

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

1300 Junipero Serra Blvd.

(off Brotherhood Way)

San Francisco, CA 94132-2913

Office: (415) 452-9634

Fax: (415) 452-9653

www.stmchurch.com

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2009

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

— Isaiah 55:1

Gospel Summary

John the Baptist offered his disciples a baptismal ritual which was essentially preparatory. It was a visible, public way of declaring one's readiness for the coming of the Messiah. It said in effect that from now on no human preconditions would be laid down. This represented a significant decision because we humans are always tempted to tell God how to do things.

When the Messiah does come, he will bring with him his own powerful baptismal rite. It too will include a water ritual but it will be far superior to the baptism of John because it will confer the Holy Spirit. This is the same Spirit that was sent from heaven at Jesus' baptism and which signaled the dawn of a new age.

This Spirit is said to have appeared as a dove over Jesus because it is God's powerful agent of creation. This is the same Spirit that hovered over the deep to call being out of nothingness and that appeared to Noah as a dove thus signaling the advent of a new world after the deluge. This Spirit brings to all who are baptized in the name of Jesus a share in the same kind of power that enabled him to announce the new world of God's kingdom and to illustrate its nature by a ministry of healing in Galilee. It is this creative Spirit also that empowers the baptized to follow Jesus in loving service, self-sacrifice and final victory.

Life Implications

It is very difficult for us to appreciate adequately the baptism that most of us received long ago as infants. In fact, I think most of our mothers prayed that we would sleep through our baptism, something that is more likely now that we no longer need to put salt in their mouths! This is a sad situation, however, unless we take serious measures to guarantee that we discover just how important and how powerful this sacrament should be in our lives.

The most important part of the baptismal rite is the faith commitment that we bring to it. Our sponsors may have made this promise for us many years ago but we must now claim that commitment in our own names. And that means nothing less than a deeply personal decision to follow Christ by living in a truly unselfish manner. It also means to renounce the alluring but false suggestion of Satan that self-indulgence leads to happiness.

Living unselfishly is very difficult and we could never manage it by our own limited resources. However, the powerful, creative Spirit, who comes to us in baptism, is ready and willing to enable us to be truly sensitive to the needs of others and truly generous in our response to those needs. Not only does this enable us to be experienced as a gift in the lives of others but it also brings us a deep sense of happiness and satisfaction...and ultimately victory with our risen Lord.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

"We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you fall upon me." For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." **Romans 15:1-4**

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



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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 spirit instills in us a desire for the world to come, but he also inspires, purifies, and strengthens those noble longings by which we strive to make earthly life more human.

-Pope John Paul II
Homily at Aqueduct Racetrack

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 can of cereal, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 bag of pasta, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

MASS INTENTIONS
Jan 11th—17th, 2009

01/11 Sun 10:00am Benito Go †
8:00 pm People of STM
01/12 Mon 8:30am Joan Carew †
01/13 Tue 5:30 pm Josephine Ryan †
01/14 Wed 8:30 am Timothy O' Donoghue †
01/15 Thu 5:30pm Benjamin Perez †
01/16 Fri 8:30 am Geraldine & Dorothy Ezepeleta
01/17 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera
5:00 pm Gerry & Carol Ezepeleta

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



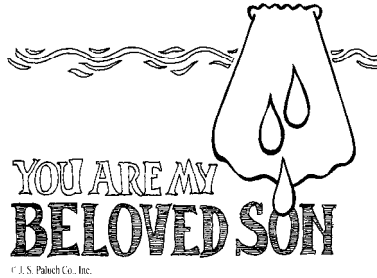
***Discernment Weekend.** Men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood are invited to the Annual Discernment Weekend from Friday, 1/16 to Sunday 1/18 at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. For more information or to sign up, please contact the rectory.

***Santo Niño Fiesta.** Everyone is invited to our annual Santo Niño (Infant Jesus) Fiesta taking place Saturday 1/24. Rosary is at 4PM and Mass is at 5PM. Following is a potluck reception. Don't forget to invite friends and family to this celebration. Please note that this takes the place of the regularly scheduled novena on the last Friday of the month.

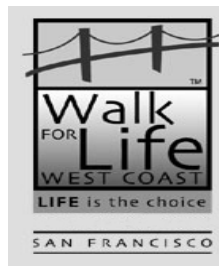
***Volunteers needed.** If you can spare a couple of hours on Monday mornings, we could use your help. Please call the office if you are able to lend us a helping hand. We would love to hear from you.

***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.

***Mass Intentions.** Get your lists (death anniversaries, birthdays, special days –yours and of loved ones) together, our 2009 calendar is ready for you. Please call the office with your list and we will be more than happy to accommodate your dates.



***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.



***Walk for Life, West Coast.** Saturday, January 24, 2009. Starts at 11 am at Justin Herman Plaza lawn at the Embarcadero, SF. Join upwards of 25,000 pro-lifer's for the 5th Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco as we peacefully proclaim our message that abortion hurts women and we all deserve better than abortion. For more information visit our website at www.walkforlifewc.com. To volunteer or to arrange busses contact us at (415) 586-1576 or email questions to info@walkforlifewe.com.



All the sick people in our parish, especially Linda Biagini, 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, Rosaura Tan, Jean Lu and for all in our parish who are battling cancer of whatever form and stage.

All the deceased from our parish esp. Frankie Barabad.

Weekly Offering

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12/21/08: \$6,165
Christmas: \$6,489.25
Weekends of:
12/28/08: \$6,355.78
01/04/09: \$6,106.16

Novena Masses -
12/22 & 12/23:
\$187.20

Thank you for your patience and 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