

St Bernadette Catholic Church
3825 Don Felipe Drive
Los Angeles , CA 90008
(323) 293-4877
stbernadettela.org



December 09/10. 2023
Volume 3, Issue 48

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his path.”

This is the season of Advent. Advent means coming or arrival, especially the arrival of someone who is expected. The Sunday readings remind us the Advent season is time when we await the coming of the Lord -- the great Christian festival of Christmas. Second, it is the time when we prepare ourselves and our society to receive the Lord when He comes. We need to *prepare a way* for the Lord and make his path straight so there no obstacles to His arrival. Awaiting with expectation and preparing to receive the Lord are two important aspects of the Advent season. Israel was a nation waiting for the coming of the Messiah. God had chosen Israel to be his people. He had promised he would be their God and they his people. Their experience as a nation was contrary to all the promises of God, however. The history of the Jewish nation was a history of suffering. They were conquered, plundered and their Temple destroyed by other nations. Finally, they ended up in exile. None of God’s promises were fulfilled. Psalm eighty-five is a cry of a defeated and suffering nation.

“Awaiting with expectation” and “preparing to receive the Lord” are important aspects of the Advent season. We must prepare a straight path, removing all obstacles which prevent Christ from coming. All the crooked ways in our life, in the life of our society need to be straightened out. Every mountain and hill should be brought low and every valley be lifted up.



When Advent gets lost!

Preparing for Christmas can be a fun and exciting time; but also a busy and hectic one. Amid all the busyness, trying to recognize Advent can feel like another item on our never-ending to-do list. Hurry up and wait! We do not want to skip Advent, no matter how busy this season may be. Advent prepares us for Christmas by reminding us of the tension between now and not yet. Just as the people of Israel waited for centuries for Christ to come, just as John the Baptist’s ministry pointed ahead to Someone better, the weeks before Christmas give us an opportunity to wait. And, be reminded we are still waiting, though now for Christ’s second coming and for the fulfillment of the rest of His promises. “I’m sure this isn’t how



God wants us to celebrate Christmas,” my dad said after a frantic Christmas Eve shopping trip when I was a kid. “We know we shouldn’t be so stressed about finding the right gifts or doing all the activities that we lose sight of why we’re celebrating.” *But how do we keep from missing the point?*



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| <i>God Isn’t Asking You to Figure it Out? He’s Asking you to Trust He Already Has.</i> | |



Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is the Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions to a Mexican peasant named Juan Diego and his uncle, Juan Bernardino, which are believed to have occurred in December 1531, when the Mexican territories were under the Spanish Empire. According to tradition, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was an Aztec convert to Christianity, on December 9 and again on December 12, 1531. During her first apparition she requested that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared, Tepeyac Hill (now in a suburb of Mexico City). The bishop demanded a sign before he would approve construction of a church, however. Mary then appeared a second time to Juan Diego and ordered him to collect roses. In a second audience with the bishop, Juan Diego opened his cloak, letting dozens of roses fall to the floor and revealing the image of Mary imprinted on the inside of the cloak—the image that is now venerated in the Basilica of Guadalupe.

A venerated image on a cloak (tilmahtli) associated with the apparition is enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico

City. Pope Leo XIII granted the image a decree of canonical coronation on February 8, 1887, and it was pontifically crowned on October 12, 1895. The basilica is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site.

**Join us for
Bible Study**

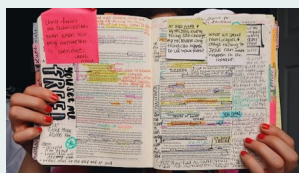
**1st and 3rd Thursday
1:00 & 7:00 PM
Via ZOOM**

**1:00 pm Meeting
ID: 87233018319
Passcode: 689472**

**Contact:
Carolyn James
(323) 394-5441**

**7:00 pm Meeting
ID 811 5705 8134
Passcode: 6FuFf7**

**Contact:
Elsie Dixon
(310) 410-2962**



The Feast of St John of the Cross: December 14

John of the Cross, OCD (Spanish: Juan de la Cruz; Latin: Ioannes a Cruce; born Juan de Yepes y Álvarez; 24 June 1542 – 14 December 1591) was a Spanish Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar of converso origin. He is a major figure of the Counter-Reformation in Spain, and he is one of the thirty-seven Doctors of the Church. John of the Cross is known for his writings. He was mentored by and corresponded with the older Carmelite, Teresa of Ávila.

Both his poetry and his studies on the development of the soul are considered the summit of mystical Spanish literature and among the greatest works of all Spanish literature. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. In 1926, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI, and is also known as the "mystical doctor". Proceedings to beatify John began between 1614 and 1616. He was eventually beatified in 1675 by Pope Clement X, and canonized by Benedict XIII in 1726. When his feast day was added to the General Roman Calendar in 1738, it was assigned to 24 November, since his date of death was impeded by the then-existing octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.[36] This obstacle was removed in 1955 and in 1969 Pope Paul VI moved it to the dies natalis (birthday to heaven) of John, 14 December. The Church of England and the Episcopal Church honor him on the same date. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in 1926

Children's Christmas Eve Choir

Calling all children ! We need your angelic voices for our Children's Christmas Choir. Children's choir rehearsal will take place after the 10:00 am Mass in the sanctuary choir area. The Children's Choir Performs every year at the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve mass. For more information contact the Parish Office (323) 293-4877





**We Catholics love our Coffee and Donuts!
And? You can be:
A COFFEE AND DONUTS HERO!
We need "Coffee and Donut Sponsors"
No Set Up, or Pick Up, Just Pay Up.
We will take care of the rest.**

**Whether you are a Couple, a Family, a Parish Ministry, a Local Business Owner, or a Service Organization.
ALL YOU NEED DO IS: DONATE ALL OR PART OF THE (ONE TIME) WEEKLY COST TO THE CHURCH, WE TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
FOR DETAILS CALL THE PARISH OFFICE at (323)293-4877**

Call Out for New Altar Servers: Anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server, Please see Deacon Jim after Mass or call the Parish Office at (323)293-4877. If you have already completed training, please contact the Parish Office at the Phone# above to schedule your alb fitting!

