



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish

San Clemente, California

A Eucharistic Community Living The Good News Daily

December 26, 2010

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

POWER MAD

By all accounts King Herod was a nasty piece of work. He became the ruler of the province of Judea under the Roman occupation. He set up a functioning bureaucracy, built a new port at Caesarea, and reconstructed the temple in Jerusalem. However, intent on maintaining his own power, he put allegiance to Rome above everything else and executed, murdered, or banished anyone who got in his way, including his own family. He placed a Roman eagle over the main temple entrance and, not being a Jew himself, he frequently broke the laws of Moses. This enraged Jewish religious leaders, but what burdened the people as a whole was a system of excessive taxation, extorted by tax collectors who added their own “fees” on top of the required amount. Only Matthew’s Gospel tells us the story of the Holy Family who, warned of Herod’s plot to kill all baby boys in Bethlehem, went to Egypt to escape—a long, hard journey of over two hundred fifty miles.



Without much effort we can pinpoint so-called leaders and heads of state in our world today who behave as disgracefully as Herod, raining down violence on their own people. There are over fourteen million refugees around the globe right now: men, women, and children who have fled their homelands to escape brutal atrocities. The majority of them live in camps or restricted areas in their host countries, where conditions foster disease and survival depends on aid agencies. After Herod died the Holy Family came out of Egypt and settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew to manhood and learned the skills of a carpenter. Many of today’s refugees have no immediate hope of returning home. On this feast, let us be grateful for our families and consider how to help those torn from their homes by war and bloodshed.

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www.olfchurch.net

Calendar

Dec. 26— Jan. 2, 2011

Today	Event	Note
<i>Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23</i> All Masses — 9am & 11am Masses	Monthly Food Drive Child Care & Children's Liturgy of the Word Coffee & Donuts	food collected at all Masses resumes in January 2011 after Mass on the patio
Monday	Event	Note
<i>1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8</i> 9-12noon 7pm	Parish office hours Women's workshop	terrioherschman@cox.net / 551-2222
Tuesday	Event	Note
<i>1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18</i> 9-12noon	Parish office hours	
Wednesday	Event	Note
<i>1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35</i> 9-12noon —	Parish office hours Faith Formation for Children	classes will resume on Jan. 5th 2011
Thursday	Event	Note
<i>1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40</i> 9-12noon	Parish office hours	
Friday	Event	Note
<i>1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18</i>	Parish office closed	
Saturday	Event	Note
<i>Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21</i>		
Happy New Year's 2011 <i>Mass at 8am only, no 5:30pm Mass (no obligation on this day)</i>		
Sunday	Event	Note
<i>Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12</i> All Masses — 9am & 11am Masses	Maintenance Fund 2nd Collection Child Care & Children's Liturgy of the Word Coffee & Donuts	resumes in January 2011 after Mass on the patio

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30p.m.
Sunday: 7, 9, 11a.m., 1p.m. (Sp), and 5:30p.m.
Daily Mass: M-F 7a.m., 8:30a.m.; Sat 8a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday 4-5 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration: M-F 9a.m.-9p.m.;
 Sat 9a.m.-5p.m.; Sun 2p.m.-5p.m.

Miss last Sunday's bulletin?

Past issues of our Sunday bulletin are now available on the parish website at www.olfchurch.net Simply click on the bulletin icon on the top of the home page. Our bulletin contains important information about upcoming programs and events, ministry opportunities as well as construction updates. Don't miss it!

Parish office hours

Our parish office will be open from 9am to noon on Monday, Dec. 27, through Thursday, Dec. 30. It will not be open in the afternoon or evening. If you have parish needs, please be sure to come in the morning. The office will be closed all day on Friday, Dec 31, for the New Year's federal holiday.

Sunday Child Care is on break

Due to the start of our construction project, Sunday morning child care will take a break beginning Sunday 12/26. It will reopen in January as soon as the new modular buildings are installed in the front parking lot. Check the bulletin regularly for updates.

2011 Men's Retreat

Volunteers are needed to serve as co-captains with the upcoming 2011 men's retreat recruiting process. If you are interested please contact Eduardo Jimenez at 584-9680 or eduardo.jimenez@cox.net

From our Pastor, Fr. Jack Sewell

*“The Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:14)*

How amazing! Our infinite God, all powerful and glorious, became one of us—limited, vulnerable, prone to fatigue and illness, subject even to temptation. Christmas celebrates the mystery of this enduring and perfect love. Christmas celebrates the God who seeks us out, showering grace, mercy, and peace upon us. The gift that we unwrap each and every December 25 is the gift of Jesus, the Christ. He is the light shining in the darkness, guiding us in the Father's love.



