

"...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." (Ephesians 3:6)

† Mass Intentions of the Week †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 / 6 DE ENERO

- 8:00 am For our Parishioners; Beatriz & Dagoberto Correrat
- 10:00 am Juan & Delfa Orellana 29th Anniversary
- 12:00 pm Accion de Gracias Gloria Solorzano
- 2:30 pm Victor Ortiz† Reyes Carbajal†
- 5:00 pm Shannon Thompson†
- 7:00 pm Almas de purgatorio, Reyna Aleman†

MONDAY, JANUARY 7 / 7 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Shannon Thompson†

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 / 8 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Gerardo Abonce†
- 8:30 pm Angel Dario Chang† Pedro Geraldo Chant†

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 / 9 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Shannon Thompson†
- 7:00 pm Thomas Stockard†

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 / 10 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Shannon Thompson†

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11 / 11 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Shannon Thompson†

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 / 12 DE ENERO

- 8:15 am Shannon Thompson†
- 5:30 pm Margaret Anders

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 / 13 DE ENERO

- 8:00 am Shannon Thompson† Dorothy Cushing†
- 10:00 am Miguel & Librada Santiago†
- 12:00 pm Por Nuestro Feligreses; Almas del Purgatorio
- 2:30 pm Dolores Hernandez† Marcela Hernandez†
- 5:00 pm Esther Kellen†
- 7:00 pm Angela Rosa Hernandez†

OUR GIFTS TO GOD - That each of us use our unique gifts to help build the Body of Christ. Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He has given each of us unique gifts. We all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Pray daily and ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all "be one".



We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage.

Today, we remember the coming of the Wise Men to Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. They brought with them their gifts. We, like the Wise Men, bring our gifts to honor our Lord and Savior. Our offering today is ourselves - our time, talent and treasure. By our gifts, we are making sure Jesus is known throughout the world. **Thank you for your generous gifts. You are enabling St. Jerome parish to spread the Good News!!**

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the end of the Christmas season, and that may make you ask yourself why we would celebrate it, especially when Christmas "ended" a while ago. In the readings today, God himself celebrates what is taking place in the Gospel: John the Baptist baptizes Jesus in the river Jordan. In the First Reading from Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, the Lord speaks of Jesus as his servant who is about to begin something wonderful: his public life. He's going to bring justice to the world, be a light for the nations, open the eyes of the blind, and free prisoners, and God is keeping his promise through Jesus' mission on earth. In short, God is sending out the Savior today to get to work. During Christmas, we celebrated the birth of the Savior. On today's feast, the Baptism of the Lord, we're celebrating him finishing his silent years in Nazareth and going out to preach salvation to the world.

In the second reading today from Acts 10:34-38, Peter rejoices that salvation is not just for the people of Israel, but for everyone who respects God and acts uprightly. When Jesus is baptized in the Jordan, he institutes a new kind of baptism. John talks about that baptism in the Gospel today as different from his: it is a baptism of the Holy Spirit. Peter is speaking to Cornelius, who was the first non-Jew to be baptized in Church history. The Jews thought originally that the Savior would only come for the Jews, but then the Holy Spirit revealed to Peter and the Church through Cornelius' situation that the Savior was coming for every nation that "fears God" (respects God) and "acts uprightly" (acts in a good way). The Holy Spirit always works gradually. Cornelius had heard about Jesus and his promise of salvation and had been praying for a sign. Peter was praying too, and they didn't know each other at all. An angel came to Cornelius and told him to send men to find and bring Peter. Cornelius was a Roman centurion, and since he wasn't a Jew, Peter wouldn't have visited him unless the Holy Spirit had said it was okay in a dream, because Jews didn't enter the homes of non-Jews.

As Peter in today's second reading rejoices that the Savior has come for everyone, he recalls Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, recalled in today's Gospel, as the beginning of doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil. Our Lord's public ministry began with his baptism in the Jordan, so we celebrate today with God, with Peter, with Cornelius, and with everyone who has become Christian since through the waters of baptism. We celebrate that Jesus began to go out and do good, heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and free those who are imprisoned by sin. We also celebrate baptism today. Church Fathers and Doctors have said Our Lord sanctified the waters for baptism even as he took the plunge into the waters of the Jordan to receive John's. In remembering Our Lord's baptism, we remember our own with gratitude.

