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HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

REV. JOHN J. LYONS

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. RICHARD K. YOUNG

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ORGANIST

MR. KENNETH YATES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MS. VERONICA CAMPBELL

RCIA COORDINATOR

MRS. MARGARET SCAFIDI

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

MS. CAROLA STONE

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:30 PM

SUNDAYS

8:45 AM (ESPAÑOL)
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

HOLY DAYS

6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS (DAY CHAPEL)

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

8:30 AM

FRIDAY

5:00 PM

NURSERY AVAILABLE AT PARISH CENTER

11:00 AM & 6:00 PM MASSES

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1707 BULL STREET • SAVANNAH, GA 31401

December 25, 2011



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

J.C. Lee, Sarah Kasper, Leith Pengue
J.C. Lee, Sarah Kasper, Leith Pengue
Dough Hanny, Claudia Faller, James Giblin
Tom Foster, Gwen Ratcliff, Richard Volz
Sandra Reed, Con Higgins, Norma Higgins
Angela Murphy, Mildred Waters, Louise Jones
Charlynn Stanley, Robert & Kathleen Duggan
Virginia Ward, Louise Reeves, Fr. Dan Gilsdorf
Connie Howard, Dick & Juanita Riddle

SAVANNAH CENTRAL PRECINCT

This week we pray for:
APO Michael Dobson & SCPL Mark Fletcher

*This weekend the
flowers on the altar
are given by the
Filson Family in
memory of
Jeanne & Chub Price.*

THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Please remember that the Christmas Collection will be dedicated to the Catholic Social Services in the Diocese.

GOLDEN AND SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS AND RECEPTION

World Marriage Day will be celebrated on February 12 with the Anniversary Mass at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah. If you are celebrating your 25th, 50th, 60th or longer wedding anniversary during 2012 please send to the Office of Family Life your names and complete addresses. Please indicate the year you were married in 1962 or 1987 and be sure to put your parish on the message. You may send your information by email to familylife@diosav.org, by fax to 912-201-4101 or by regular mail to Family Life, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401 before the deadline of **January 6**.

PARTIAL TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR ELEMENTARY HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Diocese of Savannah provides partial tuition assistance awards (elementary, secondary & Catholic college) to families that qualify and make proper application.

Catholic College Scholarship Applications: Applicants must complete a Catholic College Scholarship application. The application is good for one year only and reapplication is necessary for renewal. Catholic College Awards from the Diocese of Savannah will be determined as follows: Awards of \$2,000 each are given to one freshman, one sophomore, one junior and one senior from the applications processed. The deadline for 2012-2013 college applications is February 28, 2012 and are available from school counselors or by calling the Catholic Schools Office. (912-201-4121 or E-mail schoolsdiosav.org)

Catholic Elementary and High School Tuition Assistance Applications: Applications for partial tuition assistance for the school year 2012-2013 will be available January 1st from the school your child attends or will attend and from the Catholic Schools Office. (912-201-4121 or E-mail schoolsdiosav.org) Online applications are available and paper applications must be mailed by March 16, 2012.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

If you have feelings of grief, anxiety, guilt, depression, emotional or spiritual problems due to a past abortion know that you are not alone. The Rachel's Vineyard Ministry is here to help you with professional counseling, emotional support and Post Abortion Healing Retreats. The next retreat is scheduled for March 9-11, 2012 near Augusta, GA. For additional information, please contact Stephanie May 912-201-4059 scmay@diosav.org. Complete confidentiality will be honored at all times. There is help, hope, and healing waiting for you.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As I looked at all the wonderful gifts from Christmas angels that arrive daily for residents of Williams Court being assisted by Sacred Heart, it struck me again how well we go beyond our own needs to respond to the needs of those who have less.

Many needy neighbors will have their Christmas season brightened by your concern. Many of us went the extra mile to make a difference.

We are beginning to enter into a season again where God went the extra mile for us in sending His son Jesus into the world. I hope this season is not just "holidays" but also "Holy Days." My prayer is that we will all allow Jesus to be born anew within our hearts and within our world.

I along with our staff want to wish you a Christmas Season when we will know that Emmanuel, that Jesus, that God is with us. I pray that God will continue to bless us as we celebrate God's love and mercy here at Sacred Heart this Christmas and through the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. John J. Lyons
Pastor



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 - JANUARY 1, 2012

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
4:30 PM M. Hulitt N. Schomburg S. Johnson	M. Schreck M. Pinckney	D. Ratcliff P. Hatch
11:00 AM K. Collins D. Filson C. Smart L. Campbell - choir	E. Dupuy J. Dupuy	J. Bezore T. Prodin
6:00 PM C. Stone D. Gretsich L. Lynch J. James T. James M. Johnson - choir	J. Ebberwein A. Kavanagh	L. Caughran S. Stenger M. Douberly A. Fischer

ALTAR SOCIETY
The Ratcliff Family

EL DON DE LA PALABRA DE DIOS

En este día de recibir y dar regalos, parece apropiado que tomemos un momento para reflexionar sobre el gran don de la Palabra de Dios. La Palabra de Dios es creativa y por eso siempre apunta a su autor, siempre nos llama a responder. La Palabra de Dios es poderosa y puede enlazar lo sublime con lo ridículo, lo trascendente con lo inmanente, lo divino con lo humano. La Palabra de Dios es llena de gracia, establece una relación de intimidad profunda entre nosotros y Dios.

