

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

January 1st, 2012
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God

(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)

Sunday Mass 10:30am

Adoration & Confessions

First Friday 6:30pm-7:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm

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

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

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 Ochiner, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop Our Holy Family

This year Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays, so the **Solemnity of the Holy Family** (normally the Sunday after Christmas) gets pushed back to Saturday. Most of us will not celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this year, and we will miss the beautiful readings, prayers and homily (hopefully!) on God's great gift of the family. So let me reflect with you on what the family means to us and to humanity throughout history.

Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła) was not given much time with his family. Karol's only sister died before he was born; he lost his mother when he was 8 and his only brother when he was 12. Karol lived alone with his father in Nazi-occupied Krakow until one day, upon returning from class, he found his father dead. Karol was 21 years old.

I think Pope John Paul understood God's gift of the family more than most. He writes that the family's mission is "to guard, reveal, and communicate love" — real love, God's love. No one and nothing can bring authentic love to the human community as can the family. To the extent that the family fades from our culture, love will fade from our culture. Almost every social problem today is the consequence of the family's demise. We have progressively rejected God's plan for the family, and we are paying the price. Our acceptance of divorce, contraception, promiscuity and, now, same-sex arrangements have progressively disabled the American family. Nothing can replace it. Our social problems, our economic collapse and our individual alienation will only increase as we increasingly ignore the role of the family.

Here's the good news: *change, yes we can!* We can restore what we have lost. For Christians, it means living the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as best we can. For non-Christians, it means practicing the human virtues as best we can: fidelity to our spouses, sacrificial love for our children, living an honorable and decent life in the sight of all. We can rebuild the



American Family, but it means some real lifestyle changes. Let us call upon Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help us (especially us men) to do just that.

Fr. Joseph

Staff Contacts

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, 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 Servers Svetlana x200
- Audio / VideoJeremy 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 ReservationsRosario x110
- Volunteering.....Tammy x207
- Youth Ministry..... Nathan x206

Readings 01/02-01/08

- Monday:**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
- Tuesday:**
1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34
- Wednesday:**
1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday:**
1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
- Friday:**
1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
[23, 31-34, 36, 38]
- 12pm Latin Mass: Epiphany of the Lord**
Is. 60:1-6; Mt 2:1-12
- Saturday:**
1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11
- Sunday:**
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
- 9am Mass Latin Mass:**
Rom. 12:1-5; Lk. 2:42-52

Sacraments

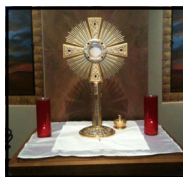
Our Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 1			
7:30a	Lisa Scott	1:30p	Luis, Catalina, Rosa Maria and Salvador Ruiz and Adriana Inostroza
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	3:00p	Indian Mass
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Sara Kilano
12:00p	James Ochinerio	7:30p	Gretchen Hohenberg
Monday, January 2			
8:00a	Taylor Posey and Rafael Vasquez	5:45p	Maria Machado and Charles Tidwell
Tuesday, January 3			
8:00a	Arlene Enos and Elizabeth Machado	5:45p	Nicholas Parks and Frances R. Pritchard
Wednesday, January 4			
8:00a	Lorraine Ottoboni and Robert Dwyer	5:45p	Verdie Williams and Andrew Santana
Thursday, January 5			
8:00a	Lisa Scott and Giovanna Cusenza	5:45p	Orland Albarico and Manuel B. Victoria
Friday, January 6			
8:00a	Fr. Benny Kottarathil-Special Intention	5:45p	Rosanna Hollander and Msgr. Domingo Nebres
Saturday, January 7			
8:00a	Jim Inglima and Clara Campbell	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, January 8			
7:30a	Rick Raek	1:30p	Ines Orozco and Javier Rodriguez
9:00a	Lisa Scott	5:30p	John L. Martin
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Felicisimo & Ponciana Cabusas
12:00p	Elena Gutierrez Brisco		

Prayer & Interior Life

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.



ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus Once a Week! Please see the schedule outside the Chapel for hours needing a second person. Please contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up one of these hours.

St. Joseph's Militia Immaculata Villages Present 6th Annual Diocesan Silent Marian Retreat

Saturday, February 4, 8am — 4:30pm

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS:

Discover with Mary the Great Joy of Christians




FIRST RESPONDERS MASS — SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

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 7, 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.

