

St. Mary's Basilica
A Catholic Faith Community
Franciscan Friars

PARISH STAFF

RECTOR AND PASTOR

Fr. Vincent J. Mesi, O.F.M.
602-354-2072

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Alonso de Blas, O.F.M.
602-354-2070

PARISH MANAGER

Jerome Doris
602-354-2069

**CHRISTIAN
FORMATION**

Sr. Anthony Poerio, IBVM
602-354-2068

MUSIC MINISTRY

Gordon Stevenson
602-354-2061

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Camela Barraza
602-354-2100

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Tom and Linda Raimundo
Renee Poston

PARISH CENTER

231 North Third Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
602-354-2100

FAX 602-354-2060

www.stmarysbasilica.org

PARISH CENTER HOURS

Weekdays
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

BASILICA HOURS

Monday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Feast of the Holy Family



Parish Mission Statement

As children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized. Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ. Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays 12:05 p.m.
Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.
Sundays
9:00 am and 11 a.m.
Holy Days
12:05 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 4 to 5 p.m.
or by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF
MARRIAGE**

Minimum of six months
preparation
602-354-2100

**SACRAMENT OF
BAPTISM**

Celebrated monthly
During Mass
602-354-2068

**SACRAMENT OF
THE SICK**

Please contact the parish
for a priest.
602-354-2072

HOLY HOUR

Thursdays
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 pm

**VIA ASSISI GIFT
SHOP**

Dee Pennartz
Manager
602-271-0042
Wednesdays - Fridays
9:30 am. to 3:00 pm
Saturdays
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sundays
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Mary's Basilica,

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS SEASON'S GREETINGS! HAPPY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS! (There, I feel better already.) (Hold it—my one-up-manship is way out of place at this special time of God's coming to us in his one-down-manship.) (So let me start again.)

I am surprised that in my homilies of Christmas Eve last Monday or Christmas Day on Tuesday the phrase "the humility of God" never passed my lips. The meaning of the phrase was certainly the target of the thoughts I shared with y'all, but I should have used those words, which have reached us in the scholarly digging of Francis' mindset on Christ as revealed in the writings of his early companions and the masterful commentary of St. Bonaventure.

It's a lovely paradox—the humility of God. Yet Francis was moved to his marrow by the thought of the sacrificing love of Jesus, who, to come close to us, chose to leave behind all his power, his magnificence, his shining glory (remember the Transfiguration?), and assume the helpless, totally dependent condition of a human baby.

The very word humility brings us down to the soil (humus, in Latin). God's sending of his Son as one of us doesn't just cover the earth, like a layer of snow; it penetrates into the soil of the earth, it is grounded in our being human. Anybody else thinking right about now of the example Jesus used in his preaching: if a grain of wheat just lies there, that's all it's ever going to be...but if it dies [and is buried in the soil] it produces new and abundant life?

Jesus dies and is buried, and springs up to new and abundant life—for himself and for all who believe in him, who follow his way, who receive his body and blood and open themselves to his life and activity in them. For a Creator to enter into his own creation goes against reason. For Jesus to open our entry into life with the Father and the Spirit? Unbelievable, unimaginable, but therefore the GOOD NEWS announced by the angels, preached by Jesus, written down for us in the Gospels, offered for our amazed acceptance by the Holy Spirit in our hearts. MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY!

P.S. During this Christmastide, Father Warren Rouse, O.F.M., native Phoenician and good pastor of the people of this parish, welcomer of Pope John Paul II to his Basilica, will celebrate his 50th year of priesthood with a 5pm vigil Mass Saturday 29th and the 9am on Sunday, followed immediately by a reception in the Social Hall. All are invited to share with him in Mass and partying. God bless you, Fr. Warren. Ad multos annos!

Love and prayers,
Fr. Alonso OFM

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

This is probably a good day as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family to reflect on ourselves as “family”. There are many types of families, as we well know; the single parent families, the widows, the childless couples, singles who live on their own, perhaps far from any family, but surrounded by a circle of friends who become their family.

We may say that we can be inspired by the Holy Family. I’m sure that there would be some grunts and groans out there as you might say, but there were only three of them and two of them were sinless. We have six in our family, or eight or ten or more which makes our problems multiplied and much more difficult a challenge. It reminds me of a true story that still impresses me several years later. We were sitting at a lunch table at a church conference and all present were sharing some facts about their families. This one person who was very much involved in Church work and in ministry, revealed to the group that she had nineteen children as the others gasped in disbelief. Of course, the big question came up...how do you do it?

