



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

2323 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 542-6984

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Alan Acevedo, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
cathedralresponse@gmail.com

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Parish Office Phone | 542-6984 |
| Parish Office Fax | 542-1621 |
| Religious Education | 326-3408 |
| Finance Council – Marty McCormick | 526-1700 |
| Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski | 578-8848 |
| School Office – Sharon Jeffrey | 545-7252 |
| Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare | 528-9133 |
| Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner | 206-5579 |

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
School: www.steugenesch.org

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

Cathedral Thrift Shop Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cathedral Books & Gifts Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 2, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 2

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm

MONDAY JANUARY 3

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

TUESDAY JANUARY 4

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
 Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am
 PSR – School – 3:45 pm
 Latin Mass – Cathedral- 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
 Bible Study – PLC Hope Room – 6:00 pm

THURSDAY JANUARY 6

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

FRIDAY JANUARY 7

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

SATURDAY JANUARY 8

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
 Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
 (Spanish)

LECTORS NEEDED

~LOOKING FOR LECTORS~

We are in need of Lectors who can read at our Sunday Masses, most particularly, the 5:30 p.m. Mass. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Tony Nelson at: opsmanager@steugenes.com for information about signing up and undergoing a brief training session.

~JOB OPENING~

Cardinal Newman High School is looking for a Campus Ministry Coordinator to work closely with the Chaplain in organizing faith-based programs and activities throughout the school year. Especially noteworthy are the annual student retreats, monthly school-wide Masses, and various activities around the liturgical calendar. If Please apply at <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1506169>. For more information, please contact Fr. Plass at frplass@cardinalnewman.org.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 12/12/21

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Sunday Donations Received: | \$17,252. |
| 2nd Collection Revenue Received for: Retirement Fund For Religious | \$4,920. |
| <i>Holy Day of Obligation:</i> Immaculate Conception | \$4,132. |

For the Week of: 12/19/21

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Sunday Donations Received: | \$12,308. |
| 2nd Collection Revenue Received for: Tuition Assistance Program | \$3,192. |

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

Our Special of the Month for January is 25% off "Sleeping Saint Joseph" statues. Also, we will soon have a special clearance section set up with discounts from 25% to 50% off on selected items. There will also be a clearance sale on all Advent and Christmas merchandise during January. The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at 542-0250.

~VOLUNTEERS NEEDED~

Our Bookstore/Gift Shop is looking for a few volunteers with retail experience, who are customer-service oriented, self-starters (but willing to take direction) and able to work a minimum of 4 hours/week. We are a ministry as well as a retail store, so compassion and the ability to listen are highly recommended. Interested? Stop in the bookstore during business hours (see hours above) and an interview will be scheduled.

~SECOND COLLECTION~

There is no Second Collection this weekend, January 1&2. Next weekend, January 8 & 9, our Second Collection will be for Homeless Assistance, the Family Support Center.

~BECKER CENTER UPGRADES~

Recently, we were notified by the County Health Department that the flooring in the kitchen of the Msgr. Becker Center needs to be replaced. The Finance Council, as well as the Parish Council, have also recommended that we do much needed upgrades to the kitchen and bathrooms, for they are also in poor condition. To take care of all of these upgrades, we will need to raise approximately \$100,000 (the kitchen floor alone will cost upwards of \$20,000.) Please consider making a tax deductible donation to help the parish complete this work. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of this endeavor!

