

*Our Mission: To Evangelize God's People,
beginning with the Gift of the Holy Eucharist*



A Stewardship Parish

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH • 1813 OAKDALE ROAD • MODESTO, CA 95355



December 22-25, 2013

Fourth Sunday of Advent & The Nativity of Our Lord



(209) 551-4973
Fax: (209) 551-3213
Visit our website:
www.stjmod.com

Holy Eucharist

Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sundays: 7:30am,
9am (Traditional Latin), 10:30am,
Noon, 1:30pm (Español),
5:30pm & 7:30pm

Daily Mass:

8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am
Traditional Latin Mass, Fridays at Noon

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:

Chapel access code available in office

Children's Services:

Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Sunday Mass 10:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm
Fridays 6:30-7:30pm

Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

*Homebound please call 551-4973
for a priest to visit you by
appointment.*

Clergy:

Fr. Mark Wagner, Pastor
Fr. Francis Joseph, OCD, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Hamilton Suarez, Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinero, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

RCIA Inquiries:

Please contact John & Nichole
Sablan: 209-581-8477

From the Pastor's Laptop

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph's,
Christmas is upon us! Therefore we gather in St. Joseph's Church to welcome Him! Christ comes again every time we celebrate Mass (That is why we use that Catholic word: "Christ-mass"!) He is the same Jesus who lay in the manger, and who lies upon the altar and on our tongues when we take Him in Communion! All we have to do is welcome Him! St. Joseph is our example for opening our hearts to Him! The angel told him: "*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.*" Why not follow his example and welcome Mary into our homes and into our lives? She brings Jesus who was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. Mary and Joseph can help us love Jesus who was rejected by the innkeepers and ignored by the townspeople of Bethlehem. They offered Him only a cold manger with prickly straw to lie upon. But Mary and Joseph knew how to welcome Him. Pope Francis tells us: "Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love." (*Gaudium Evangelii* #286)

So why are we still hesitating to really receive Mary into our lives and allow Jesus to convert our lives? St. Francis used to walk around Assisi crying out: "Love is not loved." Venerable Conchita Cabrera said that from infancy Jesus already wore the crown of thorns around His Sacred Heart because of our neglect, and that this inner pain caused Him more suffering than His Passion. Let us try to offer Jesus a warm, welcoming place in our hearts so that we can all have a Merry Christmas!



F. Wagner

Questions?

To make an appointment with a priest or deacon or to register at St. Joseph's please contact Lulu, Rosario, or Donna in our parish office at 551-4973 or stop in. See open office hours below.

Parish Office Staff & Hours

(Lulu, Donna, & Rosario)

Monday-Friday:

8:30am-6:30pm

except Wednesday: 1-6:30pm

Weekend Maintenance

568-7558

**Parish Office will
be closed**

December 24 & 25.

How can we help? 551-4973

Se Habla Español Rosario x103

Adult Ed/Bible Studies...Michael x203

Altar Servers.....Svetlana x200

Buildings & Grounds.... Tammy x207

Child Ed & Sacraments Debbie x205

Choirs & Cantors.....Svetlana x200

Events & Activities Tammy x207

Financial Services.....Barbara x108

Live the Faith MagazineMichael x203

Giving to St. Joseph's... Tammy x207

Parish Lending Library..... x208

Parish Ministries..... Bertha x202

Parish Registration Donna x102

Room Reservations..... Rosario x110

Volunteering..... Bertha x202

Youth Ministry Nathan x206

RCIA

Inquiry classes are for people who want to learn more about Catholicism, but aren't necessarily sure they want to become Catholic.

The RCIA process is also for Catholics who have not yet completed their sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion. To start the process: **call John and Nichole Sablan 581-8477** to make an appointment.

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

MISA DE GALLO-TRADITIONAL 9-DAY DAWN MASS

Please join the Filipino-American Catholic Liturgy Committee Council and celebrate our "SIMBANG/MISA DE GALLO" in honor of our Blessed Mother and preparation for the birth of our Lord. Mass starts at 5AM, Dec. 23-24, Breakfast fellowship follows immediately in Fr. O'Hare Hall. All Masses are in English. Come celebrate our faith and a 400-year-old novena tradition.

