



5:30pm Mass - Christmas Pageant. Photo credit: Rosann Halick

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

5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 ❖ [www.stbonaventure.net](http://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 8, 2017 The Epiphany of the Lord | 8 de enero de 2017 La Epifanía 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



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**THOUGHTS FROM FR. RICHARD  
 PENSAMIENTOS DE PADRE RICARDO**

**■ KEEP WALKING IN THE BEST  
 DIRECTION**

We are in the New Year, 2017. My prayer and wish is that it will be a good year for each of you. If you believe that God is in charge and you entrust yourself to God in a very dependent and trusting way, **it will be a good year for you, despite whatever challenges you will encounter.**

**All we can do is to put our prayers “on God’s desk,”** hoping that God will sort them out, knowing what is truly best for us. Our prayers to God have short-term and more immediate answers - and long-term and more far-reaching answers. That is how God works and is present in our lives. I think that you realize that. It is somewhat the same when children who come with their wants and needs ask either for help or an immediate answer.

God loves to hear from us. God admires us most when we say hello, tell God how much we appreciate His care for us, before asking Him for our answer. Like parents, God knows what is the best answer and what is the best timetable. And we can never “Thank You” enough, God, because you are wiser.

Part of prayer and asking is cultivating a personal spirit of trust. Our awareness is that we do not direct God on life. Sometimes, that is a hard lesson to learn. And if we give up on God or get mad at God, we really have given up on ourselves. That makes God sadder than the sadness that we bring on ourselves.

So start the New Year on the right foot and keep walking in the best direction.

**■ THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
 COLLECTION**

Thank you so very much for your presence and participation in our Christmas liturgies, for those who stayed to be with us and did not travel anywhere. And thank you for your very generous support to help start the New Year off, as insurance policy bills and other major expenses happen during the first part of the New Year. To date, the Christmas collection is \$81,003. This year’s collection is one of the largest gifts that we have ever received. At the four Masses that I celebrated, I asked graciously for generosity and I asked all who come once or twice a year, or less frequently, that Christmas was their time to honor God and pay up for all absences.

**■ WHO IS MATTHEW AND WHAT IS HIS  
 GOSPEL?**

The Gospel of Matthew is the first of the gospels listed for us in the New Testament. It is also the featured gospel for this year in the Cycle A Readings for the gospels.

**Who is Matthew?** We learned his name as “St. Matthew,” or Levi, whose calling to follow Jesus is captured for us in the gospel. He was a “Tax Collector,” a good job that made a good living, because he gouged people, who had to pay their taxes or else. He decided what his commission would be.

The choice of Matthew is a testimony to the daring “thinking out of the box.” Why would Jesus choose a wealthy crook? Because He loves and redeems everyone - even crooks, murderers, shysters, addicts and all those on the peripheries of life. Hopefully, Matthew’s mother and family loved him before Jesus did.

Scriptural historians believe that Matthew lived in Antioch, Syria, at the end of the first century and wrote the gospel to fellow Jews, to show them how Jewish Jesus was, and how Jesus was the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Messiah who would come.

**■ WHAT WAS THE HISTORICAL  
 CONTEXT?**

Ten to 15 years before the writing of the gospel (around 85 to 90 CE), the Holy Temple of Jerusalem had been destroyed, destroying Judaism as it had been known. The religious, political party, the Pharisees, tried to put Judaism back together, calling for a purer, stricter adherence to the Law of Moses, locating Judaism in the Jewish home, with each father representing Moses and each mother a Jewish priest.

The Pharisee leadership was trying to woo back all Jews who had defected “to be a follower of Jesus” by excommunicating them and forcing them to leave the Jewish communities of faith and local synagogues, of which they were a part of. A spirit of great antipathy grew between those with fierce adherences to the Torah and those who felt excommunicated from their Jewish roots and faith, the new Jewish Christians.

The Matthew who wrote the gospel and his disciples who named it “The Matthew Tradition,” made every effort to show the Jewish connection to Jesus, that he was Rabbi, a Pharisee, and to show that he was the fulfillment to all those waiting for the ideal Messiah that was supposed to come. Eventually, the Jewish followers of Jesus adjusted to their excommunication and formed separate communities of faith in homes. Thus, the beginning of “the Church” in homes, and sometimes “underground,” began and lasted into the beginning of the fourth century.

