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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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The Epiphany of the Lord January 4, 2009

All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

— *Psalm 72:11*

The various Masses we have, along with the various styles of our priests, deacons, and choirs, lead many in our parish to prefer one Mass over another. That's fine. What is not OK is when people judge a Mass according to this strange criteria: whether they "get anything out of it."

There is a problem with this. We shouldn't be coming to Mass for what we can get out of it. We should be concerned with what we bring to it. The magi did not travel to find the King of Kings so they could get something out of it. They sought the King of Kings so they could do Him homage and bring Him gifts. As in every other aspect of life, when we are looking to "get", we receive little. When we are looking to "give" we receive more than we ever expected. The young man or woman who enters a marriage for what they are going to get out of it, will not get much. The young man or woman who enters into a marriage to give of him/herself, to express his/her love for his/her spouse, will receive more than he/she could ever imagine. It is the same with the Church. If we are concerned with giving, then the Lord will shower us with his gifts. Like the magi, we come before the Lord with gifts, the gifts of ourselves. We come to do Him homage, to reverence His presence. We come to present Him with our emptiness and humbly ask Him to fill us. The magi completed a journey that ended in Bethlehem. The only thing we know about them after they visited the Holy Family is that they returned to their native land by a different way, so they would not have to encounter the jealous King Herod. Still, I think it is fair to assume that they returned to their homelands full of the Love of God.

We also journey. We journey throughout our lives seeking meaning, and fulfillment and love. We seek the One who is the Reason for our Being. We come before Him in His Church, or among His people, including those who need us the most. We journey for new ways to give our God reverence and homage and love. Our gifts are minute: an hour and a half of our day, a portion of our income. We have so little to offer the Lord. He gives us so much more in return.

Whether it is something as inane as being accepted by peers, or as critical to our lives as growing in the Love of the Lord, we should not be concerned with what we are going to receive. We should only be concerned with seeking the Lord, encountering His presence, doing Him homage, and Giving ourselves to Him. If we follow the magi in this way, then we will be wise women and wise men.

-This material is used with permission of its author, Rev. Joseph A. Pellegrino, Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL

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

"[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities — all things were created for him and through him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Col 1:15-21, RSVCE).

Staff

Pastor: Church & School

Msgr: Labib Kobti

Parochial Vicar:

Fr Andrew Johnson

Priest Brazilian Community

Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141

Deacon:

Khaled Abu Shaer

Admin Assistant:

Elvira Garcia

Receptionist:

Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF

Campus Ministry:

Verbum Dei Sisters,

(650) 994-6919

RCIC:

Kathy Sanford

(650) 738-0646

RCIA & Music:

Suzanne Hockel

(415) 826-6834

STM School:

Principal, Joe Elsbernd

(415) 337-0100

This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., Jan 6th--

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

Wed., Jan 7th —

NERT, Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm

Fri., 9th —

AACC Youth Group

Scanlan Hall, 6-8:30pm

Sat., 10th —

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.

THE HOLY STAR

*O Father, may that holy star
 Grow every year more bright
 And send its glorious beams afar
 To fill the world with light.*

—William Cullen Bryant

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.

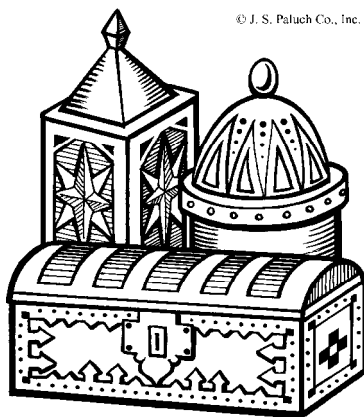
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

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.



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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.

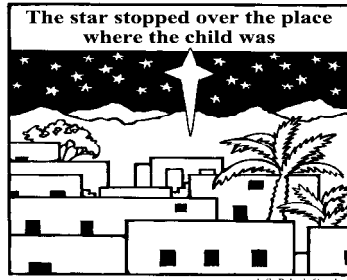
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Volunteers needed.** If you can spare a couple of hours on Mondays mornings, we could use your help. Please call the office if you are able to lend us a helping hand.

***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.

***Communion and Liberation** invites you to join us to share the encounter with Christ, present among us, as the origin of hope, beauty, and love in the everyday reality of work, study and family. We meet every Tuesday night at 8pm in Scanlan Hall, immediately in front of the chapel side exit of the Church. For more information, contact Martin at 415-333-5442 or martin@CLSanFrancisco.com. The Fraternity of Communion and Liberation (CL) is a Catholic ecclesial association of Pontifical Right.

***Mass Intentions.** Our 2009 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.



The following solemnities will be observed as Holy Days of Obligation in 2009:

- Nov 1:** All Saints Day (Sunday)
- Dec 8:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Tuesday)
- Dec 25:** Christmas (Friday)

Special Days of Prayer 2009

- Jan 1:** Day of Prayer for World Peace
- Mar 1:** Day of Prayer for the General Needs of Humankind
- Sep 7:** Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Labor (*Labor Day*)
- Nov 26:** Day of Prayer for the Fruits of the Earth (*Thanksgiving Day*)

The faithful of the Archdiocese are asked to observe these Special Days of Prayer in their devotions or other private prayer, in the General Intercessions of the Mass and through the selection of other liturgically proper prayers for the Eucharist & the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 4th—10th, 2009

- 01/04 Sun 10:00am People of STM
- 8:00 pm Matthew Sotto (Sp. Int.)
- 01/05 Mon 8:30am Daniel Marbibi †
- 01/06 Tue 5:30 pm Balthazarah Gonzales †
- 01/07 Wed 8:30 am Souls in Purgatory †
- 01/08 Thu 5:30pm Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 01/09 Fri 8:30 am Souls in Purgatory†
- 01/10 Sat 8:30 am Collin & Sara F-Noguera
- 5:00 pm Samiere Family

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 Niqui, 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:
\$6,165

Novena Masses as of 12/21:
\$361.14

Note: Other offertory amounts will be posted in next week's bulletin. Due to the holidays, this is sent to press earlier than our regular schedule. Thanks for your patience & generosity.



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