



Fr. Sal presenting as part of our Liturgical Ministry Morning of Formation. Photo Credit : Anthony Arteaga

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church *Iglesia Católica de San Buenaventura*

5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 ❖ www.stbonaventure.net

PHONE (925) 672-5800 ❖ FAX (925) 672-4606

Monday thru Thursday – 8:30am – 5:00pm; Friday – 8:30am – 3:30pm

Lunch Break – 12:30-1:30pm

January 22, 2017 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | *22 de enero de 2017 Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

MASSES IN ENGLISH/EN INGLES

Saturday Vigil/Sábado: 5:00 PM
Sunday/Domingo 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM,
11:00 AM, 5:00 PM

MASSES IN SPANISH/EN ESPAÑOL

Domingo: 12:45 PM

DAILY MASS/MISA DIARIA (CHAPEL/CAPILLA)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday/Lunes,
Martes, Jueves y Viernes: 9:00 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday/Martes, Miércoles y
Jueves: 6:30 AM

COMMUNION SERVICE/SERVICIOS DE

COMUNIÓN (CHAPEL/CAPILLA)

Monday & Friday/Lunes y Viernes: 6:30 AM
Wednesday/Miércoles: 9:00 AM

BAPTISM/BAUTIZOS

In English: Call the office to begin the process.

This requires two months preparation. *En Español:*
Los Sábados
10:00 AM. Llame a la oficina para hacer arreglos con
un Sacerdote ó Diácono. Este requiere dos meses de
preparación.

MARRIAGE/MATRIMONIO

Call the office to arrange with a Priest or
Deacon. This requires six months preparation.
Llame a la oficina para hacer arreglos con un
Sacerdote ó Diácono. Este requiere seis meses de
preparación.

RECONCILIATION/RECONCILIACIÓN

In English: Saturdays 3:30 PM (in the church) or by
appointment. *En Español: Llame a la oficina para*
hacer arreglos con un Sacerdote. Por cita.



As disciples at St. Bonaventure, we are committed to know Christ better and make Him better known. To this end we are committed to...

Keep connected to our parish community
Nurture the development of our faith and knowledge of Christ
Offer to share the Holy Spirit's gifts of time, talent and treasure
Worship through prayer, Mass and the Sacraments

THOUGHTS FROM FR. RICHARD
 PENSAMIENTOS DE PADRE RICARDO

■ **INAUGURATION DAY, JANUARY 20**

All of us have listened to the past election's social and political comments of many commentators. It has been a most different, and perhaps bizarre pre- and post-election cycle. Not only have the candidates agitated the situation, but it now seems that Russia and its president have as well.

Rhetoric Creates Expectations

As we begin a new administration of the Federal government, the new President has suggested many repeals of laws and has raised many fears among millions of people with regard to minorities, immigrants, healthcare, trade plans, and relationships with other countries. At times, the new president sounds quite reasonable and at other times quite disrespectful – almost like a bully.

While everyone has their own personality, rhetoric and over-simplifying complex issues and realities create sound bites but are very superficial. We will need thoughtful and respectful members of Congress to express reality, multiculturalism, religious pluralism and working together for all Americans and for the common good.

Thoughtlessness Creates Anxiety

Much anxiety and fear has been stirred up, not only before the election but also after. It is easy to retreat into our personal homes and say to ourselves, “well, I am comfortable,” without caring to step into the shoes of many Americans who are barely surviving – either because of healthcare or being undocumented Americans, or other classes of people who are invisible and who live at the edges of poverty or below. To not care about everyone or to remain in ignorance about everyone is not an American virtue.

The Veneer of National Unity

Speaking to the issue of immigration, Archbishop Jose Gomez spoke on the evening after the election about a problem that no republican or democratic administration for the last 30 years has been able to resolve, because there has been no con-

gressional will to do so. And now some hope to build a wall, and deportation will become the solution, unmindful that the hotel, restaurant, landscaping and farming industry would collapse. The immigrant has not stolen jobs that Americans want. What this election has done is to let racism, discrimination, uncaring individualism, and naked application of law erupt into divisions that were always there.

