

Dear Friends,

Today is the first of four Advent Sundays, to be followed by the feast of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This liturgical season tries to prepare us for Christmas. The first readings at Mass for the next four Sundays feature different prophets with words of encouragement and hope for the people of Israel. The Gospel readings are all from Luke. The first is an apocalyptic piece warning us to be vigilant. Then there are two stories about John the Baptist, to be followed by the account of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth.

Advent is about history. We can let our imagination travel back over the centuries and feel the yearnings of the people for a Messiah. We can ponder the coming of Jesus and how he did not meet the expectations they had at the time; but ironically in retrospect, we can see that he surpassed them in many ways.

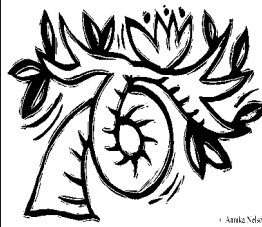
As you make your plans for this Christmas, your history will play a huge part in how you will celebrate. We typically send cards or gifts to the same people. We tend to decorate similarly to last year and the meal is probably identical. There may be reasons to do things differently this year. The economy has not yet rebounded. "Happy Holidays" and "Seasons Greetings" don't quite capture what it's all about for us as Catholics. So may I suggest something? How about having a family meeting where the true spirit of Christmas is talked about. Let's ask how Jesus, whose birthday it is, would like your family to celebrate it? Maybe you will choose to make plans for a decidedly different Christmas. Maybe one present each could be the new way. Concern for the poor could be expressed by a unique idea from your family. Clearly, Christmas has become a time that feeds the greedy side of us all. Maybe this will be the year we get back to basics. Meanwhile, may you have a blessed Advent season.

-Fr. McNamara



**First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2009**

I will raise up for David a
just shoot;
he shall do what is right and
just in the land.
— *Jeremiah 33:15*



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

every **Tuesday** in the Chapel,
beginning at **7:00 am** and ending with
Benediction at noon.



Gifts For the Spirit Gift Shop,
keeping Christ in Christmas, is
having a display of Christmas
nativity sets, Advent wreaths &
candles, jewelry and
Christmas cards. Donuts and
coffee will be free to kick off the
Advent Season. Today we have
some of these things in the gift
store. Come up, browse or buy
and beat the rush!

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The gift shop is located upstairs in the Parish
across from the Hall and is open **Sundays** from
9:15 am to 1:30 pm and **Monday thru Friday**
(check in the Parish Center office first) from
9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Bundle Sunday**

On Sunday, December 6th, our parish is having a
Bundle Sunday for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Please bring your usable clothing and usable
household items to St. Bernardine's School Pavilion
in the parking lot. Help them in their efforts to assist
the needy. Call them for pick up of heavy items at
323-224-6280 or **800-974-3571**

ALTAR CARE - December 1, 2009

Mary Kesterson, Amy Okonski,
Tony Palmisano, Angie Syp and
Antonia Tarazan



IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 5/6** Sandwich Sunday. Bagged meals (sandwich, chips, dessert, fruit) water, socks and blankets will be collected at all the Masses for distribution to those in need in the San Fernando Valley
- Dec 19/20** Food Gathering for Guadalupe Center and Loaves and Fishes Pantry

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
THANKSGIVING BREAK**

We do not have Religious Education classes the week of Thanksgiving, **Tuesday, November 24** and **Wednesday, November 25**.
Classes resume on **December 1 and 2**.
Happy Thanksgiving.



**Make Your Advent
Really Meaningful
This Year....**

**Come and explore these
stories anew with**

Dr. Laura Manzo
professor of scripture at
St. John's Seminary

Two Thursdays: Dec 3rd & 10th,

7:30 - 9:00 pm in the

**Parish Center Hall
Bring your Bible!**



FOCUS ON THE COMING OF CHRIST

Advent is that season of the liturgical year when we prepare for the coming of Christ. The Library has a quantity of Advent reading material for both children and adults. Here are some selections:

- Biblical Meditations for Advent and the Christmas Season,*
- Fathoming Bethlehem, Celebrating Advent with the Jesse Tree,*
- Inviting God In, When Christ Comes,*
- The Advent Storybook,*
- Angela and the Baby Jesus,*
- How Can I Celebrate Advent.*

For your convenience these and other books and DVDs related to the Advent season will be found on the special reading shelves next to the reception desk.

The **Parish Library** is open
Monday—Friday, 9:00-11:30 am and most
Sundays, after the 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 noon Masses, as well as 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.



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**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Bundle Sunday**

Just a reminder! The St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday is next Sunday, December 6th, in the parish parking lot before and after all masses. A St. Vincent de Paul truck will be available to receive your donations Saturday evening and after all masses on Sunday morning. We need your support! Remember to bring any **usable** items that will help needy individuals. For large items including furniture and large appliances, please phone **(323) 224-6280** or **(800) 974-3571** for home pickups.