This mother who was a beautiful person, simply said very humbly, that we have all learned to care for one another. At the table, we simply move over a little closer to make room for the other. We have learned to share clothes, space, and whatever else we might have for the good of the other. There is really no time or place for selfishness. We know that God has given us the little that we have so it really belongs to him. We pray together. Our possessions are very few but our moments of joy are many.

The truth is that we can make room in our lives and relationships for the things that are really important to us. But sometimes our values are distorted. Having just celebrated the feast of Christmas, we may have empty checkbooks because we thought we could buy happiness for our children because we got them everything they wanted. We know that by next week some of the newly acquired novelty will wear off. It seems, today, that families would be much happier if they spent more time doing things together. Meal times are wonderful opportunities, not only to share food but to share “life”. Televisions, computers, Nintendo have worked their way into a person’s private space. There don’t seem to be too many opportunities of simply enjoying one another’s company or playing a game together as a family. Some of the simple things of life have been forgotten.

Maybe on this feast of the Holy Family, we are being challenged to take on a new personality, as it were, and in one sense, this new personality is that of Christ himself. It is a life of mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience; one that is not just experienced casually but rather deeply in a heartfelt manner. Maybe we need to look around us with new appreciation of the gifts of others that are close to us and renew our relationships.

Wedding Seminar



Interested in getting married at St. Mary’s Basilica?

Join us on **Wednesday, January 30th at 6:30 pm.** We will offer information, go over our policies and requirements. This seminar is required for weddings at the Basilica. This informative meeting will help you in making your wedding a memorable and liturgically beautiful Sacrament. Please call the parish office to register. 602-354-2100

Religious Education Congress 2008

“Lift Your Gaze...See Anew”
February 29- March 2, 2008
Anaheim Convention Center

This yearly Catholic Congress, held in Anaheim, California, is a wonderful opportunity to grow in knowledge of our faith and to experience Liturgy on a grand scale! Over the years thousands of people have attended and brought refreshing ideas back home to their parish communities. You may log on to www.RECongress.org for a guidebook which lists all the many lectures, presentations, concerts and Masses. St. Mary’s Basilica has reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western Park Place at \$106 plus tax per room, per night. Rooms have two queen beds and a sofa bed. If you wish to reserve a room, please call the hotel at 714-776-4800 and ask for the R.E. Congress rate. Registration for the Congress is \$60 until January 5th and \$70 after that. For further information, please contact Fr. Vince. 602-354-2072.

Christmas Season Masses



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God **January 1, 2008 at 10:00 am** **Holy Day of Obligation**

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is the oldest feast of Mary. The Feast is a celebration of the Motherhood of Mary. The title, "Mother of God," is a western derivation from the Greek, "theotokos," literally translated "God-bearer". The term "theotokos" was adopted at the ecumenical council at Ephesus as a way to assert the divinity of Christ, from which it follows that what is predicated of Christ is predicated of God. So, if Mary is the mother of Jesus, she is the mother of God. Therefore, the title, "Mother of God", and the "Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God", which celebrates her under this title, are at once Mariological and Christological. As the conclusion of the octave of Christmas, this feast demonstrates for Catholics that Mary's role is always to direct the believer toward her son. Let us begin the NEW YEAR right!

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord **January 6, 2008** **9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses**



Today we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord, that is, his manifestation to the peoples, represented by the Magi, mysterious figures who came from the East of whom the Gospel of St Matthew speaks (Mt 2: 1-12).

The adoration of Jesus by the Magi was immediately recognized as the fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures. "Nations shall walk by your light", we read in the Book of Isaiah, "and kings by your shining radiance... bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord" (Is 60: 3, 6). Today, the light of Christ, which was as it were contained in the Grotto of Bethlehem, reaches its full universal importance.

-Pope Benedict XVI

Parish Epiphany Pot Luck Party **January 6, 2008 at Noon**

Continue the celebration of the birth of Christ
at our annual Epiphany Party!
It all starts at Noon in the Social Hall.
Bring your favorite dish!



Food, Fun and Sharing!

