



Welcome

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church *Iglesia Católica de San Buenaventura*

5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 ❖ www.stbonaventure.net

PHONE (925) 672-5800 ❖ FAX (925) 672-4606

Monday thru Thursday – 8:30am – 5:00pm; Friday – 8:30am – 3:30pm
Lunch Break – 12:30-1:30pm

December 25, 2016 The Nativity of the Lord | 25 de diciembre de 2016 La Natividad del Señor

MASSES IN ENGLISH/EN INGLÉS

Saturday Vigil/Sábado: 5:00 PM
Sunday/Domingo 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM,
11:00 AM, 5:00 PM

MASSES IN SPANISH/EN ESPAÑOL

Domingo: 12:45 PM

DAILY MASS/MISA DIARIA (CHAPEL/CAPILLA)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday/Lunes,
Martes, Jueves y Viernes: 9:00 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday/Martes, Miércoles y
Jueves: 6:30 AM

COMMUNION SERVICE/SERVICIOS DE COMUNIÓN (CHAPEL/CAPILLA)

Monday & Friday/Lunes y Viernes: 6:30 AM
Wednesday/Miércoles: 9:00 AM

BAPTISM/BAUTIZOS

In English: Call the office to begin the process.
This requires two months preparation. *En Español:*
Los Sábados
10:00 AM. *Llame a la oficina para hacer arreglos con*
un Sacerdote ó Diácono. Este requiere dos meses de
preparación.

MARRIAGE/MATRIMONIO

Call the office to arrange with a Priest or
Deacon. This requires six months preparation.
Llame a la oficina para hacer arreglos con un
Sacerdote ó Diácono. Este requiere seis meses de
preparación.

RECONCILIATION/RECONCILIACIÓN

In English: Saturdays 3:30 PM (in the church) or by
appointment. *En Español: Llame a la oficina para*
hacer arreglos con un Sacerdote. Por cita.



As disciples at St. Bonaventure, we are committed to know Christ better and make Him better known. To this end we are committed to...

Keep connected to our parish community
Nurture the development of our faith and knowledge of Christ
Offer to share the Holy Spirit's gifts of time, talent and treasure
Worship through prayer, Mass and the Sacraments

THOUGHTS FROM FR. RICHARD
 PENSAMIENTOS DE PADRE RICARDO

■ **SURPRISES ARE GOOD AND SO IS GOD**

We are really happy that you chose to come to St. Bonaventure this Christmas Season. We are trying to be a hopeful and inspiring spiritual center, making Jesus Christ better known. We encourage good people to be better people, inspire good people to grow spiritually, to show people the benefits of being part of a real community of faith.

Here at St. Bonaventure, there are many opportunities to help you to walk with God in your life. We welcome you and hope that Jesus will attract you to join us to work with us, and to accomplish God's rich hope for you.

We hope that you will enjoy this holiday season in ways that you have not before. God surprised the world by coming to live in it. He wants to surprise you as well.

Surprises are good and so is God. Please pass his surprises along. And please come back very soon. A happy, good holiday season to all of you!

■ **CHRISTMAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE A MOMENT**

The Struggle to Believe That Jesus Is Real

Today is Christmas Day, a day to celebrate life and family relationships, a day to remember and to be grateful that it is all about God. God came to be with us in Jesus, whose life and how he lived it changed the world.

The Christian world has celebrated Christmas Day for almost 2,000 years. The Christian churches have kept alive the Faith in Jesus as a real person, with a real message and with a real power to transform people's lives.

There has always been a struggle to believe and to keep the Faith. As humans, we are distracted easily; we live in a present moment of high activity amid concerns about living from day to day. There is a certain materialism that captures our imagination and interest.

And for many people, the Infancy Narratives that introduce the Gospel according to Luke lead many people to wonder if it is really true, sounding so much like a fable or a fairy tale.

The Unembellished Story of Matthew

I believe that we have to concentrate on Christmas today and not Christmas as a past fable. I prefer the Gospel story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Matthew, where the person of Joseph is featured, faced with his fiancé who is pregnant, and who wants to put the difficult situation behind him. Joseph was a good man and consulted God in his dreams. He works out most of his questions. He wanted to do the right thing. Matthew's story says nothing more than that Jesus was born, that he took Mary to his home, where Jesus was born.

What should immediately pique our interest is that the story of Jesus' birth is very different in the Gospel tradition of St. Matthew from what it is in the Gospel tradition of St. Luke. Only the traditions of Matthew and Luke added these preface parts to their Gospels, because they were primarily for gentile, non-Jewish audiences. They seek to explain, by way of a prelude introduction, something of how Jesus came to be born, from the Jewish religious traditions about the dynasty of King David and about a Davidic King who would be and manifest the presence of God.

