

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 4, 2011 Second Sunday of Advent

(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,

12noon, 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

Holy Hour in the Church

Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm

Children's Services:

Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

At the 10:30am Sunday Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mondays-Thursdays 5:00-5:30pm

Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm (Holy Hour)

Saturdays 8:30-9:30am; 4:00-5:00pm

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

Clergy:

Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor

Fr. Benny Kottathil, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinerio, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop



Then

Today I turn 50. A friend shrugged and said, "just another day, father." Aside from the fact that I can now officially join St. Joseph's Seniors Group, I suppose turning 50 is just another day, although I did enjoy



And now.

being a forty-niner last year. My Mom said the 50s were her favorite decade. She's about to enter her 80's, so she'll let me know in a few years if they beat the fifties.

I don't think I'll make it to a hundred, especially the way this old world's going, so I suppose I'm about two thirds the way "there." Now where is *there*? "There" is Heaven, we hope. I'm two thirds the way to Heaven, with a stop in Purgatory, I imagine. The sooner I get to Purgatory, the sooner I can get to Heaven. Let's just hope your dear old pastor doesn't get to Hell, and none of us for that matter. For that, we must depend entirely on the grace of God.

But to return to my subject (it's my birthday, and it's my *fiftieth birthday*, so I get to ramble a bit in this laptop). My Subject: Growing Old. We all complain about getting older, but really, it's not bad at all. Remember how we used to complain about being too young? Every age has its joys and sorrows, but I think getting older is a beautiful gift from God. Because the older we get, the younger we get. The older we get, the closer we get to *rebirth*, to real living.

In 1997 I took a group to World Youth Day in Paris. We took the train to Lisieux to see St. Therese. In her basilica, at the altar depicting her death, was written in French, "I'm not dying. I'm entering into life." I smelled beautiful roses at that altar, and was filled with a certain conviction that death, and growing older, is a *gift*. That day, death lost its sting for me. St. Therese obtained this grace for me. Growing older is simply letting God have more of my life, day by day. Life doesn't slip away as we grow older — we give it to God. Death will be like resting secure under the skillful hands of a perfect surgeon. I'm glad to be fifty, 50 years closer to *that day*.

Fr. Joseph

☞ Staff Contacts ☞

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, Brenda, Alex, Lauren)

Sunday: 10:00-3:00pm.

Monday: 10:00 to 7:30

Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 to 7:30

Closed Wednesday from 11-1pm

Friday 8:30 to Noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

- Se Habla Español*.....Alex x103
- Accounting..... Barbara x108
- Adult Ed & Bible Studies.... Michael x203
- Altar ServersSvetlana x200
- Audio / Video.....Jeremy x213
- Becoming Catholic, RCIA Stacy x211
- 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

☞ Readings 12/05-12/11 ☞

Monday:

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Friday:

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

12pm Latin Mass:

Is. 11:1-5; Lk 1:37-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt
17:9a, 10-13

Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

9am Mass: Third Sunday of Advent

Phil 4:4-7; Jn 1:19-28

Sacraments

☞ Our Mass Intentions ☞

Sunday, December 4 (Second Sunday of Advent)			
7:30a	Emil & Anna Carney	1:30p	Ricardo Munoz, Jose Chavez and Noemi Sinner
9:00a	Tomasina Rabara and Crisologo Cabacungan	3:00p	Indian Mass
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Rizal Mina
12:00p	Fr. Joseph Illo—Special Intention	7:30p	Penny Lane Wahl
Monday, December 5			
8:00a	Robert Ricci and Marlene Martus	5:45p	Jim Trevillyan and Danny Vele
Tuesday, December 6			
8:00a	Josephine Bonfiglio and Rudy Fuentez	5:45p	Angie Stanwood and Joseph Oneil
Wednesday, December 7			
8:00a	Paul Cusenza and Barbara Morton	5:45p	Joan McClellan and Jose & Jesuina Bairos
Thursday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception)			
7:00a	Manuel & Alberta Ramirez	5:45p	Connie Ortez
8:00a	Leda Ramos	7:30p	Concepcion & Rosalina Lopez
9:00a	Lorraine Ottoboni		
Friday, December 9			
8:00a	Doroteo Daguna and Rosanna Hollander	5:45p	Deceased Members of St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus
Saturday, December 10			
8:00a	Fr. Larry Guerrero—Special Intention	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
10:00a	Healing Mass		
Sunday, December 11 (Third Sunday of Advent)			
7:30a	Mathew & Mary Basan	1:30p	Luis, Catalina, Rosa, Salvador and Antonio Ruiz and George Medina
9:00a	Natalie Wasmund	5:30p	Andrew & Cheryl Longenbaugh
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Elena Gutierrez Brisco
12:00p	Michael Ciccarelly		