7 STEPS TO BECOMING FINANCIALLY FREE

Start the New Year by becoming fiscally responsible by joining 7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free in seven weekly sessions. Sign-ups will be in the Plaza today after all Masses. Sessions will begin every Sunday from noon-2pm beginning January 5 to February 23. For more information contact Anthony Butera at anthony.btr@gmail.com or call 543-6350.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - POLAND 2016



The next World Youth Day will be in 2016 in Krakow, Poland. If you are interested in finding out more information about St. Joseph's pilgrimage to World Youth Day, come to the informational meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at 7pm. The meeting will be in the Youth and Family Room inside the JP2 Building. (The parish will only be taking those who will be over 18 by the time of the trip and multiple formation meetings and fundraisers will be required.) Come get the information that you will need.

ALL MOTHERS OF SAINT JOSEPH'S

Do you ever feel like you can use a helping hand or some time to yourself? Would you like to meet other moms in our parish? Then Mary Our Mother, MOM's group is the right fit for you! Please join this fun and new ministry as we embark on a journey of fellowship. To see all our events visit our Facebook page and join our group, search: Mary Our Mother (MOM) Group.



ST. JOSEPH'S PASTOR'S SECRETARY

Full time, benefit eligible office and pastor's confidential secretary. This position requires office experience, Microsoft Office proficiency and the ability to acquire new technology applications. Literacy in spoken and written Spanish is desirable but not required. Applications and position description are available in the parish office. Open until filled. For more information on this position, please call Director of Operations, 661-8827.

Religious Education

The Nativity Scene...



St. Francis of Assisi, in the year 1223, visiting the town of Grecio, and wanting to re-ignite an ardent conversion in the common townsfolk, decided to make a nativity scene and placed it in the town for all who passed by to see. It was his intention that after seeing the figurines, people would lift their souls to the Divine Mysteries. This great event became part of the custom to meditate on the humanity of Christ. Pictures, statues and representations of the Paschal Mystery were frequently seen in the Christian art of countries such as Italy and Spain and later Latin America, up to the 18th century. This focus on the humanity of Christ differs greatly from the Eastern Church iconography, which focused on providing a window into the divine. Both forms of art, each representing a part of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Hypostatic Union (Jesus is fully human and fully divine), God entering human history and taking our nature, provided Christians with a means of meditation. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us in his writings about the end goal of art and science: "Every science and art is ordered to one end, namely to the perfection of man, which is his beatitude." St. Francis, the holy and humble man of Assisi, brought to the ordinary person a tangible way to meditate on the divine mysteries to elevate our spirit to the greater destiny reserved for each of us, and this devotion spread and has continued throughout the world. On *Gaudette Sunday*, thousands of children and families bring their baby Jesus to be blessed by the Holy Father at St. Peter's Square, in order for them to place the baby Jesus in their nativity scenes at home. What joy to see this beautiful and widespread devotion that imparts the holiness of Christmas through generations! May this joy continue throughout our lives until we can finally return to our Father's house.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

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The Advent Wreath...

Fourth Week of Advent

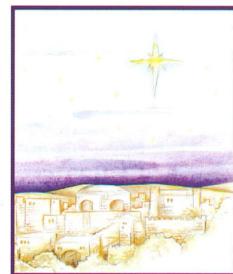
Light the candle and sing Verse 4 of
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Scripture Reading

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,
too small to be among the clans of
Judah, From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose
origin is from of old, from ancient times.
Therefore the Lord will give them up,
until the time when she who is to give
birth has borne, And the rest of his
brethren shall return to the children
of Israel." -Micah 5:2-3

Meditation

Mary did
not complain
on the
journey from
Nazareth to
Bethlehem,
although she
was very tired.



Joseph and Mary found no room at the inn, but finally came to a cave in the hills, where animals were fed. There they waited, that winter's night, for Jesus to be born.

Prayer

Dear God, the time of waiting for the birth of Your Son draws to a close. Very soon we will rejoice in Him. Is there room in my heart for Jesus? Help me to prepare by spending more time in prayer and by offering sacrifices for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING FOR THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

A Blessing prayer for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, when the Christ Child is placed in the manger. The Crib may be sprinkled with Holy Water as the following blessing is said.

O God of every nation:

From the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thought to Him, who is our Emmanuel and Savior of all, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

- See more at www.wf-f.org/

Parish School of Religion

**The PSR office will be closed from December 20 to January 6.
Have a blessed Christmas and New Year's.**

psr@stjmod.com — 551-4973 ext. 217

PSR is on Facebook... search St Joseph PSR & like us!



