



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Rev. Vincent Juan, Pastor

Missions
Our Lady of the Valley - Fall River Mills
St. Stephen - Bieber

P A R I S H B U L L E T I N

December 31, 2006

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the People of Faith of St. Francis Parish and its Mission Churches are United around the Eucharist, Guided by the Holy Spirit, Working Together to Nurture and Expand the Kingdom of God by Proclaiming the WORD through Discipleship, Fellowship, Education, Healing and the Joyful Celebration of the Sacraments.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays:

M/Tu/W/F 9:00a.m. Burney

Weekends:

Saturday 4:00p.m. Fall River
Sunday 9:00a.m. Burney
11:00a.m. Fall River (Spanish)
1:00p.m. Bieber



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sun 12/31 9:00 a.m. Thomas Kearns † & Elizabeth Kearns
Mon 01/01 9:00a.m. All Souls †
Tue 01/02 9:00 a.m. **NO MASS**
Wed 01/03 9:00 a.m. **NO MASS**
Fri 01/05 9:00 a.m. **NO MASS**

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS PARISH

Sun 12/31 **-Hospitality at St. Stephen** after the 1 p.m. Mass.
Fri 01/05 **-Adoration of the Blessed**

Sacrament, St. Francis, 9:30-10:30.

Sat 01/06 **-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,** Our Lady of the Valley, 2:45-3:45.

Sun 01/07 **-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,** St. Stephen, 11:45-12:45.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

• Show reverence for God by honoring your parents.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21

• Serve the Lord by loving one another.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

• The boy Jesus stays behind in the Temple.

The Feast of the Holy Family: The Wonderful Work of Parents

Rev. Joseph A. Pellegrino

After the rather intense liturgy of Christmas with its heavy theological theme, the Incarnation of the Lord, (hopefully that didn't get lost in the sentiments of the day), today we are presented with a much lighter theme theologically, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Quite often some of you young Moms or Dads will mention in confession that you



are not doing the best job possible as a parent. God bless you for seeking forgiveness for the times you haven't been as loving as you could; however, you are usually way too hard on yourselves. I usually respond to the Mom or

Dad in confession, "Take it easy on yourself. Mary and Joseph left their child in the Temple, and they only had one to worry about."

Still, I realize, and far more important, the Lord realizes, that there is nothing more important to you than being the best parent possible. Sometimes the conditions of your life render the ideal impossible. One or both of the parents may be sick physically, emotionally, psychologically or all three. Your spouse may have died young, or your marriage may have broken up and now you find yourself as a single parent. Or you may have made the moral choice, and chosen to have a baby even though you were not married. The ideal may not be there, but even if all seems perfect in the house next door, there is no family that lives the ideal life. That is only reserved for Leave it to Beaver. (Boy, am I dating myself.) Every other family needs to find their way to being a Holy Family despite their current challenges.

That is what this Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family is about. The Sunday says that Moms and Dads may mean well, but they may make mistakes. They may leave the child in the Temple. But as long as they have mutual respect and treat their children with respect, their family will reflect the Love that motivated the Holy Family.

Joseph and Mary devoted their lives to protecting and caring for their child, Jesus. You do the same for your children, whether

your children are still at home or have moved on with their own lives. You care for your children by protecting them from the evils of the world around them. You care for your children by fulfilling their needs, not necessarily their wants, but their needs. You care for your children by being loving and respectful to each other if you are married, to other adults in all situations, and to your children themselves as individual reflections of God's love entrusted to you to be molded in that person God created your sons or daughter to become.

It is a difficult job being a good Christian parent. At the same time there is nothing better that you could do with your lives. Yes you might become a medical researcher and find a cure to start eliminating cancer, but even that is not greater than being the best Christian Mom or Dad that you can be.

When you die, when I die, the Lord is going to ask us how well we allowed others to reflect His Glory in the world. For me it will be as a priest. For you it will be as a Mom or Dad. One of the finest members of our parish, who passed away, told his wife shortly before he died, "We have beautiful children who are good people. If I don't make it, I know that I've completed my mission here on earth."

I hope you all have the fulfillment of all your dreams and desires in life. I hope you all can go on cruises and travel to Europe and do whatever you think would be wonderful. But I also hope that you know that none of that is important. If you have been gifted with children, the only thing you need to do is do your best to be a good Mom or Dad.

But how about those children who have strayed? How about those children who have received the best in their homes, and then became adults and stopped attending

Church? Treat them with respect. Treat them with love. Continue to forgive them, and whether they like it or not, they will have an experience of Christ in their lives. And they will be healed, healed by the Lord, healed by you who remain a vehicle of God's love.

