

**January 4, 2009**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**“Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.”**

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule**

**Mass Intentions**

**Weekend of January 11, 2009**

**January 4, 2009**

**5:00 PM (ENGLISH)**

**LECTOR –A. Purchase**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P. Droessler      K. Purchase

M. G. Josma      K. Slattery

M.L. Lebon      P. Peisel

**ALTAR SERVERS–**

**7:30 AM (ENGLISH)**

**LECTOR– J. Anthonypillai**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

C. Bargerion      M. Gonzalez

M. A. Brady      D. Spagnoli

V. Costello      J. Spagnoli

**ALTAR SERVERS–**

**8:45 AM (SPANISH)**

**LECTORS-A. Cisneros, D. Morales, C. Ayala**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

V. Maldonado      V. Ticas      J. Lazo

A. Ticas      D. Suray      A. Lazo

**11:00 AM (ENGLISH)**

**LECTOR-S. Napoleon**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Y. Bellevue      W. Delpesh

J. Charles      L. Magloire

M. Denis      V. Semper

**ALTAR SERVERS –**

**12:30 PM (HAITIAN)**

**LECTORS–**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

E. St. Louis, M. L. Lebon

If there is any difference between the above and your individual schedule, the individual one is to be considered correct.

**English Lector books are in the Parish Center for pick-up during business hours.**

**For the Spanish Lector books see Al Ingram.**



**Monday**  
8:30 AM

**Tuesday**  
8:30 AM

**Wednesday**  
8:30 AM

**Thursday**  
8:30AM

**Friday**  
8:30 AM

**Saturday**  
5:00 PM

7:30 AM  
8:45 AM  
11:00AM  
12:30 PM

**January 5– St. John Neumann**  
Elma Servellon

**January 6– Blessed André Bessette**  
Amelotte Dubuche

**January 7–St. Raymond of Peñafort**  
In Thanksgiving for Anna Guerrieri

**January 8**  
James E. Cuddy

**January 9**  
Mary Passariella

**January 10**  
Carl Ortado

**January 11**  
John W. Mahoney  
Luis A. Maldonado, Jr.  
Mary Passariella  
Myrtha Mathieu

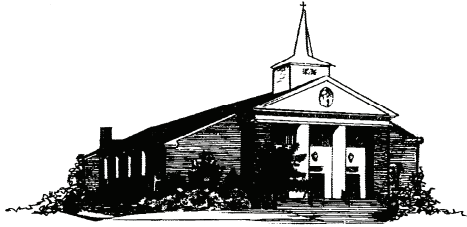
The Bread and Wine for the week of January 4 to 10, 2009 are offered

**In Memory of**  
**John W. Mahoney**

Requested by Barbara Mahoney

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR**  
**Baptism of the Lord**  
**January 11, 2009**

**Isaiah 55:1-11.**  
**Isaiah 12:2-6.**  
**1 John 5: 1-9.**  
**Mark 1:7-11.**



## *St. Martha's Catholic Parish*

546 GREENGROVE AVENUE, UNIONDALE, NEW YORK 11553

Phone: (516) 481-2550 • Fax: (516) 564-4552

www.saintmartha@dellmail.com • www.saintmartha.org

### **THE PASTOR'S WEEKLY LETTER – January 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 – EPIPHANY**

Dear Parishioners:

**ANNUAL APPRECIATION GATHERING:** Today, at 3:00 PM is the Annual Appreciation Gathering for all parish volunteers who *already responded positively* to the invitation.

**CHRISTMAS IN REVIEW:** This year's Christmas recap is as follows:

Penance Service – held from 2 P.M. to 4:45 on the Saturday before Christmas. Three priests were available for the three languages. Only 32 people availed themselves of the Sacrament.

Christmas Vigil (5 P.M.) – Church was about half filled [Collection: \$ 5,230.85]

Christmas Midnight – Standing room only, 600+ [Collection: \$ 3,672.33]

7:30 A.M. – 62 people [Collection: \$ 5,310.97]

8:45 A.M. (Spanish) – about 125 people [Collection: \$ 653.00]

11 AM – about half filled [Collection: \$ 3,182.75]

12:30 P.M. (Creole) – less than one-third filled. [Collection: \$ 1,183.50]

2009 Christmas Collection: \$ 19,233.40 (English Masses – down 14%, Overall down 5 %)

The Liturgy Committee has already considered some schedule changes for next year.

**FACILITIES USEAGE:** Beginning in 2009 the use of church property will need to be carefully discerned on a case-by-case basis. A recent gathering in the lower hall yielded significant breakage and damage to property (on the stage and in the kitchen). Going forward, we need to restrict all access to the stage area to prevent further loss or damage.

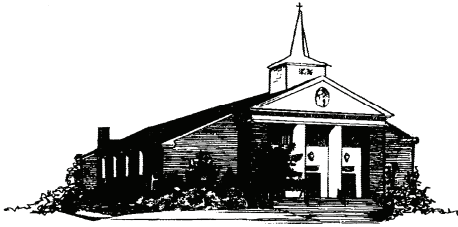
**NOTICE:** The Finance Council of St. Martha's Parish held its "Annual Meeting" on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Diocese and New York State Law requires this corporate meeting.

**WINDOWS:** The restored windows were returned just before Christmas. Memorial plates will be placed under the windows that do not have memorial etching sometime in the near future. Already the church is warmer as a result of the "thermally broken" clear glass panes in addition to the refurbished stained glass.

**MUSIC:** Some changes in the music program include: (1) Mrs. Judy Crawford will provide the music for the 5 P.M. vigil Mass. (2) Mr. Dave McLaughlin will play the organ at the 7:30 and 11 A.M. Masses. (3) A volunteer cantor (usually Marie Gonzalez) will cantor at the early Mass. The Gloria and Responsorial Psalm will be recited. (4) Choir members who participate in rehearsal will sing at the 11 A.M. Mass. Repeated requests for new choir members has not yielded new membership to date. (5) An available (and economical) option going forward is the wide repertoire of liturgical music available on compact discs, which are easily integrated into our new public address system. These matters are evolving. (6) The Liturgy Committee, with Mr. Alvin Ingram, the chair, will continue to monitor our music program.