May God bless you.

Fr. Dan

CARTA DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Queridos Feligreses:

Hoy celebramos el final de la temporada de Navidad, y eso hace que te preguntes ¿por qué hay que celebrar, especialmente cuando la Navidad "terminó" hace rato? En las lecturas, Dios celebra hoy lo que está ocurriendo en el Evangelio: Juan el Bautista bautiza a Jesús en el Jordán. En la primera lectura de Isaías 42:1-4, 6-7, el Señor habla de Jesús como su sirviente que está por comenzar algo maravilloso: su vida pública. Él va a traer a justicia al mundo, será luz para las Naciones, abrirá los ojos de los ciegos y serán libres los prisioneros. Dios mantiene su promesa a través de la misión de Jesús en la tierra. En Resumen, Dios está enviando el Salvador hoy en día a trabajar. Durante la Navidad, celebramos el nacimiento del Salvador. En la fiesta de hoy, el bautismo del Señor, estamos celebrando el final de sus años de silencio en Nazaret y sale a predicar la salvación al mundo.

En la segunda lectura hoy de los Hechos 10:34 – 38, Pedro se alegra que la salvación es no sólo para el pueblo de Israel, sino para todo aquel que respeta a Dios y practica la justicia. Cuando Jesús es bautizado en el Jordán, instituye un nuevo tipo de bautismo. Juan habla de ese bautismo en el Evangelio de hoy diferente al de él: es un bautismo del Espíritu Santo. Pedro habla a Cornelio, quien fue el primer no judío de ser bautizado en la historia de la iglesia. Los judíos pensaban originalmente que el Salvador sería sólo para los judíos, pero entonces el Espíritu Santo reveló a Pedro y a la iglesia a través de la situación de Cornelio que el Salvador iba a venir para todas las Naciones que quien "teme a Dios" (respeta Dios) y "actúa rectamente" (actúa en una buena forma). El Espíritu Santo siempre trabaja poco a poco. Cornelio había oído hablar de Jesús y su promesa de salvación y había estado orando por una señal. Pedro estaba orando también, y no se conocían en absoluto. Un ángel vino a Cornelio y le dijo que iba a enviar hombres para encontrar y traer a Pedro. Cornelio era un centurión romano y puesto que él no era un judío, Pedro no lo habría visitado a menos que el Espíritu Santo le hubiera dicho en un sueño que estaba bien, porque los judíos no entran en las casas de los no judíos.

En la segunda lectura de Pedro se regocija de que el Salvador ha llegado para todos, recuerda el bautismo de Jesús en el Jordán, recordado en el Evangelio de hoy, como el principio de hacer el bien y sanar a todos aquellos que eran oprimidos por el diablo. El ministerio público de nuestro Señor comenzó con su bautismo en el Jordán, por lo que celebramos hoy con Dios, con Pedro, con Cornelius y con todos los que se han convertido en cristianos desde las aguas del bautismo. Celebramos que Jesús comenzó a salir y hacer el bien, sanar a los enfermos, dar vista a los ciegos y liberar a quienes estaban presos por el pecado. También celebramos el bautismo hoy en día. Doctores de

la iglesia y padres han dicho que nuestro Señor santificó las aguas para el Bautismo así como tomó la zambullida en las aguas del Jordán para recibirlo de Juan. Recordando el bautismo de nuestro Señor, nos recuerda nuestro propio bautismo con gratitud.

Padre Dan

Epifanía de nuestro Señor

Que cada uno de nosotros use sus dones únicos para ayudar a construir el cuerpo de Cristo.

"... que los gentiles sois coherederos, miembros del mismo Cuerpo y partícipes de la misma promesa en Cristo Jesús por medio del Evangelio." (Efesios 3: 6)

Hoy celebramos que Cristo vino a todos nosotros, no solo a los hebreos. Él nos ha dado a cada uno de nosotros regalos únicos. Todos tenemos roles diferentes pero igualmente valiosos que desempeñar en el Cuerpo de Cristo. Ora a diario y pregúntale a Dios cómo quiere que uses tus dones para que todos podamos "ser uno."