☞ Prayer & Interior Life ☞

Stewardship: "Recognizing and Receiving God's Gifts"

December 4th — Second Sunday of Advent

At this time of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus by recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah and their fulfillment in John the Baptist. As the greatest gift from God the Father, Jesus came to us as a child to lead us to the kingdom. In thankfulness to God we share with each other by giving gifts. May an abundance of joy and gratitude for the love God has shown us be part of every gift we give this Christmas season.

PRAY THE ROSARY!

Join us to pray the Rosary the first Thursday of each month at 12pm in the Kaiser Spiritual Care Mediation Room (2nd Floor- 2H1) at Kaiser Permanente. Come or teleconference, by calling 1-888-858-2133 & access code: 9649484. Holy Family Catholic Church and Spiritual Care Department, Kaiser Permanente. For more information, contact Eileen Nicholson, 521-9594 or chaplain Quincy, 735-7646.

PRAY TO END ABORTION

Please join us to pray the rosary to end abortion. We meet every Tuesday & Wednesday mornings around 9:15am in front of the abortion clinic at 2030 Coffee Rd, Modesto. Holy Mary Mother of God, Pray for Us.

Remember a special day or person
-Altar Flower Donation-

Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x207



ADVENT MASS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Militia of the Immaculata Villages & the Health Ministry invite you to attend the Mass & Anointing of the Sick

December 10th at 10am.

If you need transportation, please contact Suzanne Flint at 521-8299.



COATS FOR KIDS

The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring a "Coats for Kids" drive. Donations of new or used coats can be left in the barrels in the vestibule of the Church through December.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Purchase your "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for \$5.00, after Mass this weekend and every Sunday until Christmas.

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST

This year's walk will be on Saturday, January 21st. It will be EASIER than in past years with the walk beginning at San Francisco Civic Center and ending at Justin Herman Plaza. There are NO HILLS on this 2 mile demonstration to show support for life, especially the unborn. The Respect Life Committee will be selling tickets for the 5 buses attending the walk after all Masses the first weekends in January. You can pre-order your t-shirts for the walk after Masses on the weekends of December 4th and 11th. If you cannot attend, but would like to help out, donations for scholarships for those who cannot afford the bus will be accepted (and greatly appreciated) as well. Come show your support for life!

MILITARY MINISTRY

A BIG SALUTE and thank you to ALL of our generous parishioners who continue to pray and support our troops with donations for care boxes, loyalty, and patriotism. We mailed 207 boxes with more to go, and raised \$2,153.64 on the plaza over Veteran's Day weekend.



ALANON FAMILY GROUP

Starting at St. Joseph's on Wednesday Jan. 4, 2012 at 5:45pm in JP 10. AlAnon is for any family member or friend who has been affected by another persons drinking. It is an anonymous fellowship, where we share our experience, strength, and hope with each other. For more information call Guadalupe at (209) 540-1277 or Bev at (209) 605-0001.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We are in urgent need to fill Christmas Baskets this Holiday Season for the needy. The demand is great and our pantry is having a hard time keeping it filled for our weekly distribution. We especially need the following for Christmas Baskets: 5 lb. canned hams, canned fruit cocktail/pineapples, boxed potatoes, boxed brownie mix, and canned Green Beans/Yams. If you cannot bring food, please consider a cash donation to help us buy these items. We thank you for your generosity and stewardship.

