Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the Eighth Day of Christmas, and it is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, in which we celebrate the mystery of Our Lady's virginal fruitfulness. Today is also the traditional feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, which we celebrate on the second Sunday of Christmas. Jesus received His Holy Name when He was eight days old at His Circumcision on January 1. His Name is so powerful and mysterious that the Church long ago judged it fitting to celebrate a solemn feast of the Holy Name, sometimes separate from the Octave Day on which He received It. “Jesus” means “God saves.” The very Name of Jesus speaks of His mission of salvation. This reminds us of the profound Christmas mystery that Our Savior was conceived and born not in order to live (for in His Divinity He has infinite Life), but rather to suffer and die for us. We witness this mystery already on the Octave Day as He sheds His first Blood for us at His Circumcision. It is no mere coincidence that the giving of His Name and the shedding of His first Blood occur simultaneously. His Name is full of salvation!

The Scriptures teach very clearly that the Holy Name of Jesus is powerful. St. Paul says that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, even in Hell, and the Church so loves the Holy Name of Jesus that she bows her head every time He is mentioned in the Sacred Liturgy. The Name of Jesus is itself a prayer, which we can have always on our lips, especially when we feel attacked by temptation or disturbance. We know that every time we utter His Holy Name with reverence we invoke the protection of His Precious Blood upon us and call forth the power of His Salvation. On January 6, the Church will celebrate the majestic Epiphany of the Lord. His “Epiphany” means His “manifestation.” During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Divinity of the Christ Child. At Epiphanytide, in this second movement of the Christmas season, the Church celebrates the manifestation of that Divinity to the world. Thus, on the Epiphany, she commemorates the Adoration of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding Feast of Cana. In all of these events in the life of Christ, His Divinity is manifest and proclaimed with power and glory.

The proper object of the Feast of the Epiphany is the visit of the Magi from the East to the Child and His Mother on the thirteenth day after His Birth at the house of Bethlehem. We are told by the Gospel of Matthew that they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: gold for the King of Kings, frankincense for the Eternal God, and myrrh for the High Priest who was born so as to die for us. St. Gregory the Great, always the great moral teacher, exhorts us to follow the example of the Holy Magi by invoking the protection of His Precious Blood upon us and call forth the power of His Salvation. On January 6, the Church will celebrate the majestic Epiphany of the Lord. His “Epiphany” means His “manifestation.” During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Divinity of the Christ Child. At Epiphanytide, in this second movement of the Christmas season, the Church celebrates the manifestation of that Divinity to the world. Thus, on the Epiphany, she commemorates the Adoration of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding Feast of Cana. In all of these events in the life of Christ, His Divinity is manifest and proclaimed with power and glory.

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The Adoration of the Magi take place in a “house,” and so Epiphanytide is the traditional time for the blessing of houses in the Church; there is even a special blessing for this in the Roman Ritual. Every Catholic should ask a priest to bless the home during this holy season of Epiphany, which lasts, in spirit, through February 2. We beg the intercession of the Magi, that we, like they, may bend our knees in Adoration before this Holy Child whose all-powerful Name is Jesus.

Pray for me, Father Joseph Previtali
**Parish Announcements**

**Upcoming Events**

**Our Lady of the Pillar**

Monday Nights
Adult Catechism with Father Joe
7:30pm—8:30pm @ New Hall

**Third Tuesday of the Month**
Knights of Columbus Meeting
Old Hall—7:00pm

**Tuesday Nights**
Bible Study
5:30pm—7:00pm @ Conference Room

**Miércoles por la Noche**
Estudio de la Biblia
7:00pm en el Salón Viejo (Old Hall)

**Saturday Morning**
Legion of Mary Meeting
Conference Room
9:00am—11:00am

**Second Sunday of the Month**
Hospitality for after 8:00am Mass
Old Hall

**Office will be closed**
Monday, January 1st.

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**Special New Year’s indulgences**
The Catholic Church offers a plenary indulgence for the public recitation of the “Te Deum” on the last day of the civic year and for the public recitation of the “Veni Creator Spiritus” on the first day of the civic year. In the former prayer, we give thanks to God for all of the blessings of 2016; in the latter, we beg the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the new year 2017.

