

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 30, 2012

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



(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

Adoration & Confessions

First Friday 6:30pm-7:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm

Friday 6:30pm-7:30pm

Saturday 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. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinerio, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

During our Advent Mission two weeks ago, Tim Staples spoke of the importance of knowing our faith so as to share it with others in dialogue. Jesus modeled this for us when He was only 12 years of age *“sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.”* (Lk 2:46ff)

Jesus had great wisdom and ability in this work of teaching the truth. But as important as it is to teach the faith to others, Jesus had another important task for the next 18 years -- that of being obedient to Mary and Joseph: *“He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.”* (Lk 2:51)

Jesus spent more time living His hidden life at Nazareth than in His public ministry. In this way, Jesus shows the importance of silence, contemplation, humility and honest labor. Charity begins at home, and our first responsibility is to spend quality time with our own family in prayer and in mutual love. But how do we know when to stay home and when to go out and preach? Mary can help us with this discernment, if we entrust ourselves to her care as Jesus did. Mary was the one who interrupted Jesus' preaching when He was 12, and then got Him to start again when He was 30 at the wedding of Cana (Jn 2:1



-10). Let us entrust ourselves to Mary and she gently will inspire us to know when to talk and where to walk! Jesus, Mary, Joseph, help us!

*Tim Staples spoke to a packed hall of people on
Sunday, December 16.*

Fr. Mark

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 by during any of the 44 hours our office is open each week.

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, & Rosario)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:
8:30am-12noon and 1pm-6:30pm

Wednesday: 8:30am-11:30am and
1pm-6:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

**Office will be closed from
December 30-January 2, in
observance of the
New Year's holiday.**

How can we help? 551-4973

<i>Se Habla Español</i>	Rosario x103
Accounting	Barbara x108
Adult Ed & Bible Studies....	Michael x203
Altar Servers.....	Svetlana x200
Audio / Video.....	Jeremy x213
Buildings & Grounds.....	Susie x201
Bulletin & Website.....	Jeremy x213
Child Ed & Sacraments	Debbie x205
Choirs & Cantors.....	Svetlana x200
Events & Activities	Susie x201
Faith & Life Magazine	Michael x203
Giving to St. Joseph's.....	Tammy x207
Parish Lending Library.....	x208
Parish Ministries.....	Tammy x207
Parish Registration	Donna x102
Room Reservations.....	Rosario x110
Volunteering.....	Tammy x207
Youth Ministry	Nathan x206



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Make it your New Year's resolution. We currently need adorers for Friday mornings 2-3am and Sunday mornings 1-2am. Please contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up one of these hours.

Page 2 - St. Joseph's Modesto

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

MARY MOTHER OF GOD & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

(Obligation abrogated by Diocese)

New Year's Eve—December 31

5:45pm Vigil Mass in the church

11:30-12:30pm Holy Hour

New Year's Day—January 1

8am and 5:45pm Mass in the church

ST. THOMAS MORE CITIZEN & SAINT — JANUARY 9

We are faced with many challenges that test whether we will stand for our faith or not. Come and learn from the life and teachings of St. Thomas More. RoseMary Johnson, a parishioner and currently a student at the University of Dallas, will present. The presentation will start at 7pm in JPII center, room 6. Refreshments will be provided.



FIRST RESPONDERS MASS — JANUARY 12

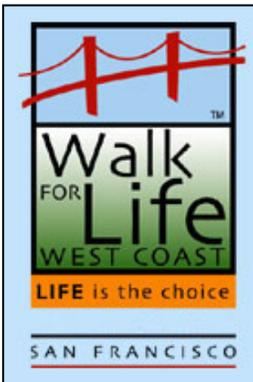
Pray with and for those who put their lives on the line every day

Please join St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus for Mass honoring all First Responders of Stanislaus County on Saturday, January 12, at 10am. Following the blessing of the emergency vehicles in the parking lot after Mass, everyone is invited to a lunch in Fr. O'Hare Hall.

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 before and after all Masses and on January 5 and 6. Sessions will begin every Sunday from 11:30am to 1:30pm starting on January 13 to February 24. For more information contact Anthony Butera at anthony.btr@gmail.com or call 543-6350.

