

REFLECTION

FROM THE PASTORAL CENTER

TODAY'S READINGS:

1st Reading: Number 6:22—27
2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

With the Shepherds

What an exciting way for families to begin the New Year, on a Sunday that celebrates the feast of Mary as the Mother of God. For the Church, the Christmas season does not end on December 25.

In the first reading, from the Book of Numbers, we hear an ancient and beautiful prayer delivered to the Israelites: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Num 6:24-26)

God's face shone on Mary and shines on us as well. As you make New Year's resolutions, focus on the blessings, positive changes, and joy of the days ahead. Look back on the past year as well, and thank God for the blessings received. Keep Mary, the Mother of God, as close companion and guide. She will strengthen you through the coming year.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



A Message from Fr. John

A new beginning— first, we need to give thanks for all that has been done here at St. Francis and within our families and community.

Our response to typhoons (Philippines), hurricanes and earthquakes has been very generous. The Thanksgiving collection was used for Casa de Clara's water heater and house repairs. Your spontaneous response overwhelmed them. The office was filled with Christmas gifts for the Day-workers and Family Shelter, the bread project and sandwiches for the Downtown Drop-in Center are on-going commitments.

These are just the tip of the iceberg as it were because we are better people because of God's love showered down upon us. At worship, prayers, Generations of Faith, we have been given so much of God's spirit and we have shared that spirit with others.

Let us give thanks for all that's been and yes to a new year.

Thanks especially to all who have been made our prayer and celebration of the Lord's birth so beautiful.

Susan Votaw, Spirituality Development Coordinator

Contact: 223-1562 x313; email: svotaw@sfoasj.org

This is new ministry position at St Francis this year. It was created in response to parishioners' requests for opportunities which would enhance their experiences in liturgy, expand their commitment to social action, and deepen their prayer life, both for individuals and Ecclesial Communities. Some people have expressed interest in retreats and days of recollection for individuals or specific ministry teams. Others have asked for on going opportunities that would deepen their spiritual growth like Small Christian Communities, "Evenings Chats with Theologians", or Book Club groups whose readings would focus on spiritual issues. Still others feel a need for a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and a means to integrate this responsibility into their lives. We will explore offering a Just Faith Program. What is common to all, is the honest expression of a personal longing to deepen one's relationship with God.

In February, we will be offering a day(s) Retreat Experience on the Eucharistic Celebration to groups from the Ecclesial Communities. Watch for other offering announcements in the bulletin. If you have any thoughts or ideas about other possible events, I'd love to have a conversation with you. St Francis is truly an amazing place! The Spirit is surely at work here!

- Stewardship of Time: Prayer is the beginning of stewardship.
Stewardship of Talent: Jesus told us that anyone who aspires to greatness must serve the rest.
Stewardship of Treasure: We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 31st
5:00 PM Rodolfo Yabut †
Sunday, January 1st
8:30 AM Anacleta Berongoy †
9:00 AM Miguela Sablad †
9:30 AM Sagisi Family—intention
10:00 AM Teodoro Mendoza †
10:30 AM Carlos & Jose Giacomini †
11:00 AM Jacklin Momarbashi †
12:30 PM Francisco Asuncion, Jr. †
6:00 PM Mass for the People
Tuesday, January 3rd
8:30 AM Judith Tan †

REMINDER
The deadline for the January 8th bulletin is on January 2nd at noon.

Month at a Glance—January 2006

Daily Masses: Mondays through Thursdays—8:30 AM; Fridays—9:00 AM at the Villages

<p>9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 1 RCIA High School Youth Groups Lytehouse Core Group</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 2 AA Group</p> <p>7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, January 3 Confirmation Meeting Marriage Workshop</p> <p>7:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, January 4 Small Community Meeting Lytehouse</p> <p>5:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday, January 5 GOF Design Team Choir School Pastoral Council Youth Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Friday, January 6 Jr. High Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 AM 6:00 PM</p> <p>Saturday, January 7 Serra Mass & Breakfast Epiphany Concert</p> <p>9:00 AM 12:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 8 Epiphany RCIA Igbo Mass High School Youth Group Lytehouse Core Team</p> <p>10:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 9 Serra Board Meeting AA Group GOF Catechetics Meeting</p>	<p>7:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, January 10 Confirmation Group Filipino Ministry Team</p> <p>6:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, January 11 Serra Holy Hour Lytehouse</p> <p>4:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday, January 12 OCE 1 Meeting Choir School Youth Choir Practice Pastoral Care Support Group Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Friday, January 13 Jr. High</p> <p>Saturday, January 14</p> <p>9:00 AM 12:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 15 RCIA Santo Nino Mass & Reception High School Youth Group Lytehouse Core Team</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 16 AA Group</p> <p>6:00 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, January 17 Generations of Faith</p> <p>6:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, January 18 Generations of Faith Finance Meeting</p> <p>11:30 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday, January 19 Serra Luncheon OCE 2 Choir School Youth Choir Practice Facilities & Grounds Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:00 PM</p> <p>Friday, January 20 Generations of Faith</p> <p>9:00 AM</p> <p>Saturday, January 21 Generations of Faith</p> <p>9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 22 RCIA High School Youth Group Lytehouse Core Team</p> <p>6:30 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 23 AA Group Social Justice</p> <p>Tuesday, January 24</p> <p>7:00 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, January 25 ECC Meeting Lytehouse</p> <p>4:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday, January 26 OCE 3 GOF Design Team Choir School Youth Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Friday, January 27 Junior High</p> <p>Saturday, January 28</p> <p>9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 29 RCIA High School Youth Group Lytehouse Core Team</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>Monday, January 30 AA Group</p> <p>7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>Tuesday, January 31 Confirmation Group Option 1</p>
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