



The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

### PRAYER TO EMULATE MARY'S FAITH

Mary our Mother, you consented in faith to become the Mother of Jesus. At the angel's announcement you received the Word of God in your heart as well as in your body, and you brought Life to the world. You conceived in your heart, with your whole being, before you conceived in your womb.

Obtain for us a faith similar to your own which will enable us to hear the Word of God and carry it out. Let us imitate your motherhood by our faith, bringing Christ to birth in others who have desperate need of him. Amen

## St. Anthony's Staff

	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone ext.</u>	<u>E-mail address</u>
Pastor	Rev Msgr. Rob Wenzinger	ext. 104	<a href="mailto:fatherrob@stanthonyfresno.org">fatherrob@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Administrator, Parish	Mary Mosier	ext. 103	<a href="mailto:mmosier@stanthonyfresno.org">mmosier@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Administrative Asst.	Chris Shiveley	ext 101	<a href="mailto:cshiveley@stanthonyfresno.org">cshiveley@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Administrative Asst.	Teri Lóera	ext 102	<a href="mailto:tloera@stanthonyfresno.org">tloera@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Accts. Receivable	Lilli Angela Antonio	ext 172	<a href="mailto:lantonio@stanthonyfresno.org">lantonio@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Bookkeeper	Sherry Otero	ext 120	<a href="mailto:sotero@stanthonyfresno.org">sotero@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Adult Religious Ed.	Martha Danks-Ferguson	ext 114	<a href="mailto:mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org">mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Bulletin Editor	Jan Spraggins	ext 115	<a href="mailto:jspraggins@stanthonyfresno.org">jspraggins@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Children's Religious Ed.	Mary Socorro Briseño	ext 119	<a href="mailto:mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org">mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Finance/Facilities	Tom Neumeier	ext. 243	<a href="mailto:tneumeier@sasfresno.com">tneumeier@sasfresno.com</a>
Infant Baptisms	Teri Lóera	ext 102	<a href="mailto:tloera@stanthonyfresno.org">tloera@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
High School Sacraments	Sharon Christison	ext 111	<a href="mailto:schristison@stanthonyfresno.org">schristison@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Hispanic Ministries	Edgar Briseño	ext 173	<a href="mailto:ebriseno@stanthonyfresno.org">ebriseno@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Hispanic Ministries Asst.	Sr. Teresa de Jesús	ext. 113	<a href="mailto:srteresa@stanthonyfresno.org">srteresa@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Marriage Coordinator	Lynn Medeiros	ext 116	<a href="mailto:lmedeiros@stanthonyfresno.org">lmedeiros@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Music Ministries	David Sarkisian	ext 302	<a href="mailto:dsarkisian@comcast.net">dsarkisian@comcast.net</a>
Parish Ministries	Norma Jean Liscano	ext 105	<a href="mailto:njliscano@stanthonyfresno.org">njliscano@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
	Sister Flor	ext 122	<a href="mailto:sisterflor@stanthonyfresno.org">sisterflor@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
	Sister Rosa Maria	ext 112	<a href="mailto:rosamaria@stanthonyfresno.org">rosamaria@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Religious Ed. Secretary	Aida Bolton	ext 121	<a href="mailto:ibolton@stanthonyfresno.org">ibolton@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Sunday Pre-School	Martha Danks-Ferguson	ext 114	<a href="mailto:mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org">mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Youth Group Ministries	Sharon Christison	ext 111	<a href="mailto:schristison@stanthonyfresno.org">schristison@stanthonyfresno.org</a>
Youth Group Assistant	Sarah Moreno	ext 110	<a href="mailto:smoreno@stanthonyfresno.org">smoreno@stanthonyfresno.org</a>

### St. Anthony's School ~ 435-0700

School Principal	Mrs. Kim Cochran	ext 233	<a href="mailto:kcochran@sasfresno.com">kcochran@sasfresno.com</a>
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### St. Agnes Mission Church ~ 439-2100

Parish Administrator	Annette Amparano	394-5058	<a href="mailto:amparano@stagnes.comcastbiz.net">amparano@stagnes.comcastbiz.net</a>
Director of Religious Ed.	Phyllis Carmona	299-5549	
Hispanic Ministries	Miguel Mireles	259-4205	

