

The  
Child  
Grew in  
Size and  
Strength

## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph  
December 28, 2008

My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the  
sight of all the peoples.— *Luke 2:30-31*

### WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's no more unusual setting to celebrate today's Feast of the Holy Family than Barcelona, Spain and the towering unfinished sandcastle known officially as the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família. In 1882, the plan was hatched to build a vast place of worship in reparation for the revolutionary and liberal leanings of the city. The modern artist Antoni Gaudi dedicated his life to the project, living in the building, attending Mass daily and giving up his personal wealth. When people pressed him to pick up the pace, he responded, "My client is not in a hurry." (Gaudi's cause for beatification is moving along, and he could be the first professional artist and architect to be beatified.) The Spanish Civil War, a disaster for the Catholic Church in which thousands of priests, brothers, and nuns were murdered, halted work in 1935. In the 1950s work began anew, speeded up by computers in the 1980s. Still, the final stage of construction is not due to end until 2026. If the original methods had stayed in place, it would take several hundred more years to complete the plan. So far there are eight towers, with four to go. The highest steeple is three feet shorter than the nearest hill, since the architect didn't want his work to surpass God's artistry. The three faces of the basilica each have three doors, with the faces named Passion, Nativity, and Grace. The interior is crammed with geometric figures that almost seem to spin, crazy-quilt windows, spiral staircases, and jumbles of statues and figures. Although inspired by ancient Gothic cathedrals, the style is called Expressionist, and very little is left unexpressed by the masonry. If you can't afford a visit, Sagrada Família maintains a Web site, and virtual visits are free.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

**Prayer of the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 3: 14 - 19)**

*"I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that He may grant you in accord with the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

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This Week's Parish

Events

Mon. Dec 29th —

Tue. Dec. 30th--

**Legion of Mary,**

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

**Communion & Liberation,**

Scanlan Hall, 7:30 pm

Wed. Dec. 31th —

**NERT,** Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

**Brazilian Choir Practice,** Church 7pm

Fri. Jan 2nd —

First Friday:

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament, 7 pm;

Healing Mass, 8 pm

**AACC Youth Group**

Scanlan Hall, 6-8:30pm

Sat. Dec 3rd —

**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.

**Remember: Cherish your family as friends may come and go, but family stays with you forever.**

**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  
Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via  
AACC Youth Group  
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino  
Prince of Peace

Bible Study  
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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*Hurrah for Families!** We hope everyone had a spiritually rewarding and peaceful Christmas this year. May the blessings of the season esp. that of the Feast of the Holy Family stay with you and your family through the rest of the year.... And all the years.

**\*New Year's Eve Party.** Everyone is invited to come and join the rest of the parish family usher in the new year — 2009! - in Carroll Hall, Wednesday, December 31st. Festivities will start at 7pm and count on being here till 1:00 AM. Please contact Maria Tanedo (650) 296-0376 and/or Jamila Dozier (415) 334-7236 or email [flastmyouthgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:flastmyouthgroup@yahoo.com) for more information.

**\*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. Kids have to be 7 years old or younger.

**\*International Christmas Novena.** Our sincerest Thank you to **Ginny Bartolome, her crew** and all who worked behind the scenes for our International Christmas Novena. Attendance this year was more than in the previous years. Thank you all for your support and hard work and to all who keep this Christmas tradition alive right here at STM!



The Child grew and became strong  
— J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**\*Thank you.** A big, big thank to all who came and helped string and put up our Christmas lights on and around the church. Thanks also to all volunteered and stayed and worked until late into the wee hours for some nights (more than a couple!) before Christmas to set up our Bethlehem scene by the altar. The result of your labor of love was (and still is) enjoyed by all who come inside our church.

**\*Mass Intentions.** Our calendar is ready for you to call us with your Mass Intentions. Please call the office with your list and we will be more than happy to accommodate your dates. Please think of the death anniversaries and birthdays of loved ones, draw up a list and call us asap. It is always better to have it arranged ahead of time than to be sorry when your dates are taken by someone else.

**\*New Year's Resolutions.** Make coming to church one of your very top priorities this year!

**\*Walk for Life—West Coast.** Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 24th, 2009. Join upwards of 25,000 pro-lifer's for the 5th Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. For more information, visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com). To volunteer call (415) 586-1576.

## MASS INTENTIONS

December 28th 2008– Jan 3rd 2009

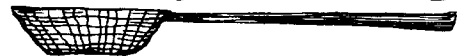
- 12/28 Sun 10:00am People of STM
- 8:00 pm Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 12/29 Mon 8:30am Boni Garcia (b'day)
- 12/30 Tue 5:30 pm Ronald Santizo †
- 12/31 Wed 8:30 am Domingo Chavez †
- 01/01 Thu 5:30pm Laura & Mario Biagini†
- 01/02 Fri 8:30 am Irene & Russell De Havent†
- 8:00 pm Macario Chavez†
- 01/03 Sat 8:30 am Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 5:00 pm Emilian Tirona†

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 and for all who are battling cancer of whatever form in our parish.

**All the deceased** from our parish.

## Weekly Offering



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**Weekend of 12/21/08:**  
**(this bulletin is sent to press early. Offerings will be published in next bulletin.)**

**Thank you for your generosity and patience.**



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](mailto:stmchurch@aol.com)