I will never forget one of our Moms telling me that she survived the Air Force Academy. She thought that being a cadet would be the hardest thing she would ever have to do, particularly that first year when she was away from home the first time. But she learned that there would be nothing more difficult than raising a child, or in her case, three children. She also learned that there would be nothing more rewarding.

Good families are not perfect families. Good Moms and Dads are not perfect Moms and Dads. Mistakes happen. Sometimes a child gets left behind in the Temple because Mom and Dad are convinced the child was with the other spouse. It doesn't matter if mistakes are made. It only matters that parents are doing their best to be good parents. It only matters that parents are respecting each other, even if they are no longer present to each other through death or divorce. It only matters that parents love their children with the sacrificial love of the Lord. For if the sacrificial love of the Lord is the modus operandi, the way that parents treat their children, then the Lord will surely be present in the home, and the family will surely be a Holy Family.

May your family and our Church family continue to grow in love. May we as individual units and as universal Church remain a Holy Family.

Theme: Jesus establishes his obedience to and relationship with God the Father.

Question for Adults: How are you, too,

called to our Father's house?

Question for Youths: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

Question for Children: Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

FIFTH SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR CCD

This weekend we will have our quarterly collection for the support of our CCD Program throughout the parish.

FR. VINCENT ON VACATION

Fr. Vincent will be on vacation beginning after the morning Mass on Monday, January 1st through Saturday, January 6th. There will be no morning Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION

Fr. Vincent and the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to thank everyone who helped out with the Christmas food distribution to 137 families in our community. This year we expanded our area to serve families in the Fall River Valley and Big Valley. With your continued support, we can reach more of those who are less fortunate throughout the year. Finally, we wish to recognize Safeway's very generous donation of 65 hams to our food bank.

BISHOP GARCIA APPOINTED BISHOP OF MONTEREY

Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Garcia to succeed Bishop Sylvester Ryan as bishop of Monterey. There will be two farewell Masses and receptions for Bishop Garcia on **Sunday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Redding and on Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 p.m. at**

the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC PRIEST?

You are invited to attend a Discernment Retreat, 4 p.m. on Friday, **January 26th** through 1 p.m., Sunday, January 28th, at St. Patrick's Seminary to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you! Single, Catholic men, 21 years of age or older, are invited to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation. The weekend is designed to provide the tools needed to help you determine if God might be calling you to a vocation to the priesthood. Discernment Retreat will include prayer, discussion and presentations about the priesthood, group interactions and following the daily routine of a seminarian. For further information, please see Fr. Vincent.

CCD CLASSES RESUME IN JANUARY

CCD Classes are suspended at St. Francis and Our Lady of the Valley for the weeks of December 24th & 31st. Classes will resume the week of January 7th.

INTERESTED IN GIVING A YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AS A LAY VOLUNTEER?

Mercy Volunteer Corps, a lay volunteer program for women and men sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy provides opportunities for people over the age of 21 to **give a year of service to those in need**. The emphasis of the program is service, community and prayer. Volunteer possibilities include teaching or nursing, working in homeless shelters, clinics and social service agencies in urban and rural settings throughout the United States. Room, board, medical insurance and a small

stipend are provided. Loan deferments are available.

For more information contact: Mercy Volunteer Corps Office (215) 641-5535 or Sheila Devereux, RSM (415) 751-9574.



**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS
THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST**

III. The Eucharist in the Economy of Salvation

The signs of bread and wine

1333 At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord's command the Church continues to do, in his memory and until his glorious return, what he did on the eve of his Passion: "He took bread...." "He took the cup filled with wine...." the signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ; they continue also to signify the goodness of creation. Thus in the Offertory we give thanks to the Creator for bread and wine, fruit of the "work of human hands," but above all as "fruit of the earth" and "of the vine" - gifts of the Creator. The Church sees in the gesture of the king-priest Melchizedek, who "brought out bread and wine," a prefiguring of her own offering.

1334 In the Old Covenant bread and wine were offered in sacrifice among the first fruits of the earth as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to the Creator. But they also received a new significance in the context of the Exodus: the unleavened bread that Israel eats every year at Passover commemorates the haste of the departure that liberated them from Egypt; the remembrance of the manna in the desert will always recall to Israel that it

lives by the bread of the Word of God; their daily bread is the fruit of the promised land, the pledge of God's faithfulness to his promises.

The "cup of blessing" at the end of the Jewish Passover meal adds to the festive joy of wine an eschatological dimension: the messianic expectation of the rebuilding of Jerusalem. When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, he gave a new and definitive meaning to the blessing of the bread and the cup.

1335 The miracles of the multiplication of the loaves, when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigure the superabundance of this unique bread of his Eucharist. The sign of water turned into wine at Cana already announces the Hour of Jesus' glorification. It makes manifest the fulfillment of the wedding feast in the Father's kingdom, where the faithful will drink the new wine that has become the Blood of Christ.

