

St Bernadette Catholic Church
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stbernadettela.org



December 30/31, 2023
Volume 3, Issue 51



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 02:40

The only scripture which gives us insight into Christ's life from youth to adulthood is Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." It is difficult to understand what this means. Did Jesus just grew up and because he was perfect knew his plan and purpose and how to perform what God asked him to do? We do not know exactly

how Jesus spent his time but from Luke's account we know he grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." How do we grow in wisdom? Wisdom is knowledge, well applied. The time period Luke covers is Jesus's youth until his ministry in his thirties. Jesus knew it was important for him to not only take care for his spiritual self, but to have a healthy body, eat healthy food, have a healthy heart through work. Our version of how we build a healthy body is different than in Jesus's time but the importance of taking care of our body is still important. Without a body with energy, Jesus (and us) can not do God's work. Jesus also grew in favor with God. This was a critical part of Jesus's life. He knew the importance of becoming close to God through prayer, scripture study, keeping the commandments. Jesus's learning was gradual. We can do that too! If we seek DAILY, to increase our spiritual knowledge, we will be deeply blessed.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 31

Marriage is often viewed as the sacrament which unites a man and a woman to form a couple. In reality, marriage establishes a family, and its purpose is to increase the number of the elect, through the bodily and spiritual activities of the Christian spouses. Although Mary and Joseph were not united in a physical way, their marriage is a true marriage: an indissoluble, exclusive union, wholly subordinated to the child. They are united in order to bring Jesus into the world, to protect and raise him. They have only one child, but he contains the whole of mankind, even as Isaac, an only child, fulfilled the promise made to Abraham of a countless progeny. The purpose of every marriage is to establish a Christian family. The Holy Family observed the religious laws of Israel; it went in pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Lk. 2:41). Jesus saddens and amazes his father and his mother because to their will and company he prefers "to be in his Father's house". Thus God's will obliges the family to make disconcerting sacrifices. Yet every Christian family must live in harmony and in prayer, which are the pledges of joy and union.



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

Slaughter of the Holy Innocents (Martyrs): December 28, 2023

The Feast of the Holy Innocents is a Christian feast celebrated in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16–18). The feast is observed by Western churches on December 28 and in the Eastern churches on December 29. The slain children were regarded by the early church as the first martyrs, but it is uncertain when the day was first kept as a saint's day. It may have been celebrated with Epiphany, but by the 5th century it was kept as a separate festival. In Rome it was a day of fasting and mourning. It was one of a series of days known as the Feast of Fools, and the last day of authority for boy bishops. Parents temporarily abdicated authority. In convents and monasteries the youngest nuns and monks were allowed to act as abbess and abbot for the day. These customs, which were thought to mock religion, were condemned by the Council of Basel (1431). In medieval England children were reminded of the mournfulness of the day by being whipped in bed in the morning; this custom survived into the 17th century. The day is still observed as a religious feast day and, in Roman Catholic countries, as a day of merrymaking for children. Some churches omit both the Gloria and the Alleluia of the mass in honor of the grieving mothers of Bethlehem, unless the feast falls on a Sunday. Historians have argued over the authenticity of this event, but there is a recurring pattern in the life of Herod. He would hear a rumor someone was going to assassinate him and take over his throne, but Herod would kill the other person first. He would then go into depression. After awhile he would come out of his depression and would build, build, build. He would hear another rumor and would kill that person, then go into another depression. After awhile he would come out of this depression and would build, build, build. This cycle repeated itself a number of times in which numerous people were killed, including one of his ten wives as well as three of his sons! The historical psychologists have diagnosed Herod the Great as a paranoid schizophrenic. It is true; Josephus does not record the slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem. He does, however, record a number of ruthless murders by Herod in order to keep his throne secure.

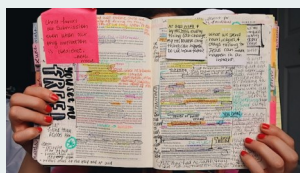


**Join us for
Bible Study
1st and 3rd Thursday
1:00 & 7:00 PM
Via ZOOM
1:00 pm Meeting
ID: 87233018319
Passcode: 689472**

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

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

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



The "Christmas Season"

In Western Christianity, the Christmas season is traditionally synonymous with Christmastide, which runs from December 25 (Christmas Day) to January 5 (Twelfth Night or Epiphany Eve), popularly known as the 12 Days of Christmas. As the economic impact involving the anticipatory lead-up to Christmas Day grew in America and Europe into the 19th and 20th centuries, the term "Christmas season" began to also encompass the liturgical Advent season, the period observed in Western Christianity from the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day until Christmas Eve.