∞ Youth Ministry ∞

Contact Us!



**Nathan
Steingrebe**

C. (209)247-7863
Nathan@stjmod.com



**Samantha
Jordan**
(209)551-4973 ext.223
SJordan@stjmod.com

8th-12th Grade Teens!!!

Wondering what to ask your parents for Christmas? Start thinking about our July trip to San Diego for the:

Steubenville Youth Conference!!!

Sign ups start in January. Spots fill up fast so keep your eyes open for sign up dates!



LifeNight Schedule

December 29– No LifeNight

January 5

Confirmation (C2) Schedule

December 25– No C2

January 1– No C2



~Favorite Saint Quotes~

Hector Morales: age 19

"My past O Lord, to Your mercy; my present, to Your love; and my future to Your providence."

~Padre Pio di Pietrelcina

Paul Smith age 23

"*O my God, what must a soul be like when it is in this state! It longs to be all one tongue with which to praise the Lord. It utters a thousand pious follies, in a continuous endeavor to please Him who thus possesses it.*" ~Saint Teresa of Avila

Angelique Salinas age 17

"Love is the beauty of the soul."
~Saint Augustine

Jennifer Joseph age 15

"Wonder is the desire of knowledge."
~St. Thomas Aquinas

Samantha Jordan age 24

"If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze!"

~St. Catherine of Siena

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

Our annual January 2nd lock-in is almost upon us! Starts at 9pm and ends at 8:30am the next morning. The cost is \$20.00. Keep your calendars open for a night full of food, games and special events!

Permission forms are in the front office.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are served today by our St. Joseph's Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life



Advent Activities in the Parish.....

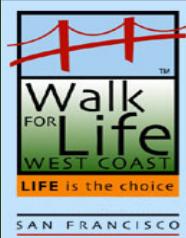
*The Center for Lay Apostolates wishes you
a Blessed Christmas!*



Clockwise, from top:

Samantha and high school youth brave the cold for our Advent Mission; a St. Vincent de Paul "Christmas Wish Tree" ornament; members of our Latin Chant Choir rehearse; our priests join Fr. Wade Menezes during his five night Advent Mission, which drew record attendance averaging over 700 per night. God is good, all the time!

**Save the Date:
Saturday
January 25, 2014**



New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??
Call the Center for Lay Apostolates
551-4973, ext. 207

Profiles in Stewardship

by Fr. Mark Wagner



Juana Aguilar

To be a good steward, a person only needs to be grateful, responsible, willing and available. Juana Aguilar is just such a person. She has a heart that responds when there is need, and looks for opportunities to follow the will of God. This willingness has led her to leadership roles in several of our young adult ministries. She willingly responded twice to the pope's invitation to attend the World Youth Days in Spain and in Brazil.

At first it was not easy for Juana to respond to the call of God that she heard in her heart. She is an only child. She had to learn about the things of God on her own. While attending Riverbank High School she felt called to attend Catholic retreats and youth group meetings, and her family and friends did not understand why she had to go to church so frequently. She persevered, however, and eventually many of her relatives and friends have followed her good example of attending church regularly. Her loneliness was transformed into joy! Juana now has the ability to share joy with others. When in a group she is usually the one who makes things fun by leading ice-breakers, games and great conversations.

Juana especially enjoys being on the Leadership Team for our new Young Adult Group (YA!), and also serves as Fundraising Coordinator on the World Youth Day Leadership Team for Krakow 2016! Since she feels called to help people, Juana is working hard at studying psychology at U.C. Merced and now at CSUS. Why does she do it? Juana answers: "My whole existence is serving God. If I didn't serve Him, I don't know what I would do. I would be very lost." Thank you Juana for being a model of stewardship!

Christmas Prayers...

The mealtime prayers for the Christmas season below are traditionally said from Christmas Day until Epiphany. On Christmas Day the candles in the Advent wreath are changed to white candles. Families may wish to light the four white candles just before the mealtime prayers are said.

Before Dinner

V: All the ends of the earth have seen, *Alleluia!*

R: The salvation of our God, Alleluia!

V: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

R: The Lord our God has made His light to shine upon us.

