

I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.
— Isaiah 49:6b

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

January 15, 2017 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | *15 de enero de 2017 Segundo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

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

■ **MAKE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION HAPPEN—IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

Is there a slowing down for you after the first of the year? Was that one of your New Year's Resolutions to which you never got around? There are two opportunities to take: one for the women of the parish at the end of **January (27-29) at St. Clare's Retreat Center in Soquel, near Santa Cruz, CA. The annual Men's Retreat will take place at San Damiano Retreat House in Danville, March 3-5.**

Fr. Joseph Kim, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of San Jose, will lead the Women's Retreat. This year's theme: **Keys to Spiritual Freedom.**

Jesuit Fr. John Endres of the Jesuit School of Theology will lead the Men's Retreat. This year's theme: **The Psalms: God's Love Endures Forever.**

Like most things spiritual, doing something about our spiritual life is a desire and wish that lingers on, but we just don't get around to do anything about it.

Maybe five percent of Catholics have made a spiritual retreat for a day or a weekend. I have often led retreats, and I can tell from listening to skeptics who finally experienced a retreat that it suddenly became one of the greatest experiences of their lives, and they wondered, asking themselves, why they waited so long?

Oh, there is not just enough time? Oh, we have something that weekend already scheduled. I remember a statement from the famous St. Augustine of the late fourth century: when we have material things, we think they will make us happy and they don't; when we think about spiritual life, we put aside as a someday thing, but when we do, our inner souls are touched in profound ways.

Over the years, what I have noticed about the spiritual life is that **many Catholics are content to settle for the minimum;** it

is also true of deeper and more authentic human relationships. It is also true for learning about Catholicism, modern church thinking, expanding the horizons of the Catholic spiritual tradition, the social justice tradition and, in general, with a deeper living of life.

So you will read this article and say to yourself: well that was certainly interesting, and let the opportunity go by again, or will you?

For each of the retreats, there is a team of parishioners who organize the retreat, choose its theme, find a religious leader to lead it, take care of all the details except for the cooking, and keep the weekend going from beginning to end. And what is most important, **the teams prepare also by praying for you**, and are ready to welcome you, who may be hesitating, knowing that it's up to God to invite you and up to you to respond.

Women: January 27-29
Men: March 3-5

■ **MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: TO GET US INTO THE MIND AND HEART OF JESUS**

We continue this week to explore the gospel tradition of St. Matthew, which is the Gospel that we will read for most of this year.

Matthew is not just telling stories about Jesus' words. Matthew makes the Epiphany story the heart of his gospel tradition: that the Emmanuel God is always with us and that Jesus is calling us to love as God loves. There are no outsiders. All are insiders when it comes to God. God opens the doors of Judaism and God's covenant to everyone, regardless of race. There is no pure race favored by God. Equality, respect and acceptance replace indifference and any spirit of separation.

Managing life by placing people in comfortable little clumps is not the way that God has created his people and his children. Jesus will not let us restrict God's attitudes and perceptions. Everyone is chosen by God.

"Be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:45)

Jesus was misunderstood and rejected by those closest to him, and such will be the fate of anyone instructed in the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew understands Jesus as calling each follower to have the extraordinary quality of being exceptional and different, being more like Jesus rather than less like Jesus.

The purpose of a Gospel is to get us into the mind and heart of Jesus, not just to tell a story about the actions of a good man. The purpose of a gospel is more than just to admire it. It is to live it.

Matthew admits that living the gospel of Jesus in a real way will cause dissension and disappointment among families and friends.

One of the virtues that Matthew encourages is the virtue of practicing forgiveness toward those who offend or hurt one another. This, of course, is a very human problem and prompts the questions about its frequency, to which Jesus responds, "not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

There are demands if we are going to be a Catholic and a Christian, according to Matthew.

The gospel contains five main discourses of teaching sections:

1. The Sermon on the Mount, Chapter 5-7
2. Chapter 13 that describes the attributes of the Kingdom of Heaven
3. Chapter 18 that focuses on the qualities of those who are part of such a community

In the end, Matthew says, the followers of Jesus, to be true to their master, need to practice trust in God and trust in the community of the church, and to continue to be true to their mission of God expressed in Jesus.