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.Sunday, Dec 6th: Year One Candidate Session and Mass, 3:00-6:30 pm, Parish Center

Sunday, Dec 13th: Year Two Candidate Session and Mass, 3:00-6:30 pm, Parish Center

Concern America Craft Sale

On **Sat. & Sun., Dec. 12th & 13th**, volunteers from St. Bernardine's Peace & Justice Committee are hosting a Concern America Craft Sale with unique, quality handcrafts that provide us with the opportunity to purchase conscientiously. The gifts we find for special events, holidays, or to brighten our own homes are an exchange of caring with impoverished communities in developing countries. The inventory has been refreshed with a number of new crafts and designs. Inspired by nature, these beautifully crafted textiles, ceramics and wood products, honor indigenous traditions and were selected to be reminders that when a Concern American product is purchased we are providing a source of income to materially poor communities; promoting human scale endeavors; eco-friendly work patterns; and fair working conditions. Concern America is an international development and refugee aid organization based in Santa Ana, CA **714-953-8575**. You may view a selection of their crafts on their website: www.concernamerica.org

In your charity please pray for the sick of the parish:

Bertha Arvizu;

Hector Marusich; Nicole Mueller; Charlene Fenning; Laurie Pearson; Billy Nichols, husband of Booboo; Tom Lombardo; Lori Reed; Josephine Ramsey; Rita Pound;

Carol Sullivan; Marge Kluck; Brenda Jo Kramer

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls:

Duane (Whitey) Ryburn, father of Darin; Dale Sheets, father of Michael



Mass Intentions For The Week



November 29, 2009 thru December 5, 2009
SUNDAY

7:00 am Pro Populo

8:30 am Mark Bigbee+

10:00 am Jim Diven+

12:00 noon Bob Greenberg

5:30 pm Thomas P. Cusack+

MONDAY

6:30 am Thomas P. Cusack+

8:30 am Amelia Hunt+

TUESDAY

6:30 am Thomas P. Cusack+

8:30 am Mark Bigbee+

WEDNESDAY

6:30 am Amelia Hunt+

8:30 am Thomas P. Cusack+

THURSDAY

6:30 am Rick Rodriguez+

8:30 am Thomas P. Cusack+

FRIDAY

6:30 am Helen Gallagher+

8:30 am Thomas P. Cusack+

SATURDAY

8:30 am Leona & Vlerian Truscinski+

5:00 pm Thomas P. Cusack+

ATTENTION CAREGIVERS

A new ministry has started at St. Bernardine.

Many of us have found ourselves at a time in life where we are providing long term care for a loved one. Therefore, we have started a 'Caregivers Support Group', which is facilitated by Dr. Tracy Carlis, a licensed psychologist. She will help us to share our experiences and concerns. We can all learn from each other how best to function in this trying situation.

The next meeting will be **Thursday** evening **Dec 10** from **7:30 to 9:00 pm** in the Staff Conference Room downstairs in the Parish Hall.

Meetings will continue on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, if there is enough interest.

If you are interested, please call **Charlotte Fuchs** at **(818) 884-3935** or just show up at the meeting on Thursday.

ST. BERNARDINE'S PARISH LEADERS

Parish Council	Cathy Borowski	348-5650
Altar Care	Lucy Kerecman	998-6701
Altar Servers	Maria Giammatteo	884-2736
Baptism Classes	Deacon Jerry Cellner	888-8200
Bible Study (Thurs Grp)	Shirley Grochalski	347-6228
Coffee & Donuts	Angie Syp	222-1333
Cross Bearers	Dave Goracke	347-0192
Detention Ministry	Rudy Vlasak	347-7144
Environment	Maria Giammatteo	884-2736
Eucharistic Ministers	Robert Nicholas	346-8244
Facilities	John Erlinger	883-4345
Festival Chairpersons	Michelle Sjolander	999-6169
	Todd Borowski	348-5650
Finance Committee	Steve Kiser	999-6711
Funeral Buffet	Shirley Grochalski	347-6228
Gift Shop	Jean Sampson	888-7073
Justice & Peace Ministry	Michael Miller	340-4193
Lectors	Jack Maranto	887-6310
Library	Maria Giammatteo	884-2736
Magnificat	Pat Dunlap	346-5460
Marriage Encounter	Ed/Anna Marie Pudwill	348-1632
Mommy & Me	Kari Lovequist	710-1484
Music Ministry	Marilyn Enos	710-9788
Nursery Care Program	Michelle Reams/8:30 Mass	207-5441
	Carole Williamson/10:00	999-3764
OASIS	Monica Goudis	340-5100
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	June Hunter	713-8120
Pre-School	Charlene Barks	716-4730
RCIA	Steve & Sharron Ellms	340-2087
Religious Education	Eileen Fewless	340-1440
Retreats (Men's)	Jim Birkhead	348-4616
Safeguard the Children	Ray Barks	888-0833
Sick/Homebound)	Dcn. Dale Taufer	888-8200
Silverado Music Ministry	Jo & Rudy Vlasak	347-7144
School	Peggy Hill	340-2130
Scouting (Boy Scouts)	Gary Bishop	998-7917
(Cub Scouts)	Tony Cassar	999-1063
(Girl Scouts)	Kim Palkovic	992-0737
Senior Luncheon	Karen Brown	591-1520
Social Activities	Janet Barnett	348-6262
Tithing	Frank Loffa	880-8101
Ushers	Donna Forrester	712-9922
Welcoming Committee	Darma Trafecanty	515-2039
Women on the Journey	Jean Sampson	346-8116
Youth Ministry	Andrew Gafvert	710-1662