Different Traditions, Different Stories

Matthew and Luke use different materials and are captivated by different prophetic oracles and by different stories.

Matthew's Gospel features the announcement to Joseph of the Messiah's birth. Luke's Gospel emphasizes the Annunciation to Mary. Each Gospel emphasizes different stories, the origin of which is not quite clear. Many scripture scholars attribute the stories to be reminiscences from Mary herself – a conjecture without any proof.

Matthew's Gospel includes the visit of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocents, the flight to Egypt and return to Galilee. There is a reason why

Matthew chose these stories - to show that Joseph was a faithful and religious Jew, knowing the requirements and customs of the Torah, that he also was a Son of David. Joseph was given the responsibility of naming Jesus and claiming the legal title of father and guardian.

Matthew saw the connection between Isaiah's prophetic words to king Ahaz 700 years before Jesus. Matthew makes a connection between the words of that prophecy, which Ahaz did not accept, and now Jesus was the person who fulfilled it completely.

For Matthew, Joseph prays and consults God in his prayer and dreams just like his namesake, Joseph, in Egypt. The important message that Matthew wanted to convey to the people to whom he was writing was that Jesus is the last and truest son to King David, and that the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to become the Messiah and the Emmanuel.

Discrepancies Are Not Discrepancies

It is most probable that neither Matthew nor Luke read each other's Gospel, since they were written for different audiences in different places and times.

Luke's tradition, which has become the most popular, shares different stories: the Birth of John the Baptist, the Annunciation to Mary, the Visitation to Elizabeth, the Birth and Circumcision of John the Baptist, the Birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds, the Circumcision of Jesus and his presentation in the temple, the prophecies of Simeon and Anna, and the childhood of Jesus.

Something else that most Christians do not understand is that we do not read the Gospel as a historical story, from the birth of Jesus to his death. We read and understand the story and meaning of Jesus' life from the Resurrection, backwards.

Only at the end is Jesus recognized truly as the Son of God and the Emmanuel, the God who is with us.

Each of the Gospels begin the story of Jesus when He begins his public life and ministry. That's where the first Gospel author, Mark, starts his Gospel. That is where Matthew and Luke started, and

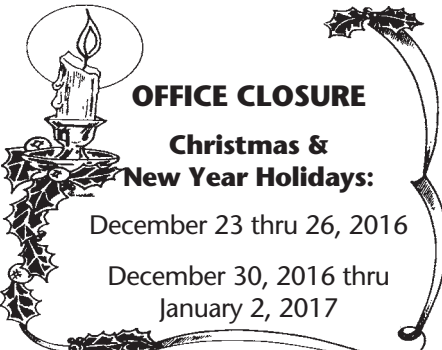
then added their prefaces, which scripture scholars name “The Infancy Narratives.”

We must be very careful not to conclude that these preface-treatments are historical descriptions. They are a combination of faith, recognizing in a wonderful, artistic and literary way that, in the end, Jesus was God in the flesh, described in images from many Old Testament prophetic oracles and prophecies.

Christian art, and St. Francis himself, took the art form to its “nth” degree in the living nativity scene combining parts of Matthew’s and Luke’s Gospel together. The scenes and the figurines try to convey what is impossible to convey fully: God has come to us in Jesus; God comes to us always in the same way. Christ was never intended to be a moment. Neither was Christmas. It was a way to enter into and to remain in the life of Jesus, who is the Emmanuel.

■ APPLICANTS FOR DE LA SALLE AND CARONDELET

Anyone seeking a letter of recommendation from Fr. Mangini should fill out the questions on the recommendation form, on a separate sheet of paper, or give what your answers would be. I do not know each applicant well enough to fill out the forms. I would be happy to interview each applicant. I do not write vague letters. Who are you? What do you stand for? How much of a Catholic and Christian are you? What are your goals in life? What kind of service have you done for others? What do you want to grow up to be? How will Carondelet or De La Salle help you to reach that? After I see the answers to these questions, I will write a letter of recommendation.



OFFICE CLOSURE
Christmas & New Year Holidays:
 December 23 thru 26, 2016
 December 30, 2016 thru
 January 2, 2017

**PARISH LIFE THOUGHTS
 FROM CHRISTA FAIRFIELD**

■ CDS ARE HERE!



If you preordered CDs and/or want to purchase CDs, please contact Grace Maes at (925) 285-0694. The CD includes performances by each of the St. Bonaventure choirs and features some of our favorite songs, including *We Are One Body*, *In the Breaking of the Bread*, and *Go Make a Difference*. The cost is only \$15 each, and all the proceeds go to St. Bonaventure Church.

