Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

Today we celebrate the fourth of the five feasts of the Christmas Season. The Gospels of Matthew (from which today’s passage is taken) and Luke present seemingly contradictory portrayals of the Christmas Mystery. Matthew addressed his Gospel primarily to a non-Jewish congregation but his passages about the birth of Jesus were quite rich in matters Jewish. Matthew, on the other hand, wrote his Gospel primarily for Jewish converts to the Jesus way. However, his passages about Jesus’ birth focus on non-Jewish visitors to Jesus. Both portrayals remind us that we, too, are to be concerned about the needs of all people on this earth.

Our psalm response is “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” There are other references in the Old Testament that call the chosen people to be a light to the world; despite that, throughout Jewish history, and especially at the time of the birth of Jesus, the Jewish people had somewhat forgotten what their God-appointed mission was for the world. They were focused to one degree or another on keeping the Jewish community pure and holy. Now is a good time to renew our commitment that all people in the world are God’s beloved and that our role is to share that justice (getting things in the order God has always meant them to be) and peace will be the hallmarks of our world culture. It is good for us to keep this in mind when we consider such complex issues as migration and the care of refugees.

In light of our first reading, we, in union with all other people, are to do all we can to let the light of the Lord shine so that the darkness of deprivation, war and prejudice will be lifted never more to return. We display by our attitudes and actions that all people can gather and come to us, acknowledging that all people have riches to share due to the generosity of God. What a delightful challenge and learning experience it can be to listen to people of other cultures and religions and find many common threads among us. This kind of behavior leads us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Through this enlightening process, we come to realize the great privilege we have of building up one another into a worldwide community of people so that all can realize that we are members of the same body and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the good news. Some people will not believe in Jesus, but despite this difference, we can all celebrate the communality we have in how diverse God is in making His love known to all people.

Whether we follow a star of brilliance or the wisdom that we discover in books, how blessed we all can be as we find ourselves on the same journey looking for the truth of life. Whether we follow a star of brilliance or the wisdom that we discover in books, how blessed we all can be as we find ourselves on the same journey looking for the truth of life.

The Lay Salvadorians thank you for your generosity in support of the Salvadorian Haiti Project.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 – 4:6; Ps 27:8-9, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 – 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15b, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Ps 4:2-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:28-31, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Lk 21:12-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Pray for the souls of those who have died:

Anna Maria Gomez

- For these and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Prayer for our Military Personnel wherever duty calls them to serve, homeland or overseas: Adrienne Alecus, James Alecus, John Alecus, Logan Amos, Sam Amos, James Atwood, Jordan Biasotti, Anthony Brooks, Jonathan Brooks, Jacob Camarillo, Aimee Chabot, Ephrem Choi, Elise Cruz, Matt Davis, Travis Dandis, Derek Deatherage, David DeLaCruz, Alisen Dowey, Joe Downey, Andrew Durham, Brian Eberhard, Katherine Ernst & A.J. Smith, Tom Fewayo, Mathew Fox, Timothy Fox, Joseph Gast, Tyler Gechtel, Eric Hartnell, Jeremy Herbert, Susan Hooker, Yutaro Hosaka, Ben Isa, Tyler Kenobie, Nicholas Koeflgen, William Kranitz, Tyler Kraintz, Andy Kuehn, Dayna Landry, Kelly Mancini, Doran Martin, John Masterson, Bennet D. McGrane, Garrett McMann, Aaron McMurray, Francisco Montijo, Joseph M. Padock, Nathan Padock, Chris Payant, David Petisor, Darin Pillman, Tom Psaltis, Rachael Portoman, Margaret Price, Emanuela Ramirez, Mary Salter, Anna Maria Gomez

If your loved one is out of the military please call Mary at 916-988-4984 to have them removed.

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Eleanor Peterson

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Divine Savior’s Dream: Small Christian Communities as Centers for Spiritual Growth & Evangelization

Would you consider being a discussion leader for a book, video, CD, or YouTube clips on a topic of your choice for the new year? One possible topic is the book, “Beautiful Hope” that was provided to all families at Christmas. The dream is to have small Christian Communities in neighborhoods around of the parish. It would be a wonderful way to spiritually grow during Lent and to reach out to neighbors. Our sisterhood around of the parish.