*Happy New Year, 2009, A.D.!*

*Fr. Frank*



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### **CARTA PASTORAL DE LA SEMANA – 4 de enero de 2009 – EPIFANÍA**

Queridos feligreses:

**REUNIÓN ANUAL DE AGRADECIMIENTO:** Este día a las 3:00 p.m. será la Reunión Anual de Agradecimiento para todos los feligreses que voluntariamente trabajan en la iglesia y que *han respondido positivamente a la invitación*.

**REVISIÓN DE NAVIDAD:** Este año la Navidad se resume así:

Servicio de reconciliación – estuvo abierto desde las 2 p.m. hasta las 4:45 el sábado antes de Navidad. Hubieron tres sacerdotes disponibles en los tres idiomas.  
Solo 32 personas vinieron a recibir el sacramento.

Vigilia Navideña (5 p.m.) – La iglesia estaba llena hasta la mitad [*Colecta: \$ 5,230.85*]

Misa de Medianoche – Había gente parada, 600+ [*Colecta: \$ 3,672.33*]

7:30 a.m. – 62 personas [*Colecta: \$ 5,310.97*]

8:45 A.M. (español) – cerca de 125 personas [*Colecta: \$ 653.00*]

11 a.m. – cerca de la mitad de la iglesia [*Colecta: \$ 3,182.75*]

12:30 P.M. (Creole) – menos de un tercio de personas asistieron. [*Colecta: \$ 1,183.50*]

Colecta Navideña 2008: \$ 19,233.40 (Misas en ingles – bajó 14%, en general bajó 5 %)

El Comité Litúrgico esta considerando hacer cambios en el horario del próximo año.

**USO DE LAS INSTALACIONES:** Comenzando el 2009 se tendrá que decidir con mucho cuidado el uso de las instalaciones de la iglesia. Recientemente en una reunión en el salón debajo de la iglesia se quebró algo de importancia y daño la propiedad (en la tarima y en la cocina). Siguiendo, necesitamos restringir el acceso en el área de la tarima para prevenir futuros daños o pérdidas.

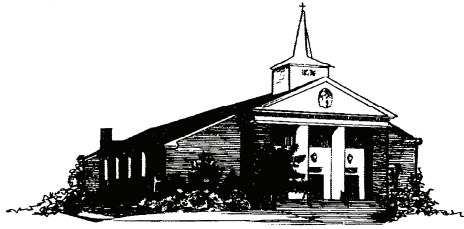
**ANUNCIO:** El Comité Financiero de Santa Martha tuvo su “Reunión Anual” el lunes 29 de diciembre del 2008. La Diócesis y la Ley del Estado de Nueva York requieren esta reunión empresarial.

**VENTANAS:** Los vitrales restaurados se instalaron días antes de Navidad. En un futuro cercano placas memoriales serán colocadas debajo de las ventanas que todavía no tienen.

**MÚSICA:** Algunos de los cambios en el programa de música incluyen: (1) Mrs. Judy Crawford proveerá la música en la misa de vigilia a las 5 p.m. (2) Mr. Dave McLaughlin tocará el órgano en las misas de las 7:30 y 11 a.m. (3) Un cantor voluntario (generalmente Marie González) será el cantor en la misa más temprano. El Gloria y el Salmo Responsorial serán recitados. (4) Miembros del coro que participan en los ensayos cantaran en la misa de las 11 a.m. Hasta la fecha las constantes invitaciones para nuevos miembros del coro no han dado fruto. (5) Una opción disponible (y económica) a seguir es el amplio repertorio de música litúrgica en los discos compactos, que pueden ser integrados fácilmente en nuestro sistema de sonido. Esto esta evolucionando. (6) El Comité Litúrgico, con el Sr. Alvin Ingram, el director, continuará encargándose de nuestro programa de música.

*¡Feliz Año Nuevo, 2009, A.D.!*

*Padre Frank*



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### **LETRE HEBDOMADAIRE DU CURÉ – Le 4 Janvier 2009 - ÉPIPHANIE**

Chers Paroissiens,

**RÉUNION ANNUELLE D'APPRÉCIATION:** Nous aurons aujourd'hui notre Réunion Annuelle d'Appréciation pour tous les volontaires de la paroisse qui ont *déjà répondu oui* à notre invitation.

**REGARD EN ARRIÈRE SUR NOËL:** Voici un compte-rendu des différentes activités de Noël cette année:

Confessions – ont eu lieu le samedi avant Noël de 2h00 PM à 4h45 PM. Trois prêtres étaient disponibles parlant trois langues. Seulement 32 personnes sont venues recevoir ce sacrement.

Vigile de Noël (5 h PM) – L'église était à moitié remplie [*Quête: \$5,230.85*]

Messe de Minuit – Places debout seulement, 600+ [*Quête: \$3,672.33*]

7h30 AM – 62 personnes [*Quête: \$5,310.97*]

8h45 AM (en Espagnol) – environ 125 personnes [*Quête: \$653.00*]

11h AM – à moitié remplie [*Quête: \$3,182.75*]

12h30 PM (en Créole) – remplie à moins d'un tiers [*Quête: \$1,183.50*]

Quête de Noël 2009: \$19,233.40 (Messes en Anglais – *baisse de 14%, Baisse totale 5 %*)

Le Comité Liturgique considère déjà certains changements pour l'année prochaine.

**UTILISATION DES LOCAUX:** A partir de 2009, la permission d'utiliser les locaux de l'église devra être décidée prudemment, en tenant compte de chaque cas particulier. On a en effet relevé des dégâts dans la salle basse de l'église (sur la scène et à la cuisine) après une réunion récente. Désormais, nous devons limiter tout accès à la scène pour empêcher d'autres pertes ou dégâts.