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



AL ANON FAMILY GROUP

Wednesday, January 4, at 5:45pm in JP11, Room 10

Al Anon is for any family member or friend who has been affected by another person's drinking. It is an anonymous fellowship, where we share our experience, strength and hope with each other. Please call Guadalupe at 209-540-1277 or Bev at 209-605-0001 with any questions.

THE BUSY WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY January 11 — February 8



Women of all ages are invited to seek a closer relationship with Christ through the study of Sacred Scripture. Theme for this session: **Staying Motivated in the New Year: Lessons from the Letter of St. James.** We will meet five consecutive Wednesdays from January 11—February 8, 6:30 to 8pm, JP11 Room 8. The cost is free! Bring your own bible & invite a friend!

WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE — SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

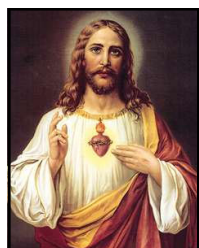
Show Support for Life — Especially the Unborn!

There are no hills to climb on this year's 2-mile Walk for Life. It will begin at San Francisco Civic Center and end at Justin Herman Plaza. The Respect Life Committee will be selling tickets after all Masses the weekends of January 7 & 8 and 14 & 15 to fill 5 buses leaving from our Parish. If you cannot attend, but want to support the Walk, scholarship donations for those who cannot afford the bus will be greatly appreciated.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

God created a woman wondrously. Her body has basic signs that indicate a time of fertility and a time of infertility. By practicing fertility awareness, couples can plan or avoid a pregnancy according to the teachings of the church. Come and learn the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning through the Couple to Couple League. A series of 3 classes will be taught starting Friday Jan. 20. To register please call: Tom and Mary-Lynn Ott 572-5136 or go to www.ccli.org

HOME ENTHRONEMENT APOSTOLATE



"Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine"
Through the Militia of the Immaculata Family Village, Home Enthronement Apostolate, you have the opportunity to make your very home the heart of Jesus!
If you are interested in enthroning your home by consecrating it and your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, please call Kent and Laura Harker at: 571-5471

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and With One Another

June 8 — 19, 2012 (\$3,938 land & air)

Congress events plus sightseeing in interesting sites in Ireland. For more information and reservation, please contact : Judy Casiano at (209)551-6402 or jsc888@sbcglobal.net



Sunday, January 1, 2012		
10:00 A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6
Monday, January 2, 2012		
7:00 P	Charismatic Prayer Group	JP10
Tuesday, January 3, 2012		
9:00 A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
5:30 P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15 P	Knights of Columbus	Hall
6:15 P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00 P	Charismatic Prayer Group Spanish	JP7
Wednesday, January 4, 2012		
1:30 P	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:30 P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:45 P	Al Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, January 5, 2012		
9:00 A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
6:30 P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30 P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
6:30 P	Men's Group	JP10
7:00 P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, January 6, 2012		
12:00 P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00 P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:30 P	Children's Adoration	Chur
Saturday, January 7, 2012		
8:30 A	Spanish Militia Immaculata	JP7
8:45 A	Militia Immaculata Adult	JP5
10:00 A	KOC Blue Mass	Chur
6:30 P	Apologetics Bible Study (Spanish)	JP5
7:00 P	Free Parish Movie Night	Hall
Sunday, January 8, 2012		
10:00 A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6

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

Scan this image with your smart phone and go directly to St. Joseph's webpage to view upcoming events and latest blogs.



☞ PSR Update ☜

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

Important Notice:
No PSR classes until the week of
January 9th.
The PSR Office will be closed
until then. Happy New Year!

☞ Militia Immaculata ☜



Interested in being
consecrated to Our Blessed
Mother or learning more?
**The Militia Immaculata
(MI) Villages**
Invite you to attend one of
their meetings:

Prayer and Spanish Villages

Every First Saturday of the Month
Following 8am Holy Mass in Rm #5,
JP II bldg.

Family Village

Every First Sunday of the Month
Following 9am Holy Mass at the Hall.

☞ RCIA Update ☜

**10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**
Neophyte Bible Study

If you have gone through the RCIA
process and become Catholic anytime
in the past 5 years, you are invited to a
bible study led by Gary Nelson on the
second Monday of every month
starting in January. This bible study
will take place in JP II building room 8
from 7-8pm. Gary will go through the
books of the New Testament, starting
with the Gospels. This bible study is a
great way to get connected again with
the community and makes a good
New Year's resolution.