At the end of the first century, “the Church” had spread to Rome and continued to spread throughout the Roman Empire. Matthew’s Gospel strengthened “the Jewishness” of the first communities that were found in Jesus. St. Matthew also had a very important second message: the Jewish Christians needed to welcome the Gentile Christians, become less Jewish, dropping old, exclusive customs, not imposing Jewish culture and religious traditions. Thus the context of St. Matthew and his Gospel. This is the reason why Matthew features St. Joseph’s annunciation and the birth of Jesus in his

home to show a connection in Joseph, with the dreamer Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob who saved his family in Egypt, and his connection to the House of David, and the journey of the Magi, which was the annunciation to the world that “The Emmanuel—God is with us” came for everyone.

Next week: Jesus the Teacher

### FILIPINO SANTO NIÑO FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for January 14, 2017 at 2:00pm and join the Filipino Community of St. Bonaventure’s as we celebrate the annual Fiesta of the “Santo Niño,” The Holy Child. Santo Niño is the principal Christmas Feast celebrating the divine and human nature of Jesus. The principal Basilica and national celebration takes place every third Sunday of January in Cebu, Philippines, where millions gather for Masses and processions.

St. Bonaventure Church  
2:00pm Mass in English  
Dinner “open to all” follows

One of the special moments of the feast’s celebration is the procession of individuals and families carrying their Santo Niño in procession. The Santo Niño is the European “Infant of Prague.” The history of the devotion centers on local tribal leaders, the finding of a burned statue of the Santo Niño, and faith-inspired miracles/healings dating to the early 16th century.

Each child who comes will receive a special blessing for good health and divine protection.



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### PARISH LIFE THOUGHTS FROM CHRISTA FAIRFIELD

#### ■ FAMILY-TO-FAMILY UPDATE: SPOTLIGHT ON FAISAL AHMADI



Faisal, the oldest son of Najib and Zainab Ahmadi, is a handsome fourteen-year-old with an engaging smile and a love of learning. School is his favorite place—so much so that he is disappointed when there is a vacation break! Faisal loves reading, and he loves his teacher, Miss Laticia, who helps him understand all his subjects. In his most recent performance report, Faisal received all As except for two Bs. Quite an accomplishment for a young man who has been in the United States for only six months!

Faisal loves to play soccer with his new friends, and he reports being amazed at the number of shops, movie theaters, restaurants and parks in America. He loves the mountains, and he likes seeing all the illuminated lights at night from cars, freeways, and houses. Christmas fascinates him because of all the gifts and the generosity of others (including St Bonaventure parishioners).

Faisal is very close to his family. He helps care for his four-year-old brother and interprets for his mother when his father is working. When asked what he misses most about Afghanistan, Faisal reported: “My grandma.” In Afghanistan, the Ahmadi family lived in the same house as their grandmother, and they continue to have a very close relationship with her.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekend of December 31 & January 1

Collection

Goal: \$25,440

Actual: \$19,643

Deficit: (5,797)

Christmas Collection: \$81,003

Food for Family: 946 (12/19, 27 & 1/3)

*EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)  
included in above figures*

Grandma calls Faisal every night to say “good night.”

While speaking to parishioner Judy Crosby, who interviewed him for this article, Faisal thanked the members of the St. Bonaventure Catholic Community for their kindness and support. He believes that God gave the parish to his family and he is very thankful.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help the Ahmadi family, please write to Jenelle Abrams at [Jenelle.abrams@yahoo.com](mailto:Jenelle.abrams@yahoo.com) or contact the parish office.