**Indulgencias Especiales para el Año Nuevo**
La Iglesia católica ofrece la indulgencia plenaria para la recitación pública del “Te Deum” en el último día del año cívico y para la recitación pública del “Veni Creator Spiritus” en el primer día del año. En la antigua oración, damos gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones de 2016; en el segundo, imploramos la efusión del Espíritu Santo sobre el nuevo año 2017.

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**Pray for Our Parishioners Who are Sick**

Sick Relatives & Friends/
Parientes y Amigos Enfermos
Pray that God’s healing power will fill them with strength and hope.

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**Epiphany house blessings**
Epiphanytide (January 6-February 2) is the traditional time of the liturgical year for house blessings. Please call the parish office to schedule your special Epiphany house blessing.

**La bendición de nuestra casa en Epifanía**
El Tiempo de Epifanía (6 de enero-febrero 2) es el tiempo tradicional del año litúrgico para la bendición de sus casas. Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para hacer una cita para su especial Bendición de sus casas en Epifanía.

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
**ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

All husband and wives celebrating a “5 year wedding anniversary” (5, 10, 15...35, 40), or over 40 years in 2017 are invited to attend and be recognized.

Saturday, February 4, 2017—10:00am Mass followed by reception, $20.00 suggested donation per family.
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
111 Gough Street, San Francisco
Principal Celebrant: His Excellency Carlos Sevilla, S.J. Bishop Emeritus, Yakima

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**CELEBRACION DE ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS**
Todos los esposos que están celebrando su “aniversario de Bodas de 5 años en Adelante” o mas de 40 años están invitados a asistir y celebrar.
El Sábado 4 de Febrero, 2017—10:00am Misa y recepción después de la Misa, $20.00 donación sugerida por familia.
Catedral de Santa María de la Asunción
111 Gough St. San Francisco
Celebrante Principal: Su Excelencia Carlos Sevilla, S.J. Obispo Emeritus, Yakima.

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**Opportunity to learn more about our Catholic tradition!**
**GREGORIAN CHANT CLASS**
With Fr. Joe Previtali
Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at St. Anthony’s in Pescadero
All are welcome!
Community Gregorian
Chant class on January 19,
Class at 7:00pm, Holy Hour at 8:00pm

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**Oportunidad para profundizar su conocimiento de nuestra tradición Católica!**
**CLASE BILINGUE DEL CANTO GREGORIANO**
(MÚSICA CATÓLICA)
Con Padre Joe Previtali
Jueves, 19 de Diciembre, a las 7:00 pm en la Iglesia de San Antonio en Pescadero
Todos son bienvenidos!
Tendremos Clases de Canto Gregoriano,
Clase a las 7:00pm, Hora Santa 8:00pm
**Parish Pilgrimage Walk for Life in San Francisco**

Saturday, January 21, 2017

9:30 am: Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral with Archbishop Cordileone

10:45 am: Rally at Civic Center Plaza

1:30 pm: Walk to Justin Herman Plaza

The annual Walk for Life West Coast, which draws 50,000 participants each year, takes place on January 21, 2017. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone begins the day with a special Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral at 9:30 am. The Walk for Life Rally begins at 10:45 am at the starting point of the Walk, at Civic Center Plaza. There the archbishop will announce the recipient of this year’s Saint Gianna Molla Award for Prolife Heroism. The walk from Civic Center Plaza to Justin Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street begins at 1:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATE: All are invited to join our Parish Pilgrimage to the Walk for Life in San Francisco on Saturday, January 21, 2017. More details to follow. Call the parish office to reserve your spaces on the bus.

**Peregrinación Parroquial Caminata por la Vida en San Francisco**

Caminata por la Vida de la Costa Oeste 2017: Únete a hermanos católicos y gente pro-vida proveniente de toda California y más allá, poniéndonos de pie a favor de los más pequeños entre nosotros en la doceava Caminata anual por la Vida de la Costa Oeste en San Francisco, el 21 de enero de 2017. La manifestación comienza a las 12:30 pm en la Plaza del Centro Cívico de San Francisco, y la caminata por la Calle Market comienza a las 1:30. El año pasado la Caminata atrajo a 50,000 personas. Para obtener información completa sobre la Caminata, visite o llame al 415-658-793 Aparte la fecha: Todos están invitados a unirse Peregrinación de nuestra Parroquia a la Caminata por la vida en San Francisco el Sábado, 21 de Enero de 2017. Más información se les proporcionara en el futuro. Por favor llame a la oficina para reservar su espacio en el autobús.

