

**For The Bulletin Of
December 25, 2016**



**THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD**

On behalf of myself, the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council, I warmly welcome you to Christmas Liturgy today! We are blessed to have you with us and we pray that your being here for Christmas Worship will have been a blessing for you.

The liturgies of Christmas and its season would not be possible were it not for the incredible and amazing gifts, talents, and creativity of many people who have worked to plan, prepare, and participate in each of these glorious days. Our thanks to the members of our Art and Environment Committee who once again have created such a beautiful and inspiring environment; to **Don Pearson**, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-In-Residence, The Parish Choir, and Cantors who support our sung prayer each week and who have worked especially hard to prepare the music of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season, the Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Adult

Acolytes, **Dilcia Aparacio** who launders and irons the Sacred Linens, those who work “behind the scenes” to clean and maintain the sanctuary and restrooms, and our Security Team. So many people who give of themselves and in that giving become one of Christmas’s most beloved and appreciated gifts. Thank you to all of you! We are also deeply grateful to all those who contributed so generously to provide the Christmas Environment with its trees, lights, wreathes, garland, poinsettias, and the festive panels of cloth at each of the Icons. Your generosity will be acknowledged in one of the bulletins of the Christmas Season in gratitude for all those whom you have honored, either living or deceased.

For us as Catholic Christians, Christmas is much more than December 25th – it is an entire Season which does not conclude until Monday, January 9th, 2017 when we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I invite you to return and join us for the celebration of Holy Eucharist on each of these wondrous days as the mystery of how God becomes one with us continues to unfold. The schedule and feast days are as follows:

Monday, December 26, The Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 27, The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 28, The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 29, The Fifth Day
Within the Octave of Christmas
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Holy
Communion

Friday, December 30, The Feast of the
Holy Family
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Saturday, December 31, Vigil Eucharist
for The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of
God: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017, The Solemnity
of Mary, Mother of God, The Octave
Day of Christmas, New Year's Day, The
World Day of Prayer for Peace
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist



The Feast of The Epiphany

Saturday, January 7th, Vigil Eucharist
At 4:00 p.m. – *Procession of the Three
Kings; Singing of The Twelve Days of
Christmas*

Sunday, January 8th, 2017
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist – *Procession of the
Three Kings; Singing of The Twelve
Days of Christmas*

Monday, January 9, 2017, The Feast of
the Baptism of the Lord – The
Conclusion of the Christmas Season
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – *Renewal of
Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling Rite*

Reflecting On The Christmas Gospel and Living The Paschal Mystery

From the exalted heavenly host of angels
to the lowly shepherds, “Living in the
fields,” a newness of God’s Presence
and glory are announced. This Good
News cannot be contained in highest
heavens, but must be made known to all
on earth. Although it is Mystery ever so
rich that God should be clothed in
human likeness, it is nonetheless a
Mystery that touches earthly shepherds
and maiden, “people who walked in
darkness” and those who “have seen a
great light,” a “people as God’s own”
and those “eager to do what is good.”
Angels and shepherds: they trusted the
Mystery we celebrate today. So must all
of God’s creatures.

To Ponder and To Pray

Oh, how I love this Most High God Who
sent me to proclaim the Good News of
God’s beloved son, born of a virgin,
“wrapped in swaddling clothes,” and laid
“in a manger!” But to shepherds? Why
not to the kings of the earth, to the
learned, to only the good? Ah, I know!

When God's glory is revealed, all is changed. All are clothed in the Presence of this Majesty Whom I serve. There – the shepherds. I must not frighten them with all this glory shining “around them.” I must reassure them not to be afraid, as I proclaim to them that “a savior has been born.” Will these lowly shepherds understand? Will they grasp that God has wrapped the divine Majesty in human clothing? Will they appreciate that this birth wraps each of them in a new dignity? Will they, too, want to sing, “Glory to God in the highest?”

Oh, now more of my angel friends join me. We are a loud chorus singing God's glory. We cannot contain ourselves. In this night of greatest darkness, a new Light has shown. This is not the light of the sun or the moon or the stars. This Light can never be extinguished – not even by human death. This Light will enlighten all people, offering them a choice to receive the Light and one day join us in singing God's praises forever in the highest heavens. How wonderful that we sing this night “Glory to God!” This night is different from all others. This night, “a savior has been born.” This night, humankind is raised up to a new dignity that even surpasses our dignity as God's angels. This night, love is born and conquers all.

Oh, how we love our quiet nights! Not much to do except keep an eye out for these sheep left in our care, and gather around our fire to stay warm. Oh, what's that light? It shines all around us. It opens us to hear words from creatures we've never met before. What did you say? “Do not be afraid?” You're kidding! Strangeness, the unexpected, always makes us wary, fearful. What did

you say? A “savior has been born?” What does that mean? Why is this “good news of great joy?” Why are you proclaiming this to us? We're nobody. We are just the night shepherds.

What? God's favor rests on us? Can God love us lowly shepherds this much? Something stirs in our hearts. We've never liked that they take the most perfect year-old lamb from our flock to be sacrificed in the temple each year. Is this a new Lamb for us to keep watch over? Will this Lamb be perfect, be sacrificed? We must trust. This Lamb is not ours alone, but everyone's. We will now be shepherded by this Lamb. We must go and see. We must trust the Mystery.



The Visit of Cardinal Levada

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, our parish will be blessed with the historic visit of **William Cardinal Levada** who will preside and preach for the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Cardinal Levada is the Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He is now retired and living at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. When we were in Rome two years ago to celebrate my 40th Anniversary of Priesthood, our tour group had the privilege to celebrate Eucharist with Cardinal Levada in his titular church and now we have the

privilege of celebrating with him here in our own parish. I hope you will join me in welcoming him warmly and joyfully.

