

Dear Friends,

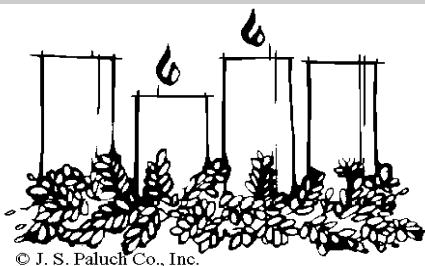


This coming week has two special days celebrating Mary the Mother of Jesus.

December 8th is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is often misunderstood as referring to the conception of Jesus but the feast of the conception of Jesus is celebrated March 25th. That's nine months before Christmas and known as the Annunciation. It recalls the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary the conception of Jesus. This feast on Tuesday is a celebration of Mary being conceived without sin. Mary is really special to us in our theology, our spirituality and in the environment of our church buildings. The honor she had to carry Jesus and give birth to him places her above all humans ever born. Tuesday then is a Holyday of Obligation meaning of course that we are required to attend Mass that day. Here's the schedule: Monday evening 7:30 PM then Tuesday 6:30 & 8:30 AM and 7:30 PM.

December 12th, next Saturday is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is the patron saint of the Americas. Her well know iconic image is very familiar to us and as you know from the story of Juan Diego, the image miraculously appeared on his serape. His serape is now venerated in the Cathedral of Mexico City and it is a popular place of pilgrimage. Saturday will be a good day to pray for guidance for our politicians and blessings for our country

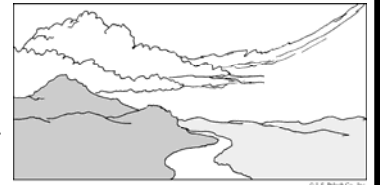
-Fr. McNamara



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.
— Baruch 5:7



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

The Magnificat Intercessory Prayer Group will meet at **10:00 am, Thursday, December 10th**, in the Veranda Room

Adopt a Family Christmas Caring & Sharing

The St. Bernardine Parish Justice and Peace Committee invites you to participate in the Guadalupe Community Center Adopt a Family program again this year. The number of families in need is greater than ever. If you are fortunate to have a job, please consider helping with a donation of cash or script. No donation is too small. Volunteers will be at the Adopt a Family table after all masses to provide information.



ALTAR CARE - December 11, 2009

Jan Wheatman, Sue Vigo, Fran Van Buskirk, Jan Peixoto, Will & Ann Gartland

St. Vincent de Paul Society Bundle Sunday

Just a reminder, today 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. The truck will be here from **8:30 am - 1:30 pm**. Please 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**



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



FOCUS ON ONE PERSON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The book Three Cups of Tea (a best seller) describes how an American mountain climber becomes a Humanitarian, committed to reducing poverty in remote isolated villages in Pakistan, by building a school for the children who have nothing. He started with no funds and had many challenges including death threats, the adverse and most hostile climate, the remote mountainous terrain and long periods of separation from his family. However, he eventually overcame these challenges and went on to complete the school and to establish an Institute dedicated to building many schools in the remote areas of Central Asia. This **true story** is a great example of how one person with persistence and tenacity made a difference in the lives of many. Something to remember in the Advent Season is that we all do make a difference in the lives of others.



Mark Your Calendars
 Saturday, **February 20th** - Save the Date!!!
 The Wild Bunch Saloon & Casino Spring Event
6:30 pm
 Cactus Mac's Parish Hall

Special "Merry Christmas"
 Dinner with Friends
 December 20, 2009

Join us for our special Christmas "Dinner with Friends" after the 5:30 Mass on Sunday, Dec. 20th. Youth Ministry and the St. B's "Cooking Club" will be presenting a special "Christmas Dinner with Friends". Our special holiday meal will feature: Roasted Tri Tip Beef, Roasted Red Potatoes, vegetables and concluding with a mouth watering dessert. We are planning some special holiday touches to make for a great evening event. This delicious meal will be served starting about 6:45 in the Parish Center. The cost will again be \$5.00 per person and beverages will be provided. Tickets for the dinner should be purchased in advance, if possible. You may purchase tickets from Bob Nicholas or in the parish center during normal business hours. Any questions, please call **Bob Nicholas (818) 346-8244**.

Hope to see you there! Merry Christmas!

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.



Grief Support Group

The death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. A support group with others who have also had deaths can be very helpful in this grief journey. An adult, Faith-based Grief Support Group will be held at St. Bernardine's on 9 Monday evenings, beginning on **Jan 11, 2010, and ending on Mar 15, 2010. Pre-registration is required.** Attendance at all 9 meetings is highly recommended for your benefit. **To register**, please call the Parish Center, 818-888-8200, Monday through Friday - (9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm)

Registration closes Friday, December 18th, 2009

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Confirmation

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

Sunday, Dec 20th: Year One Candidate Session and Mass, 3:00-6:30 pm, Parish Center

Time to Register for 'Youth Day'

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles' annual Youth Day is not until *Thurs., March 18th*, but we need to register our participants this month. Each year, over 15,000 Catholic youth and their chaperones descent upon the Anaheim Convention Center for this energy filled day of music, speakers, liturgies and much more. Please contact the **Youth Ministry Office** at **818-710-1662** or **stbcym@gmail.com** to register your youth for this event. This event is for high school youth and their chaperones only.

