

**Pastor's Corner**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are still in the Christmas Season, celebrating the **Epiphany** which is the threefold manifestation of the Lord: to the Magi, at His Baptism and at the wedding feast in Cana.

First, **to the Magi**: it is the Lord's manifestation to the world, through its representatives, the Magi or the Wise men from the East, as the King of all nations and Savior of the world:

"The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of the Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations" (cf. Mt 2,2; Num 24, 27-19; Rev 22,16) (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 528).

Second, **at the Baptism in the Jordan**: this is the Lord's epiphany to Israel as Messiah and Son of God:

"Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan (cf. Lk 3,23; Acts 1,22). John preaches 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' (Lk 3,3). A crowd of sinners... came to be baptized by him. 'Then Jesus appears'. The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, 'This is my beloved son' (Mt 3,13-17). This is the manifestation ("Epiphany") of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God" (CCC, no. 535).

This Sunday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is the last day of Christmas Season: for in it, we continue to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, to the nations last week, now to Israel and to us, the New Israel. We should celebrate this feast with great joy, honor and duty: because it is the whole mystery of Baptism: dying and rising with Christ in our daily Christian life.

"Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in His own baptism anticipates His death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with Him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and 'walk in newness of life'" (Rom 6,4) (CCC, no. 537).

In this spirit, let us celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, reminding us of our own baptism so we may continue the Lord's mission and ministry to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom and to bring God's love and salvation to the world around us with all our love and zeal. May God bless all of you!

Your servant/brother in Christ,

Fr. Martin

**Baptisms**

Congratulations to the parents of the following children who were baptized here at St. Mary's by the Sea:

December 16, 2007

- Anthony Michael Cecco
- Madison Marie Drake
- Lilly Ann Alexander

December 23, 2007

- Hector Adrian Elizarraras
- Leah Jamie
- Kasey Smith Mendoza

December 30, 2007

- Anne Lieblang

**Altar Guild**

<b>Donations 12/30/07 .....</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Donations 1/6/08 .....</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>

**St. Vincent de Paul**

<b>Donations 12/30/07 .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>
<b>Donations 1/6/08 .....</b>	<b>\$282.00</b>

***Days of Prayer & Reparation  
for the Sins of Abortion***

***Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v. Wade***

In observance of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Bishop Brown invites all the Catholic community to observe **Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** as a Day of Reparation. Catholics are encouraged to practice fasting, abstinence and prayer on that day.

Bishop Brown will then preside at Evening Prayer and Benediction to pray for an end to abortion and a renewed respect for all human life in American Society. The service will begin at **7:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Cathedral.

Our Bishop has also asked us to participate in a PRAYER VIGIL at Planned Parenthood on **Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. St. Vincent de Paul and neighboring parishes will gather at the corner of **Beach Blvd. and Hazard Ave.** at **9:30 a.m.** to pray the complete rosary. Please join us. Afterwards, you are welcome to attend an OPEN HOUSE at Horizon Pregnancy Center at 18582 Beach Blvd. (near Ellis) to see the vital work they do to help women in crisis pregnancies.

**Novena in Reparation of Abortion**

*(To be said from January 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>)*

*God our Father, You are the author and creator of life. We thank and praise You for this wonderful gift. We offer this prayer in atonement for our sins against life, and ask Your mercy on us and our nation for the millions of lives lost through abortion. Please, bring us to repentance and help us to pray and work diligently to overturn this evil. We make this prayer through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**National Vocation Awareness Week**

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This week, January 13-18, is National Vocation Awareness Week, a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations of dedicated people as married and single people, men to serve as priests, deacons, brothers and women as religious sisters. Choose to make a difference!

**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.*

**Thank You!**

St. Mary's by the Sea would like to thank those parishioners who so graciously donated the funds we needed to purchase the priest's vestments for our **Latin Tridentine Mass** on Sundays.

We have now learned, however, that we also need to **purchase copes** to match those vestments. This is what the priest wears at the beginning of the Mass when he does the Asperges (sprinkling of holy water). If there are any parishioners who would be able to contribute to this fund, it would be truly appreciated.

**Jest Kidding**

Looking down at the sick man, the doctor decided to tell him the truth. *"I feel that I should tell you, you are a very sick man. I'm sure you would want to know the facts. I don't think you have much time left. Now, is there anyone you would like to see before you go?"*

Bending down toward his patient, the doctor heard him feebly answer, "Yes."

*"And who would that person be?"*

In a slightly stronger tone, the sufferer said, *"Another doctor!"*

**Thank You**

**December 30, 2007**

<b>Retirement for Religious .....</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Specials .....</b>	<b>\$118.00</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$10,580.00</b>
<b>Regular Collection .....</b>	<b>7,802.00</b>

**January 6, 2008**

<b>Specials .....</b>	<b>\$113.00</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>472.00</b>
<b>Regular Collection .....</b>	<b>\$5,290.00</b>