

# Feast of the Holy Family

## December 27, 2009 A.D.

### ***EXPRESSIONS***

***By Fr. Ed***

People are the primary focus of Christmas. The Nativity scene is the chief example of this. Jesus, of course, is the central Christmas figure but the manger or crèche also includes his parents and visitors, both locals and foreigners. Even at his birth, then, Jesus forces us to look at others. All authentic relationships with God require concern for others.

Santa Claus is a popular example that proves the same point. While Jesus may be the child whose birth Christmas celebrates, Santa Clause is the grown-up who demonstrates the real spirit of the holidays, and who is responsible for the Christmas custom of exchanging gifts. Like Jesus, Santa Claus focuses us on others, not ourselves. Christmas, then, inspires us to be generous, perhaps in ways we normally aren't. We don't have to look like Santa Claus and carry a sack of toys on our back but to celebrate Christmas means to open our hearts and our hands towards others, especially those in any kind of need.

Generosity can be expressed in many ways, with tangible gifts and presents but also by extending forgiveness to those who may have hurt us. In fact, forgiveness is a Christo-centric virtue, an essential feature of the ministry of Jesus. Hospitality also is generosity. At his birth, there was no room for Jesus at the inn. Part of the Christian mission then, is to assure that there is always room for everyone, especially the

stranger and immigrant, to make sure that no one is excluded or left out in the cold. Jesus and his family also were strangers or immigrants who, according to St. Matthew's Gospel, had to flee to Egypt because of persecution. Not to accept immigrants is, in a way, to continue the persecution of Jesus who, for reasons outside his control, also had to leave his homeland. This is the plight of all immigrants. No one willingly leaves their homeland.

Healing also is an essential Christmas attribute. The Christmas story shows the reason. The word for hospital and hostel or inn share the same linguistic derivation. Thus, the Christmas Gospel text just as easily could be translated as "there was no room for them in the hospital." Nowadays, no one goes to an inn to have a baby, but to a hospital. Therefore, whenever people are excluded from healthcare the same lack of hospitality the Jesus experienced is re-lived again. Furthermore, the ministry of Jesus is primarily directed toward the sick. He is constantly healing the blind, the lame, the leper, the deaf, and the mute. These are not just miracles but the very definition of his ministry.

These Gospel stories certainly provide us inspiration for Christmas. They also augur the themes of Jesus' later message. Perhaps, these earliest events in his life shaped his spirituality to and explains his abiding compassion for the sick, the sinner, and the outcast of society, that is anyone who experiences spiritual or social prejudice. The Infancy Narratives anticipate the reality of the adult Christ.

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Mass will be celebrated on New Year's Day at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph's at which we will combine Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours with Mass for First Friday. Mass will also be celebrated at St. Timothy's at 5:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

### OFFICE CLOSED

Mon., Dec. 28, and Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, for Christmas and New Year's!

### WOMEN'S SOCIETY

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Mon., Jan. 11: Mass at 9 a.m., then meeting in the Religious Ed. Room, then lunch at Martin's. Please call Dinah at 995-aaaa for lunch reservations.

### RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE

You may drop off computers, monitors, scanners, printers, TVs, stereos, cameras, cell phones, fax, DVD, VCR, & Lap-Tops. Sorry, no batteries or appliances. Sat., Jan. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. here our parking lot. Sponsored by the Rotary Club.

### PARISH POTLUCKS

Please join us for our quarterly parish potlucks. The next one will be on Thurs., Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the church hall. Bring a friend! Enjoy the food! 50-50 drawing!

### MARRIAGE & ANNULMENT TALK

Are you divorced or know someone who is divorced? If you would like to know more about the annulment process, a representative from the Diocesan Tribunal will give a talk at St. Patrick's in AG on Wed., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.

**Let us Pray For the Sick:** May our prayers be a comfort to those who are sick or chronically ill: Onnie Midiri, Jill Kelly, Don Monson, Tricia Scot, Mindy Greenville, Joe Svancara, Mark Sigmund, Jenna Franklin, Tom Mee, Jennifer Pasa, Katy Wilson, Benjamin Kafman, Jim James, Shalom Tinsley White, Mary Musso, Kelly Pittner, Alice Fortini, Elizabeth English Porter, Maria Howe, Jacqueline Durazo, Bobbie Planansky, Richard Lyons, Jack McGilvray, Larry Stayton, John Dias, Jim Sohler, Jim Greene Sr. & Jr., Jack Sable, Dennis Domaille, Barbara Gray, Bill, Danny & Kelly Wade, Mayre Marcollo, Gloria Aulbach, Evelyn Menn, Joseph Henderson, & Margaret Jung.

### FOLDING WALL UPDATE

Thank you to those who have donated to the folding partition wall. We look forward to meeting our goal soon as more donations come in.

### ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

We offer the service of being able to make regular donations by EFT. Use your checking, savings, or credit/debit card. Save yourself the hassle of writing a check & remembering to bring your envelope. Forms are available at the back of the church or contact the office for more information. You may also sign up by using the secure page at [www.stjosephcayucos.org](http://www.stjosephcayucos.org).

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Those who are not envelope users may sign up for a box set at the back of the church. Those who already have an assigned offertory envelope number may pick up their box set for 2010.

### MASS INTENTIONS (Dec. 26-Jan. 3)

Sat. 5 †Jimmie Cross by Jeanne Edwards  
Sun. 9 St. Joseph's parishioners  
Sun. 11 †Jimmie Cross by Walter & Helen Terrio  
Mon. †Joe Karp by Jeanne Edwards  
Tues. †Richard Menn  
Wed. †Fr. Richard Bonjean  
Thurs. †Fr. Richard Bonjean  
Fri. †Fr. Richard Bonjean  
Sat. 5 †Anthony Engineer by Mary Kendrick & Family  
Sun. 9 †Karen Thomas by Eleanor Garcia  
Sun. 11 St. Joseph's parishioners

While every effort will be made to offer Mass for your special intention on the requested date, please understand that circumstances occasionally make this impossible. Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church. For further information call Mary at 995-aaaa.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE (Jan. 2-3)

#### 1st Saturday & Sunday

Sat: 5 pm: Lector: Bill Mazzacane  
EMs: Elizabeth Sigmund, Eleanore Molnar, Sue Rindge  
Ushers: Carolyn Tucker, Jeanne Edwards  
Server: Red Harris  
Cantor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sun: 9 am: Lector: Elizabeth Sigmund  
EMs: Sam Ayoob, Sallee Detomaso, Ski Planansky  
Ushers: Dinah Piwowarski, Carol Lowry  
Servers: Stan Piwowarski, Quinnten Thomas  
Cantor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospitality: Anita Ayoob  
Sun: 11 am: Lector: Evaline Curti  
EMs: J. Monson, S. DeCicco, another EM is needed  
Ushers: Sandy & Helen Hull  
Server: Walter Terrio  
Music: Terry & Judy Ann Cross  
Hospitality: Sylvia Moriarty