#### ■ 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](http://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: IS 42:1-4, 6-7 OR ACTS 10:34-38; PS 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; MT 3:13-17

TUE: HEB 2:5-12; PS 8:2AB, 5, 6-9; MK 1:21-28 OR HEB 1:1-6 AND 2:5-12; PS 8:2AB, 5, 6-9; MK 1:14-20 AND 1:21-28

WED: HEB 2:14-18; PS 105:1-4, 6-9; MK 1:29-39

THU: HEB 3:7-14; PS 95:6-11; MK 1:40-45

FRI: HEB 4:1-5, 11; PS 78:3, 4BC, 6C-8; MK 2:1-12

SAT: HEB 4:12-16; PS 19:8-10, 15; MK 2:13-17

SUN: IS 49:3, 5-6; PS 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 COR 1:1-3; JN 1:29-34

■ **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

■ **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 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 week-end 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](http://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](mailto: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

■ **ADULT ACTIVITIES:**

**SENIOR LUNCHEON:** Thursday, January 12 at 11:30 AM in the Large Hall, \$13 per person. We'll be celebrating the New Year with delicious Chinese food provided by Mann's Chinese Cuisine. As always, drinks and dessert are included. Please make reservations by **Monday January 9** by calling George Brown at 363-4708 or by registering after Mass on January 7 or 8. Adults of all ages are welcome!

■ **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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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!

■ **HOSPITALITY WEEKEND:**  
**January 7 & 8**

Thank you to the parishioners and volunteers who have donated to this fine ministry.

After the 5pm Saturday Mass, we will have wine, soda, cheese, cookies, and crackers. After the 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am Masses, there will be coffee, juice, donuts, and bagels. All are welcome!

■ **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.



**They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

– Matthew 2:11b

**OUTSIDE PARISH**

■ **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:** January 15, 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

■ **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

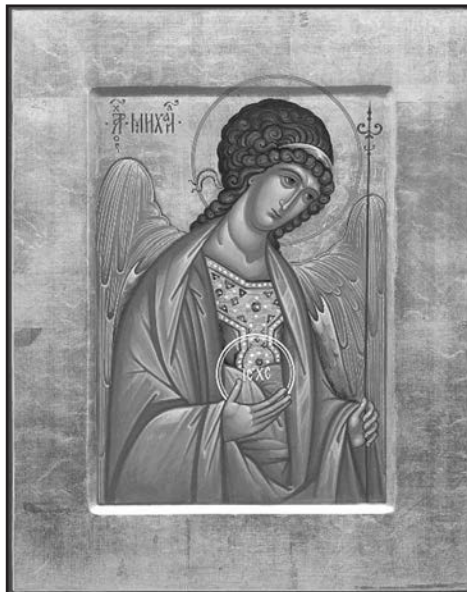


*To Be Seen* by Ludmila Pawlowska

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.



Traditional icon from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia

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](http://www.saintjohnsparish.org); [www.saintmichaelsconcord.org](http://www.saintmichaelsconcord.org).

■ **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](mailto:elba@ccinterfaithhousing.org). See you on the yellow brick road!

**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.



Pray  
For

Patients In  
Nursing  
Homes



# 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.

- The Kelly-Bartels Families
- The living & deceased: of the Milcetic & Picallo Families
- Helen Minarick
- Living & deceased: Brigini, Exten, Landoni, Trespalacios, Uranau Families



## Mass Intentions For The Week



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- SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**
- 5:00 Pat & Tom O'Brien  
 Angela Anderson  
 Women Christian Fellowship Retreat
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**
- 7:30 St. Bonaventure Community  
 9:00 Raymond & Margaret Mangini  
 Don Kimura  
 Norma Evaristo  
 Julie Daudistel  
 11:00 Virginia Villamil Ching  
 Franco Missadin  
 Women Fellowship Retreat  
 Sonia Arce
- 5:00 Mc Dara P. Folan, Jr.  
 Sheila Schroth  
 Maria Diaz  
 Noura Daies
- MONDAY, JANUARY 9**
- 6:30 Communion Service  
 9:00 Roger Tizon  
 Ephraim Untal  
 Bud Brinkerhoff  
 Emma Dalfol
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**
- 6:30 Catherine Caponio  
 9:00 Idonna Tryon  
 Norma Evaristo  
 Rosita Rances
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11**
- 6:30 Communion Service  
 9:00 Communion Service
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**
- 6:30 Conchita Guzman  
 9:00 Bud Brinkerhoff  
 Rogelio Toledo  
 Vidal Crescencio
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**
- 6:30 Communion Service  
 9:00 Quang Du  
 Rita Driscoll  
 Roxanne Untal
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**
- 5:00 St. Bonaventure Community