Sunday, December 4, 2011		
10:00 A	CLOW	JP6
12:00 P	OLG Diocesan Procession	
1:00 P	CFCFFL - Youth	JP7
3:00 P	Indian Mass	Chur
3:30 P	7 Steps	JP8
Monday, December 5, 2011		
5:00 P	Confessions	Chur
7:00 P	Charismatic Prayer Group	JP10
Tuesday, December 6, 2011		
9:00 A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
10:30 A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:00 P	Confessions	Chur
6:15 P	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:15 P	Knights of Columbus	Hall
	Charismatic Prayer Group	
7:00 P	Spanish	JP7
Wednesday, December 7, 2011		
1:30 P	Widows(ers) Bible Study	JP5
5:00 P	Confessions	Chur
5:45 P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
Thursday, December 8, 2011		
9:00 A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
	12 Noon Latin Mass	
12:00 P	(Immaculate Conception)	Chur
12:00 P	RE Bible Study	JP4
5:00 P	Confessions	Chur
6:30 P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30 P	Men's Group	JP10
7:00 P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, December 9, 2011		
12:00 P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00 P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:00 P	Indian Prayer Group	JP6
6:30 P	Adoration & Confessions	Chur
Saturday, December 10, 2011		
8:30 A	Lay Dominicans Meeting	JP5
8:30 A	Confessions	Chur
	AA (Women) Language of	
9:00 A	the Heart	JP4
4:00 P	Confessions	Chur
Sunday, December 11, 2011		
10:00 A	CLOW	JP6
10:00 A	Militia Immaculata	JP2
1:00 P	CFCFFL - Youth	JP7
3:30 P	7 Steps	JP8

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

PSR Update

Parish School of Religion
551-4973, ext. 217
E-mail: psr@stjmod.com

PSR HOURS

Monday 3:30 - 5:30pm
Tuesday 3:00 - 6:30pm
Wednesday 3:30 - 5:30pm
Thursday 3:30 - 5:30 pm
and 6:30-8:30 pm
Closed on Fridays

Confirmation 2 students
for the December 8th
class will be going to the
5:30pm Mass.

(December 8 Feast of the Immaculate
Conception Holy Day of Obligation)

SCHOOL OF FAITH
Change in Schedule

December 7th classes
have been cancelled,

Please note the following changes:

December 14 4:00-5:15

December 15 7:00-8:15 (Bilingual)

REMINDER

During this month of December,
PSR children are asked to bring
Canned Soup (pull tops preferred)
for St Vincent DePaul when they
come to class. We thank you for
your generosity and stewardship!



Scan this image with
your smart phone and go
directly to St. Joseph's
webpage on the Roman
Missal, Third Edition to
view resources and
videos to better
understand the changes.

RCIA Update

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 Stacy Phillips at
541-8903 to make an appointment.

Religious Education

Welcoming the Roman Missal, Third Edition

During the Preface, we are reminded to lift up our
hearts to God, followed by let us give thanks to the
Lord our God. We then answer, "It is right and just,"
for it is right to be thankful to God, as it is also the
right thing to do.

At the moment when we praise God by joining the angelic choirs of heaven,
we repeat, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts..." This proclamation is
found in Is. 6:3. We affirm that God is assisted by all the hosts of angels and
saints in heaven, the triumphant Church who we hope to join for all eternity.
In the Memorial Acclamation, the priest says: "The mystery of faith," and the
people answer, "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you come again." These words carry us into the Paschal
Mystery and brings to light the meaning of the Eucharist. Christ's Death and
Resurrection, gives us the hope that we may be made worthy to be part of the
Mystical Body of Christ. Before the reception of Holy Communion, the priest



lifts the consecrated host and
repeats the words of St. John the
Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God,
...Blessed are those ..." the people
answer with the words of the
centurion (Mt. 8:9) "Lord...that
you should enter under my roof,
but ...and my soul shall be healed."
Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist,
despite our lowliness, and as we
receive Him in humility, He comes
to heal and dwell in our souls.

