



The Holy Family

December 27, 2009

The Nativity Scene

The tradition of having some kind of Nativity scene, also known as *crèche*, in French, at churches and homes evolved during the Middle Ages, first in churches as a prop for Nativity plays associated with Mass. A *crèche* is a reproduction of the cave of Bethlehem with the principal characters: Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in the manger, shepherds, angels and animals. St. Francis of Assisi popularized the custom with a living Nativity scene at Greccio, Italy in year 1223. These scenes, constructed from every sort of materials, spread throughout Christendom.

**Parish Office will be closed
Monday, December 28th and
Friday, January 1st**



Fiscal Year
July 1 — June 30

FOR MONTH OF November 2009

Monthly Budget	\$ 45,000
Actual Collection	\$ 46,121
Last year thru NOV	\$ 204,875
This Year thru NOV	\$ 208,353
<i>Comparative Increase</i>	\$ 3478

Thank you for your generous support

8:30 AM Mass Intentions

- MON **Rose Crumb**
- TUE **Ron Doughty**
- WED **Bob Doerpinghaus**
- THU **Vigy & † Ted Serr**
- FRI Holy Day of Obligation
Holy Mary Mother of God
8:30 AM & 6:00 PM Mass
- SAT **Bob & Jean Marie Doerpinghaus**

Please note: We will pray *Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer* whenever a priest is not available to offer morning Mass. Father will offer the scheduled Mass intention privately.



BAPTISM CLASSES

Baptism classes are held quarterly and are required for parents of children through 1st grade. The next session will be held on Wednesday, January 6 & on Monday, January 11. Only confirmed Catholics may be Godparents / Baptism Sponsors. Contact Jean Marie 928-3395 for details.

**St. Vincent de Paul is hosting
Coffee Hour on December 27th.**



**Little Flowers are hosting Coffee
Hour on January 3rd.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

A Holy Opportunity will be available to all parishioners on **New Year's Eve:**
A Four Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament!!

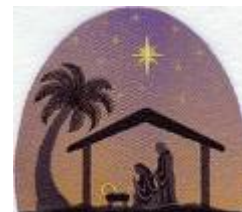
Exposition begins at 6pm with Simple Reposition at 10pm. If you can "watch one hour" with Jesus, please call the Adoration Coordinator, Ann Marie Henninger, at 681-2986.





Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2010



The Bethlehem star reveals in Jesus, the God we worship, the Savior we thank, the Master we follow. All the earth's peoples, are called to find their journey's end in Him, who came that we might have life.



Jesus, Mary & Joseph are our model for family life. Mutual respect is an important ingredient for peaceful & happy families. All Children deserve a place of safety in order to flourish.

*Holy Day of Obligation
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Friday, January 1st
8:30 AM and 6:00 PM Masses*

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Going to the March for Life in Olympia? Need a ride? Call for Bus Reservations!



A bus will be going to Olympia for the **March for Life on Jan. 19, 2010**. Please call Joan Cates in Port Angeles 452-5295 or Diane Holdren in Sequim 582-1529 for more information or to make bus reservations.

Post-Abortion Healing

If you are hurting from a past abortion, the Church is calling you home. Healing and hope are awaiting you on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™. The next English retreat is **February 19-21, 2010**. Call Valerie: 1-800-822-HOPE (4673) Spanish: 206-450-7814.



DEAR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

We happily take this opportunity to thank all of the supportive advertisers who made this bulletin possible in 2009!



May your Christmas Season & New Year be Happy and Holy.

8:30 AM Mass Intentions

MON	✠ Ted & Josephine Doerpinghaus
TUE	✠ Prosper Ostrowski
WED	✠ Darlene Pangrantz
THU	Aaron Dillon
FRI	Fr. Gary Sumpter
SAT	✠ Ellen Kuebel

Please note: We will pray *Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer* whenever a priest is not available to offer morning Mass. Father will offer the scheduled Mass intention privately.

Steps to have a Minister Visit to Hospital, Care Homes or Homebound

1. Notify Parish Office by phone or email of name and location to be visited.
2. Include a date & call back phone number.
3. Specify Need: Anointing, Reconciliation, and/or Holy Communion.



Pre-surgery Anointing may be arranged with the Pastor to follow any scheduled Mass. Call the parish office to schedule. 452-2351

CATHOLIC WOMEN

Queen of Angels Catholic Women will meet on Tuesday, Jan 5th in the St. Anne room from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. All women of the parish are encouraged to attend.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Secular Franciscans will meet for their monthly gathering on Sunday, January 10, in the St. Columban room at Queen of Angels. The gathering begins at 12:45 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend. Call Denise at 452-1304 for more information.

Pastor's Column

December 27 & January 3

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among men!”