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Saturday | January 1 |
| 5:30 am (Sp) | Fred Wallace, deceased |
| 8:00 am | In honor of and in reparation for the offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living & deceased members of the Russell & Rinaldi Families. |
| 4:30 pm | In Peace & Goodwill to the Ciek Family |
| 6:30 (Sp) | Carmen Santos, deceased |
| Sunday | January 2 |
| 7:30 am | Fr. Frank Epperson, living |
| 9:00 am | Carol Deghi, deceased |
| 10:30 am | People of St. Eugene's |
| 12:00 pm | Dn. Russ Bowden, living |
| 1:30 pm (EF) | Andy & Volodya Skrypka, living |
| 5:30 pm | John Grande Family, deceased |
| Monday | January 3 |
| 6:45 am | Anna Magdalena Arnerich, living |
| 8:00 am | Ricmon Sunny Mark Marapao, deceased |
| Tuesday | January 4 |
| 6:45 am | Darlene McKee, deceased |
| 8:00 am | Dennis McKay, deceased |
| 5:30 pm (EF) | Lisa Tran, living |
| Wednesday | January 5 |
| 6:45 am | James Ernst, deceased |
| 8:00 am | Wagner Family, deceased |
| Thursday | January 6 |
| 6:45 am | Gregory Iovic, deceased |
| 8:00 am | Luigi Fabiano, deceased |
| Friday | January 7 |
| 6:45 am | Ed Seeberger, deceased |
| 8:00 am | Betty Bjornstrom, living |
| 9:20 am | Laura Leon Luna, living |
| Saturday | January 8 |
| 8:00 am | Christina Lorbeer, living |
| 4:30 pm | Frederick Harold Wallace, Jr., deceased |
| 6:30 pm | Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Maria Garcia, living |

~PRAYERS FOR THE FORGOTTEN DEAD~

"O merciful God, take pity on those souls who have no particular friends and intercessors to recommend them to Thee, who, either through the negligence of those who are alive, or through length of time are forgotten by their friends and by all. Spare them, O Lord, and remember Thine own mercy, when others forget to appeal to it. Let not the souls which Thou hast created be parted from thee, their Creator. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." Amen.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~BIBLE STUDY~

We will be starting an 8-week Bible study beginning this **Wednesday, January 5th**. The study will focus on how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan. The class will meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Hope Room (upstairs) of the Parish Life Center (PLC). All students are required to purchase a study guide at a cost of **\$26.95** due by check on the first day of class. Please contact Steve for more information or to reserve a seat in the class. 707-292-0054.

RESPECT LIFE

~WALK FOR LIFE~

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2022 Walk for Life in San Francisco on **Saturday, January 22nd**. The Bus will leave St. Eugene's at 7:45am and drop us off at San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to SF Civic Center for the Annual Walk for Life Rally. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by The Walk for Life down Market St. at 1:30pm. We will board our bus at the end of The Walk around 3:30pm and we will arrive back at St. Eugene's around 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office on a first come/first serve basis. The cost is \$27. *All passengers are required to wear a mask while on the bus.*

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~EPIPHANY BREAKFAST~

The Knights of Columbus annual Epiphany Fundraiser Breakfast that will take place **this Sunday, January 2, 2022**, in the Becker Center, from 8am till noon. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate & orange juice. Kids can whack the piñata at 10:15 and 11:45am. **The cost is \$10**, paid at the door. Please join us!

IN NEED OF PRAYER

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales and Nick Sidjakov.

The bulletin item deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. E-mail items to: office@steuigenes.com. We reserve the right to edit or omit items.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Kathy Keyes | Daniel Dolan | Beatrice Dolan | Cheryl A. Ryan |
| Guy & Irene Catenacci | Daniel J. Galvin, Jr. | Grace Menke | Joseph Horrigan |
| Anna Horrigan | Bernard Joseph Gilson, Sr. | Theresa Anaclerio | Earl Perlberg |
| Manilio & Fulvia Iregioni | Reyna Mota | Jeffrey Reeves | Pamela Saccomano |
| Jim & Lucille Mullany | Elsie & Wallace Greene | Elizabeth C. Gill | Misha Larro |
| Betty McNeil | Hershel Harber | Myra Bleyer | Joe & Anita Cerri |
| G.D. Nguyen Le | Ong ba Noi | Marija Jurkovic | Richard Czerny |
| Olieta & Claude Royston | Virginia & Joe Bustos | Mary Sanchez | Vicente & Casimiro Sanchez |
| Gloria Wynn | Dad/Mom/Uncle McCloskey | Ed Casey | Bob Kocina |
| Hannah McAleer | Marge | Jessica | Holy Souls in Purgatory |

