

Grace-filled New Year

With smiling faces and hearts full of cheer, let's enter into a grace-filled year –
Four precious seasons that promise to bring chances to love God, our Father the King;
Twelve glorious months to serve mankind's needs, fifty-two weeks to do loving deeds;
Hundreds of fresh days our lives to fulfill, by doing with love God's unerring will.
So, enter with joy for blessings are there, enter as a child in God's royal care,
Enter with great love for "Love casts out fear", enter expecting a good year is here.
Then trade time wisely for graces that last, moments are fleeting, a year is soon past!

Suggestions for the New Year

Below are some gifts you can give now for the new year and also all year long:

The Gift of Praise – Appropriately mention, right in front of the person, a superior quality they have or of a job or deed well done.

The Gift of Consideration – Putting yourself in the other person's shoes, thus proving your genuine understanding of their side of the case.

The Gift of Concession – Humbly saying at just the right point, "Sorry, you're right and I'm wrong."

The Gift of Gratitude – Never forgetting to say "Thank you" – and never forgetting to mean it.

The Gift of Attention – When the other person speaks, listen attentively. If their words are directed to you personally, meet their eye squarely.

The Gift of Inspiration – Plant seeds of courage and action in the other person's heart. Help them to strive for greater accomplishment and lasting satisfaction.

The Gift of Personal Presence – In sickness, in trouble, or in a day of great joy, there is nothing quite equal to your personal expression of sympathy or congratulation.

These are the gifts that all can bestow– now and all throughout the year – that will make you richer for the giving.

– Praying Hands.

St. Vincent de Paul

Donations 12/23/07 \$968.00

Religious Education Classes

Our CCD and RCIA classes will resume tomorrow, **Monday, January 7th, 2008**, at their usual times.

Cenacles of Life

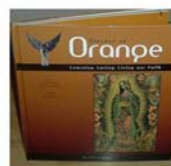
All are invited to join a rosary prayer group here at St. Mary's by the Sea to end the culture of death in our Dioceses. Let us pray to stop all the killing of the unborn, sick and handicapped. This will happen, through the rosary and fasting. Our Lady of Fatima said that all evils and wars are ended through her rosary and sacrifices.

The group meets every Friday in the Church **after the 8 a.m. Mass**. We here at St. Mary's by the Sea are committed to ending this culture of death!

Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima

A pilgrimage is planned for **May 2008** to Lourdes and Fatima, with an optional extension to Paris. This year is a Jubilee year at Lourdes, the 150th anniversary of the apparitions to St. Bernadette. They will also see Avila, Nevers and Lisieux. **10 more people are needed to fill out the roster before February 10th**. For more information, call Bob or Mary Dausch at (949) 481-1102.

Learning, Loving, Living our Faith



The Diocesan 30th anniversary commemorative book, **Learning, Loving, Living our Faith**, covers the history and growth of both Orange County and the diocese. In another section, short histories and photographs of all of our parishes (including St. Mary's by the Sea) and centers are presented. Also featured are many of the outstanding works of art in our church buildings and church grounds. **Copies of the book are now available in the parish office for \$25.**

Altar Guild

Donations 12/23/07 \$60.00

The Altar Guild will hold their meeting **Monday, January 7th, at noon in the Family Room.**

To An Altar Boy

To be Christ's page at the Altar,
 To serve Him freely there.
 Where even the angels falter,
 Bowed low in reverent prayer.
 To touch the throne most holy,
 To hand the gifts for the feast,
 To see Him meekly, lowly,
 Descend at the word of the priest.
 To hear man's poor petition,
 To sound the silver bell,
 When he in sweet submission
 Comes down with us to dwell.
 No grander mission surely,
 Could saints or men enjoy;
 No heart should love more purely,
 Than yours, my Altar Boy.
 God bless you, lad, forever,
 And keep you in His care,
 And guard you that you never,
 Belie the robes you wear.
 For white bespeaks untainted.
 A heart both tried and true;
 And red tells love the Sainted,
 And holy martyrs knew.
 Throughout life, then, endeavor
 God's graces to employ;
 And be in heart forever,
 A Holy Altar Boy.

Marriage Encounter

Start the year off right by making a marriage encounter weekend to put more romance in your marriage. The next scheduled weekend is **January 25-27**. For more information, call Jim or Cheryl at (949) 551-9156.

Mission Statement

Jesus comes "to serve, not to be served"
(Mt. 20, 28)
St. Mary's by the Sea is a Catholic/Christian community of faith, hope, and love, journeying together in the spirit of hospitality, stewardship, respect, unity and charity, welcoming and serving all brothers and sisters in Christ, under the mantle of Our Lady.

NEW YEAR PLEA. *Lord, show me the way I should walk, (Ps. 143:8)*

NEW YEAR ANSWER. *I am God the Almighty. Walk in My presence and be perfect. (Gen. 17:1)*

Jest Kidding

A GI was in Paris, France when the war ended in Europe. He had yet to see the sights of the capital, so he took a tour. The tour included a large cathedral. Inside the cathedral, the American lad saw a wedding in progress. Turning to a Frenchman near him, he asked "Who's the groom?"

The native shrugged and replied, "Je ne sais pas ("I don't know")."

The tour of the huge cathedral continued. In another part of it, the GI found a funeral going on. He turned to another native he saw, not far from him and whispered, "Who died?"

The Frenchman shrugged and said, "Je ne sais pas."

The GI then exclaimed, "Well, he sure didn't last long, did he?"

Thank You

December 23 & 25, 2007

Retirement for Religious	\$61.00
National Needs	\$8.00
CCD	\$95.00
Specials	\$138.00
Building Fund	\$12,486.00
Sunday Collection (12/23)	\$9,311.00
Christmas Collection (12/25)	\$6,542.00

Donations for the week of December 30th will be published in next week's bulletin.

RESPECT LIFE

Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance can turn to the Pro-Life Movement.

Birth Choice - Irvine
 (800) 631-6254

Horizon Pregnancy Center - H.B.
 (714) 442-9699

Los Angeles Pregnancy Services
 (213) 382-5643

Hội Cứu Mạng Thai Nhi
 Viet ProLife (Santa Ana)
 Nancy Nhung Phan
 1-714-721-8557



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