



PRESENTATION *of the* **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

DECEMBER 26, 2021 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



THE NATIVITY *of the Lord*

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11



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SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Thursdays @ 6pm

Saturdays @ 4pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday

24 hours a day

DAILY MASS

MONDAY—SATURDAY

8am

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30pm

SUNDAY

8am, 10:30am, 4:30pm

OUR MISSION

OUR PARISH MISSION IS TO BRING SOULS TO THE SALVATION WHICH JESUS CHRIST HAS WON FOR US, BY OUR PROCLAMATION OF AND WITNESSING TO THE SPLENDOR, BEAUTY AND FULLNESS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH.



OUR PARISH

DECEMBER 26TH, 2021

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MONDAY-THURSDAY:
8:30am-4:30pm*
FRIDAY:
8:30am-12:00pm

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PBVM PARISH MEMBERS



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T/Th/F: 9-11am

President : **Joe DeMarco**



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916.487.9620



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916.481.7441



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It is very easy to donate to our parish!

You can donate:

- Online via Faith Direct (faithdirect.net/CA689)
- In the collection baskets before/after Mass
- Mail your donation to the office
- Drop off your donation in the mail slot



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS

12/19/21

N/A

Thank you for your generous donations!

Please pray for the sick in our parish:

Cynthia Santos	Peg Mapes
Grecielia Zuranich	Ed. St. Amour
Josie Garcia	Lynn Hauf
Cathy Rasmussen	James Sawyer

Please pray for the recently deceased in our parish:

James Ashen	Carl DiCapo
Joseph Vizcarra	Wally Dondero
Jack Kocunik	Jim Beresford
Verd Nommensen	Vienna Golsong



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Christmas Night: A Meditation

By Sr. Rene Noel Blanchard, O.P.

Joseph Speaks:

When we finally entered the cave, it was early evening. It wasn't much, but it was dry and quiet. It had rained that afternoon, which was unusual. The air was crisp, and the ground was a little muddy. We spent the rest of the evening in prayerful silence. I helped Mary prepare the manger and we found enough clean straw for all of us to be comfortable. The cave was large, and we had plenty of space, even with the animals.



As the light faded, the clouds cleared, and a brilliantly washed sky shone with thousands of stars. I think I dozed a couple of times, but Mary stayed awake and prayed in an intense posture of joy and anticipation. Near the middle of the night, when the darkness was deepest, Mary turned to me and told me sweetly that it was time. I lit a small oil lamp for her, and after making sure she had everything she could need, I left the cave.

Outside it was oppressively dark. The stars were bright, but it seemed that something kept their light from reaching the earth. It was also very cold, even for winter, and I wrapped my cloak around my shoulders more tightly as I found a place to sit. I hadn't been sitting long when there broke above me an incredible light. It didn't appear suddenly, like lightening, but more naturally, as when the sun finally crests over the horizon. A brilliant star, almost as bright as the moon and, it seemed, at least an eighth of its size, glittered in the sea of darkness above me. It cast a sharp silver light all around and made the field where I was look like it was coated in diamonds. The light drew me, and I began making my way back to the cave.

I could tell that He was born not from any sound, but from the unearthly light that flooded from the cave. As I drew near it seemed the whole entrance was glowing as if it were lit by many torches, though I had only left one small lamp. I walked quietly to the entrance and shall never forget the sight that first met my eyes.

There was the Mother, holding her Son and gazing at Him with unutterable tenderness. I could not see the Baby, just Mary's luminous face. Never had I seen true beauty before that moment! Though Mary always had about her a gentleness and purity that made her radiant, as she gazed on her Son for the first time her face shone like a thousand suns. In the light of His face, hers had become almost divine...it was at the very limit of what I could behold, and it took my breath away.

I hesitated then. Mother and Son were so rapt in adoring love I felt like an intruder. I would have been happy to leave them in peace: to have seen that sight filled my heart more than I can say. But just as I was turning to go, Mary, sensing my hesitation, lifted her eyes to me. That luminous gaze now rested on me, her unworthy husband, and with a smile and a graceful gesture of her arm she beckoned me in.

It was always like that with Mary: over the years she and Jesus shared an intimacy that I could not even begin to comprehend, but Mary was always meeting my gaze, inviting me in. She wanted me to share in her love for Jesus. She wanted me to have a part in their unique relationship and to taste its fruit.

