



PARISH BULLETIN

Our Lady of the Rosary Church

703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195

(510) 471-2609 • admin@olrchurch.org • www.olrchurch.org

JANUARY 4, 2009 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2: 1-12

Even before darkness young Aachim could see the new star burning through the day sky. Standing with the flock, he looked down the long slope that led to the empty Jerusalem Road. Looking in the uphill direction, the buildings of Bethlehem were washed gold in the setting sunlight.

Aachim slowly followed the sheep as they grazed the rivers of grass flowing in the soft evening breeze. He gazed further up the hillside and decided not to go higher. It would be safer to stay near the town. Beside, Ruth's house was in Aachim's view and it would help him to pass the time by imagining her inside.

When darkness came Aachim began to circle the perimeter of the flock, watching his steps by the bright starlight overhead. As he went along he could almost make out his shadow. The hills seemed to be dusted with a pale white mist from the stars glittering above. He looked up at the star and was amazed by it's brightness.

In the murky distance down the Jerusalem Road Aachim saw that a caravan was heading his way. Searching his immediate area, Aachim saw movement across the field outside the stable behind Bethlehem's travelers' inn. Two people were going into the shelter.

Aachim settled down to watch for awhile, glad that there were these diversions to help pass the night. Slowly the caravan continued up the road toward Bethlehem. The young shepherd reclined on his elbow and closed his eyes. He decided to rest for a moment, but reminded himself to keep his ears on alert. He fell asleep and dreamed of a night ablaze with stars and the sounds of people singing.

A bleating lamb awoke him and Aachim blinked his eyes at the sight of three stately riders sitting tall atop their camels. They passed directly in front of him and headed toward the traveler's inn. Aachim watched in amazement as they dismounted and led their camels toward the stable where he had seen the other two earlier. The sheep seemed okay for the moment and Aachim hurried across the field to get a better look.

The three strange men had dropped to their knees at the entrance to the stable. Inside the dim



flickers from the oil lamp revealed three more people looking out at the foreigners. There was a man and his wife who was holding a newborn infant in her arms.

Aachim glanced back to make sure the flock was not moving. Their white backs were where he'd left them.

In turn each of the men returned to their camel and brought boxes from their packs which they gave to the family inside.

Hurrying back to the flock Aachim wondered about this strange event. He circled the flock, rounding up a few stragglers. He sat down and watched. The camels were still there, so the strangers were probably spending the night.

Aachim drifted on his thoughts, dozing off to sleep, then waking with a start and dozing again.

When he opened his eyes it was bright morning. He scrambled to his feet and surveyed the flock. All was well. Across the slope the camels were gone. He hurried down to the stable and looked inside. It was empty too. Aachim began to ask himself if all he'd seen had been a dream. Then he noticed a sweetness in the air. It was like perfume. At his feet were a few small jewel drops of shiny brown resin spilled on the smooth dirt floor. He picked up a resin pebble and held its rich aroma of frankincense to his nose.

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What the shepherd boy witnessed that night was a Mystery confirmed only by a few spilled pebbles of aromatic gum. In a few decades the same shepherd would be in Jerusalem for the Passover and would see the Mystery again.

Aachim's encounters are no more than our own. Each of us has been gifted with a few pebbles of recognition that confirm his presence in our lives. These confirmations lead us to our own epiphany of the Lord.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Fr. José M. León, Pastor

703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195

www.olrchurch.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. English; 6:15 p.m. Cantonese

Sunday: 6:45 a.m. Spanish; 8:15 a.m. English; 9:45 a.m. Spanish; 11:30 a.m. English

Daily Mass (Bilingual):

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:15 a.m.;

Saturday 9:00 a.m. (Communion Service on Mondays)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Every Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage

Call the Parish Office six months in advance, (510) 471-2609.

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: (510) 471-2609 Fax: 471-4601 E-mail: admin@olrchurch.org

Open Tue.- Sat., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. & Tue.- Fri., 6:00-9:00 p.m.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD, RCIA)

703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195

Phone: (510) 471-7419 Fax: (510) 471-4601 E-mail: cmagdalen@olrchurch.org

Open Tues. - Fri., 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. and Sat., 8:00 a.m. - Noon

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL

678 "B" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2141

Phone: (510) 471-3765 Fax: (510)471-4601 Open Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For January 5, 2008 to January 11, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Eusebio Gil Escobar (Dec.)
Wed.	8:15 a.m. --	For Peace in the World
Thur.	8:15 a.m. --	Gelacio Garcia (Dec.)
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	For us, the Parishioners
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Gaudelia (Dec.) & Mercedes (Dec.) Martinez
	5:00 p.m. --	Luis (Dec.) & Marcela (Dec.) Hernandez
Sun.	6:45 a.m. --	Esperanza Castaneda (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. --	Edward J. Matty (Dec.)
	9:45 a.m. --	Maria Carrillo (Dec.); Felipe (Dec..) & Jose Puerto (Dec.)
	11:30 a.m.--	Felix & Narita Ricafort and Family (Thanksgiving)

