MISSION STATEMENT ~ To establish a faith-filled community bonded by love. To proclaim the good news, foster personal encounters with the living Christ and strengthen the family by witnessing the gospel values of love, mercy, justice, forgiveness and service to all.
Message from our Deacon...

The tone of our first reading on this 2nd Sunday in Advent from the Book of the prophet Baruch has a tone of rejoicing. You wouldn’t think that this was written during the period of the exile of God’s chosen people in Babylon but it was.

In the second reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians Paul writes an encouraging letter to the Christians in Philippi. You wouldn’t know that he wrote this letter while in prison, but he did.

Both of these readings portray people of great hope. We too are in exile, but we too should be people of great hope, because we have a God who loves us, who has revealed Himself to us, has promised to always to be with us as we walk in this time of faith and has promised to return to us.

It is this 2nd Coming, this return that we spend this season of subdued joyful anticipation preparing for.

ARE YOU READY TO SEE GOD FACE TO FACE? If He came today and asked for an accounting of your life where would you stand before God who sees into the heart and from whom no one can hide?

Have you lived your own will, by your own opinions, by the opinions of the media or as the culture around us or according to the truth that Christ came to bring us and has commanded that we teach and live by as His disciples? Have you lived by the teachings of the Church that Jesus left us?

Take some time during this season of Advent to honestly and prayerfully ponder these questions. We spend much time preparing exteriorly during this season of Advent. We look pretty good on the outside. The lights are up, the decorations are done. The menus are prepared and the invitations are sent. HAVE WE REMEMBERED THE REASON FOR THE SEASON?

Have we cleaned ourselves on the inside through a good examination of conscience and sacramental confession so the One who sees into the heart will not be repulsed when He comes? Have we given some of our time, talent and treasure to those that are less fortunate than we are during this season when we prepare ourselves to meet face to face with our maker?

We will be having our Parish Penance Service this coming Tuesday, December 11th. I hope that you can attend this sacred event in order to help you to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight his paths. In the words of St Paul:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” (Phil 1: 9-11)
**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

Our ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm. There will be NO 6:30 pm Mass.

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**Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima**

Our Lady of Fatima procession will be on Thursday, December 13th after the 8:30 am Mass. Let us pray together for world peace and for an increase in vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Contact persons are Tess Mostajo (916) 792-4193 and Auring Pagala (916) 515-1045.

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**FR. OCTAVIO’S BIBLE CLASS**

Christmas/New Year’s break
December 17 - January 2, 2013

Classes resume on January 3, 2013

- Old Testament
every Monday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Apologetics
every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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**RCIA RITES OF ACCEPTANCE & WELCOMING**

Sunday, December 9th - 9:30 am Mass

The initial inquiry (Precatechumenate) period for Divine Mercy’s group of inquirers will be moving into the second stage, with our unbaptized inquirers to go through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, and baptized inquirers to go through the Rite of Welcoming. The first phase of initiation has been a time for seekers to hear the mystery of Christ proclaimed. The inquirers have consciously and freely sought the living God and entered the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.

We ask you to please pray for the inquirers as they continue their conversion journey and for our RCIA process as we assist them in moving toward a closer relationship with God. Your prayers are critical to the success of our program. We will continue to keep you informed of the initiation process and progress of those considering joining the Church. We invite you to take an active role in welcoming our soon-to-be catechumens and candidates, and to be models of faith and Christian charity for them.

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**From The Parish Office . . .**

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

- December 24th
- December 25th
- December 31st
- January 1st

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**Early Submission of Bulletin Announcements**

- December 21st by 4:00 pm to be included in December 30th bulletin.
- December 28th by 4:00 pm to be included in January 6th bulletin.

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**Rite of Acceptance of the Catechumens (Unbaptized)**

April Woodcheke
Rochelle Bland
Michael Lopez

**Rite of Welcoming of the Candidates (Baptized):**

Catholic: Candidates preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist
Michael Baluyot
Christian Dapiaoen
Anthony Principe-Contreras
Joshua Principe-Contreras
Jillaine Raceles

Validly Baptized: Candidates preparing for reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church
Marc Mendoza
Arden Mendoza
Lyle Mendoza
Edward Johnson
Sherry Hernandez
If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, contact 419-9914 or Barry Criste (916) 515-1964.

