

A reflection from the Pastor

We are in the final days of preparation for the birthday of Jesus. In talking with our kindergartners this past Wednesday evening, I asked how they celebrated birthdays; they came up with answers like: cake, games, and presents. And so I asked them, will you celebrate like that for Jesus? They thought for a minute and then said, yes! And so I asked what is the best present to get for Jesus. And they thought ... and thought, and several said toys, and I said to them, what about your heart. Oh, yes, we love Jesus they said. Then, I asked them how many candles would have to be on Jesus' cake – and when I said over 1900, they were amazed.

Throughout Advent the Church's prayer has focused on preparing for the birthday of Jesus. Are we ready? And what gift will we have for him? Hopefully ourselves, free from sin and ready to live in his presence as a follower. When we give gifts to one another, we reverence the body of Jesus here on earth and that is a sharing also in his birthday. After all, we form the members of his body. I pray this time of giving and receiving will be blessed for you in Jesus Christ.

The parish Christmas dinner and celebration was very nice. With over two hundred and twenty-five in attendance, the children's production of the Christmas story was very well done; and the singing of carols helped to set the tone of the evening. Thank you to all who coordinated the effort. The covered dishes were great, and the canned food collected was a large amount for Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry in Victoria. May we truly celebrate the birth of our Savior, and may these days be ones of blessing for you and your families.

Christmas Greetings

Feliz Navidad *Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny*
Novy Rok Merry Christmas Jutdlime pivdluarit
ukiortame pivdluaritlo Joyeux Noel Fröhliche
Weihnachten Kala Christouyenna Mele Kalikimaka
Nollaig Shona Dhuit *Buone Feste Natalizie*
Natale hilare et Annum Faustum *Merry Keshmish*
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia *Feliz Natal*
Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim
Godom *Vesele Vianoce Chuc Mung Giang Sinh*

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please do so using the envelopes located at the entrance of the church.

Liturgy / Mass Schedule for the week ahead

Tuesday, 22nd	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Isidoro Perez + O King of All Nations</i>	<i>by Marie Boedeker</i>
Wednesday, 23	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Ruben Garcia + O Emmanuel</i>	<i>by Mary Helen Garcia & family</i>
Thursday, 24th	5:00 p.m.	Mass – <i>Clifford Mercado + Christmas Eve</i>	<i>by Steve and Jean Mercado</i>
	12:00	Mass – <i>Paul Lerma + & Mary A. Lerma + by Mary L. Moya</i>	
Friday, 25th	9:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Maria R. Martin + Christmas Day</i>	<i>by Eric Martin & Family</i>
Saturday, 26th	5:15-5:45 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
	5:40 p.m.	Rosary – leader: <i>Carol Sutton</i>	
	6:00 (vigil)	Mass – <i>C.D.A.</i>	
Sunday, 27th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i>	
<i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph</i>	10:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Mildred Mikulenska + by Gary & Christy Parenica</i>	

Readings – Holy Family

First Reading – Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Second Reading – Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel – Luke 2:41-52

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 26th, 6 p.m.

Lector	Paulette Brandl
Cup Ministers	Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	M. Lange, R. Reyes, B. Cantu, D. Hybner

Sunday 27th, 8 a.m.

Lector	Marianela Chapa
Cup Ministers	Lupe and Frances Rivera
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	T. Cabral, H. DeLuna, E. Ledezma, A. Escalante

Sunday 27th, 10 a.m.

Lector	Lupe Olguin
Cup Ministers	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante
Altar Servers	Katie Williams, Derek Folmar, Albert Adkins
Ushers	A. Rodriguez, A. Reyes, J. Troncoso, H. Longoria

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday

No Class

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

Regular classes resume January 6.

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1359.05

Retired Religious: \$ 360.35

Advent Bible Study

In this Church proclaimed "Year of the Priest," I will be leading a four week biblical study of the priesthood. This will be a great opportunity to study the Word of God concerning this sacred ministry. The final class will be this Monday of Advent; December 21 from 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

Christmas Music Concert

Holy Family Church in Victoria will present a free Christmas music concert, **'The Greatest Story Ever Told'** 7 p.m. this Sunday December 20th at the Church.

Christmas Mass Schedule & Liturgical Ministers

Thursday, December 24th 5:00 p.m.

Lector Maribel Gonzalez
Cup Ministers Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Altar Servers Jason, Michael, Angelica Valenzuela
Ushers volunteers

Thursday, December 24th 12:00 Midnight

Lector Paulette Brandl
Cup Ministers Lupe and Frances Rivera
Altar Servers volunteers
Ushers volunteers

Friday, December 25th 9:00 a.m.

Lector Lisa Canales
Cup Ministers Emilio and Veronica Ledezma
Altar Servers Mauricio Ledezma, Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers volunteers

**Christmas Flower
Donations and
Memorials**

Familias Garcia y Canales by Juana G. Canales. *Hortencia Marquez, Adolfo Gutierrez, Manuel DeLuna, Amalia Castañeda* by M/M Hermilo DeLuna. *Andres, Josefina Martinez, Jose, Petra Gonzales, Baldomero, Ricardo Marinez, Josie Martinez, Hector Sanchez* by M/M Juan Gonzales. *Paz Trevino Jr., Maria Concepcion Soto, Othon Soto, Erenio Nunez* by Deacon Fred and Patty Soto, *Ed and Angie Machac* by M/M Thomas West. *Jesse L. Olguin Jr.,* by Mrs. Lupe Olguin, *Jesus Hernandez, Miguel P. Hernandez* by M/M Roque Hernandez, *Paz Trevino, Consuelo Aleman, Alfredo Cabral, Jesusa Cabral* by M/M Teodoro Cabral, *Jose y Maria DeLaGarza, Rameriz Family* by M/M Ralph Rameriz. *Raymond and Alma Brandl,* by M/M Raymond Brandl Jr. *Vincente R. Garcia Sr., and Grandparents,* by M/M Robert Galvan. *Mildred Hroch* by M/M Rick Hybner. *Marchos Ramon Torres, M/M Demetrio Torres Sr., M/M Ramon Sanchez, M/M Juan Rameriz* by Ramona S. Torres and family. *Maria R. Martin* by Eric Martin and family. *Beatrice Cantu* by Bacilio Cantu. *Juan & Sophie Tijerina, Sartunina Galicia-Morales, Demetrio & Fedelia Tijerina, Tomas Galicia, Donicio & Maria Tijerina* by Fidel Galicia. *Guadalupe Mendez* by M/M Daniel Sepulveda. *Emmett Boedeker, George & Annie Boedeker, Daniel & Emilie Roznovsky, Charles M. Anderson* by Marie Boedeker. *Arnulfo Reyes Jr.* by Mrs. Soila Reyes. *M/M Basilio Urbano, M/M Dieguito*

**SOLMENITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
January 1, 2010**

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses for the holy day will be:

Thursday, December 31, 2009 Vigil 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2010 8:00 a.m.