**AVIS:** Le Conseil des Finances de la Paroisse de Ste. Martha a tenu sa «réunion annuelle» le lundi 29 décembre 2008. Les lois de l'État de New-York ainsi que les lois diocésaines exigent cette réunion du Conseil.

**FENÊTRES:** Les fenêtres rénovées ont été retournées juste avant la Noël. Des plaques commémoratives seront bientôt placées sous les fenêtres n'ayant pas de gravures à l'eau-forte. L'église est déjà bien plus chaude grâce aux carreaux clairs «thermiques» en plus des vitraux remis à neuf.

**MUSIQUE:** Quelques changements au programme de musique incluent: (1) Mme. Judy Crawford fournira la musique pour les messes de vigile de 5h PM. (2) M. Dave McLaughlin jouera de l'orgue aux messes de 7h30 et 11h AM. (3) Un chantre bénévole (habituellement Marie Gonzalez) chantera à la messe du petit matin. Le Gloria et le Psaume seront récités.

(4) Les membres de la chorale qui participent aux répétitions chanteront à la messe de 11h AM. Il n'y a pas eu de réponse à nos appels répétés pour recruter des membres nouveaux pour la chorale. (5) Une option possible (et économique) pour le futur est le large répertoire de musique liturgique disponible sur disques compacts, qui sont facilement intégrés dans notre nouveau système d'adresse publique. Ces sujets évoluent. (6) Le Comité de Liturgie, avec M. Alvin Ingram, le Directeur, continuera à surveiller notre programme de musique.

***Bonne Année 2009, A.D.!***

***Le Père Frank***

## The Pastor's Christmas 2008 Homily

This is a true story, a personal story. When I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, our teacher let the class have a Christmas party complete with a *grab-bag* gift exchange. That morning, I noticed a big package – the size and shape of a fun board game that I really wanted for Christmas. It was wrapped in shiny paper and had a big glitzy bow on it. I knew I had to have it. In fact, I wanted that gift so much that I got on line and stood there during the whole party. I missed out on the games, the cupcakes and the good times with classmates and friends. I just had to pick that prize. Well, I got my way. I peeled away the shiny wrapper and read the game's title – “Civil War.” It wasn't at all what I was hoping for. I quickly opened the box and was soon totally dismayed by the game's elaborate instructions. Even with my father's help I never did figure out how to play that game.

Meanwhile, my friend Jeff Mink who lived across the street from us, spent the morning eating, playing, and having lots of fun. He didn't give a thought to the grab bag, and, being last on line he picked the one straggly package – that was left. It held a plain rubber ball that he and I used for months and months playing ball off the school steps.

I think about that lesson every time I read about Jesus wrapped in “swaddling clothes” which were really torn rags. And I'm reminded of how God, unlike so much of the world, doesn't sweat the packaging but really delivers the goods. And isn't that what Christmas is all about. God comes among us wrapped in ordinary humanity: to lift up, to divinize and to make holy our frail human nature.

More than ever, “*We need a little Christmas.*” There's a story in yesterday's [12/24/08] newspaper, however, that says: “no matter what “the weather outside” is like,” this year, Christmas 2008 will be more of a “*Blue Christmas*” than a “White Christmas.” People this year may be singing “Silent Night,” but probably not “Deck the Halls.”

And yet, it was into a very messy world with wars, poverty, isolation and fear that Jesus was born. And He still comes to a chaotic world with unemployment, foreclosures, ponzi schemes, family divisions, and fears about where we're heading.

“The quote of the day” in *The New York Times* just last week was offered by the pastor of a large evangelical church in Manhattan. The quote from Pastor A.R. Bernard, referring to the economic downturn said this: “It's a wonderful time. A great evangelical opportunity for us. When people are shaken to the core it can open doors.”

Christmas is about the wide-open doors of God's presence among us, especially, when things go wrong: (i.e.) when the “*grab-bag*” of life disappoints us; when we don't get what we want; when we lose our perspectives on what is of real value to us; when family and friends, church and government let us down. When we're shaken to the core – it can open doors.

## PAGE 2 – CHRISTMAS 2008 HOMILY

All the bad news around us is our opportunity, our invitation, to rediscover the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Mary who came to raise up a fallen world and open wide the doors of his presence.

There's a new book on the best-seller list that underscores all this. The book is entitled, "*The Purpose of Christmas*," by Pastor Rick Warren, who's also the author of "*The Purpose Driven Life*." (Pastor Warren has been invited to give the Invocation at the Presidential Inauguration next month.) In this book he speaks of Christmas being "designed by God to meet our deepest needs." Christmas is a time for "celebration, salvation and reconciliation," he says.

This is the time to appreciate the mystery of what it means to be human ourselves. We are just like a Christmas present. Offered as a symbol of love, we're waiting to be unwrapped so that what's inside can be revealed layer by layer, year by year, one day at a time.

The more we unwrap ourselves, the more we *reveal* who we are and open ourselves to change, the more we see – that we're all the same, that we share a common spirit, (and) that we each have a spark of God inside of us. To discover that "presence" again and a-new is the "purpose of Christmas." "God doesn't sweat the packaging but delivers the goods."

So, maybe it's not a white Christmas, perhaps it's a bit of a "blue Christmas," nevertheless, it's a wonderful time, because when we're shaken to the core, it's God's opportunity to break-through so that we can be re-born with new hope, new joy and new love.

May we seize the opportunity to experience the re-birth of world and ourselves? Merry Christmas!

*Msgr. Frank Caldwell*

### **LIVING STEWARDSHIP**

**January 4, 2009**

**The Epiphany**

We are grateful this week  
for all stewards in our parish  
whose generous use  
of their gifts – time, service  
and resources– lead others to  
'reconnect' with our  
parish community.

### ***Bulletin Reflection***

***January 4, 2009***

**The Epiphany**

The three wise men who came  
from the East to pay homage  
to the Infant Jesus  
brought Him rich gifts  
of gold, frankincense and myrrh  
as part of their worship.  
What gifts have I brought  
to this celebration  
to offer  
to the newborn Savior?