CATECISMO

(De KINDER A SEXTO AÑO)

Primera Reconciliación: Este es un recordatorio para los padres de los estudiantes que han estado asistiendo a la preparación Sacramental los sábados (de 2º a 6º grado) **y todavía no se han confesado**, las confesiones serán este:

Sábado 12 de Enero a las 9am en la Iglesia Principal

Información: (713) 464-5029

+ Recuerde traer a sus hijos a Misa todos los Domingos+

REFLEXION SOBRE LAS ESCRITURAS - LA

EPIFANIA DEL SEÑOR – Los tres Reyes que vinieron de Oriente para rendir homenaje al niño Jesús le trajeron ricos regalos de oro, incienso y mirra como parte de su adoración. ¿Qué regalos he traído a esta celebración para ofrecérselos al Salvador recién nacido? Hoy recordamos la venida de los Reyes Magos al Niño Jesús en Belén. Ellos trajeron consigo sus regalos de oro, incienso y mirra. Esta mañana nosotros traemos nuestro sobre parroquial como ofrenda al Niño Jesús para rendirle homenaje. Esto lo hacemos cada vez que nos reunimos. Nosotros, como los Reyes Magos, traemos nuestros regalos para honrar a nuestro Señor y Salvador. Nuestra ofrenda de esta mañana somos nosotros mismos – nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro. A través de nuestros regalos hacemos posible que Jesús sea conocido en todo el mundo. Gracias por sus generosas ofrendas. ¡Ustedes están haciendo posible que San Jerónimo promueva la Buena Nueva, es decir el Evangelio!



Religious Education

Kinder-6th Grade

First Reconciliation: This is a reminder for students that have been attending to special sacramental preparation on Saturdays (2nd – 6th grade) and will celebrate their First Reconciliation/ Penance :

This Saturday January 12th at 9:00am @ Main Church

Information: (713) 464-5029

+Remember to bring your child to Sunday Masses+

LIFE TEEN follows the Church's mandate to make JESUS CHRIST the center of everything we do LIFE TEEN Mass is held every Sunday at 5:00 pm. everyone is welcome. Bring your friends. Come worship with us. Great Music! LIFE NIGHTS follow Mass and we are open to *high school teens* only, 6:30 – 8:15 pm in the Fr. Raye Center. LIFE NIGHT meetings consist of education and hot topics.

NO LIFENIGHTS: JANUARY 6TH

GREAT MUSIC! COME WORSHIP WITH US!



Call or e-mail Ricky rickystjeromifeteen@gmail.com 713/468-9555

SAY YES!! Please put \$5. More per week in the collection or if you just can't, at least \$2. HELP YOUR PARISH! Thank you very much for your generosity.

Catholic Radio 24 hours on your smart phone, plus read good Catholic news. Relevant Radio app download and listen.

Interested in a Mass Intention? For someone that is deceased, a birthday blessing, for healing. Please contact Pilar Salas in the church office, Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. A donation of \$5 per Mass.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD - If you would like to remember St. Jerome Parish, St. Jerome School, or St. Jerome Activity Center in your last will, you can instruct your attorney to include the following language in your will or codicil: **"To Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and his successors in office for the benefit of St. Jerome Catholic Church, (or School or Activity Center) , Houston, Harris County, Texas, the following: ▶ ▶**

EVENTS PLACES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

St. Jerome Activity Center, Outback, Fr. Raye Center, Adult Education and some other rooms can be rented for your private events. Please call Martin & Linda Garcia for availability and prices 281-686-1061.



ST. JEROME

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Jerome Catholic School opened its doors on September 4, 1962. Fifty-six years later, St. Jerome continues to embrace and extend the mission of Christ and the Catholic Church through academics, community and service for PK4-8th grade students.

Are you curious about your Parish school? You are invited to attend the Open Houses on Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 11a-2p or Monday, January 28, 2019 from 9a-2p. Hear from Student Ambassadors about why they love being a St. Jerome Bulldog, while they tour you and your family around campus. Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be open. Register on either of these days and take advantage of the registration fee discount. Come see why *"Here, we are Family!"* For more information, visit the school website at www.stjeromecs.org or contact the school office at 713.468.7946. The office will reopen on January 8, 2019. **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**



Help our school, drop off your Box Tops to the school office, Thank you!

