



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Rev. Bala Putchakayala, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
Office@steugenes.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	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 7:25 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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 8, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 8

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00,
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA - PLC – 10:30 am
Knights of Columbus Breakfast - Becker Ctr: 8 - 12:00 pm

MONDAY JANUARY 9

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

TUESDAY JANUARY 10

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am
Latin Mass – Cathedral- 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm
Bible Study – PLC – 7:00 pm

THURSDAY JANUARY 12

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Golden Opportunities Luncheon – PLC – 11:30 am

FRIDAY JANUARY 13

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
School Tour – School – 9:00 am

SATURDAY JANUARY 14

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

~ FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER~

This weekend, January 7 & 8, the Second Collection will be taken for Homeless Assistance: The Family Support Center at Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa. Next weekend, January 14 & 15, our Second Collection will be for our Tuition Assistance Program.

~ K of C TO HONOR MILITARY~

Are you currently, or were you in the past, a member of our Armed Forces? If so, the Knights of Columbus would like to honor you! Our latest project is to update the sign in the PLC that honors our veterans. We would like to include all St. Eugene's parishioners who serve, or have served, our country. Forms are available for you to fill out in the Parish Office and in our Gift Shop/Bookstore. Please return the form to either of those locations by February 15th. For more information, please call Dan Ramos at: 707-217-1858.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of 12/25/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$23,281.
Second Collection: Building Maintenance – Roof Fund	\$7,775.

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus. The mystery and beauty of the Name of Jesus should be shrouded in silence and reverence, therefore, to respect this reverence, in January, our modest and beautiful veils are on sale at 25% off all month. They are all breathtaking in their colors, softness, and intricate patterns. Start the New Year with the understated beauty and modesty of a veil and buy the one that you've always wanted. 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

~ IN MEMORY OF~

The Varnum Family Soledad Mata

Angeles Calzada

NEW ROOF FUNDRAISER

~ NEW ROOF NEEDED~

Two weeks ago, many of you may have read the flyer that we inserted in our bulletin. For those who did not see it, our latest challenge is to have a new roof installed on the Cathedral. The one that we have now is quite old and is failing fast! One thing about these old buildings is that things eventually wear out. (Most of the buildings on our campus are 70 years old.) Last year, you may remember, we raised money to renovate the old kitchen and bathrooms in the Msgr. Becker. It looks like this year, it'll be the roof. We have been given an estimate of \$100,000 for this job. If, after prayerful reflection, you are able to help us raise the funds to make this happen, we would greatly appreciate it. If you donate by check, simply make the check payable to: "St. Eugene's" and on the Memo Line, please write: "For New Roof" Feel free to drop the check into the collection basket on a Sunday of your choice or drop it by/ send it to the Parish Office.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 7
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for the offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living and deceased members of the Russell and Rinaldi families.
4:30 pm	Rondelle Cagwin, living
6:30 pm (Sp)	Ricardo Olvera Galvan, deceased
Sunday	January 8
7:30 am	Lisa Tran, living
9:00 am	James F. Ernst, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Sr. Maria Victoria & the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, living
5:30 pm	Joseph Duong, living
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Sharon Raymond, deceased
Monday	January 9
6:45 am	Lisa Tran, living
8:00 am	Douglas, Marapao & Masalta Families, living & deceased
Tuesday	January 10
6:45 am	Lisa Tran, living
8:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Joseph Duong, living
Wednesday	January 11
6:45 am	Lisa Tram, living
8:00 am	Betty Bjornstrom, living
9:20 am (Sch)	Fr. Alan Acevedo, living
Thursday	January 12
6:45 am	Lisa Tran, living
8:00 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
Friday	January 13
6:45 am	Joseph Duong, living
8:00 am	Lisa Tran, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Michael Tran, living
Saturday	January 14
8:00 am	Pisenti & Mazzetta Families, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Rondelle Cagwin, living
6:30 (Sp)	Familia Jimenez Garcia, living

