

CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLY FAMILY

I have always been struck by the words: “The virgin mother bore him in her womb with a love beyond all telling.” Every year as a Church we pray these words in mass from December 17th-24th. These words from the preface to our Eucharistic prayer are prayed all around the world, twenty-four hours a day from December 17th- 24th.

Mary bore him in her womb with a love beyond all telling. Does this mean that Mary could not tell others about the love she carried? Of course not! She ran to Elizabeth to share the joy of having Jesus inside her. But her words, perhaps some of the most beautiful words a human being has ever spoken about God, couldn't come close to describing the love she had for her son. The love of God is too deep for words. The love of God is a mystery that will always be greater than our most holy and inspired words. God is a mystery to be lived; not a person to be defined. We can always know more about the mystery of who God is but his love will always be greater than our greatest words about him. Mary lived in a love beyond all telling because she yielded to the mystery. As families, we can do the same.

His mother died just before his ninth birthday. He remembers his father as a “man of constant prayer.” In the early morning as well as late at night he would find his father on his knees silently praying. He and his father read the Bible together and prayed the rosary regularly. These images speak of yielding to the mystery. A man on his knees in total dependence on God. A father and his son praying together. A father teaching his son to seek a love beyond all telling. A father teaching his son through example and shared prayer to yield to the mystery. The son learned well to yield to the mystery. This father and son had the same name, Karol Wojtyla. The son grew up to be our Pope, John Paul II. If we consider what God did for Karol Wojtyla, there is no telling where God will take us as we yield to the mystery! That is because the mystery is a mystery of love beyond all telling.

In his early years, Karol Wojtyla enjoyed being a poet, actor and playwright. In the last play he ever wrote he described fatherhood as being “conquered by love.” As families we may feel conquered by many things like our jobs, money, busyness, kid's schedules, keeping up with the Jones', etc... Are our jobs, schedules and goals acting like Kings who dictate our lives? We don't have to give these “Kings” all the power we give them. Or, is Jesus the King of our household? Does he dictate our lifestyle and the way we relate with each other in our families? The King of Kings wants to conquer our selfishness, bitterness and pride with his love. Jesus is the only King who can conquer us with unconditional love. Without the King, there is no love.

Christian families are called to be conquered by love. The only way to be conquered by love beyond all telling is to yield to the mystery in prayer. If anyone asks you why you pray as a family you can counter with questions like: Is there anyone more worthy of your time? Do you know of someone who loves you better than God? Is there any more noble or meaningful way to live than with a love that will last forever?

DEAR LEADERS OF THE FAMILY: PLEASE GATHER YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER EACH DAY TO PRAY!!!!

If I were only allowed to offer families one sentence of wisdom I would say: “Pray together daily as a family.” This is the first year in the history of Portland that there have been more out of wedlock births than in wedlock births. This statistic is frightening. How many thousands and thousands of people carry the pain of their broken family in their hearts? There are so many kids growing up without fathers and mothers. There are so many people not being conquered by love but by brokenness. We need the King. Prayer invites him in. Yielding to the mystery means that we, like Mary, can live in a love beyond all telling.

DEAR LEADERS OF THE FAMILY: HERE IS HOW WE CAN PRAY.....

Gather everyone for prayer at the kitchen table, in the family room or at some other suitable place. Then, use one or all of the following forms of prayer in your family prayer time. Make sure each member has the chance to pray in the different forms you are using.

- 1) **PETITION** - asking God for what you or others need.
- 2) **THANKSGIVING** - for the love/blessings of God.
- 3) **LISTENING** -read the Bible or some other spiritual reading and reflect on it as a family.
- 4) **FORGIVENESS** - ask and offer forgiveness to one another.
- 5) **AFFIRMATION** - Say, “I love you” to each other. Pick a family member and have the rest of the family tell him/her about the gifts/goodness he/she has.
- 6) **SINGING** - Praise God in song.

God wants our families to be holy and full of love. Without the King there is no love. Today is the day to yield to the King who will share with us the mystery of love beyond all telling. Be conquered by love!

You are loved! Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 28, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

+Richard Wersen

(John & Becky Fletcher)

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

+Ann Ceciliani

(Cathie Ceciliani)

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Daniel Gregory

(Frances Wenner)

Friday, January 1, 2010

9:00 AM-+Ann Ceciliani.

(Cathie Ceciliani)

Saturday, January 2, 2010

5:00 PM-+Jerry Kosovich

(Patty Rubich)

Sunday, January 3, 2010

8:30 AM- People of the Parish

10:30 AM-+Luigi Udovini

(Ketty Gattman)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

9:00 AM-Red Cross Blood Drive in SR

NO RCIA

Friday, January 1, 2010

9:00 AM-Mass

Saturday, January 2, 2010

Can/Bottle Recycling

Thank you to everyone who contributed to "Project Keep Warm." Our parish generously gave 180 blankets, 246 hat/scarf sets, 27 additional hats, and 24 pairs of gloves. Special thanks to our custodian Jamie Tuttle who hangs the scarves in the social room each year, Tricia Zerufael, Laura Popescu, Zachary Pyne, and Yecithy Restrepo, who helped pack and match the contributions, and the youth group for their "night of fleece frenzy!"

Baptism Class for Infants will be held on Saturday, January 23rd in the Parish Center at 2:00 PM. Pre-registration is required for the class and Baptism. Baptisms will be January 31st at the 10:30 AM Mass.

Care Ministry

WOWS Lunch January 5th. This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy a 1:00 PM lunch at Mountain View Golf Club at 27195 SE Kelso Rd in Boring. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 12:30 PM. The bus ride is \$2. For reservations, please call Becky, at 761-8710x105 by Monday, January 4th.

For the Eucharistic Minister to the Sick who were at the Day of Recollection December 4th; the book Fr. Chun talked about is here. It is titled "Soul Within a Peach" by Florence Sau Kin. The cost is \$15 and make checks out to Fr. Francis Chun. Call Becky at the above number to purchase a book

Year End Giving: In order for donations to be credited to the 2009 tax year, they must be received in the Parish Center no later than Sunday, December 27th. Year end contribution statements will be mailed out the month of January. Thank you for your support.

Congratulations to the following couples who were married here this past weekend: Gretchen Rosenbarger and Jacob Groves and to Danielle Yuckert and George Carrillo

Back to Prayer Night

There will be no BTPN this December because of Christmas and everyone preparing for the blessed day!

We will return on **February 25, 2010** with our beloved **Deacon Mike** as our speaker.

This will be a pot luck so mark your calendars and please bring something yummy to share! Have a glorious Christmas! See you in February!

Parish Registration: If you are new to the parish and would like to register, or you have been coming here for awhile, but are not registered, please call the parish center and request a registration form. You can also come by the Parish Center and pick up a form. We are here Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Our phone number is - 503-761-8710.



Youth Group Meetings:

Jr High

Jan 10 Mtg. 9 am

Jan 17 Mtg. 9 am

Jan 24 2:30—5:00 pm

St Frances Dining Hall

Jan 31 Mtg. 9 am

Sr High

Jan 10 Mtg. 7 pm

Jan 17 Mtg. 7 pm

Jan 31 Mtg. 7 pm



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

From

*Fr. John, Pastor
Deacon Mike Caldwell*

*Joe Bonneville
Carolyn Clawson*

*Becky Fletcher
Janet Rathbone*

*Mary Robinson
Jamie Tuttle*