**Our Lady of the Pillar Conference**

**FOOD PANTRY HOURS**

- Monday/ Lunes: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- Thursday/ Jueves: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- Saturday/ Sábado: 10:00am - 12:00pm

**OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR HOLY HOUR**

Our next parish holy hour will be led by Fr. Gabriel, on Friday, January 6 at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Pillar Church. All are welcome!

**HORA SANTA EN NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PILAR**

Nuestra próxima Hora Santa será dirigida por el Padre Gabriel y se llevará a cabo el día Viernes, 6 de Enero a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Pilar. Todos son bienvenidos!!
Advent Preparations For Christmas

During Advent, we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas by joining the patriarchs and prophets in awaiting the coming of Jesus. Advent is a penitential season, as seen by the Church's use of violet vestments and more somber music and decorations. Our home should mimic what we are doing in our church - use purple to decorate the dining table and other places in the home, hold off on Christmas themes until it's Christmas and let Advent be Advent in your family! During this time, the Advent wreath is our primary symbol, not the Christmas tree - it is quite inappropriate to have a fully decorated Christmas Tree throughout the season of Advent.

On the other hand, Catholics celebrate Christmas with particular joy when it really is Christmas! Unlike the rest of the world, we continue to celebrate Christmas with much festivity through the whole Twelve Days, till January 6th. The Christmas spirit continues even until February 2nd, forty days after our Lord's birth, when Mary and Joseph first left Bethlehem to take the newborn King to the Temple. Let Advent be Advent, and let Christmas be Christmas!

Here are some simple ideas for decorating the home during the Advent and Christmas seasons. These are just suggestions and do not follow a hard and fast rule. We all can adapt practices to our particular needs - so long as we continue to respect the essential character of the season and both temptations of celebrating Christmas too soon (during Advent) or not long enough (ending before February 2nd, or even before January 6th).

First Sunday of Advent - Put out the purple tablecloth and use purple and dark colors in other places throughout the home. Place the Advent wreath on the dining table or in another prominent place in the home.

Second Sunday of Advent -
December 6th, St Nicholas Day - Put out the stockings and write our Christmas wish-list.
December 8th, The Immaculate Conception - Today we use a white or gold table cloth with nice happy flowers, and we decorate a statue or image of Mary. But we switch back to the purple table cloth tomorrow.

Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday - Put garland up around the home, and a simple wreath on the door.
December 13th, St Lucy Day - Place a few of the Christmas lights around the inside and outside of the house.
December 16th, Christmas Novena, 9 days till Christmas eve! - Put out the Nativity set, without any of the figures, just the stable and hay, etc.
December 17th to December 23rd - Each day, place more figures in the Nativity set: shepherds and sheep, ox and ass, and other livestock, the empty manger. Mary and Joseph go in on the last couple days before Christmas. Do not put in the Baby Jesus, or any of the Wise Men, or the Angel, or the Star.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Put up the Christmas Tree, but without any lights or ornaments. Put up the rest of the greenery around the home, but again without any ornaments. Put up more lights on the outside of the house, but don't turn them on at night (only those that have been up since St Lucy Day).
December 24th, Christmas Eve - Put up the remaining lights on the outside of the home and all around the tree and throughout the house. These lights are finally all turned on tonight! Fully decorate the tree and garland around the home. In the early eve, replace the purple and other dark colors around the home with white and gold and happy colors!
December 25th, Christmas Day - At midnight, place the Baby Jesus in the Nativity Set and kneel for a moment as a family to worship the newborn King! The star and the angel are also placed in the Nativity set, but not the wise men or their camel. All other Christmas decoration are placed throughout the home!
December 25th to January 5th - The wise men begin to make their journey through our home, as they travel from Persia to Bethlehem. Additional small presents are given on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas.
January 1st, Octave Day of Christmas - Mary is the Mother of God, we decorate a picture or statue of her and celebrate with special flowers on the dinner table and throughout the home! Our Christmas lights are still burning brightly! Remember that we are celebrating Mary as Mother of God, this is much more important than New Year's or football - don't let our secular culture take over your Christmas!
January 6th, Epiphany - The Magi finally arrive and are placed in the Nativity Set! Any extra decorations are set up inside and outside the house today! This is the day that Christmas was revealed to the world! It is as great a feast as Christmas itself, and we should take pride in having our Tree up and our Christmas lights fully aglow! Throw your Christmas/Epiphany party today!
January 7th to January 13th, the Octave of Epiphany - We gradually reduce our Christmas decorations and begin to put them away. But our Christmas spirit continues till February 2nd, and we keep at least our Nativity Set in a prominent position until then.