~"UNDECORATING"~

To those who helped us decorate the Cathedral for Christmas, a big "thank you"! This week, we will be taking the decorations down. If you can help, please call Barbara at 707-529-1413. We will do this on Thursday, Jan. 12, 9-11:00 am

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS~

Start 2023 off right by studying the Word of God! We will begin our class, *James: Pearls for Wise Living*, on **January 11**. Meant to help a fledgling Church live out its faith in the face of persecution and a worldview opposed to the gospel, the practical book of James will help you discover wisdom you can apply to the present. The group will meet for eleven Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 in the Parish Life Center. There is no fee, but each person must purchase the course workbook for \$30 from Ascension Press and supply their own bible. For more info contact: Tony Nelson at opsmanager@steugenes.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~EPIPHANY BREAKFAST~

The Knights of Columbus annual Epiphany Breakfast will take place this Sunday, January 8, 2023, in the Becker Center, from 8am till noon. Please join us!

~SINGLES POTLUCK~

Please join us as we hold our first potluck for Singles! Starting on Saturday, Feb. 4th, and on the first Saturday evening of every month thereafter, we will meet in the Parish Life Center immediately following the 4:30 pm Mass (5:30 pm). Each meeting will begin with us praying the Rosary. We will then discuss the Faith, marriage and the importance of discerning one's vocation. Then, we'll enjoy a potluck dinner and mingle! We will likely end our meeting by or before 7:30 pm. *For more information and to sign up for a dish/drink/dessert to share, please call Deborah Jones at: 310-600-2359.*

RESPECT LIFE

~WALK FOR LIFE~

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2023 "Walk for Life" in San Francisco on Saturday, January 21st. Two buses will leave St. Eugene's at 8:00am and drop us off at St. Mary's Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to the SF Civic Center for the rally. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by "The Walk for Life" down Market Street 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 before 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office and will be sold on a first come/first served basis. The cost is \$28.

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, 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, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Margaret Keifer, Joan Cosgrove and Denise Ealy.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Dom Guéranger was a French Benedictine monk and priest. "He was one of the leading monastics and liturgists of his generation, and his writings were highly influential both in France and abroad. He is well known for writing "The Liturgical Year"- which he began in 1841 in order to make the riches of the liturgy more widely known by the faithful. In fifteen volumes (which he did not live to complete) he follows the cycle of the liturgical year, illuminating the traditional liturgy with interpretations, commentaries, etc. "I highly recommend that you all become familiar with his work as it will definitely enrich your appreciation of and understanding of the beauty of our Faith. In fact, we have a set in our Cathedral Book Store. Stop by and take a look! Now, let us see what he has to say about the Epiphany of the Lord.

~THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS~

"The Feast of the Epiphany is the continuation of the mystery of Christmas; but it appears on the Calendar of the Church with its own special character. Its very name, which signifies *Manifestation*, implies that it celebrates the apparition of God to his creatures. For several centuries, the Nativity of our Lord was kept on this day; and when, in the year 376, the decree of the Holy See obliged all Churches to keep the Nativity on the 25th December, as Rome did - the Sixth of January was not robbed of all its ancient glory. It was still to be called the *Epiphany*, and the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ was also commemorated on this same Feast, which Tradition had marked as the day on which that Baptism took place. The Epiphany shares with the Feasts of Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, the honor of being called, in the Canon of the Mass, *a Day most holy*. It is also one of the *cardinal* Feasts, that is, one of those on which the arrangement of the Christian Year is based; for, as we have *Sundays after Easter*, and *Sundays after Pentecost*, so also we count six *Sundays after the Epiphany*."

~ADORE HIM, HEAR HIM~

"The Epiphany is indeed a great Feast, and the joy caused us by the Birth of our Jesus must be renewed on it, for, as though it were a second Christmas Day,

it shows us our Incarnate God in a new light. It leaves us all the sweetness of the dear Babe of Bethlehem, who *appeared* to us already in love; but to this it adds its own grand *manifestation* of the divinity of our Jesus. At Christmas, it was a few Shepherds that were invited by the Angels to go and recognize THE WORD MADE FLESH; but now, at the Epiphany, the voice of God himself calls the whole world to *adore* this Jesus, and *hear him*."