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST



Do you feel motivated to show your support for life at all stages of development? The 9th annual Walk for Life West Coast will take place on Saturday, January 26. St. Joseph's will again send buses to take part. The cost is \$25/adult, \$10/high-school youth and \$1/children (not high-school). Price includes a ticket for the bus and a t-shirt (no t-shirts for children). Tickets may be purchased on the plaza after Masses on January 5-6 and 12-13 and at the parish office. Don't be left behind.

Religious Education

The Twelve Days of Christmas

from *Women for Faith & Family* www.wf-f.org/Hymns-carols.html

This very interesting carol originated as a Hebrew hymn, which begins, "In those twelve days ..." The hymn was originally arranged as a dialogue between cantor and choir. Each of the verses was repeated like the nursery rhyme, "This is the house that Jack built." In the Middle Ages, the song was rewritten in Latin with Christian images. The final verse and its English translation follows:

Dic mihi quid duodecim?	Tell me, what are the twelve things?
Duodecim apostele;	Twelve apostles;
Undecim stellae a Joesphon visae;	Eleven stars seen by Joseph;
Decem mandate Dei;	Ten Commandments of God;
Novem angelorum chori;	Nine choirs of angels;
Octo beatitudines;	Eight beatitudes;
Septem sacramenta;	Seven sacraments;
Sex hydrae positae In Cana Galileae;	Six water jars in Cana Galilee;
Quinque libri Moyses;	Five Books of Moses;
Quatuor evangelistae;	Four Evangelists;
Tres patriarchae;	Three Patriarchs;
Duo testamenta;	Two Testaments;
Unus est Deus, Qui regnat in Coelis.	One God who reigns in Heaven.



By 1645, an English version of the Latin hymn had appeared and by the 18th century that had, in turn, become the Christmas carol we know today. One author describes this traditional English carol as a catechetical mnemonic device that Catholics used to teach their children the truths of the faith during the years that the Catholic faith was suppressed in England. The numerical symbolism, which follows closely on the Latin version, goes like this:

Partridge -- The One True God;
Two turtle doves -- Old and New Testaments;
Three French hens -- Three Persons of the Trinity (or the Three Patriarchs -- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob);
Four colley birds (colley means black) -- the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;
Five gold rings -- The first five books of the Bible, believed to be written by Moses, called the Pentateuch;
Six geese -- Six jars of water, turned to wine by Jesus at the wedding at Cana;
Seven swans -- Seven Sacraments;
Eight maids a-milking -- Eight beatitudes;
Nine ladies dancing -- Nine choirs (or ranks) of angels;
Ten lords a-leaping -- Ten Commandments;
Eleven pipers -- Eleven faithful disciples (not including Judas), or the eleven stars seen in the Old Testament account of Joseph's dream;
Twelve drummers -- Twelve Apostles, or the twelve tribes of Israel.

Parish School of Religion Update

Parish School of Religion
psr@stjmod.com
209-551-4973 ext. 217
PSR is now on
Facebook... search
St Joseph PSR & like us!

*The PSR Office wishes
you a Blessed and Merry
Christmas and New Year!*
**PSR CLASSES
RESUME
JANUARY 7**

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 Michael Webster (209)581-8477** to make an appointment.

☞ Youth Ministry ☜

Contact Us!



Nathan Steingrebe

C. 247-7863
W. 551-4973, ext. 206
Nathan@stjmod.com

Katie Steffanic

W. 551-4973, ext. 223
Ksteffanic@stjmod.com



Life Support:

A ministry for parents

The youth ministry department is looking for parent volunteers or coordinators for *Life Support*. This is an excellent opportunity to serve the youth of our parish alongside other parents while enjoying fellowship, support and encouragement. This adult ministry will help serve food at the Sunday youth group meetings once a month. If you feel called to help in any way please contact Nathan today.

Walk for Life West Coast

The annual Walk for Life in San Francisco will be on Saturday, January 26. There will be **one** youth bus. Cost is \$10 per high school student, t-shirt included. Permission slips and a sign-up sheet will be available to you on Sunday, January 6, at Life Night. The day will begin with morning Mass, then the bus will transport us to San Francisco and we will arrive back in Modesto at 5:30 p.m.

LifeNight Line-Up

12/23 & 30: NO Youth Group Meetings!