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

HOLY TRIO

~FROM THE PASTOR~

January 1 & 2 are two incredibly holy days. These days are holy for three reasons: First, traditionally, the Church celebrated the Circumcision of Jesus on January 1st. This event is of great importance because it was the first time that the blood of Christ was shed, thus beginning the process of the redemption of man, and a demonstration that Christ was, indeed, fully human. We will read more about this in our first article below. Second, in the new calendar of the Church, we celebrate Mary, Mother of God on January 1st. We will read about why the title of "Mother of God" is an appropriate and correct one. Third, on January 2nd, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, which our third article will shed more light on. As Catholics, we are incredibly fortunate to begin each new year with this holy trio of commemorations. For so many of us, the new year does not necessarily bring joy, but rather, trepidation. We are seeing so many manifestations of evil in our society and in our world that it makes us wonder: what's next? Let us pray fervently that in God's righteous wrath, we may remain firmly grounded in our traditional faith so that whatever may befall us, we will be among the saved.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD

~ON THE EIGHTH DAY~

"... on January 1 we used to celebrate the feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord. This was an appropriate day for the liturgical celebration of this event because a week after the birth every male Jewish child was circumcised and a name was given him. St Luke describes it: "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was

called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (*Luke 2:21*)." The circumcision of Christ has an interesting origin and symbolism. It dates back to the time of Abraham, around 1900 BC. The book of Genesis records that when Abraham was 99 years old, God made a covenant with him, promising to multiply his offspring and to give them the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession. At the same time he changed his name from Abram to Abraham (cf. *Genesis 17:1-8*). God told him: "This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised ... So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant" (*Genesis 17:10-13*). Ever since, as a sign of the covenant, every male child was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, and this became the means of incorporation into the people of the covenant, just as Baptism is for Christians today. St. Paul himself would boast of having been "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews" (*Philippians 3:5*). Circumcision distinguished the Jews from the Gentiles, who were peoples of the uncircumcision. Our Lord's circumcision thus manifests that he is truly man, born of a woman into the Jewish nation, whom he had come to redeem. God had chosen his people of the Old Testament to prepare the way for the Incarnation of his Son, who would be their Messiah, their anointed one, who would free them from their sins and establish a new and definitive covenant with them. Christ's circumcision also has great symbolic value. It was in his circumcision that he first shed his blood,

foreshadowing the piercing of his side by a soldier as he hung on the cross (cf. *John* 19:34). It prefigured the water of Baptism through which Christians enter the new Covenant. ... Since January 1 was the beginning of a new calendar year, the Christian feast had to compete with the pagan festivities celebrated on that day, as it does today. The feast of the Circumcision was celebrated in the Gallican rite from the sixth century and in the Byzantine calendars in the eighth and ninth centuries. The Octave of Christmas was celebrated at the same time, especially in Rome from the seventh century. Even though the feast was of the Circumcision, the texts of the Mass and Divine Office came to include many references to Our Lady. Until 1960 the Roman calendar celebrated on January 1 the Circumcision and the Octave of the Nativity. In the revised calendar of 1960 January 1 was called simply the Octave of the Nativity. Finally, in the Roman calendar of 1969 the feast became the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, but is also referred to as the Octave of the Nativity. It is fitting that we celebrate Mary's divine maternity on the octave of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of the Son of God. The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is celebrated on January 3." For the complete article by Fr. John Flader, go to: <https://catholicleader.com.au/opinion/guest-writers/the-circumcision-of-christ/>