Registration forms, and fees of **\$50** (includes transportation), for this event need to be submitted to the Youth Ministry Office **on or before December 15th**.

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

Diane Milan; Sue Spaet; Aurelio Salazar, husband of Rose; Bertha Arvizu; Hector Marusich; Nicole Mueller; Charlene Fenning; Billy Nichols; Tom Lombardo; Lori Reed; Brenda Jo Kramer



Please pray for the happy repose of the souls:

Norman Jacob, grandfather of Aaron Jacob; Yani Abcede, friend of Ramon Reyes

Mass Intentions For The Week



December 6, 2009 thru December 12, 2009

SUNDAY

7:00 am Pro Populo

8:30 am Maria Beltran

10:00 am Pedro Mangubat+

12:00 noon Thomas P. Cusack+

5:30 pm Nazri Yarur+

MONDAY

6:30 am Jack Johnstone+

8:30 am Betty Brich+

7:30 pm Brenda Jo Kramer

TUESDAY

Immaculate Conception of

Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am Karen Keefe

8:30 am Barbara Storey

7:30 pm Larry McClean

WEDNESDAY

6:30 am Carmela Noboa+

8:30 am Dorthy Marguerite Lee

THURSDAY

6:30 am Aurora Macario+

8:30 am Stephen Kirkham

FRIDAY

6:30 am Joseph Bulger

8:30 am Brenda Jo Kramer

SATURDAY

8:30 am Daniel Boone+

5:00 pm Christie Kwan

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	MichelleReams/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



Gifts for the Spirit

Your parish gift shop celebrates this 2nd Sunday in Advent and Feast of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas who was born in Asia minor in 280 AD and was known as a kind, benevolent man; indeed, made a saint, because of his generosity. Dec. 6th became the Traditional day in Europe for the exchange of Christmas gifts. Brought to the U.S. by Dutch immigrants,. Americas call him Santa Claus. This giving of gifts to one another in love is as Jesus came to us out of love as our gift.

Come to the gift shop to see what we have in store for you in honor of the birth of Jesus: Nativity sets, Advent wreaths and candles, Christmas cards, gifts and more. We will be open **after the Saturday 5:00 pm mass on Dec. 5th, 12th and 19th.; after the Sunday 8:30, 10:00 am, 12:00 and 5:30 pm masses on Dec. 6th, 13th and 20th,** for



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

Rosary Exhibit and Virtual Pilgrimage To Marian Shrines

Travel no farther than Chatsworth

December 8-11

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

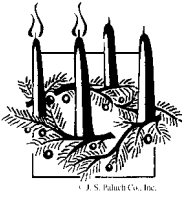
Rancho San Antonio Boys Home gymnasium
21000 Plummer St., Chatsworth

Ensuring Your Child's School is Safe

Every teacher, coach and volunteer who work with children in the Los Angeles Archdiocese's parishes and schools must have a background check before he or she is permitted to work in any school or parish-related job or activity that involves contact with children. But many of our children attend non-Catholic private or public schools. What steps do these schools take? Talk with school administrators and find out what steps they take to protect children from harm. Suggest that they review other abuse prevention programs to ensure that their policies and practices are up to date. And demand that all employees and volunteers who work in the school be properly screened, including background checks, before they are allowed to be near your children. For more information, please call the Archdiocesan Safeguard the Children office at **213-637-7227.**



Crisis Pregnancy Hotline
(800)973-7334
Abortion Recovery Help
(877)467-3463 &
www.rachelsvineyard.org
Holy Family Adoption Services
(805)374-2785



St. Bernardine Adult Faith Enrichment

presents

Dr. Laura Manzo

speaking on the

Origin, Purpose, and Meaning of the Infancy Narratives in the Gospel of Luke



Dr. Manzo is professor of Hebrew and Scripture at St. John's Seminary. She holds an S.T.L. in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a Ph.D in Biblical Studies from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Companion books: *A Coming Christ in Advent* and *An Adult Christ at Christmas* both by Raymond E. Brown.

It is not at all necessary to purchase or read the books before attending the sessions.

Please bring your bible!

We think coming to hear these presentations will help everyone to really appreciate the gospel stories of Advent and Christmas.-

– **Two Thursday Evenings** –

December 3 & December 10, 2009

7:30 p.m. – 9:00

St. Bernardine of Siena Parish Hall

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**

Louisville H.S.

Entrance Exam-Sat., Jan. 30th

Please visit **louisvillehs.org** for more information or contact us with questions at **(818) 346-8812**.

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? 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**