Las Posadas Celebration on December 16.  
 Photo credit: Rosann Halick

**SANCTUARY LIGHT IS LIT FOR  
 ANCILLA JULIETTA MCKENZIE  
 January 7 – 13, 2017**



## ■ CONTINUÁ CAMINANDO EN LA MEJOR DIRECCION

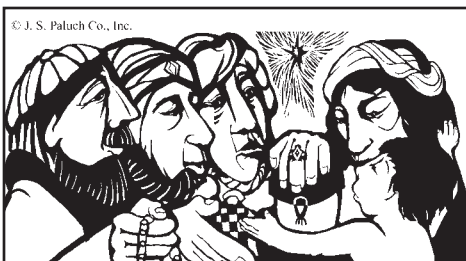
Estamos en el Año Nuevo, 2017. Mis oraciones y deseos es que este sea un buen año para cada uno de ustedes. Si usted cree que Dios está a cargo y confía en Dios en una manera muy dependiente y con confianza, será un buen año para usted a pesar de los desafíos que encontrará.

Todo lo que podemos hacer es poner nuestras oraciones “en el escritorio de Dios,” esperando que Dios los clasifique conociendo de que manera será mejor para nosotros. Nuestras oraciones a Dios tienen un corto plazo y más inmediatas respuestas -----y largo plazo y respuestas con más tiempo. Ésta es la manera que Dios trabaja y está presente en nuestras vidas. Pienso que ustedes saben eso. Es casi igual que cuando los niños vienen con sus deseos y necesitan pedir ayuda o una respuesta inmediata.

A Dios le gusta oír de nosotros. Dios nos admira más cuando decimos hola, decirle a Dios cuánto apreciamos su cuidado para nosotros antes de pedirle nuestra respuesta. Como Padre, Dios sabe cuál es la mejor respuesta y cuál es el mejor tiempo. Y nunca podremos “Agradecerte” bastante, Dios, porque tu eres más sabio.

Parte de la oración y de pedir está cultivando un espíritu personal de confianza. Nuestro conocimiento es que no dirigimos a Dios en la vida. A veces, esa es una lección difícil de aprender. Y si nos rendimos en Dios o nos enojamos con Dios, realmente nos hemos rendido en nosotros mismos. Esto hace a Dios más triste que la tristeza que traemos en nosotros mismos.

O sea, comiencen el Año Nuevo con el pie derecho y manténganse caminando en la mejor dirección.



## ■ GRACIAS POR SU GENEROSA COLECCION

Muchas gracias por su presencia y participación en nuestras liturgias de Navidad, para los que permanecieron con nosotros y no viajaron a ningún lado. Y gracias por su ayuda muy abundante para ayudarnos a comenzar el Año Nuevo pagando los seguros y otros costos importantes que suceden durante la primera parte del Año Nuevo. Hasta la fecha, la colección de Navidad es \$81,003. La colección de este año es uno de los regalos más grandes que hasta hoy hemos recibido. En las cuatro Misas que yo celebré, pedí generosamente por generosidad y pedí a todos los que vienen una vez o dos veces al año, o con menos frecuencia, que la Navidad era el tiempo para honrar a Dios y de pagar por todas las ausencias.

## ■ QUIEN ES MATEO Y SU EVANGELIO?

El Evangelio de Mateo es el primero de los evangelios enlistados para nosotros en el nuevo testamento. Es también el futuro evangelio ofrecido de este año en el Ciclo A en las lecturas para los evangelios

**¿Quién es Mateo?** Aprendimos su nombre como “San Mateo” o Levi quien es llamado para seguir a Jesús se captura para nosotros en el evangelio. Él era “Colector de Impuesto,” un buen trabajador que hizo una buena vida porque él manipulo a gente que tenia que pagar sus impuestos o tenían consecuencias. Él decidía cuál sería su comisión.