Schedule of Masses for Christmas and New Year

**CHRISTMAS EVE**
Monday, December 24th
- 8:30 am Vigil Mass
- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Children’s Mass)
- 11:00 pm - 11:45 pm Christmas Carols
- 12:00 am Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**
Tuesday, December 25th
(Holy Day of Obligation)
- 7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:30 pm
* NO 5:00 pm Mass *

**NEW YEAR’S EVE**
Monday, December 31st
- 8:30 am Mass
- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
- 11:00 pm Tongan Christmas Carols
- 11:30 pm Tongan Mass

**NEW YEAR’S DAY**
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, January 1, 2013
(Holy Day of Obligation)
- 7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:30 pm
* NO 5:00 pm Mass *

**SOLEMNITY OF THE LORD’S EPIPHANY**
Sunday, January 6, 2013
- 7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 12:30 pm ~ 5:00 pm

Devotion to Divine Mercy

Growth and Suppression

Before her death Faustina predicted that “there will be a war, a terrible, terrible war” and asked the nuns to pray for Poland. In 1939, a year after Faustina’s death when Archbishop Jałbrzykowski noticed that her predictions about the war had taken place, he allowed public access to the Divine Mercy image which resulted in large crowds that led to the spread of the Divine Mercy devotion. The Divine Mercy devotion became a source of strength and inspiration for many people in Poland. By 1941 the devotion had reached the United States and millions of copies of Divine Mercy prayer cards were printed and distributed worldwide.

After the death of St. Faustina, the nuns at her convent sent her writings to the Vatican. Prior to 1966, any reported visions of Jesus and Mary required approval from the Holy See before they could be released to the public. After a failed attempt to persuade Pope Pius XII to sign a condemnation, Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani at the Holy Office included her works on a list he submitted to the newly elected Pope John XXIII in 1959. The Pope signed the decree that placed her work on the Index of Forbidden Books and they remained on the Index until it was abolished on 14 June 1966 by Pope Paul VI. In 1959, as the Vatican forbade the Divine Mercy devotion, it also severely reprimanded Sopocko, and all his work was suppressed. However, Eugeniusz Baziak, the archbishop of Kraków, permitted the nuns to leave the original picture hanging in their chapel so that those who wished to continue to pray before it could do so.

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

We need your help!
The Knights of Columbus will collect blankets, coats, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens after every Mass. Items must be new or gently used, cleaned and for adults only. Donations will be given to a local charity. For further questions, please call Jacob Martin at (419) 4827. Look for the collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

www.usccb.org
SECOND COLLECTION
December 8 - 9
RETIRED FUND
FOR RELIGIOUS

Sharing Our Treasure

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-Nov</td>
<td>6,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Nov</td>
<td>6,897</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Nov</td>
<td>6,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-Dec</td>
<td>6,103</td>
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</tbody>
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Year-to-Date Collections $154,276
Year-to-Date Goal $172,500
Year-to-Date Shortage $(18,224)

BUILDING FUND COLLECTIONS*

* All Capital Campaign payments
* All monthly Building Fund 2nd Collection donations, donations otherwise identified for the Building Fund in envelopes or by notation on a check
* Pew or wish list donation, and
* Donations for the Portable Classrooms

Annual Goal $335,257

| 11-Nov    | $1,909 |
| 18-Nov    | 3,180  |
| 25-Nov    | $681   |
| 02-Dec    | 11,762 |

Year-to-Date Collections $136,780

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND DIVINE MERCY (POLAND)
September 28 - October 12, 2013

♦ Poland, Prague, Vienna, Italy
♦ Audience with the Pope

For more information, email Fr. Octavio at octavioventura@me.com.

Lost and Found

A piece of jewelry was found inside the church. Please see Fr. Soane for details.

For more information or if you would like to be a sponsor or offer thanksgiving, please email SG@divinemercynatomas.com or contact the Parish Office at (916) 256-3134. We also have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

The Lord’s Flock
Catholic Charismatic

Meets every Saturday at 7:00 pm in the Narthex; 2nd Saturdays in Rooms P7/8. For more information, please contact Sis. Dina Espino at (916) 995-8006, Bro. Derick Santiago at (916) 439-3351, Bro. Rudy Bonifacio at (916) 849 7685 or Bro. Danny Barnaja at (916) 201-4344.

ST. FAUSTINA’S ROSARY MAKERS

Meet on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Monday of the month in the Sacred Heart Room (P9) immediately after the 6:30 pm Mass. NEXT meeting will be on December 12th. Meeting on December 24th is CANCELLED.

We also have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

To date, we have sold 70 Entertainment books. THANK YOU to those who have purchased the books. Our LAST sell weekend will be on December 15 - 16. These books make great gifts, raffle prizes, bonus awards and is the book that keeps on saving.

Also, these books are available at the Parish Office and online at www.divinemercynatomas.com under Fundraising. Please share our website with family and friends as we receive credit for all books sold online.