Next Week: Matthew's Litmus Test for Authenticity

PRAYER AND FASTING AS THE INAUGURATION APPROACHES

This Thursday, January 20, is Inauguration Day. In response to divisions that emerged from the presidential campaign and in support of healing and hope for the country, Bishop Gerald Barnes of the Diocese of San Bernardino has asked his parishes to participate in a one-day fast during these final days leading up to the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States. He notes, "It is meant as a show of support for our country. It's a prayer that the United States succeeds in its principles, for the benefit of all." As they fast, parishioners are encouraged to pray for the country and that the presidency of Donald Trump will promote human life and dignity, and the common good.

I thought that this would be an idea to extend to our parish this week. Below is a list of readings that can be used if you wish to participate in a day of prayer and fasting:

- Monday, January 16: Esther 4:3, 16
- Tuesday, January 17: Judith 4:9-13
- Wednesday, January 18: Tobit 12:8
- Thursday, January 20: Ezra 9:21-23

And here is a prayer we can all pray this week, adapted from the prayer used by Archbishop John Carroll at the inauguration of George Washington in 1789:

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory to all nations. God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed. Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides. May he encourage due respect for virtue and religion. May he execute the laws with justice and mercy. May he seek to restrain crime, vice, and immorality. We likewise commend to your unbounded mercy all citizens of the United States, that we be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your holy law. May we be preserved in union and that peace which the world cannot give; and,

after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal. We pray to you, who are Lord and God, for ever and ever.

PARISH LIFE THOUGHTS FROM CHRISTA FAIRFIELD

CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE: Monday, January 23, 7:00pm at Clayton Valley Presbyterian; Reconciliation: The Love of Christ Compels Us

Come and represent St. Bonaventure Parish and the entire Catholic Community as we join together with some other local Christian communities to observe the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with a joint prayer service. This year, we will join together for prayer at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton. You will have an opportunity to pray with those with whom you perhaps rarely get to pray with, and listen to several ministers speak on Reconciliation and how it is understood by their communities, including our own pastor Fr. Richard Mangini.

FAMILY TO FAMILY UPDATE: SPOTLIGHT ON MARWA AHMADI

Marwa, the only daughter of Zainab and Najib Ahmadi, is a fifth-grader with a sweet nature and a delightful personality. She loves school and has been surprised at how warm the teachers are here compared to those in Afghanistan. According to her teacher at Bel Air Elementary, "Marwa is a joy to be around" who works very hard and offers to help those around her. In January, Marwa will be taking extra classes during the day to become more proficient in English, and will be attending an after-school program to guide her studies. Marwa's favorite subject is math, and her future goal is to attend college. With her desire and drive to excel, she will surely achieve that goal!

Marwa has made friends at school, and she loves playing tag with her new friends. She misses her family in Afghanistan, though, especially her grandfather, with whom

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
Weekend of January 7 & 8 Collection
 Goal: \$25,440
 Actual: \$22,201
 Deficit: (3,239)


Food for Family: 261 (1/10/17)
EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) included in above figures



she has a very special relationship. Marwa liked to help at home in Kabul, just as she does here in the US. Her grandfather so appreciated her help around the house that he would bring home fruit delicacies especially for her.

When asked if she had anything to say to the St Bonaventure Catholic Community, Marwa replied, "Thank you so much. We love all of you. You are family."

Parish Life Thoughts continued on page 4 ▶

 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

continued from page 3

■ FAITH DIRECT: PARISH EGIVING



The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the wonderful feast of Epiphany. I am thankful for all the generous gifts that you provide to our parish, but I realize that you cannot be with us every Sunday of the year. Please consider using our secure electronic giving program, Faith Direct. Faith Direct will automatically process any offertory or second collection donations of your choosing. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: CA725

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

LITURGY & MUSIC



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MON: HEB 5:1-10; PS 110:1-4; MK 2:18-22
 TUE: HEB 6:10-20; PS 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10C; MK 2:23-28
 WED: HEB 7:1-3, 15-17; PS 110:1-4; MK 3:1-6
 THU: HEB 7:25 -- 8:6; PS 40:7-10, 17; MK 3:7-12
 FRI: HEB 8:6-13; PS 85:8, 10-14; MK 3:13-19
 SAT: HEB 9:2-3, 11-14; PS 47:2-3, 6-9; MK 3:20-21
 SUN: IS 8:23 -- 9:3; PS 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 COR 1:10-13, 17; MT 4:12-23 [12-17]



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■ NEW AUXILIARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER FOR 9 AM & 11 AM MASSES

Beginning in January, a new Eucharistic Minister position will be implemented at the 9 AM and 11 AM Masses which is solely responsible for bringing Holy Communion to those who have difficulty walking or are otherwise unable to take part in the Communion procession. The hope is to expand this to all Masses soon. If you desire to receive the Body of Christ and are unable to take part in the procession, please inform one of the Ministers of Hospitality when you arrive so that they know where to direct the Auxiliary Eucharistic Minister. Thank you.