## The Pastor's "Holy Family Sunday" Homily – December 28<sup>th</sup> 2008

Have you heard about the movie – "Four Christmases" starring Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn? It opened in movie theatres last month and it's been a box-office hit. "Four Christmases" is about Kate and Brad, a happily un-married couple who plan to go on an exotic trip for Christmas.

But because of bad weather conditions they wound up spending Christmas Day making four visits to their respective divorced parents – her mom and dad; and his mom and dad. The movie shows how funny, how odd, how strange, how wacky and how good family life is. Movies about family life often sell better because they're more real than most other situations.

And that's why I always find this particular Sunday of the year the easiest to preach about. Family is the first experience of human *interaction* and of community. Each of us *starts* in a family whether it's with: our two biological parents, one parent, adoptive or foster parents or grandparents.

And family, being composed of human beings, is a *mosaic* of grace and sin, joy and sorrow, peace and dysfunction. Christmas and today's Feast of the Holy Family teaches that lesson. God became flesh in a human family. Part of being human is having parents. God became one of us, part of this physical dimension. The Creator of the universe became a poor, frail baby. The Lord grew up in obedience to Joseph and Mary learning to be a human person through their example and having all the wackiness of cousins, aunts and uncles.

Speaking of wackiness, how was your Christmas gathering on Thursday? My family's gathering was great. But just a few years ago, it wasn't so good. There were arguments and disagreements until finally, one of the sisters-in-law stood up and shouted – "this is a dysfunctional family." Someone else responded by saying: "well, thank you for sharing that." And yet another family member commented – "that's not new." Every family has its own degree of "Four or more Christmases."

Family life is good, but it's also challenging and difficult at times. We all have our versions of some crazy Uncle Festus or Cousin Vinny. Family gatherings now-a-days and Passover Dinners at the time of Jesus don't always go according to Bon Appétit or Emily Post. Part of the message of the Christmas Season is that *being human* begins in a family. Mary changed Jesus' diapers. Jesus took out the garbage when Joseph told him to, or maybe told him a couple of times. The Holy Family was comprised of human beings not angels.

Our holiness lies in learning to appreciate the human relationships all around us beginning with our families. Most of us might think that "The Holy Family" had it easy. After all, Jesus was God, Mary, his mother was sinless, and Joseph was so holy that he had angels telling him what to do in dreams!

## PAGE 2 – HOLY FAMILY 2008 HOMILY

Today's Gospel, and most of the Nativity stories of Matthew and Luke, tell a very different story. Mary's heart "will be pierced;" the three of them will have to flee to Egypt; the family experienced poverty, discrimination, and all the pain of immigrants. Even holy people, even the Holy Family must have had a tough time with all of that, but they persevered. And that's a key virtue for a successful family – perseverance.

What's most significant about the experience of the family is that there are relationships that last through arguments and disagreements and that love triumphs. Perhaps for some people here today, the experience of love didn't come from both biological parents but from another family, or another family member, perhaps a mentor who became a 'surrogate parent' for you. The bottom line is that without this kind of support and example, it's very difficult for us to learn how to love. Jesus learned, as a human being, to love through the example and sacrifices of his parents.

This Feast of the Holy Family is a good reminder that many of us may not be biological parents but we can still be real mothers and fathers to others and especially to children who need an example of faithful love. Whether as foster parents, or adoptive parents or honorary uncles and aunts, God may offer us the opportunity to fulfill the role of Mary or Joseph. Joseph, after all was the first foster parent.

So, may I suggest on this Feast of the Holy Family that we keep the image of the Holy Family in mind during the Christmas Season? The Holy Family reminds us that God is indeed incarnate not just at Bethlehem two thousand years ago, but today, here and now.

Our vocation is love, to nurture and to be faithful as Joseph and Mary were. God became human that humanity might become divine. That idea is very faithful Catholic theology. The problem is we just don't believe it radically enough.

*Msgr. Frank Caldwell*

From the National Right to Life Committee—January 4th, 2009

The infant Jesus adored at Christmas was, like each of us. An unborn child who began and grew in His mother's womb. God-made –man accepted each and every phase of our humanity to demonstrate the sacredness of human life at all stages.

As we contemplate the glory of the Christ Child. Let us resolve this year to work more faithfully for the protection of each human life, we pray.

## AVIS A LA COMMUNAUTE HAITIENNE

**MESSE DOMINICALE:** Chaque dimanche à partir de 12h30, la communauté haitienne se réunit à l'église pour célébrer la messe. Venez avec vos amis et votre famille pour louer et glorifier le Seigneur avec nous.

**ADORATION:** Chaque lundi après la messe de 8h30 AM à la chapelle il y a exposition du St Sacrement jusqu'à 4h PM. Il nous faut une présence à tout moment Durant l'exposition. S'il vous plaît ne laissez pas le St Sacrement seul. Merci.

**HORAIRE:** Pour tous vos besoins spirituels voyez le reverend père Eden Jean-Baptiste au centre paroissial les mercredis de 10h AM – 2h PM et les samedis de 2h – 4h PM.

**COURS DE BIBLE:** Reprise des cours de bible le samedi 10 janvier 2009 de 5h – 6h PM à l'école St Martin de Porres Marianist.

**SERVICE SOCIAL:** Les bureaux du service social de Ste Martha sont à votre disposition si vous avez besoin de nourriture, habits, service d'immigration etc. Contactez les au 292-1603 du lundi au vendredi excepté les mardis de 10h AM – 2h PM. Si vous cherchez du travail ou si vous avez du travail à offrir adressez vous à Gilaine les mercredis et jeudis.

**MINISTERE DE CONSOLATION:** Le Ministère de Consolation a besoin de nouveau member pour aider à préparer les messes de resurrection et y assister si possible. Si vous voulez offrir votre aide contactez Marlène Jn-Baptiste au 292-1603.

**BULLETIN DU DIMANCHE:** Prenez avec vous le bulletin du dimanche et lisez le. Vous y trouverez des informations importantes sur votre communauté et votre paroisse.