Our church and our homes are decorated with the symbols of this holy season. We adorn these places in which we dwell physically and spiritually in order to remind us of who now dwells in our midst. The Incarnation is the presence of God in our lives in the most direct and dramatic way possible. God is one of us, taking on our human nature, and pointing the way to another nature, the Spirit of God. He shared our food, walked our roads, experienced our emotions, and even experienced our death. He did so in order that we could experience the grace of God now, and to prepare in our hearts for his coming in glory.

Jesus, full of grace and truth, still comes into a fragile world. The celebration of his birth is our acknowledgement that God continues to provide for us. It is through faith that we can see his power still at work in the world and in our lives. His grace transforms our lives, and his truth gives meaning to our lives as we grow in discipleship. May this Christmas be one of universal peace as we welcome the Son of God.

Respond with Gratitude — 2011 Offertory Commitment

Deepest thanks to all who have completed their 2011 offertory commitment cards. This annual commitment is critical to the life and mission of our community. The parish depends on the participation of *each and every household*. If you are still considering your gift for the coming year, please complete your card *this week* and place it in the offertory basket next weekend. You may also mail it directly to the parish office. Duplicate cards have been mailed to all parish households who have not yet responded. If you did not receive one, contact Alexandra (Alex) in the parish office at aganley@olfchurch.net or 492-4101 x 120 and she will gladly send you one. Let us continue to pray that as disciples of Jesus we will faithfully use the gifts that have been placed in our hands to proclaim His word and witness to His life.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish School welcomes volunteers

Our parish school is looking for individuals who would like to engage in meaningful ways to contribute to the academic progress of our students and the overall success of the school. School volunteers can support teachers and the learning environment and help students achieve their full potential while building self esteem and confidence. Both Our Lady of Fatima Parish families and the broader community members are important resources to the school and are invited to share their gifts with our teachers and children.

Who is Needed

- Literacy Tutor to help students achieve grade level and above growth in reading
- Math Tutor to help students meet state standards
- Recess Assistant to offer support during lunch hour with food service and/or recess supervision
- Annual Auction volunteers to support the Annual School Fundraiser helping with mailings, data entry, solicitation, and their (simple to complex) tasks

You may have other skills and talents that you can share with our parish school. Please let the school know.

How to volunteer

The school values its volunteers' time and at the same time must ensure the safety of its students. Therefore, an application and interview process is necessary, and is carried out as efficiently as possible.

To become a parish school volunteer:

1. Fill out a volunteer application by downloading the form at www.olfschool.net or stopping by the school office to pick one up.
2. Interview -- once the application is received, the office will contact the applicant to schedule.
3. Complete the online "safe environment" training and background check as required by the Diocese of Orange.

Helping a student to learn to read, write or understand math is a powerful difference that you can make as a volunteer at our parish school. For more information, contact our school principal, Mrs. Julie Tipton at 492-7320

Top Ten Advantages to Having a Construction Zone at Church

Number 10: It's a lot more interesting than a paper drive.

Number 9: Kids love watching heavy equipment work.

Number 8: Something new to talk about at coffee and donuts: how "they" should be doing the construction.

Number 7: A new excuse for being late for Mass: I couldn't find the church driveway.

Number 6: A new excuse for being late coming home from Mass: I couldn't find the exit.

Number 5: Everybody loves it when things change at church.

Number 4: You go to the only church in San Clemente that has an on-site backhoe.

Number 3: Green fencing is so soothing to the eyes.

Number 2: Your capital campaign dollars at work.

And the number 1 advantage to having a construction zone at church:

Number 1: When it's time for the "Washing of the feet," your feet might actually need washing....

FAQ: Fatima Asks Questions: Christmas, the Incarnation, and the Liturgical

Q: How does the Liturgical Calendar celebrate the Incarnation? And Why?

A: The Church calendar, as you know, begins with the first Sunday of Advent. Advent prepares for the celebration of Christ's coming. In celebrating Christ's coming, we celebrate not only a past event and a present presence, but also a renewal of our own hearts. In this way, the Christ who is already in the world and in us can become ever more present to each one of us, as we become able to accept this gift.

