Nativity Catholic Church

3743 N. Tyler Avenue, El Monte CA ♥ Ph.: (626)444-2511
♥ Website: nativityelmonte.org ♥ E-mail: parish@nativityelmonte.org

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."**
Matthew 1:23

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December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE

First Saturday mass 8 am (Eng/Viet)
Saturday Vigil/ Vigilia 5 pm (Eng)

Sunday / Domingo: 8 am, 10 am (Eng)
12 pm (Spa),
3 pm (Vt)

Weekday / Entre Semana: 8 am –English
CONFESSIONS: Friday/vier, 4 pm & 6:30 pm

PASTORAL TEAM

PASTOR Rev. Roberto Jaranilla Jr.
ASSOCIATE Rev. Joseph KimDang Nguyen
NATIVITY SCHOOL Sr. Stacy Reineman 448-2414
www.nativityschoolelmonte.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sandy Jinesta (626)448-8895
YOUTH MINISTRY Ruben Castorena (626)448-8895

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MASS INTENTIONS
December 17 - 23

SATURDAY, December 17
5 pm - Simbang Gabi.

SUNDAY, December 18
8 am - For our parishioners esp. † Maria Alma Auzenne.
10 am - For our priest's intention
12 pm - Por el cumpleaños de Maite Barragan Muñoz.
3 pm - † Vincent Phan & Cecilia Nguyen Tuong Dung.

MONDAY, December 19
8 am - B-day Int. for Michael Cruz.

TUESDAY, December 20
8 am - † Loida Tenorio.

WEDNESDAY, December 21
8 am - Health Intentions of Vivian Vaquez.

THURSDAY, December 22
8 am - † Apolinario & Estella Tenorio.

FRIDAY, December 23
8 am - † Thanh Duc Duong and Ludgerio Torres
6:30 pm - All Souls.

Please keep them in your prayers.

TRUE GRATITUDE

Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). We might need to have a little pity on the Fourth Sunday, however, since the hectic realities of the secular calendar can overwhelm it, particularly in those years when there are only one or two (or zero!) days before Christmas. This year we have the luxury of a whole week! What shall we do with this gift from God? Perhaps a bit more charity or social action on behalf of God's poorest. Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did. Attend daily Mass, Advent reconciliation, or pray the "O" antiphons (which began this Saturday evening). As with every gift, we show true gratitude by using it. Let us do so, as Paul tells us in Romans, for the sake of the name of Jesus, whose coming we await.

WHOSE HOUSE?

Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10–14
Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–24

Confessions

This Sacrament is more than an act of confession of personal sins. It is reconciliation with our sisters and brothers who are the church, as well as reconciliation with God. Come and receive the wonderful gift of God's forgiving love.

Our Penitential Service was last Friday. If you were not able to attend, you may consider attending St. John the Baptist Confessions this Monday, December 19th at 7 p.m., or Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, Dec. 23rd @ 7pm , where our priests will be assisting

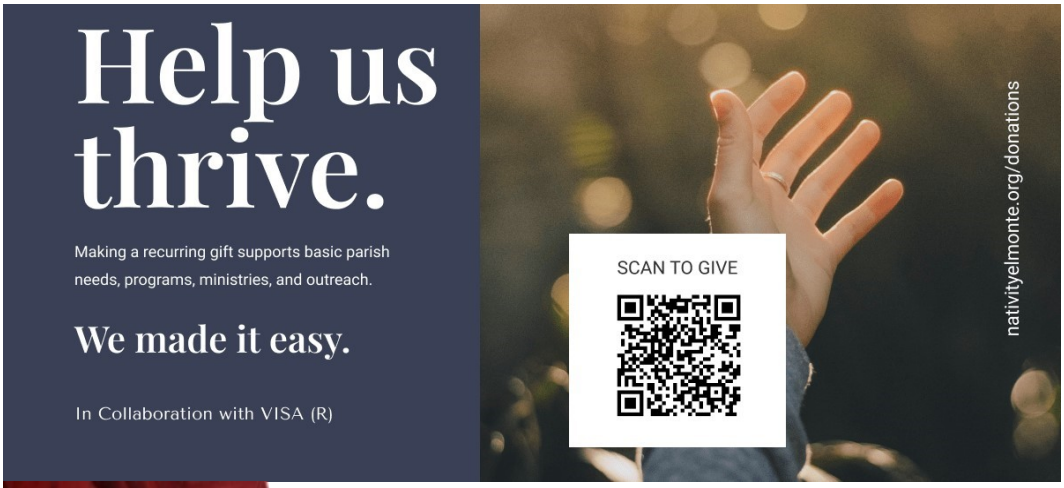
Please note there will be NO confessions at Nativity until Friday, January 13th

Online Giving is Now Available.

