



Welcome to  
**st. francis of assisi roman  
catholic church**  
*The Nativity of The Lord, December 25, 2011*

*Merry  
Christmas*

**Pastoral Staff:**

**Rev. John T. Assalone**  
Parish Administrator

**Rev. Steve Hoffer**  
Parochial Vicar

**Deacon Daniel Maier**  
Deacon

**Craig King, MA**  
Director of Faith Formation

**David Hall**  
Youth Minister

**Stephanie Logan**  
Director of Music



**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday,  
8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**GIFT SHOP:**

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
and Saturday - Sunday after  
all Masses (except 5 p.m. Sun.)

2300 Sunridge Heights Pkwy.  
Henderson, NV 89052  
Telephone: (702) 914-2175  
Fax: (702) 914-2178

Email:  
sfa@stfrancishenderson.org  
Website:  
www.stfrancishenderson.org

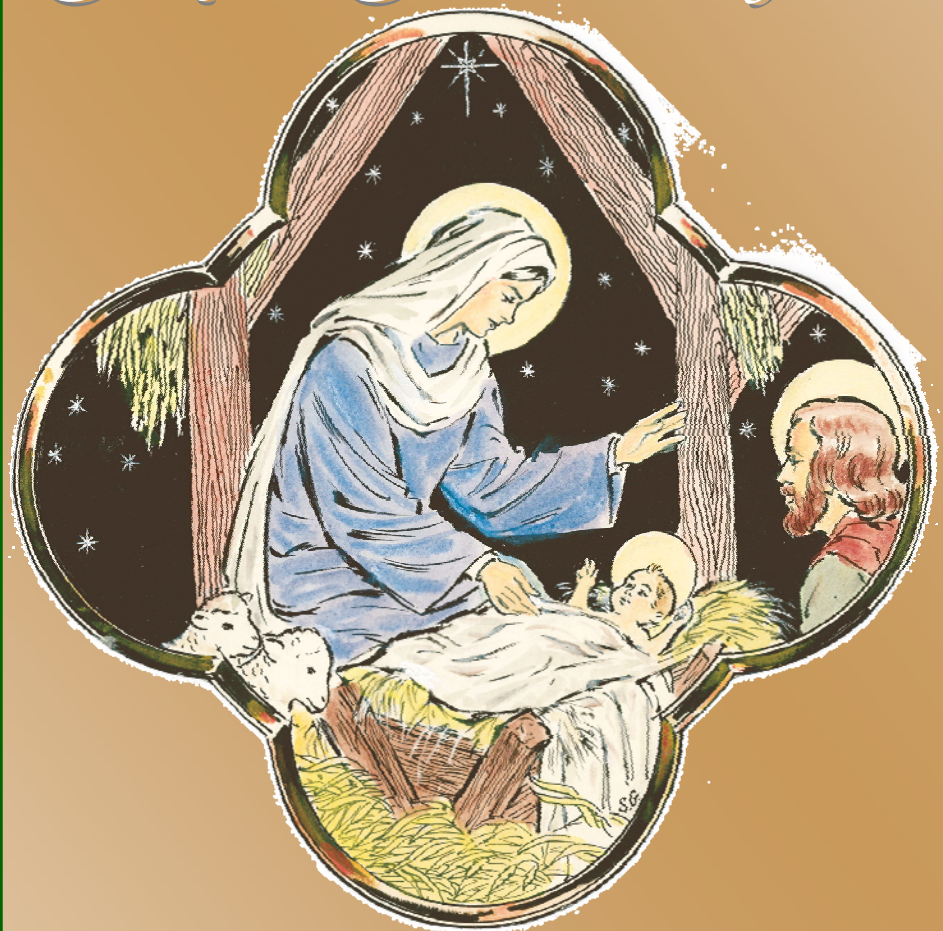
**Masses**

Daily, Monday-Saturday: 7:45 a.m.  
Saturday Vigils: 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
and 5:00 p.m. (Youth Ensemble)

**Confessions**

Saturdays: 8:30-9:30 a.m. or by appointment

*Glory to God in the highest!*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2011

