

From the Pastor's Desk
January 8, 2012

As we come to the conclusion of Christmas season this Monday, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I want to express my gratitude for all the effort, time and energy put forth by all those who participate in our sacred music program at St. John's and St. James. I am aware that in between our Sunday Masses and the other liturgies, such as Lessons and Carols, many folks put in many hours of rehearsal. In this regard, I want to thank Elizabeth Nice, Music and Choir Director, Dr. David Rothe, Principal Organist and the members of the Sunday 9 am Choir: Donna Sloan, Joan Wing, Lilia Crawford, Lucinda Cambridge, Rose Johnson, Catherine Nomura, Helen Bartolomei, Dave Monroe, John Few, George Wing, Rocco Iannone, as well as Jonathan Culbreath, Amy Culbreath and Amanda Culbreath, who assisted at the 9 am Masses during Advent, helped with Lessons and Carols and sing on a regular basis at our Latin Masses. Thank you to Dan Boutwell who played the trumpet at our Christmas Eve and Day Masses and Kevin Valenzuela who sang at Lessons and Carols. It was wonderful to have the Notre Dame School students sing at the Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Mass. They were organized and led by Roxane Canfield and Barbara Janzen. My thanks go out also the St. James choir: Debby Adema, Michael Bierman and pianist Robin McCall.

Thank you to our cantors Dave Monroe, George Wing, Roxane Canfield and Katie Brown who make themselves available on a regular basis to lead our congregations in song. I am most grateful to our organists, David Rothe, Kathy Eckart and Sally Stoner. I thank Jeff Cooper, organist, and his wife, Anna, cantor, who assisted us the last two weekends. (They were in Chico on break from studies at the University of Notre Dame.) Also, I thank Jason Weinrich, and the Sunday 5 pm Mass Band and Choir: Weston Ruiz, Mark Sivertsen, Haley Chamberlain and Rebecca Korte. They are always very diligent and attentive to detail in their preparation for our liturgies and the fruitful results of their efforts are evident in the Masses.

Thank you to all of you for participating in the music at our Masses in English and Latin at St. John's and St. James. It is so important that all of us contribute with our voices and our active, interior reflection on the words of the hymns, readings and prayers of the Mass. It's what makes our liturgies so vibrant. I would also like to invite others to be a part of the 9 am Sunday Mass Choirs at St. John's and St. James. We could always use more voices! May we continue to move forward in 2012!

In Christ,
Father Berg