

## **RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

- 1) **Give Glory to God** - by attending Sunday Mass or Daily Mass... and by having **GOD** as **the most important** relationship in your life.
- 2) Bring **Peace** to your Neighbor by *Forgiving* Him or Her
- 3) Pray by Saying: **Abba, Father**...frequently
- 4) **Ask** for *Forgiveness*...it is liberating!
- 5) Join our Thursday - **Bible Study** Group  
(from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm)
- 6) **Drink Water** instead of soda or sugary drinks, etc.
- 7) Seek **Spiritual Direction**
- 8) **Read** the **Scriptures** for at least five minutes each day...
- 9) **Pray** as a **Family** - One Our Father, Three Hail Marys and One Glory Be...
- 10) Have at least **TWO minutes of silence**...daily just listening...to the Father...who speaks within your heart.
- 11) **EAT together as a family** or with a neighbor—  
may no one eat alone in your home...

<p align="center"><b>THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA</b> <i>ADMINISTERED BY THE IDENTÉ MISSIONARIES</i> 2352 SAINT RAYMONDS AVENUE BRONX, N.Y. 10462 (☎ 718 828 2380) (PARKING AT ZEREGA AND GLEBE)  <a href="http://www.santamariaparish.us/">www.santamariaparish.us/</a></p>	<p align="center">Sunday, January 7, 2018</p> <p>Vigil Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Masses on Sunday:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 8:00 a.m. (<i>in English</i>) (notice new time)</li> <li>◆ 9:15 a.m. (<i>en español</i>)</li> <li>◆ 10:30 a.m. &amp; 12:00 noon (<i>in English</i>)</li> <li>◆ on Sunday we <u>no longer</u> have a 5:00 p.m. Mass</li> </ul>
--	---

THE COMING OF  
THE THREE KINGS

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 12:00 noon Mass**  
Parents you are asked to bring a new toy wrapped and labeled with your child's full name on or before January 6<sup>th</sup> to the Rectory. The Three Kings will present it to your child in the Parish Hall—after the 12 noon Mass. Thank you.

**VISITA DE LOS TRES REYES MAGOS**

**7 de enero de 2018 (domingo) - en la misa de las 12:00 de la tarde.** Se ruego a los padres que antes del 6 de enero traigan a la rectoría un regalo (no juguetes de armas, por favor), envuelto y con los nombres y apellidos de su hijo/a claramente visible. Los Reyes Magos se lo entregarán personalmente a su hijo/a en el auditorio parroquial.

**10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF NEW YORK ENCOUNTER WITH CARDINAL DOLAN AND MANY OTHERS**

The 2018 New York Encounter, themed *An "Impossible" Unity*, will take place January 12-14 at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. The *Encounter* is a three-day, FREE, cultural event organized by members of Communion and Liberation, consisting of panel discussions, artistic performances and unique exhibits. This year's *Encounter* will open with a witness by the son of the late NYPD hero, Steven McDonald. Timothy Cardinal Dolan will present an exhibit on Dorothy Day, and world-renowned sculptor, Etsuro Sotoo will present his work on the largest unfinished Roman Catholic church in world, the Sagrada Familia. A discussion on fatherhood will be led by psychologist Paul Vitz, and the long-awaited biography of the Servant of God, Msgr. Luigi Giussani, founder of Communion and Liberation will be presented. **These events and many others can be found at—[www.newyorkencounter.org](http://www.newyorkencounter.org).— All are invited!**

**Santa Maria Parish Trustees:** We thank Mr. Dominic Cammarota and Mrs. Clara Luz Perez for accepting to be our Parish Trustees for this current fiscal year. Their service and guidance are invaluable to us!

**2018 Mass Book:** The Mass Book for this new year is open. Please come to the Rectory— Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Sunday from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM or email us a written request to reserve your mass intentions.

