

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 — Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel — The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
 Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
 Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
 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, December 31	8am Mass; 4pm-5:30pm Bread & Broth Meal
Tuesday, January 1	10am MASS
Wednesday, January 2	8am Mass; 12noon Mass; 7pm RCIA in Spanish
Thursday, January 3	8am Mass
Friday, January 4	8am Mass; 12noon Mass; 3pm-4:30pm Food Pantry
Saturday, January 5	10am Baptisms in Spanish; 11:30am Baptisms in English; 4pm Confessions; 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, January 6	8am, 10am, 12 noon and 7pm (in Spanish); Pancake Breakfast after the 8am & 10am Masses

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday December 29 St. Thomas Becket	
5:30 pm	Edward Burkart (dec) by his family
Sunday December 30	
8:00 am	Don Daisy (special intention) by a Tahoe friend
10:00 am	St. Theresa parishioners
12:00 pm	Robert McLean (dec) by Kathleen & Christian
7:00 pm	
Monday December 31 St. Sylvester I	
8:00 am	Tim Donovan (special intention) by his mom
Tuesday January 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God	
8:00 am	NO MASS
10:00 am	
Wednesday January 2 Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	
8:00 am	Jack Bisbee (birthday) by his family
12:00 pm	Ruben Mercado (dec) by Ester & Romeo
Thursday January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
8:00 am	Michelle Goulet (healing intention) by her mother
Friday January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	
8:00 am	Margarita Gomez (dec) by her family
12:00 pm	Nicole (Growden)Acre (bday) by Bridge Spencer
Saturday January 5 St. John Neumann	
5:30 pm	Bill Horning (dec) by Al & Audrey Coster

DONATE ONLINE | Now you can donate online! Look for the "Donate" button on our website www.tahoecatholic.com



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

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 | Kathleen Brady | Krista Carson | Romie Enriquez | Gene Estepa | Mamerto Estepa | Steve Frick | Ophelia Kirvida | Kel Lohmeier | Matthew Morisky | Simon McQuarrie | Byron Melrose | Jamie O'Malley | Cecilia Ramirez | Tony Russo | Gloria Walkowiak

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 tahoecatholicbulletin@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP IN OUR PARISH

12/23	Regular Collection	4,787.03
	SNOW REMOVAL	2,514.34
12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES	14,156.09

Second collection THIS weekend: **BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Second collection NEXT weekend: **NO SECOND COLLECTION**



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

Call or visit the Religious Education Office
530.544.4788 Find the **2018 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

He who gives money gives some, he who gives time gives more, and he who gives of 5self gives all.
*Thomas S Monson

Men of the Parish are you looking for something more in your life? We do men's Catholic Fellowship! St. Theresa commemorative keepsakes for sale for a small donation. Ask a Knight

PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Jan. 6 after the 8AM & 10AM Masses. It always tastes right when cooked by a Knight! December proceeds of \$600 donated to the **"CAMP FIRE"**

MONTHLY MEETING—Jan 9—Dinner at 6pm meeting at 7pm
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

"SILENT NIGHT"

"Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart." —Luke 2:19

The world begins the year with noisemakers, fireworks, and cacophony. The Church begins the year at the manger with Mary, treasuring "all these things" and "reflecting on them in her heart." The world begins the year with a noisy night; we Christians begin with "silent night."

That which begins with a bang often ends in "dead silence." That which begins in "live silence" often ends in a bang, which changes the world. The Lord commands us, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10, RSV-CE). He assures us, "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies" (Is 30:15). The "better part" is to sit at the Lord's feet and listen to His words (see Lk 10:39, 42). As we begin this new year, let us be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (Jas 1:19). In silence, there is revelation, joy, and peace. "It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord" (Lam 3:26). "Silence, all mankind, in the presence of the Lord! For He stirs forth from His holy dwelling" (Zec 2:17).

Prayer: Father, on this day of prayer for peace, make us peacemakers (Mt 5:9), even if we have to die for peace (see Col 1:20).

Promise: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" —Nm 6:24-26

Praise: Praise You, Father, for giving us Mary as our perfect model: humble, quiet, loving, and prayerful.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=en&d=1/1/2019>

LIFE IS A ...

"On the third day they came upon Him in the temple."