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

■ 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 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 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.

■ SUPER BOWL PARTY

Come join the Knights of Columbus at their Second Annual Surf & Turf Super Bowl Party on January 28th. Root for your favorite team, dress up with a team jersey and join in the fun. There will be great raffle prizes, a fancy dessert auction and a live auction. The dinner will be Steak and Shrimp, catered by the Wilma Lott Catering Service. This is the major fundraising event of the year for the Knights of Columbus, that enables them to do the charitable work they are famous for. Please support this event. Tickets are available after all the Masses from now until the event, and in the Parish Office. Ticket price is \$45 each, or \$40 each for a table of 8 or more. Doors open at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. Last year's event was great fun and a rousing success. Get your tickets early so you won't be left out!



Thank you for the presents

Thank you for your hard work for giving presents.

Merry Christmas
From: Cindy Garcia

OUTSIDE PARISH

■ **ST AGNES SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, January 29th, 2017, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Please join us for classroom visits, hospitality and book fair.

■ **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL PRESENTS A TASTE OF KINDERGARTEN**

Thursday, January 19; 6:00pm – 7:00pm.
 (Refreshments will be provided)

866 Oak Grove Road, Concord;
 Kindergarten Classroom (by the gym)
Please do not bring any children.

Please reply: 682-5414.

■ **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

For all grades on Sunday, January 29, the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week from 11:30am until 1:30pm. Applications will be given out at this time

■ **JOIN US FOR PASTA DINNER NIGHTS**

When: February 19, March 19, May 21, August 20, October 15, November 19, and December 17

Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Where: San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr. Danville

Cost: \$15 (Adults); \$10(Children 12 & under)

Menu: Spaghetti (with meat and vegetarian sauces), salad, garlic and French Bread, dessert and beverage

Purchase tickets: sandamiano.org (925) 837-9141



ST. ANTHONY

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■ **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

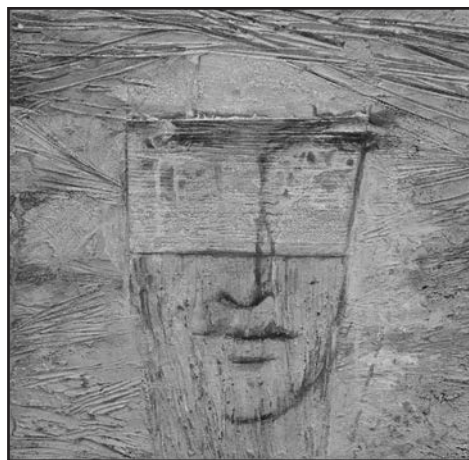
Icons in Transformation showcases the paintings of Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska in her only Bay Area appearance.

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 www.saintjohnsparish.org; www.saintmichaelsconcord.org.



To Be Seen by Ludmila Pawlowska



Traditional icon from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia

■ **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!

SANCTUARY LIGHT IS LIT FOR

LESLIE GARAVENTA, SR.
 January 14 to January 20, 2017



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.

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Pray For

For More Priestly And Religious Vocations

Mass Intentions For The Week



SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

5:00 St. Bonaventure Community

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 7:30 Loretta Da Valle Samet
Theresa Camera Siragusa
Josephine Hart
Helen & Allan Starosciak
- 9:00 Joey Mangini
Kathleen Hanson
Norma Evaristo & Family
Reynaldo Pulido
- 11:00 John Godar
Vicente Mapaye
Antonio M. Estrada
- 5:00 Norma M. Evaristo & Family
Melana Siukituatonga & Family
John & Jack Clark & Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

- 6:30 Communion Service
9:00 Emma Dalfol
Mary Ackerman

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 6:30 For the sick and homebound
9:00 Deacon Mariano Preza

