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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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(off Brotherhood Way)

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www.stmchurch.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20th, 2009

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" *Luke 1,42*

Gospel Summary:

On the carefully programmed Advent journey to Christmas, the Fourth Sunday belongs to Mary. This is so because Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus, necessarily involves the motherhood of Mary. However, the story of that birth is reserved for Midnight Mass, while today's gospel tells us how Mary prepared for that wonderful event by accepting the message of an angel, which meant allowing God to determine how she could be a mother and remain a virgin.

If through the centuries Mary has captured the imagination of the Catholic world, it is in large measure because she faced the mystery of God and said, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Even her greatest privilege as mother of the Savior presupposes this radical trust and generosity on her part.

It is easy to ignore the mystery of God until the very end of life. It is also easy to live in fear of that mystery. However, human life will never be really successful until we learn to embrace God's mystery with trust and confidence. Mary shows us how to do that and what wonderful results will follow.

Life Implications:

Although we know very little about the "historical" Mary, her symbolic presence is real and powerful. In her case, symbolic truth presupposes an historical person but it reveals the universal and perennial significance of that person. It is a truth that transcends such limitations as age, race and gender as it reveals the meaning of Mary, Virgin and Mother, for all human beings everywhere.

As a virgin, Mary represents hope. Indeed, there are few images that capture the meaning of hope and promise more effectively than that of a youthful young lady. All of us, then, who strive to be positive and joyful and hopeful in a weary and despairing society, can look to virginal Mary as a model who is ready and willing to inspire and encourage us. As a mother, and specifically as the mother of our Savior, Mary is also the most perfect model of fruitfulness. She represents, therefore, both virginal, promising springtime and fruitful, bountiful summer. She conquers cold, barren winter in our hearts and leads us to a rich and meaningful harvest.

There is such a temptation to live off of others and to complain rather than to contribute. Constant griping and blaming others means an empty harvest. By contrast, Mary models for us a life that is wonderfully fruitful through loving concern for the welfare and happiness of others. There is no better way to prepare for and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

A Prayer for Priests and Priestly Vocations

Heavenly Father, please grant to Your faithful servants, the grace and strength to carry out Your mission for the church each day. Keep our priests close to You and continue to inspire them to serve others in Your holy name. Please help to inspire men who are called to a priestly vocation to answer Your call and participate in the fullness that You have planned for them.

Amen

Staff

Pastor: Church & School

Msgr: Labib Kobti

Parochial Vicar:

Fr Andrew Johnson

Deacon:

Khaled Abu Shaer

Admin Assistant:

Elvira Garcia

Receptionist:

Sr. Teresa Malave, VDMF

Campus Ministry:

Verbum Dei Sisters

Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF

(415) 573-9062

RCIC:

Kathy Sanford

650) 738-0646

RCIA & Music:

Suzanne Hockel

(415) 826-6834

STM School:

(415) 337-0100

This Week's Events

Tue. Dec. 22nd

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8 pm

Wed. Dec. 23rd

Christmas Novena, 7pm

Last day, followed by pot luck

Thurs. Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve Masses:

Children's Mass: 6pm

Arabic Mass 9:00pm

Midnight Mass (English)

Friday Dec. 25th

Christmas Day Masses:

10am Mass (English)

4pm Mass (Brazilian)

8pm Mass (English)

Saturday, Dec 26th

RCIC Classes, 9am

in Flower Sacristy

Bible Study Group (Alma Via)

(will resume on Jan 2nd, 2010)

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.

For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children's Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM; St. Benedict's Group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) [Pls call the office for contact numbers.]

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion & Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration.

Queenofpeacefoundation.org, an independent Foundation created to serve the needy.

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation
Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 8:00 PM
See schedule

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

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Third Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

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 pack of pasta, 1 can of beef or chicken, 1 can of tomato sauce, 1 can of fruit or fruit juice. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

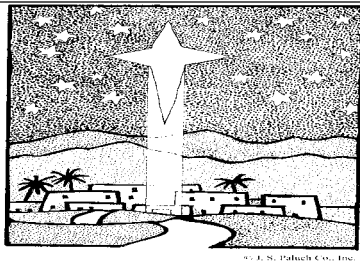
*Please take home our **Christmas schedule 2009** in the vestibule & side entrances of the church for Mass times & don't miss the upcoming events our church has to offer this Christmas season!



***Children's Xmas Eve Mass:** Children wanting to participate in the Xmas Pageant on Dec 24th need to come to at least 2 practices, dates are: **Dec 20th after the 10am Mass, & Dec 22 & 23 at 7pm in the church.** For info call Nadia Menjivar (650) 291-4063.

Christmas Flowers:

*As we prepare and look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ we hope to express our joy by filling the church with **a bountiful display of Poinsettias**. If you would like to have 1 or more Poinsettias placed in the church in memory of loved ones, or to honor someone special, a \$10 donation would be appreciated. Please use the specially marked envelopes found in the front/side entrances of the church. Or you can buy the Poinsettias yourself and bring them to the church by **Monday, December 21st**.



STM Mission Statement

"We are a diverse Eucharistic family united in Jesus Christ and His Church. We accomplish our mission to spread the message of God's love through the gifts of the Holy Spirit who guides and inspires us and with the prayers of our Blessed Mother, Mary."

***Our International Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi** started on **Dec 15th** at 7PM & will be celebrated daily till **Dec 23rd**, ending with a pot luck dinner in Scanlan Hall. All are invited!

***Liturgical Questions:** To answer the question of some parishioners about standing or kneeling during the Great Amen, faithful are to remain kneeling through the singing of the great Amen (at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer). and continue kneeling until the choir completely finishes singing the Amen. This has been confirmed with the Office of Worship of Archdiocese of SF (cf. GIRM 43).

"Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature."
(St. Peter Chrysologus)

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 20th — Dec 26th, 2009

- 12/20 Sun 10:00am Julian & Chin Chin Montesa (Annivers.)
8:00pm People of STM
- 12/21 Mon 8:30am Pablo Sanchez †
- 12/22 Tue 5:30am Jose Bocalbos †
- 12/23 Wed 8:30am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 12/24 Thurs 6:00pm People of STM
12:00am Soto & De Guzman Families (Sp Int.)
- 12/25 Fri 10:00am Roberto & Isidra Desuyo †
8:00pm Nathan Cruz †
- 12/26 Sat 8:30 am Dan Ungaro †
5:00pm Teresita Arguelles †

Pray for ... All the sick people in our parish, to be read during Masses: especially Msgr. John Foudy, Isabelle Muzio, James Roach, Wilfredo Fernando, Rhona Palencia, Jesus Uchi, Anthony Angeles, Tina Bish, Jeff Semelka, Anita Soliz, Cecilia Reyes, Brigit Suazon, Christian Yousef, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Gordon Lu, Ann, and for all who are ill in our parish.

Let us also pray for all the deceased in our parish.

(Please call the office for names of people we should pray for. To facilitate this process, names will also need to be taken off after 3 weeks, pls. call the office for names to be put back in. Thanks.)

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of Dec 13th:

\$ 4,185.50

2nd Collection:

\$843.30

Thank you for your Generosity!



REGISTRATION SLIP FOR ST. THOMAS MORE

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