December 18, 2016

♦ PASTORAL STAFF ♦
Rev. Fr. Rolando De la Rosa, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. John R. Pernia, In Residence
Rev. Fr. Angel Quitalig, J.C.L., In Residence
Rev. Fr. Rufino Gepiga, Parish Associate
Rev. Fr. Vito Perrone, C.O.S.J., In Residence
Rev. Mr. Alex Aragon, Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Romeo Cruz, Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Frances Lidwell, Parish Manager
Mrs. Felisa Cepeda, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Diana Powell, Director of RCIA
Mr. Ricardo Carlos, Sacristan
Ms. Elsa Agasid, Music Coordinator
Mr. Marlon Evangelista, Music Coordinator

♦ MASS SCHEDULE ♦
Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., *10:00 a.m., & 12:00 Noon, & Daily: 8:00 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, 7:30 p.m.
First Fridays: Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Benediction: 10:30 a.m.
Healing Mass at 7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:15—4:45 p.m.
Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form: Monday through Friday 12:00 Noon. Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
*First and Third Sunday of the Month: Children’s Liturgy of the Word.

♦ BAPTISM ♦
We welcome your child to be baptized at Mater Dolorosa Church. Parents should contact the rectory at least three months prior to the desired date of the baptism, in order to allow sufficient time for the sacramental preparation.

♦ FIRST EUCHARIST/RECONCILIATION ♦
Children must be enrolled in the Faith Formation Class one year prior to the year of preparation for the Sacrament. In most cases, this sacrament is celebrated in Second Grade.

♦ CONFIRMATION ♦
Children must be enrolled in the Faith Formation Class one year prior to the year of preparation for the Sacrament. In most cases, this sacrament is celebrated in Ninth Grade.

♦ MARRIAGE ♦
Please contact the Rectory Office at least 6 months prior to your wedding date to allow time for Marriage Preparation.

♦ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ♦
C.F.F.— Child Faith Formation. Programs nurturing children’s growth and forming their baptismal faith from Grade 1 to Grade 12. Classes are on Tuesday afternoons and evenings beginning in September.

**WELCOME**: We hope you get to know us and we get to know you. Please fill out the bottom portion and place it in the collection basket, or mail it to: 307 Willow Ave., SSF, CA 94080-1446. To complete the registration, we will mail you a registration form to fill out and return. Thank you.

Name_______________________________________ Phone_______________________
Address________________________________City___________________Zip_________

□ New Parishioner □ New Address  □ New Phone Number □ Moving/Remove Name
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent’s scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today’s Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph’s courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God’s holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

Mater Dolorosa’s Upcoming Week AT-A-GLANCE

| Sat. Dec. 17 | Adult Bible Study
| Legion of Mary Family Presidium
| Simbang Gabi | 9:00 a.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Sun. Dec. 18 | Children’s Liturgy of the Word
| Hospitality: Legion of Mary
| Legion of Mary
| COSJ Choir
| Latin Mass
| Simbang Gabi | 10:00 a.m.
| 11:00 a.m.
| 2:00 p.m.
| 3:30 p.m.
| 5:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon. Dec. 19 | Latin Mass
| Simbang Gabi | 12:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Tue. Dec. 20 | Second Harvest Kids Now Program
| Latin Mass
| Simbang Gabi | 10:00 a.m.
| 12:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Wed. Dec. 21 | Legion of Mary
| Latin Mass
| Simbang Gabi | 8:30 a.m.
| 12:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |
| Thu. Dec. 22 | Morning Hospitality Group
| Latin Mass
| MD Choir
| Simbang Gabi
| Adult Bible Study | 8:30 a.m.
| 12:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m.
| Fri. Dec. 23 | Latin Mass
| COSJ Choir Practice
| Simbang Gabi
| Rectory & CFF Offices Closed | 12:00 p.m.
| 3:00 p.m.
| 7:00 p.m. |

COLLECTIONS
FOR 12/11/16

First Collection $ 5,664.00
Religious Retirement $ 2,050.00

Our Second Collection this Sunday is for
Our Parish Maintenance & Improvement Fund.
Our Collection next Sunday is for
Our Christmas Collection.

Thank you for your continued support of your parish and our Catholic Church!

