

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

04 JANUARY 2009

Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.

Isaiah 60: 3



CALENDAR

FIRST READING

The wealth of nations shall be brought to You.

Isaiah 60: 1-6

PSALM

Every nation on earth will adore You.

Psalms 72

SECOND READING

The mystery was made known to me by revelation.

Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

GOSPEL

Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem.

Matthew 2: 1-12

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 04-10 JAN

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	† Bishop Edoardo Ricci
	05:30 PM	Filomeno Gamas Dela Cruz
TUE	07:30 AM	† Richard Linehan
	05:30 PM	Mark Andrews
WED	07:30 AM	† Gladys and Roy Hubbard
	05:30 PM	Deacon Dominick Peloso and family
THU	07:30 AM	† Mary Giovanzana; the Berrone and Giovanzana families
	12:00 PM	† Frank Chandler
	05:30 PM	† Joseph Zink
FRI	07:30 AM	† Bill Yates
	05:30 PM	The Ruder and Cahalan families
SAT	08:00 AM	† Fr. Leo Huber



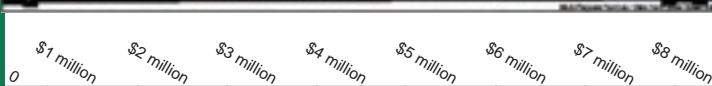
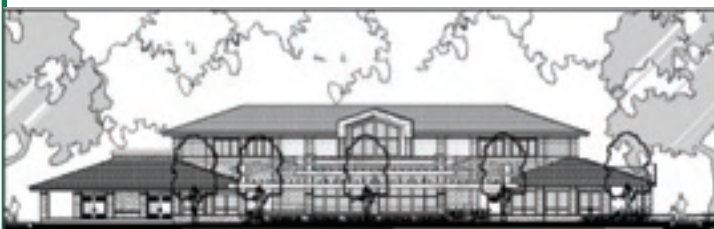
MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MON-FRI	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
MON-FRI	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
SAT	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
04 JAN	(Sunday)	
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour
05 JAN	(Monday)	
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	RCIA
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
06 JAN	(Tuesday)	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Acts
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Acts
07 JAN	(Wednesday)	
08 JAN	(Thursday)	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
09 JAN	(Friday)	
	10:30 AM	Moms' Group
	06:00 PM	YPC Evening of Reflection
10 JAN	(Saturday)	
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
	03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Confessions (parish priest)



NATIVITY PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE I

MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILION AND KINDERGARTEN



FUNDING TO DATE: \$7.523M



PARISH OFFERINGS

	WEEK OF 06-07 DEC	WEEK OF 13-14 DEC
TOTAL:	\$ 11,112	9,545
Altar Society:	\$ 2,363	
Retirement for Religious:	\$	5,232
Immaculate Conception:		2,289
Annual Appeal Progress:	\$	68,092
2008 Annual Appeal Goal:	\$	109,500

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOME NOTES ABOUT EPIPHANY

In the earliest days of the Church, both the **Nativity** and the **Theophany** (baptism of Jesus) were celebrated on **06 January**. Somewhere before **354 AD** the Western Church moved the date for the celebration of the Nativity back to **25 December**, partly to overshadow a pagan festival (to the Invincible Sun) on that same date. At that time they assigned **06 January** to the celebration of the **Epiphany** (visit of the Magi). The Eastern Church today celebrates the Theophany on **06 January**. The Russian Church still celebrates the Nativity on **06 January**, and in some traditions, a “Twelfth Night” celebration on **05 January** is followed by the traditional exchange of gifts on **06 January**.

05 JAN (Monday): SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, Bishop (1811-1860)

Renowned as a founder of the American Catholic school system. Born in Bohemia, he became a Redemptorist priest (the first in the United States) in a struggling parish in New York, and later became Bishop of Philadelphia. He organized the first diocesan Catholic school system, and increased the number of schools from two to 100. He also built 50 churches and began construction of a cathedral. He was the first American man and bishop to be canonized.

06 JAN (Tuesday): BLESSED ANDRE BESSETTE (1845-1936)

Holy Cross Brother who almost didn't make his vows because of poor health. He built a shrine to St. Joseph, almost brick by brick, that became a spiritual center.



ARE YOUR INTENTIONS “IN THE BOOK”?