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Also, these books are available at the Parish Office and online at www.divinemercynatomas.com under Fundraising. Please share our website with family and friends as we receive credit for all books sold online.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Dec 08 Saturday**
- 8:30am Concepcion Torres
- Anna Liza Busuego (Birthday)
- Quiambao-Velasco Family (Thanksgiving)
- 5:00pm Grandma Huyen (Special Intention)
- 6:30pm William Lumaquin, Socorro Lumaquin, Tristan Lumaquin, Angelita Pagaragan

**Dec 09 Sunday**
- 7:30am Divine Mercy Parishioners (Pro Populo)
- 9:30am Misola Family (Thanksgiving)
- 12:30pm Myrna Prego
- 5:00pm Van Nguyen (Special Intention)

**Dec 10 Monday**
- 8:30am Rafael Barrera

**Dec 11 Tuesday**
- 6:30pm Penance Service

**Dec 12 Wednesday**
- 6:30pm Misola Family (Thanksgiving), Librado Perez (Special Intention)

**Dec 13 Thursday**
- 8:30am Rafael Barrera

**West Coast Walk for Life Bus Trip**
- **Saturday - January 26, 2013**

The annual Divine Mercy Parish bus trip to the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco will leave from the parish at 9:00 am after the 8:30 am Saturday Mass and return about 6:30 pm.

The walk has been shortened and is flat or downhill and very accessible for families. Make plans now to join us for this rewarding annual pilgrimage. Less than half the tickets are left.

Tickets are available at the Parish Office during the week and after the Sunday Masses from 9:30 am thru the 5:00 pm Mass on December 9th. Cost is $30.00 for adults and $20.00 for 18 and under.

We are in special need of donors who would be willing to sponsor other families who cannot afford to go. What a great Christmas present to give to another parishioner! For more information, call Jim Stutz at (916) 825-0706 or email him at jcsrutz@sbcglobal.net.

**SAINTS AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- St. Juan Diego: Bar 5:1-9/ Ps 126:1-2, 2:3, 4-5, 6/ Phil 1:4-6, 8-11, Lk 3:1-5
- Monday: St. Gregory Ill: Is 35:1-10/ Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Lk 5:12-17:26
- Tuesday: Pope St. Damasus I: Is 40:1-11/ Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/ Mt 18:12-14
- Thursday: St. Lucy: Is 41:13-20/ Ps 145:1 And 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: St. John of the Cross: Is 48:17-19/ Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 And 6/ Mt 11:16-19
- Sat: BVM/St. Mary di Rosa: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/ Ps 80:2ac And 3b, 15-16, 18-19/ Mt 17:3a, 10-13
- 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Zep 3:14-18a/ Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6/ Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

**Vocation Ministry**

Anyone wishing to take home the VOCATION CROSS PRAYERS for a week to pray for an increase in Vocation to the Priesthood and Religious Life, please contact the Parish office (916) 256-3134 or Aniana Reyes (916) 747-1527.

The Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations would like to invite you to celebrate and emphasize on the importance of vocations during the upcoming special dates:

- National Vocation Awareness Week - Jan. 13 - 19, 2013
- World Day of Consecrated Life - February 3, 2013
- World Day of Prayer - April 13, 2013

**WEIGHT AT A GLANCE**

**Dec 10 Monday**
- 7:00pm Fr. Octavio’s Bible Study (Narthex)
- 7:00pm Sto. Niño Novena (After the 6:30 pm Mass)
- 7:00pm Simbang Gabi Committee Meeting (P9)
- 7:15pm Children’s Choir Practice

**Dec 11 Tuesday**
- 10:00am “Great Adventure” Bible Study (Narthex)
- 4:45pm Sacrament Preparation Class (Narthex)
- 6:30pm Penance Service
- 7:30pm Vocation Ministry (Narthex)

**Dec 12 Wednesday**
- 10:00am Fr. Octavio’s Bible Study (Narthex)
- 4:45pm CFF - 2nd Grade Eucharist Class (Narthex)
- 6:30pm Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help
- 7:30pm Meeting (Narthex)

**Dec 13 Thursday**
- 7:00pm Fr. Octavio’s Bible Study (Narthex)
- 7:00pm Rosary in Spanish (Church)
- 7:30pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting (P7/8)

**Dec 14 Friday**
- 7:00pm Holy Hour (Church)
- 4:30pm Vocation Ministry (Narthex)
- 6:30pm Simbang Gabi

**Dec 15 Saturday**
- 10:00pm Baptism
- 1:00pm Quinceañera
- 2:00pm Tongan Community Youth Xmas Drama(P1/2/3)
- 3:45pm Confession
- 6:00pm Lord’s Flock Catholic Charismatic Grp (P7/8)
- 7:30pm Meeting (P7/8)
- 8:00pm Youth CIA Christmas Party (Narthex)

