

A reflection from the Pastor

"Prepare the way of the Lord, may straight his paths," John the Baptist quoting the prophet Isaiah in today's gospel. John was the great forerunner of Jesus; the one who went ahead of him and said: 'get prepared.' Who is the forerunner today, as we look for Jesus' coming? It is the Church, gathered here on earth, which listens to her visible head, the Pope and the teaching magisterium known as the bishops and their co-workers, the priests. When we listen carefully to the word of God and act on it, then we become forerunners of Jesus' return in glory. The key to what John the Baptist quoted, is that we must make straight his paths. This means, that whatever in our lives is twisted by sin, we must set straight; so that it is easier for Jesus to come to us and recognize his life within us. Try this week to straighten the path of Jesus in your life—no matter how windy it may be.

Parish Christmas Dinner Next Sunday, December 13, 2009 6:00 p.m. in the Hall

- Lighting of outdoor Nativity, Singing Carols, Live Performance by our youth.
- All families are invited to attend. **Please bring - covered side dish to share with others.**
- This year we will be collecting food for VCAM. Please bring canned food/non-perishable food.

Immaculate Conception

December 8, 2009
Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics. Mass times will be:

Vigil: 6:00 p.m. Monday December 7

Day: 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. December 8th

On this day we celebrate the fact that Mary was conceived without the stain (macula) of original sin. This was declared a dogma of the faith, December 8, 1854 by Pope Pius IX and has been celebrated as a universal feast since 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV.

Liturgy / Mass Schedule for the week ahead

Monday, 7th	6:00 p.m. Mass – <i>Maria C. Soto + Vigil</i> <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	by <i>Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Lopez</i>
Tuesday, 8th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Poor Souls</i> <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	
	6:00 p.m. Mass – <i>Special Intention</i>	
Wednesday, 9	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Anne Mundine +</i> <i>by Lonnie & Anne Gregorcyk</i>	
Thursday, 10th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>David Escalante, Sr. +</i> <i>S. Francis Xavier</i>	<i>by M/M Pablo Padilla Sr.</i>
Friday, 11th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Special Intention</i>	
Saturday, 12th	5:30 a.m. Las Mananitas <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	6:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Beatrice Cantu +</i> <i>by Knights of Columbus</i>
Third Sun. Advent	5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary – <i>leader: Frances Robles</i>	
	6:00 (vigil) Mass – <i>Paul Lerma +</i> <i>by Mary L. Moya</i>	
Sunday, 13th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i> <i>Third Sunday</i>	10:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Lillie Oliver +</i> <i>of Advent</i> <i>by Elenora Jelinek</i>
	2nd Col: <i>Retired Religious</i>	

Readings – Third Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 12th, 6 p.m.

Lector	Carol Sutton
Cup Ministers	Paulette Brandl, Jeanette West
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	I. Martin, A. Chamberlain, P. Canales, J. Canales Sr.

Sunday 13th, 8 a.m.

Lector	Veronica Ledezma
Cup Ministers	Juanita Canales, Juanita Madrigal
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	M. Garcia, D. Robles, P. Guerra, M. Estrada

Sunday 13th, 10 a.m.

Lector	Maribel Gonzalez
Cup Ministers	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante
Altar Servers	Katie Williams, Derek Folmar, Analyssa Gonzalez
Ushers	C. Martin, M. Gonzalez, T. Sanchez, T. Canales Jr.

Religious Education News

This Wednesday
Regular Class Schedule

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1576.32

Advent Bible Study

Advent is soon approaching. 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. Classes will be each of the remaining Mondays of Advent: December 7, 14, and 21 from 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. in the Heritage Room. No registration is required. Please bring a bible, pen, paper, and open heart.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Last week's question:

The group of mysteries of the rosary that includes the Nativity is a. Joyful

This week's question:

When the shepherds saw the angels in the sky at Christmas they were:

- a. getting ready for church b. eating breakfast
c. dancing d. watching over their flocks

Answer coming next week.

Advent Calendar of Events

- Dec. 7 Class Two - Bible & Priesthood
 7:15 Heritage Room
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception
 6 p.m. on Dec. 7, 8 & 6 on Dec. 8
 Penance 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 8
- Dec. 13 Parish Christmas Dinner
 6:00 p.m. in the Hall
- Dec. 14 Class Three – Bible & Priesthood
 7:15 p.m. Heritage Room

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS Saturday December 12, 2009

5:30 a.m. Las Mañanitas

6:00 a.m. La Misa/Mass (en español)

7:00 a.m. Reception/gathering hosted by
Guadalupanas in Parish Hall

A Brief History

In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac. She identified herself as the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. She asked a church to be built on the site, and submitted her wish to the local Bishop. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested her for a sign, the Mother of God obeyed without delay or question, sending Her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop.

After complying to the Bishop's request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native's *tilma*, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 475 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. According to scientists who have inspected her eyes, in *both of them* and in the precise location as reflected by a *live human eye*, could be seen many figures that have been extensively analyzed and seem to correspond to the shape and size of human figures located in front of the image.