V: Lord, have mercy upon us.

R: Christ, have mercy upon us.

V: Let us pray:

All: Our Father...

V: Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

After Dinner

V: The goodness of God our Savior has appeared. *Alleluia!*

R: Not by the works of justice which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us. Alleluia!

V: A sanctified day has shone upon us, *Alleluia!*

R: Come ye nations and adore the Lord, Alleluia!

V: Let us pray. Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the new birth in the flesh of Thine only begotten Son may set us free whom the old bondage holds under the yoke of sin. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

See more at: www.wf-f.org/

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From our Holy Father in Rome

GENERAL AUDIENCE — Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning.



Today I would like to begin the last series of catechesis on our profession of faith, by discussing the statement “I believe in eternal life”. In particular, I will reflect on the Last Judgment. We need not be afraid: let us listen to what the Word of God tells us. Concerning this, we read in the Gospel of Matthew: when Christ “comes in his glory, and all the angels with him.... Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.... And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Mt 25:31-33, 46). Whenever we think of Christ’s return and of his final judgment, which will manifest to its ultimate consequences the good that each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life, we seem to find ourselves before a mystery which towers above us, which we fail even to imagine. A mystery which almost instinctively arouses a sense of fear in us, and perhaps even one of trepidation. If, however, we reflect well on this reality, it cannot but expand the heart of a Christian and come to constitute a cause of consolation and of trust.

In this regard, the testimony of the first Christian communities resounds ever so evocatively. In fact, they usually accompanied the celebrations and prayers with the acclamation *Maranatha*, an expression composed of two Aramaic words which, according to how they are pronounced, may be understood as a supplication: “Come, Lord!”, or as a certainty nourished by faith: “Yes, the Lord is coming, the Lord is near”. The whole of Christian revelation culminates in this exclamation, at the conclusion of the marvelous contemplation which is offered to us by John in Revelation (cf. 22:20). In that case, it is the Church as bride who, on behalf of all humanity and as its first fruits, addresses herself to Christ her Bridegroom, looking forward to be enfolded in his embrace: Jesus’ embrace, which is the fullness of life and the fullness of love. This is how Jesus embraces us. If we think of judgment in this perspective, all fear and hesitation fade and make room for expectation and deep joy: it will be the very moment when we will be judged, finally ready to be clothed in Christ’s glory as with a nuptial garment, to be led into the banquet, the image of full and definitive communion with God.

A second reason for confidence is offered to us by the observation that, at the moment of judgment, *we will not be left alone*. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus himself foretells how, at the end of time, those who have followed him will take their place in glory, and judge with him (cf. Mt 19:28). The Apostle Paul then, writing to the community of Corinth, states: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?... How much more matters pertaining to this life!” (1 Cor 6:2-3). How beautiful it is to know that at that juncture, in addition to Christ, our Paraclete, our Advocate with the Father (cf. 1 Jn 2:1), we will be able to count on the intercession and goodness of so many of our elder brothers and sisters who have gone before us on the journey of faith, who have offered their lives for us and who continue to love us ineffably! The saints already live in the sight of God, in the splendor of his glory praying for us who still live on earth. What consolation this certainty arouses in our hearts! The Church is truly a mother and, as a mother, she seeks her children’s good, especially of those who are furthest away and are afflicted, until she finds its fullness in the glorious body of Christ with all its members...



Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 22 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

7:30a	Alzira B. Victoria	1:30p	Roberto Madrigal and Jorge Garcia
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Natividad Raneses
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Leslie Ribeiro
12:00p	Susan Kopeski		

Monday, December 23

8:00a	Fr. Francis Joseph—Special Intention	5:45p	Fred Jackson and Tammy Zollar
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Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

8:00a	All Souls in Purgatory and Rafael Ochoa	7:30p	Verdie Williams
4:30p	Jovencio Sanchez	12am	Rose Dembrouski

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

7:30a	Rozann Platt and Rusty Boyle	12pm	Jessica and Yvonne Solis
9:00a	Elizabeth Elson	1:30p	Antonio & Angela Dominguez
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners		

Thursday, December 26

8:00a	Jesus & Mary Feliz and Francisca Anaya	5:45p	Eleanor Gallogly and Ron Carriere
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Friday, December 27

8:00a	John N. Belo and Henry DeVilliers	5:45p	Danny Vele and Elmund Hall
12:00p	Neil Phillips, Jr.		