THE MOTHER OF GOD

~WHAT THE TITLE MEANS~

"... The first Christians called Mary the "Mother of God" without hesitation. There was scriptural precedent, and it seemed logical. If Jesus was God, and Mary was his mother, then that made her the Mother of God. That sort of logic depends on a principle called the "Communication of Idioms." According to that principle, whatever one says about either of Christ's natures can be truly said of Christ himself. That's because His two natures, the divine nature and the human nature, were united in Him. He is one divine person. In the fifth century, however, some people raised the same objections to the title that many non-Catholics raise today: They argued that the title "Mother of God" implied that Mary was the "originator of God." Those objectors said that they could accept the title "Mother of Christ," but not "Mother of God." At the heart of those objections, however, was an objection to the unity of Christ's two natures. Mary, they claimed, gave birth only to Christ's human nature, not his divine nature. The Church, led by Pope Celestine I and St. Cyril of Alexandria, disagreed. As St. Cyril pointed out, a mother gives birth to a person, not a nature. Accordingly, Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, who was and is a

a divine person. Although Mary did not "originate" or "generate" God, she did bear Him in her womb and give birth to Him. She was God's mother. The controversy over Mary's title as "Mother of God" was addressed in 431 A.D. at the Council of Ephesus. There, more was at stake than simply defending Mary's title. The Christian teaching about Christ's two natures was the real issue. The Church wanted to settle one question: Was Jesus one person or two? Rejecting the teaching of the heretic Nestorius, the Church declared that Jesus is one divine person, with two natures—his mother's human nature and his Father's divine nature. Mary did not give Jesus his divine nature or his divine personhood—those He possessed from all eternity as the only begotten Son of the Father. But she also didn't just give Him His flesh: She gave birth to the whole person. She gave birth to Jesus Christ, both God and man. That is what we confess every time we say the Apostles' Creed." Excerpted from: Why Do We Call Mary the Mother of God? For complete article, go to: <https://stpaulcenter.com/why-do-we-call-mary-the-mother-of-god-2/>

~THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD~

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him. These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah. God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think. A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life. Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way. "

For complete article, go to: <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2020/01/04/the-epiphany-of-the-lord/>

MI FE CATOLICA

**SANTO TRIO
~DEL PASTOR~**

El 1 y 2 de enero son dos días increíblemente sagrados. Estos días son sagrados por tres razones: Primero, tradicionalmente, la Iglesia celebraba la Circuncisión de Jesús el 1 de enero. Este evento es de gran importancia porque fue la primera vez que la sangre de Cristo fue derramada, comenzando así el proceso de la redención del hombre, y una demostración de que Cristo era, de hecho, completamente humano. Leeremos más sobre esto en nuestro primer artículo más abajo. En segundo lugar, en el nuevo calendario de la Iglesia, celebramos a María, Madre de Dios, el 1 de enero. Leeremos por qué el título de "Madre de Dios" es apropiado y correcto. En tercer lugar, el 2 de enero celebramos la Epifanía del Señor, sobre la que nuestro tercer artículo arrojará más luz. Como católicos, somos increíblemente afortunados de comenzar cada año nuevo con este santo trío de conmemoraciones. Para muchos de nosotros, el nuevo año no trae necesariamente alegría, sino más bien inquietud. Vemos tantas manifestaciones del mal en nuestra sociedad y en nuestro mundo que nos hace preguntarnos: ¿qué será lo próximo? Recemos con fervor para que, en la justa ira de Dios, permanezcamos firmemente arraigados en nuestra fe tradicional, de modo que, pase lo que pase, estemos entre los salvados.

LA CIRCUNCISION DEL SEÑOR

~EN EL OCTAVO DÍA~

"... el 1 de enero solíamos celebrar la fiesta de la Circuncisión de Nuestro Señor. Era un día apropiado para la celebración litúrgica de este acontecimiento porque una semana después del nacimiento todo niño judío varón era circuncidado y se le daba un nombre. San Lucas lo describe: "Y al cabo de ocho días, cuando fue circuncidado, fue llamado Jesús, el nombre que le dio el ángel antes de ser concebido en el vientre" (Lucas 2:21). La circuncisión de Cristo tiene un origen y un simbolismo interesantes. Se remonta a la época de Abraham, alrededor del año 1900 antes de Cristo. El libro del Génesis registra que cuando Abraham tenía 99 años, Dios hizo un pacto con él, prometiendo multiplicar su descendencia y darles la tierra de Canaán como posesión eterna. Al mismo tiempo, cambió su nombre de Abram a Abraham (cf. Génesis 17:1-8). Dios le dijo: →