“  
*Do  
 not be  
 afraid;  
 for behold,  
 I proclaim  
 to you good news  
 of great joy that will  
 be for all the people.  
 For today in the city of David  
 a savior has been born for you who  
 is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign  
 for you: you will find an infant wrapped in  
 swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And  
 suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with  
 the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the  
 highest and on earth  
 peace to those  
 on whom his  
 favor rests.”  
 (Luke 2: 1-14)*

Here at St. Francis of Assisi Community, united in faith and love, we once again have opened up our hearts to the will of God and allowed our hearts to be the mangers waiting for Christ; to once again receive Him: the **Kings of Kings**, the **Lord of Lords** and the **Prince of Peace**. You will notice we have included in this bulletin all the various Gospel readings for Christmas. [The following excerpts are transcribed from LTP's 2012 Liturgical Sourcebook.]

The *Vigil Mass Gospel* proclaims Matthew's genealogy of Jesus and traces his ancestry back not only to King David, but to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. The child, whose birth is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, is Jesus the Savior, God with us. The Prayer after Communion reminds us that the Lord is constantly with us: the “Only Begotten Son” of God becomes our food and drink in Holy Communion.

The **Mass during the Night [Midnight Mass]** from Luke's gospel is the account of Jesus' birth that stresses Joseph's Davidic ancestry and therefore the journey to Bethlehem. Though we usually call it “Midnight mass,” the Latin name for this Mass is *Ad Missam in nocte*: “Mass during the Night.” Luke portrays Mary and Joseph as travelers, lacking a room of their own, forced to take shelter in a stable where animals live. (Might we think of them as homeless? A street people?) The infant Jesus has a manger for a crib, how symbolic, for he will come to be recognized in the breaking of the bread, in the food given in memory of him. The Prayer over the Offerings and after Communion speak of the wonder of the Incarnation: in Jesus Christ, Good took on our flesh. Through the mystery of the Eucharist, we are united with Him, becoming members of His Body.

In the *Mass at Dawn* from Luke's Gospel, we see the shepherds receiving and acting upon the message of the angel. They are the first to seek Jesus and they become bearers of the Good News to others. They praise and glorify God. The Prayer after Communion begs for an increase in understanding and love of the Christmas mystery.

(continued next page...)

In John's Gospel at *Mass during the Day*, we begin to hear the themes in John's Gospel of Jesus' preexistence, His active part in creation, and the glory He shares with God. The Gospel ends with calling us to become more and more God's children through the gift of His grace we have received in and through the Incarnate Jesus Christ. The Prayer after Communion reminds that Jesus, born today, is the giver of new birth in Baptism.

Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would be born in David's city, Bethlehem (*Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2-4*). St. Bonaventure (d. 1274), in his *Life of St. Francis of Assisi*, writes:

*"It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Grecio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His Name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Grecio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For the example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles."*

Through the community's generous gifts of time, talent and treasure, we have once again embraced the gift that God has given us, in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. By receiving and witnessing to our Lord Jesus Christ, we have poured out our love to others. The outpouring of this love is *immeasurable*. *"The Solemn Blessings of Christmas urges us to internalize every aspect of the Christmas solemnity: its light, its joy, its peace and good will, to live the mystery we celebrate by becoming heralds of the Gospel, like the shepherds."*

On behalf of Fr. Steve, Deacon Dan, and the Staff, I wish you every good grace and blessing from God Our Father. We rejoice and join with the angelic choirs to glorify and give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. We give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of each one of you and your families. We are blessed, by your goodness and honored to serve this community. **Merry Christmas!** Here is a wonderful Christmas before dinner prayer I found for your use this year:

*"Eternal God, this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen."*

Christmas Blessings and Peace of Christ,  
Fr. John

## Parish News

### Parish Offerings

*Due to early bulletin deadlines for the Christmas holiday, collection amounts will be included in the following bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.*

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Calling all Cooks!!! 1000 Recipes Needed!!!

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary is publishing a Parish Cookbook and needs lots of recipes. The book will be a 3 ring-binder, hard back and will be on sale in time for Mother's Day, Graduation, and Wedding gifts. All proceeds go to the Church Building Fund. So get those great recipes out of your recipe files and submit (with your phone number in case we have questions on the recipe) before December 20th to bethcarter@live.com, mail to Beth Carter 2560 Calanques Terrace, Henderson, NV 89044, or drop them off in the marked boxes in the vestibule.