Q: Does the Liturgical Year celebrate the life of Jesus in chronological order?

A: Only a little. Mostly, no. For example, we celebrated Christmas yesterday, on December 25. Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, with its Gospel reading about the flight into Egypt. Sometimes, this feast's Gospel is the story of Jesus being lost in the temple for three days. So he grows from a newborn to a two-year-old, or a 12-year-old, in less than a week. The following Sunday is the Epiphany, when Jesus is an infant again, and the week after that, he's 30 years old and being baptized by John in the Jordan River. Obviously the liturgical year is not a chronological celebration of Jesus' life!

Q: What liturgical season comes after the Christmas season?

A: The Christmas season officially ends with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. After that, the Sundays are numbered as "Sundays in Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time has two segments in the year. The first segment is short, from 3 to 9 Sundays, and the majority of Ordinary Time stretches from just after Pentecost to the end of the liturgical year in late fall. Ordinary Time is the part of the year when we simply revel in the life, the teachings, and the gift of Jesus in our world. This year, most of the Gospel readings are from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Gospel readings are more or less sequential. On special feasts and some other occasions, selections from the Gospel of John are read. This Gospel has a very different quality and style than the others, and often sheds a unique light on something we believe about Jesus and His teachings.

Q: When do we read from the other Gospels?

A: The Liturgical calendar has three cycles of readings, each one taking up a full year. This year's readings are from Cycle A (Matthew). Next year will be Cycle B (Mark), and the year after that is Cycle C (Luke).

Q: What does all this say to us about the Incarnation?

A: The Incarnation is the God's Word becoming flesh as a member of the human race. This is what we celebrate not only at Christmas but every day of every year. Emmanuel – "God With Us" – is the reason for our joy and our hope.

The whole point of Jesus' birth is that it is the beginning of His life among us. It can also be seen as the first sacrifice – God's Word, by God's will, becoming human. And to embrace human life is to embrace death, since that is a part of every person's experience.

That Jesus would live our life and die our death – this is the gift that "keeps on giving" – the gift that brings hope and salvation to us and our world. And this life and death of His is what leads to eternal life.

The liturgical year, then, celebrates the Incarnation of God's Word in the person of Jesus. At Christmas we recall the glorious day of his birth, and throughout the year we celebrate the glorious span of His life. But we do so as a people joined with God through Christ. We do so in the sacraments, by which Christ claims us, opens us, feeds us, forgives us, joins us together, chooses us for special service, and heals us. And we do so in community, where our faith is supported by others' faith, and where together we accomplish what we cannot do alone – we come to believe, celebrate, and live the presence of Christ in and among us on this earth.

Q: I heard that the "X" in "Xmas" might NOT be a denial of the presence of Christ. Is this true?

A: It is true, for those who know why it is true. And that will include you, in just a sentence or two more.... The spelling of "Christ" in Greek is Χριστός. Its pronunciation in English is "Christos." The first letter, as you can see, looks like our letter X. One symbol we often see (it's on the altar in our church) is called the Chi Ro and looks like an X with a P overlaid on it. So for those who mean to use the X or the Chi Ro to symbolize Christ, "Xmas" means "Christmas." How about that?



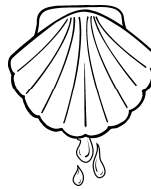
RCIA NEWS: Rite of Acceptance

On January 9, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, our parish will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance for individuals who have been inquiring about our Catholic faith, and now desire to begin a formal preparation for Baptism. In the Rite of Acceptance, these individuals are claimed for Christ by the signing of their senses with the cross, and become known as "Catechumens" in the Catholic faith. This celebration will take place at the 11:00 Mass. Whether you attend this Mass or not, please keep our soon-to-be-catechumens in your prayers. They are joining the Church by joining OUR parish community of faith – that's where the Church is found. We all share in the task and opportunity of making them welcome and supporting them in their new and exciting journey of faith.

