

## ***Thoughts Along the Way***

It is fitting that we celebrate the beginning of a new year by honoring Mary who is the Mother of God, as *Theotokos*, her ancient Greek title.

The Collect (opening prayer) of the Mass proclaims, “O God, who through the fruitful virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation” and asks “that we may experience the intercession of her through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life....”

In honoring Mary, we recall the greeting of the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God, who addressed Mary with the words immortalized in the prayer: “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” (Lk 1:26) We also invoke the words of Mary’s kinswoman, Elizabeth, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Lk 1:42).

Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christians give Mary a special place of honor among those whom we venerate and ask intercessory prayer. We honor Mary’s role in fulfilling God’s plan for salvation by bearing Him into the world.

We also honor Mary’s “Yes” to God as the most perfect model of discipleship. Recall Mary’s beautiful words: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

The best way to honor Mary is to follow her example, so let’s take an opportunity to say “Yes” to God, and allow God’s grace run through us and help us grow in holiness.

Perhaps in this year of 2012 we might resolve to do one of these:

***Offer an extra 5 minutes of prayer each day***

***Read Scripture for 10 minutes a day—Proverbs, for example, offers pearls of wisdom for a good life***

***Offer one act of charity a month—pray for a stranger, volunteer somewhere, donate a small gift, reconcile with someone***

***Volunteer at church***

***Do something to work for the common good of our community, country, or world***

It is good to begin a new year of grace by honoring the Mother of God, who is so vital to our salvation, and taking her example to heart.

In Jesus’ Name,  
***Fr. Matthew O’Leary***  
***Pastor***

## ***Forward in Faith – 2012***

### **GOD & COFFEE**

#### **CATHOLICISM – The Series – “The Mystery of God”**

Internationally praised program by Fr. Robert Barron, using the art, architecture, literature, music, and all the treasures of the Church to help us achieve a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith.

Fr. Matthew will host the hour-long episode, and lead discussion afterward. This is one of the best presentations of the Catholic Faith in modern times!

*All welcome.*

**Our Lady of Good Counsel—Wednesday, January 4, 7:00 PM**

**Holy Disciples—Friday, January 6, 7:00 PM**

## **LITURGY-Jan. 7/8**

### **Sacristans:**

**5:00PM**-Shannon Scacciotti

**8:30AM**-Mary Verdile

**10:30AM**- Roslyn Castillo

**Linen Warrior**-Ann Stumpf

### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

**5:00PM**-Mary Jo Risse, Sharon Rothwell, Nora Schindler, Julie Wiesen, Jan Arruda, Tony & Diane DePersio, Georgiann Derieg, Juanita Guzman

**8:30AM**- Joe Plummer, Mel Ochs, Michael Hodson, Michelle Jacobs, Joanne Maitrejean, Walt Kuehlthau, Charlie Nicholas, Mary Jo Oboy, Peggy Hager

**10:30AM**-Rick Wigginton, Beth Buhl, Lina Cabusoa, Roselia Catindig, Linda Clingan, Delia Domingo, Margaret Furtado, Karon Manisco, Pam Nelson

### **Lectors:**

**5:00PM**-Cathy Murdock, Pat Boyes

**8:30AM**-Carolanne Randich, Julie Wals

**10:30AM**-Carly Cappetto, Wayne Perrault

### **Altar Servers:**

**5:00PM**-Amanda, Nicholas, Gabe

**8:30AM**-Mackenzie, Jakob H., Jacob L.

**10:30AM**-Michaela, Mairén, Nicholas

### **Coffee & Donut Fellowship:**

**8:30AM:** John & Michelle Jacobs, Michael & Sheri Hodson

**10:30AM Mass:**

### **LITURGY**

### **Readings for Mary, Mother of God**

Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2:16-21

## **IMPORTANT IRS DONATION INFORMATION**

New Years Day occurs on a Sunday. For your tax records, please note that those putting their offertory contribution in the basket at the Saturday evening Masses are making a gift in **2011**, while those putting their offertory contribution in the collection basket on Sunday, January 1 are making a gift in **2012**. Contributions mailed to the office are counted as 2011, only if it is postmarked in 2011.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREP**

Preparation continues on January 22 when we learn about Reconciliation.

## **THIS WEEK AT HOLY DISCIPLES PARISH**

### **Monday, January 2**

No Mom & Tot Group in Church Nursery  
Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM  
SVDP Outreach Meeting-7:00PM

### **Tuesday, -January 3**

HAP-3:30PM  
Jr. High Youth-6:00PM  
8:30AM Choir-7:00PM  
Bible Study-7:00PM

### **Wednesday, January 4**

Rosary-8:40AM  
Mass-9:00AM  
Bible Study-10:00AM  
Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM  
New Creation Choir-7:00PM  
Book Study-7:00PM

### **Thursday, January 5**

Rosary-8:40AM  
Mass-9:00AM  
Book Study-10:00AM  
Sr. High Youth-6:00PM  
Liturgy Commission-7:00PM

### **Friday, January 6**

Rosary-8:40AM  
Mass-9:00AM  
Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM  
God & Coffee-7:00PM

### **Saturday, January 7**

Faith Formation-3:30PM  
Mass-5:00PM

### **Sunday, January 8**

Mass- 8:30AM  
Faith Formation-9:00AM  
Mass- 10:30AM  
Confirmation for Youth-12:00PM  
Scrip Fundraiser after Masses

## **Our Saints**

**January 5—JOHN NEUMANN** (1811-1860, not to be confused with John Henry Newman) was born in Bohemia and went on to realize life-long dream of going to America as a missionary. He was ordained a priest and later joined the Redemptorist order and served in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the American frontier. Neuman was known for his holiness and learning, and zealously promoted parochial schools and parishes for immigrants from Europe. He mastered 12 languages and authored two German catechisms and a Bible history for use in parochial schools. Neumann was the first American bishop to be canonized a saint.