America Is Not a Business

Will a total business approach to American and international life be the key that resolves all our social and societal issues? It is one thing to build a company; it is another to build and re-build a society of people.

We have to pray for President Donald Trump and for all who will lead our Federal government, because we are entering uncharted territory and a whole different way to lead and to govern. I don't believe that we will succeed very well if we do not speak civilly and respectfully to each other.

It is not likely that President Trump will change his personality or his manner of speaking, although I have been encouraged by listening to the reasoned comments of those proposed to help lead the government, who seem to understand the functioning of government and the rules of law. Hopefully, they can become a shield of reasonableness that is willing to work through the complexity of governing for all the people.

Groups Pushing Agendas

There are so many groups, even from within the Catholic Church, who want to reduce freedoms now granted by law because they do not agree with pluralistic views. Where is the middle ground? I hope our new government will seek to define the middle ground. I do not believe that we can go backward, but we do need to find the way to go forward together. Pugnacious rhetoric and close-mindedness will not get us there.

Maybe all of this will bring everyone to a new clarification and redefinition of what is good for society. While there are many people who believe that everyone has

the right to do whatever they believe is right, that is the road to anarchy. Keeping everything the way it was and making life very good for a minority of citizens will also erupt in revolution and anarchy.

What Can We Do?

One person can do very little to move society one way or the other. What can we do together? How do we organize together? Perhaps we need a Department of Mental and Spiritual Health, a Department of the Common Good? That will not provide tax money, however; but it would improve the overall spiritual and mental health of our United States.

Putting Our Prayers on God's Desk

As I wrote a couple of weeks ago, we need to put our prayers on God's desk.

“What kind of country do we want, O God? What kind of hearts do we want our President and his government to have? What do you want?”

“May togetherness, for everyone-ness with reasonableness lead our country forward. You are still in charge and your Holy Spirit knows no walls.”

“We know that money, power, economics and rhetoric is the present noise of our society. We know also that you have no tolerance for broken dreams and broken people.”

“Hear the prayers of your people. Renew our governments and the hearts of all the peoples of this great county. May you help our leaders find solutions of which they have not thought.”

■ **MATTHEW'S GOSPEL AND THE AUTHENTIC FOLLOWER OF JESUS**

We may have been baptized as Catholic, but that does not mean that we are an authentic follower of Jesus. That is Matthew's point in his Gospel. That is why the Epiphany story is more than camels, magi, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus' star draws us to him.

We may have gone to catechism and Catholic school. We may have made our First Holy Communion and Confirmation. But where is that in our lives today?

We may have received the spiritual gifts of Faith, Hope and Love, but where are they today in our lives?

The Gospel writers do not write about how to be a good Catholic, because the Catholic Church never existed then. **What did exist was an awareness of being a follower of Jesus, who gathered people to live a communal life,** to live the Spirit of the risen Jesus, to gather to be there for each other, to gather in prayer to remember Jesus, protecting and helping each other as friends and fellow believers.

Jesus never intended to establish an organized institution with paid or non-paying members. We are not a lodge that makes no real difference to our normal life.

The Gospel of Matthew was written to help the early followers of Jesus who were living in Antioch, Syria to know what was meant to be a follower of Jesus. **That did not come from some theory, but from how people lived and interacted and cared for one another.**

What was the problem? A bit of “class struggle”, financial differences, an upper class of Christians and a lower class, each other not wanting to be together or to help those less fortunate.

At the heart of Matthew’s rendition of the Gospel of Jesus is a simple evangelical principle that **the way we treat one another, most especially “the least of our brothers and sisters”** indicates how authentic we are.

“We are challenged to love as the Lord loves, unconditionally, totally and without reservation for such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Biagio Mazza Celebration P5, January Issue)

Matthew’s Gospel points out the Prayer of the church, “The Our Father,” as precisely making this point. That when we treat one another as equals God forgives our sinfulness, our selfishness and our blindness.

The very last paragraph of the Gospel is the Gospel’s principal theme (28:18-20): “Go therefore, (that is you and me), make

disciples of as many as you can and baptize them... teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you until the end of the age.”

This is the heart of the Gospel. St. Matthew calls us “Scribes instructed in the kingdom of heaven.” This is more than just being “good people.”