Nativity is excited to offer online giving for families to easily give one-time as well as recurring gifts! Simply make a secure donation via electronic check or debit/credit card by visiting *nativityelmonte.org/give*. And if you choose to set up a recurring gift, you will be prompted by email to create your own online donor account to manage your gifts. It's as easy as online shopping or banking!

Provided by eCatholic, the same company that hosts the parish's website, this online giving service has already been a proven success for many parishes, schools, and dioceses. And it makes for safer record-keeping, faster processing, and more efficient communication for the parish office.

Learn more and consider the possibilities for sharing your gifts without the hassle of remembering checks and envelopes. Visit *nativityelmonte.org/give*.



DID YOU KNOW?

The ChildHelp Abuse Hotline is a valuable resource

The ChildHelp Abuse Hotline is a valuable resource available nationwide for reporting child abuse. If you have witnessed abuse, or if a child has confided that he or she has been abused, you can reach out to the ChildHelp Abuse Hotline for information on what to do next and where to report what you know. Counselors are available to talk through situations, answer questions, and research additional resources in your area. You can call or text the hotline at 1-800-422-4453, or start a live chat at childhelphotline.org/.

POINSETTIA OFFERINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias are placed in the church this Christmas Season in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out this form and submit it with a donation of $10.00 per plant to the rectory (**only one name per plant please**). Call the rectory for details. Names of those being honored will be published in the Bulletin the weekend of December 25. Donations must be submitted no later than December 17.

Name _____ ☐living ☐deceased

———PLEASE PRINT——— —check one of the above—

Name of person making the donation _____ Phone_____

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - Sat., Vigil Masses, Dec. 24

5 p.m. – English Vigil Mass
7 p.m. – Vietnamese Vigil Mass
Christmas Carols will begin at 11:30 p.m.
12 a.m. – Midnight Mass (Multi-Lingual)

CHRISTMAS DAY—Sunday, December 25

8 am – English Mass
10 am – English Mass
12 pm – Spanish Mass
3 pm – Vietnamese Mass

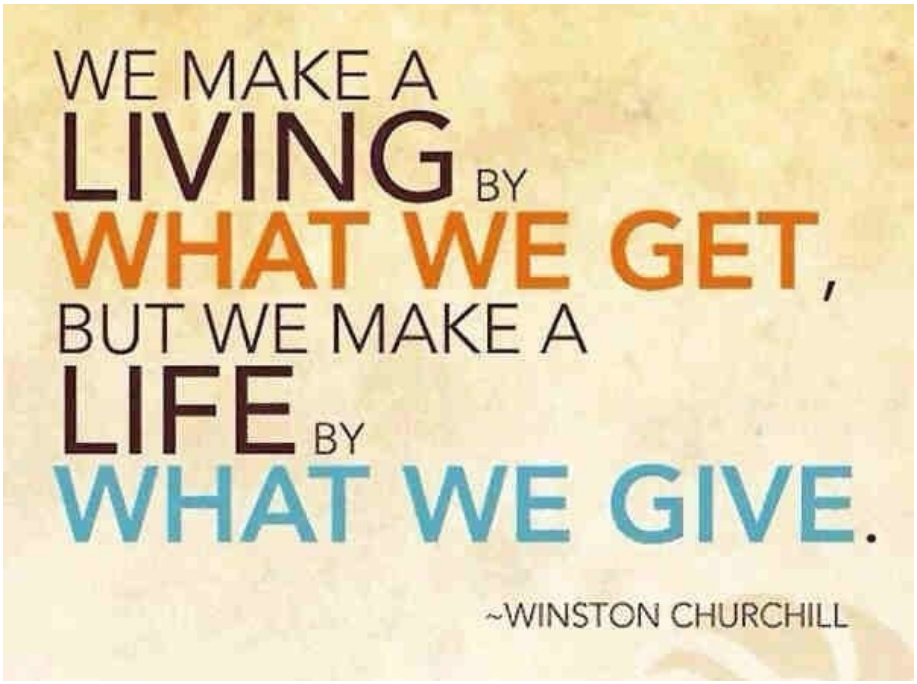
NEW YEAR'S DAY— Sun., January 1st, 2023
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

5 pm – (Saturday Vigil) English Mass
8 am – English Mass
10 am – English Mass
12 pm – Spanish Mass
3 pm – Vietnamese Mass

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Friday, Dec. 16 – 7pm

Please note there will be NO confessions at Nativity until Friday January 13th



PLEASE NOTE

OFFICES CLOSED

Due to the festivities, our offices will close Sunday and Monday all day. In case of an emergency that will require the presence of a priest call our number, and the call will be transferred to one of our priests. Thank you, and on behalf of all the Nativity Staff we would like to wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

CHRISTMAS TREE SPONSORS

We would like to thank our Church Christmas tree and decoration sponsors this year for helping to light up our church. A complete list will appear in next week's bulletin.