December Baptisms

We welcome the following children into the family of God and the OLF parish community:

Alexandra J. Martin
 Angel M. Flores
 Daniel J. Entreken
 Danny M. Hernandez
 Diego A. Lua
 Jennifer Gonzalez
 Matthew C. Murray
 Robert U. Martin II
 Sophia L. Mechling

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Office Phone: 492-4101

Pastor, Fr. Jack Sewell ext. 111
jsewell@olfchurch.net

Parochial Vicar, Fr. Sergio Ramos ext. 113
sramos@olfchurch.net

Pastoral Associate for Formation & Worship
 Rick Hardy - rhardy@olfchurch.net ext. 115

Pastoral Associate for Discipleship & Outreach, Robin Margraf ext. 117
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Business & Facilities, Ron Runolfson ext. 102
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Confirmation, Patti Lynn ext. 104
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aganley@olfchurch.net

Evening Receptionist, Alma Lopez ext. 101
alopez@olfchurch.net

Parish School Principal, Julie Tipton
jtipton@olfschool.net School 492-7320

Mass Intentions

Monday 12/27
 7a.m. Julie Digiovanni ✠
 8:30a.m. Aristotle Dimaano ✠

Tuesday 12/28
 7a.m. Bill Smith ✠
 8:30a.m. Generoso Oca ✠

Wednesday 12/29
 7a.m. Hans Allen
 8:30a.m. Francis Martin ✠

Thursday 12/30
 7a.m. Sanchez Family
 8:30a.m. Nadine Forster ✠

Friday 12/31
 7a.m. Maria Rivera ✠
 8:30a.m. Micheal Doherty ✠

Saturday 1/1/2011
 8a.m. Mass (no obligation this day)

We pray for all the sick

Maria de J. Valencia	Christopher Lissner
Rosalinda Palacios	Kathleen Gibney
Maria Rios	Yvonne Henriks
Maria Chavez	Maria Rios
Bibiana Munguia	Albert Gombar
Alice Seery	Mary Anderson
Adriana Rios	Terry Lu
Sue Peltz	Evan Scully
Art Freilich	Becky Madden
Dawn Moore	Margaret Flores
Jamison Lissner	Benefrido Serrano
Patricia Lissner	Laura Holleran

and for our beloved dead

Maria Rivera	Antonio Pagan
Peter Carty	William Tilson
Sr. M. Daniel	Basilio Perez
Mary Farfaglia	Isabel Wasko
Yaneli Santillan	Andre Ramada
Ruben Cardenas	Natividad Lopez
Luis Cardenas	Ramon Lopez
Francisco Sanchez	and all victims of
Mercedes Martinez	war and violence

Horario de las Misas**Sábado:** 5:30p.m.**Domingo:** 7, 9, 11a.m., 1p.m. (Esp), y 5:30p.m.**Misas Diarias:** Lunes a Viernes 7a.m., 8:30a.m.,
Sábado 8a.m.**Confesiones:** Sábado 4-5p.m.**Adoración Eucarística:** Lunes a Viernes 9a.m.-9p.m.;
Sábado 9a.m.-5p.m.; Domingo 2p.m.-5p.m.**Misa de Año Nuevo**

La Misa en año nuevo no es obligatoria, así que no habrá en español solo la regular en inglés a las 8 de la mañana. Tampoco habrá la Misa de las 5:30 de la tarde.

Catecismo

Regresamos a clases de catecismo el miércoles 5 de Enero del 2011. Por favor de leer el boletín para estar informados sobre la construcción y cambios dentro del uso del estacionamiento y salones. Para mas información favor de comunicarse con Rosa Rama 492-4101 x 119.

“EL VERDADERO AMOR ES PARA TODA LA VIDA”

Se invita a las parejas que están viviendo en unión libre y que por diferentes motivos no se han casado por la Iglesia a regularizar su unión con la bendición del Sacramento del Matrimonio.

*Retiro de Convalidación***Viernes 14 de enero de 6:30 p.m. a 9:30 p.m. y****Sábado 15 de enero de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.**

Aquí en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Fátima

Lecturas de hoy**Primera lectura**

Los que honran a sus padres recibirán bendiciones y pagarán sus pecados (Sirácide 3:2-6, 12-14).

Salmo

Dichoso el que teme al Señor, y sigue sus caminos (Salmo 128 [127]).

Segunda lectura

Vivan una vida de amor sincero, sean agradecidos, hagan todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús; vivan en armonía (Colosenses 3:12-21).

Evangelio

Después que partieron los magos, José tomó a María y al niño de noche y se fueron a Egipto para escapar la persecución de Herodes. Regresaron después y se quedaron en Nazaret (Mateo 2:13-15, 19-23).