#### **Please Note:**

St. Anthony of Padua and St. Agnes Mission Church parish offices will be **closed Monday, January 2, 2012** in observance of New Years Day. We will **re-open Tuesday, January 3, 2012** with our regular operating hours. May you have a blessed New Year!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE ([www.stanthonyfresno.org](http://www.stanthonyfresno.org))**

E-mail Lisa Hendey at: [Lhendey@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:Lhendey@stanthonyfresno.org)

Don't forget to **"like"** us on **Facebook** and **"check in"** (on your mobile device) **before** Mass to let others know about our wonderful Parish.

### *Welcome to St. Anthony's*

We at St. Anthony of Padua Church extend our heart in a warm welcome to you. Whether a long term resident or newly arrived in the Parish, we are so grateful you are with us. If you have not registered, or would like to update registration information, please fill out this form; you may place it in the collection basket or mail/drop off at the Parish Office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

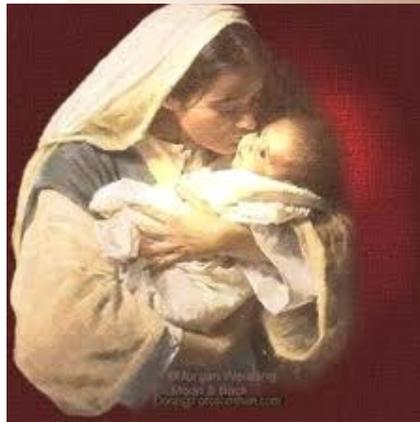
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST READING: *Numbers 6:22–27*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalms 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8*

SECOND READING: *Galatians 4:4–7*

GOSPEL: *Luke 2:16–21*



### Blessing

The new year begins with a blessing. For us, blessing speaks of a consecration or setting aside of a thing or space or person, but the biblical use of blessing goes deeper than that. A blessing is an action of God that leads to happiness and fulfillment. So we begin the new year with a blessing that's bigger than all time.

### Comment

God's blessing is given to Mary, and through her to all of us. For centuries, since 431 A.D., we have identified Mary as the God-bearer, the Mother of God. When the Council of Ephesus in that year declared Mary as the Mother of God, they were also saying that Jesus is God as well as human. This huge claim, of course, is nothing less than the impenetrable mystery of the Incarnation, which we celebrated only a week ago on December 25.

We revisit the Incarnation today on this first day of the new year. We are greeted with the kindly, peaceful blessing of God. This blessing is fulfilled in the Incarnation. The Gospel for this Mass today is the same as that of the Mass at Dawn on Christmas Day, with the addition of the Jewish rite of circumcision. We move quickly from the scene at Bethlehem to the brief statement about fulfilling the law of Moses, a reminder that this small family is firmly grounded in the tradition and faith of Israel. The name Jesus, proclaimed by the angel Gabriel, is given to this child. It means "the Lord saves." We need to be reminded that for the people of Israel, names are not chosen for superficial reasons. They are not trendy or cute. Names carry great meaning; they identify one's mission in life. Often enough we have read of name changes that describe mission. Abram became Abraham, the father of great nations. Sarai became Sarah. And, in the Christian Scriptures, Jesus gave Simon the new name Peter, which defined his mission. Today we recall that Jesus is the Lord's salvation. God's active blessing recorded in the book of Numbers is realized in Jesus. God's action is to become one with us, to bring happiness and fulfillment.

It is through Mary that this happens. As Paul reminds us, this Son who is God's active salvation has come to us through a woman who was born under the law. Through this daughter of Israel the law is fulfilled. In this time, we are welcomed in. We are adopted children. God's salvation is ours, too. We are blessed ones. We can call the Lord by a new familiar name—Abba. This, says Paul, is God's design.

### Reflection

And what a design! On this oldest of Marian feasts, we see the whole picture. We are among the blessed. Again, not because we are worthy or deserving or clever or rich. We are blessed because God is generous and wills our salvation.

