
THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 30, 2007

Dear Parishioners,

A Blessed and Happy New Year to you all. Thank you to our staff volunteers and co-workers who put in so much extra effort to make the Christmas season a joy; this includes “decorators”, “musicians”, presiders, lay ministers -- so many, many of you. And of course, a thank you to Fr. Aidan for giving us “Christmas aerobics” with the twelve days of Christmas. You have been generous with your presence, prayers and participation. Many have shared Christmas greetings, wishes and gifts to myself, Fr. Aidan and Sr. Joanne, Fr. Timoney, Fr. Dibble and Fr. Burns. We may not get a chance to write or thank you personally; know that we are most grateful, you are great!

Tomorrow (Monday) is New Year’s Eve, not a “Holy Day”, but a great way to see the old year out and to greet the New Year with hope and prayer. We’ll have a special New Year’s Eve mass at 5:00 pm. You can join us to end your evening or to just begin the evening’s celebration depending on your energy and plans. Then, Tuesday, January 1st, also not a “Holy Day”, we’ll have two masses (8:00 am & 9:15 am) for those who want to start the New Year with Eucharist.

Both this weekend’s celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family and January 1st as the Feast of Mary the Mother of God call to mind the very Catholic but also very Christian

devotion to Mary. A key to appreciating Mary (do you remember when every other Catholic girl in the world was named Mary - plus a large number of boys too!?) is always to see her as teaching us something about Jesus and something about ourselves. The title “mother of God”, fought over, debated, settled and celebrated at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesians in 431 A.D., teaches that Jesus, while fully and completely human, also is the presence of God among us and Mary is “Godbearer” to us. This teaches us not only who Jesus is, but who we are called to be. The truth is, since we have God’s life within us, we also are “God-bearers”, meant to bring God’s presence into the world around us. So how can each of us be “God-bearers” today in the New Year that lies before us?

Finally, our “decorating party” before Christmas was such a success, we need to follow up with an “undecorating party” next Sunday afternoon. If you can help us with an hour or two of work, join us at 1:20 next Sunday afternoon!

Your Pastor,
Brian T. Joyce

P.S. Parish calendars for 2008 are available after mass - no cost but try to leave it one per household.

WEEK AT A GLANCE**SUNDAY**

- The Feast of the Holy Family**
- Second Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society**
- No RE Classes
- No CLOW

MONDAY

- NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31st (not a holy day of obligation)**

- Masses at 8:00 am and 5:00 pm**

TUESDAY

- NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1st (not a holy day of obligation)**

- Masses at 8:00 and 9:15 am**

WEDNESDAY

- No RE Classes

- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:00 pm

- Weekly Charismatic Prayer Meeting, 6 St. Lawrence Ct., 7:30 pm (for info call 932-1313)

- Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Lane), 7:30 pm

THURSDAY

- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10:00 am

- No RE Classes

- RE Parents/Children Baptismal Meeting, Parish Hall (Rooms A & B), 6:30 pm

FRIDAY

- First Friday, Masses at 8:00 am (12 noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) and 7:00 pm

SATURDAY

- Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John at 372-7873

- Altar Society Meeting, Parish Hall (Rooms A & B), Following the 8:00 am Mass

- Bereavement Ministry, Ministry Center (C), 9:30 am

- RE Baptism, Church, 11:00 am

- RE Catechist Dinner, Parish Hall, 6:00 pm

SUNDAY

- The Epiphany of the Lord**

- Second Collection for the School, RE and Youth Ministry**

- RE Program for 3 yr olds (B), Room D, During 9:15 Mass

- PreK/K Program, Parish Hall, A, B, D: K Program, CTK School, During 9:15 Mass

- No CLOW

- "Undecorating Party", Church, 1:30-3:00 pm**

- Taize Prayer Around the Cross, Christ the King Church, 7:00 pm
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First Annual CTK Men's Retreat February 8-10, 2008, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove - Join Fr. Dan Danielson for a weekend retreat to explore what it means to "rest and be still" and learn what to do with that space and time as we come together as Jesus' disciples. Retreat fee is \$250 per person double occupancy. For more info please visit the CTK website (www.ctkph.org)

Save the Date! - CYO Crab Feed on Saturday, Jan 26, 2008 from 6 pm to midnight in the Christ the King gym, \$45 per person. In January tickets will be available for purchase after masses.

Look no further for an important and personally rewarding **New Year's Resolution!** Lend a "caring hand" and make a significant difference to a senior. **Caring Hands** volunteers commit to 1 to 3 hours weekly with an elderly person, providing simple tasks such as friendly visiting and companionship, transportation to and from medical appointments, or errands and grocery shopping. You may choose the services you would like to perform, the communities in which you would like to serve, and your own schedule. We also need substitutes drivers. We will be hosting our next volunteer training session on Friday, January 18, 2008 from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm at John Muir Hospital, Walnut Creek. For more information or to register, please call Linda Groobin or Nancy Ramirez at (925)952-2999.

Taize Prayer Around the Cross – Each month five Christian Churches of Pleasant Hill sponsor an hour of devotional prayer in the spirit of Taize (the ecumenical community in Southern France). The prayer time 7:00 pm (one hour) rotates on the first Sunday of each month through each of the five churches. Next Sun., January 6th the monthly Taize Prayer will be here at Christ the King Church at 7:00 pm. Quiet, prayerful, gentle & refreshing.

Morning Bible Study will resume Monday, January 7th from 8:30-10:30 am in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, please call Kathy Godkin at 280-9748.

Tour to Ireland - In August, 2008 Sr. Joanne Gallagher will be leading another trip to Ireland. The tour will be The Best of Ireland & Ashford Castle. It will begin in Dublin and will take you to Blarney, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Connemara, Kylemore Abby and to Cong to spend one night at the Ashford Castle. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Joanne at 925-682-2486.

Let Us Help Our Ushers - If you do not take your bulletin home, please return it to the vestibule after mass. We want to keep our pews clean for the follow mass. Thank you!

Mass times for traveling Catholics www.masstimes.org or call 1-800-627-7846.

A BLESSING FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Child of Bethlehem --
house of bread;
Man of Jerusalem --
city of peace;
you have loved us
without limit or condition;
in our greatness and in our misery,
in our folly and in our virtue;
may your hand be always upon us
and may your heart be within us
so that we too
may become bread and peace
for one another.

BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

May you find truth in the year's smallest grace,
And hope in the year's heaviest cross.
May a pillar of light before your face
Drive off the darkness so you're never lost.

May your journey be safe wherever you go,
And the angels protect you from hassle and fuss.
May you learn to walk a little bit slow,
And to grow each day in hope and trust.

And may the God of new beginnings,
Grant you a New Year of love and peace.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