REMEMBERING SISTER RITA CALLANAN

**Memorial Mass
Saturday, December 30, 2023
10:00 AM
St Bernadette Church
3825 Don Felipe Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90008
(323)293-4877
Repast
in the Parish Hall
to Follow**



**The St Bernadette 2024 Men's Retreat
January 26-28, 2024 This Year's Theme
"The Crucified One Lives! Finding Comfort in the Passion of Christ"**
The Passion of Christ and sufferings of the members of His Body, the Church, form one mystery. This retreat will provide the opportunity to gain a deeper awareness and understanding of this mystery: The Passion of Christ and the sufferings of his Body- member for member- -are one.



Help our parish feel the love during the Christmas Season
Most people have nonprofit organizations they know and love, and these organizations tend to show up (more than usual) during the final months of the year. Donors show gratitude and support for these organizations by contributing when it matters most.



LITURGY SCHEDULE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Monday, Dec. 11, 2023
Feast of St John Damascus I
8:00 Communion Service
Live-Streamed and In-Person

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023
Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:00 Communion Service
Live-Streamed and In-Person

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023
Feast of St Lucy (M)
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person
***Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023**
Feast of St John of the Cross (M)
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person

Friday, December 15, 2023
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person

Saturday, December 16, 2023
3:00 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Mass
Coffee & Donuts
Parish Hall
Following Mass

**Other Sacraments
(as Scheduled)**

Mass Intentions
(323) 293-4877
j.carper.sbccc@gmail.com

***LOTW: Liturgy of the Word**

PARISH STAFF

DCN JIM CARPER, PLD
MSGR LORETO GONZALES
FR MARCELLINUS MBATA
DCN EMILE ADAMS, RIP
DAVID CHRISTENSEN
EMANUEL HOLDER
CLARENCE DIXON
MARGARITA HURST
MARINA AYALA

(OFFICE VOLUNTEERS)
TERESA CARPER

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Oh Lord, help every worker to
work wholeheartedly for the
church. Help them to remember
the work they do in the church is
not in vain as Your Word
declares Your work is never
wasted.*



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Website
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Facebook
[https://www.facebook.com/
SaintBernadetteCatholicChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintBernadetteCatholicChurch)

Twitter
https://twitter.com/stbernadettecc_



Mass Intentions: December 09 to 15, 2023

Saturday, December 09, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Annette Dumas (RIP)

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:00 am

John Jolivette (RIP)

Erma Stewart (RIP)

Requesting a Mass Intention?

Contact the Parish Office (323) 293-4877

December 09-10

Recognizing the Signs of Physical Abuse

“Safe adults” should be on the lookout for signs of physical abuse in children in their care. Some signs include frequent bruises or cuts, frequent and unexplained absences or injuries. Physical abuse can include hitting, kicking, shaking, or other forceful actions, resulting in harm or even death. Children who are suffering from physical abuse may be distrustful or reluctant to receive physical contact, and may dress inappropriately for the season, wearing long pants or long-sleeved shirts to hide injuries. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Recognizing Child Maltreatment” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Read the VIRTUS® article “Recognizing Child Maltreatment” For more information on the abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, please visit <https://lacatholics.org/protect/>. For more information about the Gardens of Healing, please visit lacatholics.org/healing-gardens.



Christmas Poinsettias



Please purchase your red Christmas poinsettias now as a tribute in memory of a loved one or adorn your home or office in celebration of the birth of Christ. Tribute poinsettias will be used to decorate the church during the Christmas Season. You may purchase now until December 17, 2023. Write your check to St. Bernadette Church and put in the memo section "Christmas Poinsettias". This is a very short time to purchase so we ask that you make your decision within the time frame mentioned above. For more information contact the Rectory Office @ 323-293-4877.

Purchaser's Name (please print clearly) _____
Phone Number: Home _____ Cell _____
In memory Of _____
Would you like to take your flower after Mass on Christmas Day? Yes _____ No _____
6 1/2" w/pot cover -- \$20.00 each
Number Purchasing _____
Total Amount Of Purchase _____



Pets and Poinsettias

The 100-Year Old Myth: The rumor poinsettias are poisonous is an urban legend which has been making the rounds every Christmas since 1919. It is simply not true. Your pets should not eat your poinsettia leaves, but mostly for the same reasons they should not eat any of your other houseplants: it hurts the plants! For the sake of your plants, it is a good idea to keep them all out of reach of pets. Just because these plants are not poisonous, does mean they are harmless. The sap from the poinsettia can cause skin irritation for both pets and people. If your dog or cat eats a whole bunch of leaves, they are likely to bring them back up, simply because they ate something their body is not designed to deal with.