Faith & Finances with Phil Lenahan

Occupy Wall Street Through the Lens of a Steward of Providence

One of the primary issues raised by Occupy Wall Street relates to concerns that
resources are not distributed more evenly in our society. How should Catholics
view this issue? Scripture clearly teaches that we should expect different
outcomes based on the natural order. In 1 Cor. 12:4-7, St. Paul speaks of God
distributing gifts in a variety of ways. In the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-
30), the master distributes talents in varying amounts. Given this expectation
for different outcomes, what does the Church teach regarding the distribution
of goods? Importantly, the Church teaches that both the right to private
property and the universal destination of goods be respected (Catechism 2401).
Note that the universal destination of goods does not require absolute equality
of outcomes, but it does require that all have the opportunity to meet their
basic needs. At first glance, respecting both of these principles seems to be
contradictory, but when looked at through the lens of a steward of Providence
(Catechism 2404), the contradictions disappear. Stewards of Providence keep
God first in their lives, focus on family, value work, are generous, and live
moderately. It's easy to see that the greater the degree these traits are lived out,
the more balanced the economic well-being of society will be.

What role does government have in an economic system? A government is
responsible for providing an environment that allows its people to live as
stewards of Providence. In practice, this means balancing the principle of
subsidiarity (Catechism 1883) with reasonable regulation of the marketplace
(Catechism 2425), and providing an appropriate safety net for the poor. God
love you!

For information: Call Anthony Butera (551-6562).

☞ Youth Ministry ☜

Upcoming LifeNights:

- 12/4: Wait for it - A Night on Advent
- 12/11: Know your Mama - A Night on Mary
- 12/18: Y'all come back now, ya hear? -
Active membership in the Church.

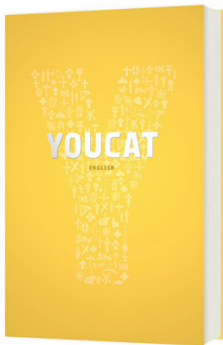
All high school teens are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bring a friend! See you there!

GET INVOLVED!!

Looking to share your talent? We are looking for volunteers to fill these liturgical ministry needs for the 5:30 p.m. Youth Mass.

- *Ushers*
- *Lectors*
- *Greeters*

'Study this Catechism! This is my heartfelt desire.'



'You need to know what you believe. You need to know your faith with that same precision with which an IT specialist knows the inner workings of a computer. You need to understand it like a good musician knows the piece he is playing. Yes, you need to be more deeply rooted in the faith than the generation of your parents so that you can engage the challenges and temptations of

this time with strength and determination. You need God's help if your faith is not going to dry up like a dewdrop in the sun, if you want to resist the blandishments of consumerism, if your love is not to drown in pornography, if you are not going to betray the weak and leave the vulnerable helpless'

-Pope Benedict XVI (Foreward of the YOUCAT)

YOUCAT– Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

Now available in the St. Joseph's Bookstore.

Contact Us!

Nathan Steingrebe

C. 209.247.7863

W. 551-4973, ext. 206

Nathan@stjmod.com

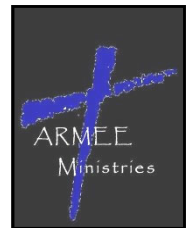
Katie Steffanic

W. 551-4973, ext.223

Ksteffanic@stjmod.com

A.R.M.E.E. Ministry

Adoration
Reconciliation
Mass
Eucharist
Evangelization.



ARMEE meets on Monday nights at 7:30pm at Our Lady of the Assumption in Turlock.

Victory Team

The "Victory" team is composed of high school students and young adults that volunteer their talent to minister to confirmation students in our parish. Meetings are on Monday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the youth and family center.