**“BONNE, SAINTE ET HEUREUSE ANNEE 2009”**

As we begin our journey toward a new year of pro-life work. Let us remember the joy of Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus and of their fearless dedication to His life during all the challenges and dangers they faced for his sake.

Remember the Holy Innocents.

## RINCON HISPANO

**LA INTENCIÓN DE LA MISA:** Por el eterno descanso de Luis A. Maldonado Jr.

**GRUPO DE ORACIÓN:** Cada miércoles, a las 7:00 de la noche en el gimnasio. Todos están invitados!

**ULTREYA:** Cada domingo, a las 11:00 de la mañana en la Capilla. Las puertas están abiertas para todos!

**GRUPO JUVENIL:** Reunión para jóvenes de 18 años en adelante, cada sábado en el gimnasio de la escuela, a las 7:30 de la noche. Bienvenidos jóvenes!

**MEGA CAMPAÑA:** Los que no han entregado sus tarjetas de compromiso para contribuir con la Mega Campaña, aún lo pueden hacer. Hasta ahora solamente 223 personas o familias lo han hecho, mediante un total de \$353,391 y apenas se ha colectado \$194,589. Aún nos resta \$437,589 para lograr nuestra meta. Recuerden, nuestra meta es de \$800.000.

**RESEÑA BIOGRÁFICA DE FELIGRESES:** Por varios años el Sr. Evenou St. Louis ha escrito semanalmente en el boletín reseñas biográficas de los feligreses de Santa Martha. Los que aún no se han presentado, pueden hablar con Barbara Powell o Telma Ticas

**EL CENTRO SOCIAL:** Necesita pollos pequeños, vegetales en lata, frutas, habichuelas, arroz, aceite, salsa cranberry, relleno, salsa en general, pasta, jalea, mantequilla de maní, jugo de manzana, postres o certificados de regalo del almacén y bolsas plásticas nuevas. Consulten el boletín para más información.

**CHICLE:** Si ve a alguien masticando chicle, por favor, pídale que tenga cuidado al bolarlo. Desafortunadamente ya nuestra alfombra nueva y las bancas restauradas se han dañados a causa de este fenómeno. Por favor, ayúdenos a corregir esta mala costumbre, pues, la iglesia es de todos y cada uno de nosotros. Gracias!

**FIESTA DE REYES:** Hoy es la fiesta de la Epifanía o de Reyes. Inmediatamente después de la misa bajaremos al sótano para la entrega de los regalos para los niños.

**FIESTA DE AGRADECIMIENTO:** Hoy, a las 3:00 PM es la fiesta de agradecimiento para los voluntarios de la parroquia en el salón Emmanuel de la escuela secundaria de Kellenberg.

# Social Ministry / Outreach News

**Thank you to all who assisted us in the Outreach/ Social Ministry program.**

When you are making up your grocery list, please consider the needy of our community who depend on our Social Ministry Department for their food..

Perhaps you can add something for the needy. **Outreach depends on your generosity** to supply these needs.

**Items needed are** hams, small chickens, canned vegetables and fruits, beans, rice, oil, boxed milk cranberry sauce, and stuffing, gravy, pasta, jelly, peanut butter, yams and sweet potatoes, apple juice, canned soups, desserts (cake, cookie, brownie, pie mixes and candy) or store gift certificates. Clean grocery store plastic bags.

**THE NEED IS URGENT!**

## **EAC Senior Respite Program**

For over 20 years EAC's Senior Respite Program has been providing Nassau County family caregivers with much needed relief. Senior respite companions provide time-off for those who have put their own lives on hold to care for a sick, older loved one at home. The program offers companion care one day a week, 2-6 hours. Volunteers receive training support, an hourly stipend is available and most importantly the opportunity for personal enrichment that comes from helping others. If you are interested in offering respite to a family in your community, or if you are a family caregiver in need of respite, Please call the Senior Respite Program at 516-539-0150 ext 217/218 or [www.eacinc.org](http://www.eacinc.org)

## **Free Food for Low Income Seniors**

Commodity Supplemental Food Program/ FAN (funded by USDA, NYSDOH and administered by Catholic Charities) is offering free food for seniors age 60 and over who are income eligible.

### **Gross Monthly Income for Seniors**

<b>Single Senior</b>	<b>Senior Couple</b>
<b>\$1,127</b>	<b>\$1,517 or less</b>

Further information in Nassau or Suffolk please call: 613-491-4169 or 631-491-4156.

## **FIDELIS CARE HEALTH INSURANCE**

**Is in Social Ministry every Wednesday from 10 –12 pm. Ask to see Claudia.**

## **Job Bank of Outreach:**

**Social Ministry welcomes, Gilaine, who will be overseeing the Job Bank.**

Do you need a babysitter, home health aid, housekeeper or landscaper? Or can you provide these services? Register with St. Martha's Social Ministry Job Bank. Call 292-1603 on Wednesday or Thursday between 10 AM and 2PM.

## **CENSUS BUREAU JOBS!**

Short term (5-10 Weeks) Please call to schedule a test: 866-861-2010 **The Social Ministry Job Bank has more information.**

## **DIVORCED/ SEPARATED/ WIDOWED**

### **The Beginning Experience**

**Help for the heartache of divorce, separation and widowhood. A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is February 20 through 22, 2009. For information and reservations, call Carmen at (516) 739-0973, John at (516) 822-0635, or Celia at (516)-625-1073.**

# THE SACRAMENTS AT ST. MARTHA'S

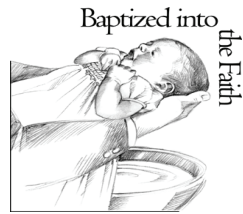
## BAPTISMS of December 2008

Matthew Scott Cora  
Roobenz Vincent Jean  
Jazlyn Maldonado Rivas

Carlos Adrian Monge  
Carmen Maria Rivera  
Kimera Jean Duval

Brandon Leonel Maldonado Rivas  
Matthew Salazar  
Mateo Rey Cardona

Katelyn Maria Alvarado  
Brian Pizzano  
Edgardo Josue Perez-Cortez  
Brianna Nicole Perez