### Don't forget...Online Giving

Online giving is now available! Online donations have the added benefit of immediate online receipts, you can manage your own donation activity 24/7, and you are able to view your donation history. To make an online donation, simply go to our website at [www.stfrancishenderson.org](http://www.stfrancishenderson.org) and click on the "Donation" link that takes you to a secure web donation page. You now can also donate to the Poor Box online! Please notify the parish office to stop envelopes once you are using on-line giving. Contact the parish office at 914-2175 with questions.



**Church Etiquette: Silence, Prayer, Response**  
*Before Mass we are quiet as we speak and listen to God in the silence of our hearts.*  
*During Mass we respond to God Who speaks to us in the liturgy of Word and the Eucharist.*  
*After Mass we joyfully spread the Good News to family and friends.*

### Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Please note that the Parish Offices will be closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's. We will be closed Monday Dec. 26th. For the following weekend, we will be closed at 12:00 noon on Thursday, Dec. 29th, all day Friday, Dec. 30th and Monday January 2nd. The 7:45 a.m. Masses will continue on those days, with the Parish Hall closing after Mass.

*Dear St. Francis of Assisi Community,  
 Thank you for supporting Living Grace Home. The encouragement and enthusiastic response from this community has helped to make it a success. Please pray for all the residents who come to the Living Grace Home and for our volunteers and staff. Thanks to your contribution, this ministry will continue to change lives and improve our community for generations to come. Thank you very much for your most generous donation. It is very much appreciated. God bless you.  
 Living Grace Home*

### December Message for Life

The Living Grace Home  
*With God's grace, we transform lives by sharing our hope for a new life.*



Psalm 139: 13-14: *"Truly you have formed my inmost being, you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully wonderfully made; wonderful are your works."*

Living Grace Home is a private, non profit corporation providing a home and support services for young, pregnant unmarried women. To contact or make a donations: Phone # 702-212-6472  
 Website: [www.LivingGraceHome.com](http://www.LivingGraceHome.com)

Informational Living Grace Home Pamphlets are available in the Respect Life Vestibule Rack.

### Prayer for December

*We pray the tenderness of the Holy Family will overflow to all the expectant Mothers, their babies, and the House Parents, Volunteers and Staff at the Living Grace Home that they may be especially blessed this Christmas and throughout the New Year.*

## Parish Office & Calendars

**Office Staff:**

Business Manager – Brenda Woodburn, MBA  
 Sacramental Admin. Asst. & Parish Census – Nancy Sedler  
 Administrative Assistant to Pastor/Administrator and Gift Shop  
 Manager – Debbie Ely  
 Faith Formation Asst., Bulletin & Website – Kristi Mayers  
 Finance Clerk—Marjo Juson  
 Gift Shop Associate—Linda O’Mahar  
 Receptionist – Paula Stone & Barbara Cella  
 Assistant to the Music Director—Adriel Algiene

**Maintenance Staff:**

Maintenance Manager—Roberto Castaneda  
 Custodians— Frank Nigos, Oscar Linares

**OFFICE OF VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE:** If you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse please call our hotline at 702-235-7723.



**This Week’s Calendar:**

Mon. Dec. 26 Parish Offices Closed  
 Thurs. Dec. 29 Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Time	Intention	By
<b>Saturday, December 24</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>		
4:00 p.m.	Phyllis & Dominick Anzalone +	Nancy & Erich Sedler
6:00 p.m.	Vincent Kennedy +	Mary Janssen
8:00 p.m.	Aguas Children & Grandchildren	The Aguas Family
12:00 a.m.	Kathryn Russell +	Dennis & Barbara Hall
<b>Sunday, December 25</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>		
7:30 a.m.	Markus Gallant +	Danielle Welsh
9:30 a.m.	For the Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi	
11:30 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Monday, December 26</b> <i>St. Stephen</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Tuesday, December 27</b> <i>St. John, apostle &amp; evangelist</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Wednesday, December 28</b> <i>The Holy Innocents</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Thursday, December 29</b> <i>St. Thomas Becket</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Friday, December 30</b> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, &amp; Joseph</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Christmas Novena	
<b>Saturday, December 31</b> <i>St. Sylvester I</i>		
7:45 a.m.	Romeo Nolasco	Ig & Tess Cruz

