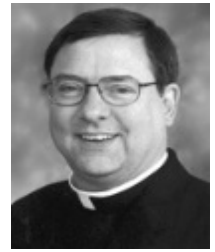


# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Dear parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Cathedral,

My first words here have to be a reaffirmation of the **blessings of Christmas**: I hope this holy season continues to be for you and yours a special time of grace.

You know, the beauty of our Christmas liturgies is well-known: we add to God's Word and Sacrament so much by our décor, our music and our reverence. But the most beautiful thing about our worship is never its external aspects. Just as the Deity itself is enfleshed in the Christ Child, so too **holiness becomes real** within us. It has been a great privilege to share this sacred time, in our Cathedral's beloved sacred space, with you.

Now I suppose most of us will start giving some thought to the upcoming **New Year of 2010**. What will it bring? How can we "resolve" to do better, to be better, in the New Year? A lot of people do this, and I have to admit that it's not a bad thing. The New Year gives us an opportunity for a "fresh start," a new beginning of creativity and benefits.

But I will challenge you: don't just let your New Year's "resolutions" be ordinary ones. Sure, deciding to eat smarter and exercise more are good things to do. It's great when people resolve to develop a new interest or hobby, read more books, or make extra efforts to stay connected with friends and family.

Beyond this, though, would be more extraordinary pursuits. And here I'm thinking of spiritual things. First of all, make sure you start your New Year off right by worshipping with us: **January 1 is a holy day of obligation**, after all. It's the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: she who had such a big part to play in the first Christmas continues to be a model for our own life of faith. Mary considered herself totally at God's service: it's something we can do as well.

I especially want to encourage you to learn more about your Catholic faith. And so I've thought of one way to do this. Remember the *Magnificat Advent Companion* I sent as one of the Cathedral's little gifts to you? It provided a daily meditation and other spiritual helps to enrich your prayer in that holy season. Did you use it?

I have to admit that the regular monthly *Magnificat* booklet is an outstanding personal aid to prayer and reflection. It is also quite informational as regards Catholic teachings and Church history, and provides interesting and useful guides to the sacred liturgy as well.

There's just one downside to *Magnificat* in my opinion: a personal subscription is \$45 a year. Call me a cheapskate, but I think that's pretty steep. Fortunately, the price goes down dramatically if ordered in bulk. For example, if we order between 100 and 500 copies, the price goes down to just \$25 a year! That's way more reasonable.

So I tell you what: because I'm such a fan of *Magnificat*, I would like to offer you a **special deal**: the Cathedral's Parish Office can serve as the middleman for you. Clip the coupon below and fill it out. Send it with your payment for the next year and we'll get *Magnificat* for you at the reduced price! You'll be able to pick up **your personal copy** at the Cathedral each month as soon as they come in, beginning in February or as soon as we can.

Think about it! And **then do it!** It might be the best thing you do for your prayer-life in this New Year!

Finally, be forewarned: at the end of January I'll be putting one idea before you that definitely is worth a New Year's resolution. Our annual **Stewardship of Finance appeal** is a special occasion on which all of us prayerfully discern that – and how much – we must give monetarily to God. Proper stewardship means making a **free, prayerful, planned, proportionate and sacrificial gift** to God and His Church. These "five giving principles" ensure that our financial commitments benefit both the Parish community and ourselves as much as possible.

In Christ,

---

## OBTAIN A YEAR OF *MAGNIFICAT* FROM THE CATHEDRAL!

Yes, I'd like to get *Magnificat* for me and my family:

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copies at \$25 per year.  
*Number*

Attached is my payment for the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. *(Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Cathedral)*

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Please print)*

My Daytime Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following box:  I understand that my copy/ies will be delivered to St. Joseph Cathedral, to be picked up there at Sunday Mass or from the Parish Office.

## NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

4:00 pm Vigil Mass (celebrated by Bishop Muench)  
5:00 pm (Gumbo in the Parish Hall)

Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

8:00 am Mass  
10:00 am Mass

**JOIN US ON NEW YEAR'S EVE after the Vigil Mass for delicious GUMBO in the Parish Hall!**

**(The Parish Office will be closed on Jan. 1. Have a safe and happy New Year!)**

---

**PLEASE NOTE...** This issue of the *Bulletin* covers the next two weeks (Mass Intentions and Scripture Readings are listed on the back of this bulletin.)