Saturday, December 28

8:00a	John & Cecilia Clark and Rose Dembrowski	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
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Sunday, December 29 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)

7:30a	Mary & Matt Basan and Rusty Boyle	1:30p	Jacoba & Apolinar Andres and Roger Arguello
9:00a	Anderious Netnil	5:30p	Lida Casas
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Dorothy Williamsen
12:00p	John A. Simas		

PERPETUAL EUCARISTIC ADORATION

*“Could you not keep watch for one hour?”
(Mark 14:37)*



Make your New Year's resolution to spend an hour a week with our Lord. To sign up please contact David & Monica at 527-4920. You will receive many blessings from Our Lord!

Readings 12/23–12/29

Monday:

Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk. 1:57-66

Tuesday:

2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16; LK. 1:67-79

Wednesday:

Is. 52:7-10; Heb. 1:1-6; Jn. 1:18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday:

Acts. 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt. 10:17-22

Friday:

1 Jn. 1:1-5; Jn. 20:1, 2-8

12pm Latin Mass:

1 Jn. 1:5-2-2; Mt. 2:13-18

Sunday:

Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14; Col. 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23

Latin Mass

Gal. 4:1-7; Lk. 2:33-40

This Week

Sunday, December 22, 2013

5:00A	Filipino "Dawn Mass"	Hall
10:30A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6
12:00P	CFC-Kids Prayer Study Program	JP8

Monday, December 23, 2013

5:00A	Filipino "Dawn Mass"	Hall
3:00P	College Math Tutors of St. Joseph's	JP7
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer (English)	JP10

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

5:00A	Filipino "Dawn Mass"	Hall
See Christmas Eve Mass Schedule on back page		

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

See Christmas Day Mass Schedule on back page		
5:45P	Principles Study Group	JP5
5:45P	Path to Serenity - ALANON	JP10
5:45P	"Courage To Be Me" Alateen Group	JP8

Thursday, December 26, 2013

Senior Strength Training (is Canceled)		
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo las Escrituras	JP4

Friday, December 27, 2013

9:15A	Rosary at the Abortion Clinic	
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Saturday, December 28, 2013

9:00A	AA Language of the Heart	JP4
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Sunday, December 29, 2013

10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6
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PARISH LIBRARY

Our parish library will be closed for Christmas December 22—January 2

Altar Flower Donation



Remember a special day or person

Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x202

Call the parish office at 551-4973 to find out about online offertory gifts instead of writing checks.

Please remember St. Joseph's when planning your estate. Call 551-4973, ext. 207 for more information.

Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

CALENDARIO DE NAVIDAD

NATIVIDAD DE NUESTRO SEÑOR JESUCRISTO MISAS DE VIGILIA 24 DE DICIEMBRE

4:30pm Obra Teatral de Niños y
Misa- salón parroquial
7:30pm Misa Juvenil- iglesia
10:30pm Concierto Navideño-iglesia
12:00 Misa de Medianoche -iglesia

MISAS DE NAVIDAD 25 DE DICIEMBRE

7:30am, 9am (Latín), 10:30am, 12pm,
1:30pm (Español), NO HABRAN
MISAS EN LA TARDE

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA MADRE DE DIOS

(Decreto de la Diócesis-no obliga)
31 DE DICIEMBRE 5:45 Vigilia
11:30pm Hora Santa -Año Nuevo
1 DE ENERO MISAS: 8am,
9:30am, 12 (Latín), 5:45pm &
7:30pm (Español)



JORNADA MUNDIAL JUVENIL POLONIA 2016

La próxima Jornada Mundial Juvenil será en el 2016 en Krakow, Polonia. Si usted está interesado en recibir información sobre el peregrinaje con St. Joseph's, venga a la próxima reunión informativa el miércoles, 8 de enero a las 7pm. La reunión será en el salón para los Jóvenes y Familias en el edificio JPII. (La parroquia estará llevando solo a aquellos que tengan 18 años o mas a la hora del viaje y que hayan participado en múltiples reuniones de formación y eventos para recaudar fondos para el peregrinaje). Venga y reciba la información que necesitará.

