



# *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

## *Religious Education Newsletter*

30 Jan – 2 Feb 2011



### **Prayer of the Week** **(Presentation of the Lord)**

God of all hopefulness, you sent the infant Jesus as a light shining in the darkness to fulfill the longings of your people. As we rejoice in his coming, we look for the light of his presence in our lives and the warmth of his love in our home. May this meal we share renew us in the midst of winter. May it strengthen us to hasten the coming of your reign. Amen.

### **RITUAL GESTURES OF THE MASS**

#### **Striking the Breast**

The gesture of striking the breast expresses sorrow, unworthiness and extreme humility. For Christians, this ritual gesture expresses our contrition, our sense of sinfulness and our unworthiness before God.

Some also see this gesture as a call to repentance:

“To strike the breast is to beat against the gates of our inner world in order to shatter them.” “The blow also is to wake us up. It is to shake the soul awake into the consciousness that God is calling....calling us to reflect, repent and be contrite”.

You may see this gesture during Mass, particularly during the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW COMPETITION**

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2011 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The Knights of

Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing to district, state, or internationally. This year's competition will be held on Sunday, 13 Feb from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Alameda Community Center. For information contact Knights' Youth Director Ray Serna at 890-4813 or Eddie Fernandez at 833-2901.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

Over the past decades, many organizations and individuals have donated their time and money to the fight against the ever-present epidemic of substance abuse.

The Knights of Columbus is active in the fight against all forms of substance abuse.

Our Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is open to all ages 8 to 14.

Each age group winner will be awarded a check for **\$25.00**.

The Knights look forward to your children's participation in the contest. All posters are due on 30 March. For more information, please contact Ray Serna 890-4813.

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