- ◆ Bible Classes, Thursdays—from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM *in English* in the Conference Room
- ◆ Estudia la Biblia—todos los jueves de 7:30 PM a 8:30 PM *en español* en la Iglesia

***Reconciliation Mondays: Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

- ◆ 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (confessions in English and Spanish)
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Holy Mass
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (confessions in English only)



**Confesiones *en español***

**Todos los lunes**

de 5:00 p.m. a 7:00 p.m.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, Jan. 6th**

5:00pm For the Health and Holiness of Ana and Jesse Mojica

**Sunday, Jan. 7th**

8:00am Loretta Cipolla

9:15am Jovita Gutierrez Barron – 4th year Anniversary in Heaven

10:30am Connie Pangilinan

12Noon For the Deceased Members of the Green and LaCroce Families

**Monday, Jan. 8th**

7:00am For the Health and Holiness of Ubaldo Equino

8:15am Alice Pochintesta

7:00pm In Thanksgiving to God from the Baclig-Braceros Family

**Tuesday, Jan. 9th**

7:00am For the Health and Holiness of Steven Equino

8:15am For the Health and Holiness of Zenaida Roger

7:00pm For the Health and Holiness of All Parishioners

**Wednesday, Jan. 10th**

7:00am For the Health and Holiness of Matthew Equino

8:15am Maria Ferrari

7:00pm Rachel Rose Correa Vereen

**Thursday, Jan. 11th**

7:00am Rose Ann Volgende Scelza

8:15am Maria Vincenzi

7:00pm **Misa en español (Mass in Spanish)** - Maria Lorenza Guaman

**Friday, Jan. 12th**

7:00am For the Health and Holiness for Christine and Tim

8:15am Pedro Cordero Peña

7:00pm Lisa Marie Villani

**Saturday, Jan. 13th**

8:15am Connie and Cosmo Ciminello

5:00pm For the Health and Holiness of Emily Dolan

**Parish Council Meeting:** This Tuesday, January 9, 2018 immediately after the 7PM Mass in the Zerega Conference Room. Please send all agenda items to Mrs. Elsie Vera prior to the meeting. Thank you.

**TU REGALO NAVIDEÑO A TU PARROQUIA DE SANTA MARÍA:**

Cada año durante el tiempo Navideño podemos manifestar nuestro compromiso con Cristo y su Iglesia dándole un regalo navideño a su parroquia. **Su parroquia como su casa es su hogar y por lo tanto su responsabilidad.** Le pedimos por tanto que estando en oración determine su regalo y entréguelo hoy o la próxima semana. Le agradecemos de antemano su generosidad que sabemos bien es un sacrificio. ¡Tu parroquia de Santa María cuenta contigo esta Navidad! **¡Muchísimas gracias!**

**\*\*\* THANK YOU—to all who donated a gift from our Angel Tree.** Your gifts will benefit our unborn and newborn children in our Parish Family. May God bless your generosity!

**In Memoriam—The Wine and Hosts** for the week of January 7, 2018 to January 13, 2018 have been donated **in loving memory of Lisa Marie Villani** from her family. Please pray for her soul when you receive the Eucharistic Lord. Thank you.

**Blessings for the Unborn:** If your are pregnant and would like to have your unborn child blessed please speak to one of the priests ten minutes before the Mass and the blessing can take place during the Mass. The whole family should be present if possible.

**QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION:**

- ◆ Have **I invited anyone** to worship at Santa Maria?
- ◆ Do I feel **responsible** for the life and holiness of at least another person?
- ◆ Do I truly believe **in Matthew 5:48?**

**NEW DATE AND TIME FOR OUR ALTAR SERVER MEETINGS**

**Saturdays**  
from 10.00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Church



**2018—Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal:** We thank you for supporting the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal...this year **our parish goal is \$26,000.** We hope to reach our goal once again given the generosity of all Santa Maria parishioners and friends. **Thank you so very much.**

# Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

*When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."*

*The leader greets those present in the following words:*

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.

