

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11, 2009



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

ST. MARY'S

	<u>6:00 PM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>12:15 PM</u>
Masters of Ceremony:	Jeff Robinson	John Hricko	Manuel Ceron
Lectors:	J. Charnonneau Nellie Focht	Jeff Robinson Beth Robinson	Lula Olmos Rosa Portillo

E. M.'s No more serving until after the flu season. Thank you.

Ushers:	Bill Snyder	Vern Birgenheir	Victor Olmos
Servers:	Team1	Team 3	

ST. FRANCIS

Masters of Ceremony:	<u>Sunday Jan.18</u> Will Hutchinson	<u>8:00AM</u>
Lectors:	Doug Clipperton Chuck Mason	
Altar Servers:	Team One: Monica Gonzalez	Ana Vicente

MASS INTENTIONS

ST. MARY'S

SAT. 1/10	6 PM	† PAUL DROBINSKI
SUN. 1/11	10:30 AM	† HIGINIO RAMIREZ
" 1/11	12:15 PM	PARISHIONERS
TUE. 1/13	8 AM	† PHILIP MARKEL
WED. 1/14	8 AM	BENNETT/MARTIN FAMILIES
THUR. 1/15	8 AM	† REV. JOSEPH H, VILLACIS
FRI. 1/16	8 AM	† REV. THOMAS W. JONES
SAT. 1/17	6 PM	† MSGR. JOHN SLATTERY
SUN. 1/18	10:30 AM	MURPHY/ CONROY FAMILIES
" "	12:15 PM	† REV. WILLIAM J. FLAHERTY

St. Francis

SUN. 1/11	8 PM	†REV. JUAN LEON
TUE 1/13	5 PM	COMMUNION SERVICE
WED 1/14	5 PM	COMMUNION SERVICE
THUR 1/15	5 PM	COMMUNION SERVICE
FRI 1/16	5 PM	COMMUNION SERVICE
SUN 1/18	8AM	†REV. ALFONSO CEREZO

Daily Readings

Jan. 10	Jn 5:14-21, Jn. 3:22-30
Jan.13	Heb. 2:5-12, Mk. 1:21-28
Jan. 14	Heb. 2:14-18, Mk. 1:29-39
Jan. 15	Heb. 3:7-14, Mk.1:40-45
Jan.16	Heb. 4:1-5, Mk.2:1-12



Please Pray for the Sick

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

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Father Rayanna Pudota !

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection on January 18th will be to assist the Seminarians in our Diocese of Fresno. Your generous contributions are helping these fine young men fulfill their vocational calling.



www.ekksesialifeteen.com

Next gathering will be in Mojave on January 19, 2009 "immersed"

New Offertory Envelopes

There are still parishioners who have not picked up their 2009 offertory envelopes! Please come to the office during regular business hours, or see a staff member after mass.

Calendars will be handed out with the envelopes to registered families.

Tax Statements

We need your help. In order for you to get your year-end contribution statement for tax purposes, we must have your correct address.

Directory

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

If you did not re-register in 2008, please do so **now!**

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.

The schedules are subject to approval.

It is necessary to phone the office at least 2-3 days in advance to inform personnel whether your group will or will not be needing any building opened.

Please remember that closing time for all events is 9:00PM, unless otherwise approved.

St Mary

Last Sunday's Offerings

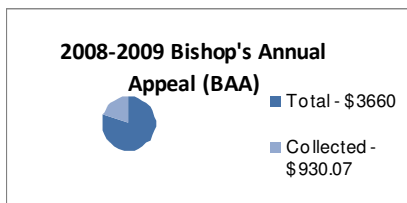
Parish Contributions: **\$2,581.71**

Number of Envelopes Used: **148**

Registered Parishioners: **357**

Bishop's Annual Appeal

\$209.08



RESPECT LIFE MASS

ALL ARE INVITED!

Bishop Steinbock will be celebrating Mass on January 17, 2009 at 4:15pm at St. John's Cathedral. All family life ministers are encouraged to attend to be recognized and blessed by the bishop.

Altar Flowers



The calendar is open for sign ups to donate fresh flowers for the altar

from now until Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

Jan. 3rd /4th : Margarite Lite

Feb. 7th /8th : Margarite Lite

Epiphany Evening

A wonderful evening was had by all who attended the Potluck!!

The White Elephant gift exchange had some guests hiding their selection, hoping no one would steal it; others tried to entice someone to steal their gift. The children enjoyed the Nativity Cake, especially the 3 who found the candy. These three children represented the Wisemen, they were crowned and dressed in colorful robes. They were: Sander graham, Aleksander Graham and Jillian Cullinan, who brought up the gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh to the Baby Jesus. The evening ended with everyone taking home a House Blessing information sheet.

