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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 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHRISTMAS EVE



DECEMBER 31, 2023
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:30-33

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,

As I write this, Christmas is one week away, which means that this Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Advent, begins a new “week” of Advent that will last less than a day. A disconcerting fact, maybe, but we did get a head’s up a week ago at Mass: “With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day...” (2 Peter: 9).

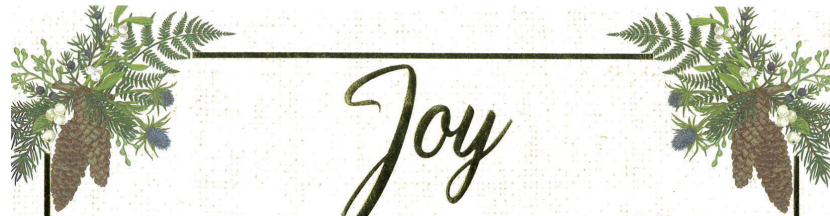


Part of the wisdom of liturgical time for us as Catholics is that being guided by the lunar cycle can remind us that our ways are not always God’s ways, and that our time is not always God’s time. To expect it to be otherwise is a cause for real discomfort, for me anyway.

In our parish Advent retreat, Sister Leanne Hubbard provided us with a graphic that was very helpful to me along these lines. To illustrate the Kingdom of God, she sketched out two shoes (with nice big shoelaces) at the end of two little legs. Under the right shoe she wrote “now, the world” and under the left “not yet, the world to come”. Under both – connecting them – she wrote: *REIGN OF GOD. BOTH/AND.*

The image tells me that my path of discipleship is a way of learning how to walk all over again – one foot in time, the other in eternity, as though traversing an elongated threshold where time and eternity begin to meet – the threshold of the house of God (ps. 84). In Jesus as “the little one”, God has already begun to slip into time. As I ponder the Christmas creche I recall the words of St. Teresa of Avila: “All the way to heaven is heaven because Christ is the Way...” Happy Advent: Oh, and Merry Christmas!

Gratefully,
Fr. Dan ofm,
Pastor



Joy

The Stable of Christmas

by Larry Gosselin, ofm
Christmas 2023

*Shepherds survey silently
a stable that became a sonnet.*

“O Holy Night-O Night Divine”

*The poor stable was so close at hand,
with shaking timbers and shifting sands.*

*A migrant mother brings to warmth our home.
Homesick we are until we find this place of birth.*

*Strangers come to stillness of spirit in this holy mirth,
wandering as searching for grace, under miraculous skies.
Home, with the birth of one, opened to hearts for the many!
Child, borne in a foul stable, as beasts feed, foam, and roam.
Our years’ are wild, as an old wives’ tale, in wonder and war.*

*These nights are plagued by impenetrable darkness,
enlightened now with His invincible morning star.*

*Star’s light shines upon His birth’s creche.
Beholding life’s stable, our hope in Light.*

Brightly, boldly, shines such shining!

So humble is this child laying here!

*Expectant in our hearts’ desire,
knowing, as all is known;*

*known, as seen in His
Light, as the Christ!*

*Where in night’s longing, we pause, and pause, to pause.
Knowing the unknowing, and grasping the ungraspable.
Beholding your glory, waiting for you, trumpeted angels.
Let us remain contented now, giving ourselves in waiting!*

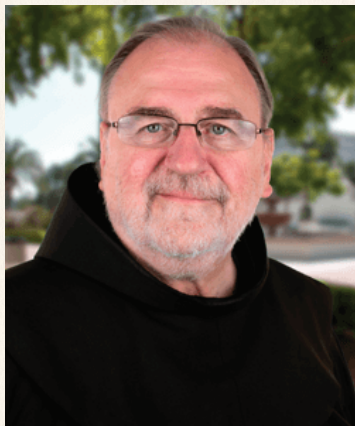
*This Incarnation of Light, is transformation in love.
Shines as sheltered here, in a stable, that is a sonnet.*



On Caring for Our Common Home Tip of the Week



Use matches instead of disposable lighters to light the grill or fireplace or for other uses. Estimates are that 1.5 billion lighters end up in landfills each year, and they are made of plastic and contain butane, neither of which is environmentally friendly. Paper matches are preferred because they are made from recycled paper.



SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Eucharist in the Early Franciscan Tradition (Two-Part Series)

Fr. Michael Blastic, OFM

Sunday, January 14 • Sunday, February 11 | 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. (Bonaventure Hall)

Join us for this special two-part presentation by Fr. Michael Blastic! To register, click below or call the parish office at (805)682-4151, ext. 102.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



SAVE THE DATES!

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress

February 15-18, 2024

(In-Person)

THIS YEAR'S THEME: BE LOVED!

The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress is the largest annual gathering of its kind in the world.

Held at the Anaheim Convention Center, it is sponsored by the Office of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and includes people of all ministries, vocations and faiths. It opens on Thursday, February 15 with Youth Day – a gathering of high school aged young people that features keynote speakers, workshops and a liturgy planned by young people, for young people.

Adult Days (Friday, February 16 to Sunday, February 18) include hundreds of workshops in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Participants also receive access to arena keynotes, the opening ceremony, a variety of liturgies, entertainment, evening events, and the Exhibit Hall, which showcases religious art, music and publishing houses.

Click below to register or visit www.recongress.org/register.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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 rbjps@creighton.edu or (402)681-0872. To register, click below or call the parish office.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer, authentic
schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence,
rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready
comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.*

Amen.

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)



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.



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
6:30 to 7:30 P.M. | Francis Room**

Thank you to all who attended our first Men's Faith Group gathering on Dec. 13! Our next meeting will be on January 10. If you are interested in deepening your knowledge of Scripture, sharing in fellowship, and being a part of a group of like-minded men, please join us!



WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING

**Saturday, January 13
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

Join us for our first Women's Faith Sharing gathering of 2024! Check in at the Porter's Office. For more information contact Donna Rubio at drubio@saintbarbaraparish.org or (805)682-4151, ext. 116.

BECOMING A LAUDATO SI' PARISH

LAUDATO DEUM: 5. WHAT TO EXPECT FROM COP28 IN DUBAI?

Pope Francis tells it like it is. “Despite the many negotiations and agreements, global emissions continue to increase...The necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed...In just a few years we will surpass the maximum recommended limit of 1.5 degree Celsius [rise in global temperature] and shortly thereafter even reach 3°C, with a high risk of arriving at a point of no return.”

Did the 200 nations and global leaders assembled for COP28 in Dubai rise to the challenge, as prayed for by Pope Francis? According to news reports on December 13, on the last day of the conference a final last-minute agreement mentioned “fossil fuels” and the need to transition away from their use *for the first time* in the three decades of these meetings. That agreement is being hailed as a “major breakthrough” even though it “includes caveats and wiggle room, and is nonbinding.”

As one advocate said, “This outcome must signal the beginning of the end for the fossil fuel era.” Let us hope this global consensus is indeed a major breakthrough not only in words but also in action.

~ 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 23 † Rebecca Avila DeMarco
- Dec 24 Pro Populo – People of the Parish
- Dec 26 † Aleta Nawrot
- Dec 27 † Pete Bohley
- Dec 28 Christina Ramirez
- Dec 29 Lynn Turner
- Dec 30 † Alexander Domagala
- Dec 31 Karen Manno (7:30 a.m.)
- Dec 31 † Scott Francis McKeon-Hegger (9:00 a.m.)
- Dec 31 Monica and Robert Kirschmann Family (11:00 a.m.)
- Jan 2 Cindy and Rick Jones
- Jan 3 Luzviminda Luna
- Jan 4 † Esiquio and Monika Luna
- Jan 5 Yeomans Family
- Jan 6 Pro Populo – People of the Parish
- Jan 7 † Diane Dodds (7:30 a.m.)
- Jan 7 † Rosie Uribe (9:00 a.m.)
- Jan 7 † Melissa Gormley (11:00 a.m.)

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

What is a trial balloon?

One of the best ways safe adults can help children who are suffering from abuse is to recognize and listen to their disclosures — even if they are done in stages or in subtle ways. A child may float a “trial balloon” disclosure, meaning he may use a single sentence or phrase to see if a safe adult will respond appropriately. Be on the lookout for sudden disclosures like, “I don’t want to go to So-and-so’s house anymore,” and try responding in a way designed to let the child continue to open up: “Do you want to tell me why?” or “Let’s talk about that,” for example. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” at [lacatholics.org/did-you-know/](https://www.lacatholics.org/did-you-know/).

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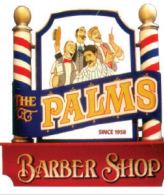
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