May God grant us all a most prayerful Advent, so that we will be ready to receive Christ with true Christmas joy!
Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,
Hoy es el Octavo Día de Navidad, y es la Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios, en la que celebramos el misterio de la fecundidad virginal de Nuestra Señora. Hoy es también la fiesta tradicional del Santo Nombre de Jesús, que celebramos en el segundo domingo de Navidad. Jesús recibió Su Santo Nombre cuando tenía ocho días de edad en Su circuncisión el 1ro de Enero. Su Nombre es tan poderoso y misterioso que la Iglesia hace mucho tiempo consideró conveniente celebrar una fiesta solemne del Santo Nombre, a veces separada del Octavo Día el cual El lo recibió.

"Jesús" significa "Dios salva". El mismo Nombre de Jesús habla de Su misión de salvación. Esto nos recuerda el profundo misterio de la Navidad que Nuestro Salvador fue concebido y no nació para vivir (porque en Su Divinidad Él tiene Vida infinita), sino más bien para sufrir y morir por nosotros. Presenciamos este misterio ya en el Día de la Octava mientras Él derrama Su Sangre por nosotros en Su Circuncisión. No es mera coincidencia que la entrega de Su Nombre y el primer derramamiento de Su Sangre ocurran simultáneamente. ¡Su nombre está lleno de salvación!

Las Escrituras enseñan muy claramente que el Santo Nombre de Jesús es poderoso. San Pablo dice que en el Nombre de Jesús toda rodilla se doblará, incluso en el Infierno, y la Iglesia ama tanto al Santo Nombre de Jesús que ella inclina la cabeza cada vez que es mencionado en la Sagrada Liturgia. El Nombre de Jesús es en sí una oración, que siempre podemos tener en nuestros labios, especialmente cuando nos sentimos atacados por la tentación o la perturbación. Sabemos que cada vez que pronunciamos Su Santo Nombre con reverencia, invocamos la protección de Su Preciosa Sangre sobre nosotros y de manera llamamos al poder de Su Salvación.

El 6 de enero, la Iglesia celebrará la majestuosa Epifanía del Señor. Su "Epifanía" significa Su "manifestación". Durante los Doce Días de la Navidad, la Iglesia celebra la Divinidad del Niño Jesús. En la Temporada de Epifanía, en este segundo movimiento de la temporada de Navidad, la iglesia celebra la manifestación de esa divinidad al mundo. Así, en la Epifanía, que conmemora la Adoración de los Reyes Magos, el Bautismo del Señor y la Fiesta de la Bodas de Cana. En todos estos acontecimientos en la vida de Cristo, Su Divinidad se manifiesta y se proclama con poder y gloria.

El objeto propio de la Fiesta de la Epifanía es la visita de los Reyes Magos desde el Oriente al Niño y a su Madre, a los trece días después de su nacimiento en la casa de Belén. Se nos dice en el Evangelio de San Mateo que le ofrecieron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra: oro para el Rey de Reyes, incienso para el Dios Eterno y mirra para el Sumo Sacerdote que nació para morir por nosotros. San Gregorio Magno, siempre el gran maestro moral, nos exhorta a seguir el ejemplo de los Santos Magos ofreciéndole el oro de la sabiduría de nuestras mente, el incienso de nuestra oración constante y la mirra de nuestra mortificación de la carne. En la Adoración de los Reyes Magos, la Divinidad de Jesús es manifiesta, y aprendemos que no estamos tratando aquí con ningún bebé ordinario.

La Adoración de los Magos ocurre en una "casa", y por lo tanto Epifanía es el tiempo tradicional para la bendición de las casas en la Iglesia; incluso hay una bendición especial para esto en el Ritual Romano. Todo católico debe pedir a un sacerdote que bendiga la casa durante esta temporada Santa de la Epifanía, que dura, en espíritu, hasta el 2 de febrero. Imploramos la intercesión de los Magos, que nosotros, como ellos, podamos doblar las rodillas en adoración delante de este Santo Niño cuyo nombre todopoderoso es Jesús.

Oren por mi, Padre José Previtali