WEEKDAY READINGS

For January 5, 2008 to January 10, 2008

Mon	1 John 3:22-4:6 / Matthew 4:12-17,23-25
Tues.	1 John 4:7-10 / Mark 6:34-44
Wed.	1 John 4:11-18 / Mark 6:45-52
Thu.	1 John 4:19-5:4 / Luke 4:14-22a
Fri.	1 John 5:5-13 / Luke 5:12-16
Sat.	1 John 5:14-21 / John 3:22-30

SUNDAY READINGS

January 11, 2008 - The Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 / 2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38 / Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

COLLECTIONS

THIS REPORT COVERS THE COLLECTIONS BACK TO CHRISTMAS DAY. The Christmas Collection totals have not appeared in the Bulletin until now, as the Bulletin was being printed before the collections were counted and tabulated.

For December 25, 2008

Christmas Day	\$13,350.50
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For December 28, 2008

First Collection	\$6,771.25
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection	9,566.00
Second Collection – Diocesan Obligations	1,789.62
Children's Envelopes	153.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BETTY HEFFERNAN. Betty Heffernan, who was a Eucharistic Minister and who served as the coordinator of our Ministry to the Sick for many years with her late husband Jim, passed away the day after Christmas. A memorial Mass will be held in the Church on Wednesday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m.

NEW ARTICLES

COFFEE AND DONUT FELLOWSHIP TO BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY, January 11. It will be sponsored by the Parish School. Be sure to stay a while after Mass and chat with your fellow parishioners.

We thank the Trujillos, who own Roberto's Donuts, which is located at 404 West Harder Road, where Harder and Santa Clara meet. They have donated dozens and dozens of donuts for this event every month.

FUNDRAISING GIFT CERTIFICATES, GIFT CARDS, RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND CENTENNIAL ITEMS WILL BE SOLD AFTER MASS NEXT WEEKEND. Remember that prices on Centennial Items have been reduced to our cost.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN: TAX SEASON! And what better way to season your taxes than to ask for your year-end statement of donations from Our Lady of the Rosary Church! If you receive offertory envelopes by mail or signed up for a special "envelopeless" account (numbers in the 3000 range) to track your donations, we can print out a statement of your donations for 2008. **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THIS STATEMENT AUTOMATICALLY – YOU NEED TO ASK US FOR IT.**

We will begin printing statements after January 15. **TO RECEIVE YOUR STATEMENT, FILL OUT THE FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE** and place it in the collection at Mass or drop it by the office. You may also phone in your request at the Parish Office, 510.471.2609, extension 200, or e-mail your request to admin@olrchurch.org (**DO NOT FORGET YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**). Once your request is received by us, we will produce the statement and mail it out. We usually do a batch of statements at a time, normally on Fridays. If you would rather pick up your statement in person, please let us know and we will call you when it is ready. Due to security reasons, we will not send you statements in electronic form (e-mail).

A word to the wise: ask for your statement early. You can ask for it now, even if you plan to do your taxes in April. We will accommodate short-notice requests when we can, but cannot promise this. For your security and privacy, a very limited number of people are able to access the information and computer procedures necessary to produce the statements, and these people must all be available should you need your statement on short notice.

Yes,

I want to receive a statement of my donations for 2008.

MY ACCOUNT NUMBER IS _____

I want to pick up my statement at the office rather than receive it in the mail. Please call me when it is ready. (____) _____
Phone

Place this form in your collection envelope next week.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

ELECTRONIC GIVING NOW OFFERED AT OLR

Last month we launched our electronic giving programs, which are EFT, and accepting donations through our website. If you are comfortable with using cash or checks when donating to OLR you may continue to donate in the same way that you always have. We are offering options for making donations electronically to better meet the needs of those parishioners who would prefer making donations electronically.

With EFT, you set up regular donations to OLR through your checking or savings account or your credit card. To enroll, simply obtain a brochure at the Parish Office or in the Main Vestibule of the

Church. Be careful which version of the brochure you take: there is a version both in English and Spanish, and both of them look the same. A description of the program, the instructions, and an enrollment form are included in the brochure. You may place your enrollment form in the collection or bring it to the office. It will take about a month for your EFT transactions to begin, and you can cancel or modify amounts given at any time.

