

December 12/13, 2009

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini,

“A Season of Surprises,” the title of the Catholic Update enclosed with the Sunday bulletin at the beginning of Advent indicates that God enters our lives in a myriad number of ways and surprises us when we least expect. For us as a parish looking to the future, I suspect God will continue to surprise us as we are led into the wilderness of the unknown future.

In reality, the greatest surprise is that God would “pitch his tent in us,” as one translation of John 1:14 expresses, God, choosing to dwell not only among us, but within us, a human like ourselves. We celebrate this great mystery that we call the Incarnation, of God becoming a human being, on December 25, Christmas Day, a feast no other religion dares to profess.

To better enter into this mystery of God sharing our human condition in all things but sin, I invite you to celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance**, asking God to forgive our sins on the following days and times:

Monday, December 21 at 8:30 am, 12 noon and 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 22 at 8:30 am, 12 noon and 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 23 8:30 am, 12 noon and 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 24 at 8:30 am and 12 noon.

The **Christmas Masses** celebrating the Birth of Christ are as follows:

Thursday, December 24

4 pm Vigil Mass at St. Mary and St. Frances Cabrini Churches;

Midnight Mass at St. Mary Church;

and

10 am Christmas Day Mass at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

**Holy Family Weekend Masses** will be

4 pm Vigil Saturday, December 26 at St. Mary Church,

8 am Sunday, December 27 at St. Mary (beginning January this Mass will be discontinued until the end of March)

and

11 am Sunday, December 27 at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

**New Year's Day** is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Octave of Christmas: the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

The Masses will be

6 pm Vigil Mass, December 31 at St. Mary Church

and

10 am Holy Day Mass, January 1 at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

On behalf of the Parish Staff, I want to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Raymond J. Thomas VF  
Pastor