■ FAITH DIRECT: PARISH EGIVING



In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Bonaventure through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: CA725

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

LITURGY & MUSIC

■ NEW YEAR'S EVE/MARY, MOTHER OF GOD VIGIL MASS: Saturday, December 31, 2016

Begin your New Year's Eve celebration by giving thanks to God for all that He has blessed you with throughout 2016. This will also be a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass will be held at 5:00 PM in the church.


STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
Weekend of December 17 & 18
Collection
 Goal: \$25,440
 Actual: \$23,013
Deficit: (2,427)

Food for Family: 288 (12/13)
EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)
included in above figures

■ NEW YEAR'S DAY/THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: SUNDAY, January 1, 2017

We celebrate the motherhood of Mary as well as the start of a new calendar year. The title “Mother of God” is a western derivation from the Greek *Theotokos*, which means “God-bearer.” On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation.

Sunday Masses will follow a modified schedule and will be held at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:45 PM (Spanish) in the church. There will be *no* 5:00PM Mass.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59; PS 31:3CD-4, 6, 8AB, 16BC, 17; MT 10:17-22

TUESDAY: 1 JN 1:1-4; PS 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; JN 20:1A, 2-8

WEDNESDAY: 1 JN 1:5 -- 2:2; PS 124:2-5, 7B-8; MT 2:13-18

THURSDAY: 1 JN 2:3-11; PS 96:1-3, 5B-6; LK 2:36-40

FRIDAY: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 OR COL 3:12-21 [12-17]; PS 128:1-5; MT 2:13-15, 19-23

SATURDAY: 1 JN 2:18-21; PS 96:1-2, 11-13; JN 1:1-18

SUNDAY: NM 6:22-27; PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; GAL 4:4-7; LK 2:16-21

LIFE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

■ ENGAGING SPIRITUALITY

Are you deeply concerned about our world? Are you thirsty for God *and* hungry for justice? Do you long to be contemplative and compassionate? Engaging Spirituality is a prayerful small-group journey that invites us to draw the world – with all its beauty and brokenness – down into ourselves, to hold it in prayer together and to practice living deeply and loving broadly. **A new group will be starting with an opening retreat at St. Bonaventure, January 20-21. They will meet Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm in the Rectory Conference Room, from January 24 through June 20.** If you are interested in more information, please contact Eileen (elimberg@stbonaventure.net).

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

■ MOMS' GROUP

An invitation to all parish moms (and children!). Come join our St. Bonaventure Moms' Group. We meet at 9:45-11:00am on the 1st Wednesday of the month in Ministry Center classroom A3. **Our next meeting will be January 4.** Come explore our Catholic faith as women and as parents, and share the joys and challenges of parenting in a casual, welcoming setting.

■ PARENT ENRICHMENT

Turn off your I-Pads, your I-Phones, and your I-Tunes and come experience a new way to look at your marriage through I-Marriage. In our monthly meetings, we will learn how Andy Stanley's three key teachings help you enrich your marriage and examine the "I's" of marriage: "Keeping My 'I' On You," "Putting Your 'I' Out," and "It Takes Three." We will meet, Tuesday, January 10, Classroom A2, 6:00-7:30pm. Free childcare is available in A4. Contact Eileen @925-672-5800 or elimberg@stbonaventure.net

■ HEALING THE HEART WORKSHOP

If you or someone you know is grieving the death of a loved one, we'd like to invite you to attend the **Healing the Heart** workshop. It provides a safe place to express grief and begin healing after the loss of a loved one. The loss may have been a recent one or a long time ago. The grief workshop is a six-week program characterized by trust in prayer, open sharing and spirituality. It is a Christ-centered program, but you do not have to be a member of St. Bonaventure's parish or a Catholic to attend.

The next grief workshop begins Tuesday evening January 24, 2017 from 7:30-9:00pm at St. Bonaventure Church. The workshop is *free* but registration is required by January 15, 2017. Please call Helene Billeci at (925) 686-4870 for more information and to register.

■ WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

Keys to Spiritual Freedom: January 27-29, 2017 at St. Claire's Retreat Center in Soquel. Led by Father Joseph Kim of the San Jose Diocese. The cost is \$210. We invite you to start your new year off with a weekend of prayer, learning and community. Registration forms available in the church office or on the parish website. For any questions, call Maureen at 925-360-1621.