Louisville H.S. Open House-Sunday, Dec. 6th

Louisville H.S. Entrance Exam-Sat., Jan. 30th

Families and friends of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend Louisville High School's Open House on **Sunday, Dec. 6th**. Come tour the campus, meet the faculty and enjoy performances by our student singers and dancers.

The program will begin at **11:00 a.m.** Please visit **louisvillehs.org** for more information or contact us with questions at **(818) 346-8812**.



Crisis Pregnancy Hotline

(800)973-7334

Abortion Recovery Help

(877)467-3463 &

www.rachelsvineyard.org

Holy Family Adoption Services

(805)374-2785

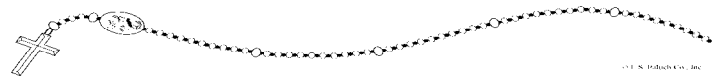
78th Annual Celebration in Honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe on Dec. 6th to Spread Message of Hope: 'DO NOT BE AFRAID'

WHEN: Sunday, December 6, 12:00 noon

Procession-corner of Cesar Chavez Ave/ Ford Blvd.
Mass-East Los Angeles College Stadium
1301 Cesar Chavez Ave. (off Bleakwood St.)



All are invited to accompany the images and the Guadalupe Torch during the procession, which will include decorated floats, Aztec and multi-ethnic dancers, music and songs in honor of the Blessed Mother. The procession will end with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Roger Mahoney at the East Los Angeles College Stadium, 1301 Cesar Chavez Avenue, in Monterey Park. The homily will be delivered by Bishop Gabino Zavala. At the end of Mass, all will be invited to venerate the pilgrim image of the virgin with roses. For more information, call **St. Marcellinus 323-269-2733** or visit **www.AL-peregrinos.org**



Rosary Exhibit and Virtual Pilgrimage To Marian Shrines

Travel no farther than Chatsworth
December 8-11

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Rancho San Antonio Boys Home gymnasium
21000 Plummer St., Chatsworth



Pregnancy Counseling Center

WANTED: Pregnant ladies for FREE ULTRASOUNDS!

The **Pregnancy Counseling Center** is looking for women who are **6-28 weeks pregnant** to volunteer for free ultrasounds so that our Center can complete our medical conversion and nurse training. The ultrasounds will be performed under the supervision of a registered sonographer, and you will receive a free picture of your unborn baby.

WHEN? Nov. 30th-Dec. 3rd or Dec. 9th-12th. Morning and afternoon appointment available.

WHERE: The Pregnancy Counseling Center at 10211 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills, CA 91345

I'D LOVE TO COME!

HOW DO I GET SIGNED UP?

Call **818-895-2500** and ask for **Christie**

St. Bernardine of Siena December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Eucharistic Adoration 7:00am - Chapel Religious Education 4:00pm	2 Religious Education 4:00pm RCIA 7:30pm	3 Dr. Laura Manzo Luke 1 & 2 Study 7:30pm in the Hall Baptism Class 7:30pm	4 Senior Citizen Mass/Luncheon 11:30am	5 Job Search Seminar 9:00am in the Staff Conference Center
6 St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday Nursery Care 8:30am and 10:00am RCIC	7 Senior Exercise Class 9:30am in the Veranda	8 Euch. Adoration 7am Rel. Ed. 4:00pm Parish Council 7:30pm Feast of Immaculate	9 Religious Education 4:00pm RCIA 7:30pm	10 Dr. Laura Manzo Luke 1 & 2 Study 7:30pm in the Hall	11	12
13 Nursery Care 8:30am and 10:00am RCIC	14 Senior Exercise Class 9:30am in the Veranda	15 Euch. Adoration 7am NO Religious Ed. Parish Penance Ser- vice 7:30pm	16 NO Religious Ed. RCIA 7:30pm	17 School Christmas Program	18	19 Cub Scout Christmas Party
20 Nursery Care 8:30am and 10:00am RCIC	21 Senior Exercise Class 9:30am in the Veranda Justice & Peace	22 Eucharistic Adoration 7:00am - Chapel NO Religious Ed.	23 NO Religious Ed. RCIA 7:30pm	24 Christmas Eve Masses: 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm and 10:00 pm	25 Christmas Day Masses: 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00pm	26
27 NO RCIC	28 NO Exercise Class	29 Eucharistic Adoration 7:00am - Chapel NO Religious Ed.	30 NO Religious Ed. NO RCIA	31		