

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



December 16/17, 2023
Volume 3, Issue 49

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" John 1:23

John the Baptist was asked a fundamental question today in the gospel, "Who are you?" To answer this question calls for real honesty and struggle. When faced with a question like this, there is a tendency to answer with what we do. We can say, "I am a teacher" or "I am a business person". But the question "Who am I" goes beyond a description of what we do. It is an invitation to check our very core and describe who we really are. For people of faith, the answer to that question will be deeply influenced by our relationship with Jesus, because any relationship touches us at a very deep level, at our core. When John the Baptist was asked this key question, he describes himself as "a voice crying in the wilderness."

John's identity is shaped by his relationship with Jesus. He is the voice who witnesses to the Word, the Word which has become flesh. Our own baptismal calling is to keep on growing into Christ so our personal identity is more and more shaped by our relationship with Him.

As we begin a new year, let us work to develop a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus, so our lives can be modelled after His.

Lord, help us to discover our identity in our daily relationship with you. Amen.



Gaudete Sunday: The Third Sunday of Advent The theme of Advent is focused on the coming of Jesus in three ways: his first, his present, and his final Advent. The readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord – Christian joy – as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. The theologian Thomas Aquinas described the difference between joy and happiness. "Happiness" is the final end of man, eternal contemplation of God; an act of the intellect. "Joy" is not a virtue, but an effect of the virtue of charity ("love"), which is full if its object is eternal and the greatest, i.e. God. Joy admits no sorrow for it is not an act of the sensitive faculties, e.g. enjoying food is a natural joy for Thomas, but supernatural joy, which is spoken of, on Gaudete Sunday, and in the Gospels is



an act of the intellectual appetite known as the will. In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy", and, instead of fretting about "all we still have not done to prepare for Christmas, we should "think of all the good things life has given us.

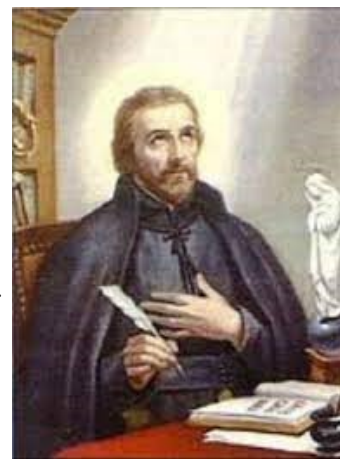


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St Peter Canisius: December 21, 2023

Peter Canisius SJ (8 May 1521 – 21 December 1597) was a Dutch Jesuit priest known for his strong support of the Catholic faith during the Protestant Reformation in Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Switzerland and the British Isles. The restoration of the Catholic Church in Germany after the Protestant Reformation is largely attributed to the work there of the Society of Jesus, which he led. His mother, Ægidia van Houweningen, died shortly after Peter's birth. He was sent to study at the University of Cologne, where he earned a master's degree in 1540, at the age of 19. While there, he met Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Society of Jesus. Through him, Canisius became the first Dutchman to join the newly founded Society of Jesus in 1543. Through his preaching and writings, Peter Canisius became one of the most influential Catholics of his time. He supervised the founding and maintenance of the first German-speaking Jesuit colleges, often with little resources at hand. At the same time he preached in the city and vicinity, and debated and taught in the university. Due to his frequent travels between the colleges, a tedious and dangerous occupation at the time, he became known as the Second Apostle of Germany. In 1547 he attended several sessions of the Council of Trent. Canisius was an influential teacher and preacher, especially through his "German Catechism", a book which defined the basic principles of Catholicism in the German language and made them more accessible to readers in German-speaking countries. He was offered the post of Bishop of Vienna in 1554, but declined in order to continue his traveling and teachings. He did, however, serve as administrator of the Diocese of Vienna for one year, until a new bishop was appointed for it. He moved to Germany, where he was one of the main Catholic theologians at the Colloquy of Worms in 1557, and later served as the main preacher in the Cathedral of Augsburg from 1559 to 1568, where he strongly witnessed to his faith on three or four occasions each week. Canisius was renowned as a popular preacher. In 1562 he founded what was to become the University of Innsbruck. St Peter Canisius died December 21, 1597, Fribourg, Switzerland