Profiles in Stewardship

by Fr. Joseph Illo



Elizabeth Hernandez

Three years ago a few Latino young adults established a Catholic group here at our parish. These are college students and young professionals who meet every Thursday night at 7:00pm in the John Paul II building, room 2 to fellowship through study of the Bible and catechism. They pray a holy hour in the chapel together once a month and have various social activities.

Guiding this group, which is named *Caminando Hacia Cristo* ("On the Way Toward Christ"), is **Elizabeth Hernandez**. Elizabeth teaches Spanish at Beyer High School and serves the parish in various ways, such as lecturing and helping distribute Holy Communion. She organizes the *Missa Juvenil* (Youth Mass) in Spanish once a month and plans study and prayer themes for the youth group's weekly meetings. I have been most inspired by Elizabeth's patient persistence in leading her young friends to praise God and fellowship in his Holy Spirit. This youth group does not have much official support, but is a work of the heart. It is a spontaneous expression of faith and love. *Muchas Gracias, Eli!*

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: We thank our Pastoral Council for hosting our Plaza Refreshments this weekend. You are invited to stop by and visit with your parish representatives.

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

(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

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

JP II Building, Room 7

To RSVP: 551-4973, ext. 207

Bring: current math work or tests, pencil and questions

New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??

Call the Center for Lay Apostolates

551-4973, ext. 207

From our Holy Father in Benin

MEETING WITH CHILDREN
ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI

Parish church of Saint Rita -Cotonou

Saturday, 19 November 2011



Dear Young Friends,

God our Father has gathered us around his Son and our brother, Jesus Christ, who is present in the host consecrated during the Mass. This is a great mystery before which we worship and we believe. Jesus, who loves us very much, is truly present in the tabernacles of all the churches around the world, in the tabernacles of the churches in your neighborhoods and in your parishes. I ask you to visit him often to tell him of your love for him.



Some of you have already made your First Holy Communion, and others are preparing for it. The day of my First Holy Communion was one of the most beautiful days of my life. It is the same for you, isn't it? And why is that? It's not only because of our nice clothes or the gifts we receive, nor even because of the parties! It is above all because, that day, we receive Jesus Christ for the first time! When I receive Communion, Jesus comes to live in me. I should welcome him with love and listen closely to him. In

the depths of my heart, I can tell him, for example: "Jesus, I know that you love me. Give me your love so that I can love you in return and love others with your love. I give you all my joys, my troubles and my future." Do not hesitate, dear children, to speak of Jesus to others. He is a treasure whom you should share generously. Throughout the history of the Church, the love of Jesus has filled countless Christians, and even young people like yourselves, with courage and strength. In this way, Saint Kizito, a Ugandan boy, was put to death because he wanted to live according to the baptism which he had just received. Kizito prayed. He realized that God is not only important, but that he is everything.

What, then, is prayer? It is a cry of love directed to God our Father, with the will to imitate Jesus our brother. Jesus often went off by himself to pray. Like Jesus, I too can find a calm place to pray where I can quietly stand before a Cross or a holy picture in order to speak to Jesus and to listen to him. I can also use the Gospels. That way, I keep within my heart a passage which has touched me and which will guide me throughout the day. To stay with Jesus like this for a little while lets him fill me with his love, light and life! This love, which I receive in prayer, calls me in turn to give it to my parents, to my friends, to everyone with whom I live, even with those who do not like me, and those whom I do not appreciate enough. Dear young people, Jesus loves you. Ask your parents to pray with you! Sometimes you may even have to push them a little. But do not hesitate to do so. God is that important! May the Virgin Mary, his Mother, teach you to love more and more through prayer, forgiveness and charity. I entrust you to her, together with your families and teachers. Look! I have this rosary in my pocket. The rosary is like a tool that we can use to pray. It is easy to pray the rosary. Maybe you know how already; if not, ask your parents to help you to learn how. At the end of this meeting, each one of you will receive a rosary. When you hold it in your hands, I would ask you to pray for the Pope, for the Church and for every important intention. And now, before I bless you all with great affection, let us pray together a *Hail Mary* for children throughout the world, especially for those who are sick, who are hungry and in places of war.