**COLLECTIONS...** We ordinarily take up only ONE collection during the Preparation of the Gifts at Mass. Please place your regular weekly envelope and all other donations into it. On the first full weekend each month (like next weekend, Jan. 2/3) we ask for a special donation for *Cathedral Maintenance and Repair*. Your sacrificial support is appreciated.

**SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!...** Our *Ladies of the Cathedral* are collecting "Comeback Cards" this year! This assists the St. Jude's Ranch for Children, an organization which helps abused, abandoned, and neglected young people. Save your used holiday greeting cards, and drop them off at the Parish Office or in church on the weekend anytime before Feb. 7. The Ladies will forward them to the children of St. Jude's Ranch, where the fronts of donated cards are removed and made into new ones.

**STOCK/BOND DONATIONS...** A contribution of appreciated stock to St. Joseph Cathedral before Dec. 31 could not only help us but benefit your tax liability on April 15. Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5928 to find out how to make this happen.

**SANCTUARY LAMP...** Thanks go out to George and Mary Rettig this month. Their donation has dedicated the burning of our Sanctuary Lamp in January in memory of Charles J. Clifton, and for Herb and Rose Marie Babin in honor of their 80th birthday; the prayers of our parish family accompany the light!

**SORRY!...** Since we all will still be full of holiday treats, there will be no coffee-and-doughnuts after the 8 and 10 am Masses on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. We'll resume on Jan. 10!

**SHOW YOU ARE PRO-LIFE...** The Bishop's annual "Respect Life" Rally will be on Sunday, Jan. 10, from 2 to 4 pm at the Catholic Life Center. This year's topic will be "Imitating Jesus in Pro-Life Conversations".

**VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK...** is Jan. 10 to 16 this year. Please pray for more Vocations to the holy priesthood and religious life, especially from among the young people of our Diocese!

**HEALING...** The *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick* will be offered Sunday, Dec. 27, after the 12 noon Mass. A special blessing with a relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos will also be offered. Catholics over 7 years of age who are ill, handicapped, facing serious surgery or enfeebled by old age are eligible to receive this Sacrament and invited to take part.

### PRAYER LIST - JANUARY 2010

Hospital/Sick: Fran Bourgeois, Richard Boudreaux, Meredith Burns, Jesse Carline, Ozile Carpenter, Helen Casse, Michael Conger, Nicole Couper, Carolyn Daigle, Merle Day, Erlene Ferguson, Nina Fox, Mary Furlow, Jennifer Gauthier, Andrea Gunnells, Gwen Hamilton, Shirley Hunt, Nomie James, John Jones, Carolyn Kennedy, Glenda Kennedy, Jack Kinnear, Torrey Kleinpeter, Tammy Lane, Glee Lashout, Walter Lechner, Clementine Lott, Father Pat Mascarella, Bill McAuliffe, Ann Messina, Westin Morley, Lisa Namie, Elizabeth Orgeron, Nicky Perrinoes, Frank Rice, Farrell Richard, Patrick Richoux, Ruth Traylor, Fr. Than Vu, Mickey Waguespack, Peggy Moore, and Annette Williams

Homebound: Mary Zolodick

Nursing Homes: Chetta Cangelosi, Josie Cangelosi, Lettie Counce, Mae Couvillion, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Elaine Taranto

Other Concerns: For military and diplomatic personnel

This list is printed monthly. To add a name, please contact the Cathedral Office at 225-387-5928 or [office@cathedralofstjoseph.org](mailto:office@cathedralofstjoseph.org)

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY...** If you were unable to have your photo taken for our soon-to-be-published pictorial directory, please send in a photo that can be used. You can either mail it to or drop it by the Cathedral Office, or email it to us at [office@cathedralofstjoseph.org](mailto:office@cathedralofstjoseph.org).

**ROOTS OF FAITH: A History of the Diocese of Baton Rouge...** This book tells the story of the church in south central Louisiana in an attractive, full-color book. You may purchase your copy at the Parish Office for \$32 each. Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Cathedral.

**THANKS...** Father Paul and the Parish Staff would like to thank everyone who has shared Christmas gifts and goodies with us over the past few weeks. Your generosity is appreciated.

A special word of thanks goes out to our seminarian, Reuben Dykes, who is staying at the Cathedral over the holidays and helping out: you see him and our other seminarians at liturgies but he's also been a big help in lots of other, little ways at this busy time of year.