■ 2017 MEN'S RETREAT HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER: A Retreat with the Psalms

Registration is now open for the 2016 St. Bonaventure Men's Retreat, which will be March 3-5 at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. Our retreat master will be Fr. John Endres of the Jesuit School of Theology, who will focus on the psalms as resources for individual and communal prayer. For more information, call Peter Nixon (925-381-7853) or Matt Remington (925-672-4006). Registration forms are available online at www.stbonaventure.net (Parish Ministries – Men's Spiritual Network).

■ ADULT CONFIRMATION

The parish celebration of Confirmation will be on May 13, 2017 with William Cardinal Levada. Parish preparation for those adults/young adults interested will begin **Monday, February 27**, from 7:00-8:30pm. Each candidate must:

- be over 18 years of age
- no longer be in high school
- be a baptized Catholic
- have received First Communion and
- attend Mass on a regular basis.

If you are interested, please contact Eileen (925)672-5800 x2217 or elimberg@stbonaventure.net. Registration requested by February 15.

■ CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Christmas time is the time to celebrate the beautiful gift of God becoming man. Jesus was a great healer and teacher who taught us to pray. He suggests we go to our quiet space to pray. Spend some quiet time with God. Join us on Tuesdays, 4:05-4:30pm in the Chapel.



PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

■ WALK FOR LIFE

St. Bonaventure Parish and the Knights of Columbus are again sponsoring buses to take people to the 'Walk for Life' in San Francisco on January 21, 2017. The buses will depart the St. Bonaventure parking lot at 9 AM. There will be a nominal fee of \$15 which will get you a Commemorative T-Shirt and a seat on the bus. Contact Tom Payne at 925-672-7700 or 925-288-1412 or email him at thomashpayne@outlook.com to reserve a seat.

■ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL FUND-RAISER.

The Annual Fund-Raiser event for the Knights of Columbus will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017. This will be the "Second Annual Super Bowl Surf & Turf Party", catered by Wilma Lott Catering and served by the Knights of Columbus. We will be serving great hot and cold appetizers, salad, Shrimp Scampi and New York Strip Steak. We will again have an exciting Dessert Auction, numerous big raffle prizes and a live auction of such items as a Wine Barrel and a one-week vacation opportunity. Please come and support the many charitable activities of the Knights of Columbus, such as the 200 new coats given to needy families in the Monument Corridor, the support given to local seminarians and the assistance provided to the parish youth programs. These activities are made possible by your generous support of our annual fund-raiser. Tickets for this fund-raising event are available after all the Masses during January 2017, and in the parish office. Ticket price is \$45 per person or \$40 per person for a table of eight or more. Last year's event was great fun and a rousing success. Get your tickets early so you won't be left out!

■ PREGNANT? NEED HELP?

☎ 1-800-910-0191, The Gabriel Project

■ CLAYTON VALLEY COUNSELING CENTER (CVCC) AT YOUR SERVICE

For 15 years, CVCC has been serving the St. Bonaventure Community.

OUTSIDE PARISH

■ CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH HOUSING

We're Off to See the Wizard! Contra Costa Interfaith Housing's (CCIH) annual auction gala, *Ruby Slippers-There's No Place Like Home* is Saturday, February 4, 2017 at Diablo Country Club. This *over the rainbow* evening includes a silent and live auction, dinner, and dancing. We are looking for fun and unique items for the auctions, as well as wine and gift cards to local restaurants and retailers. Do you have extra airline miles? Maybe a timeshare? We're open to your ideas! Visit <http://bit.ly/2dQy0d2> to donate an item or, if you have any questions, email elba@ccinterfaithhousing.org. See you on the yellow brick road!

■ ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION

Traveling Exhibit of Religious Icons, both contemporary and traditional, at St. John's-Clayton and St. Michael and All Angels-Concord, December 10 – February 17

Icons in Transformation showcases the paintings of Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska in her only Bay Area appearance.

More than 150 contemporary icons by internationally known Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska, plus traditional icons from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Russia, will be displayed. The exhibit is divided between St. John's Episcopal Church, 5555 Clayton Road in Clayton (across the street from St. Bonaventure) and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 2925 Bonifacio Street, next to Baldwin Park, in Concord. Dec 10, 2016 – Feb 17, 2017

At St. Michael's: Fridays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. . Other times by appointment by calling Gary Carr at 925-890-7839.

At St. John's: Sundays 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Other times by appointment by calling Gary Carr at 925-890-7839.

Admission is free, but donations gratefully accepted. For more information, please call Gary Carr at 925-890-7839, or visit our websites <http://www.saintjohnsparish.org>; <http://www.saintmichaelsconcord.org>.



Traditional icon from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia



To Be Seen by Ludmila Pawlowska



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Christmas Flowers Offering

Because of Jesus Christ, we believe in the Communion of Saints. As we celebrate Christmas and bless each other with grace, love and gifts, we honor living family members, and we remember those who have preceded us to the New Life by our Christmas Church decorations and flowers.