We are at the far end of a long history that began when God brought light and life from chaos at the beginning of time. We are the youngest inheritors of God's blessing, a blessing beautifully enunciated by Moses' brother Aaron. We are the newest Christians in a long train of Christians. We share in the blessing given so explicitly to Mary and reiterated by Elizabeth, "Blessed are you among women." Elizabeth gave us the words that reflected her understanding of blessedness—the Jewish understanding. God's blessing is God's action that brings happiness and fullness of life.

We confess the faith proclaimed at Ephesus that calls Mary the Mother of God, which identifies Jesus as God. Mary retains a privileged place in the Church's life and prayer. She, who is Mother of God, is also Mother of the Church.

Blessings given must be received, otherwise they are like unopened gifts. As Mary received God's blessing, so must we. She lived as a woman blessed by God; so must we. This blessing is a responsibility as well as a privilege. It asks of us an obedience—literally a deep listening—to the blessing of God among us today. The overflow of exuberant blessings and songs and canticles scattered throughout the gathering prayers and the responsorial psalms is the Church's means of celebration today. We, in turn, must allow them to lead us to the gratitude that finds expression in a life that, like Mary's, is a living witness to God's blessings.

Readings and Mass Intentions (January 1 ~ January 8, 2012)	
<b>Sunday 1/1</b>	<b>Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Deceased Members of The Tony & AnnaMarie Ochinero Family by their children
<b>9:30 am</b>	† William Anthony Almeida by The Young Ladies Institute #127
<b>11:00 am</b>	† Pauline Costa by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Loudon
<b>1:00 pm (Spanish)</b>	Pro Populo
<b>3:30 pm (Latin)</b>	† Ann Keller by Thomas & Martha Slaven
<b>6:00 pm</b>	† David Danks by BettyAnn Roque
<b>Monday 1/2</b>	<b>1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28</b>
<b>6:45 am</b>	† Eddie Dinganovich by The Nieto Family
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Josephine Cocola by Theresa & Rosemarie Papagni
<b>Tuesday 1/3</b>	<b>1 Jn 2:29 – 3:6; Jn 1:29-34</b>
<b>6:45 am</b>	† Elise Stecko by Cindy Galter
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Frank Redondo, Jr by Frank & Rosemarie Redondo
<b>Wednesday 1/4</b>	<b>1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42</b>
<b>6:45 am</b>	Intentions of Nelda Rodriguez by MaryAnn Belfy
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Robert Cochran-Ballantyne by Joanie Ballantyne
<b>Thursday 1/5</b>	<b>1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51</b>
<b>6:45am</b>	†Jesse Chavez by rebecca Mestas
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Mario Beltramo. Sr by his family
<b>Friday 1/6</b>	<b>1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]</b>
<b>6:45 am</b>	†Mervin Henriques by George Buck
<b>8:45 am</b>	†Nicola DiCicco by Nikki, Giuliano, Evangelea & Evenia
<b>5:30 pm</b>	† Roy Silva by J. Silva
<b>7:00 pm (Spanish)</b>	† Marie & Victor Nattali by J. silva
<b>Saturday 1/7</b>	<b>1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	†Tammy Branden by May & Jim Collins
<b>5:15 pm</b>	†David Danks by Gary & Donna Giannetta
<b>7:00 pm (Spanish)</b>	† Silvina Rincon por Rosario Pinedo
<b>Sunday 1/8</b>	<b>Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	† Bob Lund by Mike & Theresa Carlile
<b>9:30 am</b>	Pro Populo
<b>11:00 am</b>	† Msgr Laserian Byrne by Lloydell & John Muro
<b>1:00 pm (Spanish)</b>	† Lucia Dunlap
<b>3:30 pm (Latin)</b>	†Joseph Curcio by Andrew & Ann Casado
<b>6:00 pm</b>	†Jeff Douglas by Mark & Janet Cameron

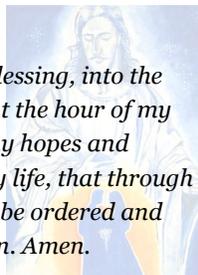
### MARRIAGE MATTERS

Accepting our spouse's imperfections is difficult. When you find it hard recite the Serenity Prayer: Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. In time, with the help of prayer, you will grow to accept each other's differences and idiosyncrasies and your relationship will move to a different level. Pray for help in being more tolerant toward your spouse.