In the Diocese

PILGRIMAGE

The Catholic Tour, a 31-yr old Catholic Pilgrimage Apostolate is pleased to announce the new pilgrimage dates to Fatima, Portugal for the month of March, 2012. The pilgrimage tour will last 7 days, with air from Newark, NJ, 4 star hotel, motor coach, tour escort, and 2 meals/day for only \$799 from Newark Airport (English) and \$999 from Miami Airport in Spanish. The price does not include your federal taxes, airline surcharges, lunches, or drinks. Call toll free 1-877-627-4268 for further information, reservation forms, and full itineraries. First come, first served. Also available- Rome & Fatima; Lourdes & Fatima; and Fatima, Paris, and Lourdes. Please call today, only 25 seats available for each group.

MODESTO PREGNANCY CENTER

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Modesto Pregnancy Center is accepting applications for a Development Coordinator. Responsibilities include oversight of fund raising activities, developing relationships with churches and pursuing avenues of revenue through local entities. For a complete job description contact mpc@modestopc.org or call 550-5923.

Job Announcement

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton has an immediate opening for a Full-Time Bilingual Spanish Speaking Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) for the Family Counseling Services Program located in Stanislaus County. The mission of the counseling program is to offer accessible, low-cost, short-term, outpatient counseling. For more information, please submit resume and cover letter to Peter Muñoz at pmunoz@ccstockton.org, or fax to 209-529-6083.

Por el Padre Joseph Illo



Elizabeth Hernandez

Hace tres años unos cuantos jóvenes adultos latinos establecieron un grupo católico aquí en nuestra parroquia. Estos son estudiantes del colegio y jóvenes profesionales quienes se reúnen cada jueves para vivir el compañerismo por medio del estudio de la Biblia y el Catecismo. Ellos hacen una Hora Santa en la capilla una vez al mes y tienen varias actividades sociales.

Guiando a este grupo, el cual se llama *Caminando Hacia Cristo*, está Elizabeth Hernandez. Elizabeth enseña Español en la Beyer High School y sirve en la parroquia de varias formas, como lectora y distribuyendo la Santa Comunión. Ella organiza la *Misa Juvenil* en Español una vez al mes y planea temas de estudio y oración para las juntas semanales del grupo. A mí me ha inspirado mucho la paciente persistencia de Elizabeth al guiar a sus jóvenes amigos a alabar a Dios y permanecer en compañía de su Espíritu Santo. Este joven grupo casi no tiene apoyo oficial, pero es una obra del corazón. Es una espontánea reflexión de fe y amor.

¡Muchas gracias, Eli!

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español! DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Joseph Illo



Antes...

Hoy cumpla 50 años. Un amigo alzó sus hombros y me dijo “es solo otro día, Padre.” Fuera del hecho que ahora puedo ser oficialmente un miembro del “Seniors Group” de St. Joseph’s, me imagino que el cumplir 50 años es solo otro día, aunque me gustó bastante el haber tenido 49 el año pasado. Mi mamá dice que sus 50 fueron su década preferida. Ella va a entrar en sus 80, y me dirá entonces si esta ha sido mejor que sus cincuenta.

Yo no creo que yo vaya a llegar a los cien años, especialmente de la manera en que anda este mundo, entonces supongo que ya llevo dos terceras partes del camino para llegar “allá.” y ¿Dónde es allá? “allá” esperamos que sea el Cielo. Ya llevo dos tercios del camino al Cielo cubiertos, con una parada, me imagino, en el Purgatorio. Entre más rápido llegue al Purgatorio, más rápido podré llegar al Cielo. Esperemos que su querido Pastor no vaya al Infierno, y que ninguno de ustedes tampoco. Para esto debemos de depender por completo en la gracia de Dios.