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 6:30 Communion Service
9:00 Communion Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

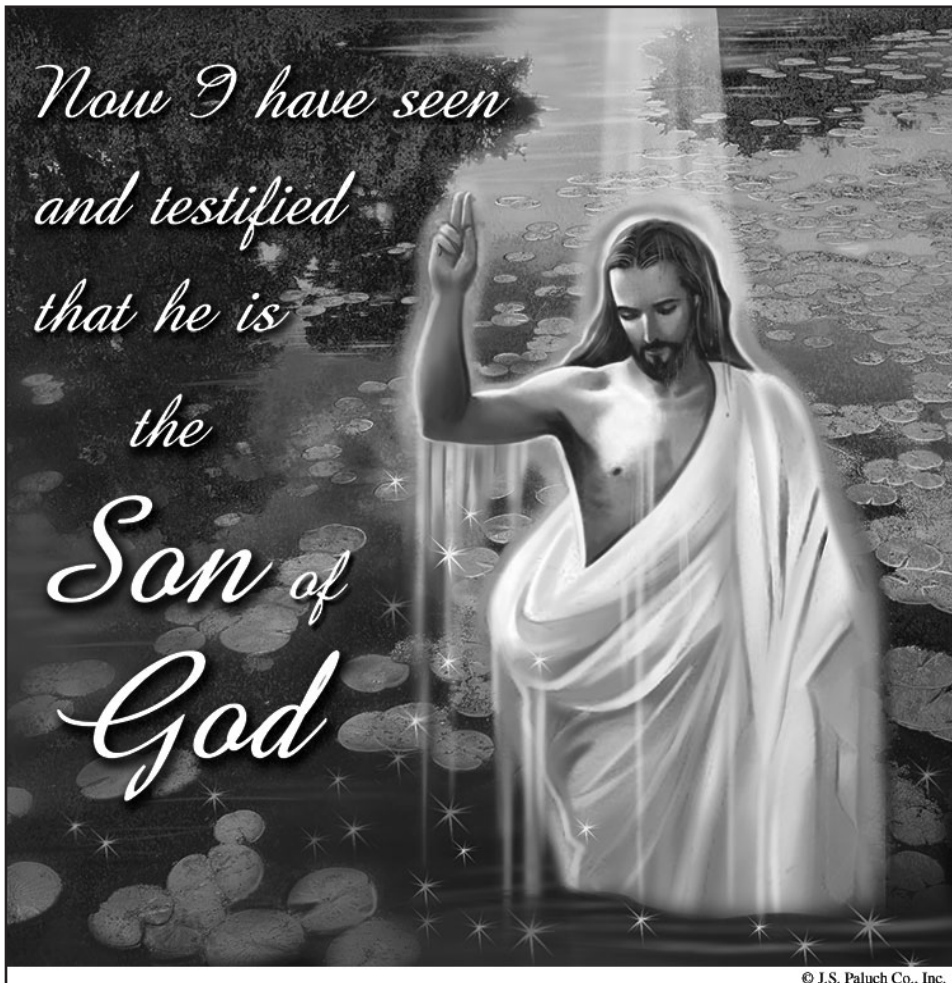
- 6:30 Victims of violence
9:00 Edgardo Villanueva
Bud Brinkerhoff
Zeny Chu Tan
Donald & Gail Fitzgerald

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

- 6:30 Communion Service
9:00 Bud Brinkerhoff
Mary Mifsud

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- 5:00 Pat O'Brien
Susan Sweeney
Joseph Lachky
Maria Micallef



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■ **HAGA QUE UNA RESOLUCION DEL NUEVO AÑO SUCEDA- ES HORA DE HACER UN RETIRO ESPIRITUAL.**

Esta usted un poco despacio después del Año Nuevo? ¿Es esta una de sus resoluciones que nunca llego hacerla? Hay dos oportunidades para hacerlo: uno **para las mujeres** de la parroquia a finales de **enero (27-29) en el centro de retiros de Santa Clara en Soquel, cerca de Santa Cruz, CA. Retiro de hombres anual se llevará a cabo en la casa de retiro San Damiano en Danville, marzo 3-5.**

El Padre Joseph Kim, Director de vocaciones de la diócesis de San José será el líder del retiro de las mujeres. El tema de este año: **Las Llaves a la Libertad Espiritual. El padre Jesuita John Endres** de la escuela Jesuita de Teología llevará el retiro de hombres. El tema de este año: **los Salmos: El amor de Dios Permanece por Siempre.**

Como la mayoría de las cosas: hacer algo sobre nuestra vida espiritual es un deseo y deseo que persiste pero que simplemente no llegamos a hacer nada al respecto.