Tony Aquasanta
 Cosimo Arena
 Robert Arena
 The Arteaga Family
 Bill Baas
 Ernest Baas
 Mae Baas
 Michael Basarich
 Bonfiglio Lambruschini
 Ed, Alice & John Burkin
 Cynthia Borcena & David
 Blankenhorn
 The Caballero Family
 Rosario Ong-Carroll
 Elda Chelotti
 Milagro Cienfuegos & Family
 Bruce T. Cocotis
 Jane Colaco
 Dennis M. Connors
 The Cruz Family
 Juana, Francisco & Joel Cuenco
 Jeanann & Don Davis
 The De Guzman Family
 Dominador & Eliza de Guzman
 Maria Gisela de Guzman
 Tirso de Guzman
 John Declercq
 The Deren Family
 Alfredo Diaz & Family
 Maria Diaz & Family
 The Directo Family
 Frances Edwards
 Martha Ehrick
 Donna Ellis
 Shirley Elsberry
 The Ely & Fairfield Families
 Antonio M. Estrada
 Gerry & Carl Ferri
 Don & Gail Fitzgerald
 Fred & Elizabeth Flecklin
 Bill & Sylvia Gall
 The Gareis Family

Yves Poulet- Goffard
 Tom & Bev Gorman
 The Gugliermo Family
 Conchita Guzman & Family
 The Halick Family
 Fred & Jane Harlan
 Margaret Haubrich
 Tony Haubrich
 Bernhard & Mildred Helling
 Alain & Mary Hericks
 Ted Hoag
 Robert & Stella Hopkins
 Tom Hunter
 Mary Inglese
 Jennifer Johnson
 Verna Lalli
 Fr. David Lawrence
 The Leehy Family
 William Leigh
 Puspita Lestari
 Deceased family & friends of the
 Levada & Mangini Families
 The Limberg Family
 Helga Lininger
 Bruno & Betty Lucchese
 Jack Luff
 Pierre & Francoise Maldague
 Fr. Richard Mangini
 Fr. Thomas Martin
 Jim & Sue Martling
 The Maxwell Family
 The Mullen Family
 Ketty Nemitz & Family
 Cathy Olsen & Family
 The Ouimet Family
 The Palmeri Family
 Ellen & Peter Pliska
 Joan Purcell & Family
 John & Frances Pyne
 Rita & Francis Raymond
 Henry Roberts & Family
 Roger Salcedo

The Sangalang Family
 Debbie & Kurt Schneider
 Francis Schneider
 Mauna Schneider
 The Schnick Family
 Casimiro Sison
 Joan Sorenson & Family
 George, Mike & Danny Souza
 Joseph Stanko
 Mary Stanko
 Pauline Stanko
 Anna Mae Talarico
 Pearl Talarico
 Carmen & Virginia Talavera
 Diana Tegge & Family
 The Teran Family
 Lillian Tompkins
 Benny & Pat Venturino
 LeRoy Verna
 Mary Verna
 The Villalba Family
 Jutta & Henry Von Fieling
 Ernie & Lena Walker
 Pat Walsh & Family
 Sulistya & Suprihadi Widjaja
 For Healing and World Peace



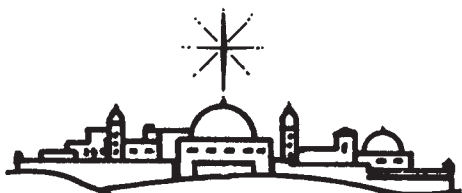
SANCTUARY LIGHT IS LIT FOR

RICHARD & LORRAINE GOEBEL
 December 24 to December 30, 2016



*Pray
For*

People
suffering from
mental illness



MERRY CHRISTMAS

NEED A NEIGHBOR?

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Ministry is here to assist parishioners with temporary, minor needs. Those we serve must be adults (over 18 years old) and physically mobile. There are established community organizations in place to meet long-term and other needs.

We Offer:

- Assistance with transportation to the parish, the grocery store or doctor. *We can assist in finding regular rides to a specific Mass or parish offering
- Assistance with an errand or a light task
- Visiting the sick or homebound

For assistance leave a message ☎ 672-5800 x2238. We will pick up calls Monday-Friday. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours of the call. Please note that the ministry is not designed for immediate or emergency needs. It can take a few days to locate a volunteer to meet the need.