Catholic Counseling for Parishioners

Are you in need of emotional healing? Are you discouraged by your relationships with loved ones? Now is the time to get the help and healing you need. St. Jerome Catholic Church has collaborated with Rejoice Counseling Apostolate to provide individual, marital, and family counseling services onsite at our parish in both English and Spanish. Parishioners and their families make use of a discounted sliding scale fee. To learn more or schedule an appointment call (844) 295-3167 or visit www.MyParishCounseling.com/stjeromehou

RESPECT LIFE: "We could say that every evil is caused by a disregard for life. Assaults upon life occur in many situations, from war and exploitation to the suppression of the vulnerable, elderly and unborn. Ultimately it is fear that gives rise to the rejection of life. To welcome the other, however, challenges such fear." - Pope Francis, Oct. 2018

LAUGH LINES - – A man and a woman, who were friends for many years, died and went to heaven. They told St. Peter they wanted to get married. "Take your time and think about it," St. Peter said. "You have an eternity to think about it here. Come back and talk to me about it in 50 years." Fifty years later, the couple returned and again told St. Peter they wanted to get married. "Take your time and see me in another 50 years, and if we don't have a priest here by then, I'll marry you myself." *Holy Humor*

Mass Enrollment Cards for both a CDA & CCSF for Sale in the Religious Gift Store benefiting Seminarians & Scholarships

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK
ACTIVIDADES DE ESTA SEMANA

Sunday/Domingo, January 6 / 6 de Enero

8:00 am ACTS Spanish Women - Kitchen

Monday/Lunes, January 7 / 7 de Enero

6:00 pm MFCC – Outback

6:00 pm ACTS Spanish Women – Music Room

Tuesday/Martes, January 8 / 8 de Enero

6:00 pm CCE Activities – Fr. Raye

6:00 pm ACTS Spanish Men – The Sharon Cole ACTS House

Wednesday/Miércoles, January 9 / 9 de Enero

5:00 pm 10:00 AM Choir – Outback

6:00 pm ACTS Spanish Women – The Sharon Cole ACTS House

6:30 pm MFCC – White House

7:00 pm ACTS Spanish Women – Adult Ed

Thursday/Jueves, January 10 / 10 de Enero

5:00 pm FTCM – PAC (B) & (D)

Friday/Viernes, January 11 / 11 de Enero

8:00 am School Science Fair - Gym

6:00 pm LifeTeen Band – Jerome Room

Saturday/Sábado, January 12 / 12 de Enero

9:00 am CCE Activities – Main Sanctuary

5:00 pm MFCC – PAC (A) (B) & (C)

5:00 pm Legion of Mary – Outback

7:00 pm MFCC – Main Sanctuary

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EVERY THURSDAY IN THE ST. JEROME DAY CHAPEL BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR LIFE FROM 6:30 PM TO 7:00 PM FOLLOWED BY THE HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE.



MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHRISTMASFLOWER FUND

– Alvin & Bernice Hollas in memory of Hollas & Richter Families; Gene Roussel in memory of Henrietta Roussel; Hermann & Georgia Popp in Memory of Popp and Richter Families; Mary Lee Machacek in Memory of Bill Machacek; Dorothy Podsenik in memory of John

Podsenik; Billie Shields in memory of John & Steve Shields; Marie Foyt in Memory of Joe Foyt Sr.; Mike Gummelt in memory of Janie Gummelt and Gummelt & Golla families; Betty Sprague in memory of Sprague, Canavespi and McDiarmid families; Margie Buchala in memory of deceased family members; Betty Woerner in Memory of Garret & Fred Woerner; Irene Dittrich in memory of Wilbert Dittrich; Lillian Berger in memory of Berger & Belota Families; Ralph Vasquez in memory of Odilia Vasquez. Through your generosity the flowers of Christmas make our worship space much more beautiful. **Thank you so very much to all of you!**