"Esta es mi alianza, que deberás cumplir, entre tú y yo y tus descendientes después de ti: Todo varón de entre vosotros será circuncidado. Seréis circuncidados en la carne de vuestros prepucios, y será señal del pacto entre mí y vosotros. El que tenga ocho días entre vosotros será circuncidado... Así será mi pacto en vuestra carne, un pacto eterno" (Génesis 17:10-13). Desde entonces, como signo de la alianza, todo niño varón era circuncidado al octavo día de su nacimiento, y esto se convirtió en el medio de incorporación al pueblo de la alianza, como lo es hoy el bautismo para los cristianos. El propio San Pablo se jactaba de haber sido "circuncidado al octavo día, del pueblo de Israel, de la tribu de Benjamín, hebreo nacido de hebreos" (Filipenses 3:5). La circuncisión distinguía a los judíos de los gentiles, que eran pueblos de la incircunciso. La circuncisión de nuestro Señor manifiesta así que es verdaderamente hombre, nacido de mujer en la nación judía, a la que había venido a redimir. Dios había elegido a su pueblo del Antiguo Testamento para preparar el camino de la Encarnación de su Hijo, que sería su Mesías, su ungido, que les liberaría de sus pecados y establecería con ellos una alianza nueva y definitiva. La circuncisión de Cristo tiene también un gran valor simbólico. Fue en su circuncisión donde por primera vez derramó su sangre, presagiando la perforación de su costado por un soldado mientras colgaba de la cruz (cf. Juan 19:34). Prefiguraba el agua del bautismo por el que los cristianos entran en la nueva Alianza. ... Como el 1 de enero era el comienzo de un nuevo año civil, la fiesta cristiana tenía que competir con las festividades paganas que se celebraban en ese día, al igual que hoy. La fiesta de la Circuncisión se celebraba en el rito galicano desde el siglo VI y en los calendarios bizantinos de los siglos VIII y IX. La Octava de Navidad se celebraba al mismo tiempo, especialmente en Roma a partir del siglo VII. Aunque la fiesta era de la Circuncisión, los textos de la misa y del oficio divino llegaron a incluir muchas referencias a la Virgen. Hasta 1960 el calendario romano celebraba el 1 de enero la Circuncisión y la Octava de la Natividad. En el calendario revisado de 1960, el 1 de enero se llamó simplemente Octava de la Natividad. Finalmente, en el calendario romano de 1969 la fiesta se convirtió en la Solemnidad de María, la Madre de Dios, pero también se denomina Octava de la Natividad. Es apropiado que celebremos la divina maternidad de María en la →

octava de Navidad, cuando celebramos el nacimiento del Hijo de Dios. La fiesta del Santo Nombre de Jesús se celebra el 3 de enero".

