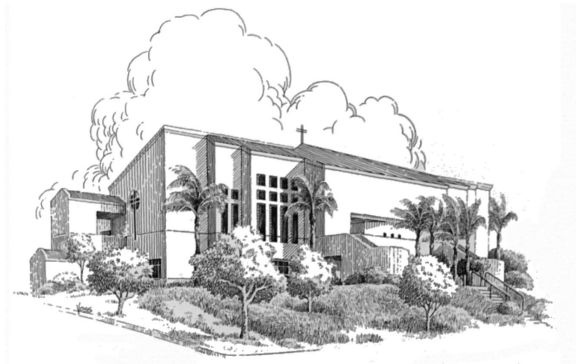


Parish Church of St. Timothy

2960 Canyon Rd. Escondido, CA 92025



website: StTimothyChurch.com
Church Office (760) 489 1200



*Prepare for
the Holy Days*

**Christmas Eve
5pm + 9pm**

Christmas Morning 9am



THIS WEEK'S PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ
your Son was made known by the message of
an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

The Second Reading

Commentary on Romans 1:1–7

This reading gives us the beginning of the great Letter to the Romans, in which Paul lays out the saving work of Christ. After proclaiming his apostolic office, Paul lays out the two aspects of Jesus. In his introductions to the letters Paul always briefly introduces or hints at the subject with which he is specially concerned in the letter. So here it is the dual aspect of Christ. If he were not both wholly human and Son of God, his supreme act of obedience on the Cross would not have saved us. And yet, it is by his resurrection that he lifts his followers to completion in the divine life, for we are baptized into his death and rise in his resurrection. According to his human nature he is a descendant of David, wholly human. At the same time he is Son of God in power through his resurrection from the dead. Paul does not, of course, suggest that before the resurrection he was not Son of God, but in some way the resurrection put him in the position of his full power as Son of God. The Incarnation and his birth in Bethlehem is the basis of all the theology of Salvation.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS CRIB FOR THE HOME



In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to Saint Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas creche or manger for Christmas eve of 1223. However, as early as the fourth century representations of the nativity of the Lord were painted as wall decorations depicting not only the infancy narrative accounts of Christ's birth, but also the words of the prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk taken to mean that the Messiah would be born in the midst of animals in a manger.

This rite is especially appropriate for use when the blessing takes place in the home and is given by a family member.

All make the sign of the cross while saying:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.



One of those present reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

The birth of Jesus. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. Luke (2:1-8)

Prayer of Blessing

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



Mark your calendars for **Sunday Night at St. Timothy's on January 8th**, the **Feast Day of the Epiphany** at 4pm with the **Choirs of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish**. Reception in the parish hall. All invited and welcome!



Mass Intentions

The Risen Lord continually offers Himself to His Heavenly Father for each and every one of us. A "Mass Intention" assures us that our names are "written" in His Sacred Heart.

Saturday, December 17th

5PM Betty Purcell (RIP)

Sunday, December 18th

8:30AM John & Linda Brennan

10:30AM Jack Gallagher (RIP)

Monday, Dec. 19th

John & Mary Brennen (RIP)

Tuesday, December 20th

Private Intention

Wednesday, December 21st

Betty Peishel (RIP)

Thursday, December 22nd

Joshua Smith

Friday, December 23rd

Jacob Smith

11th San Diego Walk for Life: Changing Hearts, Saving Lives: Join Cardinal McElroy and 2,000 faithfuls to stand up for the lives of the unborn on Saturday, January 14, 8:30 a.m. at Waterfront Park, Downtown San Diego. Bring your loved ones with life-affirming posters and enjoy inspirational speakers, live music, exhibitors, and raffles. Go to www.sandiegowalkforlife.org.



Fourth Week of Advent



From the Pastor: *I have written the following exercise based on the ancient Christian practice of Lectio Divina. At the center is a short reading from the Bible. By first opening the mind to our own memories and life experiences, we can touch the Scriptures, allowing God's Word to respond in a way we can personally appreciate.*

Recall and Notice

Remembering: Have you ever watched a Christmas play, maybe put on by children? What is the typical reaction of parents and teachers during the performance? Have you ever seen a child being born? What was it like or how do you imagine the reaction of those in the room, from parents, doctors and nurses? How prepared do you think everyone is at that moment?

Read: Luke 2: 1-20 The First Christmas

Reflect : God could have simply revealed His power and His presence instantly and brought the whole world to a standstill. Instead, the God and architect of the universe became embodied (what we call the "incarnation") in a vulnerable baby boy and was born in a makeshift animal shelter outside of an obscure village.

Review : From the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph's perspective how did the birth of

Jesus in these circumstances prepare them? 1. They learned quickly the realities of life 2. They had to "grow up" and learn how to cope. 3. They trusted that God would always protect them. 4. That hardship and sacrifices are always the best teachers.

Respond : From your own perspective when you find yourself thrown into unpredictable circumstances do you 1. Find yourself overwhelmed? 2. Wait out the storm? 3. Try to figure your way out? 4. Ask for help? 5. Go with the flow hoping it can only get better? 6. Take it slow and steady, stopping and starting anew as it unfolds?

After reflecting on your divine placement in the plan of God, consider this prayer.

*Heavenly Father,
You formed me in your own image and entrusted the whole world to my care, so that in serving you alone, the Creator, I might have influence over all your works. And when through disobedience I had severed friendship with you, you did not abandon me to despair.*

For you came to us by a small child so I might seek and find you and through your Son, to look forward to salvation.

And that I might live no longer for myself but for him who died and rose again for us, he sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father, as the first fruits for those who believe, so that, bringing to perfection his work in the world, he might sanctify all of creation to its perfection.

*Father, may I receive that same Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord.
Amen*