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

Mary, Holy Mother of God – Theotokos

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary the Mystery of the Incarnation, God made flesh is to enter into human history and dwell among us, *Emmanuel*. God chose Mary throughout eternity to be the Mother of God, the Ark of the Covenant to carry in her womb the Word Incarnate. Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, full of grace, is overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, becoming the bearer of the Savior for all humanity. After embracing her cousin Elizabeth, who she has visited, Mary exclaims in praise of God: *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name”* (Lk. 1:47-49). Mary receives God in her body and soul, she gives herself entirely to the work of the Holy Trinity and cooperates most perfectly with the will of God. She is the virtuous and humble vessel who is emptied of all in order to be filled by Him. The first Marian dogma, Mary Mother of God, Theotokos, was declared during the Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431). The proclamation of Christ being fully human and fully divine also makes Mary's motherhood divine. She who bore the Son of God, raised, taught and nurtured Him, is also the spiritual mother of all humanity. In the Plan of God, Mary was to play a pivotal role, always in conjunction with the Son. He is the Savior, the Redeemer, God Incarnate, and it is through Mary that this is realized. She is at His side all through His earthly life and until His death on the Cross, when He gives her to us as our mother. It is Mary, the Theotokos that will nurture us, like she did her Son. We, like trusting children, are molded into what God created us to be, His faithful children. Let us embrace our mother and ask her help while we live in this valley of tears. *“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.”*



Faith & Finances with Phil Lenahan Financial Resolutions for 2012

The beginning of the New Year offers a perfect opportunity to review progress in our spiritual and financial lives and to set goals for the future. Here are seven financial resolutions that will serve you well in 2012:

1. Remember that all you have ultimately comes from and belongs to the Lord (Dt. 10:14).
2. Enthusiastically accept your role as a steward of Providence (Catechism 2404). God has entrusted you with talents and resources, and wants you to develop and use them in ways consistent with His will for your life.
3. Grow in generosity. Living generously helps us keep our priorities straight and enhances our relationship with the Lord and those around us.
4. Commit to enhancing unity and communication regarding finances in your marriage.
5. Make use of “reserve funds,” which are savings built into your cash flow plan for such items as: a rainy day fund; a replacement car; Catholic formation and education for children; seed money for a business; and children's weddings. Reserve funds will help you reach your goals and avoid surprises.
6. Develop a cash flow plan (budget) for 2012 that moves you toward your long-term goals.
7. Recognize that unproductive debt is a major obstacle to reaching your financial goals. If past habits have generated unproductive debt, now is the time to correct those habits and to create a plan that will eliminate those debts as rapidly as possible.

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

☯ Youth Ministry ☯

High School 'Lock In' Retreat: "Midnight Showing"

Where: Fr. O'Hare Hall at St. Joseph's

Start: Wednesday, January 4 at 9 p.m.

End: Thursday, January 5 at 9 a.m.

How Much? \$20

What's goin' on? Please meet at the Fr. O' Hare hall on Wednesday night. The LOCK-IN will end on Thursday morning after morning Mass. All families are welcome to join us for Mass at 8 a.m. This night of awesome fellowship will include indoor laser tag, ping pong, games, small groups, and adoration. Bring a friend and join the fun!! Pick up a permission slip at the parish office or youth office ASAP.

It's not too late to sign up!!

Upcoming LifeNights:

1/1/2012: No LifeNight after the 5:30pm Mass.

1/8: **Once Upon a Time** - A night on scripture.

1/15: **Now Hiring** - God's unique call for each of us.

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

See you there!

Sunday Podcasts from LIFETEEN



Each week, LIFETEEN comes out with a podcast with the readings for the Sunday Mass and a short reflection from Mark Hart. Scan the QR code (left) with your smart phone to go directly to there webpage and listen. Each podcast is also available for free on iTunes.

Check out this week's podcast on the Solemnity we celebrate today: **Mary the Mother of God.**, just scan the QR code above with your smart phone.



Contact Us!