With EFT your giving schedule is a little more limited. By limiting EFT transactions to a maximum of two per month for the first collection and two for the second collection, we are reducing the processing fees the parish will pay. If you currently donate a given amount every week and plan to use EFT twice a month, be sure to at least double your former weekly donation amount for each of the two EFT processing days in order to match your former level of giving. And then, if you are using EFT once a month, you should at least multiply your former weekly donation by four (4) to match your former level of giving.

To donate online, simply visit the parish website at www.olorchurch.org, and click on the link named "GIVING."

The electronic methods have benefits for both the donor and the parish. It is less work for both of us, cuts down on bank check processing fees, and it will provide accounting of our parishioners' donations that is free of errors. Parishioners will not have to worry about using envelopes, forgetting donations at home, and what to do when vacation time comes by.

It seems that this will be an idea that is going to catch on. Early last week we were notified that a number of parishioners have already made donations through our website, and others have showed interest in signing up for the EFT service. Thank you for your interest – remember that the more parishioners that sign up, the easier it will be on both you and the parish.

If you have any question, please feel free to call the Parish Office at 510.471.2609.

ARTICLES FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE! Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced "retro-vi" with a long "i") helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the February program beginning with a weekend on February 20-22 or to register for the weekend, call 510.648.6874 or email oakland@retroca.com. For the program in Spanish contact 510.487.0797. You may also visit the Retrouvaille website at www.helpourmarriage.com.

FOR PARENTS OF ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND-LANGUAGE STUDENTS: There will be a parent meeting of the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) on Thursday, January 15, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the James Logan High School Cafeteria in "The Spot." The ELAC is a program advisory committee for students who learn English as a second language. Parents are invited to come to this meeting and learn how to help their children learn English. For more information call James Logan High School at 510.471.2520.

UNION CITY NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE IS NOW REGISTERING PARTICIPANTS FOR ITS 2009 SEASON. Remaining registration sessions will be on Wednesday, January 7 and Monday, January 12 at the UCNLL Snack bar. Online registration is also available at www.eteamz.com/UCNLL. Registration is open to all those between 5 and 18 years of age who reside in Union City east of the Nimitz (I-880). Cost is \$115.00 for the first player and \$50.00 for each additional sibling. Original birth certificate or US Passport, medical contacts (doctor's name and number) and three documents to prove residency (e.g. Driver License, utility bill, homeowner's/rental records) will be required at registration. All players 7 to 12 years of age are welcome to take part in tryouts on January 17, 22 and

24. Registration for managers and coaches will be taken on January 9. For more information call 510.943.7714 or visit www.eteamz.com/UCNLL

PRAYERS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS those in our parish and families who are ill or homebound: Susana Alcaraz, Tony Baligaya, Gladis Borges, Lindy C., Paul Cabrera, Alan Cady, Lindy Cady, Rebecca Cady, Maria Camarillo, Grace Caminada, Dionesio Campos, Daniel Canales, Rose Canales, Grace Carr, Grace Continelli, Cindy Davis, Chealsy Davis, Courtney Davis, Jennie DeCosta, Marc DelBianco, Irene Drouin, Joseph Dunbar, Martha Estrella, Juanita Estrellas, Ed Fiala, James Finnigan, Rita Fregoso, Frank Gallegos, Sobeida Gallegos, Gene Garcia, Deanna Graves, Emilio Gudino, Keith Gunter, Ethel Guerrero, Jesús Gutierrez, Anne Guzman, Herm Henderson, Carme Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Margaret K., Erika Lepe, Ermelinda Lopez, Francisco Lozano, Miguel Luviano, Sara Maas, Antonio Maciel, Catalina Manasala, Ismael Martinez, Lupita Martinez, Richard M. Martinez, Philip Molina, Joe Morales, Josephine Nava, Richard Nelson, Mirta Orellana, Mario Perales, Luz Perez, Ehren Perkins, Benjamin Renteria, Al Roderigues, Marcella Roderigues, Lydia Rodríguez, Joe Romero, Conor Rosado, Macca Savage, Letty Serrano, Clarence Souza, Nelly Stewart, Myron Tejada, Vivianlee Tonry, Casandra Valadez, Isabel Villarina, Miss Margaret Williams.



***This Week
At O.L.R.***

Tuesday, January 6

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study, English, Orozco Group, Office Room 206, 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Meeting, Eddie Dobrec Room, 7:00 p.m.

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group Meeting, Upper Room, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 7

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 8

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 9

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 10

Guadalupe Society Meeting, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 11

Coffee and Donut Fellowship, sponsored by our Parish School

Fundraising gift cards, religious articles and centennial items sold after Mass

Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

High School Youth Group, Parish Hall, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Group, Parish Hall, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.