

SECOND COLLECTION

This Sunday's Second Collection will be for the Parish Council Fund.

SSVP GIVING TREE

The SSVP Christmas giving tree will remain at the entrance of the church for the entire Christmas season to give everyone an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of the poor and the needy in Brunei. We would like to thank you in advance for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR VOCATION

The Old Law said that every first born male shall be dedicated to the Lord. Is there a priest, deacon, brother, or sister from your family? Now is the time for families to encourage a vocation! Please join us at 11:00 AM this morning in the Eucharistic Chapel to pray for vocation and the families in this Vicariate.

2012 CALENDAR

The Vicariate Calendar for 2012 is still available for sale at \$5 each. The theme for this year calendar is "The Mass: Transforming our words into prayer".

SUNDAY SCHOOL and COM classes

Registration for the Sunday School and COM classes will take place on the next two Sundays, on the 8th and 15th of January from 10:30 - 11:30 am in the parish hall. Classes will commence on 29th January. Fr. Robert will also be giving the orientation for parents on 29th January from 10:30am - 11:00 noon. Please take note that the Catechetical Ministry is also in need of more catechists. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details with the parish office staff.

Formation Workshop for Catechist

For the next two Sundays, on the 8th and 15th of January, there will be formation workshop for all Sunday School Catechists from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided before the workshop.

Adult Faith Formation

Beginning Thursday, 12th January, we will begin the first of ten sessions of the CATHOLICISM Adult Faith program. This program explains not only what Catholics believe and why, but displays in breathtaking, visual details the richness of the church's global culture. May the Lord be with you as you embark on this journey around the world and deep into the Faith. The session will begin every Thursday at 7:30 PM in Fr. McClorey's room.

INFANT BAPTISM

The first Infant baptism for 2012 will be on Saturday, 14th January at 2:00 PM. Parents are asked to pre-register their child with the Parish Office a week before the baptism and to attend the Pre-baptism class on Wednesday, 11th January at 7:30 pm. Godparents are also required to attend the class.

cult to carry out that important role today, the Pontiff says. "We are living in a world where families, and life itself, are constantly threatened and not infrequently fragmented," he writes. He calls upon government leaders to give families the support they need. The main thrust of the papal message, however, centers on the need to recognize moral law. The Pontiff argues that a respect for that moral law is a primary goal of any education: Man is a being who bears within his heart a thirst for the infinite, a thirst for truth--a truth which is not partial but capable of explaining life's meaning--since he was created in the image and likeness of God. ... Hence the first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being. Education should prepare young people to live in freedom as adults, the Pope says. Here too, moral and religious education is crucial. He explains: "Only in relation to God does man come to understand also the meaning of human freedom." The Pope draws a sharp contrast between proper education in morality and a secular approach, which tends to "detach the concept of justice from its transcendent roots." When education is oriented toward God, and justice is seen in terms of moral law, the conscience speaks to man in a way that promotes peace, the Pope argues: Its voice calls him to love and to do what is good, to avoid evil and to take responsibility for the good he does and the evil he commits. Thus, the exercise of freedom is intimately linked to the natural moral law, which is universal in character, expresses the dignity of every person and forms the basis of fundamental human rights and duties: consequently, in the final analysis, it forms the basis for just and peaceful coexistence. The right use of freedom, then, is central to the promotion of justice and peace, which require respect for oneself and others.

"Peace is not merely the absence of war," Pope Benedict reminds his readers as he nears the conclusion of his message. Genuine peace, he writes, is both a gift from God and a product of human endeavor. "In order to be true peacemakers," he says, "we educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community."

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) for 2012

12th & 19th February ♦ 13th & 20th May

5th & 12th August ♦ 18th & 25th November

Couples wishing to get married are kindly reminded to prepare themselves at least six months prior to their wedding and to follow the Marriage Preparation Course schedule. Last minute weddings are very much discouraged as this would make it difficult for the coordinators of the MPC to conduct the course. This is a 2 full day course. Please take note that another requirement for a Catholic marriage is that the Catholic party must already received his/her Confirmation.



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 2	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II) SS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN	1 Jn 2, 22-28; Jn 1, 19-28.	6:15 AM
Tue 3	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II) THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	1 Jn 2, 29-3, 6; Jn 1, 29-34.	5:30 PM
Wed 4	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II)	1 Jn 3, 7-10; Jn 1, 35-42.	6:15 AM
Thu 5	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II)	1 Jn 3, 11-21; Jn 1, 43-51.	5:30 PM
Fri 6	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II)	1 Jn 5, 5-13; Mk 1, 7-11 or Lk 3, 23-38 (or 3, 23, 31-34, 36, 38).	First Friday 5:30 PM
Sat 7	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME (PSALTER WK II)	1 Jn 4, 11-18; Mk 6, 45-52.	6:15 AM
Sun 8	SUNDAY. EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.	Is 60, 1-6; Ps 71, 2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Eph 3, 2-3a, 5-6. Mt 2, 1-12.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, January 1

Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

It is a new year and Christ is born anew in us! We need not listen to prophets of gloom and doom but words of benediction: "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look kindly upon you and grant you peace!"

God's messenger is Jesus, who despite coming as a child says: "Look at me and see the face of God." Through him, God's ways of mercy and peace are known on earth. In him, we are no longer slaves; we are coheirs with Christ. With Jesus we can invoke God's name and cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Mary is the model for all who seek salvation. She is not a nameless individual. She is the Theotokos, the "God bearer." Her voice is heard in the poor and lowly who treasure God's word in their hearts and ponder all they have seen and heard. We too are called to be "Christ bearers" to the world. In us, God's glad tidings are announced to all the earth.

For Reflection: Have I given birth to Jesus in my life? Do I speak good news to others?

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Reading I: Numbers 6:22-27
 Responsorial Psalm: 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
 Reading II: Galatians 4:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Pope calls for moral education of youth in annual message for World Day of Peace

In his annual message for the 45th World Day of Peace, Pope Benedict XVI highlights the role that idealistic young people can play in building peace in the future, and stresses the importance of education in realizing that goal. Young people today are frustrated by the injustices they see in the world, the Pope writes. They need guidance as they mobilize to remedy those problems. In educating young people, the Pontiff says, "today more than ever we need authentic witnesses, and not simply people who parcel out rules and facts." The Pope's message, entitled *Educating Young People in Justice and Peace*, concentrates on the task of education for the rising generation. In the process, the Holy Father emphasizes moral education, and—reprising a common theme of his pontificate—warns against the dominance of relativism, particularly in education. The papal message contains a strong argument for recognition of the natural law. "Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law that he did not lay upon himself, but which he must obey," the Pope writes. He continues: Its voice calls him to love and to do what is good, to avoid evil and to take responsibility for the good he does and the evil he commits. Thus, the exercise of freedom is intimately linked to the natural moral law, which is universal in character, expresses the dignity of every person and forms the basis of fundamental human rights and duties: consequently, in the final analysis, it forms the basis for just and peaceful coexistence. The right use of freedom, then, is central to the promotion of justice and peace, which require respect for oneself and others. Pope Benedict confirms that Church's teaching that parents are the primary educators: Where does true education in peace and justice take place? First of all, in the family, since parents are the first educators. ... The family is the first school in which we are trained in justice and peace. However, parents may find it diffi-

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