For Matthew, there needs to be a living connection to Jesus, to one another, especially to the “least.” To be a follower of Jesus pushes us outward, never to be absorbed in ourselves.

If we never come to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday and hear Matthew’s Gospel, if we never sit quietly and read his Gospel, where will Jesus have an opportunity to transform us into his authentic followers?

**PARISH LIFE THOUGHTS
FROM CHRISTA FAIRFIELD**

**CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE:
Monday, January 23, 7:00pm
at Clayton Valley Presbyterian;
Reconciliation: The Love of Christ
Compels Us**

Come and represent St. Bonaventure Parish and the entire Catholic Community as we join together with some other local Christian communities to observe the ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’ with a joint prayer service. This year, we will join together for prayer at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton. You will have an opportunity to pray with those with whom you perhaps rarely get to pray with, and listen to several ministers speak on Reconciliation and how it is understood by their communities, including our own pastor Fr. Richard Mangini.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
Weekend of January 14 & 15 Collection
Goal: \$25,440
Actual: \$24,737
Deficit: (703)

2nd Collection
Seminary Collection:\$3,829
Food for Family: 278 (1/17)
*EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)
included in above figures*

STAFF DIRECTORY
OFFICE: 925-672-5800

Fr. Richard Mangini, PASTOR... x 2203
rmangini@stbonaventure.net

Fr. David Lawrence, SJ PAROCHIAL VICAR .. x 2221
dlawrence@stbonaventure.net

Christa L. Fairfield, PARISH LIFE DIRECTOR.. x 2205
cfairfield@stbonaventure.net

William Gall, DEACON
bgall@stbonaventure.net

LITURGY & MUSIC
Anthony Arteaga, DIRECTOR OF LITURGY .. x 2230
aarteaga@stbonaventure.net

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN
Pre-School through Fifth Grade Program:
Rosann Halick, DIRECTOR .. x 2204
rhalick@stbonaventure.net

Debbie Schnick, ADM. ASST. x 2207
dschnick@stbonaventure.net

JR HIGH AND YOUTH MINISTRY
(6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE)
Youth Ministry:
Jacob Perry, DIRECTOR. x 2229
jperry@stbonaventure.net

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS
Eileen Limberg , DIRECTOR OF ADULT FAITH
FORMATION AND ADULT INITIATION... x 2217
elimberg@stbonaventure.net

FACILITIES AND MAINTAINANCE
Frank Palmeri.. x 2216
fpalmeri@stbonaventure.net

continued from page 3

■ FAITH DIRECT: PARISH EGIVING



The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the wonderful feast of Epiphany. I am thankful for all the generous gifts that you provide to our parish, but I realize that you cannot be with us every Sunday of the year. Please consider using our secure electronic giving program, Faith Direct. Faith Direct will automatically process any offertory or second collection donations of your choosing. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: CA725

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

LITURGY & MUSIC



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: HEB 9:15, 24-28; PS 98:1-6; MK 3:22-30, OR ANY OF A NUMBER OF READINGS FOR THE DAY
TUESDAY: HEB 10:1-10; PS 40:2, 4AB, 7-8A, 10, 11; MK 3:31-35
WEDNESDAY: ACTS 22:3-16 OR ACTS 9:1-22; PS 117:1BC, 2; MK 16:15-18
THURSDAY: 2 TM 1:1-8 OR TI 1:1-5; PS 96:1-3, 7-8A, 10; MK 4:21-35
FRIDAY: HEB 10:32-39; PS 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; MK 4:26-34
SATURDAY: HEB 11:1-2, 8-19; LK 1:69-75; MK 4:35-41
SUNDAY: ZEP 2:3; 3:12-13; PS 146:6-10; 1 COR 1:26-31; MT 5:1-12A

■ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROSARY

The Knights of Columbus are hosting the recitation of the Rosary next Sunday, January 29 at 10:30 AM in the Chapel. All are welcome to this special opportunity to pray together.

■ 5PM SATURDAY CHOIR LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

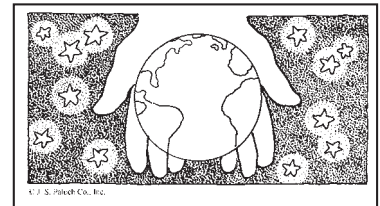
The role of the choir is to assist the assembly in worship by leading them in singing during the Mass.

