

*Fourth Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**

December 22 2019



Volume 19 \* Issue 51

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
1019 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 \* 916-444-3071



# Pastor's Corner

*"And they shall name him Emmanuel. 'God is with us.'"*

God is with us. What a beautiful idea, to believe that if there really is a God, He is not distant, far-off, and unapproachable, but rather present, near, and with us. God is with us.

Today, I suppose, much of our society would first have to believe that there really is a God. Many people today do not profess belief in any God or higher power. There are many reasons for why someone does not believe: life is too difficult, believers are hypocrites, the focus on one's self, etc. Clearly, if God were with us, wouldn't we all believe? Even believers have trouble with their faith at times.

However, if God were really with us in the manner we understand "with us," we would cease to live our lives on any level that is human. "God with us" would overpower us. Our full attention and appetite and desire would be and could be only on God. Our humanity would be swallowed up in God's divinity and "God with us" would actually destroy us. That is not what God wants and it is not what most of us want (yet).

So, "God with us" is much more subtle. His presence is silent, motionless, and often undetectable by our limited human senses. God Who Is with Us leaves room for questions and arguments and even doubt. What a beautiful God this is, longing to reveal that He is with us yet limiting His limitlessness so that we are not dissolved in His greatness.

Some might ask "what good is a 'God with us' if this God can never really reveal himself?" Yet, of course, this God does reveal Himself in the gentle touching of our hearts and consciences. Prayer and silence help us to be in tune with this presence. He reveals Himself in the beautiful example of the saintly lives of believers (and some non-believers). He reveals himself through fantastic apparitions and miracles which often seem too extraordinary to believe. He reveals himself through the sacraments which nurture us but never over-power us. He reveals Himself in the Incarnation of Jesus who could have dissolved humanity in His greatness, but rather caressed our lives with a human touch.

This is "God is with us;" a necessary silent lover who knows His love is too great for His beloved, so He is simply with us. He sees us. He hears us. He walks with us. He's right here, with us.

Fr. Michael.



2 And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

# History of Christmas Trees



Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims' second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. Unlike the previous royal family, Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the German-American sect continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition. (history.com/editors)

## Everyday Stewardship Afraid, Yet Never Alone

I did not end up being the great parent I had hoped I would be. I am not saying I was bad, but I was not the cool dad who did all things right and led my children by the example of my endlessly good actions. I messed up a bunch. Sometimes I was afraid. I was afraid of decisions I had to make and the possible repercussions. At times, I was afraid that I was not strong enough to lead my family. The fear occasionally led me toward inaction or eventual mistakes. The only thing that got me through the tough times and allowed me to see it was okay was Jesus. Without Jesus, I would never have been half of the father and husband I have been through the years.

When we try to tackle life alone, we can find ourselves in a very lonely position. Just like Jesus' parents, we need God to assist us and provide us with the strength for what lies ahead. Joseph needed God to be with him as he took Mary as his wife and became a father. Every parent needs God to become more than they can be on their own.

How do you treat those who you love? Who is there to help you when a relationship faces an obstacle? We are called to love others as our Father in heaven loves us. That is really an unreachable goal. Yet with God, all things are possible. As this Advent ends, may your Christmas be about more than presents and decorations. May the most profound gifts you give and receive be that of each other, and may your lives be decorated with the fruits of that love.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

**Question:** I can't explain it. I feel a nudge from God to something out of the ordinary. How do I respond?

**Answer:**

You're in good company! Abraham was asked to leave all he knew and loved for a strange land, with only abstract divine assurance that such a sacrifice would be worth it. Plenty of prophets protested against God's call, whether it was claiming they were too young (Jeremiah) or running away entirely, only to end up in a whale's belly (Jonah). St. Joseph was asked to do something very strange. He was asked to believe — on the word of an angelic appearance in a dream — that his betrothed was pregnant not from another man, but by a miraculous intervention of God. Then he was called to marry her.