1336 The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. "Will you also go away?" The Lord's question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only he has "the words of eternal life" and that to receive in faith the gift of his Eucharist is to receive the Lord himself.

The institution of the Eucharist

1337 The Lord, having loved those who were his own, loved them to the end. Knowing that the hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father, in the course of a meal he washed their feet and gave them the commandment of love. In order to leave them a pledge of this love,

in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of his death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return; "thereby he constituted them priests of the New Testament."

1338 The three synoptic Gospels and St. Paul have handed on to us the account of the institution of the Eucharist; St. John, for his part, reports the words of Jesus in the synagogue of Capernaum that prepare for the institution of the Eucharist: Christ calls himself the bread of life, come down from heaven.

1339 Jesus chose the time of Passover to fulfill what he had announced at Capernaum. Giving his disciples his Body and his Blood.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, that we may eat it...." They went ... and prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.".... And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." and likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in my blood."

1340 By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist,

which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom.

"Do this in memory of me"

1341 The command of Jesus to repeat his actions and words "until he comes" does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what he did. It is directed at the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ, of his life, of his death, of his Resurrection, and of his intercession in the presence of the Father.

1342 From the beginning the Church has been faithful to the Lord's command. Of the Church of Jerusalem it is written:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.... Day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts.

1343 It was above all on "the first day of the week," Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection, that the Christians met "to break bread." From that time on down to our own day the celebration of the Eucharist has been continued so that today we encounter it everywhere in the Church with the same fundamental structure. It remains the center of the Church's life.

1344 Thus from celebration to celebration, as they proclaim the Paschal mystery of Jesus "until he comes," the pilgrim People of God advances, "following the narrow way of the cross," toward the heavenly banquet, when all the elect will be seated at the table of the kingdom.

LOOK MA, NO ARMS!

A man spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell. The Lord said to the man, "Come, I will show you hell." They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished, desperate and starving. Each held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so much longer than their own arm that it could not be used to get the stew into their own mouths. The suffering was terrible.

"Come, now I will show you heaven," the Lord said after a while. They entered another room, identical to the first - the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long-handled spoons. But there everyone was happy and well-nourished.

"I don't understand," said the man. "Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room and everything was the same?"

The Lord smiled, "Ah, it is simple," he said. "here they have learned to feed each other."

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Mon	01/01	Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Tue	01/02	1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 1:19-28
Wed	01/03	Jn 1:35-42 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34
Thu	01/04	1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42
Fri	01/05	1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Jn 1:43-51
Sat	01/06	1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

"The Gospel of Luke" presented by Art Wehr, S.J.—St. Ignatius Church, Sacramento, **January 16, 23, 30**; 10-11:30 am session or 7-8:30 pm session.

"Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation" Catechetical Leader Workshop presented by Diocesan Committee for RCIA, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Sacramento, **January 25th**, 9:30 am-noon. Cost: \$20.

"The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults", Catechetical Leader Workshop presented by Rev. Loreto Rojas, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Sacramento, **January 25th, February 15th**, 9:30 am - noon. Cost: \$20.

"A Methodology for Teaching" presented by Holly Peterson, Ed.D., St. Anthony Parish, Mt. Shasta, **January 31**, 7-9 pm. Cost: free.

The Lay Formation Institute "Foundations of Faith-Foundations of Catholicism", taught by Rev. Edward Fassett, S.J.—Pastoral Center, Sacramento, **January 26th** (6:30-9 pm) and **January 27th** (8:30 am - 4:00 pm). Course will fulfill 8 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25.

Lay Formation Institute "Life in Christ", taught by **Rev. Loreto Rojas**. Pastoral Center, Sacramento, February 2nd (6:30-9 pm) and February 3rd (8:30 am - 4:00 pm). Course will fulfill 8 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25. For more information contact Kathy at 916.733.0123.

21st Congress on Parish Worship Nourished by the Word

The Office of Worship (Liturgical Commission) will offer seminars at Bishop Quinn High School, Palo Cedro, on Saturday, **February 3, 2007**, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Speakers include Alexander Shaia, Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM, Sr. Maura Power, RSM, Linda Shumate, Jackson Schoos. Breakout sessions include:

At Home With the Word; Music and The Word,
The Liturgy of the Hours,
Liturgies of the Word Outside of Mass, Proclaiming the Word;
Reflections on Ministry and Practicum

The Liturgical Cycle and The Lectionary Cycle Registration forms will be available in mid-December. For more information contact worship@diocese-sacramento.org.

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Sabado 12:00 - 8:30

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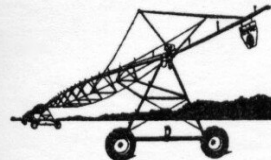
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