~TRIPLE TRIUMPH~

"The mystery of the Epiphany brings upon us three magnificent rays of the Sun of Justice, our Savior. In the calendar of pagan Rome, this sixth day of January was devoted to the celebration of the triple triumph of Augustus, the founder of the Roman Empire: but when Jesus, our *Prince of peace*, whose empire knows no limits, had secured victory to his Church by the blood of the Martyrs - then did this his Church decree, that a triple triumph of the *Immortal King* should be substituted, in the Christian Calendar, for those other three triumphs which had been won by the adopted son of Caesar."

~THE THREE MYSTERIES~

"The Sixth of January, therefore, restored the celebration of our Lord's Birth to the Twenty-Fifth of December; but, in return, there were united in the one same *Epiphany*, three manifestations of Jesus' Glory: the mystery of the Magi coming from the East, under the guidance of a star, and adoring the Infant of Bethlehem as the Divine King; the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, who, whilst standing in the waters of the Jordan, was proclaimed by the Eternal Father as Son of God; and thirdly, the mystery of the divine power of this same Jesus, when he changed the water into wine at the marriage-feast of Cana. But, did these three Mysteries really take place on this day? Is the Sixth of January the real anniversary of these great events? As the chief object of this work is to assist the devotion of the Faithful, we purposely avoid everything which would savour of critical discussion; and with regard to the present question, we think it enough to state, that Baronius, Suarez, ... [B]enedict 14th, and an almost endless list of other writers, assert that the Adoration of the Magi happened on this very day. That the Baptism of our Lord, also, happened on the

sixth of January, is admitted by the severest historical critics, even by Tillemont himself; and has been denied by only two or three. The precise day of the miracle at the marriage-feast of Cana is far from being as certain as the other two mysteries, though it is impossible to prove that the sixth of January was not the day. For us the children of the Church, it is sufficient that our Holy Mother has assigned the commemoration of these three *manifestations* for this Feast; we need nothing more to make us rejoice in the triple triumph of the Son of Mary."

~MAGNIFICENCE MANIFESTED~

"But let us return to the triumph of our sweet Saviour and King. His magnificence is manifested to us so brightly on this Feast! Our mother, the Church, is going to initiate us into the mysteries we are to celebrate. Let us imitate the faith and obedience of the Magi: let us adore, with the holy Baptist, the divine Lamb, over whom the heavens open: let us take our place at the mystic feast of Cana, where our dear King is present, thrice *manifested*, thrice glorified. In the last two mysteries, let us not lose sight of the Babe of Bethlehem; and in the Babe of Bethlehem let us cease not to recognize the Great God, (in whom the Father was *well-pleased*,) and the supreme Ruler and Creator of all things." excerpted from "The Liturgical Year" by Dom Gueranger, <http://www.liturgicalatina.org/lityear/>

CATHOLIC Q&A

~WHEN DOES CHRISTMAS END?~

Q: In the secular world, Christmas is over by December 26th. I know that this is not what we Catholics believe, so when does Christmas really end?

A: Liturgically speaking, when Christmas ends depends on the Rite (Latin or Eastern), the liturgical calendar (Ordinary or Extraordinary), and whether you're looking for the end of the Christmas 'feast' or the end of the Christmas 'season'. With that in mind, we can say:

- The Christmas feast itself ends on the final day of its octave, which is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on January 1st. Keep your feasting and merriment going for the full 8 days.
- The 'peak' of the Christmas 'season' is Epiphany, the end of the 12 Days of Christmas. Jesus is now revealed as a light to the Gentile nations. Keep your Christmas decorations, especially your Christmas lights, up at least until this day is over; or

better, 8 days for the full octave.

