

*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 16, 2012**

**Third Sunday of  
Advent**

(209) 551-4973

Fax: (209) 551-3213

Visit our website:

[www.stjmod.com](http://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 6:30-7:30pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm

Friday 6:30-7:30pm

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 Ochiner, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

## From the Pastor's Laptop

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the “joyful Sunday” in the middle of the penitential season of Advent! We are joyful because our extra prayers and penance are preparing our hearts to welcome, to celebrate, and to love the adorable Baby Jesus, born of Mary. The readings today repeat: “*Shout for joy!... Sing joyfully!... Shout with exultation!... Be glad and exult with all your heart!... Fear not!... Be not discouraged!*” Even ol’ John the Baptist seems to be in a good mood in today’s Gospel! When people asked John what they should do, he was not strict with them and did not insist that they wear camel skin and eat grasshoppers like he did. Instead John just told them to live responsibly. He did not tell the soldiers to stop soldiering, he just told them to be content with their pay. The only thing he told the tax collectors was to stop cheating people. To everyone else he just said that we should share if we have an extra coat or extra food (Luke 3:10-14). That is the simple message we receive from the patron saint of Advent. All we need to do is live the faith. His message is similar to our parish motto for the Year of Faith: “Live the faith: pray gratefully, serve responsibly, give generously.” Then we will have stronger faith and we will be ready when Mary, the other copatroness of Advent, presents her Son, our Savior, to us on Christmas Day!

*Fr. Mark Wagner*

## Advent Penance Service

**DECEMBER 19  
7PM IN THE CHURCH**

*Priests from around the diocese will be  
at St. Joseph's to hear your confession.*

*Daily confessions will be cancelled on  
Wednesday, December 19.*

*For penance services in the area see page 7.*



*Stained glass of  
St. John Vianney*

## 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**

### How can we help? 551-4973

*Se Habla Español* .....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

### UPCOMING CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve — December 24**

4:30pm Children's Pageant and  
Mass in the Hall,

7:30pm in the church

10:30pm Christmas Caroling  
Concert in the church

12midnight Mass in the church

**Christmas Day — December 25**

7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am,  
12noon, 1:30pm (Spanish)

*All Christmas Day Masses  
in the Church*

# Welcome to St. Joseph's

*We're glad you're here!*

## Parish Life

### Upcoming Events & Activities

#### CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS & LUNCH WITH TIM STAPLES

Everyone is invited to come to Fr. O'Hare Hall tomorrow December 17, 11:30am-1pm. Come learn how to grow in and defend our faith from world renowned Catholic evangelist, Tim Staples. Please bring your own lunch. Lemonade and cookies will be provided.



#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vincent de Paul is on the plaza this weekend collecting food for their annual food drive to provide Christmas baskets for the poor. There is also a Giving Tree (for toys) this year. The tree is in the church vestibule with paper ornaments for different age groups. Toy price is between \$10-\$20. Please bring gifts to the church. There will be a pick-up of toys after each of the Masses this weekend.

#### POINSETTIA SALES



Boy Scout Troop 49 will sell Poinsettias this weekend on the Plaza between Masses. Poinsettias may be purchased to take home or to be donated to the church altar display. We appreciate your support.

#### MISA DE GALLO-TRADITIONAL 9-DAY DAWN MASS

Please join the Filipino-American Catholic Liturgy Committee Council and celebrate our Simbang Gabi/Misa De Gallo, in honor of our Blessed Mother, and preparation for the birth of our Lord. Mass starts at 5am, Dec. 16-24; breakfast fellowship follows immediately at Fr. O'Hare Hall. All masses are in English. Come celebrate our faith and a 400-year-old novena tradition.



#### ST. JOSEPH'S BOOKSTORE

Visit the Book Store this Advent season! Gifts are available for everyone on your list! Shop early for best selection. Courtesy gift wrap available.

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

If you want to drink, that is your business. If you want to stop, and can't, that is OUR business. Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who come together in support of each other as they battle the disease of alcoholism. If you are in need of this support, please join us. Men and women are welcome on Wednesdays at 5:45pm in Room 5 of the JPII center. For women only, there is a meeting on SATURDAY MORNINGS at 9am in the Vatican Room in JPII. Come and experience freedom from the bondage of alcoholism.