—Luke 2:46

Shakespeare said the world is a stage and we are all players in the theater of life. Others say life is a party or game. Job said life was a drudgery (Jb 7:1). The Lord reveals to us that life is a Passover (see Lk 2:41) — a communal celebration of our God-given freedom from slavery. Life is not just a nostalgic look at Passovers past, but a living of Passover present. Life is losing Christ for three days (see Lk 2:46), being crucified and buried with Him (Rm 6:3-4), and searching for the Lord in sorrow (Lk 2:48; Jn 20:15). Life is also finding Christ and rising with Him "on the third day" (Lk 2:46; Jn 20:16). All of this is "the Father's business" (Lk 2:49, our translation). This is everyday life and family life. This is the way of holiness in life and in family. We become holy by becoming like God (see 1 Pt 1:15-16). We become like God by being baptized into Jesus' death and Resurrection (Rm 6:3ff) and living our Baptisms through daily crosses and repeated experiences of the Resurrection. As our lives become Passovers, we and our families become holy. Like Jesus, we progress "steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men" (Lk 2:52). Holy Family, pray for us.

Prayer: *her, center my life on celebrating, receiving, and living the New Passover, the Eucharist (see Lk 22:15)*

Promise: *"Beloved, if our consciences have nothing to charge us with, we can be sure that God is with us and that we will receive at His hands whatever we ask. Why? Because we are keeping His commandments and doing what is pleasing in His sight."* —1 Jn 3:21-22

Praise: *aise Jesus, Who "grew in size and strength, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him" (Lk 2:40).*

<https://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=en&d=12/30/2018>

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

We walk in a "ravine as dark as death" (Psalm 23:4), and still we have nothing to fear because God is at our side: God's staff and crook are there to soothe us (see Psalm 23:4). This is not just a consoling idea. It is an experience of the heart that we can trust.

Our lives are full of suffering, pain, disillusion, losses and grief, but they are also marked by visions of the coming of the Son of Man "like lightning striking in the east and flashing far into west" (Matthew 24:27). These moments in which we see clearly, hear loudly, and feel deeply that God is with us on the journey make us shine as a light into the darkness. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. Your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

<https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/light-in-the-darkness/>

REFLECTIONS

“REJOICE AND BE GLAD” | In the next few weeks we will be posting excerpts from the **APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *GAUDETE ET EXULTATE*** OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD.

CHAPTER FIVE | DISCERNMENT

A supernatural gift

170. Certainly, spiritual discernment does not exclude existential, psychological, sociological or moral insights drawn from the human sciences. At the same time, it transcends them. Nor are the Church’s sound norms sufficient. We should always remember that discernment is a grace. Even though it includes reason and prudence, it goes beyond them, for it seeks a glimpse of that unique and mysterious plan that God has for each of us, which takes shape amid so many varied situations and limitations. It involves more than my temporal well-being, my satisfaction at having accomplished something useful, or even my desire for peace of mind. It has to do with the meaning of my life before the Father who knows and loves me, with the real purpose of my life, which nobody knows better than he. Ultimately, discernment leads to the wellspring of undying life: to know the Father, the only true God, and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 17:3). It requires no special abilities, nor is it only for the more intelligent or better educated. The Father readily reveals himself to the lowly (cf. Mt 11:25).

171. The Lord speaks to us in a variety of ways, at work, through others and at every moment. Yet we simply cannot do without the silence of prolonged prayer, which enables us better to perceive God’s language, to interpret the real meaning of the inspirations we believe we have received, to calm our anxieties and to see the whole of our existence afresh in his own light. In this way, we allow the birth of a new synthesis that springs from a life inspired by the Spirit.

Speak, Lord

172. Nonetheless, it is possible that, even in prayer itself, we could refuse to let ourselves be confronted by the freedom of the Spirit, who acts as he wills. We must remember that prayerful discernment must be born of a readiness to listen: to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways. Only if we are prepared to listen, do we have the freedom to set aside our own partial or insufficient ideas, our usual habits and ways of seeing things. In this way, we become truly open to accepting a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life. It is not enough that everything be calm and peaceful. God may be offering us something more, but in our comfortable inadvertence, we do not recognize it.

173. Naturally, this attitude of listening entails obedience to the Gospel as the ultimate standard, but also to the Magisterium that guards it, as we seek to find in the treasury of the Church whatever is most fruitful for the “today” of salvation. It is not a matter of applying rules or repeating what was done in the past, since the same solutions are not valid in all circumstances and what was useful in one context may not prove so in another. The discernment of spirits liberates us from rigidity, which has no place before the perennial “today” of the risen Lord. The Spirit alone can penetrate what is obscure and hidden in every situation, and grasp its every nuance, so that the newness of the Gospel can emerge in another light.

Continues...

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exultate.html#A_supernatural_gift

WHAT’S THE SMOKE FOR?