Nathan Steingrebe

C. 209.247.7863

W. 551-4973, ext. 206

Nathan@stjmod.com

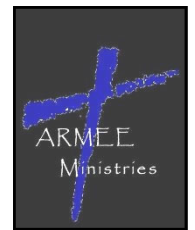
Katie Steffanic

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.

CORE Team:

St. Joseph's CORE Team is made up of adults and young adults who minister to the high school youth group every Sunday night. We meet Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. where we pray together, enjoy fellowship and plan the HS LifeNights. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Nathan or Katie.



Guadalupe "Lupe" Perez

Profiles in Stewardship

by Tammy Menezes

When I first met **Lupe Perez** nearly four years ago, I recognized that he was a Catholic man on a mission: not to waste a moment of the talents that God had given him. My immediate impression was of a man who had an engaging smile and who made me feel as if I were the most important person in the room. Lupe stewarded his vocation as a husband, father and nursing supervisor so that it always was directed to benefit those around him.

His deep passion was to encourage the youth in our greater community, both Catholic and non-Catholic, to strive to be their best. He was especially focused on supporting those students who had an interest in pursuing a health career. St. Joseph's Health Ministry has benefitted from his gifts of talent, most recently when he served as the Chair of the St. Joseph's Health Ministry Scholarships. Annually, this group has awarded (3) \$500 scholarships to students pursuing health careers. Some recipients were St. Joseph's students and others, non-Catholic, experienced their first Catholic church scholarship. Lupe, never losing his smile and enthusiasm, despite great pain the past few years, passed away on December 17. We thank his wife, Ann, and their children, for sharing this wonderful steward of God's gifts with our parish family.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: We are thankful for our Plaza Refreshment Volunteers, who are enjoying time with their families on New Years Day.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them"

(Matt. 18:20)

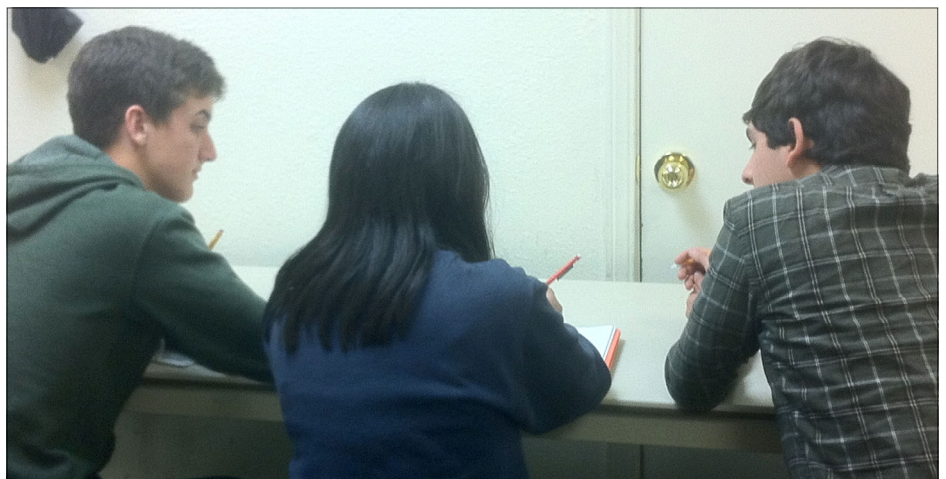


Gifts of Parish Talent were abundant!

Photo at top left features the Spanish choir, preparing for Christmas Mass
Photo at top right was taken during our parish celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day

Photo below is of Christmas break math tutoring (David Vermeulen, left and Alex Angarita, right) tutoring a junior high student.

A most blessed New Year from the Center for Lay Apostolates!



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

From our Holy Father in Rome

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

ANGELUS

Thursday, 8 December 2011



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In the Diocese

RUSSIA SISTER PARISH PROJECT

Our Russia Sister Parish committee is distributing free SHARES cards to help the mission parishes in Vladivostok, Russia. Present the card every time you shop at Save Mart, Lucky, Food Maxx and Smart Foods. The mission will earn up to 3% of your grocery sales! It costs you nothing! Contact Jim Emerson at (209)496-1542 or daughterciti@sbcglobal.net to get your free cards! You may also pick up one in the vestibule, outside the chapel.