# Religious Education

## Vatican II: Sacrosanctum Concilium

By Michael Webster, Religious Education

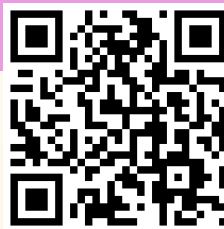
Last week the first document of Vatican II *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC, 1963), (*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*), was discussed. The focus was mainly on the Mass, but liturgy doesn't just consist of the Mass. Liturgy also refers to the Sacraments, the Divine Office, and the Liturgical Year. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* addresses the needs for rites of the sacraments to be revised. For example, in referring to the Anointing of the Sick: "Extreme unction,' which may also and more fittingly be called 'Anointing of the Sick,' is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." (SC 73) Also, some revisions were made to the Divine Office, also known as the Liturgy of the Hours, which is the public prayer of the Church and sanctifies the whole course of the day and night. Christ thus continues His priestly work through the prayer of His priestly people (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1174). Although the prayer had been said mainly by priests and consecrated religious, the document encourages the laity to pray the Divine Office, (SC 100). In the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the saving work of Christ: the Incarnation, His Paschal Mystery (passion, death, resurrection and ascension), the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and His Kingship. The constitution encourages laity to grow in instruction, prayer and works of penance and mercy throughout the year.

The document also discusses items that are utilized to help in aiding us to liturgical worship, such as, sacred music, art and furnishings. "The treasury of sacred music is to be preserved and cultivated with great care." (SC 114) "The pipe organ is to be held in high esteem in the Latin Church... the sound of which can add a wonderful splendor to the Church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up men's mind to God." (SC 120) "Very rightly the fine arts are considered to rank among the noblest activities of man's genius, and this applies especially to religious art and to its highest achievement, which is sacred art. These arts, by their very nature, are oriented toward the infinite beauty of God which they attempt in some way to portray by the work of human hands; they achieve their purpose of redounding to God's praise and glory in proportion as they are directed more exclusively to the single aim of turning men's minds devoutly toward God. Holy Mother Church has therefore always been the friend of the fine arts and has ever sought their noble help, with the special aim that all things set apart for use in divine worship should be truly worthy, becoming, and beautiful, signs and symbols of the supernatural world, and for this purpose she has trained artists." (SC 122)

After this constitution, from 1964-1974 many other documents were written, including letters and instructions for how this constitution was to be implemented. To investigate more on those documents, visit: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

For more info on Vatican II and to see times for EWTN Vatican II programming specials, scan the QR code or go to:

[www.ewtn.com/vatican2/](http://www.ewtn.com/vatican2/)



### 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!

PSR students, please bring canned soup (pull tabs preferred) this month for St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your kindness and stewardship!

### December School of Faith Classes

December			Confession	
M	T	W	T	F
9	10	11	12	13
	3:30pm	4pm		
17	18	19	20	21
		7pm	7pm	
24	25	26	27	28
31				

### 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!

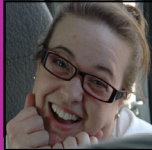


**Nathan Steingrebe**

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.

## Community Service Hours

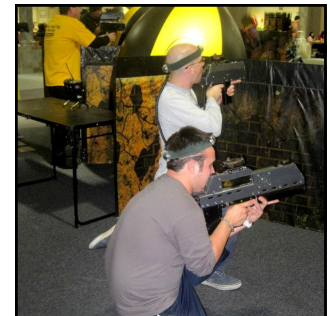
If you are enrolled in the Confirmation program, remember that 10 service hours are due in **December**. A total of 20 are required for the year. You can turn in your hour sheets to your catechist during your regular class. We will always let you know of any opportunities to serve when they become known.

## LifeNight Line-Up

12/16: St. Joseph's Advent Mission  
Attendance WILL be taken!  
12/23 & 30: NO Youth Group Meetings!  
Enjoy your Christmas Break!  
1/3-4: High School Lock-In  
1/6: Epiphany party

## 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 \$20.00.



## Save the Date

The Steubenville San Diego trip will be July 26-28, 2013. There will be a chance to reserve a spot with a small deposit in January. More details to come!

# Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Please stop and thank our St. Joseph's Boy Scouts for hosting our Plaza Refreshments Sunday morning.

## Parish Stewardship — a way of life

*St. Joseph's Central Catholic High School and College Scholarship students give back!*

### FREE MATH TUTORING

for St. Joseph's students  
DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

Thursday, Dec. 20 — 5:45-6:45pm

Thursday, Dec. 27 — 5:45-6:45pm

To RSVP: 551-4973, ext. 207

(junior high and high school students  
25 maximum per day- must RSVP)

Parish college tutors from:

Stanford University

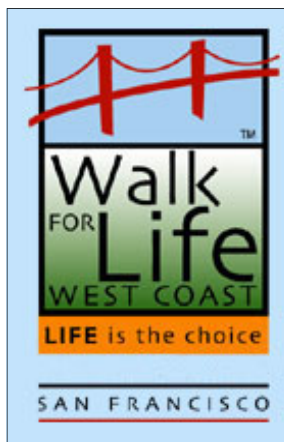
UC San Diego

UC Davis

UC Berkeley

Ave Maria University

Santa Clara University



Save the Date:

Saturday

January 26

For more information about  
how to volunteer, travel or  
sponsor a seat, Please call  
(209) 551-4973, ext. 207

New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??

Call the Center for Lay Apostolates

551-4973, ext. 207

## Profiles in Stewardship

by Svetlana Avetisyan



## Gregorian Chant Choir

Gregorian Chant has remained the primary form of prayer in song used by the Church in her liturgies through the centuries. In fact, some of the melodies of Gregorian Chant can be traced back to the beginning of the era, which means that Jesus would have sung them while celebrating the Jewish feasts with the apostles.

St. Joseph's Church offers the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Mass every Sunday at 9am, where Propers and Ordinaries are chanted, and hymns and "beauties so ancient and so new" of Sacred music are sung by our Gregorian Chant Choir. Schola, directed by Anna Maich, choir members include: Annie Johnson and Paul Vanderburg, Anna Vandereburg, Mary Jeffrey, Lizzie Sanders, Susan Sanders, Denise Swanson, Adam Harker and Jerry Karlen.

The goal of our Chant Choir is to lift minds and hearts to God through the timeless beauty of the Church's most ancient form of music – Gregorian Chant, so that others might say with St. Augustine, "How I wept when I heard your hymns and canticles, being deeply moved by the sweet singing of your Church. Those voices flowed into my ears, truth filtered into my heart, and from my heart surged waves of devotion."

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## In the Diocese

### 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)

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, January 26, 2013

St. Edward Parish, Stockton

Cost is \$10 per person.

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



### WALK FOR LIFE 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life West Coast

January 26,  
12:30 pm

Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco  
Please join us to hear an inspiring series of speeches centering around the theme of abortion's damage to women, to children – unborn and born – and to families. After the rally we will be walking to Justin Herman Plaza to challenge the belief that abortion is a good choice for women.

[www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life) for a list of parishes who are sending buses or [www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm](http://www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm) for driving or public transportation options.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK “Catholic Schools Raise the Standards”

January 27 to February 2

## From our Holy Father in Rome

GENERAL AUDIENCE — Wednesday, 28 November 2012  
*Year of Faith. How to speak about God?*



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*



The important question we ask ourselves today is: how can we talk about God in our time? How can we communicate the Gospel so as to open roads to his saving truth in our contemporaries' hearts — that are all too often closed — and minds — that are at times distracted by the many dazzling lights of society? Jesus, the Evangelists tell us, asked himself about this as he proclaimed the kingdom of God: “With what can we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?” (Mk 4:30).

How can we talk about God today? The first answer is that we can talk about God because he has talked to us; so the first condition for speaking of God is listening to all that God himself has said. God has spoken to us! God is therefore not a distant hypothesis concerning the world's origin; he is not a mathematical intelligence far from us. God takes an interest in us, he loves us, he has entered personally into the reality of our history, he has communicated himself, even to the point of taking flesh. Thus God is a reality of our life, he is so great that he has time for us too, he takes an interest in us. In Jesus of Nazareth we encounter the face of God, who came down from his heaven to immerse himself in the human world, in our world, and to teach “the art of living”, the road to happiness; to set us free from sin and make us children of God (Eph 1:5; Rom 8:14). Jesus came to save us and to show us the good life of the Gospel.