John Bosio – Happy Together: the Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage, © 2008

#### Prayer Commending Oneself to Mary

*O holy Mary, my Mistress, into thy blessed trust and special blessing, into the bosom of thy tender mercy, this day, every day of my life and at the hour of my death, I commend my soul and body; to thee I entrust all my hopes and consolations, all my trials and miseries, my life and the end of my life, that through thy most holy intercession and thy merits, all my actions may be ordered and disposed according to thy will and that of thy divine Son. Amen.*



### Recently Requested Masses and Intentions

#### Intentions For:

David Ferdinandi Family by The Roque Family

#### Pray for the Sick:

*We pray for Richard Danks, Arlene Gregory, Margaret Ramirez, Rudy Dolenshak and all those who are sick. May they feel the healing power of our prayers.*



#### Condolences:

*We pray for all the faithful departed. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*



#### PRAYER OF THE WEEK Mary, the Holy Mother of God

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

#### Reflection question:

*What can I take to the Blessed Virgin Mary in prayer this week?*

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#### For the weekend of December 18, 2011

This week's plate income: **\$24,581.00**

Last year's plate income: **\$24,887.97**

**Difference: - \$ 306.97**

#### Year to Date Plate Collection:

7/1/2010 - 11/30/2010: **\$ 514,838.98**

7/1/2011 - 11/30/2011: **\$ 535,180.64**

**Difference +\$ 20,341.66**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER**  
 Religious Education Program for K - 6th grades  
 Happy and Blessed New Year!

**CLASSES RESUME:**  
Sunday, January 8, 2012 & Tuesday, January 10, 2012  
 Please remember to check your calendars; you may also  
 access them online at: [www.stanthonyfresno.org](http://www.stanthonyfresno.org).

For more information contact: Mary Briseño 439-0124  
 ext. 119 or [mbriseneno@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:mbriseneno@stanthonyfresno.org)

**RADIANT JOY**  
 Life Teen  
*Leading Teens Closer to Christ*

January 22: Life Night "Follow the Recipe"  
 January 29: Life Night "Alpha Omega"

Retreat weekend is February 24 - 26,  
 forms available on the website.

Questions email:  
 Sharon at [schristison@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:schristison@stanthonyfresno.org)  
 or call 439-0124 ext. 111

**EDGE**

6th, 7th & 8th grade Youth Ministry  
 Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45pm in the Social Hall  
 May all of you & your families have a  
 Happy New Year!

See you Jan. 10 for  
**FIRE: The Holy Spirit!**

For more information, contact Sarah Moreno  
 at 439-0124 ext. 110 or  
[smoreno@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:smoreno@stanthonyfresno.org)



**R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** Our Inquiry sessions will resume on **Tuesday, January 10** at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. Those interested in completing their Sacraments of Initiation and those interested in becoming Catholic are welcome to join us. If you have any questions please call Martha @ 439-0124, ext. 114 or contact her @ [mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org) for more information. May you and your family enjoy a very blessed Christmas season.

**THE ALTAR II**

Have you ever noticed the priest kiss the altar at the beginning and end of Mass? This graceful act highlights the significance of the altar as a central symbol of our worship life.

Apart from the introduction of the use of the vernacular at Mass, the change in the location of the altar—away from the back wall of the church and into the midst of the assembly—is probably the most obvious effect of the Second Vatican Council. This change allowed people to gather more easily around the altar. Two related changes were also mandated by the Council. In the pre-Vatican II liturgy, because the priest alone performed most of the liturgical functions, a long altar was needed so that the two readings could be proclaimed from opposite ends of the altar while remaining separate from the Eucharistic action, which took place in the center of the altar. Such an elongated table is no longer necessary. Secondly, because communion should be given from the sacrifice just enacted on the altar, the tabernacle was removed from the main altar. This maintains the integrity of both altar and tabernacle as sites of Christ's presence in the church. We have grown in our awareness of Christ's presence in the gathered assembly, in the proclamation of the word, in the person of the priest and in the Eucharistic elements. We have been less attentive to the symbolic significance of the altar itself.