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español! DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Mark Wagner

Queridos feligreses de St. Joseph's,

¡Ya casi llega la Navidad! ¡Entonces nos reunimos en la iglesia de St. Joseph's para darle la bienvenida! Cristo vuelve cada vez que celebramos la Misa (por esto se usa en inglés la palabra "Christ-mass")! ¡El es el mismo Jesús que se encuentra en el pesebre, en el altar y en nuestras lenguas cuando lo recibimos en la Comunión! ¡Todo lo que tenemos que hacer es recibirlo! ¡San José es nuestro ejemplo de como abrir nuestros corazones a El! En ángel le dijo: "*José, hijo de David, no tengas temor y lleva a María como tu esposa a tu casa.*" ¿Por qué no seguir este ejemplo y así darle la bienvenida a María en nuestros hogares y nuestras vidas? Ella trae a Jesús quien fue concebido en ella por el Espíritu Santo. María y José pueden ayudarnos a amar a Jesús que fue rechazado por los hostiles e ignorado por el pueblo de Belén. Ellos le ofrecieron solo un pesebre frío con paja que chuzaba para recostarse. El Papa Francisco nos dice: "*Maria pudo convertir un establo en una casa para Jesús, con pañales viejos y una abundancia de amor.* (*Gaudium Evangelii* #286) Entonces por qué todavía vacilamos en verdaderamente recibir a María en nuestros corazones y así dejar que

Jesús convierta nuestras vidas?

San Francisco solía caminar alrededor de Asís diciendo: "*El amor no es amado.*" la Venerable Conchita Cabrera dijo que desde su infancia, Jesús ya llevaba puesta su corona de espinas alrededor de su Sagrado Corazón debido a nuestro abandono, y que este dolor interno le causó más sufrimiento que su Pasión. ¡Tratemos de ofrecerle un lugar caluroso de acogida en nuestros corazones para así todos poder tener una Feliz Navidad!

F. Wagner



OPORTUNIDAD DE EMPLEO - ST. JOSEPH'S

Secretaría confidencial para el pastor, empleo de tiempo completo incluidos sus beneficios. Esta posición requiere experiencia en trabajo de oficina, competente en Microsoft Office y habilidad en aprendizaje de nuevas aplicaciones de tecnología. Habilidad de leer y escribir en español es deseable pero no requerida, pero si es indispensable que hable, escriba y lea en inglés. La solicitud y descripción de la posición se pueden recoger en la oficina parroquial. Se recibirán solicitudes hasta ser elegida la persona que asuma el cargo. Para más información, por favor llame a la Directora de Operaciones, 661-8827.



Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

AUDIENCIA GENERAL — Miércoles 11 de diciembre de 2013



Queridos hermanos y hermanas, ¡buenos días!

Hoy quisiera iniciar la última serie de catequesis sobre nuestra profesión de fe, tratando la afirmación «Creo en la vida eterna». En especial me detengo en el juicio final. No debemos tener miedo: escuchemos lo que nos dice la Palabra de Dios. Al respecto, leemos en el Evangelio de Mateo: Entonces «cuando venga en su gloria el Hijo del hombre, y todos los ángeles con Él... serán reunidas ante Él todas las naciones. Él separará a unos de otros, como un pastor separa las ovejas de las cabras. Y pondrá las ovejas a su derecha y las cabras a su izquierda... Y estos irán al castigo eterno y los justos a la vida eterna» (Mt 25, 31-33.46). Cuando pensamos en el regreso de Cristo y en su juicio final, que manifestará, hasta sus últimas consecuencias, el bien que cada uno habrá realizado o habrá omitido realizar durante su vida terrena, percibimos encontrarnos ante un misterio que nos sobrepasa, que no logramos ni siquiera imaginar. Un misterio que casi instintivamente suscita en nosotros un sentido de temor, y tal vez también de ansia. Sin embargo, si reflexionamos bien sobre esta realidad, ella ensancha el corazón de un cristiano y constituye un gran motivo de consolación y de confianza.