**Mass Intentions
For The Week**



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 3:00 Jim Grundman
 Pat & Tom O'Brien
 Jack Darcy
 Kepris Meletiou
- 5:30 Alfonso & Cuenco Family
 Patrick Smith & Family
 Hallie Stevens
 Earl and Alice Nevers
- 8:00 Cuenco Family
 Fr. David Lawrence
 The Walsh Family
 Luz de Guzman & Family
- 12:00 Tom Keehn
 Carol Ely
 Helenice Dos Pasos
 Frank Verello

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 8:00 Mike Geraghty
 Frances Tonna
 Myrna Moreno
- 10:00 Joe Mangini
 Jim Elsberry
 Scott Ipsen
 Don Davis

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 6:30 Communion Service
- 9:00 Anastacia Lloren
 Norma Evaristo
 Pat Walsh
 Joy Hart

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 6:30 For the Sick & Homebound
- 9:00 Josefina Javier
 Emily Crescencio
 Fr. T.C. George
 Norma Evaristo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 6:30 Communion Service
- 9:00 Communion Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

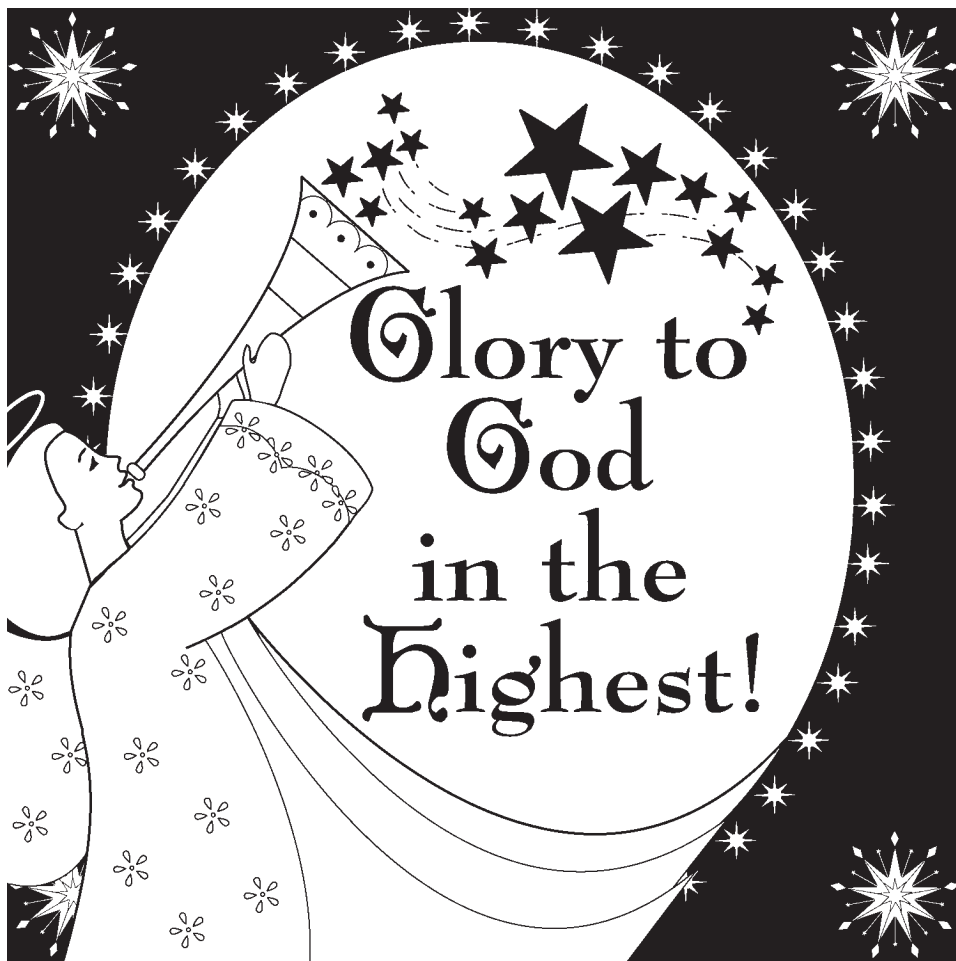
- 6:30 Families in Distress
- 9:00 Precop Colaco
 Norma Evaristo
 Blanca A. Organista
 Marina Fajardo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 6:30 Communion Service
- 9:00 Children suffering from cancer
 Dominic La Macchia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 5:00 Ilyssa Rodriguez
 Rafael & Juanita Sison
 Souls in Purgatory
 Norma Mercader- Evaristo



■ NAVIDAD NUNCA INTENTADO A SER UN MOMENTO

La lucha de creer que Jesús es real

Hoy es el día de Navidad, un día para celebrar la vida y las relaciones familiares, un día para recordar y estar agradecidos de que se trata de Dios. Vino Dios a estar con nosotros en Jesús, cuya vida y cómo la vivió cambió el mundo.

