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Here is my servant whom I uphold

Dear Friends,

The Christmas Season comes to a formal end today with the feast of The Baptism of the Lord. It is yet another Christmas revelation (manifestation or epiphany) of Christ among us; God's beloved Son, on whom His favor rests. Hence, the Christmas decorations are still with us. After this weekend, it will be back to normal life again. Whatever that is!

A very big thank you to all who took time out of their busy Christmas schedules and made the church so beautiful and welcoming for everyone during the Christmas Season. The manger scene was, as usual, outstanding. It is probably one of the best manger scenes I have ever seen in any church. Those responsible for its loving and painstaking construction were Philip Le, Michael Le, Long Le, and the members of the Knights of Columbus Council #12500.

The Church decorations were equally lovingly assembled and placed by Anthony Trimarchi, Irma Santiago, Michael Ortiz, Amberlee Ortiz, Kimberlee Ortiz, Enid Garcia, Kevin Garcia, Johanna Garcia, Erik Ott, Kyle Ott, Alec Vaughn, Marlene Schwing, John Mosso, Estella Acosta, Chelsea Acosta, Claudia Mancuso, Noé Rangel, Allen Jackson, Manuel Fuentes, David Engstrom, David Partin, David Partin II, Barbara Reyna, Gilbert Silva, Patsy Trost, Jake Trost, and Chris Trost.

I know that it is a tradition among some parishioners to take straw from the manger scene and bring it home as a memento and a reminder of God's presence among us, especially among the poor. Please help yourselves after mass.

Now, many of you may not have had much time to help us with the decorating before Christmas, but are any of you free this Sunday afternoon to help us take everything down and get the church back to its usual state of simplicity? I'll see you at 2:30 p.m. with your work clothes on and ready to go!

Fr. Gerry Lewis, who often helps us out here at Sacred Heart Church, has gone home to Panama for the funeral of his sister-in-law and will be gone for at least a month. Fr.

Beni, who is also from St. Mary's, will be able to offer the 1:15 p.m. Spanish language masses on Sundays while Fr. Gerry is away. Because of Fr. Beni's many other commitments, especially at UTMB, where he is a full-time chaplain; I will offer the the 8:00 a.m. masses on Tuesday, although it is usually my day off. Unfortunately, that brings me to what is inevitable as we clergy become thin on the ground. We will have to take the Wednesday evening mass off the schedule. Ours is the only parish on the island that celebrates two masses on any weekday, and is the only parish of this size that has just one priest and no deacons. The number of people attending the Wednesday evening mass has been steadily decreasing. This is the sad reality of an aging and diminishing clergy, who cannot do everything that we have become so used to when many more priests were available. Let us all pray to the Lord that more people will respond to His invitation to tend his flock. For those of you who are used to celebrating mass on a Wednesday evening, there is a 6:00 p.m. mass at St. Patrick's Church.

God Bless,

Fr. Niall

Mass Schedule

Sat., Jan. 12th, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Jose J. Rodriguez, Joe Centenio, Madeline & James Bennett, and Rudolph & Ophelia Raven

Sun., Jan. 13th, 2008

8:00 a.m.

Gerome & Minnie Anselmo and Rick Vaiani

10:00 a.m.

For the People of the Parish

12:00 noon

Georgia Broz and Linda Labardini

1:15 p.m.

For the People of the Parish

Mon., 8:00 a.m.

Pete Hernandez, Rick Vaiani, and Margaret Hermann Boles

Tues., 8:00 a.m.

In Thanksgiving to God and Joan Modzelewski

Wed., 8:00 a.m.

Virginia Combes and Georgia Broz

Thurs., 8:00 a.m.

In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother

Fri., 8:00 a.m.

Jeanette Abbott and In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Baptism of the Lord

Sat., Jan. 19th, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Joe Muscat and Madeline & James Bennett

Sun., Jan. 20th, 2008

8:00 a.m.

Gloria Carrigan

10:00 a.m.