Tal vez cinco por ciento de los católicos han hecho un retiro espiritual por un día o un fin de semana. Muchas veces yo he dirigido retiros, y puedo decir que después de escuchar a los escépticos que finalmente experimentaron un retiro que fue una de las mejores experiencias de su vida, y se preguntaban, por qué esperamos tanto tiempo.

¿Oh, no hay suficiente tiempo? Oh, que tenemos algo ese fin de semana ya programado. Recuerdo una declaración del famoso San Agustín, de finales del siglo cuarto: cuando tenemos cosas materiales, pensamos nos harán felices y no lo hacen; Cuando pensamos en la vida espiritual, ponemos a un lado como una cosa que algún día, pero cuando lo hacemos, nuestras almas interiores son tocadas de manera profunda.

Con los años, lo que he notado acerca de la vida espiritual es que muchos **católicos son contentos y se conforman con lo mínimo**; también es verdad una más profundas y más auténticas

relación humana. Es también el tiempo para aprender acerca del catolicismo, iglesia moderna, pensando, ampliando los horizontes de la tradición espiritual católica, la tradición de justicia social y, en general, con una vida más profunda de la vida.

¿Por lo tanto, usted lee este artículo y dice a sí mismo que fue muy interesante y deja irse la oportunidad otra vez, o lo hará?

Para cada uno de los retiros, hay un grupo de feligreses que organizar el retiro, elegir su tema, encontrar un líder religioso a conducirlo, cuidar todos los detalles, excepto la cocina y mantener el fin de semana de principio a fin. Y lo que es más importante, los equipos se preparan también orando por usted y están listos para darle la bienvenida, quién puede dudarlo, sabiendo que es para de Dios de invitarlos y a usted y usted para responder.

❖ La Comunidad Hispana esta cordialmente invitada a asistir a estos retiros solo que se les desea saber que serán en Ingles.

Mujeres: Enero 27-29

Hombres: Marzo 3-5

■ **EL EVANGELIO DE MATEO: PARA ENTRAR EN LA MENTE Y EL CORAZÓN DE JESÚS**

Continuamos esta semana para explorar la tradición del Evangelio de San Mateo que es el evangelio que vamos a leer para la mayor parte de este año.

Mateo no está sólo contando historias acerca de las palabras de Jesús. Mateo hace la historia de Epifanía el corazón de la tradición del Evangelio: que el Dios Emmanuel está siempre con nosotros y que Jesús nos llama a amar como Dios ama. No hay forasteros. Todos son iguales cuando se trata de Dios. Dios abre las puertas del Judaísmo y todos son importantes sin distinción de raza. No hay ninguna raza pura favorecida por Dios. Igualdad, respeto y aceptación reemplazan indiferencia y ningún espíritu de separación.

Organizando la vida mediante la colocación de personas en grupos no para lo

que Dios ha creado a su pueblo y a sus hijos. Jesús no nos restringirá las actitudes y percepciones de Dios. Cada uno es elegido por Dios.

“Ser hijos de nuestro Padre Celestial, que hace que su sol alumbre sobre los malos y buenos, y provoca la lluvia sobre los justos y los injustos.” (Mateo 5:45)

Jesús fue incomprendido y rechazado por los más cercanos a él y tal será el destino de cualquiera instruido en el Reino de los cielos. Mateo entiende a Jesús como llama a cada seguidor a tener la extraordinaria cualidad de ser excepcional y diferente, ser más como Jesús en vez de ser menos como Jesús.

El propósito de un evangelio es para que lleguemos nosotros a la mente y el corazón de Jesús no sólo para contar una historia acerca de las acciones de un buen hombre. El propósito de un evangelio no es solo para admirarlo. Es para vivirlo.

Mateo admite que vivir el Evangelio de Jesús de una manera real causará disensión y decepción entre las familias y amigos.

