



Third Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2008

St. Mary of the Desert Notices

Ministry Schedule



	Sat., Dec. 27 6:00 PM	Sun., Dec. 28 10:30 AM	Sun., Dec. 28 12:15 PM
Lectors:	J. Charboneau Nellie Focht	John Hricko Beth Robinson	Rosa Portillo Lula Olmos
Masters of Ceremony:	Brian Moss	Jeff Robinson	Manuel Ceron
E. M.'s	No more serving until after the flu season. Thank you.		
Ushers:	Bill Snyder	Vern Birgenheir	Victor Olmos
Servers:	Team 1	Team 3	
Wed. Dec. 24 4:30 PM	Wed. Dec. 24 Midnight	Thurs. Dec. 25 9 AM	
Children's Mass	Carola Benassi Mary Pablo	Tony Capko J. McCaffe	
John Hricko (MC)	John Hricko (MC)	Manuel Ceron (MC)	

Mass Intentions

Sat.	12/20 6 PM	Derek Miller by Pablo Family
Sun.	12/21 10:30 AM	Parishioners
"	12/21 12:15 PM	Joseph Pablo by Pablo Family † Roberto (Chapo) Hinojosa by Juan Gutierrez Family
Tue.	12/23 8 AM	Happy Birthday by Morelio Corre
Christmas Eve Day		
Wed.	12/24 8 AM	NO MASS/NO COMMUNION SERV.
"	12/24 4:30 PM	Children's Mass
"	12/24 Midnight	Eucharistic Ministry
Christmas Day		
Thurs.	12/25 9 AM	Choir Ministry
Fri.	12/26 8 AM	Thanksgiving by Corre Family
Sat.	12/27 6 PM	Parishioners



Retreats and Conferences

Magnificat

Next Magnificat Breakfast Buffet is set for February 14, 2009 with speakers Judith and Ken Langford.

Silent Directed Retreat

Father Jim Torres will be leading this retreat on Jan. 18 – 24, 2009. The cost is \$650, which includes private accommodations, all meals and daily spiritual direction. A \$50 deposit is required by Jan. 1, 2009, payable to: St. Anthony Retreat Center, P.O.B.249, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Please Pray for the Sick

Bud Staudenraus, L. J. Pope, Connie P. Alfred, Rosemarie Lampino, Mario and Lucy Carreño, Omar A., Wayne Lester, Pat, Ryan, Jonathan Barnum, Dean & Betty Ziegler, Grace Sanchez, Anthony Langsine, Maggie and Douglas Hopkins, Mike Nehl, Gloria Barr, Teresa Hernandez, Roy Gallagher, Florence Stratman, Joe Britt, John Klay, Heriberto Villegas, Queenie Fernandes, John Lite, Ben Canaday, Ethan and Saige Funk, Martha Perry, Shelly Bryant, Joe Gonzales, Kristian Silva, Al Charlberg, Kathleen Lindstron, Carol Caniete, Marcos Avina, Christopher Avina, Dennis Focht, Autumn Ginn, Shirley Adam, Erwin Stratman, Sandy Hamman, Darlene Fletcher, , James Smith, Joshua Borne, Frances Branham, Peggy & Randy Medford, Ray Baxter, Diane Muzach, Maribel Scoglio and all those in need of prayer.

Please keep us informed of the progress of those listed and let us know when a name should be removed. Help us keep the list up to date.

Thought of the Week

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24
NO 8 am Mass
4:30 Children's Mass
Midnight Mass
Thursday, December 25
9 am Mass
Friday, December 26
8 am Mass
Saturday, December 27
5 pm Confession
6 pm Mass
Sunday, December 28
10:30 am & 12:15 pm Masses
Tuesday, December 30
8 am Communion Service
Wednesday, December 31
8 am Mass

Penance Services

The Sacrament of Reconciliation resumes on Dec. 27th at 5:00 PM.