Pero volviendo al tema (es mi cumpleaños, y cumpla *cincuenta años*, entonces me estoy saliendo del tema un poco en este artículo). Mi tema: Envejeciéndonos. Siempre nos estamos quejando de estarnos envejeciendo, pero realmente, no es algo para nada malo.

¿Recuerdan como nos quejábamos de ser muy jóvenes? Cada edad tiene sus gozos y sus tristezas, pero creo que el envejecerse es un hermoso regalo de Dios. Porque entre más nos envejecemos, más jóvenes nos volvemos. Entre más viejos, más nos acercamos a nuestro *renacimiento*, la verdadera vida.

En 1997 llevé a un grupo a la Jornada Juvenil en Paris. Tomamos el tren a Lisieux a ver a Santa Teresita. En su basílica, en el altar mostrando su muerte, se encontraba escrito en francés, “No estoy muriéndome, estoy entrando en la vida.” Pude oler rosas hermosas en aquel altar, y me convencí que la muerte, y el envejecer, son un *regalo*. Ese día, la muerte perdió su poder sobre mí. Santa Teresita obtuvo este obsequio para mí. El envejecer, es simplemente el dejar que Dios tenga más de mi vida, día tras día. La vida no se nos va de las manos cuando envejecemos— se la damos a Dios. La muerte será el reposar seguro en las expertas manos de un cirujano perfecto. Estoy contento de tener cincuenta años, 50 años más cerca de *aquel día*.



Y ahora...

Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en Benín

ENCUENTRO CON LOS NIÑOS
PALABRAS DEL SANTO PADRE BENEDETTO XVI

Cotonú, iglesia parroquial de Santa Rita
Sábado 19 de noviembre de 2011



Página 9 - 4 de diciembre, 2011

Mañanitas a la VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

12 de Diciembre

5am: Mañanitas
con la Rondalla
Guadalupe de
Sacramento

5:30am: Rosario

6am: Misa

7am: Desayuno,
Salón Parroquial



Queridos niños.

Dios nuestro Padre nos ha convocado alrededor de su Hijo y nuestro hermano, Jesús, presente en la hostia consagrada en la misa. Es un gran misterio que hay que adorar y creer. Jesús, que nos quiere tanto, está verdaderamente presente en los sagrarios de todas las iglesias del mundo, en



los sagrarios de las iglesias de vuestros barrios y parroquias. Os invito a visitarlo con frecuencia para manifestarle vuestro amor.

Algunos de vosotros habéis hecho ya la primera comunión, otros os estáis preparando para hacerla. El día de mi primera comunión fue uno de los más bonitos de mi vida. También para vosotros, ¿no es verdad? Y, ¿sabéis por qué? No sólo por los lindos vestidos, los regalos o el banquete de fiesta, sino principalmente porque en ese día recibimos por

primera vez a Jesús-Cristo. Cuando yo comulgo, Jesús viene a habitar dentro de mí. Tengo que recibirlo con amor y escucharlo con atención. En lo más profundo del corazón, le puedo decir por ejemplo: «Jesús, yo sé que tú me amas. Dame tu amor para que te ame y ame a los demás con tu amor. Te confío mis alegrías, mis penas y mi futuro». Queridos niños, no dudéis en hablar de Jesús a los demás. Es un tesoro que hay que saber compartir con generosidad. En la historia de la Iglesia, el amor a Jesús ha llenado de valor y de fuerza a muchos cristianos, incluso a niños como vosotros. Así, a san Kizito, un muchacho ugandés, lo mataron porque él quería vivir según el bautismo que acababa de recibir. Kizito rezó. Había comprendido que Dios no sólo es importante sino que lo es todo.