- ◆ **Parish Registration:** In order that we may better serve you, please register in the parish. This way you are known to us when requesting the services of the church. Registration forms are available in the literature rack in the vestibule or on the parish web site. Also, please notify the parish office of changes of address, phone, or e-mail, or if you are moving out of the area. Changes can be emailed to [sedler@sfahdnv.org](mailto:sedler@sfahdnv.org) or simply drop a note in the collection basket.
- ◆ **Baptism:** Baptisms for infants to six year olds are celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of most months at 1:00 p.m. Parents must be registered, active parishioners for at least 3 months, and attend the baptism class usually held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **Next class will be Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 p.m. (There will be no December class!)** Contact Nancy Sedler at 914-2175 for an appointment to schedule a baptism once the baptism packet is complete.
- ◆ **Marriage:** Couples planning marriage should contact the parish as soon as they become engaged because at least six months is ordinarily necessary to fulfill marriage preparation requirements. At least one party must be a registered, participating member of the parish. The first step is for both parties to attend the Marriage Information Meeting on the fourth Thursday of most months at **6:30 p.m. Next meeting: January 26th at 6:30 p.m.** After that meeting, contact Debbie for an appointment with one of the priests or deacon.  
**Important:** Those with prior marriages, religious or civil, must make an appointment with a priest prior to attending the Marriage Information Meeting to determine freedom to marry. (This requirement does not apply to those who are widowed.)
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick:** The priest will often be able to anoint you after Mass (except 7:45 a.m. Saturday & 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass). Please call the parish if you need to receive the anointing of the sick at home. *In emergency situations when the office is closed, the answering service will relay the information to one of the priests.* In case of hospitalization, let the hospital staff know that you would like to have the Catholic priest chaplain see you.
- ◆ **Holy Communion to the Sick:** If you are at home, please call the parish office and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion will visit you. In case of hospitalization, inform the hospital staff that you are a Catholic and would like to receive Holy Communion.
- ◆ **Mass Intentions:** Mass requests are scheduled through the parish office during office hours up to 11 months in advance.
- ◆ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is celebrated on the first Friday of the month following the 7:45 a.m. Mass and concludes with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Funerals:** In the event of the death of a loved one, please contact the parish before making arrangements with a mortuary. The parish does not make funeral arrangements with the mortuary or other businesses but only with the loved ones of the deceased.
- ◆ **Car Blessings:** The priest is available to bless your new car after most Masses (except Saturdays after the 7:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. Masses.).



## Catechism & Faith Formation

Director of Faith Formation: Craig King, MA, [king@sfahdnv.org](mailto:king@sfahdnv.org)  
 Faith Formation Assistant: Kristi Mayers, [mayers@sfahdnv.org](mailto:mayers@sfahdnv.org)  
 Phone: 914-3529 Fax: 914-3563



## Religious Education Information



**A 24 Week Overview of the Entire Bible!!!**  
**Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. — Still time to join!**  
 Next session is Wednesday, December 28th.

### Calendar of Classes:

Dec. 25/26—No Classes, Christmas Break  
 Jan. 1/2—No Classes, New Year's  
 Jan. 8/9—Regular Classes Resume

### Protecting God's Children "Touching Safety"

Attention all Religious Education parents: Letters went home the last two weeks of classes (or were mailed to your home) regarding the Touching Safety curriculum that will be taught in your child's class this spring. If you decide you do not want your child present for this lesson, you must fill out an "opt-out" form in the Faith Formation office before January 3rd. Contact Craig or Kristi with any questions.

### Catechist Inservice

Mark your calendars, Teachers and Aides! Our next Catechist Training session is Saturday, January 7th at 9:30 a.m.

### Adult Confirmation

Our next class for all those enrolled in Adult Confirmation is Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. and the topic will be "Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick". Please note: The Confirmation Mass will be May 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

### Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic or Want to Study the Gospel of John?

This Bible study is for you if you are interested in becoming Catholic, or just want to learn more about who Jesus is and how to develop a relationship with him. Greg Gudsun will be facilitating this Bible Study on the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Classroom** which will focus on the Gospel of John and Acts of the Apostles. For those who are interested in becoming Catholic, this is your first step before entering the RCIA process in the fall. **This Bible Study is open to everyone!!!** There is no need to sign up, just bring a Bible.