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord **January 13, 2008** **9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses**



Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. (Lk 3:23; Acts 1:22). The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son."(Mt 3:13-17) This is the manifestation ("Epiphany") of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God.

**BOUND TOGETHER BY
THE LOVE OF GOD**

Jesus, God and man, your human nature was intrinsically woven within your divine being. You were born into a human family to model for us the sanctity of family life. We ask your blessing upon family life today. Teach us the sanctity of human love that binds all families together in you and in God.



Show us the way to live; respecting, honoring and trusting our aged parents, and our newborn family members alike. Break down the barriers

to forgiving one another, drawing us instead to love your image present in every human heart. Move us to act for the sake of family life, to create a better society and a more perfect church.

2008 Arizona March and Rally for Life



Catholics: Put Your Faith into Action for a Culture of Life

Bishop Olmsted invites you to join him and thousands of others on January 20, 2008 for the annual March and Rally for Life. This event will include energizing music, booths, dynamic speakers, personal stories... and an opportunity to be part of the growing effort to support women and their children. The march will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Wesley Bolin Park Korean War Memorial (15th Ave and Washington St. in Phoenix), and the rally will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same location. Bring your family and friends. This is also Arizona's Largest Diaper Drive. Donations of disposable diapers, baby wipes, and formula will be gratefully accepted. **Check the website for early drop off locations (www.azliferally.com).**

Bishop Olmsted will celebrate a special Mass for the unborn at Saint Matthew's Church (320 North 20th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85009) at 11:15 a.m. and lead a separate march from that location. For more information, please visit www.azliferally.com or call 602-285-0063.

Weekly Offering

STEWARDSHIP



- December 9, 2007 was \$ 6,923.00
- December 16, 2007 was \$7,701.75
- December 23, 2007 was \$6,743.29

Thank you very much!!!

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE
WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2008**



THE HUMAN FAMILY, A COMMUNITY OF PEACE

At the beginning of a New Year, I wish to send my fervent good wishes for peace, together with a heartfelt message of hope to men and women throughout the world. I do so by offering for our common reflection the theme which I have placed at the beginning of this message. It is one which I consider particularly important: the human family, a community of peace. The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union in order to build together a new family. But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one human family: "All peoples"—as the Second Vatican Council declared—"are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth (cf. Acts 17:26); they also have one final end, God"(1). (Message of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI)

To view the entire message please visit www.vatican.va

What's Happening At St. Mary's

Sunday, December 30th		
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		Basilica
Franciscan Missions Special Collection		
Tuesday, January 1st—Holy Day of Obligation		
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God	10:00 am	Basilica
Wednesday, January 2nd		
Memorial of St. Basil the Great	Noon	Basilica
Thursday, January 3rd		
Holy Hour	11:00 am & 5:00 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Basilica
Friday, January 4th		
Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Noon	Basilica
Sunday, January 6th		
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	All Masses	Basilica
Epiphany Potluck Party	Noon	Social Hall
(please note there is no Epiphany Party on the 7th. This was a misprint in the Parish Letter)		
Monday, January 7th		
Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center
Tuesday, January 8th		
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft
Thursday, January 10th		
Holy Hour	11:00 am & 5:00 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Basilica
Sunday, January 13th		
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	9:00 am & 11:00 am	Basilica
Baptisms	9:00 am	Basilica
Monday, January 14th		
Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center
Tuesday, January 15th		
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft
Thursday, January 17th		
Memorial of St. Anthony the Abbot	Noon	Basilica
Holy Hour	11:00 am & 5:00 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft
Friday, January 18th		
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins		
Monday, January 21st		
Memorial of St. Agnes	Noon	Basilica
Martin Luther King Jr. Mass	3:00 pm	Basilica
Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday:	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Friday:	1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51

Reading for the Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:1-12).

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Philip Rush ((health))

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

People of St. Mary's

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

God's Peace in the World

Monday 12:05 p.m.

Fr. Benny Bavaro (Deceased)

Tuesday 12:05 p.m.

Jesus Renteria (Deceased)

Wednesday 12:05 p.m.

Pro Pluribus Defunctis

Thursday 12:05 p.m.

In Thanksgiving

Friday 12:05 p.m.

Those suffering with Tuberculosis

Sanctuary Candles
In Memory of



Darren Foy

Join us for
Respect Life
Rosary
After the
Noon Mass
**January 4,
2007**