Una de las virtudes que Mateo se enfoca es la virtud de practicar el perdón hacia los que ofenden o lastiman a otros. Por supuesto, esto es un problema muy humano y tenemos que hacernos la pregunta acerca de cuantas veces, a las que Jesús responde, “no siete veces, sino setenta veces siete.”

De acuerdo a Mateo tenemos demandas si vamos a ser Católicos y cristianos.

El evangelio contiene cinco secciones de enseñanza:

1. El Sermón de la Montaña, Capitulo 5-7
2. Capítulo 13 que describe los atributos del Reino de los Cielos
3. Capítulo 18 que se enfoca en las cualidades de los que son parte de esa comunidad

Al final, Mateo dice, los seguidores de Jesús, necesitan practicar la confianza en Dios y la confianza en la comunidad de la iglesia, y de continuar siendo sinceros a la misión que Dios expreso en Jesús.

La próxima semana: El examen de Mateo para ser un católico autentico

■ ORACIÓN Y AYUNO PARA LA INAUGURACIÓN QUE SE ACERCA

Este jueves, enero 20, es el Día de la Inauguración. En respuesta a las divisiones que surgieron de la campaña presidencial y en apoyo a la curación y esperanza para el país, el obispo Gerald Barnes de la Diócesis de San Bernardino ha pedido sus parroquias a participar en un ayuno de un día durante estos últimos días previos a la inauguración de Donald Trump como el 45 ° Presidente de los Estados Unidos. Señala, “está será como una demostración de apoyo para nuestro país. Es una oración de que Estados Unidos tiene éxito en sus principios, en beneficio de todos”. Mientras se ayuna, pedimos a los feligreses a orar por el país y que la Presidencia de Donald Trump promueva la vida y dignidad y el bien común.

Pienso que esta es una idea para extender a nuestra parroquia esta semana. A continuación tenemos las lecturas que pueden ser usadas si usted desea participar en el día de oración y ayuno.

Lunes, enero 16: Esther 4:3,16
 Martes, Enero 17: Judith 4:9-13
 Miércoles, Enero 18: Tobit 12:8
 Jueves, Enero 20: Ezra 9:21-23

Y esta es una oración que podemos orar esta semana, adaptado de la oración utilizada por el Arzobispo John Carroll en la inauguración de George Washington en 1789.

Dios Todopoderoso y eterno, que has revelado tu gloria a todas las Naciones. Dios de poder y fuerza, sabiduría y justicia, a través de tu autoridad, leyes se administran, y juicios se decretan. Ayuda con tu espíritu de Consejo y fortaleza al Presidente de los Estados Unidos, que su administración puede llevarse a cabo con rectitud y ser eminentemente útil a la gente que él preside. Que pueda él fomentar debido respeto por la virtud y la religión. Que él pueda cumplir las leyes con justicia y misericordia. Pueda intentar frenar la delincuencia, vicio e inmoralidad. Asimismo, encomendamos a tu misericordia sin límites todos los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, que seamos bendecidos en el conocimiento y santificados en la observancia de tu santa ley. Que podamos

conservar la unión y la paz que el mundo no puede dar; y, después de disfrutar de las bendiciones de esta vida, ser admitidos a los que son eternos. Oramos a ti, que eres Señor y Dios, para siempre y para siempre.

■ FIESTA DE SAN VALENTIN: Sábado, 4 de febrero; 7:30pm a 12:30am

Lugar: Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Amplio estacionamiento GRATIS. Contactos: Roxana Sanchez – 925-698-6628; Juan Lezameta – 925-330-8969

Donación: \$30 por persona por adelantado 6; \$40 en la puerta. Organizada por: La Hermandad el Señor de los Milagros de Concord

Pro fondos: Reparación y embellecimiento de la imagen y andas del SEÑOR

■ 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

■ LA ESCUELA SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS PRESENTA UNA PRUEBA DE SU JARDIN INFANTIL

El jueves 19 de enero de 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm (se proporcionarán aperitivos)

866 Oak Grove Road, Concord; Aula del jardín infantil (por el gimnasio)

Por favor no traiga niños.

Por favor, RSVP, 682-5414.

■ LA ESCUELA SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS ABRE SUS PUERTAS

Para todos los grados el domingo, Enero 29, el comienzo del año de las Escuelas Católicas de 11:30am hasta 1:30pm. Aplicaciones se darán en ese día.

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.