Al respecto, el testimonio de las primeras comunidades cristianas resuena más sugestivo que nunca. Las mismas, en efecto, acompañaban las celebraciones y las oraciones con la aclamación *Maranathà*, una expresión formada por dos palabras arameas que, según como se silabeen, se pueden entender como una súplica: «¡Ven, Señor!», o bien como una certeza alimentada por la fe: «Sí, el Señor viene, el Señor está cerca». Es la exclamación en la que culmina toda la Revelación cristiana, al término de la maravillosa contemplación que nos ofrece el Apocalipsis de Juan (cf. Ap 22, 20). En ese caso, es la Iglesia-esposa que, en nombre de toda la humanidad y como primicia, se dirige a Cristo, su esposo, no viendo la hora de ser envuelta por su abrazo: el abrazo de Jesús, que es plenitud de vida y plenitud de amor. Así nos abraza Jesús. Si pensamos en el juicio en esta perspectiva, todo miedo y vacilación disminuye y deja espacio a la esperanza y a una profunda alegría: será precisamente el momento en el que finalmente seremos juzgados dispuestos para ser revestidos de la gloria de Cristo, como con un vestido nupcial, y ser conducidos al banquete, imagen de la plena y definitiva comunión con Dios.

Un segundo motivo de confianza nos lo da la constatación de que, en el momento del juicio, *no estaremos solos*. Jesús mismo, en el Evangelio de Mateo, anuncia cómo, al final de los tiempos, quienes le hayan seguido tendrán sitio en su gloria, para juzgar juntamente con Él (cf. Mt 19, 28). El apóstol Pablo, luego, al escribir a la comunidad de Corinto, afirma: «¿Habéis olvidado que los santos juzgarán el universo? (...) Cuánto más, asuntos de la vida cotidiana» (1 Cor 6, 2-3). Qué hermoso es saber que en esa circunstancia, además de Cristo, nuestro Paráclito, nuestro Abogado ante el Padre (cf. 1 Jn 2, 1), podremos contar con la intercesión y la benevolencia de muchos hermanos y hermanas nuestros más grandes que nos precedieron en el camino de la fe, que ofrecieron su vida por nosotros y siguen amándonos de modo indescriptible. Los santos ya viven en presencia de Dios, en el esplendor de su gloria intercediendo por nosotros que aún vivimos en la tierra. ¡Cuánto

consuelo suscita en nuestro corazón esta certeza! La Iglesia es verdaderamente una madre y, como una mamá, busca el bien de sus hijos, sobre todo de los más alejados y afligidos, hasta que no encuentre su plenitud en el cuerpo glorioso de Cristo con todos sus miembros.

CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP)

Por Fr. Mark Wagner



Juana Aguilar

Ser un buen corresponsal es ser solo una persona agradecida, lista y disponible para actuar. Juana Aguilar es esta clase de persona. Ella tiene un corazón que responde cuando hay una necesidad, y busca la oportunidad de seguir la voluntad de Dios. Esta disponibilidad la ha llevado a tener varios puestos de liderazgo en nuestros ministerios para los jóvenes adultos. Ella ha respondido dos veces a la invitación del Papa a tomar parte en las Jornadas Juveniles en España y Brasil.

Al principio no fue fácil para Juana responder al llamado de Dios, el cual escuchó en su corazón. Ella es la única hija en su familia. Tuvo que aprender a hacer cosas para Dios por sí misma. Mientras que iba a la Escuela Secundaria de Riverbank sintió el llamado a tomar parte de retiros católicos y reuniones del grupo juvenil, y su familia y amigos no entendieron porque tenía que ir a la iglesia con tanta frecuencia. Ella perseveró, y eventualmente muchos de sus familiares y amigos siguieron su buen ejemplo yendo a la iglesia regularmente. ¡Su soledad fue transformada en jubilo! Juana ahora tiene la habilidad de compartir su gozo con otros. Cuando está en grupo ella usualmente es la que hace que las cosas sean divertidas llevando a cabo juegos para familiarizarse, y plantar conversaciones. ¡A Juana le gusta especialmente ser parte de nuestro nuevo Equipo de Liderazgo del Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos (YA!) y también sirve como Coordinadora de Actividades para Recaudar Fondos en el grupo de liderazgo para la Jornada Mundial Juvenil de Krakow 2016!

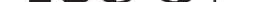
Ya que ella siente el llamado a ayudar a otros, Juana estudia fuertemente Psicología en U. C. Merced y ahora en CSUS. ¿Por qué hace esto? Juana responde: «Mi existencia es para servir a Dios. Si no le sirviese, no sabría qué hacer. Estaría muy perdida.» ¡Gracias Juana por ser un modelo de corresponsabilidad!

