

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED: Hearing aids for use are in the sacristy—please return them after Mass.

With joy & happiness we welcome all of you who have come to pray and worship with us. We hope you will find friendship and fellowship in our community and encouragement to face whatever may come in the week ahead. For our guests & visitors, we pray that your stay in Tahoe is wonderful, that you have a safe journey home – and return to us soon.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or Psalm 105.

Second Reading — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Gospel — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, January 1	10am Mass; 4pm-5:30pm Bread & Broth meal
Tuesday, January 2	8am Mass
Wednesday, January 3	8am & 12noon Masses
Thursday, January 4	8am Mass
Friday, January 5	8am & 12noon Masses
Saturday, January 6	4pm Confessions & 5:30pm Vigil Mass; 10am Baptism in Spanish; 11:30am Baptism
Sunday, January 7	8am, 10am, 12 noon and 7pm (in Spanish) Masses

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday December 30

5:30 pm Mateo Sr & Amada Masellones (dec) by Mila

Sunday December 31

8:00 am Joan Jack (dec) by her family

10:00 am St. Theresa parishioners

12:00 pm Rudy Pakes Sr (healing) by the Winslow family

7:00 pm

Monday January 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 am Jasmine Fawlkes (special intention) by her family

Tuesday January 2 Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 am Father Troy Powers (dec)

Wednesday January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am Patrick & Catherine Hurley (dec)

12:00 pm Father Michael McKeon (dec)

Thursday January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 am Father Michael McKeon (dec)

Friday January 5 St. John Neumann

8:00 am Father Michael McKeon (dec)

12:00 pm Father Thomas Dermody (dec)

Saturday January 6 St. André Bessette

5:30 pm Father Thomas Dermody (dec)



JOAN JACK'S FUNERAL

Rosary/Vigil: Friday, January 12 at 6pm
Funeral Mass: Saturday, January 13 at 10am



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Wednesdays 10:30a.m. in the Church with the Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, and novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PARISHIONERS ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Phillip Gaston | Corbett Martin | Zachary Martin | Erik Townsend

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Concordia Balong | Bill Barboni | Romie Enriquez | Steve Frick | Ophelia Kirvida | Kel Lohmeier | Simon McQuarrie | Byron Melrose | Jamie O'Malley | Cecilia Ramirez | Tony Russo

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to add to the prayer list, please send an email with your loved one's name along with your name and phone number to tahocatholicbulletin@gmail.com.



DONATE ONLINE

Now you can donate online! Look for the "Donate" button on our website www.tahocatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP IN OUR PARISH

12/24	Regular Collection	5964.55
	<i>For the Christmas Dinner</i>	1698.53
12/25	<i>Christmas Day</i>	15,704.15

*Second Collection on December 30/31:
 For Building Maintenance*



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

Call or visit the Religious Education Office
530.544.4788 Find the **2017 SCHEDULE**:
<http://www.tahoecatholic.com/baptisms>



RESPECT LIFE PREGNANT? NEED HELP?

We offer practical help to any women with a crisis pregnancy. We have a special concern for you and your unborn child. For any help with a troubled pregnancy, 544-3533.



KNIGHT'S CORNER

PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Jan. 7 after the 8AM & 10AM Masses

Become a better version of yourself. Become a knight! George Westinghouse (530)-721-1753 will be happy to help you learn more about the Knights of Columbus

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's no more unusual setting to celebrate today's Feast of the Holy Family than Barcelona, Spain and the towering unfinished sandcastle known officially as the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia. In 1882, the plan was hatched to build a vast place of worship in reparation for the revolutionary and liberal leanings of the city. The modern artist Antoni Gaudi dedicated his life to the project, living in the building, attending Mass daily, and giving up his personal wealth. When people pressed him to pick up the pace, he responded, "My client is not in a hurry." (Gaudi's cause for beatification is moving along, and he could be the first professional artist and architect to be beatified.) The Spanish Civil War, a disaster for the Catholic Church in which thousands of priests, brothers, and nuns were murdered, halted work in 1935. In the 1950s work began anew, speeded up by computers in the 1980s. Still, the final stage of construction is not due to end until 2026. If the original methods had stayed in place, it would take several hundred more years to complete the plan. So far there are eight towers, with four to go. The highest steeple is three feet shorter than the nearest hill, since the architect didn't want his work to surpass God's artistry. The three faces of the basilica each have three doors, with the faces named Passion, Nativity, and Grace. The interior is crammed with geometric figures that almost seem to spin, crazy-quilt windows, spiral staircases, and jumbles of statues and figures. Although inspired by ancient Gothic cathedrals, the style is called Expressionist, and very little is left unexpressed by the masonry. If you can't afford a visit, Sagrada Familia maintains a web site, and virtual visits are free.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2017

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

—Luke 2:30-31

THE FREEDOM TO REFUSE LOVE | *Henri Nouwen Society*

Often hell is portrayed as a place of punishment and heaven as a place of reward. But this concept easily leads us to think about God as either a policeman, who tries to catch us when we make a mistake and send us to prison when our mistakes become too big, or a Santa Claus, who counts up all our good deeds and puts a reward in our stocking at the end of the year.