Blessed be God forever.

R/. Blessed be God forever.

*In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

*One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 19:1-9:*

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke: Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.> When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

*The intercessions are then said:*

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head.

We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory.

We pray: R/. Stay with us, Lord.

*After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. ☪☪*



*The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:*

**Lord God of heaven and earth,  
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation  
by the guidance of a star.**

**Bless this house  
and all who inhabit it.**

**Fill them (us) with the light of Christ,  
that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R/. Amen.**

*The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:*

**May Christ Jesus dwell with us,  
keep us from all harm,  
and make us one in mind and heart,  
now and forever.**

**R/. Amen.**

*It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song, for example, “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or  
“We Three Kings.”*

*—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

## **Christmas Flowers**

**We thank the following parishioners and friends who donated the flowers that are adorning our sanctuary during this Christmas Season. These donations were made for the following intentions:**

**For the Health and Holiness of Ann Mautone and Family**

**For the Health and Holiness of Carmen Olivieri and Family donated by Carmen Olivieri**

**For the Health and Holiness of the DeJesus Family donated by Theresa DeJesus**

**For the Health and Holiness of the Zavala-Acevedo Family donated by Lucy Acevedo**

**In Gratitude for our many Blessings donated by Mary Ann and Michael Mooney**

**In Gratitude for our two healthy grandchildren, Kara and Quinn, donated by Mary Ann and Michael Mooney**

**In Gratitude to our Heavenly Father donated by an Anonymous Donor**

**In Gratitude to our Heavenly Father from the Cumayao Family**

**In Gratitude to our Heavenly Father from the Enriquez Family**

**In Gratitude to our Heavenly Father from the Lusaria Family**

**In Gratitude to our Heavenly Father from the Toribio Family**

**In Loving Memory of Ann Marie Russolillo donated by her Husband and Children (2x)**

**In Loving Memory of Anna and Owen Mooney donated by Mary Ann and Michael Mooney**

**In Loving Memory of Annie Russolillo donated by Francis Neubauer and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Anthony Frisolone and the Deceased Members of the Frisolone Family donated by Ellen Frisolone**

**In Loving Memory of Anthony J. La Croce donated by Marie and Marianne La Croce**

**In Loving Memory of Bernard Francis Farley donated by Christina and Jonathan Myjak**

**In Loving Memory of Catharine Hallahan donated by Thomas Revans**

**In Loving Memory of Cecilia Ortiz donated by Michael and Elenita D'Aloia**

**In Loving Memory of Cono D'Aloia donated by Michael and Elenita D'Aloia**

**In Loving Memory of Cristina D'Aloia donated by Michael and Elenita D'Aloia**

**In Loving Memory of Daniel England donated by his brother Peter England**

**In Loving Memory of Daniel England donated by his sister Carol Ann Bleakley and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Enes and Joseph DiGesu donated by Francis Neubauer and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Felix Ortiz donated by Michael and Elenita D'Aloia**

**In Loving Memory of Florence and James Bradley donated by Mary Ann and Michael Mooney**

**In Loving Memory of Frank and Mary Criscuolo donated by Ann Criscuolo-Otero and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Giuseppe Galati donated by Mary Ann Galati and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Grace Louise Burns donated by the Esguerra-Lopez Family**

**In Loving Memory of James, Loretta and James Wall donated by Mary Ann and Michael Mooney**

**In Loving Memory of Lou and Phyllis Menno donated by Anne and Barbara Menno**

**In Loving Memory of Luigi D'Aloia donated by Michael and Elenita D'Aloia**

**In Loving Memory of Mario and Luz Esguerra donated by their Children and Grandchildren**

**In Loving Memory of Mary and Joseph Neubauer donated by Francis Neubauer and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Michael James McNiff donated by Mary McNiff and Family**