FORMED.org/register
Enter Parish Code: nr2424



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love” (John. 15:9). **Come abide in Christ’s love by worshiping him in the awesome sacrament of the Eucharist! This is an important work of our parish. The Adoration Chapel is always OPEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2019

Sunday THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Mt 2:1-12

Monday 1Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday 1Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday 1Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday 1Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72; Lk 4:14-22

Friday 1Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday 1Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 OR Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29 or
Ps 104; ACTS 10:34-38 or
Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Upcoming Retreats:



Feb 7 – 10 In Spanish Women – St. Agnes Waller, TX

March 14 – 17 Teen ACTS – St. Agnes Waller, TX

April 4 – 7 In Spanish Men – St. Agnes Waller, TX

May 2 – 5 In English Men – Holy Name Houston, TX

July 11 – 14 In English Women – Holy Name Hou, TX

August 22 – 25 In Spanish Women – St. Agnes Waller, TX

Sept 12 – 15 In Spanish Men – St Agnes Waller TX

With all the problems the world and our country are facing now, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today, I will share with you ten predictions for 2019 that are true!

1. The Bible will continue to be the best source of all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth..
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises and petitions of His people.
5. There will still be God-the-Spirit inspired preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praises to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will never stop loving you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

It is great to “Remember Who Is Really In Control” and that “The Word of the Lord remains forever”. (1 Peter 1:25).

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, you call each of us by name and you ask us to follow you. Bless our church as you call from amongst our families and friends for generous and dedicated leaders that will serve our Catholic community as brothers, sisters, priests, and religious men and women. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Consejería Católica para Feligreses

¿Necesita usted sanación emocional? ¿Está usted desanimado por causa de sus relaciones con los que ama? Este es el momento para que reciba la ayuda y la sanación que usted necesita. La Parroquia Católica de San Jerónimo se ha unido con Rejoice Counseling Apostolate para ofrecer en esta iglesia servicios de consejería individual, matrimonial, y de familias en inglés y en español. A los miembros de la parroquia y a sus familias les damos un descuento por los servicios basados en su situación económica. Para más información o para sacar una cita llame al (844) 295-3167 o visite la página virtual www.MyParishCounseling.com/stjermehou



¡IDI QUE SI! POR FAVOR DONA \$5. MÁS POR SEMANA.
¡DONA \$2 SI PUEDES! TU IGLESIA SAN JERÓNIMO
NECESITA DE TU AYUDA. **¡IDI QUE SÍ!** ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

ESQUINA DE LOS RETIROS DE ACTS DE SAN JERONIMO

PRÓXIMOS RETIROS:

Feb 7 – 10 Mujeres Español – St. Agnes Waller, TX
March 14 – 17 Teen ACTS – St. Agnes Waller, TX
April 4 – 7 Hombres Español – St. Agnes Waller, TX
May 2 – 5 Hombres Ingles – Holy Name Houston, TX
July 11 – 14 Mujeres Ingles – Holy Name Houston, TX
August 22 – 25 Mujeres Español – St. Agnes Waller, TX
Sept 12 – 15 Hombres Español – St. Agnes Waller TX

Si quiere seguir bebiendo el problema es suyo ,, Si quiere dejar de Beber el Problema es Nuestro....

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS-

Empujar hacia abajo o empujar hacia arriba cuesta el mismo trabajo y se gasta la misma energía. ¡Entonces empuja hacia arriba! **HAY 16 CENTROS DE APOYO A 10 MINUTOS DE SAN JERONIMO** para que elijas el que mas te convenga en ubicación y en tu idioma. Llama al 713/683-9277 para que te den la dirección mas conveniente a tus necesidades. **El unico requisito para ser miembro de A.A. es el deseo de dejar la bebida. Para ser miembro de A.A. no se pagan honorarios ni cuotas. No se interviene en controversias. A.A. no respalda ni se opone a ninguna causa. Nuestro objetivo primordial es mantenernos sobrios y ayudar a otros alcohólicos a alcanzar el estado de sobriedad. Nos sostenemos con nuestras propias contribuciones. A.A. no esta afiliado a ninguna secta organización, institución, partido político ni religión.**



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¿Interesado en una misa de intención? Para alguien que ha fallecido, o por su cumpleaños, o por alguien enfermo. Comuníquese con Pilar Salas en la oficina de la iglesia, de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. Donación de \$ 5 por Misa.