God, however, is neither a policeman nor a Santa Claus. God does not send us to heaven or hell depending on how often we obey or disobey. God is love and only love. In God there is no hatred, desire for revenge, or pleasure in seeing us punished. God wants to forgive, heal, restore, show us endless mercy, and see us come home. But just as the father of the prodigal son let his son make his own decision, God gives us the freedom to move away from God's love even at the risk of destroying ourselves. Hell is not God's choice. It is ours.

THE MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE | *Henri Nouwen Society*

At some moments we experience complete unity within us and around us. This may happen when we stand on a mountaintop and are captivated by the view. It may happen when we witness the birth of a child or the death of a friend. It may happen when we have an intimate conversation or a family meal. It may happen in church during a service or in a quiet room during prayer. But whenever and however it happens we say to ourselves: "This is it ... everything fits ... all I ever hoped for is here."

This is the experience that Peter, James, and John had on the top of Mount Tabor when they saw the aspect of Jesus' face change and his clothing become sparkling white. They wanted that moment to last forever (see Luke 9:28-36). This is the experience of the fullness of time. These moments are given to us so that we can remember them when God seems far away and everything appears empty and useless. These experiences are true moments of grace.

AN EXPERIENCE OFFERED TO ALL | *Henri Nouwen Society*

Some people say: "I never had an experience of the fullness of time. ... I am just an ordinary person, not a mystic." Although some people have unique experiences of God's presence and, therefore have unique missions to announce God's presence to the world, all of us - whether learned or uneducated, rich or poor, visible or hidden - can receive the grace of seeing God in the fullness of time. This mystical experience, is not reserved for a few exceptional people. God wants to offer that gift in one way or another to all God's children.

But we must desire it. We must be attentive and interiorly alert. For some people the experience of the fullness of time comes in a spectacular way, as it did to St. Paul when he fell to the ground on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:3-4). But for some of us it comes like a murmuring sound or a gentle breeze touching our backs (1 Kings 19:13). God loves us all and wants us all to know this in a most personal way.

REFLECTIONS

THE REAL THING

"He came to the temple now, inspired by the Spirit, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus to perform for Him the customary ritual of the law, he took Him in his arms and blessed God." —Luke 2:27-28

Some orthodox Jews have the custom of using the birth of a baby boy as an occasion to discourse on the coming of the Messiah. An older relative traditionally starts the conversation with the question: "Could this baby be the Messiah?" Then various relatives wax eloquently about the coming and the glories of the Messiah.

Some people may have thought that Simeon and Anna were only engaging in this traditional conversation when they were talking about the Child Jesus "to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38). Simeon and Anna may have then even more vehemently insisted that Jesus was "a revealing Light to the Gentiles, the Glory" of Israel (Lk 2:32). However, people may have thought this was part of the game. Then Simeon and Anna would have tried to tell them this wasn't a ritual, but the real thing. This Baby was the Messiah!

We face a similar situation in our day. When we proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Lord, people think this is merely the religious game and the standard church-talk. Yet we, like Simeon and Anna, must be filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaim that this is the real thing. Jesus is the Messiah. Christmas is real. God has become a man. We are saved. Jesus is Lord and God.

Prayer: Father, may our family life be so holy that it shouts that Jesus is the Messiah.

Promise: "He remembers forever His covenant which He made binding for a thousand generations." —Ps 105:8

Praise: Praise God our "Father from Whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its' name" (Eph 3:14-15).

<http://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=en&d=12/31/2017>

PRAYER FOR PEACE | January 1 is the World Day of Peace!