El mundo cristiano ha celebrado el día de Navidad durante casi 2.000 años. Las Iglesias Cristianas han mantenido viva la fe en Jesús como una persona real con un mensaje real y con un poder real para transformar la vida de las personas.

Siempre ha sido una lucha a creer y mantener la fe. Como seres humanos, nos distraemos fácilmente, vivimos en un momento de gran actividad en medio de preocupaciones acerca de la vida día a día. Hay un cierto materialismo que captura nuestra imaginación e interés.

Y para muchas personas, los relatos de la infancia del Evangelio según Lucas lleva a muchas personas a preguntarse si es realmente cierto, que suena mucho como una fábula o un cuento de hadas.

La simple historia de Mathew

Yo creo que tenemos que concentrarnos en Navidad hoy y no la Navidad como una fábula pasada. Prefiero el Evangelio pedregoso del nacimiento de Jesús en el Evangelio de Mateo, donde aparece la persona de José, frente a su novia que está embarazada y que quiere poner la difícil situación detrás de él. José era un hombre bueno y consultó a Dios en sus sueños. Él resolvió algunas de sus preguntas. Él quiere hacer lo correcto. Historia de Mateo no dice nada más que Jesús nació, que tomó María a su hogar donde nació Jesús.

Lo que debe darnos un inmediato interés es que la historia del nacimiento de Jesús es muy diferente en la tradición del Evangelio de San Mateo que es en la tradición del Evangelio de San Lucas. Sólo las tradiciones de Mateo y Lucas han añadido estas partes de prefacio en su Evangelio porque eran principalmente para audiencias de gentiles, no judíos que intentan explicar a modo de introducción

de un prelude, algo de cómo Jesús vino a nacer de las tradiciones religiosas judías sobre la dinastía del rey David quien ira a ser y manifestara la presencia de Dios.

Diferentes tradiciones, diferentes historias

Mateo y Lucas utilizan materiales diferentes y son cautivados por diferentes oráculos proféticos y por diversas historias.

Evangelio de Mateo presentan la Anunciación a José del nacimiento del Mesías. Evangelio de Lucas destaca la Anunciación a María. Cada Evangelio enfatiza diferentes historias cuyo origen no está claro. Muchos estudiosos de las escrituras atribuyen las historias de seguir siendo de María misma – una conjetura sin ninguna prueba.

El Evangelio de Mateo incluye la visita de los Reyes Magos, la huida a Egipto, la matanza de los inocentes, la huida a Egipto y regresar a Galilea. Hay una razón por qué Mateo eligió estas historias para demostrar que José era un judío fiel y religioso, sabiendo las necesidades y costumbres de la Torá, que también era un hijo de David. José fue dado la responsabilidad de nombrar a Jesús y reclamar el título legal del padre y tutor.

Mateo vio la conexión entre palabra profética de Isaiah al rey Ahaz 700 años antes de Jesús. Mateo hace una conexión entre las palabras de esa profecía que Ahaz no aceptó y ahora Jesús fue la persona que cumplió totalmente.

Para Mateo, José reza y consulta a Dios en su oración y sus sueños tal como su nombre lo dice, José, en Egipto. El mensaje importante que Mateo quería transmitir a las personas a quienes él estaba escribiendo es que Jesús es el último y verdadero hijo al rey David y que el Espíritu Santo permitirá que Jesús sea el Mesías y el Emmanuel.

Las discrepancias no son discrepancias

Es más probable que ni Mateo ni Lucas leyeron el evangelio de cada uno ya que fueron escritas para públicos diferentes en diferentes lugares y tiempos.

La tradición de Lucas, que se ha vuelto más popular, comparte diversas historias: el nacimiento de Juan el bautista, la Anunciación a María, la visitación a Elizabeth. El nacimiento y circuncisión de Juan el Bautista, el nacimiento de Jesús y la visita de los pastores, la circuncisión de Jesús y su presentación en el templo, las profecías de Simeón y Ana y la infancia de Jesús.

Otras cosas que muchos cristianos no entienden es que no leemos el evangelio como una historia histórica desde el nacimiento de Jesús hasta su muerte. Leemos y entendemos la historia y el significado de la vida de Jesús desde la Resurrección para atrás.

Sólo al final Jesús es realmente reconocido como el hijo de Dios y el Emmanuel, el Dios que está con nosotros.

Cada uno de los Evangelios comienza con la historia de Jesús cuando comienza su vida pública y el Ministerio. Es de donde el autor del primer Evangelio, Marcos comienza su evangelio. Es donde Mateo y Lucas comenzaron, y luego añaden sus prefacios que estudiosos de las Escrituras lo llaman “Los relatos de la infancia.”