Safety Policy

For the safety of all our parishioners, especially our children, **NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18** is to be on the Church property without adult supervision. If children arrive early for classes, the parent **MUST** stay until class time.

Let's Decorate!

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmas. Please be here on Dec. 22nd at 9 AM.

New Exit

Our new entering and exiting of the church property has been in force now for a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, we still have vehicles not following this policy. Please make every effort to utilize this new procedure and help keep our parishioners safe. Thank you for your cooperation.



Hospitality - Epiphany

Reserve this date: Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 4:00 pm there will be a **Potluck to celebrate EPIPHANY!!!** Come and celebrate the New Year with your fellow parishioners!!! There will be a White Elephant gift exchange for the adults with games and movies for the children. More details to follow in the next bulletin. Hospitality information 256-4599.

New Offertory Envelopes

This weekend parishioners can pick up their new offertory envelopes and calendar for 2009 in the hall after the Sunday Masses. Boxes will be distributed by your last name and not your number. There may be the possibility of changing numbers due the increase in new members but the office will do their best to issue your same number. The envelopes can also be picked up in the office during the week.

NO CALENDARS WILL BE HANDED OUT TO UNREGISTERED FAMILIES.

Use of Church Property

All groups wanting to use any building on the Church property **MUST** submit their monthly schedule of two months or more with times and dates of any function to the Administration office.

In addition, any group wanting to use church property must contact a member of the office personnel to arrange for admittance in advance. At this time, there will be **NO** issuance of keys.

These procedures are necessary because of several severe breeches of security.



www.ekklisialifeteen.com

Next gathering is a social event in Mojave on Dec. 29

**Christmas Flowers
In Loving Memory of:**



Douglas R. Hopkins
by Marguerite Hopkins
Ofelia Caberna
by Someone Special
Our Parents
by John and Heidi Hricko
Muns
by Someone Special
Galo M. Perez, Fred Perez, and Johnny Perez
by Jose and Mary Pablo
Kristin Williams
by Steven and Regina Lightner
Amalia Carrillo, Manuel Garcia
by Yolanda and Arturo Carrillo
Mary Ruth Weir, Walter Cohems
by Dawn and Joseph Brunet
Santiago and Socorro Arizpe John Blake Schmidt
by Jeanne Schmidt
Willie and Nora Deloge
by Paulette Johnson
Palmer and Cielik Families
by Jeanne Cieslik
Victoria and Pascual Rieta and
Nathaniel and Christine Parkman
by William C Parkman
Deceased Members of the Pulos – Flores Family
by George Pulos
Tom and Joan Conlon
by Ribaud Family
Someone Special
by G. Dilms
Helen and John Barbgello and
Alvin and Justin
by Robert and Annamarie Landolt
My Mom, Paula
by Laura
Angel Bermudez
by Martin Bermudez
Carroll and Charlberg Families
Barolo Torrez
by Virginia Gutierrez
George Olson and Tittley Family
Members
by George Olson
Jeanne Ansolabere
by Henriette Ansolabere

CCD Classes

There will be no CCD classes:
Dec. 27th and 28th.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will close at noon on
12/24/2008 and will be closed all day
on the 25th and 26th.

Last Sunday's Offerings

Parish Contributions: \$2,581.71
Number of Envelopes Used: 148
Registered Parishioners: 357

Religious Retirement Fund

\$209.08

*Glory
to the
Newborn
King!*



"Noticias en Espanol"

CCD

*Nada CCD Classe
Dicembre 27 y 28*

Sobres de Ofertas

Este fin de semana Despues de
misa pueden recoger sus sobres y
calendario de 2009. Las Cajas
seran disponibles por su apellido y
no por el numero. Habra una
posibilidad que nombres seran
cambiados por causa de nuevos
miembros y la oficina esta haciendo
un gran esfuerzo para aque
alcanzen el mismo numero que el
anterior.

No daremos calendarios A los que
no estan registrados en la iglesia.