Today the Church solemnly celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary. As Bl. Pius IX declared in the Apostolic Letter *Ineffabilis Deus* of 1854, she “was preserved, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, free from all stain of original sin”. This truth of faith is contained in the words of greeting the Archangel Gabriel addressed to her: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Lk 1:28). The expression “full of grace” indicates that marvellous work of the love of God, who through his Only-Begotten Son incarnate who died and rose again, wanted to restore to us the life and the freedom, lost by original sin. Because of this, since the 2nd century both in the East and the West, the Church invokes and celebrates the Virgin who with her “yes” brought Heaven closer to earth, becoming

“Genetrix of God and nurturer of our life”, as St Romanus the Melodus expressed it in an old song (*Canticum XXV in Nativitatem B. Mariae Virginis*, in J.B. Pitra, *Analecta Sacra* t. I, Paris 1876, 198). In the 7th century St Sophronius of Jerusalem praised the greatness of Mary, for in her the Holy Spirit came to dwell, and said: “You surpass all the gifts that God’s magnificence ever bestowed on any human person. More than anyone you are made rich by God dwelling in you” (*Oratio* II, 25 in *SS. Deiparae Annuntiationem*: PG 87, 3, 3248 AB). And St Bede the Venerable explains: “Mary is blessed among women, for with the dignity of virginity she has enjoyed the grace to be parent to a son who is God” (*Hom I*, 3: CCL 122, 16).

We are also given the “fullness of grace” which we must make shine in our life, for, as St Paul writes: the “Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... has blessed us ... with every spiritual blessing ... even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless to be his sons through Jesus Christ” (Eph 1:3-5). We receive this sonship through the Church on the day of Baptism. In this regard St Hildegarde of Bingen wrote: “The Church is, therefore, the virgin mother of all Christians. In the secret power of the Holy Spirit she conceives them and brings them to the light, offering them to God in such a way that they too might be called sons of God” (*Scivias, visio* III, 12: CCL *Continuatio Mediaevalis* XLIII, 1978, 142). And, finally, among the many who have sung of the spiritual beauty of the Mother of God, St Bernard of Clairvaux stands out. He declares that the invocation “Hail, Mary full of grace” is “pleasing to God, to angels and to men. To men, thanks to her motherhood, to the angels, thanks to her virginity, to God, thanks to her humility” (*Sermo XLVII, De Annuntiatione Dominica*: SBO VI, I, Rome 1970, 266).

Dear friends, in anticipation of the customary homage we will pay to Mary Immaculate in Piazza di Spagna this afternoon, let us offer our fervent prayer to the one who intercedes before God, that she help us to celebrate with faith the Birth of the Lord so close at hand.



PRAY THE ROSARY!

Join us to pray the Rosary the first Thursday of each month at noon in

the Kaiser Spiritual Care Meditation 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.

Theology of the Body "Freedom To Love" for Young Adults

January 13, 20, & 27
6:00 p.m. St. Mary's of the Assumption, Stockton

Join other young adults from around the diocese for faith-filled evenings during the month of January. The topic for these nights is the great work of Blessed John Paul II: Theology of the Body.

203 E Washington St, Stockton, 95202

Por Tammy Menezes



Guadalupe "Lupe" Pérez

Cuando conocí a Lupe Pérez hace casi cuatro años, noté que él era un hombre católico con una misión: de no perder ni un momento de servicio usando los talentos que Dios le había dado. Mi primera impresión sobre él fue la de un hombre con una amable sonrisa y quien me hizo sentir como si yo fuera la persona más importante en el salón. Lupe administró su vocación como esposo, padre y supervisor para que sus acciones fueran siempre dirigidas al beneficio de los demás.

Su gran pasión era de animar a los jóvenes de nuestra comunidad, católicos y no católicos, a esforzarse por ser siempre lo mejor que pudieran ser. Él estaba especialmente enfocado en apoyar a los jóvenes que tuvieran un interés en seguir una carrera en el ramo de la salud. El Ministerio de Salud de St. Joseph's se ha beneficiado por los talentos de Lupe, más recientemente cuando sirvió como Presidente de las Becas del Ministerio de Salud de St. Joseph's. Anualmente, este grupo ha otorgado (3) becas de \$500 a estudiantes siguiendo una carrera en la salud. Algunos de los recipientes fueron estudiantes de St. Joseph's y otros, no católicos, que recibieron su primera beca de la Iglesia Católica. Lupe, sin perder nunca su sonrisa y su entusiasmo, a pesar de su gran dolor en los últimos años, murió el 17 de diciembre. Le agradecemos a su esposa, Ann y sus hijos, por compartir este maravilloso corresponsal de los dones de Dios con nuestra familia parroquial.

