



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Upcoming Events:

**December 16-24:** Simbang Gabi (Misa de Gallo) (Our Lady of Guadalupe Church)

**December 24:** A Vigil Prelude Service for Christmas Midnight Mass (Annunciation)

**January 18:** Annual Stanislaus County Blue Mass

**January 21-29:** 9 Days for Life

**January 22:** Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**January 25:** 16th Annual Walk for Life West Coast

**February 8:** Relentless Catholic Family Conference: "All Things New"

**March 11:** Reboot! Turlock with Chris Stefanick

**July 11:** Sanctus Cup 3: Young Adult Event (St. Stanislaus)

## Photo of the Week:

A photo of participants in the final retreat of the 2019 Pastoral Leadership training. It took place at the Sisters of the Cross facilities on December 14. Classes throughout the year were held at various parishes. Thank you to all of them for hosting.

## Special Announcement:

The Pastoral Center will be closed beginning December 24, 2019 and will reopen January 2, 2020. The next Weekly Update will be published January 13, 2020.

## Office of the Bishop:

**A Christmas Message from Bishop Cotta** – To view the message in English [click here](#). To view the message in Spanish [click here](#).

**Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection** – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of December.

**Catholic Rural Life** – This month's Catholic Rural blessing is the blessing of night. As the daylight hours give way during the month of December, the night calls our attention. Darkness invites us into its mystery, to gaze into its star-filled sky with wonder. As we watch and wait for the Light during the season of Advent, the darkness of a particular night can be a powerful setting for prayer. To read the blessing for the month of December please [click here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit our [website](#).

**Restorative Justice** – The CYR Family Bus Program serves three Youth Correctional Facilities that include: N.A. Chaderjian, O.H. Close and Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp. The program provides the youth's parents/guardians an opportunity to come and enjoy a day and a half in the presence of their love ones. Donations are very much appreciated and accepted year-round. Please visit this [link](#) to learn more.

Visit our [website's calendar](#) for full details about upcoming events

**\*All events are Pastoral Center events unless specified.**

## Development and Stewardship

Save the Dates – BMA 2020 Priest, Pastor, Chairperson, & Staff Trainings: For more information please visit our [website](#). To RSVP, please [click here](#)

1. Wednesday, January 8, 6:15 pm – St. Joseph's Church, Modesto (Room 6)  
\*\*Spanish & English Training

2. Thursday, January 9, 5:30 pm (English & Spanish) - Ryan Center, Stockton  
\*\*Spanish & English Training 3. Thursday, January 16, 10:00 am - St. Patrick's Church, Angels Camp (Hall) BMA 2020

In-Pew Dates: BMA In-Pew #1 - February 15 & 16 BMA In-Pew #2 - February 22 & 23

## Finance

The annual audit report on the operations of the Pastoral Center was recently completed and can be located on our website at this [link](#). Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

## Evangelization and Faith Formation

**Catechist Specialization** – We will be offering the Catechist Specialization sessions in two locations. St. Jude Parish, Ceres beginning on January 13, 2020 in Spanish from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Church of the Presentation January 22, 2020 in English from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information contact Leticia Rodriguez at 209-466-0636 ext. 621 or via email at [lrdriguez@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:lrdriguez@stocktondiocese.org).

**Effective Communication and Supervision for Parish Leaders** – Place: St. Joseph Parish, Modesto. Registration fee: \$10.00. Lunch included. Registration deadline is January 13, 2020. For more information call Graciela Garza-Ayala 209-466-0636.

## Life and Dignity Ministry

What's coming up in January 2020:

**Save the date:** Saturday, January 25, 2020. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast Walk for Life. For more information please [click here](#).

**9 Days for Life (Tuesday, January 21– Wednesday, January 29, 2020)** Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, Tuesday, January 21 – Wednesday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

**Save the date: January 22. Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children** (designated by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, as a particular day of prayer and penance) liturgical resources including options for readings.

## Office of Worship

**Liturgical Reminder** – January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**Recommendations** – Bishop Cotta has made recommendations for our celebrations during flu season. See the memo at this [link](#).