Author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." Sometimes God's invitation might seem strange or challenging. It might require sacrifices we never expected to make. Our life might look different than we had always imagined. But as we all know, life throws its own curveballs, regardless of whether or not we're listening for God's will. Better, one would think, to be open to the promptings of God and to follow along the strange trails that they lead. We have the assurance that, eventually, we will find green pastures.

And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



# ADVENT

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." (Mt 1:20b-21a)

The **FESTIVAL OF TREES** ministry leaders wish to thank the parish, ministries, and many volunteers, for making the 12th Annual Festival of Trees a huge success. The festival made approximately \$20,000 this year, bringing our 13 year total to over \$275,000. This makes it possible for the parish to continue to provide food, lunches, and assistance to the downtown homeless and needy. Donations are still being accepted and a final total amount raised will be given at a later date.



Help decorate the Cathedral with beautiful flowers for Christmas. We will be taking donations of potted **POINSETTIAS** on December 22nd, in Mary's Chapel. To make other arrangements, contact cathedral-sacramento@gmail.com.

**DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN AGES 2 TO 4?** In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the youngest children form deep, lifelong relationships with God. Visit [www.youngsheep.org](http://www.youngsheep.org) to learn more, and call us at 916-834-6765 to schedule a visit.

**Catholic Viewpoint, Faith, Hope and Love**, hosted by Fr. Michael Kiernan. View on Comcast 20, Consolidated 19 and AT&T 14, Times: Sun. 7:00 AM, Tues. 9:30 AM, Weds. 8:30 PM, and Thurs. 5:00 PM. All shows are also on **YouTube** and website [CatholicviewpointFHL.com!](http://CatholicviewpointFHL.com)

## OFFERTORY REPORT

November 23/24	\$8,314	-\$3,186	72%
Nov 30 / Dec 1	\$7,864	-\$3,636	68%
December 7/8	\$8,556	-\$2,944	74%

## THE BIBLE TIMELINE: THE STORY OF SALVATION BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON JANUARY 9, 2020

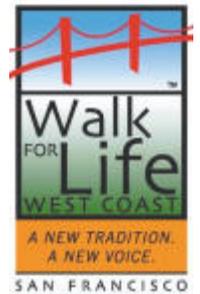
The Bible Timeline is a Catholic Bible study that can help anyone to make sense of the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. The study takes you on a journey through the entire Bible and brings you deep into each period of salvation history so that you can discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture.

The study will include a series of twenty-three videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. We will meet every Thursday from 7pm to 8:30 in the lower level of the Cathedral. After 23 sessions you will receive a certificate of completion.

Attendance is free. We will also provide materials. Please join us for a life-changing journey through the Bible! See you there!

## 16<sup>TH</sup> WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST • SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA •

Join thousands of fellow Catholics and Pro-lifers from all over California and beyond as we proclaim to the world the sanctity of life. Let's stand up for the littlest among us at the 16<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 25, 2020. Reserve your seat or buy your bus ticket today. The Respect Life ministry will be outside the church after masses to give you more information or contact Veronica Avina at (916) 205-0713. For complete information about the walk, visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)



## READINGS

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/ Mt 1:18-24  
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
 Wednesday Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14  
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14  
 Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22  
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

JUST AS I HAVE  
LOVED YOU,  
YOU ALSO ARE TO  
*love one another.*

JOHN 13:34

Date	Mass / Intentions / Readings
Saturday December 21	5:00 pm / Felizardo Sanchez III +
Sunday December 22	<b>4th WEEK OF ADVENT</b> 7:30 am / Bridget & John S.I. 9:00 am / William James Shorey + 11:00 am / Brenda Adams S.I. 1:00 pm (Spanish) / People of the Parish 3:00 pm (Chinese) 5:00 pm / Rogelio Amante + 7:00 pm /
Monday December 23	12:10 pm / William James Shorey + 5:10 pm / Victor Flores Vitug +
Tuesday December 24	<b>(No 12:10 pm Mass today)</b> <b>5:00 pm Children's Mass</b> <b>9:00 pm Bi-Lingual Mass</b> <b>11:30 pm Music Prelude followed By Midnight Mass</b>
Wednesday December 25	<b>8:00 am Christmas Mass in English</b> <b>10:00 am Christmas Mass in English</b> <b>12:00 pm Misa de Navidad en Español</b>
Thursday December 26	12:10 pm / Arnold Gil D. Sanchez + 5:10 pm /
Friday December 27	12:10 pm / Kenneth M. Walker Sr. +
Saturday December 28	5:00 pm / Nicole Anne Lee S.I. & JoAnne Gamalinda S.I.