**July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012  
Total FY Offering Budget:  
Week 25 December 25, 2011  
Our Financial Stewardship**

**Year To Date:**

Offerings Received Dec.24/25, 2011	\$	25,235.14
FY '11-12 Year To Date Budgeted:	\$	366,098.46
FY '11-12 Year To Date Received:	\$	353,108.28
FY '11-12 Year To Date Surplus:	\$	
FY '11-12 Year To Date Shortage:	\$	(12,990.18)

**Parish Mortgage Loan & Payment Status**

Total Loan Amount:	\$	2,836,486.44
FY '11-12 Interest Paid To Date:	\$	55,040.36
FY '11-12 Principal Paid To Date:	\$	0.00
FY '11-12 Total Payments:	\$	55,040.36
<b>Interest Past Due (as of 11/30/11):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>228,770.05</b>

**Other Donations:**

Food Bank	\$	558.00
SVDP	\$	903.95
Other	\$	5.00

**Thank You To All For Your Stewardship Support!  
Let us know if you have any questions.**

**The Members of Your Finance Council are:**

Denny Woyak (Chairman), Susie Brown (Bookkeeper),  
Bob Lorenz, Chuck Nicholas, Walt Kuehlthau,  
Janice Melodia, Kory Pederson  
Fr. Matthew O'Leary (Pastor)

**December 25: Christmas**

The angel told the shepherds that the Savior was born and where to find him. How and when are we told? God reveals divine presence in someone's generous offer, in a plea for help, in the cry of the poor and the oppressed, in the child needing reassurance, in the aged needing a listening ear, in the sick needing a consoling hand. Today we see not a Baby in the manger, but a saving God working through and among us.

**This Christmas through your gifts the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christ to the hearts of the poor, by assisting families, providing funds for utility and rent bills. Thanks!**

*You can now donate to St. Vincent de Paul on line on the Holy Disciples web site.*

**St. Vincent de Paul Truck**

St. Vincent de Paul will have their truck at Holy Disciples Church parking lot to collect electronic items on: Saturday, January 21 and Sunday, January 22.

**DEPLOYED PARISHIONERS**

Aaron, Alex, Anthony, Bill, Bryce, Conrado, Damian, Dave, Denise, Dennis, Dominic, Don, Donald, Eric, Greg, James, Jeff, Joe, John, Joseph, Kim, Mark, Matthew, Noel, Richard, Rick, Ryan, Sara, Sam, Thomas.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as you protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. Amen."

*Please remember these individuals in your prayers:*

Sue Ford, Monica Harvey, Delores Reed.

**When the names of the ill have been in the spoken Prayers of the Faithful for a month or more, they will then be remembered in our prayers from this list in the bulletin.**

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Junior & Senior High**

Junior High and Senior High will resume our regular schedule of gathering on Tuesdays and Thursdays on January 3 and 5, respectively.

**Help, Help, Help**

The Food Bank Manager is in dire need of anyone who could drive to various places in the area to pickup food for the Food Bank. All that is required is that you have a driver license and a good driving record. If you can help please call Julie Wiesen at 253-846-3805

**BUNCO PARTY SAVE THE DATE**

Hospitality Commission is sponsoring it's second Bunco Night on January 20, 2012. Please save the date.

Further information will be available in the bulletin after the holidays.

**Religious Education  
Faith Formation  
Kindergarten thru Grade 6**

No classes this weekend,  
it is our Christmas Break.  
Classes will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**First Reconciliation** will be celebrated  
Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM  
& Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM

**Adult Education Opportunities**

**God and Coffee**

Mark your calendars now!  
Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
Fr. Matthew will host the third part of  
Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism series.

**Small Group Book Study**

Discussing "My Life with the Saints"  
Wednesday Evenings in January, 7:00PM  
Or, Thursday Mornings in January, 10:00AM

**Spanish Bible Reflection Class**

Sunday mornings 9:00-10:00AM  
Parish Office small conference room  
Resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>  
This group meets during Sunday morning  
Faith Formation classes.

**Children's Baptism Preparation**

Classes are held every other month for parents  
seeking to have their children,  
who are under the age of 8, baptized.  
This two part class will be offered Mondays,  
**January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**, in Classroom 4.  
For more information or to sign up for this class  
please call the parish office or email  
robrienwilson@holydisciples.org

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

Holy Disciples is once again going to participate in the Relay For Life, an event to raise money for cancer research. The event takes place in the latter part of June but we will be starting the planning process in January. We are looking for parish individuals and families to volunteer as members of our planning group, as support folks for the walkers and as walking team members. For information or to volunteer please call Jennifer Huff at (253) 732-9732.

