



Make
Straight
the
way
of the
Lord

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2008

Rejoice always.

Pray without ceasing.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16

We All Are God's Representatives

by Joseph Ramos, Permanent Deacon Candidate

In today's Gospel (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28), priests and Levites from Jerusalem were sent to investigate John the Baptist. When questioned about his identity, John had no difficulty in answering that he merely spoke in God's name and was His representative. If someone questioned you about your identity, how would you answer?

Through our baptism, we are all anointed God's representatives. To better understand, I'll briefly explain the technical aspects. There are two oils used in baptism. First, the *Oil of Catechumens* symbolizes that we belong not to the world but to God and heaven. Second, the *Chrism Oil* symbolizes that the newly baptized Christian is now – a Christian. The word Christ means anointed. Christian means someone who is anointed in Jesus Christ. In summary, Christians are to share in the mission of Christ – to sanctify, proclaim, and give Christian leadership and example to the world.

We've all seen Christmas light displays or even bumper stickers saying "Jesus is the reason for the season". With that said, I'm sure you'll agree that this is the best time to step up our efforts in carrying out our responsibilities as God's representatives. To help inspire you, here are some ideas to help others feel the presence of Jesus: 1) Be kind to a co-worker or classmate you find difficult. 2) Forgive someone, and ask for forgiveness in return. 3) Find a peaceful solution to a problem at home or at work. 4) Spend some time with a lonely family member, neighbor or elderly. 4) Think before making hurtful or sarcastic comments. 5) Consciously strive to find Jesus in all the people you meet today. 6) Respond peacefully when someone accuses or misunderstands you. 7) Show children you guide or encounter ways to be more caring toward each other. 8) Pray for your enemies, and pray to love them as God's children. 9) Reach out to someone experiencing grief and loss. 10) Keep negative thoughts about others to yourself. Try to turn those negative thoughts into positive ones. 11) In word and action, choose the weapons of love and forgiveness. 12) Remember your brothers and sisters around the world - especially the less fortunate, poor, and hungry. 13) Take a step to heal a breach in your immediate circle of family or friends. 14) Let loved ones know —in person, by phone, by email — how much you care about them. 15) Pray for those who do not know God. 16) Pray that people everywhere turn to God not only in time of need, but also on a daily basis. 17) Ask God to let you see your own darkness and learn to reflect God's goodness.

Being an active representative of God can be challenging especially with our own personal struggles and this troubled economy. Keep in mind that even the smallest gesture can help in Christ's mission. Find it in your heart and strength in the Lord to help you. Start by taking a moment out of your day to say a simple prayer – a prayer that God's presence will be more evident in all people's hearts, including yours.

Be mindful that we are God's representatives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – not just during Christmas. Some last points for consideration this advent season: 1) Count your blessings, not your problems. 2) Life on earth is short. Each minute is a gift from God. 3) The most important things in life - aren't things. 4) **Christ is coming.** He is our light and brings hope for all.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul
"Pray without ceasing" -- St. Paul

O glorious St. Paul, after persecuting the Church you became by God's grace its most zealous Apostle. To carry the knowledge of Jesus, our Divine Savior, to the uttermost parts of the earth you joyfully endured prison, scourgings, stonings, and shipwreck, as well as all manner of persecutions culminating in the shedding of the last drop of your blood for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Obtain for us the grace to labor strenuously to bring the faith to others and to accept any trials and tribulations that may come our way. Help us to be inspired by your Epistles and to partake of your indomitable love for Jesus, so that after we have finished our course we may join you in praising Him in heaven for all eternity. Amen.

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This Week's Parish

Events

Mon. Dec 15th —

Tue. Dec. 16th--

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 7:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 17th —

NERT, Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm

Fri. Dec 19th —

AACC Youth Group

Scanlan Hall, 6-8:30pm

Sat. Dec 20th —

RCIC Classes, Flower Sacristy, 9 am

Teen Confirmation Classes,

Flower Sacristy, 10:30 am

Young Adults Meeting

Scanlan Hall, 2—5 pm

Bible Study & Prayer Group

Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry,

check schedule for Masses & meetings on church board at the entrance.

Today,

**Sunday, Dec 14, 1:30 pm:
Carols for a Cause**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 7:30 PM

& Prayer
AACC Youth Group
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
Prince of Peace

Bible Study
Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Last Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM

Enrich your faith, tune in to 24-hour 1260 AM, Immaculate Heart Radio

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 canned meat, 1 bag of pasta, peanut butter, 1 box of cereal. No glass items, please. Thanks.



***Congratulations to the new Mayor of Daly City.** Sal & Leslie Torres have been members of our parish since 2002 and their two children are at STM School. Sal was re-elected to the City Council of Daly City in November and was elected by his peers to serve as Mayor on Dec. 1, 2008. We're very proud of you & are confident that your Catholic faith will shine for all to see & carry you thru whatever challenges may come with your new position. Again, **congratulations and best wishes!** You have our prayers.

***Carols by Cable Car.** You are still invited to come before 1:30 this afternoon and join us for this fun event. A \$5 donation will get you a ride in the cable car, hot chocolate, singing your heart out and loads & loads of fun. Spread holiday cheer to the sick and the homebound and have fun doing it.

***Coloring Contest.** Have your child color the front page picture & send it to the rectory. The best colored one will be picked & the winner will get to pick something from the gift shop as a prize. For kids 7 years old or younger only.

***Christmas Party, Dec 20th.** Tickets are now available at the office for the Christmas party at Patio Espanol, on Alemany Street, starts at 6:30 PM. Lots of good food, tons of fun, wonderful music and lively dancing are all covered by the \$65 ticket. Everyone is invited.



***The Giving Tree.** Once again, the Ozanam Conference of the St. Vincent De Paul Society is providing a giving tree. Take an ornament, purchase some or all of the items. Wrap them, attach the ornament to the gift and place it under the tree. Please notice that some of the gifts are for women. The clients at the Ozanam Center are very grateful for these gifts. Let us continue this beautiful STM tradition of generosity.



***Children's Choir.** All children (15 years old and under) are invited to join the choir. Practices are at 1:30 every Sunday, immediately following the 11:45 AM Mass. They will sing at the International Christmas Novena Masses, join the cable car caroling and at the Christmas children's Mass and Liturgies during the year.

***Christmas Schedule.** They are available at the church entrances if you missed them last weekend. Please keep them handy and easily accessible. Please note that the International Christmas Novena will start on December 15th at 7 pm, and will end on the 23rd. There will be a potluck dinner after the novena on that last day. We'll see you on Dec. 15th!

MASS INTENTIONS
December 14th- Dec 20th 2008

- 12/14 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00 pm Sixto Nudo†
- 12/15 Mon 8:30am Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 12/16 Tue 5:30 pm Narciso David†
- 12/17 Wed 8:30 am Laura & Mario Biagini†
- 12/18 Thu 5:30pm Irene & Russell De Havent†
- 12/19 Fri 8:30 am Theresa McAuliffe†
- 12/20 Sat 8:30 am Epifanio Mendoza†
5:00 pm Julian & Chin Chin Montes†

Please call the office to schedule your Mass. Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.

All the sick people in our parish, especially Linda Biagini, Frankie Barabad, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Pepito Paraiso, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauro Tan, Jean Lu and for all who are battling cancer of whatever form in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish especially Martha Bowers.

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of 12/07/08:

\$5,324

Collection (Tithing):

\$1,288

Christmas Flowers:

\$390

Thank you.

Second collection is for the Religious Retirement Fund. Please be generous.



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com