Our legion of dedicated Eucharistic Adorers begin each hour by praying for (among others) all the intentions entered into our book of prayer requests. Tap into the unimaginable power of focused communal (and global) prayer and let your loving community lift your needs up before our Father.

“Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall.” -- **Psalm 55: 22**

“Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” -- **John 16: 24**

PRAY THE ROSARY

Observe this special devotion to our Blessed Mother as often as you can. “*I am the Lady of the Rosary, I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask for pardon for their sins. They must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already too grievously offended by the sins of men. People must say the rosary. Let them continue saying it every day.*”

--Our Blessed Mother to Lucia at Fatima
13 October 1917

www.theholynosary.org

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/
rosary/how_to.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/how_to.htm)

www.savior.org/wwrc/

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

A “cenacle” is a prayer group that prays the way the Blessed Mother and the Apostles prayed in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Nativity has a “Cenacle of Life” that meets at **06:00PM** every **Tuesday** evening to say two rosaries (ten mysteries) and a prayer of offering for life. As Pope John Paul II wrote in the Gospel of Life, “A great prayer for life is urgently needed.” Please join our group to help with this important work.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:

FRI: 01:00 AM - 03:00 AM (1st Friday of each month)

Please call **650/322-3013** for more information or to sign up.



BOOKS AVAILABLE

The following books are available at the parish office in the rectory: **Father Lucky: Life Stories of Clement A. Davenport**. This is a collection of **Fr. Davenport's** remembrances from childhood to a reflection on his 60 years as priest. A donation of **\$5.00** is requested, which will benefit the students of **Fr. Derek** in Poland, giving them the opportunity to visit the Holy Land in March 2009.

Nativity Illuminated. This book is a photographic collection of Nativity's stained glass windows and altars along with biblical quotes and commentary. These books are **\$30.00** each and the funds collected will be used to help with the restoration of the stained glass windows. It is a lovely book and makes a great gift.

The Church of the Nativity Directory is still available to purchase. They are **\$15.00**. If your picture was taken for the directory and you have not picked up your free copy please do so at your convenience. The parish office is open between **09:00 AM - 04:00 PM Monday through Friday**.

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact First Resort (650/261-9115), the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008) or the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please welcome the newest members of our Christian community:



- **Peter James** son of **Thomas Gaffey** and **Shannon Sullivan**
- **Saxon Seve** son of **Saxon** and **Virginia Noh**

May these children and their families grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

The celebration for the 60th Anniversary to the priesthood was such an amazing event that words cannot describe it. I wish to thank all who helped in any way to put my special celebration together, along with those who contributed to my gift, and those who attended the Mass and/or dinner. It was wonderful. God bless you all.

Fr. Davenport

NATIVITY MOMS' GROUP

All mothers are invited to join us for prayer and fellowship on **Friday, 09 January 2009** from **10:30 AM** until **12:00 PM** in the **O'Hare Center**. Please bring your little ones with you! Contact **Christine Semler** at **650/594-4637** for more information.

AT VALLOMBROSA RETREAT CENTER

24 JAN 2009

Sacred Healing Retreat Day: The Body as a Healing Temple

This retreat day will focus on honoring our human body as a wonderful instrument of healing. The day will include the use of our senses, movements, yoga, breathing and intuition.

Sister Joan Prohaska, O.P.

31 JAN 2009

Caring Caregivers: A Retreat Day for Caregivers

As medical technologies stretch out life spans, more and more family members are finding themselves caring for fragile, elderly relatives. This one day retreat will allow participants some time to recharge emotionally and spiritually.

Carol Kaplan, MFC

Please call **650/325-5614** or visit our website at **www.vallombrosa.org** for information and to register for any of the above events.

FIGHT FOCA!

Fight the *Freedom of Choice Act* (FOCA).

Go to **www.fightfoca.com** and sign the petition. Keep our Catholic hospitals open! Keep our freedom of religion! For more information, contact **Jessica** at **650/572-1468**.

