



# Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Religious Education Newsletter

2-5 Jan 2011



## Prayer of the Week

(Epiphany)

All loving God, today we remember how you sent a bright star to guide the wise men to Jesus. As a sign of their love, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Help us to follow our guiding stars as they lead us to you. May this meal strengthen us on our journey and bring us closer together in love. Amen.

### WELCOME BACK!

We are happy to see you again and will celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, with a party. Every class will be given the opportunity to come and celebrate with us with food and a Christmas movie. We hope you come and enjoy this time together.

### PARTS OF THE MASS

**Concluding Rite** – This part of the Mass begins with a greeting...typically “The Lord be with you.” It is followed by a blessing, which can be a simple or a solemn blessing. If it is a solemn blessing the deacon says “bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing,” which is followed by a blessing from the presider. The final act of the Mass is when the deacon states one of three dismissals. He states either, “Go in the peace of Christ,” “The Mass is ended, go in peace,” or “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

**THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE FINAL ACT OF THE MASS!** We as faithful are called to take the blessings bestowed upon us at Mass and spread them to the nations. For us, that means to take the joy of the Mass to those who did not come to Mass or do not know the joy of the Mass. This can be done in words or more preferably in your actions throughout the week. Show everyone you meet that you are a Christian by your happy, loving and serving attitude!

See you at Mass!

### PARENTS

Don't forget our Coffee and Conversation during the catechism sessions! Stop by for a cup today!

### ISN'T IT STRANGE???

I received an e-mail from my sister that reminded me where my priorities *should* be. I am happy to share this with you.

Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when we donate it to church, but such a small amount when we go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 1 hour seems so long when we're at Mass, and how short it seems when we're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange that we can't find a word to say when we're praying but we have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a Harry Potter or Twilight novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts or games but they do everything possible to sit in the last row at church?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for church 2-3 weeks in advance so we can include it in our agenda, but we can make adjustments for other events at a moment's notice?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others; but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say but....we question the words in the Bible?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

**Mass Schedule** – Saturday – 5:30pm, Sunday – 7:30, 9 am, 10:45 (Spanish) and 12:30pm