En el corazón de la Palabra de Dios yace una tensión seductora entre lo misterioso y lo mundano. En nuestra celebración litúrgica, esta tensión sin resolución revela el significado de la vida para nosotros y también nos llama a responder para actuar según ese significado.

Una vez que la aceptamos y la abrimos, el don de la Palabra de Dios es un regalo que sigue dando y sigue llamándonos a dar a cambio. Nos reta a ser como el dador de regalos y a convertirse en regalos para los demás, no solo en Navidad, sino en cada momento de la vida.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Todos a una gritan alborozados. Verá la tierra entera la salvación que viene de nuestro Dios (Isaías 52:7-10).

Salmo — Los confines de la tierra han contemplado la victoria de nuestro Dios (Salmo 98 [97]).

Segunda lectura — Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su Hijo, la imagen fiel de su ser (Hebreos 1:1-6).

Evangelio — El Verbo se hizo carne; y todos recibimos de Él en una sucesión de gracias sin número (Juan 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

26 Diciembre "No se preocupen". Mateo 10,17-22.

27 Diciembre Pedro y Juan en el sepulcro. Juan 20, 2-8.

28 Diciembre Los Santos Inocentes. Mateo 2, 13-18.

29 Diciembre Presentación en el templo. Lucas 2, 22-35.

30 Diciembre En el Templo con la profetisa Ana. Lucas 2, 36-40.

31 Diciembre La Palabra se hizo carne. Juan 1, 1-18.

BAUTISMOS

Los padres de familia que asisten a la Misa con regularidad y desean el Sacramento del Bautismo para su niño/a deben seguir los siguientes pasos:

1. Hablen a la Oficina Parroquial de lunes a viernes de 8:30am-3:00pm y dejen su nombre y número telefónico con la secretaria.
2. Al cabo de unos días, el Padre Richard les hablará por teléfono y les dará una cita para la plática bautismal.

MINISTROS LITÚRGICOS

10. DE ENERO DE 2012

LECTORA Y. COOK
MONAGUILLO C. LÓPEZ

DIGNO DE CELEBRARSE

Hagamos algo bastante atrevido. Imaginémonos este día sin villancicos, sin el Niño en el pesebre, sin árboles de Navidad, sin regalos ni comida de Noche Buena. ¿Cómo celebrarías tú? En los primeros trescientos años después



de la época de Jesús, las comunidades cristianas no hacían casi nada para recordar el nacimiento de Jesús, aunque sí le daban prominencia a la conmemoración de su muerte y resurrección. Asignarle una fecha a la Pascua era relativamente fácil ya que sucedió durante la Pascua judía. Sin embargo,

las Escrituras guardan silencio de la fecha del nacimiento de Jesús. Después que el imperio romano dejó de perseguir a los cristianos la Iglesia tuvo la libertad de celebrar las fiestas oficiales de su calendario y finalmente decidió la fecha del 25 de diciembre para celebrar la Navidad. Nadie puede precisar con exactitud por qué se escogió tal fecha. La Navidad comenzó a ser una fiesta más elaborada durante la Edad Media, pero con el surgimiento del protestantismo en Inglaterra y Alemania, la fiesta fue suprimida. Los puritanos que llegaron a América no celebraban la Navidad, pues decían que era algo pagano y papista. Sólo en el siglo diecinueve, sobre todo después de que Charles Dickens publicó su libro *A Christmas Carol* (Un cuento de Navidad, 1843) que llegó rápidamente a ser un éxito editorial, fue que se empezó a celebrar de nuevo la Navidad en los Estados Unidos; sin embargo, era más un acontecimiento familiar que religioso. En una de las lecturas de hoy san Pablo nos habla del punto principal de este día: "Al manifestarse la bondad de Dios, nuestro Salvador, y su amor a los hombres, él nos salvó, no porque nosotros hubiéramos hecho algo digno de merecerlo, sino por su misericordia. Lo hizo mediante el bautismo, que nos regenera y nos renueva, por la acción del Espíritu Santo, a quien Dios derramó abundantemente sobre nosotros, por Cristo, nuestro Salvador. Así, justificados por su gracia, nos convertiremos en herederos, cuando se realice la esperanza de la vida eterna" (Tito 3:4-7). ¡Eso sí que es algo digno de celebrarse!

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