The term "Advent calendar" continues to be widely known in Western parlance as a term referring to a countdown to Christmas Day from the beginning of December (although in retail planning the countdown to Christmas usually begins at the end of the summer season, and the beginning of September). Beginning in the mid-20th century, as the Christian-associated Christmas holiday and liturgical season, in some circles, became increasingly commercialized and central to American economics and culture while religio-multicultural sensitivity rose, generic references to the season that omitted the word "Christmas" became more common in the corporate and public sphere of the United States, which has caused a semantics controversy.

By the late 20th century, the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and the new African American cultural holiday of Kwanzaa began to be considered in the U.S. as being part of the "holiday season", a term which, as of 2013, had become more prevalent than "Christmas season," in U.S. sources, to refer to the end-of-the-year festive period. "Holiday season" has also spread in varying degrees to Canada; however, in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the phrase "holiday season" has been the subject of some controversy.

To our VOLUNTEER HEROES: Thank you to the Ministries which, often out of necessity, continued throughout the Pandemic: Christian Service, Parish Office, our Handi-capables, and to all those who pitched in, helped out and generally supported our parish during this difficult time.

BE A COFFEE AND DONUTS HERO!

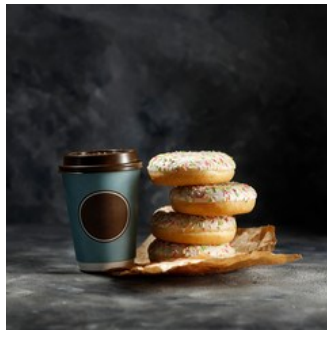
We need "Coffee and Donut Sponsors"

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 TO 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



Congratulations to Our 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!

We Are Not Alone This year's theme is 'We are not alone', inspired by Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality. As we journey forward as one Church we are reminded God is always with us. What does God say about not being alone? I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). There is no reason to fear; you are not alone. God has been there for every tear and every sorrow (Psalm 56:8), and He will strengthen your heart and help you back to your feet, no matter where He finds you today. Without community, you miss the fullness of Jesus and what love is like on this earth. Loneliness should not be accepted as a norm. Some of the spiritual symptoms of loneliness are laziness, despair, and spiritual desolation. Loneliness is different from being alone. You can be alone without feeling lonely. However, you can feel lonely even when surrounded by people. Loneliness may have insecurity, sadness, disappointment or grief at its roots. We must deal with the deeper issues.



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.



Continue your support! Many of you stepped up and helped out during the Pandemic. Your Parish Appreciates you. To all of you who increased their donations of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to our parish: THANK YOU! You made a real difference during a difficult time.



LITURGY SCHEDULE MONDAY, JANUARY 01, 2024 TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 07, 2024

Monday, Jan. 01, 2024

New Year's Day

8:00 Communion Service

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Tuesday, Jan. 02, 2024

8:00 Communion Service

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Wednesday, Jan. 03, 2024

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Thursday, Jan. 04, 2024

St Elizabeth Anne Seton

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Friday, Jan. 05, 2024

St John Neumann

8:00 am Mass

Live-Streamed and In-Person

Saturday, Jan. 06, 2024

St André Bessette

3:00 pm Reconciliation

4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, Jan 07, 2024

10:00 am Mass

Coffee & Donuts

Sponsored by:

Dcn Jim and Teresa Carper

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.*



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3825 Don Felipe Drive
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Twitter
https://twitter.com/stbernadettecc_



Mass Intentions: December 30, 2023 to 05 January. 2024

Saturday, December 30, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Sr Rita Callanan (RIP)

Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 10:00 am

Anthony Hurst (Health)

Requesting a Mass Intention?

Contact the Parish Office (323) 293-4877

DID YOU KNOW?

December 30-31 || The Silent Victims of human trafficking

Nearly every public campaign about the evils of sex trafficking involve child female victims. A majority of victims are female, but there are many male victims, and they are mostly silent. Societal expectations often lead men to feel that they should be “strong” and “assertive” enough to avoid being forced into trafficking — but these stereotypes do a disservice to male victims who may feel trapped in abusive patterns, unable to ask for the help they need.

For more information and ways to help these silent victims, read the VIR-TUS® article

“The Most Silent Victims of Sex Trafficking” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/. Read the VIRTUS® article “The Most Silent Victims of Sex Trafficking” [here](#).



The Future of the Church: Statistical snapshots

The figures show many things — including a serious mismatch in how Catholic priests are allocated around the world. Worldwide, the number of Catholics per priest rose from 3,245 in 2019 to 3,314 in 2020. But more than 50% of priests live and minister in the global North — while more than two-thirds of Catholics live someplace else. While 236 million Africans are Catholics, the U.S. and Canada are home to 84 million Catholics — but these two countries have almost the same number of priests as the *whole* of Africa. The Catholic Church in the U.S. has historically been served by priests from elsewhere — including Ireland, Poland, Italy — to support its first and second generation immigrant members. Now, the Catholic Church in the global North is significantly supported by priests and religious who come from countries in the global South.