MEETINGS

All regular meetings will be cancelled on December 24, 25, 26, 31, January 1st and 2nd in observance of Christmas and New Year.

ANGEL TREE TOY & GIFT DRIVE

Thank you so very much for your support and generosity. We are still accepting donations. If you want to help, please bring your donations today or tomorrow at the latest, as gifts will be distributed on the next couple of days.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Thank you very much for spreading the word. The baskets will be ready for pick in the next couple of days. Because of your generosity and help we were able to bring the joy of Christmas to over 25 families in our community. May God bless you.

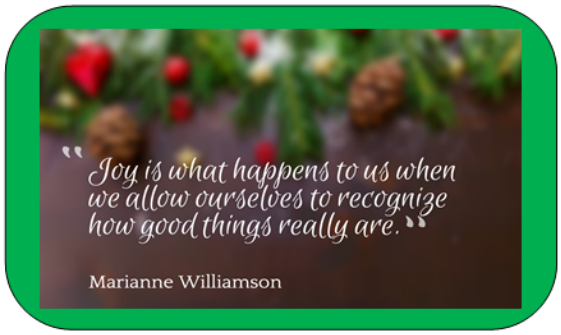
NATIVITY CHURCH
FLIPSIDE
YOUTH MINISTRY

Ruben Castorena
Director

Ruben Ruiz
Assistant Director

Sandra Jinesta
Coordinator of Confirmation

High School Confirmation Program



Advent Refection for Teens Week 4

Reflect on What It All Means

We talk a lot about Christ how beautiful it is that Christ has come for the salvation of all, but in doing so, it can become something that's just a reflex, something we talk about only out of habit.

The mystery of the Incarnation is a huge deal. Every other world religion believes more or less in the search for God, and man ascending towards Heaven; Christians are the only ones that believe in God coming to us, even taking on our humanity to redeem us.

Pondering these things in our heart can have a profound effect on how we approach the altar on Christmas day. For four weeks, we will have dove deeply into the richness of what this season celebrates, and what it all means for us as the ones Jesus came to save.

The season of Advent is a beautiful time of anticipation and preparation. We who love God lie with our hearts wide open, waiting to receive Him Who became our Redeemer.

I highly encourage you to enter into the beauty of this season and take full advantage of the time of preparation laid out for us by the Church.

Christ is almost here, my friends!

Stay awake, and be ready.

Flipside Thursdays

Volunteers Needed This Wednesday & Thursday December 21st & 22nd to assist with organizing food and toys for our

We will meet in the Youth Room at 5:00PM on both days!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Ruben Castorena
323-517-0236 or
Ruben Ruiz at 626-315-3428

CUARTO DOMINGO DE Adviento

18 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2022

SABIA USTED?

La línea telefónica de ayuda a niños abusados "ChildHelp Abuse" es un recurso valioso

La línea telefónica de ayuda directa para niños abusados, ChildHelp Abuse, es un recurso valioso disponible en todo el país para denunciar el abuso infantil. Si usted ha sido testigo de abuso, o si un niño le ha confiado que ha sido abusado, puede comunicarse con la línea telefónica ChildHelp Abuse para obtener información gratuita sobre qué hacer y dónde informar lo que usted sabe. Los consejeros están disponibles en esta línea para hablar sobre su situación, responder preguntas e investigar sobre recursos adicionales en su área. Para comunicarse con ChildHelp Abuse, puede llamar o enviar un mensaje de texto al 1-800-422-4453 o iniciar un chat en vivo en childhelphotline.org/.

VERDADERA GRATITUD

Los cuatro domingos de Adviento tienen cada uno su propio enfoque: "¡Manténganse despiertos!" (Primero); Juan el Bautista (Segundo); ¡Alégrense! (tercero); José/María (cuarto). Sin embargo, debemos tener un poco de piedad con el Cuarto Domingo, ya que las agitadas realidades del calendario secular pueden abrumarlo, particularmente en aquellos años en los que sólo hay uno o dos (¡o ningun!) días antes de la Navidad. Este año tenemos el lujo de una semana entera. ¿Qué haremos con este regalo de Dios? Quizás un poco más de caridad o de acción social en favor de los más pobres de Dios. Tal vez dedicar algo de tiempo a escuchar la voz de Dios en nuestros sueños, como hizo José. Asistir a la misa diaria, a la reconciliación de Adviento, o rezar las antífonas "O" (que comenzaron este sábado por la tarde). Como con todo don, mostramos la verdadera gratitud utilizándolo. Hagámoslo, como nos dice Pablo en Romanos, por el nombre de Jesús, cuya venida esperamos.