Parishioner
THOMAS P. HOGAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW & CPA

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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white shirt, is smiling and pointing her right index finger towards the right edge of the page. She is positioned on the right side of the advertisement.

An advertisement for Automotive Specialties. It features a black and white photograph of a car's front end with a wrench and a screwdriver resting on it. The company name 'Automotive Specialties' is written in a stylized font above the address. The address '6331 Oakdale Road' and phone number '869-9050' are listed for the first location, and '4120 Dale Road' and phone number '545-8100' are listed for the second location. To the right, there is a section for 'Family Dentistry' with contact information for a dental office at '1316 Coffee Rd., Suite B-4'.

The image contains three distinct sections. On the left, a black box features the white text "FD1259" above a small photograph of a person. In the center, a large, ornate script logo for "Franklin D." is displayed, with "Franklin" in a smaller font below "D.". On the right, another black box contains the white text "Pre-Planning Available" above a small, partially visible photograph.

An advertisement for Franklin Downs Funeral Home. It features a black and white photograph of the funeral home's exterior at night. To the right of the photo is the company name "Franklin Downs" in a stylized script font. Below the name, the Spanish phrase "Se Habla Español" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the text "Downtown Colonial Chapel & Ceres Chapel available upon request" is displayed. At the bottom, the website "www.franklindownsfuneralhome.com" is listed. To the right of the text area is a portrait of a man, Bart Ah You, wearing a suit and tie. The contact information "Contact Bart Ah You for Details 529-5723" is placed above his portrait.

The banner features a collage of three images. On the left is a tropical beach with palm trees and turquoise water. In the center is a large white cruise ship sailing on the ocean under a blue sky. On the right is a view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with a statue in the foreground.

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Approved Auto Repair

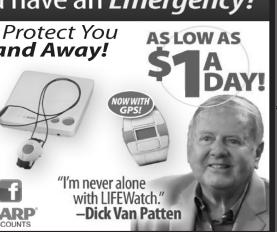
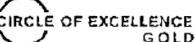
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Christmas Liturgical Schedule

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



December 24 MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Children's Pageant & Mass in the hall
7:30pm Youth Mass in the church
10:30pm Christmas Concert in the church
12:00 Midnight Mass in the church



December 25 MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am,
12Noon, 1:30pm (Español)
(no evening Masses)

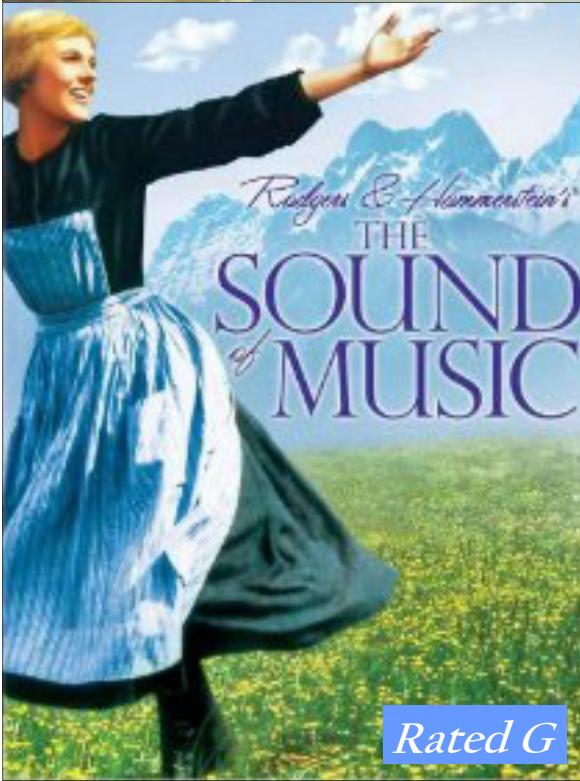
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

(Obligation abrogated by diocese)

December 31 5:45pm Vigil Mass

11:30pm New Year's Holy Hour

January 1 Masses: 8am, 9:30am, 12noon (Latin),
5:45pm, & 7:30pm (Español)



Rated G

Saturday, January 5 @ 7pm

Join our parish family in Fr. O'Hare Hall and delight in this classic film of love, faith and values.

Bring cookies to share and your favorite blanket to spread!
Popcorn, lemonade and coffee provided.

FREE Parish Movie Night