LA EPIFANIA DEL SEÑOR, LA VENIDA DE LOS REYES MAGOS

Hoy recordamos la venida de los Reyes Magos al Niño Jesús en Belén. Ellos trajeron consigo sus regalos de oro, incienso y mirra. Esta mañana nosotros traemos nuestro sobre parroquial como ofrenda al Niño Jesús para rendirle homenaje. Esto lo hacemos cada vez que nos reunimos. Nosotros, como los Reyes Magos, traemos nuestros regalos para honrar a nuestro Señor y Salvador. Nuestra ofrenda de esta mañana somos nosotros mismos – nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro. A través de nuestros regalos hacemos posible que Jesús sea conocido en todo el mundo. Gracias por sus generosas ofrendas. ¡Ustedes están haciendo posible que San Jerónimo promueva la Buena Nueva, es decir el Evangelio! **"y abriendo sus tesoros, le ofrecieron presentes: oro, incienso y mirra."** (Mateo 2:11). La imagen de los Reyes Magos arrodillándose ante el bebé Jesús y abriendo sus baúles de tesoros para Él es una imagen que todos deberíamos tratar de seguir. Cada uno de nosotros es llamado para abrir nuestros regalos antes Dios, ofreciéndole lo que El necesita. Si usted tiene problemas con esta idea, mantenga uno de los Reyes Magos de su pesebre en su escritorio todo el año para que le recuerde llevarle sus regalos a Jesús.

ORACION DE AGRADECIMIENTO

Dios Padre Todopoderoso, Señor mio y Dios mio: al terminar este año 2019 quiero darte gracias por todo aquello que recibí de ti. Gracias por la vida y el amor, por el trabajo, por el descanso, por la salud, por mis familiares, por el aire y el sol, por la alegría y el dolor, por lo que fue posible y por lo que no pudo ser. Te ofrezco cuanto hice en este año: el trabajo que pude realizar y las cosas que pasaron por mis manos y lo que con ellas pude construir. Te presento las personas que a lo largo de estos meses amé, las amistades nuevas y los antiguos amores, los mas cercanos a mi y los que están mas lejos, los que me dieron la mano y aquellos a los que pude ayudar, con los que compartí la vida, el trabajo, el dolor y la alegría.

Pero también, Señor, hoy quiero pedir perdón por el tiempo perdido, por el dinero malgastado, por la palabra inútil y el amor desperdiciado. Perdón por las obras vacías, y el trabajo mal hecho, por vivir sin entusiasmo. Por la Oración que fui aplazando y que hasta ahora vengo a presentarte. Por todos mis olvidos, descuidos y silencios, nuevamente te pido perdón. Gracias Dios Mio por la vida y por otra oportunidad.

DIOS NOS DÁ SIEMPRE OTRA OPORTUNIDAD -

En algún momento de nuestras vidas, elegiremos algo que deteriore nuestra relación con Dios. Lo bueno es que nuestro dios es un Dios de perdón y de segundas oportunidades. La cercanía a dios se produce por medio de la oración, el estudio de las Escrituras, la participación frecuente en la Misa y una vida centrada en el Evangelio. Participa en los estudios y reuniones de las diferentes organizaciones religiosas que ofrece San Jerónimo. ¡infórmate, te esperamos!

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
LA EPIFANIA DEL SEÑOR**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019
DOMINGO 6 DE ENERO DEL 2019**

A STORY WRITTEN BY A DOCTOR WHO WORKED IN AFRICA:

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive; as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator). We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates). 'And it is our last hot water bottle!' she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways. 'All right,' I said, 'put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.' The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died. During prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. 'Please, God' she prayed, 'Send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon.' While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, 'And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?' As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say 'Amen?' I just did not believe that God could do this.

Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there on the verandah was a large 22-pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper; taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. > From the top, I lifted out brightly-colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the.....could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, 'If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!' Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully-dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted! Looking up at me, she asked, 'Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?' 'Of course,' I replied! That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child - five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it 'that afternoon.' **'Before they call, I will answer.'** (Isaiah 65:24).