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A Franciscan Center of Evangelization

In response to God's call to love, we are a faith community that strives to live the gospel in prayer, formation, evangelization, outreach and stewardship in the Franciscan tradition.

DECEMBER 17, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday



Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

1 Thes 5:16-22

STAFF

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

-SATURDAYS FROM 2:30 TO 3:30 P.M.-

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in the confessionals at the back of the church every Saturday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Access to the church is through the side door near the iron gate.

Reconciliation is also available by appointment. Call (805) 682-4151, ext. 101 to schedule.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Zandra Cholmondeley Kitty Murphy
William Espinosa Kerry Parker
Victoria Kline Majalisa Van Thyne
Scott Maier

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED

If you wish to visit the parish office in person, please make an appointment by emailing parishoffice@saintbarbaraparish.org or calling (805) 682-4151.

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses take place in the Mission church.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY — 7:30 A.M.

SUNDAY — 9:00 A.M.

*Live Stream and public Mass
(Live stream may be accessed on our website
or YouTube channel.)*

SUNDAY – 11:00 A.M.

(Family-Focused Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS- 8:00 A.M.

Monday-Friday

LETTER FROM FR. DAN

Dear Friend,

This Sunday at the 11am Mass we will welcome our brothers and sisters who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation at Easter - Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. We celebrate this Rite of Welcome quite appropriately on a weekend when our readings point us not only to the joy of the Lord in our lives, but also, more subtly, to the challenge of looking more deeply into our lives and our behavior. In other words, reorienting the eyes of our heart to the wider lens on life offered by Jesus Christ opens us to beauty, but can be an uncomfortable stretch.



The challenge of seeing deeply and responding more fully is captured in John the Baptist's words to the religious leaders: "There is one among you," he tells them, "*whom you do not recognize*, the one who is coming after me..." The reading ends right before John sees Jesus coming toward him. He cries out: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world...", a phrase that a priest like me can smoothly speak at Mass and have difficulty translating into the liturgy of life, as a member of a perfectly imperfect community.

"Advent's adventure is to move from seeing to *beholding*," writes theologian Richard Gula (italics mine). With this Sunday's text, we're not quite there yet. What is blinding us from seeing the Lamb of God and acting accordingly? Have we "settled in" to the way it's always been? Like our newcomers each one of us is called into a deeper experience of life and faith as part of a beloved community planted in a world that can be hostile. Each Eucharist is the repeated sacrament of our initiation. Will our newcomers find in us living signs of humility and joy?

Gratefully,
Fr. Dan ofm,
Pastor



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Join us for Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! Registration is not required. Chairs will be provided for the 4:00 p.m. outdoor Mass.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

9:00 a.m. Mass (Church) ** will be livestreamed

11:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. Mass (Outdoors, weather permitting; chairs will be provided)

9:30 p.m. Carols by the Parish Choir (Church)

10:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

**** will be livestreamed**



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

9:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

**** will be livestreamed**

11:00 a.m. Mass (Church)





THANK YOU CRECHE CONSTRUCTION TEAM!

A big THANK YOU to ALL who came out on Saturday, December 9 to participate in the construction of our Christmas creche, which is all ready to house the beautiful animals that will be arriving on December 23!

We are so grateful for your efforts!



CRECHE SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our wonderful creche team, our beautiful Christmas creche adorns the Mission lawn once again! We cherish this special symbol of the Nativity, first created by St. Francis of Assisi 800 years ago as a visual sign of our faith and hope for the salvation of the world.

The animals will be arriving on December 23 and we are seeking “shepherd” volunteers to ensure their safety while in our care. To sign up for one or more two hour “shepherd shifts,” just click the link below!

If you have any questions, email sbhirsch5@cox.net.

[VOLUNTEER NOW](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

You can help make our outdoor Mass on Christmas Eve a success!

Please join with other volunteers at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (December 24) in front of the Church to set up chairs for Mass. This is a family-friendly volunteer activity!

We can't do it without you!
(Bring a friend! Bring several friends!)

To sign up, contact Scott Maier at scottym@pga.com.

**THE BOOK OF JOB
PARISH STUDY GROUP**



January 18 • February 15

March 7 • April 11

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- Francis Room

*** Facilitated by parishioner Roger Bergman.*

Join us on four Thursday evenings as we read the Book of Job and three short books inspired by it:

Answer to Job by Carl Jung (108 pages)

On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent by Gustavo Gutierrez (103 pages)

The Comforting Whirlwind : God, Job and the Scale of Creation by Bill McKibben (73 pages)

The books are available online (approx. \$33 new or \$15 used). For questions, contact Roger Bergman at rjbps@creighton.edu or (402)681-0872. To register, click below or call the parish office.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

WINTER SOLSTICE PRAYER SERVICE AND MASS



Thursday, December 21 -- 6:00 a.m.

Join us bright and early on December 21 for a prayer service, Mass and solstice window illumination (weather permitting) in celebration of Winter Solstice!



PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The parish office will be CLOSED from December 24 through January 1. In the event of an EMERGENCY, please call (805)690-5382. For all other inquiries, email parishoffice@saintbarbaraparish.org, or leave a message at (805)682-4151 and your call will be returned on January 2.

**ON BEHALF OF FR. DAN, FR. HENRI
AND THE PARISH STAFF, WE WISH YOU
A PEACEFUL, HEALTHY AND
BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**



A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our Together in Mission campaign! This is the 30th anniversary of Together in Mission, and your generosity has made a real difference for the parishes and schools in our Archdiocese who are struggling financially. So far this year we have collected **\$50,479**, which is 62% of our **\$80,862** goal. We are hoping to reach 100% before the end of December so that ministries and programs like those we enjoy at St. Barbara Parish can grow and flourish in less fortunate parishes.

If you haven't donated or pledged yet, you can help us meet our goal by mailing a check, payable to Together in Mission, to St. Barbara Parish, 2201 Laguna St, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, or donating online through the parish web site. Just click the button below and choose Together in Mission in the fund dropdown box. Thank you!

[DONATE NOW](#)



THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Join us on the front portico this Sunday for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after the 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses! To sign up as a volunteer Leader or a Server, click below or call (805)682-4151, ext. 102.

[VOLUNTEER NOW](#)

BECOMING A LAUDATO SI' PARISH

LAUDATO DEUM: 4. CLIMATE CONFERENCES: PROGRESS AND FAILURES

The juxtaposition of our Advent scriptures and Pope Francis' assessment of the global climate conferences that have taken place since 1992 is dramatic. Isaiah tells us to take comfort, even to exult, in the coming day of the Lord when justice and peace shall reign on Zion. The nations shall come together in good will and harmony. In his brief review of the history of the Conference of Parties (COP), the pope sees progress but also failure.

A 1992 conference in Rio de Janeiro established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which took effect in 1994. The Conference of Parties in Dubai, which concluded this past week, is the 28th such meeting. *Laudato Si'* was published in 2015 with an eye to influencing COP21 in Paris, which "can be considered as a new beginning, given the failure to meet the goals previously set." The problem is that "there are no provisions for sanctions in the case of unfulfilled commitments, nor effective instruments to ensure their fulfillment."

In keeping with the spirit of Advent, let us hope that the peace of Isaiah and the integral ecology of Pope Francis move a little closer to realization in the coming year.

~ Roger Bergman (rbjps@creighton.edu)

[For further reading: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html or search "Laudato Deum"]

MASS INTENTIONS

To schedule a Mass intention, contact parishoffice@saintbarbaraparish.org

- Dec 16 † Katherine Pattison
- Dec 17 † Jim Herman (7:30 a.m.)
- Dec 17 † Isabelita Boquiren (9:00 a.m.)
- Dec 17 Pro Populo – People of the Parish (11:00 a.m.)
- Dec 18 † Carla O'Neill
- Dec 19 † Richard Carriedo
- Dec 20 † Meghan Milonopoulos
- Dec 22 † Franca Agpaoa
- Dec 22 † Rebecca Kwong
- Dec 23 † Rebecca Avila DeMarco



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Keeping children safe in holiday crowds

This Christmas, your family will likely be in a crowd or two — at school functions, visiting Santa at the mall, Christmas Eve Mass. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, over 400,000 children go missing every year in the US. Crowds are a perfect opportunity for a perpetrator to take advantage of chaos and distraction. Before you head out into the holiday frenzy, talk to your children about some ground rules: Stay together and communicate about where you are headed if you change directions or plans. Consider the "two big steps" rule, which tells your child not to be more than two steps away from you at all times. That way, you can easily keep eyes on each other. For more tips, visit nationwidechildrens.org.

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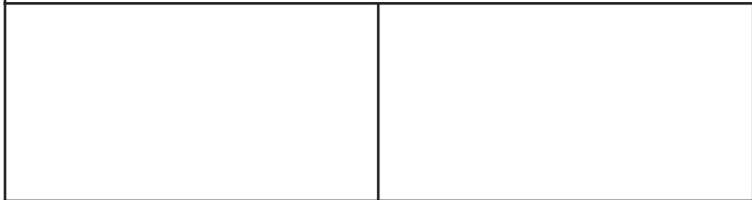
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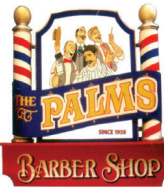
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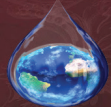


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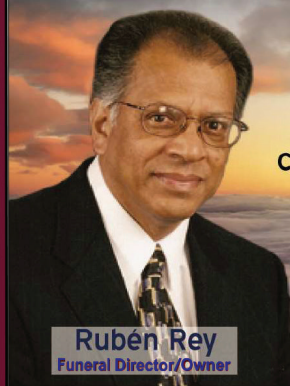


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