

ASCENSION



Nativity of the Lord La Natividad del Señor

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REFLECTION

December 25, 2011

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

The last two years ago, I've come to view Christmas differently. Instead of remembering the first coming of Jesus, I find myself looking forward to Jesus' second coming. A coming I fully expected to realize by now. So, I still wait in joy for the second Christmas.

One of the things that helps me wait in joy is the involvement of our Spanish-speaking members at Ascension. I haven't been here long, but long enough to call some of them mis amigos my friends. I love their celebrations and only wish my health would permit me to be a more active participant in these. These celebrations remind me of our various trips to San Lucas Toliman, a volcanic highland village in Guatemala.

There las bombas (homemade fireworks) exploding loudly at the time of consecration during Masses celebrating Jesus coming to them in Bread and Wine. I imagine their celebration of Advent and Christmas is even more dramatic judging from what I know of the Our Lady of Guadalupe and Las Posadas festivities we celebrate here. These help me focus on the true meaning of Christmas even while the world distracts us with Black Fridays and Cyber Mondays and Santa everywhere. This focus is on God's giving of self – a giving we are called to emulate.

One of the best Christmas presents I've ever received was in July in San Lucas. We had just met seven-year-old Wilmer Ixbalan, a boy we sponsor, and his family. His mother, Maria, invited us to visit their home – a two-room cement block structure for their family of five. She sent five-year-old Rosa out with some money to buy crushed ice from a street vendor and then made cold Kool-Aid for us – for only Nancy and I. The rest of the family had tepid water to drink. They gave to us what they couldn't afford to receive themselves – it was gift of self, pure and simple. It was a gift that I knew would probably make me sick (and it did horribly). But there was no way we could ever refuse that wonderful gift. It was giving in the perfect spirit of Christmas – the self-giving of Jesus.

This Christmas season as we prepare for the New Year, let us remember this true spirit of Christmas love. Let us remember the self-giving people in our lives, like the Ixbalan's, who have brought that message to us. Let us be the self-giving person who brings this perfect gift to our world.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Feliz Navidad y Año Nuevo

Submitted by Deacon Dale

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO ASCENSION

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. We are so happy to have you, especially those of you who are visiting. We extend our wishes of a Merry Christmas and we wish you peace and good health in the new year. We invite you to worship with us again soon!

With Gratitude

A very sincere thank you to all who have contributed towards the music, the decorations, the liturgy and all who work with us to help make the presence of God more deeply known at Ascension. We deeply appreciate you and all that you do. God's Blessing!

Parish Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2, 2012. Please have a happy and peaceful Christmas and blessed New Year!

Christmas Flowers

There is still time to honor those you love with Christmas flowers for the altar. Envelopes are now available for **Christmas flower donations** and memorials. If you have any question about the flowers, please call the parish office at 612-529-9684.

Stewardship

Your 2012 envelopes are available in the back of church. Did you know that Ascension also offers an option to give electronically to the parish? This is secure and a convenient way to support your parish. For more information, please call the parish office 612-529-9684. **We thank you for sharing your gifts with us**, your prayers, your time, and your financial support!

Totino-Grace High School Open House

Totino-Grace High School will hold an Open House for 7th & 8th graders and their parents on Wednesday, January 4. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come find out what makes Totino-Grace such a special place. If you have any questions please call Paul at 763-586-6314 or at www.totinograce.org

AVISOS

NUEVO GRUPO JUVENIL: BILINGÜE Y BICULTURAL

Los jóvenes latinos ya han formado un nuevo grupo juvenil bilingüe, bicultural. Se reúne los domingos de 1 - 3 p.m. en la cafetería. Si quieren más información, llame a Lupe Bravo: 612-701-9372 ó Andrea Flores: 612-743-0201.

Información acerca de los Bautismos

Pláticas Pre-Bautismales – el 1º sábado de mes

***7 de enero, 2012, 4 de febrero y el 3 de marzo**

***10 a.m. – 12 p.m. en la Iglesia**

***Hay que venir los papas y los padrinos**

***Hay que traer el acta de nacimiento del hijo/a quien va a ser bautizado/a.**

El Retiro de TEC (Un Encuentro de Cristo) se llevará a cabo en español el 14-16 de enero para jóvenes y adultos mayores de 16 años.

Hable con Anita para más información.