LA MADRE DE DIOS

"...Los primeros cristianos llamaban a María "Madre de Dios" sin dudarle. Había un precedente bíblico y parecía lógico. Si Jesús era Dios, y María era su madre, entonces eso la convertía en la Madre de Dios. Ese tipo de lógica depende de un principio llamado "Comunicación de los modismos". Según ese principio, cualquier cosa que se diga de cualquiera de las dos naturalezas de Cristo puede decirse realmente de Cristo mismo. Eso es porque Sus dos naturalezas, la naturaleza divina y la naturaleza humana, estaban unidas en Él. Es una sola persona divina. Sin embargo, en el siglo V, algunas personas plantearon las mismas objeciones al título que muchos no católicos plantean hoy: Argumentaban que el título de "Madre de Dios" implicaba que María era la "originadora de Dios". Esos objetores decían que podían aceptar el título de "Madre de Cristo", pero no el de "Madre de Dios". Sin embargo, en el fondo de esas objeciones había una objeción a la unidad de las dos naturalezas de Cristo. María, afirmaban, dio a luz sólo la naturaleza humana de Cristo, no su naturaleza divina. La Iglesia, liderada por el Papa Celestino I y San Cirilo de Alejandría, no estaba de acuerdo. Como señaló San Cirilo, una madre da a luz a una persona, no a una naturaleza. Según una persona divina. Aunque María no "originó" o "generó" a Dios, lo llevó en su seno y lo dio a luz. Fue la madre de Dios. La controversia sobre el título de María como "Madre de Dios" se abordó en el año 431 d.C. en el Concilio de Éfeso. Allí estaba en juego algo más que la simple defensa del título de María. La enseñanza cristiana sobre las dos naturalezas de Cristo era la verdadera cuestión. La Iglesia quería resolver una cuestión: ¿Era Jesús una persona o dos? Rechazando la enseñanza del hereje Nestorio, la Iglesia declaró que Jesús es una persona divina, con dos naturalezas: la naturaleza humana de su madre y la naturaleza divina de su Padre. María no le dio a Jesús su naturaleza divina ni su condición de persona divina, que poseía desde toda la eternidad como Hijo unigénito del Padre. Pero tampoco le dio sólo su carne: dio a luz a toda la persona. Dio a luz a Jesucristo, Dios y hombre a la vez. Eso es lo que confesamos cada vez que decimos el Credo de los Apóstoles". Extraído de: ¿Por qué llamamos a María Madre de Dios?

~ La Epifanía del Señor ~

Epifanía" significa manifestación. Y la "Epifanía del Señor" es la manifestación de Jesús no sólo a estos tres Magos de Oriente, sino que es también una manifestación simbólica pero real de Cristo a todo el mundo. Estos Magos, que viajan desde una nación extranjera y no judía, revelan que Jesús vino para todos los pueblos y todos están llamados a adorarlo. Estos Magos eran "hombres sabios" que estudiaban las estrellas y estaban al tanto de la creencia judía de que un Mesías iba a venir. Habrían sido versados en gran parte de la sabiduría de la época y habrían estado intrigados por la creencia judía en el Mesías. Dios utilizó aquello con lo que estaban familiarizados para llamarlos a adorar al Cristo. Utilizó una estrella. Ellos entendían las estrellas y cuando vieron esta nueva y única estrella sobre Belén se dieron cuenta de que algo especial estaba sucediendo. Así que la primera lección que tomamos de esto para nuestras propias vidas es que Dios utilizará lo que nos es familiar para llamarnos a Él. Busca la "estrella" que Dios utiliza para llamarte. Está más cerca de lo que crees. Una segunda cosa a tener en cuenta es que los Reyes Magos se postraron ante el Niño Jesús. Pusieron sus vidas ante Él en completa entrega y adoración. Son un ejemplo perfecto para nosotros. Si estos astrólogos de una tierra extranjera pudieron venir y adorar a Cristo de una manera tan profunda, nosotros debemos hacer lo mismo. Tal vez puedas intentar postrarte literalmente en oración este día, a imitación de los Magos, o al menos hacerlo en tu corazón a través de la oración. Adórale con una entrega total de tu vida. Por último, los Reyes Magos traen oro, incienso y mirra. Estos tres regalos, presentados a nuestro Señor, muestran que reconocieron a este Niño como el Rey Divino que moriría para salvarnos del pecado. El oro es para un Rey, el incienso es un holocausto a Dios y la mirra se utiliza para alguien que va a morir. Así, su adoración se basa en las verdades de quién es este Niño. Si queremos adorar a Cristo.

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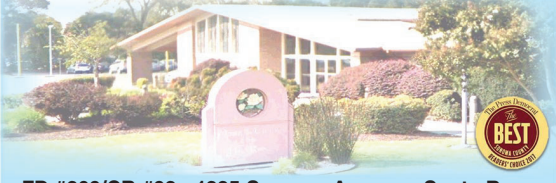
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