Talking about God means first of all expressing clearly what God we must bring to the men and women of our time: not an abstract God, a hypothesis, but a real God, a God who exists, who has entered history and is present in history; the God of Jesus Christ as an answer to the fundamental question of the meaning of life and of how we should live.

Consequently speaking of God demands familiarity with Jesus and his Gospel, it implies that we have a real, personal knowledge of God and a strong passion for his plan of salvation without succumbing to the temptation of success, but following God's own method. God's method is that of humility — God makes himself one of us — his method is brought about through the Incarnation in the simple house of Nazareth; through the Grotto of Bethlehem; through the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

We must not fear the humility of taking little steps, but trust in the leaven that penetrates the dough and slowly causes it to rise (Mt 13:33). In talking about God, in the work of evangelization, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must recover simplicity, we must return to the essence of the proclamation: the Good News of a God who is real and effective, a God who is concerned about us, a God-Love who makes himself close to us in Jesus Christ, until the Cross, and who in the Resurrection gives us hope and opens us to a life that has no end, eternal life, true life. St Paul, that exceptional communicator, gives us a lesson that goes straight to the heart of the problem of faith: “how to speak of God” with great simplicity.

# Sacraments

## Our Mass Intentions

## This Week

Sunday, December 16 (Third Sunday of Advent)			
7:30a	Rozann Platt	1:30p	Alida G. Camacho and George Medina
9:00a	Neil Phillips, Jr.	5:30p	Andrew & Cheryl Longenbaugh
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Josephina Muratore
12:00p	Giovanni Mondelli		
Monday, December 17			
8:00a	Honorata & Doming Marcale and Beatriz Martinez	5:45p	John & Virginia Bairos and Emilio Ramirez
Tuesday, December 18			
8:00a	Pat Buhler and Darvina & Evalyn Nunez	5:45p	Sr. Christine Hayes and Maria Nieves Ruiz
Wednesday, December 19			
8:00a	Frank Lowry, Sr. and Frank Lowry, Jr.	5:45p	Josephine Paluzzi and Joe Evangelho
Thursday, December 20			
8:00a	Kristen Machado and Jacinto & Delfina Mendes	5:45p	Romualdo Mamerta-Impas and Armando Quadros
Friday, December 21			
8:00a	Minor & Geri Johannsen and Ludgeria Arnan	5:45p	Kristen Machado and Robert Dorn
12:00p	Edward Lozano		
Saturday, December 22			
8:00a	Natividad Ranese and Elizabeth Sinclair	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 23 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)			
7:30a	Rusty Boyle and Fr. Francis Joseph—Special Intention	1:30p	Rafael and Elias Ochoa and Luis, Catalina and Antonio Ruiz
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Dan Martin
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Kristen Machado
12:00p	George Cant		

Sunday, December 16, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6
10:30A	Respect Life	JP4
7:00P	Advent Mission (Tim Staples)	Hall
Monday, December 17, 2012		
7:00P	Advent Mission (Tim Staples)	Chur
Tuesday, December 18, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:30P	Development Committee	Confr
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp Span	JP7
7:00P	Advent Mission (Tim Staples)	Chur
Wednesday, December 19, 2012		
10:00A	St. Joseph's Seniors Lunch	Hall
1:30P	Widows & Widowers Bible Study	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:30P	Alateen	JP8
5:45P	Al Anon Group	JP10
6:30P	Health Ministry	JP4
7:00P	Advent Penance Service	Chur
7:00P	On the Go Adults	JP4
Thursday, December 20, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
12:00P	Carmel Study Group	JP4
5:45P	Math Tutors in JP6	JP6
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, December 21, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
Saturday, December 22, 2012		
9:00A	AA Language of the Heart (Women)	JP4
Sunday, December 23, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA

St. Anthony's, Hughson  
December 17, 7pm  
Our Lady of Fatima, Modesto  
December 18, 7pm  
St. Jude's, Ceres  
December 20, 7pm

### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Please contact David & Monica: 527-4920.