The group meets at

- "Beautiful Hope" the new year?

The new Garden Committee is just formed garden committee has started collecting food waste to make compost. This compost will become wonderful soil by spring. The overall plan is to construct garden boxes, deposit the compost – and plant a variety of seeds. With cultivation, we will have produce that can be used at our weekly Community Meal. This is part of being good stewards of the land – entrusted to us and taking something fallow and turning it into a blessing. Please read the notice below if you are interested in helping to get this started.

Senior Care Solutions: A Daughter’s Journey
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Carol Kinsel, Owner, Senior Care Solutions
Beverly Chang MD, Geriatric Psychiatry Direct

Please join Dr. Chang and Carol as they walk through Beverly’s personal experience caring for her father with dementia. Their conversation will offer insight as to what could be happening from onset and during the progression of the disease, offering valuable information and tools for caregivers facing similar challenges.

Please join us in Hall A at 6:00pm for this FREE workshop. For more info and to RSVP please call Senior Care Solutions at 916-965-5565.

Christmas Trees celebrating culture and nature
Hopefully you have had a chance to see the four specially decorated trees in the vestibule. This multi-ministry effort has been done by Children’s Faith Formation, our Parish Pastoral Council, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Society and the Filipino Ministry. This week we are highlighting the tree decorated by the elementary aged children in our Children’s Faith Formation sessions. The theme of their tree is “Christ is Born.” Their handmade ornaments of the baby Jesus and the stars are made of wood, paper and other fibers. What a blessing to have this special children’s tree.

Gardeners Wanted

If you love getting your hands in the dirt and making things grow – the new Garden Committee is just the place for you!

We are starting garden boxes at our parish (as described above) and need gardeners to help us compost, plant and cultivate good things to serve at our community meal.

If you would like to be a part of this new group, email Sister Sheila (snovaksds@gmail.com) or sign up in the church vestibule next Sunday. Your help can fit your schedule and needs as we get things in place from the ground up!! (pun intended).

Moving On Fellowship: Will meet this Monday, January 7th, at Annie’s Restaurant, 10:30am. No-host brunch. We are an informal compass ministry and welcome all who have lost a loved one. Possible topic to share: “My Most Vivid Christmas Memory.” For more information call Pat Biasotti, 530-307-2147.

CFF, EDGE and LifeTeen wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. All faith formation sessions will resume on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

EMAIL SCAM: We received reports again this past week of emails sent from a spammer impersonating Fr. Roman. If you receive this email, please do not respond. This particular spoofing email seems to be targeting Catholic parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. Other dioceses have reported that the emails are sent repeatedly every few weeks or months.

Are you thinking of becoming Catholic and have questions?
If you are thinking of becoming Catholic, there are RCIA sessions, called “Inquiry.” In a warm and accepting environment, you are welcome to share your questions. If you are interested, please contact sharon@divinesavior.com or call the parish office for more information.

Catholics Returning Home
An Open Door for Returning Catholics
No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Please join us for six informal sessions beginning Thursday, January 10th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The sessions will include sharing, and updates on the Church today. For additional information, contact Kathleen Hass at 916-989-7400 or kathleen@divinesavior.com

Centering Prayer
Centering prayer is a method of prayer that helps develop a relationship with God by being still and listening. A Centering Prayer group meets at Divine Savior on the third Tuesday of the month. The group meets at 9:30am in the St. Cecilia Room. If you’d like to participate in this form of prayer join us on January 15th. Questions? Call Joyce at 916-990-0546.

A Young and Married Ministry Presentation:
Theology of the Body Formed for Love
Presented by John Hamlon
Sunday, January 20, 2019 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Immerse your marriage in the riches of St. John Paul II’s vision of marital love.
Free Babysitting Available
For more information call 916-725-4270 ext. 311 or email gmathias@passionist.org
Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights, CA