O Lord, you see how everywhere the winds have burst forth, and the sea is convulsed with the great violence of the rising waves. Command, we beseech you who alone are able, both the winds and the sea. Restore to mankind the true peace of your name, that peace which the world cannot give, and the calm of social harmony. Under your favor and inspiration may men return to due order, and having overthrown the rule of greed, bring back again as ought to be, the love of God, justice, charity toward neighbor, temperance in all desires. May your kingdom come. May all recognize that they are subject to you, and must serve you who are truth and salvation; that without you they labor in vain. In your law is reason and fatherly kindness. You are ever at hand with your strength and your copious power to help man to keep it. Life upon earth is a warfare, but you watch the contest and aim man to conquer. The weak you sustain; the victor you crown. —Pope Leo XIII

REMUNERATION OF PRIESTS IN ACTIVE MINISTRY

Dear Parishioners,

After consultation and discussion, Bishop Soto has approved a revised Remuneration Policy for the Priests of the Diocese of Sacramento and promulgated it to be effective January 1, 2018. During the next few weeks, I will share with you some of the main points.

The Remuneration of Priests in active ministry is broken into four categories:

1. Compensation
2. Benefits
3. Reimbursements
4. Entitlements

Continuation...

“ENTITLEMENTS”

The following entitlements are to be seen as a supplement to the existing compensation schedule for priests in active ministry.

17. Other Expenses

- **Personal supplies** - under no circumstances are parish funds to be used for personal supply items such as: soap, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, etc. except to provide soap and shampoo for occasional guests.
- **Personal clothing** - under no circumstances are parish funds to be used for personal clothing.
- **Travel expenses** - under no circumstances are parish funds to be used for personal travel expenses even if the intention is to reimburse the parish for the costs at a later date.
- **Car maintenance** – under no circumstances are parish funds to be used to cover the costs associated with the maintenance of a priest's personal car, such as: road side service plans, oil changes, new tires, windshield repairs, etc.

18. Special Collections

- Permission from the Bishop is required prior to a priest having a special collection for his religious order or home parish. In no way should this special collection be of benefit to the priest.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

THE EPIPHANY IN GERMANY

The custom in Germany is that of the children's festival between January 1-6 (Three Kings Day). After a service at the churches the children go from house to house to gather offerings for poor children in poor countries. They are dressed as the three kings and carry sticks with stars on the top. At the homes they sing songs and recite messages of Christmas. At each house they paint the letters "20+C+M+B+18" which are for the Latin **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** (Christ bless this house). At the same time the letters are the first letters of the names of the wise men: **Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar**. — *Christmas Stories from German Culture*.

BLESSING OF THE HOME AND HOUSEHOLD ON EPIPHANY

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.

All: *Blessed be God forever.*

Marking the of the Door

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance. It can also be written somewhere inside the home.

20+C +M+ B+18

*The letters C, M, B have two meanings: They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: **Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**. They also abbreviate the Latin words **Christus mansionem benedicat**, "May Christ bless the house."*

The leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 19:1-9:

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

The intercessions are then said:

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

All: *Stay with us, Lord.*

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. We pray:

All: *Stay with us, Lord.*

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray:

All: *Stay with us, Lord.*

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory. We pray:

All: *Stay with us, Lord.*

All say Lord's Prayer: Our Father...

The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them (us) with the light of Christ, that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

Leader: May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. R/. Amen.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2017 | LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE JESÚS, MARÍA Y JOSÉ

PARA PROBLEMAS DE ESCUCHA: hay audífonos disponibles en la sacristía. Favor de devolverlos después de Misa.

¡Bienvenidos a todos! Nos reunimos con Jesús. Cristo es quien nos invita al banquete celestial. Qué esta liturgia les traiga paz. Si están visitando nuestra iglesia por la primera vez, ójala que se sienten como en familia, una parte de la familia mundial del Señor. Les damos la bienvenida cordialmente y celebramos y contemplamos el misterio de la Eucaristía y rezamos que su viaje a su casa será seguro y que regresen pronto.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Los que honran a sus padres recibirán bendiciones y pagarán sus pecados (Sirácide 3:3-7, 14-17) o Génesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.
Salmo — ¡Dichoso el que teme al Señor, y sigue sus caminos! (Salmo 128 [127]) o Salmo 105 (104).
Segunda lectura — Vivan una vida de amor sincero, sean agradecidos, hagan todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús (Colosenses 3:12-21) o Hebreos 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.
Evangelio — María y José llevan a Jesús al templo para consagrarlo al Señor (Lucas 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67 (66):2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21
 Martes: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Miércoles: 1 Jn 2:29 3:6; Sal 98 (97):1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
 Jueves: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Sal 98 (97):1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
 Viernes: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Sal 100 (99):1b-5; Lc 4:14-22a
 Sábado: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Sal 147:12-15, 19-20; Mc 1:7-11 o Lc 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
 Domingo: Is 60:1-6; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PORTADORES DE LA PALABRA |