### Defining Our Faith

**Incarnation:** The word "Incarnation" refers to the Second Person of the Trinity taking upon a human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. This is the great mystery of God becoming one of us, which is echoed in the Angelus prayer when we say, "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." It is this unfathomable truth, the birth of Our Lord, which we celebrate at Christmas.

### Readings For The Week:

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
 Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3;  
 Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12,  
 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
 Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21





# Youth and Young Adult Ministries



*Wishing all the Youth of our Parish a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!*

## High School Youth Group

**“Leading Teens to Christ and His Church!”**

**Sundays from 6:15pm-7:30pm**  
(Following the 5:00pm Mass)

All high school age students (entering grades 9-12) are invited to come to our youth group. This is a place where teens can grow in their faith in Christ & love of the Catholic Church, all while having fun with other teens.

## ACTS YOUNG ADULT GROUP



**“Active Catholics Through the Spirit”**

We invite all young adults ages 18-35 to join us for socializing, Bible study, service and more! We meet Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the youth/young adult room.

Youth Minister: David Hall  
Phone: 914-6004  
Fax: 914-3563

## High School Youth Group Jan. 2012

> 1/8: A Spiritual Resolution

> 1/22: Life

> 1/29: Masquerade

### Important Confirmation Dates to Know

February 1, 2012

Retreat Permission slips are due for all Confirmation students.

February 17 & 18, 2012

Confirmation II Retreat,  
Fri: 4—8:30 p.m., Sat.: 9 a.m.—6:45 p.m. (here at St. Francis)

February 19, 2012

Confirmation I Retreat, 9 a.m.—6:15 p.m. (here at St. Francis)

March 21 & 22, 2012

Disneyland and Youth Day Trip

May 1, 2012

Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal for all Confirmation II students and their sponsors (if available). Rehearsal begins at 6pm.

May 8, 2012

Confirmation Mass at 6pm. All parishioners are invited to celebrate this sacrament with our confirmandi.

### High School Confirmation Classes

Dec. 25—NO Classes, Christmas Break  
Jan. 1—NO Classes, New Year’s Day.



## Stop and Think.

Have you ever stopped to think about love? Do you know how we first come to know love? It happens when we are infants. We know love because our mom holds us, feeds us, and changes us. We come to first know love by touch. This concept extends to childhood as well. If our mother loves us with all her heart, and her eyes and soul lift when we enter a room, but she never acts on those emotions by hugging us, or spending time with us then would we still feel love? Christmas is a day of love. Christmas is the day when the fullness of love came down to take on flesh. This is the unfathomable mystery. Why would an infinite God who is goodness and happiness, and is sufficient in his being, needing nothing, leave the comforts of his eternal throne? The only answer is love. God is love. In his perfect love he desired to show us that he loved us, that is why the stories of his incarnation have been read in community daily since the first Christians. Even now the pews of every parish will be even more crowded, because God calls us to himself so we can know his love and in our desire for love we beckon to his call. Christmas lets us know that there is an infinite God, who loves us, and desires to be near us, and desires us to be near him. The incarnation is a transcendent moment in history that allows God's love to be present to us today as it was 2000 years ago. Jesus is still present, but in a different way now. He is present in the bread and wine, in the oils, the impositions of hands, and the sacraments of his mystical body, the Church. Jesus left us a Church so we can still experience his infinite love, his gentle touch, and his loving presence. So the greatest Christmas gift ever is offered to us everyday if we only receive it.

## Parish Gift Shop

### FEATURED ITEM:

### Christmas Sale!

25% off all remaining Christmas items.



Don't miss out on great deals on things like nativities, ornaments, figurines, and more.