Enjoy your Christmas Break!

1/3-4: High School Lock-In-Fr. O'Hare hall.

1/6: Epiphany party

Dress to impress for this special family dinner in the hall. See you there!

High School Lock-In

All high school teens are invited to join us for our annual Lock-In. This overnight retreat will be located in the Fr. O'Hare hall, beginning in the evening of Thursday, **January 3**, and ending with daily 8 a.m. Mass on Friday, January 4. The night will include games, movies, snacks, a holy hour, and Mass. Dress comfortably and rest up before the night begins so you can stay awake!

Permission slips are available in the youth room and parish office. Cost is \$20.



**San Diego:
Youth Conference**
The Steubenville
Conference: San Diego
trip will be
July

26-28, 2013. Permission slips are available now in the youth center. You can reserve your spot with a \$20 deposit. Join 5,000 other teens in Adoration, Mass, praise and worship, men's and women's sessions and confession.
More info to come.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Please enjoy this weekend with your family, as will our Plaza Refreshment volunteers.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life



Recognizing our Grupo Guadalupano Ministry

This active group of parishioners has been blessed by a true thirst to do as much as possible for our Lord and in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each year they help to fund our parish participation in the Procession of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December (see photos below), in addition to other parish education and spiritual growth activities. In 2011 they increased their

outreach to include providing and serving hot chocolate and pastries to people waiting in line to receive their St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Baskets, and did so again earlier this month. This year, they helped to fund the Our Lady of Guadalupe Play (see photo below). To find out more about getting involved or supporting this active ministry, please call Bertha, 551-4973, ext. 202.



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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Michael Webster



Mike Vigil

In the second reading for today's Mass, St. Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians "put on love." A man who lives this out is Mike Vigil. Mike has a love for God and that love helps him to be a witness to others. Predominately, Mike exhibits this scripture by his service to our parish community. I always see him volunteering at parish events. A unique aspect of the way that Mike serves is that he doesn't just sit as a bystander waiting to be asked to do something - he is active in asking how he can lend a hand. Also when he does serve he always serves joyfully and with a great attitude.

Mike has been actively involved in the Knights of Columbus for several years. This year he is the Grand Knight, which is no small task. It requires a lot of time and responsibility. The Knights of Columbus do many events and give back to our parish, and this year Mike for this year is in charge of their efforts. One event coming up is the First Responder's Mass on January 12 (see page 2 for details).

Mike, thank you for living your faith, in particular, serving responsibly.

In the Diocese

EVER YOUNG IN CHRIST!

Thank you to all who have celebrated our 50th anniversary as a diocese. Our celebration comes to an end on January 13 with the blessing of all youth and young adults who will lead our church in the next 50 years.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT FOR PARENTS & SPONSORS

This retreat day provides sponsors and parents the opportunity and basic tools to understand their own Baptismal call and the major role they will play in the life of the young person to be confirmed.

January 12 - English

January 26 - Spanish

For questions call Sr. Gloria DeJesus, 466-0636 or go to www.stocktondiocese.org.

LITURGICAL TRAINING CELEBRATING THE TRIDUUM

Msgr. John Armistead, Deacon Tom Ciccarelli and Virginia Meagher will lead a day of experiencing and breaking open the Triduum liturgies. This event is for priests, deacons, music ministers, RCIA Teams and liturgical ministers to aid in your planning and preparation of our High Holy Days. (English only) 10am – 4 pm

Saturday, January 26 at

St. Edward Parish, Stockton

Cost is \$10 per person.

Register with the Office for Worship at (209) 466-0636 or liturgy@stocktondiocese.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
“Catholic Schools Raise the Standards”
January 27 to February 2

Page 6 - St. Joseph's Modesto

From our Holy Father in Rome

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
BENEDICT XVI — CHRISTMAS 2011



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Rome and throughout the world!

Christ is born for us! Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to the men and women whom he loves. May all people hear an echo of the message of Bethlehem which the Catholic Church repeats in every continent, beyond the confines of every nation, language and culture. The Son of the Virgin Mary is born for everyone; he is the Saviour of all.