Pero, ¿qué es la oración? Es un grito de amor dirigido a Dios nuestro Padre, deseando imitar a Jesús nuestro Hermano. Jesús se fue a un lugar apartado para orar. Como Jesús, yo también puedo encontrar cada día un lugar tranquilo para recogerme delante de una cruz o una imagen sagrada y hablar y escuchar a Jesús. También puedo usar el Evangelio. Después me fijo con el corazón en un pasaje que me ha impresionado y me que guiará durante la jornada. Quedarme así por un rato con Jesús, él me puede llenar con su amor, su luz y su vida. Y estoy llamado, por mi parte, a dar este amor que recibo en la oración a mis padres, mis amigos, a todos los que me rodean, incluso a los que no me quieren o a los que yo quiero tanto. Queridos niños, Jesús os ama. Pedid también a vuestros padres que recen con vosotros. Algunas veces habrá que insistirles un poco. No dudéis en hacerlo. Dios es muy importante.

Que la Virgen María, su madre, os enseñe a amarlo cada vez más mediante la oración, el perdón y la caridad. Os confío a todos a Ella, así como a vuestras familias y educadores. Mirad, saco un rosario de mi bolsillo. El rosario es como un instrumento que uso para rezar. Es muy sencillo rezar el rosario. Tal vez lo sabéis ya, si no es así, pedid a vuestros padres que os lo enseñen. Además, cada uno de vosotros recibirá un rosario al terminar nuestro encuentro. Cuando lo tengáis en vuestras manos, podréis rezar por el Papa, os lo ruego, por la Iglesia y por todas las intenciones importantes. Y ahora, antes de que os bendiga con gran afecto, recemos juntos un *Ave María* por los niños de todo el mundo, especialmente por los que sufren a causa de la enfermedad, el hambre y la guerra.



Servicios de Adviento y Navidad

Dic 21: Servicio Penitencial,
7:00pm en la iglesia.

Dic 24: Presentación del Naci-
miento de Jesús, 4:30pm, Salón.

Dic 25: Misas—horario regular de
domingo, 1:30pm en Español.

Dic 31: Hora Santa, 11:30pm.

Ene 1: Misas—horario regular de
domingo, 1:30pm en Español.

UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

Thursday, December 8th

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass Times:

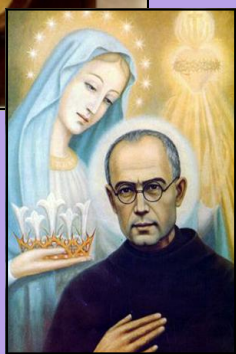
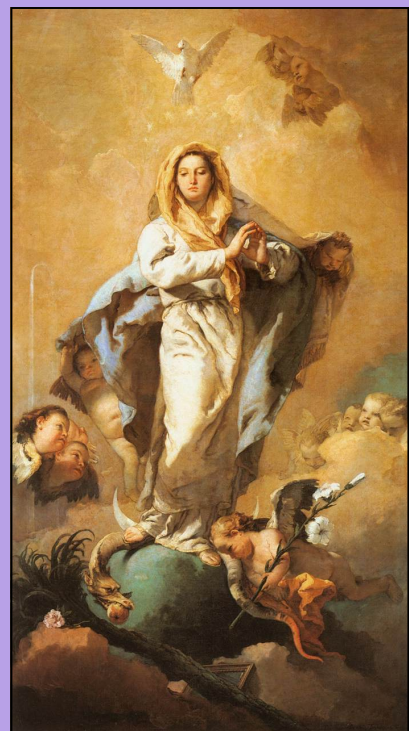
5:45pm Vigil (Wednesday December 7th)

7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 12noon (Latin),

5:45pm, 7:30pm (Spanish)

To find out more about the Catholic Church's
teaching on Mary & the Immaculate Conception
visit our Advent Page:

www.stjmod.com/advent.html



**Militia Immaculata Villages and Health Ministry
invite you to participate in...**

Mass & Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, December 10th

10:00am in the church

**If you need transportation, please
contact Suzanne Flint at 521-8299.**

**SCAN THIS IMAGE WITH YOUR SMART
PHONE AND GO DIRECTLY TO ST. JOSEPH'S
ADVENT WEBPAGE TO VIEW MORE
UPCOMING EVENTS, IMPORTANT MASS
TIMES, AND ADVENT REFLECTIONS.**

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