Favor de estar Atentos

Necesitamos estar atentos y tener
precauciones para la gente de la
baroque especialmente Los ninos.
Ya tenemos nueva entrada y
salida en la propiedad de la
iglesia. Entraran por el West
antes de Misa, en fin de semanas,
Padres recogiendo los estudiantes
de CCD, funciones sociales, Etc.,
favor de abandonar el esta-
cionamiento a la salida East.
Esperamos que esto sera mas
eficiente y nos dara major
seguridad. Muchas gracias por
su cooperacion.



December

Philomena Gallagher



Pastor's Corner

I'll be home for Christmas;/You can count on me./Please have snow and mistletoe/and presents on the tree. Christmas Eve will find me/where the love-light gleams/I'll be home for Christmas/if only in my dreams."

"I'll be Home for Christmas" was first recorded by Bing Crosby in 1943. Released during the Second World War, it quickly became the favorite Christmas song of military personnel fighting overseas and of families at home who longed for their loved ones.

A priest reminisces about his first Christmas away from home as a seminarian studying in Rome. He remembers feeling very lonely despite being surrounded by other seminarians. After Christmas Eve dinner, many of the seminarians went to their rooms to nap before Midnight Mass. Missing his family and not being able to sleep, it occurred to him to drag a comfortable chair from the student lounge to the seminary's Christmas tree where he could simply sit in the darkness and find comfort in the tree and its multi-colored lights.

A fellow seminarian awakened by the noise of the chair asked what was happening. The homesick seminarian said that he wanted to sit by the tree, in the hope that it would help him feel connected with home and his family. Within an hour, most of the student body was sitting in front of the brightly lit tree singing Christmas carols.

This was fun, but it was not home. The Italian pasta dinner was good but it was not the fare of home. There were no piles of presents, no stockings. There was

hardly a family thing to hold onto. Then the time came to walk from the seminary to St. Peter's for Midnight Mass with the Pope. It was certainly an exciting experience. The Pope delivered his homily in Italian, which the priest, still learning Italian, had to struggle to follow. Then came the Eucharist Prayer. When the Pope raised the host, instantly the young seminarian found the familiar. It was then that his Christmas was fully rescued.

In Samuel's passage this weekend, David was now king of Israel. It had taken war to accomplish this, but finally there was peace in the kingdom. With the nation growing in wealth and power, David was able to build a palace. He had to do this. Palaces speak power, and they send a message of stability. It was probably wasn't a palace like we imagine palaces, but still it was probably larger than any other structure in Jerusalem. Rather than bricks, mortar and marble, it was built from the cedars of Lebanon.

David knew the symbolic power of a palace, but he also recognized that it was God who had put him in that palace. It occurred to David that with the Ark still in a tent, God needed a symbol of His power as well, so David proposed building a Temple. The prophet Nathan concurred. To Nathan's surprise, however, God said He did not want a Temple. He told Nathan that the power and glory of God did not need a Temple as a king needs a palace. God's power, God's goodness, and God's

generosity were found in what He had done, in what He was doing and in what He would continue to do.

David wished to build God a house that would tell everyone about the God of Israel, but turned the tables and said that instead He was going to build His own house, one that truly spoke of His abiding presence and of His permanent love for us.

Luke speaks of God's house as "the house of David." This house found in the covenant of Psalm: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one...forever will I confirm your posterity." Through the centuries, through a civil war that divided the kingdom, through the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, through conquest and exile of the southern kingdom of Judah, through the occupation of Judah by Rome, it could be thought that God had not kept the promise made with David. The angel Gabriel's announcement, recorded by Luke, is a loud proclamation that God had not forgotten His promise. The House of David would now truly be made a house to last forever.

At Christmas, we work hard to establish the familiar wanting everything to feel like "home." Christmas trees and stockings can help, but all things change, even our celebrations of Christmas. Advent has called us to look to the one thing that has not changed and that has and will remain constant. If we want home, we need look no further than the house of David and the new-born king whose throne will last forever.