**Altarservers**  
Michael Ognisty, mfognisty@msn.com.

**Benedictus Youth Group**  
Victoria Ramos, benedictusy@gmail.com

**Brown Bag Lunch Ministry**  
Jeri Rush, jerrirush@comcast.net

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** for ages 3+, visit youngsheep.org, or call 916-910-3435

**Cathedral A.C.T.S.**  
ActsCathedralSacto@gmail.com, saccathedralacts.org

**Saint Vincent de Paul** contact the rectory office

**Cathedral Young Adults**  
Titi Kila, cathedralaya@gmail.com

**Chinese Community**  
Oliver Wan sccc.contact@gmail.com

**Choir (English)**  
Rex Rallanka, Music Director, rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org

**Choir (Spanish)**  
Jerry Vanoye in the choir annex after the 1pm Mass, or Ricardo Savala in the choir annex after 7pm Mass.

**Cinema Divina Movies**  
Reggie King, Brian Perez, thecatholicstore@gmail.com

**Communion & Liberation**  
catechesis meets every Wednesday at 7:15pm

**Docents**  
Jill Pease, peasejill@gmail.com

**Email Prayer Chain**  
Lynne Amerson, cbs1017pc@yahoo.com.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**  
Amy McCormick, ammccormick@att.net

**Festival of Trees and Lights**  
Paula Trujillo, trupaula@gmail.com

**Front Door Ministry**  
ministries@cathedralsacramento.org

**Greeters and Ushers**  
Tom Waddock, 916-444-3071, x 36

**Hospitality**  
Celeste Gisla, jfgisla@surewest.net

**Knights of Columbus**  
Jaime Elizaldi, jaime.elizaldi@gmail.com

**Lectors**  
Fred Heacock, fheacock72@hotmail.com

**RCIA Catechists**  
Sr Lisa Marie Doty, RCIA@cathedralsacramento.org

**Religious Education Catechists**  
Sr Lisa Marie Doty, lmdoty@cathedralsacramento.org

**Religious Education Catechists/Spanish**  
Deyanira Galvez at cathedralfaithformationsac@gmail.com

**Respect Life Ministry**  
Liliana Balderrama, michoacan8888@gmail.com

**Rosary Club**  
Lolita Urrutia, lolita.urrutia@gmail.com.

**Spanish Parents Group Leaders**  
Leticia Hilbert, leticia\_hilbert@hotmail.com



## Cathedral Kids

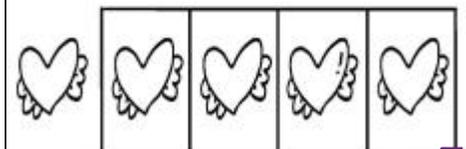
**Sharing the Gospel** -God brought Jesus into the world as a tiny baby. Jesus was God's Son. He was so powerful that he could have gotten anything he wanted. But Jesus did not come to earth to be a rich, selfish ruler. He did not need a palace or fancy clothes. Jesus came to show you that God is with you all the time. He was born to be the king over your life. He gave up his own life to rescue you from your sins, so that you could be close to God forever.

**Prayer** - Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me.

**Mission for the Week** - Tonight, after dinner, ask your family to light some candles, turn off the lights, and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs about Jesus.

Puzzle

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details.





# Esquina del Pastor

"Y lo llamarán Emmanuel. Dios está con nosotros".

Dios esta con nosotros. Qué hermosa idea, creer que si realmente hay un Dios, Él no es distante, distante e inaccesible, sino más bien presente, cercano y con nosotros. Dios esta con nosotros.

