Child is God among us. All of today's readings underscore the great fortune and joy humanity will experience from the birth of Christ in the world.

The **Responsorial Psalm** truly is a new song to God for it is praising Him for sending us His Son to redeem us. This is one of three applications of this psalm and is probably why it is chosen for today's solemn feast. The psalmist invites us to use every musical instrument to proclaim our praise. As we sing our praise to God in our Christmas carols we join centuries of Christians and choirs of angels in praising God for His love and mercy to us.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul combines Greek philosophy and Jewish learning to proclaim Jesus as the High Priest and God's only-begotten Son. As wonderful a gift as God's prophets of old were, nothing can compare with the incredible gift of His very own Son to fully communicate His word to us. The Son is the perfect expression of who God is and what He expects of us. He is even worshiped by the angels, as we too adore Him, our King, the Light of the world.

In today's Gospel, St. John helps us understand who the God-man, Jesus, is by drawing on Sacred Scripture and St. John the Baptist's testimony. He is God's word who existed from all eternity and is God Himself. He is incarnated to bring the fullness of God, His grace and truth into the world so that we might have true life and true freedom. God's law came to us through Moses, grace and truth through His Son, Jesus. May we live life in grateful, joyful expression of this tremendous blessing, adoring Him with our lives.

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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 at (916) 256-3134.**

The Holy Family
December 30th
• FRIDAY •

"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.

SHARING OUR TREASURE

Offertory Collections	
27-Nov	$ 6,535
04-Dec	$ 6,844
11-Dec	$ 9,326
18-Dec	$ 6,809
Goal This Week	$ 8,000
Deficit this Week	**$ (1,191)**
FY Collection to Date	$ 170,159
Deficit to Date	**$ (29,841)**

Building Fund Collections	
27-Nov	$ 5,246
04-Nov	$ 7,978
11-Dec	$ 2,235
18-Dec	$ 8,201
FY Collection to Date	**$ 72,144**

Special Collections	
Simbang Gabi	$ 2,204
Catholic Faith Formation	$ 1,237
Christmas Flowers	$ 102

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

News From Around The Diocese

STO. NIÑO FIESTA

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

When: January 14, 2012

Where: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 1017 11th 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

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 31st 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 31st 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.**

RETROUVAILLE

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille. **For confidential information about or to register for the February 2012 program beginning with a weekend on February 10-12, please call (800) 283-5952 or email: sacramento@retroca.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.**

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 kstaszkow@diocese-sacramento.org.**

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 24th at 7:00 pm.** Admission is FREE. A free will donation will be taken to defray the costs of the event. Please contact **Kevin Staszkow for more information at (916) 733-0152.**

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.**

VOCATIONS ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

The Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations invites community members to visit our seminarian website **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.**

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