



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

**Holy Family
December 27th, 2009—Year C**

**We warmly welcome all
parishioners and visitors to
today's Eucharist.**

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Psalm Response

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among men.



This week

Reflect on your own experience of family life. Can you discern ways in which you came to experience God's love in your family?

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St Francis Xavier's & St Clare's parishes, seek to live Christ-centred lives, celebrating God's presence & our faith values through worship, outreach, service, justice & hospitality.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

'Jesus grew up as a dutiful son of his human parents; but as he "grew in wisdom" - through his contact with the faith traditions of his people - he knew in the mysterious depths of his human experience the call to identify with the great mission that had brought him into the world: "Why are you looking for me? Did you not know that I must give myself to my Father's affairs?"'

'As the bonds that unite parent and child mature, they are both blessed. In the background of Luke's story, we recognise the ongoing fidelity of Mary, as she came to accept and identify with the response of her Son, as the first of all his disciples. In the end, the mission of Jesus was to open the way to our sharing in his risen life, sharing all things with the Father - sharing in the family life of God, as it were. The choices he made, in the freedom he shares with us, can inspire us to make our life choices, knowing that each of us has a unique place in the Father's loving plan.'

**Excerpt from a homily by
Fr John Thornhill SM**



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**This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au**

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK HOLY FAMILY

- 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28**
For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.
- 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24**
He calls you his own children, and that is what you are..
- Luke 2:41-52**
His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.
- Monday—Holy Innocents**
1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday**
1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday**
1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday**
1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-8
- Friday—Mary, Mother of God**
Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday—St Basil the Great & Gregory**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

**NEXT SUNDAY
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Mt 2:1-2

FRIARS OF THE PARISHES

Fr Anthony Selvaraj ofm
Parish Priest
Fr Benignus Clowes ofm
Assistant Priest
Fr Bob Matthews ofm
Assistant Priest

Pastoral Associate—Liz Clark

SFX Parish Office Hours:

9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Monday, Wed, Thurs, Friday

Parish Secretary— Monique Waring

St Clare's Parish Office Hours:

Wednesday & Friday

9.00 am—10.30 am

Parish Secretary—Dianna Hardy

In the event of needing a priest urgently, please telephone 9890 2231 at any time of the day.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Veronika Bellis	Liz Clark
Pat Cleary	Dianna Hardy
Breta Cohen	Carmel Purdey
Ann-Marie Diggins	Monique Waring
Jane D'Souza	(ex-officio)
Anthony Kennedy	
Peter Leonard	

Next meeting : 4 February 2010

LITURGY TIMES

St Clare's

Sunday 9.00am
Weekdays:
Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am
Confessions Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
10.00am
(Italian) 11.30 am
5.00 pm

Weekdays: Mon—Fri - 12 noon

Confessions:

Saturday 4.00—5.00 pm
other times by appointment in either Parish

Marriages and Baptisms

Bookings can be made with the St FX Parish Office for each Parish, and celebrated in the church requested. This is to avoid double bookings. Anyone wishing to have a child baptised should give four to six weeks notice, so that the family can be visited & parents can attend a preparation course.

Baptisms

St Francis Xavier's—
1st and 3rd Sundays of month only,
12.30 pm
St Clare's—2nd Sunday, 11.30 am

Friday 1st January—New Year's Day

Mass at 9.00am at St Clare's

Mass at 12 Noon at SFX

DONATIONS OF TOYS AND CHILDREN'S

CLOTHING needed for Samata Sarana, Kindigoda, Sri Lanka. Samata Sarana feeds over 500 people a day, runs a day care centre for single parents, a school for over 300 plus children who also receive breakfast and lunch, a day centre for the elderly who are also fed and sent home with dinner packets. A medical clinic is also provided 2 days a week. **Please contact: Michelle on 9898 7021.**

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Could you help drive the Senior Citizens to their meeting on Wednesdays? It is at St Clare's Parish House The more volunteers we have the less days you are on the roster. There is also a need for drivers in the Lexton Road area to drive a lady to 9.00 Mass on a Sunday. I would like to thank all the present drivers for their help during 2009 and wish every one a safe, Happy and Holy Christmas—**Angela 9849 1492 or Denise 9898 5877**



My corner

The second reading this week says in part "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are." On the feast of the Holy Family, I usually spend some time thinking about how Jesus, Mary and Joseph might have been together as a family. And I usually offer a prayer or two of thanks for the family I have, and for the wonderful things that happen within it. But this quote makes me look more broadly than that. It's so easy to forget that we are actually God's children, that God is our Father, and that he loves us so well. I guess all of us have had (or still do have) a father. I remember my Dad, who died almost 30 years ago, and the love and devotion he gave each of us. He always made me feel as if I was a precious gift—(actually, not always, now I come to think about it, but certainly often). He worked tirelessly to provide for our family. He sacrificed a great deal so that we could be fed, educated, provided for in so many ways. Above all, he deeply loved my mother, and that was obvious to all of us. The love he lavished on me stays with me. I may no longer use the family name he gave me, but am still very much one of his children. I think with deep gratitude of the love of my earthly father, as well as the love of God, my Father. I hope that all families will be able to celebrate their love, their closeness and the ties that bind them together during this Christmas season.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

SFX Parish Office is closed until
Wednesday January 20.

Urgent messages only may be left on the answering machine & one of the friars will respond as soon as possible.

ROSTERS

DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY BREAK, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION & MINISTERS OF THE WORD & WELCOMERS ARE REQUESTED TO VOLUNTEER AT MASSES AS REQUIRED.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

Altar Linen

December 27 M Cahill
January 3 W Tan

Counters

December 27 P McLaughlin, G Kitch
January 3 T&E O'Brien

Collectors 5pm

December 27 A Cutts
January 3 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

December 27 M&L Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd
Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

December 27 D Amato
January 3 R Bidinost

Lettori

December 27 A Lanza, S Faulisi
January 3 N Amato, R Bidinost

Ministri dell'Eucarista

December 27 D Amato, G Massarotti
January 3 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

ST CLARE'S—Piety Stall—January 3

9.00am B Murphy

PARISH WALKING GROUP

Walks will resume for 2010 on Saturday 30 January - Meet at SFX Parish House at 9.00am.



PRAYER

'I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:4-7

We welcome all new parishioners. Please complete one of the blue forms at the back of the church, and place on collection plate/in box provided. A parish rep. will contact you to welcome you and advise you of the activities and organisations at St Francis Xavier's and St Clare's.