With that invitation, I entered the cave; I admit I was slightly shaken. I realized that this was hallowed ground. I always knew Mary was unique and special, but this night I realized that she was the Queen of the Angels, bathed in a supernatural light I was far from understanding.

Entering softly, I sat down next to her and beheld the little Child wrapped in her embrace. He was snuggled deep in her arms, enfolded in swaddling bands, peacefully asleep. Then, suddenly, as I was following the curve of his tiny arm with my eyes, she lifted Him to me and placed the Babe in my arms!

What wonder was this! I was satisfied to adore, but then I became His resting place! I lifted a trembling finger and touched his tiny hand. Jesus then stirred in His sleep, and his fragile hand, that of a baby not yet an hour old, closed around my calloused carpenter's finger... (Continued on the next page)



My heart nearly tore itself to pieces for love and joy! Mine was the first sinful flesh that His perfect flesh touched... mine was the first heart he reached out and healed in His humanity! From that moment on I never again wrestled with thoughts of unworthiness, as I had so often in the preceding months and even previously that night when I couldn't find Mary a decent place to stay. From that moment my life's purpose was only to serve Him and His Mother. My heart belonged to them a thousand times over, more than it ever had before.

In those moments holding Jesus on that first Christmas night, I realized that I was the one being held in this mystery. Here was Mary's Child. Here was the Word become Flesh, the weakest of all flesh: baby flesh.

My soul was full and overflowed. I think I must have wept, but I don't recall. I do not know how long I held the Child. I only knew I would be the happiest man to ever exist if I could do nothing else but hold Him for eternity. It could have been hours or minutes, I don't know, but eventually I stirred from my adoration and lifted Him gently back to His Mother. Mary took him lovingly and kissed his forehead, and it was then that I realized she also had streaks of tears running down her cheeks. I never asked what she was thinking in those moments, but years later, as I lay stricken by my final illness, she told me that her heart, too, had been full. She had said that handing Jesus to me had been her first handing over to all humanity, and that her heart had been pierced with the first bitter arrows of separation, and yet aglow with the joy of the dawn of redemption. She told me that she loved to watch me hold Jesus, since He was delighted to be in my arms, and that I was never more of a man than when I was holding Him. Praise the mercy of God that was pleased to encompass me with the love of this Holy Virgin! Would that I could love her as she has loved me!

Shortly after she took Him back, we settled in for the night. She laid Jesus in the manger prepared for Him and stretched out on the sweet-smelling hay right next to Him. Exhausted from the night, a happy stillness came over me and I quickly fell asleep.

Of course, later on that night there were more wonders with the shepherds' visit and the angel choirs. But in my heart, I will always treasure that first intimate meeting, when I gazed upon the One whose son I am, yet who called me 'father' for many years. May He be forever blessed and glorified in His Holy Incarnation! Amen. Alleluia.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

<i>Monday 12/27 - 8am</i>	All Souls Day
<i>Tuesday 12/28 - 8am</i>	Antonio Monedero (L) Anthony Piedmonte (D)
<i>Wednesday 12/29 - 8am</i>	Sr. Mary Bernard (L) Bradshaw & Mellon Families (L&D)
<i>Thursday 12/30 - 8am</i>	Maureen Bradshaw (L) Stephanie Cooper (D)
<i>Friday 12/31 - 8am</i>	Pat Deragisch (D) Sr. Rene Noel (L)
<i>Saturday 1/01 - 8am</i>	Dolly Donahue (D)
<i>Saturday 1/01-5:30pm</i>	Jack Kocunik (D) Morales Children (D)
<i>Sunday 1/02 8am</i>	Josie Garcia (L)
<i>Sunday 1/02 - 10:30am</i>	Gail Cohee (L)
<i>Sunday 1/02 - 4:30pm</i>	Pro Populo (L)

Adult Confirmation 2022

Presentation Parish is offering an Adult Confirmation class for adults age 18 or older who are already Baptized Catholics but missed confirmation.



Our classes will begin in January.

If you are interested, please contact Sidney Curry for a registration form and more information.