¿QUÉ CASA?

El interés por la genealogía es mucho, mucho más antiguo que la fascinación actual por utilizar el análisis de ADN para rastrear nuestra herencia. El Evangelio de Mateo inicia con la genealogía de Jesús, que se remonta hasta Abraham, el padre de la fe de Israel. Esto es lo que precede inmediatamente a la lectura del Evangelio de hoy, y es crucial para que escuchemos la frase inicial: "Así se produjo el nacimiento de Jesucristo". No es tanto un punto de partida, sino un punto de giro que sitúa a Jesús firmemente en la "casa de David" a través de José (en el judaísmo del siglo I, el linaje y la herencia se trazaban únicamente a través de los varones). Una interpretación esencial del Mesías era que vendría de la casa y el linaje del rey David. Para los que seguimos a Jesús en la fe, es importante recordar que fue a través de José que Jesús vino de la casa de David y fue hecho hijo de la alianza de Moisés.

¿QUÉ HOGAR?

El Evangelio de Mateo contiene también una escena de anunciación angélica; la escuchamos hoy. Se presenta otro punto de inflexión, cuando el ángel dice "No tengas miedo de recibir a María en tu casa". Como en la mayoría de las apariciones angélicas en las Escrituras, el ángel da una instrucción de no temer. Lo más importante es que el mensajero de Dios instruye a José para que acoja a María en su casa. Cuando José y María se desposaron, se constituyeron oficialmente en marido y mujer; el siguiente paso -aprobado por un ángel- habría sido que José acogiera a María en su casa. Así, proporcionó un lugar seguro a una joven en un embarazo problemático, y ofreció a su hijo un hogar, una herencia y un linaje. Este movimiento bastante difícil y arriesgado de José podría inspirarnos en esta época para buscar y ayudar en aquellos lugares donde la gente anhela tener una casa y, sobre todo, un hogar.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Isaías 7:10–14
Salmo 24 (23):1–2, 3–4, 5–6
Romanos 1:1–7
Mateo 1:18–24

POR FAVOR TOME NOTA

OFICINAS CERRADAS

Debido a las festividades, nuestras oficinas cerrarán el domingo y el lunes todo el día. En caso de una emergencia que requiera la presencia de un sacerdote, llame a nuestro número, y la llamada será transferida a uno de nuestros sacerdotes. Gracias, y en nombre de todo el personal de la Natividad, nos gustaría desearles una Feliz y Bendita Navidad.

PATROCINADORES DEL ARBOL DE NAVIDAD

Nos gustaría agradecer a los patrocinadores de la decoración y el árbol de Navidad de nuestra iglesia este año por ayudarnos a iluminar nuestra iglesia. Una lista completa aparecerá en el boletín de la próxima semana.

REUNIONES

Todas las reuniones regulares se cancelarán los días 24, 25, 26, 31 de diciembre, 1 y 2 de enero, en conmemoración de Navidad y Año Nuevo.

COLECTA DE JUGUETES Y REGALOS PARA EL ARBOL DE ANGELES

Muchas gracias por su apoyo y generosidad. Todavía estamos aceptando donaciones. Si desea ayudar, traiga sus donaciones hoy o mañana a más tardar, ya que las donaciones se distribuirán en los próximos días.

CANASTAS NAVIDEÑAS PARA FAMILIAS NECESITADAS

Muchas gracias por correr la voz. Las canastas estarán listas para ser recolectadas en los próximos días. Gracias a su generosidad y ayuda pudimos llevar la alegría de la Navidad a más de 25 familias en nuestra comunidad. Que Dios te bendiga.

Ya puede hacer donaciones en linea.

¡Nativity se complace en ofrecer donaciones en línea para que las familias donen fácilmente una vez o regularmente. Simplemente haga una donación completamente segura mediante cheque electrónico o tarjeta de débito/crédito visitando nativityelmonte.org/give. Si elige hacer una donación recurrente, se le pedirá por correo electrónico que cree su propia cuenta de donante en línea para administrar sus donaciones. ¡Es tan fácil como comprar o realizar operaciones bancarias en línea!
Provisto por eCatholic, la misma compañía que maneja la pagina web de la parroquia, este servicio de donaciones en línea ya ha sido un éxito comprobado en muchas parroquias, escuelas y diócesis. Y permite mantener un record más seguro, un procesamiento más rápido y una comunicación más eficiente para la oficina parroquial.
Obtenga más información y considere la posibilidad de hacer su donaciones sin la molestia de escribir cheques y sobres. Visite nativityelmonte.org/give.