Hoy, supongo, gran parte de nuestra sociedad primero tendría que creer que realmente hay un Dios. Muchas personas hoy no profesan creer en ningún Dios o poder superior. Hay muchas razones por las cuales alguien no cree: la vida es demasiado difícil, los creyentes son hipócritas, se enfocan en uno mismo, etc. Claramente, si Dios estuviera con nosotros, ¿no creeríamos todos? Incluso los creyentes tienen problemas con su fe a veces.

Sin embargo, si Dios estuviera realmente con nosotros de la manera en que entendemos "con nosotros", dejaríamos de vivir nuestras vidas en cualquier nivel que sea humano. "Dios con nosotros" nos dominaría. Toda nuestra atención, apetito y deseo estarían y podrían estar solo en Dios. Nuestra humanidad sería tragada por la divinidad de Dios y "Dios con nosotros" en realidad nos destruiría. Eso no es lo que Dios quiere y no es lo que la mayoría de nosotros queremos (todavía).

Entonces, "Dios con nosotros" es mucho más sutil. Su presencia es silenciosa, inmóvil, y a menudo indetectable por nuestros limitados sentidos humanos. Dios que está con nosotros deja espacio para preguntas y argumentos e incluso dudas. Qué Dios tan hermoso es este, deseando revelar que Él está con nosotros, pero que limita Su ilimitud para que no seamos disueltos en Su grandeza.

Algunos podrían preguntarse "¿de qué sirve un" Dios con nosotros "si este Dios realmente nunca puede revelarse a sí mismo?" Sin embargo, por supuesto, este Dios se revela a sí mismo en el toque gentil de nuestros corazones y conciencias. La oración y el silencio nos ayudan a estar en sintonía con esta presencia. Se revela en el hermoso ejemplo de la vida santa de los creyentes (y de algunos no creyentes). Se revela a través de fantásticas apariciones y milagros que a menudo parecen demasiado extraordinarios para creer. Se revela a través de los sacramentos que nos nutren pero que nunca nos dominan. Se revela en la Encarnación de Jesús que pudo haber disuelto a la humanidad en Su grandeza, pero que más bien acarició nuestras vidas con un toque humano.

Esto es "Dios está con nosotros"; un amante silencioso necesario que sabe que su amor es demasiado grande para su amada, por lo que simplemente está con nosotros. El nos ve. El nos escucha. El camina con nosotros. Él está aquí, con nosotros.

Pr. Michael.

## Las lecturas de la semana del 22 de diciembre

Domingo: 4º Domingo de Adviento

Is 7, 10-14/ Sal 24, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 [7. 10]/Rom 1, 1-7/  
Mt 1, 18-24

Lunes: San Juan Cancio, sacerdote

Mal 3, 1-4. 23-24/Sal 25, 4-5. 8-9. 10 y 14/Lc 1, 57-66

Martes: Nochebuena

2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16/Sal 89, 2-3. 4-5. 27 y 29 [2]/  
Lc 1, 67-79

Miércoles: La Natividad del Señor (día de precepto)

Vigilia, Is 62, 1-5/Sal 89, 4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 [2]/Hch 13,  
16-17. 22-25/Mt 1, 1-25 o 1, 18-25

Medianoche: Is 9, 1-6/Sal 96, 1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13 [Lc 2, 11]/Tit 2,  
11-14/Lc 2, 1-14

Matutina: Is 62, 11-12/Sal 97, 1. 6. 11-12/Tit 3, 4-7/Lc 2, 15-20

Día: Is 52, 7-10/Sal 98, 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6 [3]/Heb 1, 1-6/Jn 1, 1-18  
o Jn 1, 1-5. 9-14

Jueves: San Esteban, el primer mártir

Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59/Sal 31, 3-4. 6 y 8. 16 y 17 [6]/  
Mt 10, 17-22