Sid@presentationparish.org
916-482-8883



**Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year!
Saturday, January 1st | 8:00am

**Happy
New Year!**

With God's Blessings,
Fr. Stanley

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Parent Information Night

Saturday, January 8, at 7pm
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Immaculata Hall

Adults only please; babies in arms welcome.



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RSVP at www.ChestertonSacramento.org

*It is Christmas every
time you let God
love others through
you. Yes, it is Christmas
every time you smile
at your brother
and offer him your
hand.*

Mother Teresa

NO CFF CLASSES for children on
Sunday, Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

May the miracle of Christmas fill you with peace and
joy. See you Sunday, January 10th!

Adult Faith Formation

The preparations for Christmas include buying or making gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given to us: his Son, our Jesus Christ our LORD.

Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you at Christmas.

*For information about RCIA,
contact Sidney at 916.482.8883*

Who Everyone! Invite a neighbor or friend!

When Monday, December 27th from 7-9pm

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BOGO

Benny's Corner



Mreemree – mreew Owwh

Oh Holy Family, it's your feast day! My ears listen and I try to sing when my pawpa sings Si-ii—lent Night.

"Bennn – are you sing – ing with Da-Da?" he copies in his Sing-Christmas Carols-With-Me voice. His cheeks are rozy red and his eyes twinkl sky blue happy.

Wonder if my eyes twinkl, too. They're green like leafs 'cuz I saw them when I peeked in the meer once. And we both have white whiskers. So we can bring our Christmas color to Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus. Pawpa has rozy cheeks and Pawpa said I have a pink tongue. He has blue eyes and I have green eyes. And we have white whiskers. Rozy red. Blue. Pink. Green. White.

"The Holy Family gives us the model of a family. Bound together in love, each member gives honor and glory to God. By their very existence, even the animals in the manger at the birth of Our Lord gave honor and glory to God Most High. Their voices offered their own song to the King of Kings."

"Mreh-mreh," I nod. "Mir-irts," I meow in my Sing-Christmas Carols-With-Me voice.

"Aah-ha ha, Benkovski meows catsong like the birds chirp birdsong." He scoops me up.

"Anh . . ." I prompt.

"Ah, yes. The Holy Innocents." He shakes his head, sets me down and walks over to the little manger. "Come."

"Mray-ees," I whisper. I sit in quiet homage like one of the animals did at the Nativity of Jesus.

"BABIES! Benkovski, you have a memory like an elephant."

I shake my head. I'm smaller than an elephant. Do they have bigger brains? But I'm a Very Smart Cat so I don't need a big brain.

Pawpa laughs. "That's just an expression Little Cat. But you are now two years old. That's the same age as children affected by Herod's decree. The horror of the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents struck at the very heart of the family. Each child was an expression of the love between a husband and wife."

I blink a cat kiss at Pawpa.

"But now, Ben, we look to the Solemnity of Mary. We honor her as the Mother of God, Queen of Peace. And January 1st designates New Year's Day as the World Day of Peace. Her fiat blessed all of mankind for eternity."

Pawz up Holy Family, head bent for the Holy Innocents, and Two Pawz up to the Queen of Peace!

Benny



GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas Eve • Matthew 1:1-25

What are you thankful for?



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY
JOSEPH
HOLY SPIRIT

WEDDING
ANGEL
DREAM

BABY
JESUS
VIRGIN

V I R G I N T H W I S
J C S H U J O S E P H
D R E A M R W I D A O
S O B Y A O N U D G W
M E N G R W E A I S D
T B A B Y B M O N A E
R E N D R O I T G J O
S P G O H F J E S U S
K A E I V N A G M D L
H O L Y S P I R I T Y
S R H N E D L S E H A

MISSION

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION FAMILY CORNER

Question of the Week

How can Jesus be born into your heart this Christmas?

Family Prayer

Lord, help us to seek and see you as we celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas. Amen.



Parent Resources

gospelweeklies.com/family



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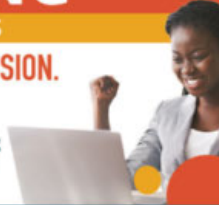
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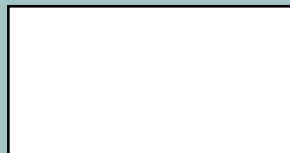
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