La opción de Mateo es un testimonio al “pensamiento fuera de la caja.” ¿Por qué Jesús eligió un ladrón rico? Porque él ama y redime a cada uno -- incluso a los ladrones, asesinos, adictos y todos ellos en las periferias de la vida. Esperemos, que la madre de Mateo y su familia lo amaron antes de que lo hiciera Jesús.

Los historiadores de las escrituras creen que Mateo vivió en Antioch, Siria, en el final del primer siglo y escribió el evangelio a sus compañeros judíos para demostrarles cómo era Jesús Judío y cómo Jesús era el cumplimiento de todas las profecías del Mesías que vendría.

## ■ ¿CUÁL ERA EL CONTEXTO HISTÓRICO?

De diez a 15 años antes de la escritura del evangelio alrededor del CE 85 a 90, después de que el Templo Santo de Jerusalén hubiera sido destruido, destruyendo el Judaísmo como había sido conocido. El partido religioso, político, los Fariseos intentaron poner el Judaísmo nuevamente junto llamando para una adherencia más pura, más terminante a la ley de Moisés y localizando al Judaísmo en el hogar Judío con cada padre que representaba a Moisés y a cada madre un sacerdote Judío.

La dirección del Fareismo intentaba atraer nuevamente a cada uno de los Judíos que habían desertado “para ser seguidores de Jesús” por medio de excomunicación y los forzaban a dejar a las comunidades de la fe Judía y de las sinagogas locales de las cuales eran parte. Un espíritu de gran antipatía creció entre los que tenían mucha creencia en el Torah y los que se sentían excomunicados de sus raíces y fe Judía, los nuevos Cristianos Judíos.

El Mateo que escribió el evangelio y a sus discípulos que lo nombraron “la tradición de Mateo,” hizo todo el esfuerzo de demostrar la conexión Judía a Jesús, que él era Rabino, un Fareista, y demostrar a todos los que esperaban que el era el cumplimiento del Mecías ideal que estaba supuesto a venir. Eventualmente, los seguidores Judíos de Jesús se ajustaron a sus excomunicación y formaron comunidades separadas de fe en hogares. Así, el principio “de la iglesia” en hogares, y a veces en “subterráneos” comenzó y duró hasta el principio del cuarto siglo.

En el final del primer siglo, “la iglesia” se había extendido a Roma y continuo expandiéndose a través del Imperio Romano. El evangelio de Mateo esfuerza “el Judaísmo” de las primeras comunidades, de que fue encontrado en Jesús. San Mateo también tenía un segundo importante mensaje: Los Cristianos Judíos necesitaron dar la bienvenida a los Cristianos Gentiles, ser menos judíos, dejar las viejas, exclusivas costumbres, no imponer la cultura



y tradiciones religiosas Judías, así el contexto del San. Mateo en su evangelio. Ésta es la razón por la que Mateo tiene la anunciación a San José y el nacimiento de Jesús en su hogar para demostrar una conexión en José, con el soñador Patriarca José, el hijo de Jacobo que salvo a su familia en Egipto, y su conexión con la casa de David, y al viaje de los reyes magos cuál era el anuncio al mundo que “el Emmanuel-Dios es con nosotros” vino para cada uno.

La próxima semana: Jesús el Maestro

#### ■ 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 thomaspayne@outlook.com para reservar un asiento



**Que te adoren, Señor,  
 todos los pueblos**

<b>BAUTIZOS 2017</b> <b>LUGAR DE BAUTIZO: IGLESIA · LUGAR CLASES: B-1</b> <b>ENCARGADO: GREGORIO MENCHACA, (925) 826-5102</b> <b>****PARA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE CLASES, FAVOR CONTACTAR LA OFICINA****</b>			
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.
Sat 09/23	10:00 a.m.	Fri 09/15	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 10/14	10:00 a.m.	Fri 10/06	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 10/28	10:00 a.m.	Fri 10/20	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 11/11	10:00 a.m.	Fri 11/03	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 11/18	12:00 p.m.	Fri 11/10	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 12/16	10:00 a.m.	Fri 12/15	7-9:30 p.m.