Viernes: San Juan, apóstol y evangelista

1 Jn 1, 1-4/Sal 97, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12 [12]/Jn 20, 1. 2-8

Sábado: Día de los Santos Inocentes, mártires

1 Jn 1, 5—2, 2/Sal 124, 2-3. 4-5. 7-8 [7]/Mt 2, 13-18

## LA CORRESPONSABILIDAD DIARIA

### Temeroso, pero nunca solo

No terminé siendo el gran padre que esperaba que fuera. No digo que fui malo, pero no fui el padre genial que hizo todo bien y guie a mis hijos con el ejemplo de mis acciones infinitamente buenas. Me equivoqué un montón. A veces tenía miedo. Tenía miedo de las decisiones que tenía que tomar y las posibles repercusiones. A veces, temía no ser lo suficientemente fuerte como para dirigir a mi familia. El miedo, ocasionalmente, me llevó a la inacción o eventuales errores. Lo único que me ayudó a superar los tiempos difíciles y me permitió ver que todo estaba bien fue Jesús. Sin Jesús, nunca hubiera sido la mitad del padre y esposo que he sido a través de los años.

Cuando tratamos de enfrentarnos a la vida solos, podemos encontrarnos en una posición muy solitaria. Al igual que los padres de Jesús, necesitamos que Dios nos ayude y nos brinde la fuerza para lo que nos espera. José necesitaba que Dios estuviera con él cuando tomó a María como su esposa y se convirtió en padre. Cada padre necesita a Dios para poder ser más de lo que puede por sí solo.

¿Cómo tratas a los que amas? ¿Quién está allí para ayudarte cuando una relación enfrenta un obstáculo? Estamos llamados a amar a los demás como nuestro Padre que está en los cielos nos ama. Esa es realmente una meta inalcanzable. Sin embargo, con Dios, todas las cosas son posibles. A medida que se termina el Adviento, que tu Navidad sea más que regalos y decoraciones. Que los regalos más profundos que den y reciban sean los unos a los otros, y que sus vidas estén decoradas con los frutos de ese amor.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

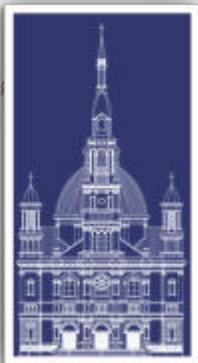
## VIVIR LA LITURGIA

¿Alguna vez le has pedido a Dios una señal? ¿Qué esperabas ver? Las señales validan nuestra experiencia y nos dan seguridad y dirección. Tendemos a equivaler las señales de Dios con eventos milagrosos o maravillosos. Incluso a veces buscamos pequeños gestos como signos de que Dios está confirmando una experiencia particular o una elección que estamos haciendo. Estar demasiado preocupado por recibir este tipo de signos de Dios a menudo puede indicar una falta de fe. ¿Hay algo que pueda convencernos de que Dios es real y que está con nosotros en nuestro viaje? Sí. Ya se ha dado la señal de Dios: la virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo y lo llamará Emmanuel. Emmanuel, Dios con nosotros, es la señal más perfecta de Dios y la única que necesitamos. Nuestro Dios encarnado es todo lo que necesitamos para enderezarnos y validar nuestra experiencia. Solo Jesús puede dirigirnos al Padre, a nosotros mismos, a los demás y a nuestro mundo. Cuando nuestras vidas se conforman a la suya, no se necesita nada más.

## MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICO

El cuarto Domingo de Adviento prácticamente nos pone ya a las puertas de la Navidad, estemos listos o no. En unos días, celebraremos el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador. La figura importante en este domingo es María que ha concebido por obra del Espíritu Santo y pone al mundo al Emmanuel, Dios-con-nosotros. El Evangelio nos narra la duda de José, disipada por el ángel que Dios envía a él en sueños. “José, hijo de David, no dudes en recibir en tu casa a María, tu esposa, porque ella ha concebido por obra del Espíritu Santo. Dará a luz un hijo y tú le pondrás el nombre de Jesús, porque el salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados.” ¿Cuántas dudas existen aún en la sociedad sobre el Nacimiento del Mesías? “En Navidad Dios se nos dona todo donando a su Hijo, el Único, que es toda su alegría. Y sólo con el corazón de María, la humilde y pobre hija de Sión, convertida en Madre del Hijo del Altísimo, es posible exultar y alegrarse por el gran don de Dios y por su imprevisible sorpresa. Que Ella nos ayude a percibir el asombro —estos tres asombros: el otro, la historia y la Iglesia— por el nacimiento de Jesús, el don de los dones, el regalo inmerecido que nos trae la salvación. El encuentro con Jesús nos hará también sentir a nosotros este gran asombro. Pero no podemos tener este asombro, no podemos encontrar a Jesús, si no lo encontramos en los demás, en la historia y en la Iglesia.” (Papa Francisco).





# CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1017 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 ~ 916-444-3071, Fax 916-443-2749  
Rectory Office Hours — Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

### MASSES

Monday to Friday	12:10 pm
Monday to Thursday	5:10 pm
Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:00 am
	1:00 pm en Español
	3:00 pm Chinese
	5:00 pm
	7:00 pm en Español
State Holidays	12:10 pm only

### SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Monday to Friday	11:30 am to 12:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Domingo en Español	12:30 pm a 12:45 pm
	6:30 pm a 7:00 pm

**DEVOTIONS:** Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 12:45 pm

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday	12:45 pm to 5:00 pm
Thursday	12:45 pm to 5:00 pm
Friday	12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

### BENEDICTION

Wednesday	5:00 pm
Thursday	5:00 pm
Friday	1:30 pm

(No Devotions, Adoration, or Benediction on feast days and holy days)

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - By appointment only.  
Call the rectory at 916-444-3071

**BAPTISMS** - Registration is required. Call Deacon John at the rectory at 916-444-3071

English - 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00am

Español - 4º Sábado del mes, 9:00am

**BAPTISM CLASSES** (No registration required)

English - 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00pm

Español - 2do jueves del mes, 7:00pm

### PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Father Michael O'Reilly, Rector  
 Father Kieran McMahon, Priest in Residence  
 Father Nicholas Ho, Chinese Mass  
 Deacon John Gisla, Office Manager  
 Deacon Edgar Hilbert  
 Deacon Omar Bardales  
 Sister Lisa Marie Doty, Director of Education  
 Michael Ognisty, Sacristan  
 Rex Rallanka, Director of Music  
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 Victoria Ramos, Secretary  
 Katie McAllister, Bookkeeper  
 Titi Kila, Wedding Coordinator  
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#### Actualización y registro de la parroquia de la Catedral

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**For additional family members, please attach a separate sheet.**

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2) Scan to pdf file and email: [blessed@cathedralsacramento.org](mailto:blessed@cathedralsacramento.org) (escanear a pdf file y envía por correo electrónico)

3) Fax to: 916-443-2749

4) Mail to (correo): 1017 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

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## TOURS



We love to share our Cathedral history! Tours are FREE, led by trained Docents, and held after the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses, and at 12:40pm on Wednesday. Tours begin at the Baptismal Font. Contact 916-444-3071 to arrange free private group tours.

Los tours en español se llevan a cabo el 1er y 3er domingo del mes después de la misa de 1pm.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The cathedral offers a complete faith formation program, including Catholic Faith Formation, Confirmation, The Rite of Christian Initiation Program, R.C.I.A., for adults, teens and children, Religious Education for Spanish Speaking Adults, and a Catechesis Formation Program.



If you've been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, or were baptized Catholic but never completed your faith formation classes, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Come meet some faithful Catholics who love the Lord and would consider it a privilege to get to know you. We invite you to

learn what Catholics believe in an open and welcoming environment. The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** sessions meet **every Monday Evening at 7 PM** in the lower level of the Cathedral. Feel free to come any Monday evening. For more information on all of our faith formation programs, please call **916-444-5364** or email Sister Lisa Marie Doty, Director of Religious Education, [lmdoty@cathedralsacramento.org](mailto:lmdoty@cathedralsacramento.org).