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La Iglesia ha puesto unos cuantos días de fiesta notables enseguida después de la Navidad. Las fiestas de Esteban, Juan el Bautista y los Santos Inocentes forman un sumario de la vida vivida en Cristo, la Palabra hecha carne. ¿Qué relación tienen estas fiestas con la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, que corona la Octava de la Navidad? Estas fiestas nos recuerdan que habrá sufrimiento al tratar de cumplir la misión de Cristo, y que estamos todos llamados a ser portadores de esta Palabra cuyo nacimiento celebramos.

También vemos la manifestación de esta verdad en las vidas de José y María, quienes se exponen a riesgos sociales y religiosos para obedecer la voluntad de Dios, y estaban abiertos a la Palabra que Dios les enviaba del cielo. Así ambos fueron prefigurados de Jesús.

Es muy probable que muy pocos de nosotros fuimos a la misa del jueves, el viernes o el sábado pasado, pero la esencia de estas fiestas y la esencia de la santidad de José, María y Jesús es central, santidad que celebramos hoy.

INTENCIONES PARA LAS MISAS		PETICIONES POR ESTAS PERSONAS										
30 de diciembre sábado 		<u>POR LOS FELIGRESES—ACTIVOS CON EL SERVICIO MILITAR</u>										
5:30 pm	Mateo Sr & Amada Masellones (dec) by Mila	Phillip Gaston Corbett Martin Zachary Martin Erik Townsend										
31 de diciembre domingo 												
8:00 am	Joan Jack (dec) by her family											
10:00 am	St. Theresa parishioners	<u>POR LOS QUE ESTÁN ENFERMOS</u>										
12:00 pm	Rudy Pakes Sr (healing) by the Winslow family	Concordia Balong Bill Barboni Romie Enriquez Steve Frick Ophelia Kirvida Kel Lohmeier Simon McQuarrie Byron Melrose Jamie O'Malley Cecilia Ramirez Tony Russo										
7:00 pm												
1 de enero lunes 												
10:00 am	Jasmine Fawkes (special intention) by her family	LISTA DE LOS ENFERMOS										
2 de enero martes San Basilio Magno y San Gregorio Nacianceno		Si desea conservar su ser querido en la lista, por favor, envíe un correo electrónico con el nombre de su ser querido, junto con su nombre y número de teléfono a tahoecatholicbulletin@gmail.com										
8:00 am	Father Troy Powers (dec)	¡GRACIAS POR SU GENEROSIDAD!										
3 de enero miércoles El Santísimo Nombre de Jesús												
8:00 am	Patrick & Catherine Hurley (dec)											
12:00 pm	Father Michael McKeon (dec)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">12/24</td> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: center;"><i>Colecta Regular</i></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">5964.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Para la Cena de Navidad</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1698.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12/25</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Día de Navidad</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">15,704.15</td> </tr> </table>		12/24	<i>Colecta Regular</i>	5964.55		<i>Para la Cena de Navidad</i>	1698.53	12/25	<i>Día de Navidad</i>	15,704.15
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8:00 am	Father Michael McKeon (dec)	Colecta—30/31 de diciembre: Mantenimiento										
5 de enero viernes San Juan Neumann												
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12:00 pm	Father Thomas Dermody (dec)											
6 de enero sábado San André Bessette												
5:30 pm	Father Thomas Dermody (dec)											



DEVOCIÓN A NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO

Cada miércoles a las horas de 10:30 am con la "coronilla de la Divina Misericordia". Rosario y oraciones special a Peretuo Socorro.

BENDICIÓN DE LA CASA EN LA EPIFANÍA

Cosas que se necesitan: tiza de yeso (gis), una pequeña botella de agua bendita o simplemente agua bendita. Reúne a la familia y oren. Una persona de la familia es el líder.

Líder: En el nombre el Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. Amén.

Se marca con el gis parte de arriba de la puerta.
(20+C+M+B+17)

Líder: Oremos: *Christus mansionem benedicat.*
Que Dios bendiga esta casa. Amén.

Líder o lector: Escucha, Israel: El Señor, nuestro Dios, es Dios único. Y tú amarás al Señor, tu Dios, con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con todas tus fuerzas. Graba en tu corazón los mandamientos que yo te entrego hoy, repíteselos a tus hijos, habla de ellos tanto en casa como cuando estés de viaje, cuando te acuestes y cuando te levantes. Grábalos en tu mano como una señal y pónelos en la frente como tu distintivo; escríbelos en los postes de tu puerta y a la entrada de tus ciudades. **Palabra de Dios.**

Cada habitación es rociada con agua bendita.