This is how Christ is invoked in an ancient liturgical antiphon: “O Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, hope and salvation of the peoples: come to save us, O Lord our God”. *Veni ad salvandum nos!* Come to save us! This is the cry raised by men and women in every age, who sense that by themselves they cannot prevail over difficulties and dangers. They need to put their hands in



a greater and stronger hand, a hand which reaches out to them from on high. Dear brothers and sisters, this hand is Christ, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. He is the hand that God extends to humanity, to draw us out of the mire of sin and to set us firmly on rock, the secure rock of his Truth and his Love (*Ps* 40:2).

This is the meaning of the Child's name, the name which, by God's will, Mary and Joseph gave him: he is named Jesus, which means “Saviour” (*Mt* 1:21; *Lk* 1:31). He was sent by God the Father to save us, above all, from the evil deeply rooted in man and in history: the evil of separation from God, the prideful presumption of being self-sufficient, of trying to compete with God and to take his place, to decide what is good and evil, to be the master of life and death (*Gen* 3:1-7). This is the great evil, the great sin, from which we human beings cannot save ourselves unless we rely on God's help, unless we cry out to him: “*Veni ad salvandum nos!* – Come to save us!”

The very fact that we cry to heaven in this way already sets us aright; it makes us true to ourselves: we are in fact those who cried out to God and were saved (*Esth* [LXX] 10:3ff.). God is the Saviour; we are those who are in peril. He is the physician; we are the infirm. To realize this is the first step towards salvation, towards emerging from the maze in which we have been locked by our pride. To lift our eyes to heaven, to stretch out our hands and call for help is our means of escape, provided that there is Someone who hears us and can come to our assistance. Jesus Christ is the proof that God has heard our cry. And not only this! God's love for us is so strong that he cannot remain aloof; he comes out of himself to enter into our midst and to share fully in our human condition (cf. *Ex* 3:7-12). The answer to our cry which God gave in Jesus infinitely transcends our expectations, achieving a solidarity which cannot be human alone, but divine. Only the God who is love, and the love which is God, could choose to save us in this way, which is certainly the lengthiest way, yet the way which respects the truth about him and about us: the way of reconciliation, dialogue and cooperation.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us turn our gaze anew to the grotto of Bethlehem. The Child whom we contemplate is our salvation! He has brought to the world a universal message of reconciliation and peace. Let us open our hearts to him; let us receive him into our lives. Once more let us say to him, with joy and confidence: “*Veni ad salvandum nos!*”

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, December 30 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)			
7:30a	Doris Yago	1:30p	Conchita Velasquez and Maria Velasquez Vega
9:00a	Leonard Ratto	5:30p	Kristen Machado
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Betty Fenton
12:00p	Leonard Ratto		
Monday, December 31			
8:00a	Jim Trevillyan and Dwaine Stephan	5:45p	Joe Evangelho and Krinten Machado
Tuesday, January 1			
8:00a	Margaret Peterson and Kristen Machado	5:45p	Hawaii Auriliano and Eliseo Orozco
Wednesday, January 2			
8:00a	Constantine Scoto and Dorothy Romero	5:45p	Hawaii Auriliano and Peter Bern
Thursday, January 3			
8:00a	Margaret Peterson and Tom Brown	5:45p	Hawaii Auriliano and Kristen Machado
Friday, January 4			
8:00a	Florence Rozelle and Tom Alhadate	5:45p	Josephine Corbeil and Hawaii Auriliano
12:00p	Nick Alves		
Saturday, January 5			
8:00a	Andrew Santana and Filomena & John Mendes	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, January 6 (The Epiphany of the Lord)			
7:30a	Isabell & Frank Bavaro	1:30p	Conchita Velasquez and Maria Velasquez Vega
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Frank & Isabell Bavaro
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Hawaii Auriliano
12:00p	Mnsgr. Domingo Nebres		

December 31, 2012		
See page 2 for New Year's Eve activities		
January 1, 2013		
See page 2 for New Year's Day Masses		
January 2, 2013		
1:30 PM	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:45 PM	Priciple Study Group	JP5
5:45 PM	Path to Serenity	JP10
5:45 PM	Alateen Group	JP8
January 3, 2013		
9:00 AM	Senior Strength Training	JP6
12:00 PM	Carmel Study Group	JP4
6:15 PM	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:30 PM	Rosary Makers	JP5
7:00 PM	Young Adults - Spanish	JP2
January 5, 2013		
8:30 AM	M.I. Adult Prayer Village	JP5
8:30 AM	Militia Immaculata-Span	JP7
9:00 AM	AA Language of the Heart	JP4
7:00 PM	Parish Movie Night	Hall