Lecturas de la semana

Lunes 12/27

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Martes 12/28

1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Miércoles 12/29

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lc 2:22-35

Jueves 12/30

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lc 2:36-40

Viernes 12/31

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Sábado 1/1/2011

Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67 (66); Ga 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21

Domingo 1/2

*Is 60:1-6; Sal 72 (71); Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12***Oremos por los enfermos**

Maria de J. Valencia

Rosalinda Palacios

Maria Rios

Maria Chavez

Bibiana Munguia

Alice Seery

Adriana Rios

Sue Peltz

Art Freilich

Dawn Moore

Jamison Lissner

Patricia Lissner

Christopher Lissner

Kathleen Gibney

Yvonne Henriks

Maria Rios

Albert Gombar

Mary Anderson

Terry Lu

Evan Scully

Becky Madden

Margaret Flores

Benefrido Serrano

Laura Holleran

y por nuestros queridos fallecidos

Maria Rivera

Peter Carty

Sr. M. Daniel

Mary Farfaglia

Yaneli Santillan

Ruben Cardenas

Luis Cardenas

Francisco Sanchez

Mercedes Martinez

Antonio Pagan

William Tilson

Basilio Perez

Isabel Wasko

Andre Ramada

Natividad Lopez

Ramon Lopez

y por todas las victimas de la guerra y violencia.

Oración de Fin de Año

Señor, Dios...

Dueño del tiempo y de la eternidad. Tuyo es el hoy y el mañana, el pasado y el futuro. Al terminar este año quiero darte gracias, por todo aquello que recibí de TI.

Gracias por la vida y el amor, por las flores, el aire y el sol, por la alegría y el dolor, por cuanto fue posible y por lo que no pudo ser.

Te ofrezco cuanto hice en este año. El trabajo que pude realizar, las cosas que pasaron por mis manos, y lo que con ellas pude construir.

Te presento a las personas que a lo largo de estos meses amé, las amistades nuevas y los antiguos amores, los más cercanos a mí, y los que están más lejos, los que me dieron su mano, y aquellos a los que pude ayudar. Con los que compartí la vida, el trabajo, el dolor y la alegría.

Pero también, Señor hoy quiero pedirte perdón. Perdón por el tiempo perdido, por el dinero mal gastado. Por la palabra inútil y el amor desperdiciado.

Perdón por las obras vacías y por el trabajo mal hecho. Y perdón por vivir sin entusiasmo. También por la oración, que poco a poco, fui aplazando y que hasta ahora vengo a presentarte.

Por todos mis olvidos, descuidos y silencios nuevamente. Te pido perdón.

Pronto iniciaremos un nuevo año y detengo mi vida, ante el nuevo calendario aún sin estrenar. Te presento estos días, que sólo TU sabes, si llegaré a vivirlos.

Hoy te pido para mí y los míos, la paz y la alegría, la fuerza y la prudencia, la claridad y la sabiduría.

Quiero vivir cada día con optimismo y bondad. Llevando a todas partes, un corazón lleno de comprensión y paz. Cierra Tú mis oídos, a toda falsedad. Y mis labios, a palabras mentirosas, egoístas, mordaces o hirientes.

Abre en cambio mi ser a todo lo que es bueno. Que mi espíritu, se llene sólo de bendiciones, y las derrame a mi paso. Cólzame de bondad y de alegría, para que cuantos conviven conmigo, o los que se acerquen a mí, encuentren en mi vida, un poquito de TI.

Danos un año feliz y enséñanos a repartir felicidad.

Amén



Calendario

26 de Dic.—2 de Enero del 2011

Domingo	Evento	Notas
1pm	Misa Dominical	2da Colecta / Campaña Capital
Lunes	Evento	Notas
Horario de la oficina: 9am a 12pm		
Martes	Evento	Notas
Horario de la oficina: 9am a 12pm		
Miércoles	Evento	Notas
Horario de la oficina: 9am a 12pm		
No hay clases	Formación de Fe para Niños	clases continuaran el 5 de enero 2011
Jueves	Evento	Notas
Horario de la oficina: 9am a 12pm		
Viernes	Evento	Notas
Oficina cerrada		
Sábado	Evento	Notas
Feliz Año Nuevo — Misa a las 8am en Ingles, no hay Misa de 5:30pm (<i>no es día de obligación</i>)		
Hoy	Evento	Notas
1pm	Misa Dominical	2da Colecta / Fondo de Mantenimiento

De nuestro Párroco, Padre Jack Sewell

*"La palabra se hizo carne y hizo su morada entre nosotros, y vimos su gloria, la gloria del único Hijo del Padre, lleno de gracia y de verdad".
(Juan 1,14).*

Que increíble! E infinito es nuestro Dios, Todopoderoso y Glorioso, quien se convirtió en uno de nosotros; limitado, vulnerable, propenso a la fatiga y a la enfermedad, sujeto aún a la tentación. La Navidad celebra el misterio de este amor perdurable y perfecto. Navidad celebra el Dios que nos busca; derramando gracia, misericordia y paz sobre nosotros. El regalo que desenvolvemos cada 25 de diciembre es el regalo de Jesús, el Cristo. Es la luz brillando en la oscuridad, quien nos guía en el amor del Padre.

Nuestra Iglesia y nuestros hogares son decorados con los símbolos de esta temporada Santa. Adornamos estos lugares en que habitamos física y espiritualmente para recordarnos que ahora Él mora en medio de nosotros. La Encarnación es la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas de la manera más directa y conmovedora posible. Dios se hace uno de nosotros, teniendo nuestra naturaleza humana y apuntando el camino hacia otra naturaleza, el Espíritu de Dios. Jesús compartió nuestro alimento, caminó nuestras carreteras, sintió nuestras emociones e incluso experimento la muerte. Lo hizo a fin de que nosotros pudiéramos experimentar la gracia de Dios ahora y para preparar en nuestros corazones su venida gloriosa.

Jesús, lleno de gracia y de verdad, entra en un mundo frágil. La celebración de su nacimiento es el reconocimiento de que Dios nos sigue proveyendo lo necesario. Es a través de la fe que podemos ver su poder trabajando en el mundo y en nuestras vidas. Su gracia transforma nuestra vida, y su verdad da sentido a nuestras vidas mientras crecemos en el discipulado. Que esta Navidad sea una de paz universal mientras acogemos con beneplácito el Hijo de Dios.





Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Fátima

San Clemente, California

Una Comunidad Eucaristía Viviendo La Buena Noticia diariamente

26 de Diciembre del 2010

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, Maria y José

LOCURA DE PODER

En todos los aspectos el rey Herodes era un indeseable. Gobernó a Judea bajo la ocupación romana, estableció una burocracia funcional, construyó un puerto en Cesárea y reconstruyó el templo de Jerusalén. También, y con el propósito explícito de mantenerse en el poder, puso su alianza con Roma por encima de todo y así ejecutó, asesinó o hizo desaparecer a cualquiera que le obstruyera el camino, incluso a su propia familia. Colocó un águila romana en lo alto de la entrada principal del templo y, como no era judío, quebrantó la ley de Moisés con frecuencia. Esto enfureció a los líderes religiosos, pero lo que más representaba una carga para el pueblo era el sistema de impuestos excesivos, extorsionado por los recaudadores que añadían sus propias “cuotas” por encima de la cantidad requerida. Solamente el Evangelio de Mateo nos relata la historia de la Sagrada Familia, que después de haber sido advertida del complot de Herodes para matar a todos los niños pequeños de Belén, huyó a Egipto, una travesía larga y difícil de más de cuatrocientos kilómetros.



Sin mucho esfuerzo podemos señalar a los llamados líderes y jefes de estado de nuestro mundo de hoy que se comportan tan vergonzosamente como Herodes, imponiendo la violencia a su propio pueblo. Actualmente hay más de catorce millones de refugiados alrededor del globo terráqueo; hombres, mujeres y niños que han huído de su patria para escapar atrocidades brutales. La mayoría de ellos vive en campos o áreas restringidas en el país anfitrión, bajo condiciones severas que fomentan enfermedades y cuya supervivencia depende de las agencias de auxilio. Después de la muerte de Herodes la Sagrada Familia salió de Egipto y se estableció en Nazaret donde Jesús creció, se hizo hombre y aprendió el oficio de carpintero. Muchos de los refugiados de hoy no tienen esperanza de regresar pronto a su tierra. En esta fiesta de hoy, seamos agradecidos por nuestras familias y consideremos cómo ayudar a aquellas que han sido desgarradas por la guerra y el derramamiento de sangre.

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