BLESSING OF THE HOME: "CHALKING THE LINTEL"

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition in many Christian households that on (or near) the Feast of the Epiphany we pray for God's blessing on our homes, marking the doorpost (lintel) with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made). We mark the main door of our home with the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the new year, connected with crosses:

20 + C + M + B + 09

The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi - **Caspar**, **Melchior**, and **Balthasar** - and also stand for the Latin motto: **Christus mansionem benedicat** (*May Christ bless this house*) In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this ritual, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

There are many resources with suggestions for a blessing of the home. Here are just a few:

www.stmichaelonline.org/LiturgicalYear/Epiphany.htm

www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas9.html

www.catholicculture.org/lit/Prayers/view.cfm?id=49

IN THE COMMUNITY

WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE 2009: 24 JAN 2009

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, 24 January 2009**. Join upwards of 25,000 pro-lifer's for the **5th Annual Walk for Life** in San Francisco as we peacefully proclaim our message that abortion hurts women and we all deserve better than abortion. For more information visit our website at **www.walkforlifewc.com**. To volunteer or to arrange busses contact us at **415/586-1576** or email questions to **info@walkforlifewc.com**.



ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William Justice cordially extends an invitation to all married couples of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and beyond, to a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and renewal of vows on **Saturday, 14 February 2008** at **10:00 AM** at **St. Anne of the Sunset** parish, 850 Judah Street, San Francisco, CA 94112.

Special honor will be shown to those who are celebrating their 25th, 50th, or 50th+ wedding anniversaries. Coffee and cake reception immediately following. Registration forms are available at the parish office or by downloading at **www.sffamilylife.com**. For more information, please call **707/552-3394**.

You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness Benedict XVI** asks for general and missionary prayer intentions.

For **January 2009**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

General: That the family may become more and more a place of training in charity, personal growth and transmission of the faith.

Missionary: That the different Christian confessions, aware of the need for a new evangelization in this period of profound transformations, may be committed to announcing the Good News and moving towards the full unity of all Christians in order to offer a more credible testimony of the Gospel.



In a homily delivered on **28 June 2007**, His Holiness Benedict XVI declared
A JUBILEE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

Here is the declarative excerpt from that homily:

Paul knew he was “called to be an apostle”, that is, that he had not presented himself as a candidate, nor was his a human appointment, but solely by a divine call and election. The Apostle to the Gentiles repeats several times in his Letters that his whole life is a fruit of God’s freely given and merciful grace (cf. I Cor 15: 9-10; II Cor 4: 1; Gal 1: 15). He was chosen to proclaim “the Gospel of God” (Rom 1: 1), to disseminate the announcement of divine Grace which in Christ reconciles man with God, himself and others. From his Letters, we know that Paul was far from being a good speaker; on the contrary, he shared with Moses and Jeremiah a lack of oratory skill. “His bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account” (II Cor 10: 10), his adversaries said of him. The extraordinary apostolic results that he was able to achieve cannot, therefore, be attributed to brilliant rhetoric or refined apologetic and missionary strategies. The success of his apostolate depended above all on his personal involvement in proclaiming the Gospel with total dedication to Christ; a dedication that feared neither risk, difficulty nor persecution. “Neither death, nor life”, he wrote to the Romans, “nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8: 38-39). From this we can draw a particularly important lesson for every Christian. The Church’s action is credible and effective only to the extent to which those who belong to her are prepared to pay in person for their fidelity to Christ in every circumstance. When this readiness is lacking, the crucial argument of truth on which the Church herself depends is also absent. Dear brothers and sisters, as in early times, today too Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St Paul. Paul, a former violent persecutor of Christians, when he fell to the ground dazzled by the divine light on the road to Damascus, did not hesitate to change sides to the Crucified One and followed him without second thoughts. He lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!

And for this very reason I am pleased to announce officially that we shall be dedicating a special Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul from **28 June 2008 to 29 June 2009**, on the occasion of the bimillennium of his birth, which historians have placed between the years 7 and 10 A.D. It will be possible to celebrate this “Pauline Year” in a privileged way in Rome where the sarcophagus which, by the unanimous opinion of experts and an undisputed tradition, preserves the remains of the Apostle Paul, has been preserved beneath the Papal Altar of this Basilica for 20 centuries. It will thus be possible to have a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events taking place at the Papal Basilica and at the adjacent Benedictine Abbey, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all inspired by Pauline spirituality. In addition, special attention will be given to penitential pilgrimages that will be organized to the Apostle’s tomb to find in it spiritual benefit. Study conventions and special publications on Pauline texts will also be promoted in order to make ever more widely known the immense wealth of the teaching they contain, a true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ.

Furthermore, in every part of the world, similar initiatives will be implemented in the dioceses, shrines and places of worship, by Religious and by the educational institutions and social-assistance centres which are named after St Paul or inspired by him and his teaching.