## PRAY FOR THE SICK

*Please call in the names of those who are ill. Names of the ill will be published for one month, which then is renewable. Names of people can be placed on the Sick list only by the individual or family member.*

Elizabeth Augustyn  
Martha Alce  
Jean Beekman  
Ann Boden  
Sharon Burke  
Veronica Byrnes  
Fr. Zachary Callahan  
Elizabeth Calvarusso  
Marie Caruso  
Ann Celentano  
Thomas Celentano  
Anne Cote  
Louise Cuddy  
Bert Dash  
Ann DeNicola  
Kevin Derham  
Karl Droessler  
Brian Duffy  
Malorie Dzienius  
Roderich Evans  
Josephine Elgonitis  
Mary Famularo  
Jean Ferraia  
Joan Finegan  
Jack Flynn  
Kathleen Flynn  
Therese Francois  
Basil Gallier  
Humbert Garel  
Harriet Ganas  
Sr. Patricia Gimblett, RSM  
Ann Gould  
Bertha Griffin  
Joan Gurge  
Lorraine Hardy  
Frank Hayde  
Jeanette Healy  
Marlene Hicks  
Eleanora Hinton  
Jack Kightlinger

Barbara Kirsten  
Marianne Imperato  
Kevin Lawlor  
Monserrate Lebron  
Rafael Leon  
Rita Liotta  
Edith Lucchi  
Faith Lyons  
Kathleen Lyons  
Carolyn Maffettone  
Nancy Martinez  
Joan Mariconda  
Rev. Alan McLellan, C.M.  
Arthur McNeill  
Thomas Mc Govern  
John Mueller  
John Niemeier  
Steven Nieves  
Mary O'Leary  
Florence O' Sullivan  
Teodocia Perez  
Samuel Peters  
Mary Prutzman  
Patricia Reilly  
Mary Rodefeld  
Michele Rondon  
Fred Sieling  
James Spagnoli  
Fr. Edward Sullivan  
Frank Torie  
Ada Turner  
Joe & Tom Verbeeck  
Kenneth Vizdos  
Rubena Waldron  
Susan Weiss  
Jim Willhoft  
Sr. Margaret Williams, CIJ  
Sharon Wicke

### TREE OF LIFE:

Memorialize a loved one with a leaf on our parish's *Tree of Life*, located in the Church Lobby. If you would like more information about this lovely memorial, please contact the **Parish Office at 481-2550 Ext**



## OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Joan M. Frank + December 9, 2008  
Norma Sullivan +December 12, 2008  
Jeffrey Cramer + December 18, 2008

# PARISH DIRECTORY & NEWS

**Msgr. Francis Caldwell, Pastor    Ext. 302**

**Mrs. Barbara Fong Lee                    Ext. 301**  
**Parish Secretary**

**Mrs. Martha-Ann Brady                    Ext. 304**  
**Bookkeeper & Bulletin Editor**

**Mrs. Marlene Jean– Baptiste**  
**Director of Social Ministry**  
 292-1603 Ext 320 or 481-2550 Ext. 344  
[stmarthareligioused@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarthareligioused@yahoo.com)

**Voice Mail Boxes only:  
 Must leave a message**

**Rev. Eden Jean– Baptiste                Ext. 341**  
**Haitian Apostolate**

**Mr. Richard Lee                            Ext. 345**  
**Counseling & Marriage Preparation**

**Mr. Hernst Bellevue                        Ext.346**  
**Baptismal Program**

**Mr. Alvin Ingram                            Ext.347**  
**Liturgy Chair**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Sr. Eileen Curley, RSM,**  
**Pastoral Associate**  
 and Adult faith formation and RCIA director  
 516-481-2550 ext.342

**Ms. Dominique Guiteau,**  
**Director of Religious Education**  
 516-481-2550 ext. 343.  
[stmarthareligioused@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarthareligioused@yahoo.com)

## Ladies Needed

If you are willing to polish brass, clean and iron, the Altar Society is seeking a few good women to serve the Lord. If interested please call Martha Ann at 481-2550 ext 304.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

**GOAL: \$800,000**

**PLEDGED: \$366,162**

**= 46% of Goal**

**We need \$33,808 more in Pledges.  
 We Reach 50% of GOAL**

**229 Donors & 10 Fund Raisers**

**DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

\$202,800

**BALANCE TO GOAL:**

\$433,838

## COLLECTIONS

*Thank you for your generosity to  
 St. Martha's Parish !  
 December 28, 2008*

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$9,903.06 +35 %</b>
<b>Poor Box</b>	<b>\$129.46</b>
<b>Christmas Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 2,703.51 to date</b>
<b>Christmas Collection</b>	<b>\$20,314.40 to date</b>

## A PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

***YOU ARE MY REFUGE AND MY SHIELD. I PUT MY HOPE IN YOUR WORD.”***

(Psalm 119:114)

Lord, bless the men and women of our military as they answer the call to serve our nation and defend our freedom.

Protect them, particularly those in harm's way. Most of all let them know your love: that you are with them, and that you will never forsake or abandon them. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Partners in Evangelism Ministry to Service Men and Women



### **PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY**

**Let us continue to pray for peace in the world., and let us pray  
for all those who are serving in the cause of freedom.**

Master Sergeant Jill Agront, U.S. Army  
Airman Herbert J. Alvarado, U.S. Navy,  
Sergeant Hisnard Cadet, Jr., U.S. Army,  
Major Edward Diamantis, U.S. Army,  
Staff Sergeant Misael Exantus, U.S. Army,

Sergeant W. Jason Ferris, U.S. Marines  
Spc. Anna M. Fuentes, U.S. Army,  
L Cpl. Jason Fullerton, U.S. Marine  
Spc. Danny Mendez, U.S. Army,

PFC Kevin Mandracchia, U.S. Army  
Spc. Danny Mendez, U.S. Army,  
JE-4/CS3 Jesus Ron, U.S. Navy,  
P.O.1st Class John V. Sparkowski, U.S. Navy