### Gift Shop Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: After all Masses (except 5:00 p.m.)

(CLOSED ALL HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY THE DIOCESE)

### Gifts for all your Special Occasions

Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, Weddings, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and many more.....  
LARGE SELECTION OF BOOKS AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES TO ENRICH YOUR FAITH

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

## Please pray for...

Grace Ann Sevilla	Trining Pineda	Tessie Duque
Agnes & Kelvin Briones	Virginia Russo	Julie Menza
Steven Wasko	Raymond Russo	Tracy Rice
Joanne Salminen	Tina Adler	Lindsay Myhre
Judy Conzelmann	Suzanne La Vopa	Leonard Georges
Kathleen Callen	Joanne Langdon	Richard Hartlage
Christopher Ryan Bird	Jeff Fagnant	Janet Callahan
Katrina Vanderwaal	Anna Verdi	John Rios
Robert Sala	Michael Appice	Anna Verdi
Anna Ong	Laura C. Costa	Michael Appice
Catherine & Ralph Morelli	Joyce Righetti	Laura C. Costa
Fr. Ed Belczak	Frank Ward	Frank Ward
Miguel Zapata	Maryann Tripp	Margaret Tripp
Millena Hecheberry	Robert Murray	Grace Appice
Misy Hanks	Infant Gianna Boscoe	Grace Libretto
Rhonda Herdel	Felicitas Fontanilla	Joyce Righetti
Sam Sanches	Frank Morano	Walter Bliss
Marta Duke	Rev. Francis Keefe	Walter Bliss
Lourdes Limbo	Domenico Ong	Delores Schindler
Theresa Mamaril	Alex and Susan	Polly Maloney
Romulo Loyola	Silverman	George Zguris
Baby Cole Vida	Shirley Colin	David Taylor
Bing Ungson	Adele Doyle	Peter Taylor
Sam Angona	Mark Epstein	Denise Fagnant
Nick James	Richard Kyte	Brandon Hinchliffe
Adriana Ramirez	Don Mitchell	Barbara St. Martin
	John Bello	



Do you have a seriously ill family member or friend? If you have the person's permission, you may request that their name be printed in the bulletin list for prayers. Names will be deleted after a period of one month. Call the parish office (914-2175) and speak with the receptionist to leave the name of the family member who is in need of prayer.

## Around the Diocese and the Church Universal

**Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites:** Community of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Carmelite Seculars, together with the Friars and Nuns, are sons and daughters of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus. In our secular vocation, we strive to live a life of prayer, centered on the Gospels, the Liturgy, and the evangelical councils of chastity, poverty, obedience, and the spirit of the beatitudes in our daily lives. Is God calling you to a Secular Vocation? For more info, please call Elizabeth at 497-4565 or Rosemarie at 837-6160.

It is that time again to begin thinking about our **6th Annual Women's Silent Retreat** and bus trip to the Sacred Heart Retreat House with the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Alhambra, California. "Our goal is to promote a deeper spiritual life for the women in all of the Las Vegas Parishes and outlying areas." This year's retreat theme will be Mary, Model of Womanhood. Please SAVE these dates MAY 4-6, 2012. This retreat would be a great idea for that special woman in your life as a Christmas present, or Valentine's Day gift or even an early Mother's Day present. More information will be coming, so look for it in your Parish Bulletin or visit the web-site at <http://www.carmelitesistersocd.com/>.

**Marriage Encounter:** The purpose of life is to get to Heaven, and to bring everyone with me that I can. What have I done to help bring me and my spouse to Heaven? The next weekend is February 10-12, 2012 in Boulder City. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, call Wayne and Marcia Kessler at 702-566-8753. For information on Spanish-language weekends, call Jose and Patti Santiago at 702-544-3755.

**EWTN - IS CATECHESIS IN YOUR HOMES!** The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, and the Franciscan Friars of the Eternal Word Television Network, EWTN, offers 24 hours of exceptional Catholic programming! Channel 349 on digital cable, 370 on Direct TV, 261 on Dish Network, Sirius Satellite Radio #300, and in Spanish on Cox cable channel 152. You can also view EWTN live on the internet at [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com). If you have any questions, call Thomas and Gigi Maher, EWTN Media Missionaries at 614-6939.

**SECOND ANNUAL POLISH AMERICAN "PASTERKA" MASS.** Concelebrated Mass in English with Polish "koledy" carols. Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Las Vegas Church. Following Mass all are invited to Bevan Hall for sharing the "oplatek" wafer together with coffee, cookies and fellowship.