-Altar Flower Donation-  
By Mrs. Elizabeth Cottrell & Family — In Loving Memory of Dr. Lee Cottrell.

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

### Readings 12/17-12/23

#### Monday:

Gen. 49:2, 8-10; Mat.1:1-17

#### Tuesday:

Jer.23:5-8; Mat. 1:18-25

#### Wednesday:

Judg. 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk. 1:5-25

#### Thursday:

Is.7:10-14; Lk. 1:26-38

#### Friday:

Song 2:8-14 or Zeph.3:14-18; Lk.1:39-45  
**12pm Latin Mass:**

Eph. 2:19-22; Jn. 20:19-29

#### Saturday:

1 Sam. 1:24-28; Lk. 1:46-56

#### Sunday:

Mc. 5:1-4; Heb.10:5-10; Lk.1:39-45

#### Latin Mass

1 Cor. 4:1-5; Lk. 3:1-6

### NOTICE

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

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

**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.

**Bienvenido**  
a **St. Joseph's**

**Misas de Navidad**

Diciembre 24, Víspera  
4:30pm Misa para niños,  
en el Salón

Diciembre 25, Navidad  
7:30, 9 Latín, 10:30, 12, 1:30 Español

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

**Clases de Escuela de FE**  
**Mes de diciembre**

Diciembre			Confesión	
M	T	W	T	F
3 4pm	4	5	6	7
10	11 3:30pm	12	13 7pm	14
17	18	19 4, 7pm	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				



**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](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life) para una lista de parroquias que irán en camiones o [www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm](http://www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm) para opciones de manejar o transporte publico.

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

¡Hoy es Domingo de Gaudete, el “domingo de gozo” en la mitad del tiempo penitencial de Adviento! Nos sentimos gozosos de que nuestras oraciones y penitencias estén preparando nuestros corazones a dar la bienvenida, celebrar y amar al adorable Niño Jesús, nacido de Maria. Las lecturas de hoy repiten “¡griten de gozo!..¡Canten gozosos!..¡griten con exaltación!... ¡Estén contentos y exulten con todo su corazón! ...¡No tengan miedo!... ¡No se desanimen!” ¡Hasta Juan el Bautista parece estar de buen humor en el Evangelio de hoy! Cuando la gente le preguntó a Juan que deberían de hacer, él no fue estricto con ellos y no insistió que se vistiesen con piel de camello o comiesen grillos como él. No les dijo a los soldados que parasen de ser soldados, solo les dijo que estuviesen contentos con su pago. La única cosa que le dijo a los publicanos fue que parasen de engañar a la gente. A todos los demás solo les dijo que debemos de compartir si tenemos un abrigo extra o comida extra (Lucas 3:10-14). Este es el mensaje simple que recibimos del Santo patrón de Adviento. Todo lo que necesitamos hacer es vivir la fe. Su mensaje es similar al de nuestra parroquia para el Año de la Fe: “Viva la fe: ore agradecidamente, sirva responsablemente y de generosamente.” ¡Luego podremos tener una fe mas fuerte y estaremos listos cuando Maria, la otra Patrona de Adviento, nos presente a su Hijo, nuestro Salvador el día de la Natividad!

*Fr. Mark Wagner*

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# Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

AUDIENCIA GENERAL

Miércoles 28 de noviembre de 2012

El Año de la fe. ¿Cómo hablar de Dios?



CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP)