Sgt. John Barki , U.S. Army  
Lt. Joseph A. Baugh, U.S. Navy  
PV2 Michael Castoro, U.S. Army.  
Capt. Michael D. Famularo, U.S. Marines.  
Sergeant Aaron Fullerton, U.S. Army,

Special Force Kareem Inniss, U.S. Army  
Cpl. Eric Omar Matos, U.S. Navy & Marines  
Sergeant Scott Moller, U.S. Air Force,  
L. Cpl Alfonso Rodriquez, U.S. Marines

Rev. Timothy Vakoc, U.S. Army, Chaplain  
Airman Francisco J. Velasquez, U.S. Air Force  
PFC Zaymery Villalobos, U. S.Army  
Colonel Verb Washington, U.S. Army  
Major Elizabeth Werns-Romano, US Army  
Flight Surgeon

If someone you know or someone in your family is currently serving in the U.S. Military, kindly submit their name, rank and Branch of Service to the Parish Center office in writing. If the service person leaves the service, please inform the Parish Office.

**Ron Rolheiser column**  
**Week of December 21, 2008**  
**Reflections on a New Year's Eve**

**When I was a child, New Year's Day was very special. Our family always had a big celebration, complete with a number of rituals.**

**The rituals began already on New Year's Eve. We didn't go out that evening, but stayed in and celebrated together as a family. Everyone stayed up until midnight and, just before twelve, whatever else we were doing was stopped and my father would lead us in a brief prayer.**

**This prayer never strayed far from a basic theme: My father thanked God for the year that had just passed, for, in the words of his generation, "the graces that we had received." He thanked God for having protected us, that we were still alive and together in faith and in family. Then he would, very simply, ask for God's blessing and protection for the coming year. Finally, exactly at midnight, when the old year ended and the new one began, we would sing together the hymn, Holy God We Praise Thy Name. After this there would follow the "Happy New Year" greetings, the hugs, handshakes, drinks and the food.**

**New Year's Day, itself, was, after church, given up mostly to visiting and receiving friends. At the door of each house, everyone was expected to greet each other with a formal New Year's greeting (about 10 lines in length, in German) that had to be memorized and recited, even if you no longer knew German. After this ritual greeting, you were given food, a drink, sweets, and (if you were a child) some money. When you finally completed the round of houses and returned home, you were loaded with treats and money and so, of course, as a child this was a day that rivaled Christmas.**

**My parents have now been dead for over 36 years. Within those 36 years most of these rituals have died. Mobility, the death of most of my parents' generation, the breakdown of the immigrant sociology of our district, and the natural changes that the passing of time brings, has made for an almost altogether new situation in our old district and in the world at large. Few persons still do the old rituals, and the heart has gone out of them. About the only real continuity lies with the drinks, that ritual survives the changes of time and the breakdown of any sociology. My own family has regrouped around new rituals, but the description and prescription of these is not my purpose here since this is reminiscence, not a homily.**

**As I get older, what I remember most about those New Year's celebrations, what lies inside of me as a set of sturdy roots that I use to steady myself and to draw a certain sustenance from, is that New Year's Eve prayer by my dad at midnight and the singing of Holy God We Praise Thy Name. Our new rituals still include that.**

**Ron Rolheiser column**

**Week of December 21, 2008-Reflections on a New Year's Eve- Page 2**

**Socrates once said that "the unexamined life is not worth living." That could be recast to say: A blessing that is unasked for, unrecognized, and for which thanks is not given, is at best only a half-blessing.**

**When my father prayed his end-of-the-year prayer in which he thanked God that we were all still alive and within which he asked for God's providence and protection for the coming year, Socrates would have been proud. My father was not living the unexamined life, nor was he neglecting Christ's request that we ask for blessings and the Holy Spirit.**

**The end of one year and the beginning of a new year are a naturally reflective time. Anthropology wonderfully conspires with spirituality in almost forcibly highlighting a significant transition. Our society rightly makes a big deal out of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**

**If you come to the end of a year and are still alive, then you haven't had a bad year. If you are still within the family of faith, then you've had a good year, irrespective of personal sickness, economic misfortune, lost relationships, or any other tragedy. Moreover, if there's gratitude in your heart and you can ask God for providence and protection for the coming year, you've entered that year on the right note. If you can follow this by expressing sincere love and best wishes for those around you (the words and embraces that say "Happy New Year") well, that's all a human being can do to welcome a new year properly.**

**2008, I suspect, was for all of us a year of mixed blessing. It had its cold bitter moments and more than enough heartaches and headaches. But, for all of us too, I am sure, it had its joys and its newness, its extraordinary blessings and providence. Each of us, in our more lucid moments, knows exactly how many bullets we dodged. If we are still alive and we still have faith, it was a good year. It deserves to be celebrated with expressions of gratitude, affection, and a doxology... and even with another old ritual, drinks!**

*Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

**INTEREST IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR TO PREPARE FOR COMMUNION  
OR CONFIRMATION**

**If you or someone you know would like to inquire about the Catholic faith, please call Imogene at 516-228-0895 or leave your name and a phone number at the Parish center. This is for adults who want to know more about the Catholic faith and also for those who would like to prepare to receive Bap-**

# Capital Campaign \*Fun\*d Raiser

## 2009 Yoga Class for

### Beginners

**Held in:** The James Collins Hall of the St. Martin de Porres Marianist School

**On the following Saturdays:** January 17 and 31  
February 14 and 28  
March 14 and 28

Dates subject to change – check bulletin or call 221-2710 for recorded update, if any

**From:** 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Please arrive a few minutes early.

**Cost per person:** \$15 donation per single class or...  
Class Card: \$50 for four classes (savings \$10)  
\$75 for six classes (savings \$15)