EN LA SALA

Líder: Llévanos a vivir contigo un día en el cielo y bendice, Señor, esta habitación. Amén.

EN LA COCINA

Líder: Tú preparas para nosotros una mesa en cada Misa. Bendice, Señor, esta habitación. Amén.

EN EL COMEDOR

Líder: Nútrenos en el banquete celestial y bendice, Señor, esta habitación. Amén.

EN LAS HABITACIONES

Líder: En ti, Señor, descansamos seguros. Bendice, Señor, esta habitación. Amén.

EN EL BAÑO

Líder: Tú nos limpias de toda impureza. Bendice, Señor, esta habitación. Amén

Todos regresan a la puerta principal y oran juntos:

Padre Nuestro...

Todos: Bendice, Señor, nuestro hogar todos los días venideros. En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. Amén.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

¡Año nuevo, vida nueva! El día primero de enero, mientras muchos celebran las cábalas y cabañuelas de un año nuevo, los cristianos conmemoramos a quien dio a luz al autor de la vida.

María, bajo el título de Madre de Dios, es como nosotros deseamos celebrar la esperanza de un ¡año nuevo, vida nueva!

El Concilio de Éfeso en el año 431 declaró a María como la *Theotokos*; la que "carga a Dios". Este dogma tiene que ver más con el Hijo que con la madre y fue proclamado para afirmar que Jesucristo "desde toda la eternidad fue Dios". Continúa la doctrina y afirma "Así como toda madre humana, no es solamente madre del cuerpo humano sino de la persona, así María dio a luz a una persona, Jesucristo, quien es Dios y hombre, entonces Ella es la Madre de Dios".

¡Ésta sí que es vida nueva! Dios nace como ser humano y el ser humano carga a Dios. Gracias a Dios, todo ser humano puede ser como María *Theotokos* y cargar a Dios en su corazón.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! —*Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

UN ASUNTO REAL

"Conducido por el mismo Espíritu, fue al Templo, y cuando los padres de Jesús llevaron al niño para cumplir con él las prescripciones de la Ley, Simeón lo tomó en sus brazos y alabó a Dios" (Lucas 2:27-28).

Algunos judíos ortodoxos tienen la costumbre de usar el nacimiento de un niño como una ocasión para hablar sobre la venida del Mesías. Un pariente mayor tradicionalmente comienza la conversación con la pregunta: "¿Podría este bebé ser el Mesías?" Entonces varios parientes se refieren elocuentemente sobre la venida y las glorias del Mesías. Algunas personas pudieron haber pensado que Simeón y Ana solo estaban participando en esta conversación tradicional cuando hablaban del Niño Jesús "a todos los que esperaban la redención de Jerusalén" (Lc 2:38). Simeón y Ana quizás insistieron aún más vehementemente en que Jesús era "luz para iluminar a las naciones paganas y gloria de tu pueblo Israel" (Lc 2:32). Sin embargo, la gente puede haber pensado que esto era parte del juego. Entonces Simeón y Ana habrían tratado de decirles que esto no era un ritual, sino un asunto real. ¡Este Bebé era el Mesías!

Nos enfrentamos a una situación similar en nuestros días. Cuando proclamamos a Jesús como Mesías y Señor, la gente piensa que esto es meramente un juego religioso y la prédica normal de la Iglesia. Sin embargo, como Simeón y Ana, debemos estar llenos del Espíritu Santo y proclamar que esto es un asunto real. Jesús es el Mesías. La Navidad es real. Dios se ha hecho hombre. Somos salvos. Jesús es Señor y Dios.

Oración: Padre, que nuestra vida familiar sea tan santa que grite que Jesús es el Mesías.

Promesa: "Él se acuerda eternamente de su alianza, de la palabra que dio por mil generaciones" (Sal 105:8).

Alabanza: Alabemos a nuestro Dios "Padre, de quien procede toda paternidad en el cielo y la tierra" (Ef 3:14-15).

<http://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=es&d=12/31/2017>

AMOR

Los que nunca amaron antes,
que amen ahora:

Los que siempre han amado,
Que amen aún más.

—*Anónimo*

**La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José
31 de diciembre de 2017**

Mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador,
al que has preparado para bien
de todos los pueblos.

—*Lucas 2:30-31*