- The official end of the Christmas season is the Baptism of the Lord the following weekend (the end of the octave of Epiphany), after which Ordinary Time begins. Keep your nativity scene displayed up through this day or until the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. www.catholiccompany.com/blog/does-christmas-end-on-epiphany

GREAT SAINTS OF JANUARY

~ST. FRANCIS DE SALES~

"As a bishop, St. Francis de Sales believed that his role was to provide spiritual direction to others, so that's just what he did. He wrote a copious amount of letters to various individuals about the spiritual life that were eventually collected into one book called Introduction to the Devout Life. In this book he taught everyday people practical advice in plain language on how to develop deep interior lives that they could practice during their daily duties. St. Francis de Sales went a long way towards making sure that the way of holiness was no longer just for a select few individuals, but was now made accessible to ordinary people living ordinary lives."

~ST. JOHN BOSCO~

"Don Bosco often told his young people that being a saint was easy. His holiness was attractive because it was rooted in charity and exceptional purity that drew people to him. Though he sometimes did extraordinary penances, he would never allow them to his boys. "Sanctity is easy!" he would say. He told his Salesians and the young people that God wants us to be happy and to rejoice in the love of Jesus. Just do your duty in school, at home, at work the best you can. Offer your life to God: the happy times and the sad or challenging things: life sends many opportunities to join in the sufferings of Jesus: bad weather, disappointments, physical illness, sorrow – these will make you saints."

~ST. THOMAS AQUINAS~

"The two great masterpieces of Thomas' career were his Summa Theologica and Summa contra Gentiles. Both are among the most influential works in Western literature. Aquinas engages here in an apologetic with unbelievers by providing arguments for the existence of God and for the rational foundation of the Christian faith over other worldviews. Even more valuable for later church history was the Summa Theologica, a work that is unrivaled in its scope, covering a staggering number of subjects from questions of sex, the existence of angels, and the function of civil government to traditional doctrines such as Christ, salvation, and the church. <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/significance-thomas-aquinas/>

MI FE CATOLICA

~DEL PASTOR~

~LA FIESTA DE LA EPIFANÍA~

Dom Guéranger fue un monje y sacerdote benedictino francés. "Fue uno de los monjes y liturgistas más destacados de su generación, y sus escritos ejercieron una gran influencia tanto en Francia como en el extranjero. Es conocido por haber escrito "El año litúrgico", que inició en 1841 para dar a conocer mejor a los fieles las riquezas de la liturgia. En quince volúmenes (que no llegó a completar) sigue el ciclo del año litúrgico, iluminando la liturgia tradicional con interpretaciones, comentarios, etc. "Recomiendo encarecidamente que todos se familiaricen con su obra, ya que sin duda enriquecerá su apreciación y comprensión de la belleza de nuestra fe. De hecho, tenemos un juego en nuestra Librería de la Catedral. Pasen y echen un vistazo. Ahora, veamos lo que tiene que decir sobre la Epifanía del Señor.

~EL MISTERIO DE LA NAVIDAD~

"La fiesta de la Epifanía es la continuación del misterio de la Navidad, pero aparece en el calendario de la Iglesia con un carácter especial. Su mismo nombre, que significa Manifestación, implica que celebra la aparición de Dios a sus criaturas. Durante varios siglos, la Natividad de Nuestro Señor se celebró en este día; y cuando, en el año 376, el decreto de la Santa Sede obligó a todas las Iglesias a celebrar la Natividad el 25 de diciembre, como hacía Roma, el seis de enero no fue despojado de toda su antigua gloria. Se le siguió llamando Epifanía, y también se conmemoró en esta misma fiesta el Bautismo de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que la Tradición había señalado como el día en que tuvo lugar dicho Bautismo. La Epifanía comparte con las fiestas de Navidad, Pascua, Ascensión y Pentecostés el honor de ser llamada, en el Canon de la Misa, Día santísimo. Es también una de las fiestas cardinales, es decir, una de aquellas en las que se basa la organización del año cristiano; pues, así como tenemos domingos después de Pascua y domingos después de Pentecostés, también contamos seis domingos después de la Epifanía".