June, Roy, and Georgia Cantieri

12:00 noon

Sebastian & Giovanna Buzzurro

1:15 p.m.

For the people of the parish

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Jan. 13th, 2008

CCE Classes, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Jan 14th

RCIA, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 16th

8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena and St. Jude Novena,

Adult Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 17th

Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19th

CCE First Penance

Santo Nino Celebration, 7:00 p.m.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



Saturday, Jan. 19th, 5:00 p.m.

The Body of Christ: Cindy & H. C. Schulz and Kathy Dietrich

The Blood of Christ: Hadden

Dietrich, Tony & Margaret Scofelia, and Kathy Cole

Sunday, Jan. 20th

8:00 a.m.

The Body of Christ: J. D. & Barbara Roberts and Ann Halligan

The Blood of Christ: Andrea & Jared Chiarchiaro and Roxanne & Jose Soto

10:00 a.m.

The Body of Christ: Theresa Ramirez, Angelo Grasso, and Claudia Mancuso

The Blood of Christ: Carmen Eced, Jimmie Ramirez, Maryellen Leduc, and David Millican

12:00 noon

The Body of Christ: Karen Crummett, Judy Wolf, and Bartosz Szczesny

The Blood of Christ: Gilbert Silva, Christiana Mendez, Lillian Leyva, and Aimee Botello

1:15 p.m.

The Body of Christ: Nicanor Prado

The Blood of Christ: Zoila Contreras and Enrique Becerril

The schedule for readers and extraordinary ministers for February, March, and April is being prepared. If there are days that you are unable to serve, her e-mail address is jwolf-sacredheart@sbcglobal.net, or you can call her home number, which is on your schedule. Volunteers are needed for the 7:00 p.m. mass on Holy Thursday, the 3:00 p.m. service on Good Friday, and the 8:00 p.m. mass on Holy Saturday. The new schedules will be in the sacristy the weekend of January 26th, 2008.

If there are fewer than seven people, it would be helpful if other Extraordinary ministers present in the congregation would fill in on those rare occasions when someone doesn't turn up.

READERS



Saturday, Jan. 19th, 5:00 p.m.

Poldi Tschirch

Sunday, Jan. 20th

8:00 a.m.

Don Kenney and Jocelyn Paz

10:00 a.m.

Gabriel Mansouraty and Tabitha McKnight

12:00 noon

Pat Moreno

1:15 p.m.

Ana Boleman and Sandra Tovar

Ministers and readers, if you are unable to attend, please find a replacement to fill in.

LATE CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Caroline Opperman, Bubba Opperman, Frank Phillips, Agnes Philipps, Bubba Tauch, Frank Allen Reynolds, Simplito Baldonado, Paula Ayrone, Edna Baldonado, Margaret Huff, A. Kattner, Larry Bohlen, Valley Etzel, H. Etzel, Mabel & John Doslh, Madaline & Henry Fredrickson, Pauline Wainus, Agnes & Peder Fredriksen, Frank D. Hernandez, Alice Perez, Simon Leyva, Sr., M. A. Reilly, Bernard C. & Golden G. Heer, Bernard J. & Annie Heer, James W. Heer, James W. & Bernice Butler, Josephine & Venerando Castorina, Bastiano & Camilla Patane, Randy Carlson, Oscar R. Carlson, Jr., John & Mary Lozica, George & Pattie Garthar, James & Clara Parma, and Robert Homrighaus.

successful, and the society members will present a check for \$1,330.00 to Catholic Charities on behalf of Sacred Heart Church.