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

Este año, la Navidad y el Año Nuevo caen en domingos, entonces la **Solemnidad de la Sagrada Familia** (normalmente celebrada el domingo después de la Navidad) se celebrará el sábado. La mayoría de nosotros no celebraremos la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia este año, y perderemos las hermosas lecturas, oraciones y homilía (¡eso espero!) en este gran regalo de Dios que es la familia. Deseo entonces reflexionar con ustedes sobre el significado de la familia para nosotros y para la humanidad durante la historia.

El Papa Juan Pablo II (Karol Wojtyla) no tuvo mucho tiempo con su familia. La única hermana que tuvo Karol, murió antes de que el naciese: perdió a su mamá cuando tenía ocho años y su único hermano cuando tenía doce. Karol vivía solo con su papá en la ciudad ocupada por los Nazis, Krakow, hasta que un día, volviendo de clase, encontró a su papá muerto. Karol tenía 21 años.

Pienso que el Papa Juan Pablo comprendió que la familia, es el mejor regalo de Dios, mejor que cualquier otro. El escribe que la misión de la familia, es "guardar, revelar y comunicar amor"—amor verdadero, el amor de Dios. Nada ni nadie pueden traer el amor auténtico a la comunidad de la humanidad como lo puede hacer la familia. Entre mas desaparece la familia de nuestra cultura, mas desaparece el amor de nuestra sociedad. Casi todos los problemas sociales que existen en nuestra cultura hoy, son la consecuencia de la desaparición de la familia. Hemos rechazado progresivamente el plan de Dios para la familia y ahora estamos pagando por esto. Nuestra aceptación por el divorcio, la anticoncepción, promiscuidad y ahora las uniones-del mismo sexo han debilitado progresivamente a la familia americana. Nada puede reemplazarla. Nuestros problemas sociales, nuestro descenso económico y nuestra alineación individual solo incrementarán mientras que sigamos ignorando el papel de la familia.

Aquí están las buenas noticias: *cambiamos, ¡sí se puede!* Podemos restaurar lo que hemos perdido. Para los cristianos, esto quiere decir vivir la vida de Jesús, María y José lo mejor que podamos. Para los no-cristianos, quiere decir practicar las virtudes humanas lo mejor posible: fidelidad a nuestro cónyuge, amor de sacrificio por nuestros hijos, vivir una vida decente y honrada ante los ojos de todos. Podemos reconstruir la Familia Americana, pero esto requiere un cambio verdadero en nuestra manera de vivir. Pidamos la ayuda de Jesús,



María y José (especialmente nosotros los hombres) para poder hacer esto.

Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

SOLEMNIDAD DE
LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN DE MARÍA
ÁNGELUS
Jueves 8 de diciembre de 2011



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Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Hoy la Iglesia celebra solemnemente la Inmaculada Concepción de María. Como declaró el beato Pío IX en la carta apostólica *Ineffabilis Deus* de 1854, ella «fue preservada, por particular gracia y privilegio de Dios todopoderoso, en previsión de los méritos de Jesucristo Salvador del género humano, inmune de toda mancha de pecado original». Esta verdad de fe está contenida en las palabras de saludo que le dirigió el arcángel Gabriel: «Alégrate, llena de gracia: el Señor está contigo» (Lc 1, 28). La expresión «llena de gracia» indica la obra maravillosa del amor de Dios, que quiso devolvernos la vida y la libertad, perdidas con el pecado, mediante su Hijo Unigénito encarnado, muerto y resucitado. Por esto, desde el siglo II, tanto en Oriente como en Occidente, la Iglesia invoca y celebra a la Virgen que, con su «sí», acercó el cielo a la tierra, convirtiéndose en «madre de Dios y nodriza