**Visit our GIFT SHOP downstairs**  
Sundays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Tuesdays 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** - The Diocese of Sacramento requires an engaged couple to complete a marriage preparation program no later than two months before their wedding date. Contact: Deacon Omar & Janet Bardales at [matrimonyprep@att.net](mailto:matrimonyprep@att.net), or 916-427-9160. *You do not have to have your wedding at the Cathedral to take this class.*

**CONVALIDATION** - If you would like to have your civil marriage blessed in the Catholic Church, or if you have been together for a number of years and would like to be married in the Church, this can often be done in a small, private ceremony called a Convalidation, without any cost or fee. To explore this possibility, contact Deacon John at 444-3071 Ext. 11 or [jgisla@cathedralsacramento.org](mailto:jgisla@cathedralsacramento.org).

**WEDDINGS** - If you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Cathedral, contact Wedding Coordinator, Titi Kila at [tkila@cathedralsacramento.org](mailto:tkila@cathedralsacramento.org) at least *six months* before your desired wedding date to arrange a meeting.



## 每日當責－ 在日常生活中體會天主

### 害怕，但從不孤單

直到最終我都沒有成為我曾期盼成為的偉大父親，不是說我就不好，但我並不是那種可以正確的處理每件事情，永遠給孩子好的行為榜樣，那種很讚的父親。我搞砸了許多事，有時也很害怕。我害怕我必須做出決定和可能產生的結果。有時候，我害怕我不夠堅強，不能帶領我的家人。恐懼有時導致我無所作為或最終還是出錯，唯一能幫助我度過難關，並容許我一切看來還好的，是主耶穌基督。這些年來，沒有主耶穌基督，我現在連做一半父親或丈夫的樣子都無法達到。

當我們試圖獨自面對生活時，會發現自己處在非常孤獨的境地。就像小耶穌的父母一樣，我們需要上主的幫助，賜予我們面對眼前難關的力量。當若瑟娶了瑪麗亞為妻，又成為父親，他需要與上主同在，每個父母都需要依靠天主甚於靠自己。你是如何對待你所愛的人呢？當一段關係面臨障礙，是誰來幫助你？我們被召喚去愛人，如同天父愛了我們。這實在是無法企及的目標，然而在天主內，一切都有可能。

隨著將臨期的結束，希望你們的聖誕節不僅僅只有禮物和裝飾品，願你們給予和收到最深刻的禮物是彼此，也願你們的生活裝飾著愛的果實。

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### Afraid, Yet Never Alone

I did not end up being the great parent I had hoped I would be. I am not saying I was bad, but I was not the cool dad who did all things right and led my children by the example of my endlessly good actions. I messed up a bunch. Sometimes I was afraid. I was afraid of decisions I had to make and the possible repercussions. At times, I was afraid that I was not strong enough to lead my family. The fear occasionally led me toward inaction or eventual mistakes. The only thing that got me through the tough times and allowed me to see it was okay was Jesus. Without Jesus, I would never have been half of the father and husband I have been through the years. When we try to tackle life alone, we can find ourselves in a very lonely position. Just like Jesus' parents, we need God to assist us and provide us with the strength for what lies ahead. Joseph needed God to be with him as he took Mary as his wife and became a father. Every parent needs God to become more than they can be on their own. How do you treat those who you love? Who is there to help you when a relationship faces an obstacle? We are called to love others as our Father in heaven loves us. That is really an unreachable goal. Yet with God, all things are possible. As this Advent ends, may your Christmas be about more than presents and decorations. May the most profound gifts you give and receive be that of each other, and may your lives be decorated with the fruits of that love.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## ~ 華人團體活動訊息 ~

### 華人團體參與大教堂聖誕樹義賣活動(12/7-8), 教友們幫忙將捐獻的聖誕樹佈置起來。

Chinese Community donated a Christmas tree to the Cathedral for the Festival of Trees. People helped to decorate the tree.





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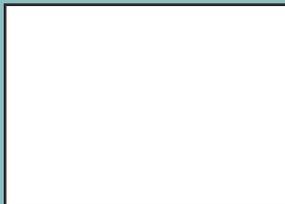
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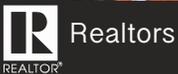
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