The Annual Report

Each year, the Pastor is required to present the Annual Pastoral and Financial Report to the parish. I will have that privilege to do so the weekend of January 28th and 29th at each of our liturgies. I hope you will plan to be present with us and to receive this very important summary of our life and mission together during 2016. It will also help to invite and prepare us for the Town Hall Meeting that will take place in February. I will share more about this in upcoming bulletins. Hard copies of The Annual Report will be made available for all those who wish one.

Thank You

...to the members of our Art & Environment Committee who prepared the Christmas Environment: **Rich Confetti, Theresa Nelms, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Norma and Pablo Villegas, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Denise Moss, Dave Simpson, Gail Burgarino, Tony and Claudia Gumina, Dorothy O'Connor, Patricia Kramer, Harlan Young, Lee Oliver, and Patricia Britton.**

...to those who cleaned and prepared the church for the weekend and the week ahead: **Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, Cathy Romeo, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathroom in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to those who prepared and served the reception following last Sunday's Lessons and Carols: **Frances and Steve Rojek, Lesley Eubanks, Will Avitabile**

and Catherine Vidaurri, Alicia Perez, Gino Ramos, Isabel Renggenathen-Cage, Maryann Peddicord, Kirby and Terri McNesby, and Estrella Rusk.

...to those who helped prepare the Christmas Letter mailing: **Dave Costanza, Bernice Campbell, Melodye Costanza, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield, Mena Macedo, Claudia and Tony Gumina, Bobbie Ochang, Ruth Landry, Geri Chiechi, Nancy Newton, Lorraine Lohmeier and Maryann Peddicord.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Sofie Zimmerman, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Jeannine Ford, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Sherry Webb, Cynthia Enrique, Judy Quicho and Belen Farin.**



From The Gubbio Project

Thank you so much, St. Ignatius of Antioch! All the socks that you collected for our sisters and brothers who are living on the streets and sleeping on the pews of St. Boniface Church in the Tenderloin and St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in the Mission during the day were very much appreciated. Socks may seem like something that is not a dire need for the homeless, but, in reality, they are a vital piece of clothing. Heading into the winter months, socks are even more important because they provide warmth. Often, they can be the only barrier separating the cold ground from the rest of the body. The Gubbio Project partners with the church to be able to provide hospitality and outreach to over 300 women and men seeking refuge from the streets each weekday. Facets of Gubbio include: the provision of a quiet, safe space for sacred sleep; a compassionate listening ear; referrals to support services; foot care; massage service; the provision of socks, blankets, toiletries, and clothing vouchers when available; and availability of clean, safe, drug-free restrooms. Gubbio is open Monday thru Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for our guests to use as a

“homespace” for “Sacred Sleep and Sanctuary.”

From Turner Elementary School

Dear Father Robert, Frances, and Your Exceptionally Generous Congregation:

Thank you very much for your love and support to the families of Turner School. Your generosity and compassion in the way of toys and clothing for the families and students of Turner Elementary this Christmas is beyond appreciated. The parents who have come in were overwhelmed with your generosity. The holiday season is such a joyous time for so many of us; however, as you know, for many it is very difficult as well. Many of our Turner families have a great deal of additional stress during the holidays in trying to create memorable holidays with gifts (and limited funds) for their families. You all helped to relieve that for so many!

Your love and generosity with the amazing gifts was heartfelt. There were smiles and tears and true joy in the faces of our Turner families. Thank you for your time and efforts: they were appreciated!

We continue to be honored that you all chose to help Turner.

Happy New Year and many blessings to you all.

Humbly,
Deborah Meylan, Principal



From Our Beloved Archbishop Brunett

Dear Father Robert and Parishioners,

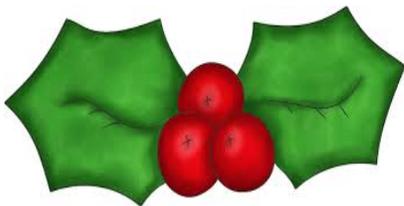
I write once again to thank you for your prayers, cards, and letters. To all of you, know that you are remembered in all of my Masses and prayers.

I keep a very busy schedule with various therapies, meetings, and many visitors. I am able, with the help of another priest, to celebrate Mass for several of the residents, staff, and guests each Saturday. I continue to be able to attend some parish and Archdiocesan celebrations and events.

I have had and continue to have so many great gifts in my life but most important are the friends I have made over my years in ministry. Your kindness and prayers are such an important part of continued healing. Please know I am eternally grateful for all your kindnesses and I pray for you each day.

Again, thank you for remembering me in your prayers and keeping me in your thoughts, for your cards, and letters. I send you my warmest regards and blessings as we celebrate Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ our Hope,
+Alex J. Brunett
Archbishop Emeritus



From The Jose Perez Family

Dear Father Robert,

Jose and I knew that our dear mother Rosario's death was near and yet the pain was no less than had it been a complete surprise. Losing a dear one is never easy on the heart and on the mind, but with the help of family and friends the burden is a little less painful.

Father Robert, we want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your compassion and guidance during our most difficult time. We were so honored to have you concelebrate at the funeral. We also want to thank our parishioner family members who were so supportive and gave much help during the Vigil and the Funeral Liturgy.

God has given Rosario new eternal life and we are joyful and blessed for the many years she cared and loved us when here on earth.

To our fellow Knights, Jose would like to express deep appreciation in helping set up the tables, the coffee and being there for him.

To my fellow office workers, thank you for your kind word, hugs and aura of love that I felt in those moments of sadness. To our parish family, we are so blessed and fortunate to have such a beautiful and giving community.

There are never enough words to express what we feel in our hearts, but we both feel so fortunate to have the love of Jesus and our church in our hearts.

Sincerely,
Jose and Alicia Perez