The Rite of Dedication of an Altar (which most often takes place during the dedication of the church in which the altar is located) gives us a glimpse of the significance of this symbol. In that rite, the altar is sprinkled with water, anointed with chrism and incensed by the bishop in a pattern much like our initiation rituals. It is then clothed with an altar cloth and adorned with lighted candles. These rituals leave no doubt that the altar is "the midpoint between heaven and earth." With the ancient images of Abraham's altar of sacrifice and the table of the Last Supper firmly rooted in our tradition, we encircle our parish altar, confident that God is present in our midst.



### Octave of Christmas and Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos* (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*.

*"I also entrust myself once again to you (Mary) and with confident affection I repeat to you: Totus tuus ego sum! I am all yours!"*  
 ~ Blessed Pope John Paul II on occasion of World Youth Day 2003

### First Friday Mass January 6, 2012 @ 5:30pm



Everyone is welcome to join the St. Padre Pio Devotees as they gather for Mass in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction, immediately following a conclusion of prayers for the intercession of St. Padre Pio.

*"If we only knew how God regards this Sacrifice, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass."* ~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina

### MINISTRY CORE GROUP MEETING!



Please be sure to mark your calendar for the next Core Group on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 @ 7:00pm in the Conference Room. We will be discussing plans for the next Ministry Fair. If you have any questions, please call the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, ext. 112.

### FAITH STUDY w/Rev. Mr Ed Valdez



There will be NO Tuesday night bible study class January 3rd thru January 31st  
 Class will resume February 7, 2012  
 Guest speakers: Sami Shwiyhat & Vince Liscano



### English Charismatic Prayer Group

This group meets every Friday, in Room #23 @ 7:30pm.  
 New members are welcome to join us at anytime If you have any question please contact Christy Villas at: 271-1246.



**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK @  
 ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH  
 FEBRUARY 11, 2012 @ 10:00AM**

Please mark your calendars to bring your sick and elderly family members to receive the comfort of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. More details forthcoming .



### Women's Bible Study

**Class resumes Thursday, January 12, 2012  
 Every Thursday Morning from 10:00am – 11:30am**

**Where: Room #21 - Study: "Corinthians"**

If you have any questions please call the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, ext. 105.



### 'CHEERLEADERS FOR CHRIST'

The Office of Ministries would like to express our sincere gratitude to the 'Cheerleaders for Christ'...for the beautiful handmade Christmas cards for our Homebound Parishioners. Thank you for bringing Christmas joy & hope to those who are homebound & infirmed,...may you carry the Spirit of Christmas in your hearts today and always...!

**Taizé Prayer Service resumes on Monday,  
 January 23, 2012 from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the  
 Main @ St Anthony of Padua Church**

**We invite you to come and experience God's presence in our lives. This prayer is for people of all ages. In this busy world, we need to nourish ourselves more and more through prayer, silence, song and on Christ Himself, who is the source of all grace and wisdom.**

**"Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?" ~ St. Gerard Majella**

If you have any questions please contact the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, x 105.



### 24 HOUR PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

We are in Urgent need of Permanente Adorers for the early morning hours and weekends! If you could spend just one hour or would like to schedule a permanent hour, please contact the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, ext., 112 or 105. Thank you.

*"O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I would like to be filled with love for You; keep me closely united with You, may my heart be near to Yours. I want to be to You like the Apostle John. O Mary of the Rosary, keep me recollected when I say these prayers of yours; bind me forever, with your rosary, to Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament. Blessed be Jesus, my love." - Pope John XXIII, Journal of a Soul*

For the Ride Home

**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Mother of God  
January 1, 2011**

**Scripture**

- \* The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Nehemiah 6:26)
- \* May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. (Psalm 67:2)
- \* God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Galatians 4:6)
- \* And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

**Reflection**

- \* What does Luke mean, "reflecting ... in her heart?" Have you ever held an experience or feeling close to your heart that was beyond words?
- \* Can you find a feeling that you cherish and hold it close to your heart?
- \* When "God's face shines upon us," is it an expression of feeling God's love within? Try to describe that feeling?
- \* Can you hold a peace in your heart that is a free from material desire and worldly irritation?