I hope your Christmas was blessed. One need not have a great family time to have a great spiritual time – a deeper encounter with Jesus. I hope you had an abundance of that. I am writing this column nearly a week before Christmas (editor deadlines) so I can't comment on how mine went yet. Today I would like to speak to you about the retreat that I had a couple of weeks ago. I have preached on some of the last two weekends as well.

The first thing I should say is that a retreat is not a vacation. For this retreat I “worked” just as hard as I would have back on the job. A retreat is a time for one to seek spiritual conversion by going out to meet Christ. That can happen in many different ways, for me that means going into the desert to meet Our Lord. I went to Westminster Abbey in British Columbia where I knew no one. For six nights and five days, with a day of traveling on either end, I *worked* on myself. Getting up at 5:30am and beginning my day with at least two hours a day of prayer and worship and another six hours a day reading, journaling, pondering, and struggling against my nature.

The good Lord placed in my hands through one of you, a book that acted as my Spiritual Director entitled: The Fulfillment of All Desire by Ralph Martin. This layman who teaches at a seminary in Detroit, has written a masterpiece for our times. Truly, for those of us who take our sanctity seriously, this book is a must have, not just a read, but a have. I felt compelled to study it and it is so rich that I will be re-reading it; and have to say that so far have gotten half way. I must caution that it is not easy or light reading: one must concentrate. The author has compiled some of the writings of seven different saints who speak about *the* way to sanctity. This is not just a reflection of some saints who had personalities in common. These saints are saying that *all* people will pass through these stages, in this order, in the spiritual life before entering heaven; either on earth or in Purgatory. The three stages are the Purgative, Illuminative, and Unitive. Most people haven't even entered the first one, the Purgative.

The goal of the first stage is to overcome all mortal sins (for good), develop a very stable religious life (sacraments, prayer, etc.), and a stable life in general. What a person in the Purgative stage has not yet achieved is mastery over their venial sins. That begins in the Purgative stage and comes to fulfillment in the Illuminative. Blessed (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta was once asked by a priest what he needed to do to be holy. She replied: “Make your holy hour every day and never knowingly sin.” She nailed it. Overcoming our mortal sins for some can seem insurmountable – now imagine overcoming even our venial sins. It's possible and furthermore, Jesus desires this, and gives us the grace to do it too.

The conversion from run of the mill sinner to saint involves nothing less than the transformation of our thoughts, desires, and actions. Many different facets go into this

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process but I'm going to boil them down to the thesis of my homily – fantasy: overcoming our penchant for day dreaming and distraction. Becoming focused on what we are supposed to be thinking about or doing at any given time; being radically present to the reality that we are supposed to be living at any given moment in thought or action. I am convinced that this fantasy business has something to do with all the sin and stuff in our lives that we really don't want. Whether we are living in the past or the future or some alternative present, we just want to escape our present reality. So much so that we procrastinate, day dream, allow ourselves to be distracted with chemical or alcohol, television, radio "love" songs, video games, pornography, gluttony adultery, and overworking our jobs, or avoiding necessary work at all, etc. and all of this is an escape from some anxiety that we have about living fully in our present condition. What these seven saints say is that fantasy is the great vice that gives rise to all these other sins and shortcomings and it must be overcome for good before we can be saints and enter heaven.

For those of us who are quite addicted to our fantasy life, this is about the ultimate challenge. It seems so daunting to overcome even our sins, let alone our thoughts, that almost all of us quit before we begin. This trepidation is perfectly normal. St. John of the Cross, one of the saints quoted in the book speaks about the difficulty of overcoming our self as "the dark knight of the senses." By senses he means our fantasies, passions, and habitual sins. He states that this is frightening and difficult but that we are "to go into the darkness of faith." To trust primarily in Our Lord's grace and not only our own efforts, although they are obviously needed, we, for a time, will not see clearly and fear. It is at this time that most people come running back out of the "darkness" and into our false self because it is what we know and are most comfortable with (in a bad way). He says to stay in that dark place of faith transformation for we will quickly pass out of it into a new life. He doesn't quantify quickly, it could mean weeks, months or years depending on God's grace and the persistence of our effort. What is on the other side of this dark night of the senses? What does living radically in present reality look like? It's hard for me to say as I don't live there yet, but the saints have something to say about it.

A life lived radically in present reality is a life of living in God. It is a life of true freedom from all that formally bound us; a life of interior stability even if on the outside, nothing is. It is a life of love and happiness even as we carry crosses. In short – it is the fulfillment of all desire. I hope you will journey with me on the road of holiness. Have faith in the grace of The Son of God, Jesus Christ, to transform you as we persevere in the great Christian adventure of the saints.

God Loves You.

To the Infant Jesus thru Mary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Thomas Nathe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fr. Thomas Nathe