Remember a special day or person.
-Altar Flower Donation-
 Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x207

The Holy Family is a model for us to follow in how to live in the world while journeying toward the kingdom of heaven. Parents teach and instruct their children because of their unconditional love. Children learn to obey and respect their parents and learn how to share with one another. The experience of loving and being loved starts each of us on a journey through which we seek fulfillment that can only be found in the kingdom of God. May our hearts be continually drawn to the table of the Lord.

Readings 12/31-1/6

Monday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday:	Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34 (
Friday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
12pm Latin Mass:	Gal. 4:1-7; Lk. 2:33-40
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Latin Mass	Is. 60:1-6; Mt. 2:1-12

NOTICE
 Today there is NO Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW).

PARISH LIBRARY
 Our parish library will be closed for Christmas 12/24-1/2

ESL Classes will resume January 8, every Tuesday at 5:30pm in Rm. 4, JP II bldg.

ST. JOSEPH'S JOB OPENING

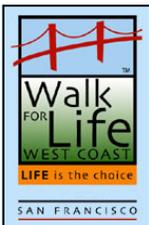
Adult choir conductor position (10:30am Mass) at St. Joseph's. Must have music education and experience. Please call 551-4973, ext. 207 for more information.

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

Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

La oficina
estará cerrada
29 diciembre-1 enero
Para la fiesta del Año
Nuevo.

Misas de Año Nuevo
Diciembre 31, Víspera
Misas: 8:00am y 5:45pm
Hora Santa 11:30pm—12:30am
Enero 1, Año Nuevo
Misas: 8:00am y 5:45pm
Enero 12, Misa Azul
En honor de Policías,
Bomberos y
Paramédicos, 10:00am



Caminata por
la Vida
En San Francisco
Sábado, Enero 26,
a las 12:30pm
Civic Center Plaza

Acompañenos a escuchar una serie de discursos centrados en el tema del daño del aborto a la mujer, los niños-nacidos o no nacidos-y las familias. Después de la manifestación caminaremos hasta la Plaza Justin Herman para retar la creencia que el aborto es una buena decisión para la mujer.
www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life para una lista de parroquias que irán en camiones o www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm para opciones de manejar o transporte publico.

Página 8 - St. Joseph's Modesto

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

Durante nuestra Misión de Adviento el mes pasado, Tim Staples habló de la importancia de conocer nuestra fe para poder compartirla con otros en dialogo. Jesús es nuestro modelo cuando tan solo tenia doce años de edad *sentado en medio de los maestros, escuchándolos y haciéndoles preguntas, y todos lo que lo escuchaban quedaron sorprendidos de su entendimiento y de sus respuestas* (Lk 2:46). Jesús tenia una gran sabiduría y habilidad en la labor de enseñar



la verdad. Pero aunque es muy importante enseñar la fe a otros, Jesús tuvo otra importante tarea por los siguientes 18 años, el de ser obediente con Maria y José: “*Se fue con ellos a Nazaret y fue obediente con ellos*” (Lk. 2:51). Jesús pasó mas tiempo en su vida secreta en Nazaret que en su ministerio publico. De esta manera, Jesús nos muestra la importancia del silencio, la contemplación, humildad y labor honesta. La caridad comienza en la casa, y nuestra primera responsabilidad es de tener tiempo con nuestra familia en oración y amor mutuo. Pero ¿como sabemos cuando quedarnos en casa y cuando salir a predicar? Maria nos puede ayudar con este discernimiento, si nos damos a su cuidado de la manera que Jesús lo hizo. Maria fue la que interrumpió la prédica de Jesús cuando tenia 12 años, y luego lo hizo que comenzara a los 30 en las bodas de Cana (Jn. 2:1-10). ¡Démonos entonces a Maria y ella nos inspirará tiernamente a que sepamos cuando hablar y por donde caminar! ¡Jesús, Maria y José ayúdenos!