**In Loving Memory of My Parents donated by Carmen Olivieri**

**In Loving Memory of Peter and Jean Conides donated by Vivian L. Conides and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Rafael DeLeon donated by Francis Neubauer and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Saveria Verlezza donated by Francis Neubauer and Family**

**In Loving Memory of the Deceased Members of the DeJesus Family donated by Theresa M. DeJesus and Family**

**In Loving Memory of Tommaso and Maria Aliberti donated by their Children and Family**

**In Loving Memory of William F. La Croce donated by Marie and Marianne La Croce**

**In Loving Memory of Willie J. Pinelli donated by Tracey and Willie M. Pinelli and Family**

# Christmas Movies

## 20 Christmas Movies

The following movies have been evaluated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops according to artistic merit and moral suitability. **The reviews include the USCCB rating, the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and a brief synopsis of the movie.**

Browse your TV listings, video store shelves, or your movie service website to find one of these classic gems and recent favorites to share with your family.

### **The Bells of St. Mary's (1945)**

Director Leo McCarey's sequel to "Going My Way" (1944) pulls out all the emotional stops in a sugary confection that takes happy-go-lucky Father O'Malley (Bing Crosby) to a poor parish with a crumbling school run by overworked Sister Benedict (Ingrid Bergman). Though their conflicting views on education have less to do with the plot than the chasm between their personal relations, Bergman's shining performance as the idealistic nun is still worth watching. Sentimental yet warm picture of Catholic life in an age of innocence. (A-I) (NR)

### **The Bishop's Wife (1947)**

A debonair, smartly tailored angel (Cary Grant) uses his heavenly powers to help the neglected wife (Loretta Young) of a busy Episcopalian bishop (David Niven) renew her husband's ministry to those in need rather than in raising the money for a new cathedral. Director Henry Koster's sentimental Christmas fable has the virtue of a good script, sincere performances and some amusing moments with Grant's angelic powers and Monty Wooley as a softhearted old cynic. Most of the family will find it charming entertainment. (A-II) (NR)

### **A Christmas Carol (1951)**

This British version of the Dickens' classic has worn well over the years principally because of Alistair Sim's zestful performance as Scrooge, the old humbug whose transformation into a loving human being is a pleasure to behold. Director Brian Desmond Hurst's period piece does well with its 19th-century London setting and the ghostly visitations are done simply but with considerable flair. The result is dandy family viewing. (A-I) (NR)

### **A Christmas Carol (2009)**

Lavish, well-crafted but frequently eerie 3-D animated adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic 1843 novella in which miserly misanthrope Ebenezer Scrooge (voice of Jim Carrey) is urged to change his ways by the tortured specter of his late business partner (voice of Gary Oldman) and by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come (all voiced by Carrey). Though free of objectionable content, and unabashed about the Christian context of its conversion story, writer-director Robert Zemeckis' largely faithful retelling features images and special effects likely to disturb the most sensitive youngsters. (A-I) (PG)

### **A Christmas Story (1983)**

Adapted from Jean Shepherd's nostalgic piece of whimsy, "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," the movie re-creates what it was like to be a boy (Peter Billingsley) yearning for a genuine Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas in the Midwest of the 1940s. Director Bob Clark gets some good performances from Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon as the understanding parents and the period atmosphere is nicely conveyed with what is essentially a warm celebration of a more innocent, less sophisticated America. A few vulgar syllables. (A-II) (PG)

### **Christmas with the Kranks (2004)**

Delightful yuletide comedy about a Chicago couple (Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis) who boycott Christmas after their daughter leaves home to join the Peace Corps, sparking unforeseen reactions from their militantly merry neighbors (led by Dan Aykroyd). The film is based on the novella "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham. Director Joe Roth delivers a dose of holly-jolly fun that is, by turns, extremely funny and poignantly tender, and its warmhearted message of selflessness, family and coming together as a community clearly embodies the truest spirit of the season. Some suggestive humor, comic violence and mildly crude language. (A-II) (PG)