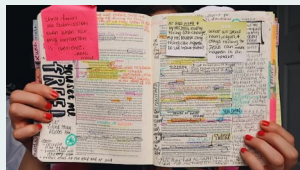
**Join us for
Bible Study
1st and 3rd Thursday
1:00 & 7:00 PM
Via ZOOM**

**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**



Christmas is NOT a Pagan Holiday! Two Christian holidays which get secular historians and anti-Catholics exercised are Christmas and Easter. Unfortunately, they have created some myths of their own. It is the celebration of Christmas, not Easter, which draws the most comparisons to pagan rites, such as those commemorating the winter solstice, and ancient Roman celebrations for the gods Saturn and Sol Invictus. These comparisons influenced the Puritans, who rejected the celebration of Christmas as "Foolstide." Puritan influence in the United States kept the nation from recognizing Christmas as a federal holiday until 1870. The feast of the Roman god, "Saturn," was a two-day celebration and was known as the Saturnalia. During the reign of Emperor Augustus the festival began on December 17. The date was later moved by Emperor Domitian (r. 51-96) to December 25. Celebrating Christmas on December 25 had less to do with pagan custom, the winter solstice, or Sol Invictus and more to do with Jewish tradition. In Jewish tradition, March 25 was celebrated as the date of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, when the Lord promised to send a lamb to complete the sacrifice. It also marked the first day of Creation, when God brought forth light. The early Christians recognized the connection between Christ the Lamb and the Light, and dated both his conception and death to March 25. If the Incarnation occurred on March 25, then it followed the Nativity occurred nine months later on December 25. The decisive factor was the connection between creation and cross, of creation and Christ's conception," not the desire to baptize pagan celebrations.

Children's Christmas Eve Choir (Last Chance)

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



**YOU NEED
COFFEE**

**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 Follows in the Parish Hall
*"Welcome Home good and faithful servant"***



**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 18, 2023 TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

**Monday, Dec. 18, 2023
8:00 Communion Service
Live-Streamed and In-Person**

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023
8:00 Communion Service
Live-Streamed and In-Person**

**Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person**

***Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person**

**Friday, December 22, 2023
8:00 am Mass
Live-Streamed and In-Person**

**Saturday, December 23, 2023
3:00 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Mass
Coffee & Donuts
Parish Hall
Following Mass**

**Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm 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
stbernadettela.org

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

Twitter
https://twitter.com/stbernadettecc_



Mass Intentions: December 16 to 22, 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Dr. William Cottles (RIP)

Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 10:00 am

**For the Special Intentions of All Parishioners
and For an Increase in Religious Vocations**

Requesting a Mass Intention?

Contact the Parish Office (323) 293-4877

DID YOU KNOW?

December 16-17 || Keeping children safe in holiday crowds

This Christmas, your family will likely be in a crowd or two — 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. For more information on the abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, please visit <https://lacatholics.org/protect/>. The Archdiocese encourages anyone with information regarding sexual abuse to please make a report to law enforcement and/or the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry at (800) 355-2545 or protect@la-archdiocese.org. For more information on the abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, please visit <https://lacatholics.org/protect/>.



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 _____



Origins of the Poinsettia “Cuetlaxochitl and Pepita”

Our story begins in 14th Century Mexico? This is where the plant we know as poinsettia has its origins. Back then, the poinsettia was known as “Cuetlaxochitl.” It was used to create textile and clothing dyes. Its sap was also thought to reduce fever. The Aztecs prized the plant and the last Aztec emperor, Montezuma, was captivated by it. It was not until the 17th century the plant first became associated with Christmas. This was when Franciscan monks in the town of Taxco de Alarcon first used the shrub in Nativity processions. It was also at this point in history the legend of Pepita and the Poinsettia began. To be continued...