

- 27 FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement
- 28 Monday**
 Communion Service: 9am
- 29 Tuesday**
 Mass: 9am
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm
- 30 Wednesday**
 Communion Service: 9am
- 31 Thursday**
 Mass: 9am
- 1 FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD**
 Mass: 9am
- 2 Saturday**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement
- 3 FEAST OF EPIPHANY**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement
- 4 Monday**
 Communion Service: 9am
 Pastoral Council: 7pm - Benincasa
 St. Vincent de Paul: 7pm - Benincasa
- 5 Tuesday**
 Mass: 9am
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm
- 6 Wednesday**
 Communion Service: 9am
 School Commission: 7pm - Benincasa
- 7 Thursday**
 Mass: 9am
 RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
 Choir: 7pm
- 8 Friday**
 Mass: 9am
- 9 Saturday**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement
- 10 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
 Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

..... *A Word from Victoria*

There are few things as miraculous as the birth of a baby—the mystery of the growth of the baby after conception, the labor to bring forth the new life, the wonder of this new child. Even with our greater understanding of how it all occurs, even with our greater ability to “see” how things are progressing, the birth of a child is still an awe-filled moment.

Is it any wonder that God chose to come among us as an infant? As with any child, there are stories of the conception, the time of pregnancy, and the birth—all miracle, even before we consider that Jesus is God. Perhaps nothing could draw our attention to this in-breaking of God in human history and life as well as the birth of a child.

The birth of every child is a miracle—even when the child is not perfect. The possibilities that lie before each child—even when limited—are abundant. A baby is a sign of hope among us—a sign of a future yet to come.

So often in the history of God’s people, a child has been the sign of hope and of God’s promise. The birth of the child has come after great longing and long waiting, after barrenness or tragedy. In time, the child has responded to God’s call, been a sign of God’s presence and faithfulness to the people, and made clear God’s way of love, peace and justice.

And so with Jesus. The people have been waiting for a long time, two centuries, and through much suffering, for the messiah—the one who would bring salvation to God’s people. In fact, his name means “God saves.” The birth of this child signals great hope for the people.

Though we know that there may be troubles and heartache along the way of raising a child, we are still moved by the mystery and the miracle. We remember the miracle of the birth and hold onto the hope.

The story of the birth of Jesus holds within it hints of the trouble that is to come—fearful rulers, the deaths of innocent children, the suffering of the parents. Even so, there is great rejoicing—even in the heavenly choir.

We know well the problems of our world and the struggles of our lives. Today, we remember the birth of the child who is God-with-us. Our hope is renewed. We rejoice today that a child is born, the one who brings us salvation and life, healing and hope, love and peace, now and forever. What a miracle! Thanks be to God!

Victoria

Readings

January 3 - Feast of Epiphany
 Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Coming in the New Year...

Whole Community Gatherings

Join us on for our continuing series on Jesus presented by Fr. Peter Byrne, SJ. Fr. Peter will speak on Saturday, February 6 after the 5pm mass and Sunday, May 16 after the 10:30 mass. There will be a meal after mass, separate presentations for adults, youth, and children. Baby sitting will be provided for children ages 1-3. The gathering will end with dessert for all.

Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults & Children

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic church or in being baptized, please join us on Thursday evenings in the Benincasa Center from 7-8:30. Call Victoria at 524-8800, ext 104 with questions. If your school-age child is interested in being baptized or in joining the Catholic Church, please contact Victoria. The first four sessions will be at 3:10 on Wednesday, Jan. 13; Tuesday, Jan. 19; Monday, Jan. 15; and Monday, Feb. 1.

Children's Faith Formation

Sunday Faith Formation will resume on January 10, 2010. The class meets upstairs in the Benincasa Center from 9:30-10:25. Children ages 4-12 are welcome to join at any time during the year. Contact Crystal Koory for a registration form & schedule.

Sacramental Preparation

Congratulations to the 24 children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 12! Preparation for First Eucharist will begin on March 7, 2010. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Benincasa Center. Contact Crystal Koory for more details.

Parents with Young Children

Look for our first event happening in January! We are still very interested in hearing from those families that may want to participate in the various opportunities in the future. Contact Shannon or Crystal.

Mexico Mission Trek

Are you interested in going to Mexico with other teens to build a home for a family? Look for information about a meeting in the new year. We are accepting adults and teens that have finished their freshman year of high school. This is an amazing experience! Contact Shannon.

FUN in the NEW YEAR!

ST. CATHERINE'S GOT TALENT: Parish and school talent show on Saturday, January 23 at 7pm, with putluck preceding at 6pm. To sign up your act, contact Mark Adrian at 524-8800, ext 105.

IRISH PUB NIGHT: Saturday, March 13. Cross the Ha'Penny Bridge to Victoria Hall for great Irish food, drink and fun. Music, games and more. Come and get your Green on! 21+

25th ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL AUCTION

The theme, *World on Fire*, is inspired by the quote by St. Catherine of Siena "If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire." Please join us on Saturday, May 1st in Victoria Hall. Our legacy of providing a fun party, great community and generous giving for the students of St. Catherine School will be continued with another amazing auction night. For more information, to donate, or for a listing of sponsorship opportunities, please contact Auction Chair, Tammie Conder at auction@stcatherineschool.net.

Rebuilding homes in New Orleans

St. Catherine is sending a group of parishioners to New Orleans this April or May to rebuild homes with the St. Bernard Project. Parishioner Sr. Judy is now working with this group operating in the areas hardest hit by the hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 100% of the homes were rendered uninhabitable and few have been rebuilt. Cost per person will be around \$600 and we plan to fundraise as a group. We have lodging in a retreat house in the French Quarter so there will also be opportunity to explore the city. Check out the parish web site for more information. There is an informational meeting on Sunday, 1/10 at 9:30AM in Victoria Hall.

Social Justice

Please join the Social Justice Committee every 3rd Sunday of the month. We work to educate the parish about issues of social justice, as well as advocate for change, and engage in the gospel call towards a faith that does justice. Our next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 20 after the 10:30 mass. Call Shannon for details.

YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth Group: All students in the 9-12th grades are welcome! You can find the schedule on on the parish web site. We are reinventing the Youth Group schedule now to include separate gatherings for 9th/10th graders and 11th/12th graders. Are you interested in checking it out? Contact Shannon for details. We have a fun event and a service/faith event each month and would love to see you there!!!

Jr. High Youth Group: We will begin having quarterly events in the New Year with opportunities for service as well as fun events like Flag Football. Look for a meeting about the Summer Service Mission trip, too!