~ADÓRALO, ESCÚCHALO~

"La Epifanía es ciertamente una gran Fiesta, y la alegría que nos causó el Nacimiento de nuestro Jesús debe renovarse en ella, pues, como si fuera un segundo Día de Navidad, nos muestra a nuestro Dios encarnado bajo una luz nueva. Nos deja toda la dulzura del querido Niño de Belén, que ya se nos apareció en el amor; pero a esto añade su propia gran →

manifestación de la divinidad de nuestro Jesús. En Navidad, fueron unos pocos Pastores los que fueron invitados por los Ángeles a ir a reconocer a LA PALABRA HECHA CARNE; pero ahora, en la Epifanía, la voz de Dios mismo llama al mundo entero a adorar a este Jesús, y a escucharlo."

~TRIPLE TRIUNFO~

"El misterio de la Epifanía nos trae tres magníficos rayos del Sol de Justicia, nuestro Salvador. En el calendario de la Roma pagana, este sexto día de enero estaba dedicado a la celebración del triple triunfo de Augusto, el fundador del Imperio Romano: pero cuando Jesús, nuestro Príncipe de paz, cuyo imperio no conoce límites, había asegurado la victoria a su Iglesia por la sangre de los Mártires - entonces decretó esta su Iglesia, que un triple triunfo del Rey Inmortal debería ser sustituido, en el Calendario Cristiano, por aquellos otros tres triunfos que habían sido ganados por el hijo adoptivo del César."

~LOS TRES MISTERIOS~

"El Seis de Enero, por lo tanto, restituyó la celebración del Nacimiento de Nuestro Señor al Veinticinco de Diciembre; pero, a cambio, se unieron en la misma Epifanía, tres manifestaciones de la Gloria de Jesús: el misterio de los Magos venidos de Oriente, guiados por una estrella, que adoraron al Niño de Belén como Rey Divino; el misterio del Bautismo de Cristo, que, de pie en las aguas del Jordán, fue proclamado por el Padre Eterno Hijo de Dios; y, en tercer lugar, el misterio del poder divino de este mismo Jesús, cuando transformó el agua en vino en las bodas de Caná. Pero, ¿realmente tuvieron lugar estos tres Misterios en este día? ¿Es el 6 de enero el verdadero aniversario de estos grandes acontecimientos? Como el objetivo principal de este trabajo es ayudar a la devoción de los fieles, evitamos a propósito todo lo que pueda tener sabor a discusión crítica; y con respecto a la presente cuestión, creemos que es suficiente afirmar que Baronius, Suárez, ... Benedicto 14, y una lista casi interminable de otros escritores, afirman que la Adoración de los Magos tuvo lugar en este mismo día. Que el Bautismo de nuestro Señor, también, ocurrió el seis de enero, es admitido por los críticos históricos más severos, incluso por el propio Tillemont; y sólo ha sido negado por dos o tres. El día preciso del milagro en las bodas de Caná dista mucho de ser tan seguro como el de los otros dos misterios, aunque es imposible probar que no fuera el seis de enero.

LOS GRANDES SANTOS DE ENERO

~SAN FRANCISCO DE SALES~

"Como obispo, San Francisco de Sales creía que su papel era proporcionar dirección espiritual a los demás, así que eso es justo lo que hizo. Escribió una copiosa cantidad de cartas a varios individuos sobre la vida espiritual que finalmente fueron recopiladas en un libro llamado Introducción a la Vida Devota. En este libro enseñaba a la gente corriente consejos prácticos en un lenguaje sencillo sobre cómo desarrollar una vida interior profunda que pudieran practicar durante sus obligaciones diarias. San Francisco de Sales recorrió un largo camino para asegurarse de que el camino de la santidad ya no era sólo para unos pocos individuos selectos, sino que ahora se hacía accesible a la gente corriente que vivía vidas corrientes."