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION

The members of the Filipino Association cordially invite everyone to their annual celebration in honor of Santo Nino, the Holy Infant Jesus, on Saturday, January 19, 2008. Our plans include a Rosary and Novena at 6:30 p.m. and Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. A procession will follow the mass, and a fellowship gathering will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym. For more details, please contact Betty Gounah at (409) 762-1825, Norma Suayan at (409) 763-5842, or Agnes Allego at (409) 762-9330.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE WEEKS OF:

December 9, 2007	\$9,870.20
Religious Retreat	\$ 426.00
December 16, 2007	\$7,914.27
December 23, 2007	\$6,944.95
December 25, 2007	\$8,538.39
December 30, 2007	\$10,840.49
January 5 & 6, 2008	\$ 9,547.66

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last year a rather eccentric quirk of the calendar hid this great feast on a Monday, but now it's here for our delight on a Sunday, as it should be. In the old calendar, it was the octave day of Epiphany, exactly as it is this year. It is the absolute end of the Christmas season, and tomorrow we enter Ordinary Time.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH ST. ANNE'S SOCIETY !!

You are invited to attend our first meeting of the year at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 20th in the Centennial Room. All Catholic ladies Galveston-wide are invited to join our group and join in being God's hands for 2008! We look forward to seeing you and sharing the exciting plans we have in the works for this new year! Contact Jan Halvorsen at 409-933-9600 if you have any questions.

As we conclude the Christmas season, there is one more treasure from our tradition worth mentioning. Everyone knows the "Twelve Days of Christmas." British Catholics invented it to teach the catechism to their children at the time of the Reformation. The partridge in a pear tree is, of course, Jesus in the tree of the Garden of Eden. Each number is a clue to help children remember aspects of our faith: two testaments in the Bible; three Persons in the Trinity (or the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity); the four evangelists; and the five golden rings, the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Then we have the six days of creation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the eight beatitudes, the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, the ten commandments, the eleven faithful apostles, and the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed. For persecuted Catholics, the beloved carol helped the faithful to stay under the radar and have some fun passing on the tradition to their children.

Thank you to our congregation for your support of our Christmas Bingo:

The St. Anne Society thanks the many parishioners who either attended or made a donation to our Christmas Bingo in December. Our fundraiser was

Baptism of the Lord

Pray For the Sick of the Parish

Asta, Serena	Loudon, Eddie
Asta, Rachel	Loudon, Fred
Arcidiacono, Elena	Loudon, Marie S.
Ames, Melissa	Longoria, Suzanne
Bastien, Flo	Marabella, Dorothy
Beebe, Debbie "Lucy"	Martino, Julie Ann
Bember George	Mendoza, Sue
Bray, Jimmy	Micheletti, Sister Carmella
Carmignani, Anna Marie	Miller, Willis
Chandler, Anna Marie	Morse, Gene
Chavez, Carmen	Novelli, June
Cooke-Schilling,	Orapallo Mary Joyce
MacKenzie	Owens, Casey
Curtis, Joann	Perez, George
Demack, Vilma	Perez, Marisela
Fichera, Joe & Tina	Platt Bustamante, Janie
Foster, Kathleen	Powell, Agnes
Frey, Norma Clare	Roberts, Ruby
Gilbert, Kay	Ross Colleen
Gonzales, Zachary	Rougeaux, Shelia
Gonzalez, Rosaura	Ruggiero, Donna
Hernandez, Clemente	Sampson, Elizabeth
Hines, Rosalie	Sanchez, Ramiro
Hoffman, Bertha Margaret	Schmidt, Gigi
Hogan, Lawrence	Semien, Cora
Huff, Joe III	Siemssen, Craig
Hypolite, Bernice	Siemssen, Lynn Prino
Jacobson, Richard (Duck)	Shannon, Sister Benedict
Jordan, Bryan	Shannon, Sister Rebecca
Kaluza, Jerry	Stein, Jay
Koch, Claudia	Sterk, Katie
Kollar, Andras	Thomae, Karin
LeBoeuf, Mary	Vollert, Thomas
Llewellyn, Earl	Vucanovich, Christine
	Walker, Betsy

Sanctuary Lamp

In loving memory of John Broz

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40; 1 Cor 1:1-3;
Jn 1:29- 34

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord;
National Vocation Awareness Week
Thursday: St. Anthony
Friday: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
begins
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary;
Orthodox Theophany (Epiphany)