Please keep all those who are sick in our parish family in your prayers, especially:
Liz Alvaro, Rose Elaine Archer-Thompson, Jason Bell,
Trude Buntger, Janie Bustos, Larry Casey, Lucy Delahoussaye, John Dresser, Elsa Evangelista, Luz Gopez, Walter Heim, Joan Lopiccolo, Amy Marston, Walter Marston, Richard Menendez, Nellie Metzger, Eileen McHugh, Isabelle Paat, Jerk Padilla, Mary Anne Padilla, Fiorentina Quittuqui, Archie Sam, Gigi Sam, Maria Luisa Sarra, Laura Skaff, Gladys & Luis Torres and Kit Fong Woo.

We pray that they find peace, comfort and healing in Jesus Christ, our Divine Healer.
Please pray for our many sick, homebound and hospitalized parishioners who are unable to attend Mass.

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CHILD FAITH FORMATION

CFF classes are on Christmas break until January 10, 2016. Have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

SACRAMENTAL CLASSES: First Communion class (Level 2 & Older Communion class): Parent Meeting – Jan. 8 – 11:00am-12:00noon – Reconciliation preparation discussion. Confirmation 1 class: Essay on the Mass DUE – Dec 6. If you did not submit it, please email cff@mdssf.org or drop it off at the CFF office. Don’t forget your Advent reflections are due Jan 10. Confirmation 2 class: Advent Service Project – Dec. 27 & Dec. 28th – @ MD 5:30pm – 8:30pm – sort and package collection from Socks & Travel size toiletry Drive. Sponsors and families are invited to help. Service hours will be earned. Questions? Please call the CFF office.

Questions of the Week:

In this Sunday's Gospel Reading, we learn about how Joseph was challenged to trust in God. An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel. Joseph is a model of what it means to trust God. Let us pray as we celebrate Christmas this week that we will always be people who trust God. **Do you think it was easy for Joseph to trust God and God’s messenger? Why or why not? In what ways are we called to trust God in our lives today? Is this an easy or difficult thing for you? Why or why not?**

COAT DRIVE at MATER DOLOROSA

Warm someone’s heart this winter. Donate NEW or gently used men’s, ladies, or children’s coats. Collection barrels can be found in the vestibule of the church or in the school lobby beginning Jan 1 thru Jan 15. Donations will benefit the Catholic Worker Hospitality House Shelter in San Bruno and Samaritan House. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sign up to bring the birth of Jesus to life!**

We are in need of children and youth to bring to life these roles: MARY, JOSEPH, ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, A STAR, THREE WISE MEN AND MANGER ANIMALS (SHEEP, COWS & MULES).

Dec. 24th - 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (children’s Mass) - sign-up sheet is in the vestibule of the Church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL Felisa Cepeda 650-588-8175

**Giving Tree at Mater Dolorosa**

Our Christmas Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of the church through December 25th. We would like you to purchase gift cards, rather than gifts, for the needy families in our parish community. Please pick up an “ornament” tag that indicates purchasing a $10.00 gift card. You may bring them to the rectory, or drop them off in the Sunday collection basket. The members of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul thank you for your ongoing generosity and support!

OUR UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND MASSES AT MATER DOLOROSA:

**Simbang Gabi Masses:**
December 15th through December 23rd -7:00 p.m. (Pot Luck Dinner follows December 23rd Mass)

**Christmas Masses:**
Christmas Eve Masses: December 24th 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass with Children’s Pageant 9:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling 10:00 p.m. (Midnight Mass) Christmas Day Masses: December 25th - 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 12:00 p.m.

**New Year’s Eve Mass:**
December 31st - 5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Midnight Mass)

**New Year’s Day Masses:**
Holy Day of Obligation January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 12:00 p.m.

We mourn the passing of Grant Teakle, our long-time parishioner. Please keep him, and his family, in your prayers. **May he rest in Eternal Peace.**

Please be Reminded. . . . .

Our CFF and Rectory Offices will be closed from December 23, 2016 until Tuesday, January 3, 2017. We will be checking non-urgent messages during the break.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French carula, meaning a circular dance. We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director, Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Obern-dorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night! —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.