The emptiness and interior solitude and peace without which we cannot be filled with God were given by Him to Mary in order that she might receive Him into the world by offering Him the hospitality of a being that was perfectly pure, perfectly silent, perfectly at rest, perfectly at peace, and centered in utter humility. If we ever manage to empty ourselves of the noise of the world and of our own passions, it is because she has been sent close to us by God and given us to share in her sanctity and hiddenness.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Merton, Thomas, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, New Directions: New York, 1972, p168,9. For the Ride Home by Ted Bergh, © ParishVision Llc 2011 - Visit ParishVision.org.

Daily Reading and Meditation ~ Sunday, January 1, 2012

**"He was called Jesus"**

**Scripture:** *Luke 2:16-21*

*16 And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; 18 and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

**Meditation:** What's the significance of a name? For the Jewish people the giving of a name had great importance. When a name was given it represented what that person should be in the future. An unknown name meant that someone could not be completely known. To not acknowledge someone's name meant both denial of the person, destruction of their personality, and change in their destiny. A person's name expressed the reality of his or her being at its deepest level. A Jewish child was named at the time of circumcision, eight days after birth. This rite was instituted by God as an outward sign to single out those who belonged to the chosen people. It was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his posterity. In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name *Jesus* on the eighth day according to the Jewish



custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name *Jesus* because that is the name given by God's messenger before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. This name signifies Jesus' identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means *the Lord saves*. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man *will save his people from their sins* (Matthew 1:21). In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace, mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name *Jesus* signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation. Peter the Apostle exclaimed that *there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved* (Acts 2:12). In the name of Jesus demons flee, cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. His name is exalted far above every other name (Philippians 2:9-11). The name *Jesus* is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through and in Jesus that we pray to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians have died with one word on the lips, the name of Jesus. Do you exalt the name of Jesus and pray with confidence in his name?

"Lord Jesus Christ, I exalt your name above every other name. For in you I have pardon, mercy, grace and victory over sin and death. You humbled yourself for my sake and for the sake of all sinners by sharing in our humanity and by dying on the cross. Help me to always praise your holy name and to live for your greater glory." (www.rc.net)



### Faith Building Event

When: **January 20 - 21, 2012** (Youth Conference: January 21, 2012)  
 Where: Radisson Hotel (Downtown Fresno)  
 Speakers: Fr. Stan Fortuna, Msgr. Patrick McCormick, Fr. Christopher Crotty, Fr. Richard McAlear  
 Msgr. Myron Cotta will celebrate the opening Mass on Friday, January 20, 2012 at 6:30pm  
 Youth Registration: \$25 includes lunch  
 Adult Registration: \$55/person; \$100/married couples  
 For more information: 271-1246



**St. Agnes Mission Church** in Pinedale is a Mission of St. Anthony of Padua Parish. The St. Agnes Mission strives to be self funding, but economic times are difficult for all of us. To remedy our financial situation, St. Agnes Mission has launched its 'Pink Envelope' Campaign to continue meeting expenses. Each of the St. Agnes families is asked to pledge an additional \$10.00 or more each month above their usual plate donation.

We would love to have you visit our Mission for either Sunday Masses. We celebrate a 9:00am (English) and a 10:30am (Spanish) liturgy. Please watch the bulletin for upcoming fundraising events. Please call St. Agnes Mission office at 439-2100 if you have any questions.



### BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Do* you have a desire to be closer to Jesus?  
*Would* you like to have a more intimate relationship with Jesus?  
*Have* you ever just sat in the presence of Our Lord?  
*Have* you ever wanted to just "get away from it all", but did not know where to go?

**We have just the place for you!** We would like to **invite** you to visit Jesus in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel (located in the Parish Office). What a special gift we have, to be able to be in His presence - any time, any day. He is there . . . waiting for you! He desires for you to come and visit Him and He is only asking for **one hour**. Just think of all the ways He has been there for you, won't you come and visit? Please call Sr. Rosa Maria at 439-0124 ext. 112 to schedule your hour.

### POLICY FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Deadline: 11 days prior** to the Sunday you'd like your article to be considered for publication.

**Format:** Typewritten, e-mail is preferable

**Send** articles to Jan by e-mail @ [jspraggins@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:jspraggins@stanthonyfresno.org)

**Note: The editor's deadline is set by the publisher and is non-negotiable.**  
**Due to this reason, late articles will not be accepted.**

Articles must be approved prior to appearing in the bulletin. We reserve the right to edit articles.

### PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

*We must pray literally without ceasing; I mean that prayer of the heart which is independent of time and place, which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God, as in a constant communication with God.* - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Our beloved Bishop John T. Steinbock, D.D. more than ever - our wonderful advocate for life. Please join us for one Bishop John's "favorites", our Respect Life Mass at **St. John's Cathedral**, to be held at 4:15pm on Saturday, **January 14, 2012**, as we witness to our faith, which proclaims the sacredness of life and the dignity of all persons, most especially the unborn.

Then join in the 8th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco at the Civic Center Plaza, January 21, 2012 ([walkforlifewc.com/event.htm](http://walkforlifewc.com/event.htm)), and Right to Life Central California's Walk for Life at Woodpark Park on March 24, 2012!



**RETROUVAILLE**

The word Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i.) is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program.

The Retrouvaille Program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6-12 post-weekend sessions over 3 months. It provides the tools to help put your marriage in order again. The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

For confidential information about or to register for the January program in Bakersfield call 661-747-2212 or email: [slmagana12@att.net](mailto:slmagana12@att.net) or visit the website at: [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

**SILENT SIX DAY INDIVIDUALLY DIRECTED RETREAT!**

**"Behold, I Make All Things New!"** Rev. 21:15

January 8 - 15, 2012

with Fr. Steve Coffey, OSB

It is not too early to begin thinking about making the best retreat that we offer here at St. Anthony Retreat. Everyone who has made this retreat will tell you that it has a tremendous impact on their lives. If you feel that you are being called to deepen your relationship with God, please begin praying about making this retreat. Yes, it is completely silent, although there is input each day and you do share individually with a spiritual director. But God does most of the talking and you might be very surprised what you hear in your heart.

Fr. Steve will lead the retreat each morning with a short conference and will give scripture references for prayer. Three will be ample time for personal prayer as well as the celebration of the Eucharist each day. It is a very graced experience and you will not ever regret making this retreat. For more information, please call St. Anthony Retreat Center at 561-4595.

**New Beginnings! Centering Prayer Retreat, January 6-8 at St. Anthony's Retreat Center**

Would you like to begin 2012 by resting and renewing your spirit and deepening your prayer life? Consider giving yourself and/or someone else the gift of a Centering Prayer retreat.

**Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, (includes dinner) through Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> (includes lunch)**

12 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for MFT's and LCSW's for \$25. Retreat is \$195 for a shared room and \$235/single room if you register before December 31st. After December 31<sup>st</sup>, amount will increase by \$25.

Retreat will be offered by Contemplative Outreach trained presenters: Juan C. Garcia, Ph.D., LMFT, and Everardo Pedraza, M.A. For more information and/or to register, please call Everardo at 559-230-9736 or email: [centeringprayerretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:centeringprayerretreat@yahoo.com).

**Our Lady of the Sierra Parish of Oakhurst**

is hosting a

**Tour to Emerald Ireland, March 12 - 22, 2012**

This eleven day tour of Ireland, which will include St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, will travel roundtrip from San Francisco to Dublin. We will visit Waterford, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Our Lady of Knock, Sligo and Dublin. The fare of \$2499 per person plus taxes and tips, includes all travel from San Francisco, bus travel, 4 & 5 star hotels, two meals daily, entrance fees, and full-time guide.

Please call the Parish Office at 642-3452 for more information.

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**January 14-15, 2011**

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You are invited to visit the conference website at: [www.ccmec.org](http://www.ccmec.org).

To receive a registration brochure, please contact : Pat Borba 805-461-5358 or Lynn Stroble 805-239-1597

# MARÍA SANTÍSIMA, MADRE DE DIOS

*María, por su parte, guardaba todas estas cosas  
y las meditaba en su corazón.*



los cristianos conmemoramos a quien dio a luz al autor de la vida

1 DE ENERO, 2012

## TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

¡Año nuevo, vida nueva! El día primero de enero, mientras muchos celebran las fiestas de un año nuevo, los cristianos conmemoramos a quien dio a luz al autor de la vida. María, bajo el título de Madre de Dios, es como nosotros deseamos

## Jornada Mundial de Oración por la Paz

Desde 1968 el 1 de enero de cada año es, por iniciativa papal, la Jornada Mundial de Oración por la Paz. "Educar a los jóvenes en la justicia y la paz" es el tema propuesto por el Papa Benedicto XVI para 2012.