The 5pm Saturday Choir is open to anyone who wants to join, and rehearses on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Music Room.

If you wish to become a member of the choir, feel free to come along to the rehearsal, speak to the director, Paul McWilliams, after 5pm Saturday Mass, check in with any choir member, and/or contact Anthony at aarteaga@stbonaventure.net and your information will be forwarded to Paul.

*They left their nets
and followed him.*

~ Matthew 4:20



**The people
who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;**

**upon those who dwell
in the land of gloom
a light has shown.**

Isaiah 9:1

LIFE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

■ HEALTH CARE TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, January 28, 10:30am-12:00pm at First Christian Church of Concord (3039 Willow Pass Road). Speakers include Congressman George Miller, Ret. who will be giving an overview of the Affordable Care Act, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, who will share what is happening in Washington, D.C., Supervisor Karen Mitchoff who will talk about how the changes being proposed will impact the County and how they can react, and a representative from the Remaining Uninsured Task Force who will report on 'Contra Costa Cares'. Cosponsored by the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition and Ensuring Opportunity.

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

■ NEW CATHOLICS

Welcome to Jason Berscheid and Jean Wells who took a Profession of Faith, received First Communion and Confirmation on January 15 at the 9:00am Mass. Congratulations to Antonio Corral who received First Communion and Confirmation at the same Mass. We are excited to welcome them fully to the table of the Lord.

■ WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

Keys to Spiritual Freedom: January 27-29 at St Claire's Retreat Center in Soquel. Led by Father Joseph Kim of the San Jose Diocese. The cost is \$210. We invite you to start your new year off with a week-end of prayer, learning and community. Registration forms available in the church office or on the parish website. For any questions, call Maureen at 925-360-1621.

■ 2017 MEN'S RETREAT
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER:
A Retreat with the Psalms

Registration is now open for the 2016 St. Bonaventure Men's Retreat, which will be March 3-5 at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. Our retreat master will be Fr. John Endres of the Jesuit School of Theology, who will focus on the psalms as resources for individual and communal prayer. For more information, call Peter Nixon (925-381-7853) or Matt Remington (925-672-4006). Registration forms are available online at www.stbonaventure.net (Parish Ministries – Men's Spiritual Network).

■ ADULT CONFIRMATION

The parish celebration of Confirmation will be on May 13 with William Cardinal Levada. Parish preparation for those adults/young adults interested will begin **Monday, February 27**, from 7:00-8:30pm. Each candidate must:

- be over 18 years of age
- no longer be in high school
- be a baptized Catholic
- have received First Communion and
- attend Mass on a regular basis.

If you are interested, please contact Eileen (925)672-5800 x2217 or elimberg@stbonaventure.net. Registration requested by February 15.

■ CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Christmas time is the time to celebrate the beautiful gift of God becoming man. Jesus was a great healer and teacher who taught us to pray. He suggests we go to our quiet space to pray. Spend some quiet time with God. Join us on Tuesdays, 4:05-4:30pm in the Chapel.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

■ WELCOME TO THE CLASSY CRAFTERS MINISTRY

A Warm Welcoming Invitation to all parishioners and friends! Please join the Classy Crafters on Wednesdays, any time from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, in Room A-1. We will be starting our meetings again on

Wednesday, February 1 with a potluck social.

There are lots of ways to be involved with this group without picking up a glue gun or a knitting needle, as we work towards our November boutique. Come for the fellowship and stay for the crafts, or vice-versa! Many happy hours of friendship and sharing will be had. Welcome!

■ SUPER BOWL PARTY

Come join the Knights of Columbus at their Second Annual Surf & Turf Super Bowl Party on January 28. Root for your favorite team, dress up with a team jersey and join in the fun. There will be great raffle prizes, a fancy dessert auction and a live auction. The dinner will be Steak and Shrimp, catered by the Wilma Lott Catering Service. This is the major fundraising event of the year for the Knights of Columbus, that enables them to do the charitable work they are famous for. