

# Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, December 20, 2009

## Merry Christmas

To All Our Parishioners .....

The  
Story  
of the  
Christmas Tree .....

"And this shall  
be a sign to you ..."

The Christmas Tree traces  
its roots, so to speak, to many  
ancient customs. Before Christ,  
people decorated their homes with  
evergreen branches in hope that the  
short winter days would soon pass. In the 16<sup>th</sup>  
c Germany, the custom began of bringing an  
evergreen inside and decorating it with apples.  
Called a "Paradeisbaum," this tree was set up on  
Dec. 24 to represent the tree of life. One legend  
suggests that a German minister, walking home one  
winter night, saw stars through the branches of a pine  
tree, calling to mind the angel-filled skies above Bethlehem.  
He brought an evergreen home to his family and decorated  
it with candles to remind them of our Savior's birth.. German  
immigrants brought the tradition to America,. And the Christmas  
Trees grew and grew. Because the fir tree is eternally green, and  
because its triangular shape points to heaven,  
the Christmas tree is a symbol of our hope for  
Life everlasting our Lord Jesus Christ  
gives us!

## Christmas Masses

Masses on Christmas eve will be at midnight, as usual. The church will be opened at 11:15 pm and Christmas Carols will begin to be sung at 11:30 pm until midnight when Mass will begin. Immediately after the Mass, the celebrant will bless the indoor crib and immediately follow with the blessing of the outdoor crib in the courtyard.

On Christmas Morning, the Masses will be celebrated at 9 am and once again at 12:00 noon. There will also be a Vietnamese Mass at 2:00 pm.

The second Collection on Christmas day will be the ordinary Christmas Collection. We ask you to be as generous as possible. Our funds are extremely low at this time of the year because we still have not as yet received the customary donation from the San Gennaro Board. has not been made to us yet. Envelopes for this second collection are available at the door of the Church as well as in the Sacristy

## Last Week Of The Year

As we enter the last week of the year, we should give some thought to the year that has just about come to an end, as well as the New Year that is about to begin. Perhaps the best question we can ask ourselves is > Are we satisfied with the way we have conducted our lives during this past year. If not, perhaps we can examine ourselves and see where we might improve our lives during this coming year and be better persons, more devoted to Christ and in particular, to give good example to others by our own lives.

## Church Envelopes

One thing we should definitely look into is the way we support our church during the coming year! The proper way is to use the "Envelope System." We get a Box of envelopes from our church, fill our names and addresses with phone numbers on the first few envelopes and then use them faithfully each week to show that we are indeed good church going people who also support their church. It is our way of showing our Church that we appreciate what the Church is doing for us and in turn, we support the Church that we love and serves us. TRY TO GET USED TO THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM..

## Parish Sick & Deceased

Please pray for the deceased of the parish, especially your own relatives and friends. In particular pray for the following sick parishioners and friends of Most Precious Blood, /gennario Quintana & Family; Dr. Paul Viviano, Andrea Glover, Mrs. Alma Fidani, Rina Cieczko, and Raymond Sbarra.

## Speeding Ticket

Did you hear about the 83-year old woman who talked herself out of a speeding ticket by telling the young officer that she had to get to where she was going before she forgot where she was headed.

That makes pretty good sense, when you think about it, right?

And she got away with it because it was the first time that the officer ever had such a reason given to him. He was left with his mouth open.

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