~SAN JUAN BOSCO~

"Don Bosco decía a menudo a sus jóvenes que ser santo era fácil. Su santidad era atractiva porque estaba enraizada en la caridad y en una pureza excepcional que atraía a la gente hacia él. Aunque a veces hacía penitencias extraordinarias, nunca se las permitía a sus muchachos. "¡La santidad es fácil!", decía. Decía a sus salesianos y a los jóvenes que Dios quiere que seamos felices y que nos alegremos en el amor de Jesús. Cumplid con vuestro deber en la escuela, en casa, en el trabajo lo mejor que podáis. Ofreced vuestra vida a Dios: los momentos felices y las cosas tristes o desafiantes: la vida nos envía muchas oportunidades para unirnos a los sufrimientos de Jesús: el mal tiempo, las decepciones, la enfermedad física, el dolor... todo esto os hará santos."

~SAN TOMÁS DE AQUINO~

"Las dos grandes obras maestras de la carrera de Tomás fueron su Suma Teológica y su Suma contra Gentiles. Ambas se cuentan entre las obras más influyentes de la literatura occidental. El Aquinate entabla aquí una apologética con los incrédulos proporcionando argumentos a favor de la existencia de Dios y del fundamento racional de la fe cristiana frente a otras cosmovisiones. Aún más valiosa para la historia posterior de la Iglesia fue la Suma Teológica, una obra sin parangón por su amplitud, que abarca un asombroso número de temas, desde cuestiones de sexo, la existencia de los ángeles y la función del gobierno civil hasta doctrinas tradicionales como Cristo, la salvación y la Iglesia."

A nosotros, hijos de la Iglesia, nos basta que nuestra Santa Madre haya asignado la conmemoración de estas tres manifestaciones para esta Fiesta; no necesitamos nada más para alegrarnos del triple triunfo del Hijo de María."

~MAGNIFICENCIA MANIFESTADA~

"Pero volvamos al triunfo de nuestro dulce Salvador y Rey. Su magnificencia se nos manifiesta tan resplandeciente en esta Fiesta. Nuestra madre, la Iglesia, va a iniciarnos en los misterios que vamos a celebrar. Imitemos la fe y la obediencia de los Magos: adoremos, con el santo Bautista, al Cordero divino, sobre el que se abren los cielos: ocupemos nuestro lugar en la fiesta mística de Caná, donde nuestro querido Rey está presente, tres veces manifestado, tres veces glorificado. En los dos últimos misterios, no perdamos de vista al Niño de Belén; y en el Niño de Belén no dejemos de reconocer al Gran Dios, (en quien el Padre se complació) y al supremo Gobernante y Creador de todas las cosas"

PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS CATÓLICAS

~¿CUÁNDO TERMINA LA NAVIDAD?

P: En el mundo secular, la Navidad termina el 26 de diciembre. Sé que esto no es lo que creemos los católicos, así que ¿cuándo termina realmente la Navidad?

R: Litúrgicamente hablando, cuándo termina la Navidad depende del rito (latino u oriental), del calendario litúrgico (Ordinario o Extraordinario), y de si de la "fiesta" de Navidad o del final del "tiempo" de Navidad. Teniendo en mente, podemos decir:

- La fiesta de Navidad propiamente dicha termina el último día de su octava, que es la fiesta de María, la Madre de Dios, el 1 de enero. La fiesta y la alegría deben durar 8 días.

- El "punto álgido" de la "temporada" navideña es la Epifanía, el final de los 12 días de Navidad. Jesús se revela ahora como una luz para las naciones gentiles. Mantenga sus decoraciones navideñas, especialmente sus luces de Navidad, por lo menos hasta que este día termine; o mejor, 8 días para la octava completa.

- El final oficial del tiempo de Navidad es el bautismo del Señor el fin de semana siguiente (el final de la octava de Epifanía), tras lo cual comienza el Tiempo Ordinario. antén tu belén expuesto hasta ese día o hasta la Presentación del Señor, el 2 de febrero.

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