The Light Weigh

IT IS COMING!

Would you like to learn how to eat the foods you enjoy while you lose weight? Would you like to get peace with food and get off the diet roller coaster? Give God a chance AND REDISCOVER THE FREEDOM from food you HAD AS a small child! A Light Weigh Orientation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, JANUARY 20TH AT 7:30pm in St. Mary's Church Hall. Come and find out about The Light Weigh Bible Study-Video Series and how this PROGRAM HAS been a blessing for others!

Lost and Found

We have several items at the office that have been left behind in the Church or in the hall. Please call to identify and then come and pick it up please. Thank you.

Bulletin Advertisers

Reminder- for those who have not renewed your ad in the 2009 bulletin and wish to do so, please contact Sandra in the Parish Office ASAP to make your arrangements. Ads not renewed by February 16th may be removed to allow for new advertisers.



PASTOR'S CORNER

The publication *LectionAid* offers a bit of historical trivia. About a week ago we celebrated the

beginning of a new year, but January 1 has not always been celebrated as the first day of a new year. For centuries, with the coming of Christianity to England, the New Year was celebrated on December 25, the day the birth of Christ changed the world. Beginning in the 1300s and extending into the 1700s, New Year's Day was celebrated on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, the day nine months prior to Christmas upon which Mary became pregnant with Jesus. That moment certainly marked a new beginning for the world, and it was not until 1752 that January 1 was adopted as New Year's Day.

A priest tells a story about a baptism during Mass. A young boy sitting with his parents was watching. At the moment when the priest poured water over the baby's head, the startled boy asked his parents, "How come Father is brainwashing that baby?"

The young boy was not far from the right question. Indeed, not only was the baby's head being washed, but the child's entire being was being washed. From the moment human beings became both self-aware and aware of God, they have had a choice: we can choose what we want, or we can choose what God wants. This choice is described in Genesis in the story of Adam and Eve when, unfortunately, they chose what they wanted over what God wanted, allowing sin to enter the world. Humanity has been affected by that choice ever since.

The washing of baptism frees us from that choice, frees us from that

original sin. In Baptism we also pray that, through grace, the person being baptized will not repeat that choice, but instead will always choose God over self.

A question often asked is why did Jesus go through a baptism for the remission of sin if He was sinless. Volumes of Scripture commentary and books of theology have been written to answer this question. There are many good answers, but perhaps we could look at just one today.

Baptism as we experience it does many things. It frees us from original sin. It offers us protection from further sin. It makes us members of the family of God. Parents promise to raise their child in the practice of the faith. Godparents promise both to help the parents with their promise and to hold them accountable for it. Everyone present promises to reject evil and swears their belief on God.

John's baptism also did more things than simply represent repentance, that is, a decision to change and live, as God wants, not as we want. It was a new beginning, something Jesus would change into a new birth. According to Mark's Gospel, when Jesus was baptized, He saw and heard something that no one else ever had. Jesus saw the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descend upon Him. He heard a voice say, "You are my beloved son." For Jesus, His baptism was not a baptism of repentance, but a baptism of identity. It was also a moment that His private life came to an end and His public ministry began.

At the beginning of the baptism ceremony the priest asks the parents, "What name do you give to your child?" At that moment the

child's name is officially spoken in the Church. The child now has an identity. Also, the identity of the parents changes. No longer are they just Dominic and Regina. Now, many people will come to know them as "Jonathan's parents."

Baptism gives us an identity that is caught up in the identity of Jesus. Baptism also teaches us who Jesus is. John the Baptist would have stunned the crowd when he announced, "I am not worthy to stoop and untie the thongs of His sandals." This was shocking because John was known as a "holy man." People served those identified as holy men. Taking off another person's sandals was a task that belonged to the lowest person in the household, typically a servant or a slave. Also, in a society that made judgments based on an individual's honor, no one debased they. This was seen as shameful.

Yet, when John said that he was not worthy to even untie Jesus' sandals, he was not debasing himself. He was relying on his reputation as a holy man, a man worthy of respect. People would understand that, if John was a holy man and he was not worthy, then Jesus must be someone beyond their imaging!

In a sense, we are brainwashed in baptism, for in baptism we take on an identity based on a relationship with Jesus Christ and with the Church. It is a new birth, a new beginning, just like a new year.

(By Fr. Edward F. Steiner, Clarksville, Tennessee; from The Priest)