# Christmas Movies

## continued.... 20 Christmas Movies

### **Come to the Stable (1949)**

Sentimental but amusing picture from Clare Booth Luce's story of two French nuns (Loretta Young and Celeste Holm) trying to establish a hospital in New England with some help from an eccentric artist (Elsa Lanchester) and a cynical songwriter (Hugh Marlowe). Director Henry Koster gets some smiles from the nuns' adapting to American ways and the bemused reactions of the locals to the newcomers' otherworldly simplicity, with mostly heartwarming results. Unpretentious, generally high-minded fun. (A-I) (NR)

### **The Fourth Wise Man (1985)**

Adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's vintage short story "The Other Wise Man," tells of a fourth Magi (Martin Sheen) who is delayed in following the star to Bethlehem, then finally catches up with it in Jerusalem some 33 years later in an encounter which fulfills his life's search for truth. Produced by Paulist Father Ellwood Keiser and directed by Michael Rhodes, the 72-minute dramatization effectively amplifies the religious dimension of the original while adding some light humor from Alan Arkin as the Magi's servant. Family entertainment with the universal theme of bettering oneself by helping others. (A-I) (NR)

### **Fred Claus (2007)**

Generally funny yet bittersweet tale of a sad-sack Chicago repo man (Vince Vaughn) who travels to the North Pole to help his younger, more popular brother, St. Nicholas (Paul Giamatti), at Christmas, while a devious efficiency expert (Kevin Spacey) threatens to shut down the elves' toy factory. Underneath the laughs, Dan Fogelman's script is a surprisingly resonant take on sibling rivalry, with lots of heart-tugging sentiment, and solid messages about family, self-esteem, forgiveness and ultimately redemption. Under David Dobkin's deft direction, there's sharp work by the leads and the classy supporting cast (Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates and John Michael Higgins). Mild innuendo, an implied premarital living arrangement, a suggestive costume, and some crass humor and expressions. (A-II) (PG)

### **It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**

Seasonal favorite about the joys and trials of a good man (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin on the eve of Christmas, contemplates suicide until his guardian angel (Henry Travers) shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him. Director Frank Capra's unabashedly sentimental picture of mainstream American life is bolstered by a superb cast (including Lionel Barrymore as a conniving banker) and a wealth of good feelings about such commonplace virtues as hard work and helping one's neighbor. Young children may find the story's dark moments unsettling. (A-II) (NR)

### **Joyeux Noel (2006)**

Intensely moving World War I tale of soldiers -- Scottish, French and German -- who spontaneously agree to a cease-fire on the Western front on Christmas Eve as they hear carols wafting from the enemy's trenches, intermingle and bond on a humanistic level, to the eventual disdain of their superiors. Writer-director Christian Carion's film, inspired by true events, is sensitively acted (by an international cast including Guillaume Canet, Daniel Bruhl and Benno Furmann) and conveys a powerful message about the senselessness of war, while there is an admirable religious underpinning in the character of a dedicated Anglican priest (Gary Lewis) who brings everyone together for a liturgy on that special night. Partially in English, partially subtitled. Battlefield violence with death, some profanity and crude language, discreet husband-wife bedroom scene. (A-II) (PG-13)

### **Miracle on 34th Street (1947)**

Familiar seasonal favorite follows a department store Santa (Edmund Gwenn) as he strives to convince a lonely little girl (Natalie Wood) that he's the genuine article, despite the objections of her rigidly pragmatic mother (Maureen O'Hara) and a court trial that hinges on the U.S. Post Office. Director George Seaton's amusing romantic fantasy has its sentimental moments while spreading a reasonable amount of holiday cheer, largely due to Gwenn's charming performance as Kris Kringle. Problems of single parenthood. (A-II) (NR)