Lastly, there is one particular aspect to which special attention must be paid during the celebration of the various moments of the 2,000th Pauline anniversary: I am referring to the ecumenical dimension. The Apostle to the Gentiles, who was especially committed to taking the Good News to all peoples, left no stones unturned for unity and harmony among all Christians.

May he deign to guide and protect us in this bimillennial celebration, helping us to progress in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of Christ’s Mystical Body. Amen.

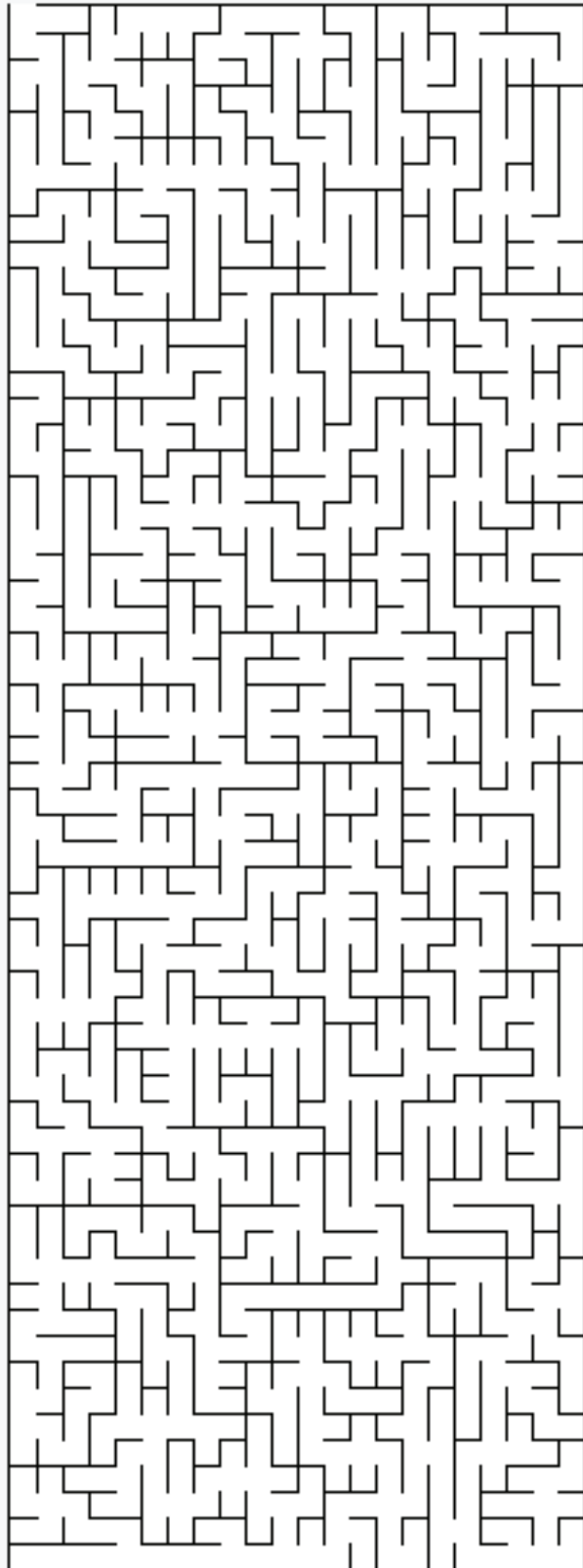


FIND-A-WORD

Can you locate all these words in the square full of letters?

EPIPHANY
STAR
MELCHIOR
GOLD
MYRRH
KING

MAGI
CASPAR
BALHAZAR
FRANKINCENSE
HOMAGE
EAST



A	F	A	R	U	S	B	E	A	R
M	R	A	Z	A	H	T	L	A	B
G	A	Z	E	E	Y	E	A	T	I
I	N	G	C	A	S	P	A	R	J
A	K	O	I	S	H	I	M	O	E
M	I	S	N	T	S	E	W	I	S
Y	N	A	H	P	I	P	E	H	U
R	C	A	M	E	L	S	A	C	S
R	E	E	K	N	I	G	O	L	D
H	N	V	R	I	N	W	S	E	T
A	S	T	A	R	N	E	W	M	R
N	E	H	O	M	A	G	E	W	B

(Just like in our lives, JESUS is always there, too.)