Debemos ser muy cuidadosos en no concluir estos tratamientos prefacio como descripciones históricas. Son una combinación de fe reconociendo de manera maravillosa, artística y literaria, mostrando que al final Jesús era Dios en carne, que se describe en imágenes de muchos oráculos proféticos del Antiguo Testamento y las profecías.

El arte Cristiano y San Francis mismo toman la forma de arte a la “enésima” en el escenario viviente de Belén combinando partes del Evangelio de Mateo y de Lucas junto. Las escenas y las figuras de tratan de transmitir lo que es imposible transmitir completamente: Dios ha venido a nosotros en Jesús, Dios viene a nosotros siempre de la misma manera. Cristo nunca fue intentado para ser solo un momento. Tampoco era la Navidad. Era una forma de entrar y permanecer en la vida de Jesús que es el Emmanuel.

■ **AÑO NUEVO/MARIA, MADRE DE DIOS, MISA DE VIGILIA: Sábado, Diciembre 31, 2016**

Comenzaremos la celebración del Nuevo Año dando gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones que nos ha dado durante el año 2016. Esta también es una Misa de Vigilia de la Solemnidad de Maria, Madre de Dios. Misa es a las 5:00 PM en la Iglesia. En Ingles.

■ **DIA DE AÑO NUEVO/LA SOLEMNIDAD DE MARIA, MADRE DE DIOS: DOMINGO, 1ro de Enero., 2017**

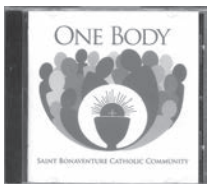
Celebramos la maternidad de Maria y también el comienzo del Año Nuevo. El título “Madre de Dios” es una derivación del Greco *Thetokos*, lo que significa “portadora de Dios”. En este día, recordamos el rol que la Sagrada Virgen tuvo en el plan de nuestra salvación.

Misa del Domingo tendrá un horario modificado. Las Misas serán a las 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM y 12:45 PM (en español) en la Iglesia. NO habrá Misa de 5:00PM

■ **CAMINATA POR LA VIDA**

La Parroquia de San Buenaventura y los Caballeros de Colón están patrocinando nuevamente autobuses para llevar a personas a caminar por la vida en San Francisco el 21 de enero de 2017. Los autobuses saldrán del estacionamiento de San Buenaventura a las 9:00AM. Habrá una cuota nominal de \$15 que usted recibirá una camiseta conmemorativa y un asiento en el autobús. Contactarse con Tom Payne en 925-672-7700 o 925-288-1412 o un correo electrónico a thomashpayne@outlook.com para reservar un asiento

■ **CD'S ESTAN AQUI!**



Por favor llame a Grace Maes al teléfono: (925) 285-0694 si Ud. Compró o desea comprar el CD con participación de

los coros de la iglesia. El valor es \$15.- nada mas. Nuestra iglesia se favorecerá de las ventas del CD. Gracias por su colaboración.

BAUTIZOS 2017 LUGAR DE BAUTIZO: IGLESIA · LUGAR CLASES: B-1 ENCARGADO: GREGORIO MENCHACA, (925) 826-5102 ****PARA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE CLASES, FAVOR CONTACTAR LA OFICINA****			
FECHA DE BAUTIZO	HORA DE BAUTIZO	FECHA DE CLASE	HORA DE CLASE
Sat 01/14	10:00 a.m.	Fri 01/13	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 01/28	10:00 a.m.	Fri 01/20	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 02/04	12:00 p.m.	Fri 01/27	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 02/18	10:00 p.m.	Fri 02/10	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 03/11	12:00 p.m.	Fri 03/03	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 03/25	10:00 a.m.	Fri 03/17	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 04/08	12:00 p.m.	Fri 03/24	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 05/20	12:00 p.m.	Fri 05/12	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 05/27	12:00 p.m.	Fri 05/19	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/10	12:00 p.m.	Fri 06/02	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/17	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/09	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/24	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/16	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 07/08	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/30	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 07/22	10:00 a.m.	Fri 07/07	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 07/29	10:00 a.m.	Fri 07/14	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 08/12	10:00 a.m.	Fri 07/28	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 08/19	12:00 p.m.	Fri 08/11	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 08/26	10:00 a.m.	Fri 08/18	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 09/09	10:00 a.m.	Fri 09/08	7-9:30 p.m.



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CIERRE DE LA OFICINA
Fiestas de Navidad & Año Nuevo:
Del 23 de Diciembre al 26, 2016
Del 30 de Diciembre al 2 de Enero del 2017