Please Pray for our Troops



# Ministries and Organizations

## Ministries

**Choirs:** Join our Music Ministry! Rehearsal times are:

**Adult Choir - Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.,** open to adult parishioners

**Children's Choir - Mondays 6:45 p.m.,** closed to new members until August 2012.

**Teen Choir - Mondays 4:30 p.m.,** open to all teens, junior high—high school.

For more information, call Stephanie Logan at 914-2175.



**Homebound Visitors:** If you cannot leave your home, we have parishioners ready to bring Holy Communion. Contact: Samantha Savoy via the office at 914-2175.



**Hospitality:** Coffee, hot chocolate, water and doughnuts are served by our hospitality volunteers each Sunday. Volunteers are needed after all Masses. Please call Angie Reiss at 407-0626 if you would like to help.



**Respect Life:** Our mission is to promote and defend the dignity of human life from conception to natural death according to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church. Contact: Ken Ryan at 914-2175. **Our next meeting is January 10th at 6:30 p.m.**



**Welcome, Time, and Talent:** This ministry welcomes new parishioners and encourages an involvement of time and talent by all parishioners in the life of the parish. For more information, call Bob Snyder at 565-6153.



### Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers	Kevin Love	340-5178
	kwlove@gmail.com	
Ex. Min. of Holy Comm.	Harry Pollnow	263-8516
Lectors	Julia Dodson	616-3404
Ushers/Greeters	Joe Gemelli	638-2662

## Organizations

**Alcoholics Anonymous (Promises Group):** Meetings are every Monday, 7:00 p.m. in the Cry room. Contact: Don at 616-0493 or Mike at 617-4238.

**Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group:** We meet every Monday night from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the St. Clare room. Come and join us. Contact Jeany Ejercito at 979-8083.



**Catholic Fellowship for Singles - 60+:** Meets the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. **Next meeting is January 4th at 4:30 p.m..** We meet at Black Mountain Grill at Eastern & Sunridge Heights. Call Lila at 796-1953 or Tom at 1-208-699-3022 for more info.

**Holy Name Society:** We promote honor and glory to the **Holy Name of Jesus** and sanctification of its members. Open to all parishioners. Join us: **Second Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.** for Rosary Prayer and Holy Mass followed by our monthly meetings. Also join us **First Saturdays for Our Lady of Fatima Novena at 8:30 a.m.** Contact Thelma Godinez at 492-6149.



**Knights of Columbus:** We are a service organization of Catholic men and their families founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. We provide volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people. For membership information contact Jesus Avila at 336-5869. **Meets the 1st Tues. of each month at 6:30 p.m.**



**K of C Columbian Squires, St. Padre Pio Circle:** Open to all young men of the parish, ages 10-17. Provides spiritual, service, and fun for the young men. Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 2:15 p.m. Contact: Tim Matanane at 263-3544.



**Ladies Auxillary of Knights of Columbus:** Open to wives, widows, and daughters (18 years or older) of the Knights, providing sociability and assisting Knights with various projects. We are also committed to performing acts of charity for our parish and community. Contact: Anne Balum at 459-6662. **Members meet the same evening as the Knights, the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.**



**Moms Group:** For mothers with children ages newborn-18 yrs. **Our next Moms Meeting will be Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30 p.m..** For more info, call Teri Love at 374-6208. **Play Days:** Please email sfamoms@gmail.com to be included in our emails for updates on locations.



**Rosary Makers:** Rosary Makers provide handmade rosaries to missionaries. Contact: Deb Mailhot at 407-8244. **Our next meeting: January 2nd at 9:30 a.m.**



**San Lorenzo Ruiz Guild:** We foster knowledge of and devotion to San Lorenzo Ruiz, serve the parish in various ministries and fund raising, and keep alive relevant Philippine religious customs and traditions. Contact: Carmelita Amar at 336-8665. **Monthly meeting: Last Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m.**



**St. Clare of Assisi Women's Guild:** Our purpose is to embrace, support, and encourage the women of our parish through spiritual development, fundraising, and fellowship. Open to all women of the parish. Contact: Sandie Duggan at 263-9122. **Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m.**



## Christmas Gospel Readings

### Matthew 1:1-25 (Vigil Mass)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

### Luke 2:1-14 (Midnight Mass)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

### Luke 2:15-20 (Mass at Dawn)

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

### John 1:1-18 (Mass during the Day)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.