GRUPO de ORACION:

A partir de 2012, el Grupo de Oración se reunirá los sábados de 6-8:30 p.m. en la iglesia (con la excepción del 4º sábado del mes)

¡MUY FELIZ NAVIDAD y AÑO NUEVO

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada:

--lunes, 26 de diciembre

--viernes, 30 de diciembre y

--lunes, 2 de enero, 2012.

LOS CLASES de CATECISMO

Comienzan de nuevo el domingo, 8 de enero, 2012, a las 9:30 a.m.

REFLEXIÓN

25 de Diciembre 2011 y 1 de Enero, 2012

¡MUY FELIZ NAVIDAD y AÑO NUEVO!

Muchísimas gracias a todas las personas y a las familias que ayudaron realizar las

Posadas este año. Eran 9 noches de canto, festividad, sonrisas y buena voluntad.

Que todos se sientan el espíritu del niño Jesús en su corazón.

Lo que sigue es uno de mis oraciones favoritas para el tiempo del año:

Quando el canto del ángel se pare,

Quando la estrella del cielo haya desaparecida,

Quando los reyes y príncipes ya estén en casa de nuevo,

Quando los pastores ya hayan regresado a sus manados,

El trabajo de Navidad comienza:

A encontrar a los perdidos,

A sanar a los quebrados,

A alimentar a los hambrientos,

A dejar libre los cautivos,

A reconstruir a las naciones,

A llevar paz a unos a otros,

A hacer música en el corazón.

Por Howard Thurman

Que esta Navidad y el Año Nuevo de 2012 sean llenos de acontecimientos,

palabras y actos de servicio que alegran a sus corazones y a los de los demás.

Anita T: 612-424-6211

NO HAY CLASES de CATECISMO ni otros grupos reuniéndose el 1 de enero, 2012.

Masses/Misas

Mass Schedule

Tuesday with Perpetual Help Novena (English)...10:30 am
 Wednesday at Visitation Monastery (English).....8:00 am
 Friday with Perpetual Help Novena (English).....10:30 am
 Saturday (English).....3:30 pm
 Sunday (English)9:30 am
 Sunday (Spanish).....11:30 am

Horario de Misas en español

domingo (español).....11:30 am

Sacraments/ Sacramentos

Confessions Schedule/Horario de Confesiones

Saturday in English / sábado en inglés.....3:00 pm
 Sunday in Spanish / domingo en español.....11:00 am

Funerals/Funerales

Arrangements made by a family member or friend of the deceased, please call the Ascension offices.
 Arreglos por un familiar o un amigo, llamar la oficina.

Baptism/Sacramento del Bautismo

Parents attend preparation sessions prior to the baptism.
 Se requiere: (1) Llenar la forma de registro (2) Traer una copia del acta de nacimiento (3) Atender las clases pre-bautismales. Se realizan el 1° sábado de las 10 a.m. hasta las 12 p.m.

Marriage/Sacramento del Matrimonio

Preparation six months in advance is required.
 Favor de hablar a la oficina 6–12 meses antes de la boda.

Quinceañera

Please call the Parish Office three months in advance.
 Favor de hablar la oficina tres meses antes.

Directory/Directorio

Parish Center Main Line/Oficina Parroquial

612.529.9684

Hispanic Ministry/Ministerio Hispano

612.424.6211

Development & Stewardship/ Corresponsabilidad

612.424.6207

Ascension School/Escuela de la Ascensión

612.521.3609

Etcetera

Mass Intentions/Intenciones de las Misas:

All weekend Masses are offered for Ascension Parish.
 Todas las misas del fin de semana son ofrecidas para la parroquia de la ascensión.

Tuesday, December 27/Martes 27 de Diciembre 10:30AM

Daniel, Christian, Amy & Darwin Paredes, Por la salud y por trabajo/ For their well-being

Friday, December 30/Viernes,30 de Diciembre 10:30AM

No Mass/ No abra misa el día de hoy

Tuesday, January 3/Martes 3 de Enero 10:30AM

† Vernon & Dorothy Christian

Friday, January 6/Viernes, 6 de Enero 10:30AM

† Leon's Deceased Family Members

Readings/Lecturas

December 25— The Nativity of the Lord

25 de Diciembre —La Natividad Del Señor

Isaiah/Isaías 52:7:1—10

Hebrews/Hebreos 1:1—6

John/Juan 1:1—18

January 1, 2012— Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 The Mother of God

1 de Enero, 2012—Solemnidad de Santa María Madres de Dios

Numbers/Números 6:22—27

Galatians/Gálatas 4:4—7

Luke/Lucas 2:16—21