Por Svetlana Avetisyan



## Coro Gregoriano

El Canto Gregoriano permanece como la principal forma del canto que la Iglesia ha usado en sus liturgias a través de los tiempos. De hecho, algunas de las melodías gregorianas se pueden encontrar al comienzo de nuestra era, lo que significa que Jesús las cantó al celebrar las fiestas judías con sus apóstoles. La Iglesia de St. Joseph's ofrece la forma extraordinaria de la misa en Latín los domingos a las 9am, donde los Propios y Ordinarios se cantan, y los himnos y "hermosuras tan antiguas y tan nuevas" de la música sagrada son cantadas por el Coro Gregoriano. El Coro Gregoriano, Schola, dirigido por Anna Maich, incluye como miembros a: Annie Johnson y Paul Vanderburg, Anna Vandereburg, Mary Jeffrey, Lizzie Sanders, Susan Sanders, Denise Swanson, Adam Harker and Jerry Karlen. La meta de nuestro Coro Gregoriano es la de ayudarnos a elevar nuestra mente y corazón hacia Dios por medio de la belleza de la música más antigua de la Iglesia — la Música Gregoriana, para que nosotros también podamos decir como San Agustín, "Cómo lloré al escuchar tus himnos y cantares, siendo profundamente conmovido por el dulce canto de tu Iglesia. Las voces entraron en mis oídos, la verdad filtro a mi corazón, y de mi corazón surgieron olas de devoción."

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

La cuestión central que nos planteamos hoy es la siguiente: ¿cómo hablar de Dios en nuestro tiempo? ¿Cómo comunicar el Evangelio para abrir caminos a su verdad salvífica en los corazones frecuentemente cerrados de nuestros contemporáneos y en sus mentes a veces distraídas por los muchos resplandores de la sociedad? Jesús mismo, dicen los evangelistas, al anunciar el Reino de Dios se interrogó sobre ello: «¿Con qué podemos comparar el Reino



de Dios? ¿Qué parábola usaremos?» (Mc 4, 30). ¿Cómo hablar de Dios hoy? La primera respuesta es que nosotros podemos hablar de Dios porque Él ha hablado con nosotros. La primera condición del hablar con Dios es, por lo tanto, la escucha de cuanto ha dicho Dios mismo. ¡Dios ha hablado con nosotros! Así que Dios no es una hipótesis lejana

sobre el origen del mundo; no es una inteligencia matemática muy apartada de nosotros. Dios se interesa por nosotros, nos ama, ha entrado personalmente en la realidad de nuestra historia, se ha auto-comunicado hasta encarnarse. Dios es una realidad de nuestra vida; es tan grande que también tiene tiempo para nosotros, se ocupa de nosotros. En Jesús de Nazaret encontramos el rostro de Dios, que ha bajado de su Cielo para sumergirse en el mundo de los hombres, en nuestro mundo, y enseñar el «arte de vivir», el camino de la felicidad; para liberarnos del pecado y hacernos hijos de Dios (Ef 1, 5; Rm 8, 14). Jesús ha venido para salvarnos y mostrarnos la vida buena del Evangelio.

Hablar de Dios quiere decir, ante todo, tener bien claro lo que debemos llevar a los hombres y a las mujeres de nuestro tiempo: no un Dios abstracto, una hipótesis, sino un Dios concreto, un Dios que existe, que ha entrado en la historia y está presente en la historia; el Dios de Jesucristo como respuesta a la pregunta fundamental del por qué y del cómo vivir. Por esto, hablar de Dios requiere una familiaridad con Jesús y su Evangelio; supone nuestro conocimiento personal y real de Dios y una fuerte pasión por su proyecto de salvación, sin ceder a la tentación del éxito, sino siguiendo el método de Dios mismo. El método de Dios es el de la humildad —Dios se hace uno de nosotros—, es el método realizado en la Encarnación en la sencilla casa de Nazaret y en la gruta de Belén, el de la parábola del granito de mostaza. Es necesario no temer la humildad de los pequeños pasos y confiar en la levadura que penetra en la masa y lentamente la hace crecer (Mt 13, 33). Al hablar de Dios, en la obra de evangelización, bajo la guía del Espíritu Santo, es necesario una recuperación de sencillez, un retorno a lo esencial del anuncio: la Buena Nueva de un Dios que es real y concreto, un Dios que se interesa por nosotros, un Dios-Amor que se hace cercano a nosotros en Jesucristo hasta la Cruz y que en la Resurrección nos da la esperanza y nos abre a una vida que no tiene fin, la vida eterna, la vida verdadera. Ese excepcional comunicador que fue el apóstol Pablo nos brinda una lección, orientada justo al centro de la fe, sobre la cuestión de «cómo hablar de Dios» con gran sencillez.



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