

## Calendar

- 8 Feast of Mary the Mother of God**  
Mass: 8:30am –Church, pancake breakfast following  
Faith Formation Classes: 9:30 - Benincasa  
Mass: 10:30am–Church, pancake breakfast following  
Babysitting during 10:30 mass: Benincasa basement  
Indonesian Mass: 1pm - Church, reception following
- 9 Monday**  
Communion Service: 9am – Church  
Pastoral Council: 7pm - Benincasa
- 10 Tuesday**  
Mass: 9am – Church  
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm  
Middle School Open House: 7pm - School
- 11 Wednesday**  
Communion Service: 9am – Church  
Gospel of Luke Study: 9am - Benincasa
- 12 Thursday**  
Mass: 9am – Church  
RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa  
RCIC: 7pm - Benincasa  
Choir: 7pm - Church
- 13 Friday**  
Mass: 9am – Church
- 14 Saturday**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm  
Mass: 5pm - Church
- 15 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Mass: 8:30am – Church, coffee hour following  
Mass: 10:30am - Church, coffee hour following  
Babysitting during 10:30 mass

### Parish Stewardship

December 25, 2011 - \$12,535

January 1, 2012 - \$6,190

**PRAYERS**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Fred Burr         | Frank Martin   |
| Don DeVera        | Joan McGuire   |
| Ken Dobson        | James McNamara |
| Evan Dubicki      | Bert Naiman    |
| Eileen Hinnebusch | Effie Rohner   |

**PRAYERS**

### Readings for January 15 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19  
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20  
John 1:35-42

## ..... A Word from Victoria .....

We are one week into the new year. I am already wondering how I will be able to keep my New Year's resolutions. I doubt that I am the only person struggling to do so.

In today's gospel story, the wise men return to their own county "by another road." T.S. Eliot, in his poem on the journey of the Magi, says that they were "no longer at ease in the old dispensation." Both the gospel and the poem suggest that they have been changed by their journey and experience of finding Jesus.

Perhaps our best hope for making changes in our lives, resolutions that we will be able to keep, comes from our experience of Christmas. Once again in our celebration of Christmas, we experience the gift of God-with-us in the birth of Jesus. Once again we are reminded of the gifts that flow from his birth.

Having received the gift, we are more able to live differently. Our resolutions are our attempt to live more healthily, more in-line with our values, more responsive to what is most important. (Perhaps resolutions are like the penance we receive when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The penance given to us is meant to help us change our lives. In the celebration of the sacrament, we confess our failings and sins, and we receive the gift of God's mercy. Our penance helps us to live differently, to live in a new way, just we hope our resolutions will do.)

The Christmas story in several places describes Mary as pondering all that had happened. Just as Mary was our guide in Advent, so she is our guide in the Christmas season. Pondering with Mary all that God has done, we now wonder what we can do to live into the gift of God's love and presence. Epiphany moves us from the stance of pondering to the stance of continuing the work of Christmas. The first reading from Isaiah echoes the reading from Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve we heard: "the people in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shone." On Epiphany we hear: "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you."

The Epiphany reading moves us beyond the initial gift of light to our being bearers of the light: "Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." We have received the gift; now we are to share it so that others can see and come to the light.

What if we made our resolutions in response to the gift received in God-with-us in Jesus? Perhaps we would be more successful in keeping them because they flow from God's gift to us and not only from our will. Our living our new life would also witness to others of God's presence and love.

*Victoria*

## Announcements

### **St. Catherine's Middle School Open House**

You are invited to come to our Middle School Open House on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00PM in the 7th grade portable. This is an opportunity to learn more about our program in 6th 7th & 8th grade, meet the teachers, and tour the school. St. Catherine's School offers an outstanding academic program, as well as specialist classes in Spanish, PE, music, band, library, technology, and art. We offer elective classes to 7th & 8th graders including film studies, yoga, speech, current events, advanced keyboarding, advanced Spanish, and leadership. Our CYO sports program includes soccer, track, basketball, volleyball, and cross country. Our class size is smaller allowing teachers to more effectively address individual needs. We welcome this opportunity to share more about our outstanding middle school program.

### **All School Open House to Kick Off Catholic Schools Week**

Please join us on Sunday, January 29, from 12:00-2:00 for an all school Open House for current families and for any families interested in learning more about St. Catherine School. Families are invited to attend the 10:30AM Mass preceding the Open House. The 29th also begins Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is "Faith. Academics. Service." More details about Catholic Schools Week is forthcoming.

### **Whole Community Gathering**

Our next gathering will be Saturday, January 21. The evenings are for all ages. We gather for dinner at 6pm. Presentations begin around 6:45 with adults in the hall, babysitting for 1-3 year olds in the music room, and classes for children in the Benincasa Center. We gather together for dessert around 8pm. Please plan to join us. The January session is on The Communion Rite and the Rite of Sending; the February session is on the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

### **Jr. High Youth Group**

We are beginning a once monthly Jr. High Youth Night on February 1st from 7-8:30. We will gather for an evening of fun and faith. Open to all students in grades 6-8. Please contact Shannon Fleming with questions.

### **Jr. High Youth Group - Adult Help Needed**

Adults needed to help facilitate Jr. High youth nights. We will be gathering on Wednesday nights once monthly. This could be as simple as just being present or could be as involved as leading prayer, small group, and activities. Contact Shannon Fleming for more information.

### **Babysitting For Kids Ages 1-4 at 10:30 Mass**

We offer babysitting for children ages 1-4 at 10:30 mass in the Benincasa basement room. There is currently no fee for participation, but parents will be asked to occasionally assist with babysitting. Please contact [jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net](mailto:jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net) for more information.

### **First Eucharist**

If you are interested in having your child (second grade or higher) receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist this spring, please plan to attend our First Eucharist parent meeting on Monday February 13th at 7pm in the Benincasa basement room. Classes for First Eucharist will begin on Sunday March 4th. If your child was not able to attend First Reconciliation classes in the fall, please contact [jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net](mailto:jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net). Your child will need to attend make-up classes to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to attending classes to prepare for the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)**

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered 3 times per month during the 10:30 mass and once per month during the 8:30 mass. To be able to regularly offer this program, we need additional adult volunteers to be leaders and assistants. Please contact Jeanne Hall at [jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net](mailto:jeannehall@stcatherineparish.net) if you can help.

### **Book Discussion**

The St. Catherine's book group will have their next meeting on Tues., Jan. 10th at 7 PM in the Benincasa Center. The book we will be discussing is *Stones From The River* by Ursula Hegi. It is the story of a dwarf, Trudi, who grows up in a small town in Germany during the Nazi regime. Trudi is in a unique position to understand the exclusion and cruelty of Hitler's Third Reich. Woven throughout are examples of compassion and bravery as the townspeople struggle to do the right thing. Please read chapters 1-13. Come for great conversation, and friendship. All are welcome!!

### **Study of the Gospel of Luke**

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the Benincasa Center. We are reading and discussing the Gospel.

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

Our chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is looking for more members. We serve people in need in our geographical area with food, help with rent and utilities, etc. Members make home visits and follow-up with assistance. St. Vincent de Paul also participates in our Giving Tree with gift requests for regular clients. To learn more about St. Vincent de Paul, contact the parish office.