Dear Johan,

My father recently passed away after a long struggle with cancer. During the last weeks of his life we selected the readings and the music for his funeral. He also asked me to do a eulogy. When the time came my father’s priest changed everything and did not allow a eulogy. I feel like I betrayed my father.

Gentle Reader,

Allow me first and foremost to assure you that you did not betray your father. You tried to follow his wishes and circumstances made it impossible for you to honor them. It was not for your lack of trying.

By contrast to the times when the funeral liturgy was pretty much set and no decisions had to be made, today the church invites members of the family and friends to assist in the preparation of the liturgy. This is a wonderful opportunity for the family to select readings and music that fit their spiritual needs as we prepare to pray for their deceased relative as well as for the survivors.

The best way to do this is in consultation with your parish priest. This avoids unfortunate situations when the family’s hopes and expectations for the service are crushed because they are sometimes ill-informed and occasionally cannot be accommodated.

The greatest disconnect is that the survivors want the service to be about the deceased. That, of course, is also the wish of the church, however, within the context of faith. Above all, the church approaches the deceased as a member of the Body of Christ. Survivors often have a more individualistic approach. They don’t easily understand that the fact, for example, that the deceased loved to fish does not make his tackle box or fishing pole a liturgically appropriate symbol. Or the fact that she was a very independent person does not make Frank Sinatra’s *My Way* suitable as a communion meditation.

Pertaining to eulogies the church is very clear that they are forbidden, though “words of remembrance” are allowed. The distinction between the two is that eulogies essentially are words of praise. The word eulogy itself implies this as it comes from the Greek for speaking well about someone. Words of remembrance, on the other hand, implies an honest speech about the deceased person, covering both gifts and faults. These can be offered by a member of the family or a friend prior to the final commendation.

Now, even though the church makes allowance for this, local dioceses may caution against them for a number of reasons. First, they can really run out of hand, both in length as in content. And once a person starts to speak, it is difficult to elegantly make him or her stop. Second, this speech tends to interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Third, since this happens during the liturgy, the appearance may be given that what is said is church sanctioned or at least has been approved by the pastor. Because of this pastors are cautious when a request for a eulogy is made and sometimes forbid them altogether.

Though eulogies, certain songs, and mementos may not be suitable for the funeral liturgy, these can be accommodated at other times, for example, during the visitation the night before or even during the lunch following the funeral. The added advantage is that these settings are less formal and less intimidating.

Though things did not turn out completely as your dad wished, preparing his funeral together was a great gift to him, to yourself, and to all survivors. Unlike other families, you did not have to wonder what your dad would have loved. I wish more people would prepare their own funeral. Just one caveat, it is best done in conversation with the pastor so as to avoid the kind of unpleasant experience you encountered.

© 2015 Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota. Excerpted from *What’s the Smoke For? And Other Burning Questions about the Liturgy* by Johan van Parys

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY | JANUARY 1 | THE MASS IS AT 10AM

On January 1st we celebrate the beginning of a new civil year, World Day of Peace the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. All this within the Octave of Christmas.

THE NOTRE DAME MEN'S GLEE CLUB | JANUARY 8

The Notre Dame A Cappella Men's Choir will be performing at St. Theresa Church on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. as they tour throughout California. The choir was established in 1915 and has performed in 40 of the 50 United States of America. The professional choir sings a combination of sacred, classical secular music, folk songs and spirituals. For more information, please contact Moe Leonard at 530-307-0151

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST 2019 | JANUARY 26

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 15th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 26, 2019. There will be Mass at 9:30AM celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary's Cathedral. The rally begins at 12:30PM in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30PM. Last year's Walk drew 50,000+ people. For complete information about the Walk, visit www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – RENEWAL OF VOWS | FEBRUARY 9

On Saturday, February 9, 2019 Bishop Jaime Soto will preside at a special 11:00 am Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in which married couples will receive a special blessing and have an opportunity to renew their marital commitments. An informal reception for couples and their families will follow. Special certificates will be given to couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 50+). If you are interested in attending this free event, please register (names and anniversary year) at www.scd.org/wmd. For more information call the Office of Family and Faith Formation at (916) 733-0177.

LITURGICAL YEAR

The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

Advent-four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth

Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world

Lent-a six-week period of penance before Easter

Sacred Paschal Triduum - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus

Easter-50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit

Ordinary Time-divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people

The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year, calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony. The Blessed Virgin Mary is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation. In the feasts of Mary and of the saints, the Paschal Mystery of Christ is proclaimed and renewed.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/index.cfm>

AN EXPERIENCE OFFERED TO ALL | <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/an-experience-offered-to-all/>

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.