# Christmas Movies

## continued.... 20 Christmas Movies

### **The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)**

In this sprightly version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," Muppets Kermit, Miss Piggy, the Great Gonzo, Rizzo the Rat and Fozzie Bear have incidental roles as Michael Caine portrays skinflint Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future so he can learn the true spirit of Christmas. Director Brian Henson retells the holiday classic with delightful musical numbers, though with less frenzied fun than the usual Muppet outings. (A-I) (G)

### **The Nativity Story (2006)**

Dramatization of the New Testament birth narratives from the Annunciation to the birth of Jesus, focusing on the relationship between Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes) and Joseph (Oscar Isaac) and their arduous trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem, with subplots tracking the journey of the three Magi and the efforts of King Herod (Ciaran Hinds) to prevent the prophecy of a messiah from coming to pass. A composite of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, embroidered with apocryphal traditions and the imagination of the filmmaker, the Bible story gets the prestige treatment in director Catherine Hardwicke's artful, reverent and affecting retelling, with soulful performances from an excellent international cast -- including Shohreh Aghdashloo as Elizabeth -- and impressive production design. Mike Rich's screenplay manages to flesh out Mary and Joseph while remaining faithful to Scripture, poignantly suggesting the humanity beneath the halos. Some violent images. A-I (PG)

### **The Polar Express (2004)**

Visually captivating animated fantasy -- in which Tom Hanks plays five separate roles -- about a doubting young boy who is whisked away on Christmas Eve aboard a magic train bound for Santa's village in the North Pole. Based on the children's novel by Chris Van Allsburg, director Rob Zemeckis' hauntingly beautiful fairy tale celebrates childlike wonder and -- though secular in tone -- imparts a profoundly faith-friendly message about the importance of believing in things that can't be seen. (A-I) (G)

### **Prancer (1989)**

Sweet-natured Christmas story about a spirited 8-year-old farm girl (Rebecca Harrell) who cares for an injured reindeer believing it is one of Santa's team. While this "E.T." clone may have its fill of cranky adults and earnest moments, John Hancock's direction has a feel for rural community life that will please older viewers while younger ones will love the reindeer and the praise lavished on the spunky heroine for revitalizing the town's Christmas spirit. (A-I) (G)

### **The Shop Around the Corner (1940)**

Delightful romantic comedy set in a Budapest department store where two clerks (James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan) nurture a mutual dislike of the other while each exchanges love letters with a lonelyheart's penpal until ultimately discovering they have been corresponding with each other. Director Ernst Lubitsch treats the workaday friction between the clerks with some wry humor while building sympathy for both, then brings them together in an emotionally satisfying conclusion that has charmed viewers ever since. Romantic complications. (A-II) (NR)

### **Three Godfathers (1948)**

After robbing a bank, an outlaw trio (John Wayne, Pedro Armendariz and Harry Carey Jr.) pause to help a dying woman (Mildred Natwick) deliver her infant son on Christmas Eve, then take the babe with them as they are pursued across a desert wasteland. Dedicated by director John Ford to Western actor Harry Carey, Sr., the story may be unabashedly sentimental and the action romanticized, but its lyrical images and religious resonances celebrate the myth of the Old West and its rugged heroes with good hearts. Off-screen suicide of one of the principals. (A-II) (NR)

# Christmas Movies

continued.... 20 Christmas Movies

## **White Christmas (1954)**

Cheerful but synthetic musical comedy about two World War II veterans (Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye) who use their popularity as entertainers to make a success out of the winter resort opened by their wartime commander (Dean Jagger). Directed by Michael Curtiz, the post-war feel-good plot is less memorable than Kaye's clowning and Crosby's crooning of the title song among other Irving Berlin numbers originally written for the earlier, better "Holiday Inn" (1942) pairing Crosby with Fred Astaire. While not a classic, it offers some good family entertainment. (A-I) (NR)

"LIFE'S MOST  
PERSISTENT  
AND URGENT  
QUESTION IS  
'WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING FOR  
OTHERS?'"