F. Mark Wagner



Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

BENEDICTO XVI
MENSAJE URBI ET ORBI
Navidad, 25 de diciembre de 2011



Queridos hermanos y hermanas de Roma y del mundo entero

Cristo nos ha nacido. Gloria a Dios en el cielo, y paz a los hombres que él ama. Que llegue a todos el eco del anuncio de Belén, que la Iglesia católica hace resonar en todos los continentes, más allá de todo confin de nacionalidad, lengua y cultura. El Hijo de la Virgen María ha nacido para todos, es el Salvador de todos.



Así lo invoca una antigua antifona litúrgica: «Oh Emmanuel, rey y legislador nuestro, esperanza de las naciones y salvador de los pueblos, ven a salvarnos, Señor Dios nuestro». *Veni ad salvandum nos!* ¡Ven a salvarnos! Este es el clamor del hombre de todos los tiempos, que siente no saber superar por sí solo las dificultades y peligros. Que necesita poner su mano en otra más grande y fuerte, una mano

tendida hacia él desde lo alto. Queridos hermanos y hermanas, esta mano es Cristo, nacido en Belén de la Virgen María. Él es la mano que Dios ha tendido a la humanidad, para hacerla salir de las arenas movedizas del pecado y ponerla en pie sobre la roca, la roca firme de su verdad y de su amor (*Sal 40,3*). Sí, esto es lo que significa el nombre de aquel Niño, el nombre que, por voluntad de Dios, le dieron María y José: se llama Jesús, que significa «Salvador» (*Mt 1,21; Lc 1,31*). Él fue enviado por Dios Padre para salvarnos sobre todo del mal profundo arraigado en el hombre y en la historia: ese mal de la separación de Dios, del orgullo presuntuoso de actuar por sí solo, de rivalizar con Dios y ocupar su puesto, de decidir lo que es bueno y lo que es malo, de ser el dueño de la vida y de la muerte (*Gn 3,1-7*). Este es el gran mal, el gran pecado, del cual nosotros los hombres no podemos salvarnos si no es encomendándonos a la ayuda de Dios, si no es implorándole: «*Veni ad salvandum nos* - Ven a salvarnos».

Ya el mero hecho de elevar esta súplica al cielo nos pone en la posición justa, nos adentra en la verdad de nosotros mismos: nosotros, en efecto, somos los que clamaron a Dios y han sido salvados (*Est 10,3f [griego]*). Dios es el Salvador, nosotros, los que estamos en peligro. Él es el médico, nosotros, los enfermos. Reconocerlo es el primer paso hacia la salvación, hacia la salida del laberinto en el que nosotros mismos nos encerramos con nuestro orgullo. Levantar los ojos al cielo, extender las manos e invocar ayuda, es la vía de salida, siempre y cuando haya Alguien que escuche y que pueda venir en nuestro auxilio. Jesucristo es la prueba de que Dios ha escuchado nuestro clamor. Y, no sólo. Dios tiene un amor tan fuerte por nosotros, que no puede permanecer en sí mismo, que sale de sí mismo y viene entre nosotros, compartiendo nuestra condición hasta el final (*Ex 3,7-12*). La respuesta que Dios ha dado en Jesús al clamor del hombre supera infinitamente nuestras expectativas, llegando a una solidaridad tal, que no puede ser sólo humana, sino divina. Sólo el Dios que es amor y el amor que es Dios podía optar por salvarnos por esta vía, que es sin duda la más larga, pero es la que respeta su verdad y la nuestra: la vía de la reconciliación, el diálogo y la colaboración. Queridos hermanos y hermanas, volvamos la vista a la gruta de Belén: el niño que contemplamos es nuestra salvación. Él ha traído al mundo un mensaje universal de reconciliación y de paz. Abrámosle nuestros corazones, démosle la bienvenida en nuestras vidas. Repitámosle con confianza y esperanza: «*Veni ad salvandum nos*».

CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP)

Por Michael Webster



Mike Vigil

En la Segunda Lectura de la Misa de hoy, San Pablo escribe en su carta a los Colosenses “cúbranse con amor.” Un hombre que vive esta frase es Mike Vigil. Mike tiene un gran amor por Dios y este amor lo ayuda a dar testimonio a otros. Mas que todo, Mike da testimonio de esta Escritura con su servicio a nuestra comunidad parroquial. Un aspecto sinigual de como sirve Mike es el que no se para a mirar, esperando que le pidan que ayude con algo, sino que él pregunta como puede hacerlo. También cuando sirve lo desempeña con gozo y una buena actitud. Mike ha sido activo en los Caballeros de Colón por varios años. Este año él es el Caballero Principal, lo cual no es un trabajo simple, pues requiere mucho tiempo y responsabilidad. Los Caballeros de Colón realizan muchos eventos y ayudan a nuestra parroquia, y Mike se encuentra a cargo de sus esfuerzos este año. Un evento que se aproxima es el de la Misa para los Empleados de Emergencia en 12 de enero (vea la pagina 2 para mas detalles).

Gracias Mike por vivir su fe, y en particular, por servir responsablemente.

Parish Movie Night

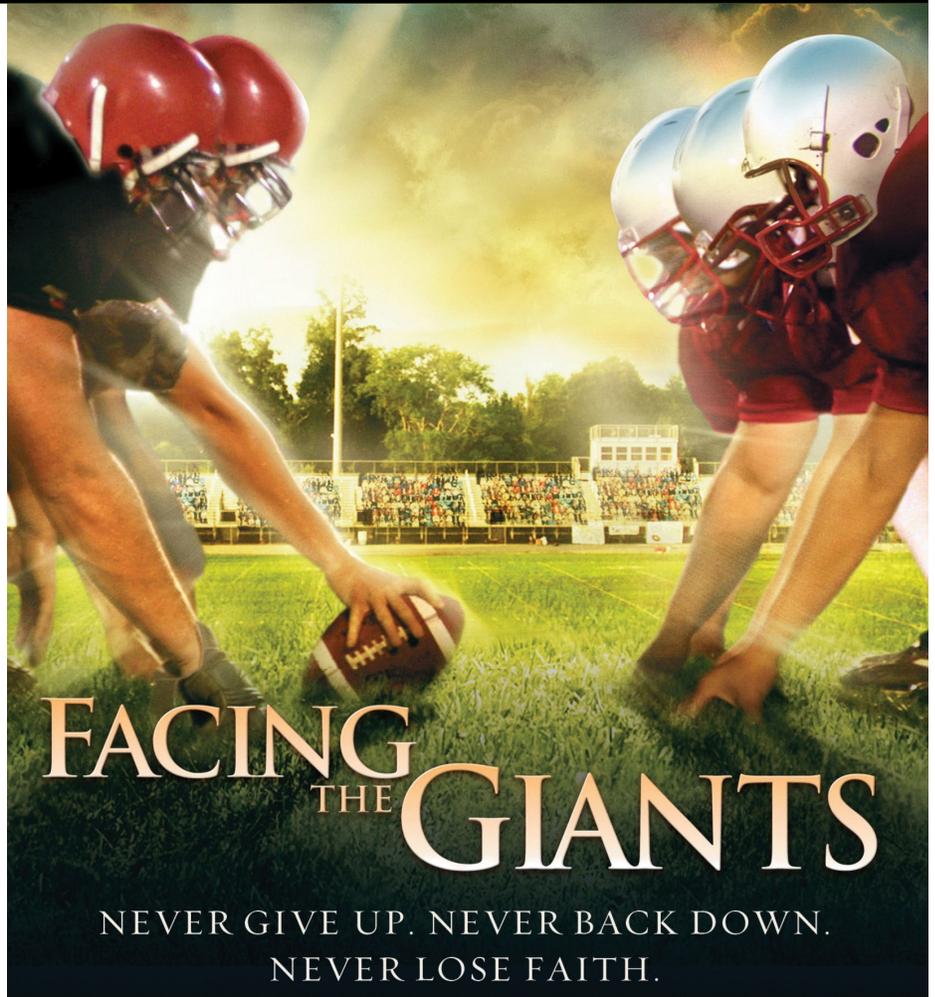
Saturday, January 5

NEVER GIVE UP

NEVER BACK DOWN

NEVER LOSE FAITH

“An inspirational
drama combining
faith and football”



FREE - 7pm Fr. O'Hare Hall

Join your parish family!

Free popcorn, lemonade and coffee!

Bring cookies to share
chairs provided or bring
a blanket for the floor

Note: **Rated: PG**