

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 31, 2006

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Jan 1—
*Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God,
World Day of
Prayer for Peace,
(not a holy day of
obligation)*

Tue. Jan 2—
Legion of Mary,
7pm, Scanlan Hall
**Communion &
Liberation,** 7:30
pm, Chapel

Fri Jan 5 —
*First Friday of the
Month*
7:00 pm
**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament**
8:00 pm Mass
AACC Youth Grp,
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall.
Prince of Peace,
8:30pm, Scanlan
Hall

Sat Jan 6—
RCIC, 9 am,
Sacristy
Teen Confirmation,
10:30am, Sacristy

Prayer Group,
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

“Peace on Earth” Begins with You!

By Father Rick VanDeWater

The Christmas season includes a number of important celebrations that are centered around the theme of Christ's birth. Today is the feast of the Holy Family, in which we continue our meditation upon the incarnation of the Son of God. Christ became one of us to redeem and restore humanity. While His public ministry lasted only three years, thirty years were spent with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, as a model of how to live the more abundant life. The Holy Family continues to offer us a model of the life of divine grace and Christian perfection to which we are called. Every Christian family is meant to be a reflection of the Holy Family, where those in authority bear a likeness to Mary and Joseph, and where the children, obedient to their parents, grow in wisdom and grace, as did the child Jesus. These words from today's gospel tell the whole story: "He was obedient to them." Mary and Joseph were, in turn, obedient to Him. In the truly Christian family there is always this mutual subjection. The child is subject to the parents for food, clothing, living care and instruction; the parents are subject to caring for the child, adjusting their time of sleep and recreation, apportioning the hours of their day to the child. It is a mutual subjection, a mutual dependence, begotten of a mutual love. The acceptance of it brings peace and contentment, joy and a sense of security and fulfillment. Family life is the arena in which God gives us the chance to become holy and do much good. The Holy Family reminds us that, no matter how humble our surroundings might be, or how ordinary our daily life, if we live it in union with our Lord, then it is a life of great achievement in God's eyes.

Tomorrow is New Year's Day. The Church has designated it as the Feast of Mary, Mother of God and the world day of prayer for peace. Some think that when we pray for peace, we are addressing only global or international issues, but this is not the case. The fact is that world peace will always elude us until peace becomes a reality for each of us personally. Interior peace becomes possible only when we have a conversion of spirit. We cannot have peace with hate in our hearts. This takes on a special significance in the home. Peace is a family issue and is made possible by the truth, justice and love we experience in our families. At times, the demands, problems, and conflicts of family life leave very little energy to do anything about such overwhelming concerns as world peace. We might begin to offer our contribution as peacemakers, however, by putting our families first. So much depends on how we teach, by word and example, those who are closest to us. Attitudes are formed by the way we speak of others whom we do not understand. Parents are called to make great sacrifices in order to nurture the full human and spiritual growth of their children. Those who consciously discuss issues of justice in the home and who strive to help their children solve conflicts through non-violent means are enabling them to grow up as peacemakers and become the future leaders of our society.

(... Continued on opposite page)

Regular Activities

AACC Youth Group	Friday, 6:30 PM	Bible Study & Prayer Group	Monday, 7:20 PM
Campus Ministry/Newman Club	Tuesday, 12-1PM, Student Center	Legion of Mary	Saturday, 6:00 PM
Liturgy Committee	To Be Announced	Parish Council	1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7 PM
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino	Last Friday, 7 PM	Prince of Peace	4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
			Friday, 8:30 PM

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Jnauary menu items: 1 bag of rice, 1 can of meat, 1 can of mixed fruits, 1 fruit juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.



***Your team of priests at STM:** Monsignor Labib, Father Andrew and Father Rick wish each and everyone of you, all our parishioners, all who come to visit and all who worship here with us, a very blessed and abundant year. We hope that everything that comes our way this year 2007 will strengthen our faith even more, bring us closer together as a Church family, diminish adversity and make us all recognize that we are all equal as children of God.

*Tomorrow, we honor the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.** It is **not** a holy day of obligation this year. (Per the 1992 general decree of the NCCB, the precept to attend Mass is dispensed when this solemnity falls on a Saturday or Monday.) We would still celebrate our regularly scheduled Mass at 8:30 am. Everyone is invited. [It is also World Day of Prayer for Peace, and we need to do that!]



***The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** The deadline for making reservations has been extended to January 10. Call Oasis Travel at: 415-664-8400. If we do not have over 20 people, the pilgrimage will be canceled.

Mini Raffle WINNERS:

- 1) \$250 Elias Salameh
- 2) Napa Weekend: Ken and Myrna Lew
- 3) Grand Prize: Last supper frame: Raquel Garcia

CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you all for your support!



MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

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Continuation of Fr. Rick's reflections...

At St. Thomas More Church, we are offering to our youth (age 14-18) an exciting opportunity to grow as Christians and as future leaders: a new youth program called Venturing. Participants are provided with training in communication, leadership, planning, program development, and other useful skills. The focus is on the role of our Catholic faith in all that we are and do. A wide range of activities also includes outdoor excursions, sports, outreach, and lots of fun. Anyone interested can ask about registration.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany, the final phase of our Christmas celebration. Focusing on the visit of the Magi to the newborn Christ, it reminds us that the Son of God came for all humanity and is revealed to all who seek Him. Let us pray that in 2007, the light of Christ will prevail over hate, peace over war, hope over despair, and justice over self-interest. Let His light shine in you!

*Please call the rectory to schedule a Mass/es you may want to offer for a deceased loved one, for your special intentions or that of a beloved friend of member of the family. A few dates have already been taken, but plenty are still available.

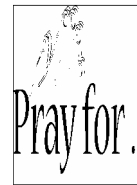
MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 31—Jan 6, 2007

- 12/31 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00pm Kobti beloved departed
- 01/01 Mon 8:30am Laura & Mario Biagini†
- 01/02 Tue 5:30 pm Irene & Russell de Haven†
- 01/03 Wed 8:30am Kobti beloved departed
- 01/04 Thu 10:00 am Kobti beloved departed
- 01/05 Fri 8:30 am Kobti beloved departed
- 01/06 Sat 8:30 am Balthazara Gonzales†
5:00 pm Kobti beloved departed

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the Mass you offer is appreciated.

All the sick people in our parish especially John Silva, Zenaida



Salamat, Martha Panaszewicz, Rhona Palencia, Mary Lee Burke, George Crawford, William & Deena Tannous, Nazzal

Nazzal, Abdallah Bajalieh; for those recently deceased in our parish.

*Your Offerings...
We will post a rundown of your offerings for the Christmas weekend next week.
Thank you for your contributions.*

***Heads up:** Our second collection today is for Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We will have a second collection for the victims of the typhoons in the Philippines on the third Sunday of January. As usual, we count on your generosity. Thank you.

***Thank you** for your financial support of your church and we pray that the Lord bless your family and give you back a hundred-fold of what you have given.

*Soon we will be sending you the **tax-deductible letter** for your contributions during the whole year as we do every year.