**Dec 16 Sunday**
- 8:30am RCIA 1 & 2 (P4/5)
- 11:00am CFF (Narthex and Portable Classrooms)
- 2:00pm CFF (Narthex and Portable Classrooms)
- 5:00pm Tongan Choir Practice (P8)
- 6:30pm Youth Ministry (Narthex)
- 7:30pm Simbang Gabi
New Year’s Retreat

HOPE IN THE YEAR OF FAITH

December 31, 2012 - January 1, 2013
with Fr. Ronan Newbold, C.P. and Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P.

Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center
6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Height, CA 95621

A famous composer was once asked this question: “If you knew you had to spend the rest of your days on a desert island, which of your four hundred compositions would you take with you?” “I’d take a blank paper,” he replied. “My favorite composition is always the one I will write tomorrow.” That’s the challenge we face as we enter the New Year. That is why God gives us the newness of the year – so that, as we nurture our faith we can be inspired by hope. We will be able to turn the page and begin to write on a clean sheet of paper. How better do that than with the Lord God. On this overnight, non-alcoholic, prayerful, and contemplative retreat, we will listen to the prophets tell us how to see our lives anew and learn how to let God steer us into and through the New Year.

For more information or to register, contact Carol Forrest (916) 725-4720, Ext. 314/cforrest@passionist.org.

Easter’s Faith Formation Center

Review of the Film - Restless Heart
Saturday, December 15th, 10:00 am - 12 noon
Rev. Edward Pepka, Ph.D

The life and Confessions of Saint Augustine will be the explored and compared to the recent release of the movie Restless Heart. Suggested donation $5 per session.

A Catholic Understanding of Politics and Economics
Saturday, December 15th, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Nicholas J. Cammarota

This series continues on the second Saturday every month and you are invited to attend at any time. Currently discussing: The 10 Books That Screwed Up the World: And 5 Others That Didn’t Help. (Available at Easter’s Catholic Books) Suggested donation $5 per session.

Concerts in December hosted by the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

♦ A Lessons and Carols benefit concert will be performed on Friday, December 14th at 7:30 pm. Proceeds will support St. Patrick’s Academy. The concert will feature the choir of St. Patrick’s Academy and the Diocesan Choir.

♦ On Friday, December 21st at 7:30 pm, Capella Antiqua, the Artists-in-Residence at the Cathedral, will present The View from London, featuring Charles Dicken’s A Christmas Carol. Ticket information for all of the concerts may be found on the Cathedral website: www.cathedralsacramento.org.

Pray For The Sick

Sera Adjemian
Consolatrix Ageas
Agnes Agyapong
Aidan Family
Sanford Alesna
Oma Alice
Lamberto Aquino
RJ Balaoro
Araceli Barrera
Yolly Batan
Ken Benavente
Benavente Family

Isabelo Bolongaita, Jr.
Mercedes Castro
Cepeda Family
Jessica Cruz
Raymond Cruz
Bess Dagcasin
Walter Dennis
Shirley Espiritu
Bruce Findlay
Albina Francisco
Manong Frank
Gambrell Family
Mary Gomez

Barbara Graichen
Amelia Gui bao
Cobie Harris
Michael Harris
Eduardo Hernandez
Galiano Ibe
Joe King
Marcia Lisuzzo
Lucila Lawanag
Lianne Magalang
Generoso Malabonga
Pedro Malabonga
Jun Malabunga

Lourdes Malabunga
Antonio Mamonong, Jr.
Cindy Marek
Lucy Medeiros
John Mendoza
Nati Mendoza
Asuncion Mesa
Ryumi Metcalf
Thelma A. Miller
Ethel Mims
Ofrin Montero
Onofre Montero
Nicca Moore

Lannie Mostajo
Muna Family
Chason Neri
Arsenia Nudas
Ivan Ong
Anita Opoku
Titay Orbeida
Mario Pagaragan
Joseph D. Quaile
Roland D. Quaile
Adel Quintana
Stella Reyes
Sharon Ross

Marily Schmucki
Leana Smith
Bill Spallas
Carolina Tamayo
Roger Tamayo
Manuel Tamayo, Sr.
Gerardo Tampon
Edwin Ugalar
Zenaida Uson
Marlyn Q. Uy
Renato Velasquez
Evelyn Venckus
Georgina Yeboah

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