

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



December 23/24, 2023
Volume 3, Issue 50



"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Do you ever treat your cell phone like you couldn't live without it? Without daily prayer, without listening for the voice of the Lord throughout the day, it's impossible to live as beloved sons

and daughters of God, as we have the honor of being? When you travel, what do you consider more important — your smart phone or your prayer? In case of an emergency, which matters most to you — a connection with the Internet or the presence of the living God? Mary built her life on the Word of God. Nothing was more important. That's why she told the Lord: **"Let it be done to me according to your word."** That's why the Word became flesh in her. Listening for the voice of the Lord at all times allowed Mary to remain faithful to God even when noise and chaos surrounded her, even at the foot of the Cross. God's word is the most powerful force in all creation. It is the source and foundation of all that exists. St. Paul wrote there is no way to chain the word of God. The messenger can be put in chains and even put to death, but the word of God cannot be chained. The Prophet Isaiah said God's word is more powerful than any storm (Is 55:10f), **"For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful...so shall my word be...It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."** By His Word, the heavens were made: the moon, the sun and the stars. God spoke and they came into being. And by the word of God, the New Creation, the Redemption of the world came about.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." The fourth candle of Advent can also represent Love; the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. If you're struggling to find the words for prayer, this Advent prayer from Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen encapsulates what many of us feel and hope for during the Advent season: Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek



quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence. We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light.

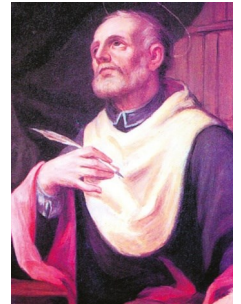


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Behold!.....	1
4th Sunday of Advent.....	1
St John of Kanty.....	2
Liturgical Calendar 2024..	2
2024 A Year of Prayer.....	2
Bible Study.....	2
Coffee & Donuts.....	3
New Altar Servers.....	3
Sr Rita Callanan.....	3
Men's Retreat.....	3
RE Congress.....	3
What is Prayer?.....	3
Liturgy Schedule.....	3
Mass Intentions.....	4
Did You Know.....	4
Future of the Church.....	4

God Isn't Asking You to Figure it Out? He's Asking you to Trust He Already Has.

St John of Kanty: December 23, 2023 John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. In the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life. John was a serious and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives. The people of Olkusz in Bohemia in 1431 had every reason to be suspicious of their new pastor. They knew what a Cracow professor would think of their small rural town. Even more insulting, their town was once again being used as a dumping ground for a priest who was "in disgrace." John had indeed been kicked out of his university position -- unjustly. Rivals who resented John's popularity with the students had cooked up a false charge against him. John was not even allowed to appear at his own hearing or testify in his own defense. So at age 41, he was shipped off to be an apprentice pastor. Certainly no one would have blamed John if he was furious at such injustice. However, he was determined his new parishioners would not suffer because of what he happened to him. There was no overnight miracle waiting of him in Olkusz. He was nervous and afraid of his new responsibilities. And, despite the energy he put into his new job, the parishioners remained hostile. John's plan was very simple, and came not from the mind but from the heart. He let his genuine interest and concern for these people show in everything he did. Despite working for years without any sign of success, he was very careful not to demonstrate impatience or anger. He knew people could never be bullied into love, so he gave them what he hoped they would find in themselves.

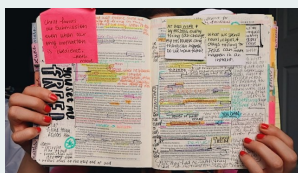


**Join us for
Bible Study
1st and 3rd Thursday
1:00 & 7:00 PM
Via ZOOM
1:00 pm Meeting
ID: 87233018319
Passcode: 689472**

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

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

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



LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE DIOCESES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Each year the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops publishes the Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. This calendar is used by authors of ordines and other liturgical aids published to foster the celebration of the liturgy in our country. The calendar is based upon the General Roman Calendar, promulgated by Pope Saint Paul VI on February 14, 1969, subsequently amended by the Holy See, and the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is updated to reflect the names and titles of the



various liturgical days in conformity with the Roman Missal. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal reminds us of the readings and prayers proclaimed throughout the year in the sacred liturgy "the mysteries of redemption are celebrated so as to be in some way made present." Thus may each celebration of the Holy Eucharist which is served by this calendar be for the Church in the United States of America "the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit.

Pilgrims in Hope:

Pope Francis has proposed the year 2024 be dedicated to "Prayer." In preparation for the Jubilee, dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of prayer (both individual and community). One idea is "Pilgrimages of Prayer" be organized at the Diocesan Level. Effectively, these would be "Courses" or "Schools of Prayer" with monthly or weekly meetings, presided over by the local Bishops, but open to the entire "People of God." Materials would be generated by the many forms of prayer found in our rich Catholic Tradition.



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.**

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 25, 2023
 TO SUNDAY,
 DECEMBER 31, 2023

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023

8:00 Communion Service

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

***Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023**

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Friday, Dec. 29, 2023

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023

3:00 pm Reconciliation

4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

10:00 am Mass

Coffee & Donuts

Parish Hall

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.*



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

Website
stbernadettela.org

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

Twitter
https://twitter.com/stbernadettecc_



Mass Intentions: December 23 to 29, 2023

Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Mrs Levi Cornelia (RIP)

Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 10:00 am

Peter Sr. and Stella Forte

Fred Sr and Marie Carper

Requesting a Mass Intention?

Contact the Parish Office (323) 293-4877



DID YOU KNOW?

December 23-24 || 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, mean-

ing 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”

lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

[Read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” here.](#)

The Future of the Church: In a radio address back in 1969, a young German theologian named Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, saw hard times ahead for the Catholic Church. It will “become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning,” he predicted, and the process would be painful. Though smaller, the Church of the future will have be “re-shaped by saints” to become a beacon for people seeking answers to questions of meaning, for which the arrogant secularism of those dark times will have no reply. While he saints whom Fr. Ratzinger foresaw haven’t yet appeared, his prophecy of ecclesiastical shrinkage has proved to be right on target. Throughout the Western world, including the United States, for the last half-century religion in general and Catholicism in particular have been in decline. Now one in three Americans is religiously unaffiliated—something Baptist pastor Ryan Burge, writing in Religion News Service, calls the “most consequential” social shift in America since World War II. And from 2001 to