de nuestra vida», como dice san Romano el Melode en un antiguo cántico (*Canticum XXV in Nativitatem B. Mariae Virginis*, en J.B. Pitra, *Analecta Sacra* t. I, París 1876, p. 198). En el siglo VII, san Sofronio de Jerusalén elogia la grandeza de María porque en ella el Espíritu Santo estableció su morada, y dice: «Tú superas todos los dones que la magnificencia de Dios ha derramado sobre cualquier persona humana. Más que todos, eres rica por la posesión de Dios que ha puesto su morada en ti» (*Oratio* II, 25 in SS. *Deiparæ Annuntiationem*: pg 87, 3, 3248 AB). Y san Beda el Venerable explica: «María es bendita entre las mujeres, porque con el adorno de la virginidad ha gozado de la gracia de ser madre de un hijo que es Dios» (*Hom* I, 3: CCL 122, 16). También a nosotros se nos ha otorgado la «plenitud de la gracia» que debemos hacer resplandecer en nuestra vida, porque «el Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo —escribe san Pablo— nos ha bendecido con toda clase de bendiciones espirituales (...), nos eligió antes de la fundación del mundo para que fuésemos santos e intachables (...), y nos ha destinado por medio de Jesucristo (...) a ser sus hijos» (*Ef* 1, 3-5). Esta filiación la recibimos por medio de la Iglesia, en el día del Bautismo. A este respecto, santa Hildegarda de Bingen escribe: «La Iglesia es, por tanto, la virgen madre de todos los cristianos. Con la fuerza secreta del Espíritu Santo los concibe y los da a luz, ofreciéndolos a Dios para que también sean llamados hijos de Dios» (*Scivias*, visio III, 12: CCL *Continuatio Mediaevalis* XLIII, 1978, p. 142). Y, por último, entre los numerosísimos cantores de la belleza espiritual de la Madre de Dios destaca san Bernardo de Claraval, el cual afirma que la invocación «Dios te salve, María, llena de gracia» es «grata a Dios, a los ángeles y a los hombres. A los hombres gracias a la maternidad, a los ángeles gracias a la virginidad, a Dios gracias a la humildad» (*Sermo* XLVII, *De Annuntiatione Dominica*: SBO VI, 1, Roma 1970, p. 266). Queridos amigos, en espera de realizar esta tarde, como es tradición, el homenaje a María Inmaculada en la plaza de España, dirijamos nuestra ferviente oración a Aquella que intercede ante Dios, para que nos ayude a celebrar con fe la Navidad del Señor, ya cercana.

Noticia Importante:
No habrá clases de PSR (Catecismo) hasta la semana del 9 de enero por el descanso de la Navidad. La oficina también permanecerá cerrada hasta el 9 de enero.

¡Que tenga una Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo!

✠ Milicia Inmaculada ✠

¿Se ha consagrado usted a la Santísima Virgen María?

El Grupo de la Milicia Inmaculada le invita a: **Oración del Grupo (MI) en Español Enero 7—** Después de la Misa 8am, Cuarto #5, Edificio JP II



Caminata por la Vida en San Francisco

Demuestre su apoyo por la vida el **sábado, 21 de enero**. Compre su boleto para el autobús en la plaza o la oficina parroquial. Apoye la Vida!



VIDA PARROQUIAL

Martes: Oración Carismática, 7-9pm
Edificio JP II, salón #7.

Martes: Clases de Inglés, 5:30-6:30pm, Edificio JP II, salón #6.

Miércoles: Hora Santa, 7-8pm, Capilla

Jueves: Compartiendo la Biblia, 6:30 Edificio JP II, salón #4 All Saints

Jueves: Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos, 7-9pm, Edificio JP II, salón #2.

The Greater Modesto Community
is invited to join St. Joseph's
Knights of Columbus as we pray
with and for the First Responders
of Stanislaus County...



SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
10am in the church for Mass



Following the blessing of the emergency vehicles in the parking lot
after Mass, everyone is invited to a lunch in Fr. O'Hare Hall.

Free Parish Movie Night Saturday, January 7 7pm-9pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall *"The Ultimate Gift"*

*Life is how you live it...
Not how you spend it.*

Rated PG

Parental Guidance Suggested.
Some material may not be suitable for children.

NEW YORK (CNS) - In perhaps his most eloquent passage, St. Paul declares that love is the true measure of one's life, a view affirmed in "The Ultimate Gift" (Fox Faith),
-Catholic News Service

Free lemonade, coffee &
popcorn! Bring cookies to
share! Chairs provided or bring
a blanket!

For information & other events:
www.stjmod.com



Image courtesy © FoxFaith Movies