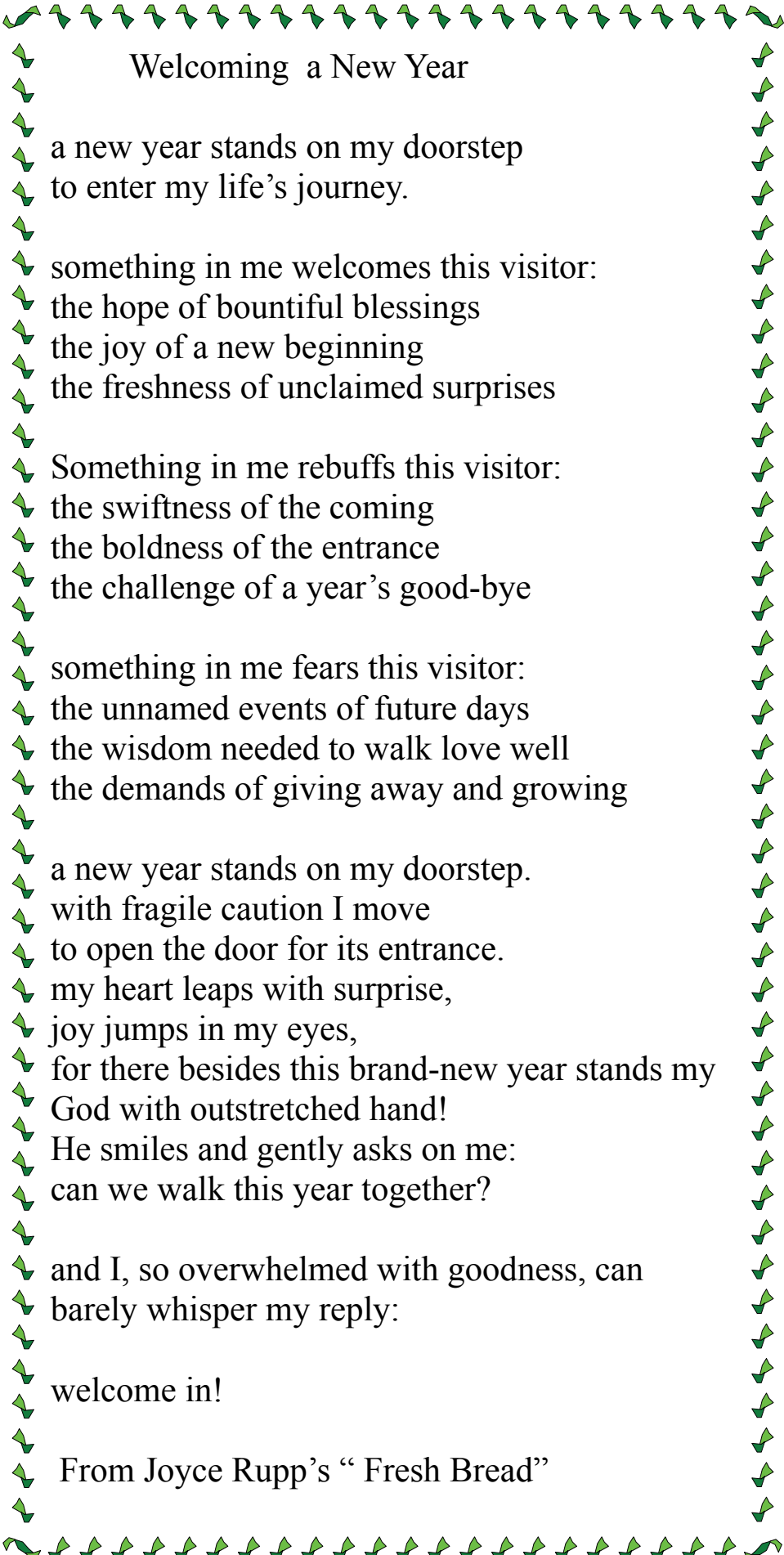
Bring cash or checks made payable to: St. Martha's Capital Campaign

**Given by:** Karyn Van Name, Parishioner and Certified Yoga Instructor  
Call for information 516-221-2710 or email [keyoga62@hotmail.com](mailto:keyoga62@hotmail.com)

**What to bring:** Yoga mat, if you have one. Large towel or small throw blanket. Yoga mats and blocks provided and will also be available for a reasonable purchase price (proceeds for Capital Campaign). Bring bottle of water if you tend to get thirsty with exercise.

**What else:** Dress comfortably with stretchy pants that allow freedom in waist, hips and legs. We practice barefoot and with an empty stomach. Eat a light breakfast one hour before class. Please do not wear perfumes or colognes!

**Who is this for, and what is Yoga?** This is for men and women 16 years old and up ... You do not need to be flexible or have experience, however, experienced practitioners are welcome. You do need to be able to get up and down off the floor and be able to kneel on the floor. Come and have **Fun** moving your body into postures that “magically” help enhance your being... physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. **Yoga** increases flexibility, strength, balance and endurance and releases chronic tension. **Yoga** improves functions of internal organs, immune, skeletal and hormonal systems. It calms restless thoughts and cultivates concentration and mental clarity. **Yoga** enhances creativity and encourages self acceptance. This practice invites deep stillness and a greater sense of wholeness and connection with the Divine. You will feel uplifted and centered... Some say, “Transformed” and “filled with joy”!



Welcoming a New Year

a new year stands on my doorstep  
to enter my life's journey.

something in me welcomes this visitor:  
the hope of bountiful blessings  
the joy of a new beginning  
the freshness of unclaimed surprises

Something in me rebuffs this visitor:  
the swiftness of the coming  
the boldness of the entrance  
the challenge of a year's good-bye

something in me fears this visitor:  
the unnamed events of future days  
the wisdom needed to walk love well  
the demands of giving away and growing

a new year stands on my doorstep.  
with fragile caution I move  
to open the door for its entrance.  
my heart leaps with surprise,  
joy jumps in my eyes,  
for there besides this brand-new year stands my  
God with outstretched hand!  
He smiles and gently asks on me:  
can we walk this year together?

and I, so overwhelmed with goodness, can  
barely whisper my reply:

welcome in!

From Joyce Rupp's "Fresh Bread"