El comienzo de un Año nuevo, don de Dios a la humanidad, es una invitación a desear a todos, con mucha confianza y afecto, que este tiempo que tenemos por delante esté marcado por la justicia y la paz... A todos vosotros, hombres y mujeres preocupados por la causa de la paz. La paz no es un bien ya logrado, sino una meta a la que todos debemos aspirar. Miremos con mayor esperanza al futuro, animémonos mutuamente en nuestro camino, trabajemos para dar a nuestro mundo un rostro más humano y fraterno y sintámonos unidos en la responsabilidad respecto a las jóvenes generaciones de hoy y del mañana, particularmente en educarlas a ser pacíficas y artífices de paz. Consciente de todo ello, os envío estas reflexiones y os dirijo un llamamiento: unamos nuestras fuerzas espirituales, morales y materiales para "educar a los jóvenes en la justicia y la paz". Vaticano, 8 de diciembre de 2011 **BENEDICTUS PP XVI**



## La corresponsabilidad vivida ahora

Si conoces a alguna persona de edad avanzada, frágil y aislada busca maneras de hacerte presente y prestarle ayuda. Envíale una tarjeta por correo. Interésate por ella con una llamada telefónica. Llévale algún detalle. Ofrecele hacerle algún mandado, llevarla al doctor o a la iglesia. Visítala con tu familia, arrégale un poco el jardín o ayúdala con alguna tarea doméstica. Copyright © 2011, World Library

## RECESO NAVIDEÑO

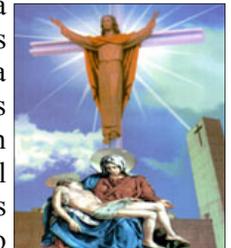
Las clases de catecismo, de confirmación, reunión DE PAPAS y de formación sacramental para adultos están en receso navideño. Las clases y reuniones reanudan el 8 de enero, 2012. Felices Fiestas.

## DEVOCIÓN A LAS MISAS DE LOS PRIMEROS VIERNES DEL MES

Como parte de resolución de Año Nuevo estaremos comenzando la devoción a los Primeros 9 Viernes del Mes el día 6 de enero. Meditaremos el Santo Rosario y la Hora Santa de Padres y Madres Orantes, oraciones por nuestros hijos. Acompáñanos! **PRÓXIMO PRIMER VIERNES 06 DE ENERO, 2012**

## Ministerio de Padres y Madres Orantes

Este grupo de padres y madres en oración se ha formado debido a la gran necesidad que tenemos los padres de familia de ayudar a nuestros hijos a desarrollarse como personas de bien y para ayudarles a defenderse de todos los peligros a que están expuestos los jóvenes en esta sociedad actual y por el dolor que se está sintiendo al verlos acosados por los peligros de la droga, el alcohol, la violencia, el sexo libre y por todo tipo de peligros que los asechan y, lo más doloroso de todo, verlos tan alejados de Dios. Debido también, a la dificultad que están teniendo los padres de familia para comunicarse con los hijos. Los hogares se han convertido en centros de angustia y discordias por la falta de comprensión entre los miembros de la familia. Este ministerio es para padres y madres. Sabemos que si "padres y madres" unen sus oraciones, formando un "ramillete" de oración, acompañado de reparación y penitencia, se alcanzará la Misericordia de Dios, para nosotros, para nuestros hijos, para los hijos de nuestros hijos y para el mundo entero.



**Primer Misa del Primer Viernes del mes 6 de enero del 2012  
Rosario 6:30pm - Misa 7:00pm - Hora Santa (Padres y Madres  
Orantes) después de misa en la Capilla de Guadalupe.**

**Hazlo por tus hijos - Únete a este ministerio!**

Para mas información sobre este ministerio hablar con la Hrna. Tere al 439-0124 ext. 113 o con Adriana después de la Hora Santa.



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