A reflection from the Pastor

In this octave of Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (JMJ). The readings invite us to think about this special relationship which we have with other human beings: our families. At times we may wonder, could this or that person really be related to me, especially if they do something inconsistent with our morals or ethics. But the nature of today's feast asks us to look at our own place within the family and to make sure that we are living up to our responsibilities. Indeed, if each member did their part, the family would be a dynamic reality, that while having some faults, would reflect the love of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I think this can be a reality in two ways. First, families must pray and read the scriptures together. If the family is only for learning how to make it in the world, and not make it in the world to come, then the family is not whole. Second, families must seek forgiveness daily. They must ask one another to forgive them and try to rise above the pettiness of a world tuned in to sin. In this holy season, try to make an effort to sanctify your family. Start small, and be consistent, remembering that we all belong to the family of God.

May you and your families have a blessed week and a

SOLMENITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
January 1, 2009
Holy Day of Obligation

Masses for the holy day will be:

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Vigil 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 1, 2009 8:00 a.m.

SAINT PATRICK ♣ CATHOLIC CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar
Pastor

(361) 897-1155 - voice Post Office Box 2122
(361) 897-1064 - fax 13316 State Highway 185

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Priest Intentions
December 30 – January 4

Tuesday, 30th 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Edward Kocian +*
by Elizabeth Jaschke

Wednesday, 31st 6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass – *Maria Ortiz +*
Mary, Mother of God *by Craig & Joyce Lenhart*

Thursday, 1st 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Mary A. Lerma +*
Mary, Mother of God *by Mary L. Moya*
Holy Day of Obligation
New Year's Day

Friday, 2nd 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Paul Garcia +*
Sts. Basil & Gregory *by Velma & Javier Cantu*
First Friday

Saturday, 3rd 5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
5:40 p.m. Rosary – *leader: Lupe Olguin*
6:00 (*vigil*) Mass – *Ernesto & Julia Rameriz*
by Fernando & Christina Navarr

Sunday, 4th 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Pro Populo*
Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Mass – *Leonila Pena +*
by Roque Pena

Readings – Sunday January 4th

First Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday January 3rd, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Jeanne Lange, Paulette Brandl
Cup Ministers	Veronica Garcia, Carol Sutton
Gift bearers	Raymond and Paulette Brandl
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	A. Garcia, B. Hernandez, H. Cardona, A. Escalante

Sunday January 4th, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Martina Aguayo, Marianela Chapa
Cup Ministers	Santos and Mary Alvarado
Gift bearers	Joey and Elia Duenez and family
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	M. Garcia, D. Robles, J. Aguayo, P. Guerra

Sunday January 4th, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Maribel Gonzalez, Melinda Valenzuela
Cup Ministers	Ismael Perez, Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Albert and Lucia Rodriguez and family
Altar Servers	Derek Folmar, Matthew Vela, Elizabeth Rodriguez
Ushers	C. Martin, M. Gonzales, J. Sanchez, J. Canales Jr.

Mary, the Mother of God

R.C.I.A. Update

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will resume regular classes on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 in the Heritage Room. All adults who seek to learn more about the faith are invited to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday

No Class

May you and your families enjoy the Christmas and New Year vacation.

Regular classes resume January 7.

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: $ 2019.93

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston: 284.94

2009 PARISH CALENDARS

The 2009 parish calendars have arrived. They are available at the church entrance, one per family please. We are grateful to **Artero Memorial Chapels** who sponsored the calendars this year.

Christmas Flower Memorials

M/M Ramon Sanchez, M/M Juan Rameriz, m/m Demetrio Torres Jr., Marcos Ramon Torres by Ramon S. Torres.

Mary and Alex Gonzalez

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

December 25th is the day the church chose to celebrate Jesus' nativity or birth:

b. to overshadow the winter solstice pagan celebration feast of the unconquered sun, dies natalis invicti solis, or the birthday feast of the unconquered sun. The Church thus gave the feast of Christmas as the feast of the birth of the unconquerable Son of God, the true Light of the world.

Interesting to note, for those who chose (d) that history does show that Pope Liberius was the first to celebrate the feast formally and it is true that he is the earliest pope yet to be canonized a saint.

This week's question:

How many days make up the Christmas season?

a. one b. twelve c. eighteen d. eight

(Answer coming next week)

PAINTED CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

Monday, December 29

All the seats have been filled. Please make plans to arrive at the church parking lot by 7:45 a.m. so we can leave as close to time as possible.

Schedule of the Day:

8:00 a.m. Leave St. Patrick's
9:00 a.m. Visit Praha
Short stop St. Michael's - Weimar
9:45 a.m. Visit Dubina
10:30 a.m. Visit Ammannsville
11:15 a.m. Visit and Mass - High Hill
12:00 a.m. Lunch at Frank's in Schulenburg
1:30 p.m. Visit St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg
2:00 p.m. Leave for Bloomington
3:00 p.m. Arrive in Bloomington

Cost: There will be a small collection for vehicle gas. It looks like $10 per person to rent the vans, if we go that direction, which is what I am leaning toward. The other cost would be your meal at Frank's – between $7-10. And then any other incidentals such as souvenirs would be up to you.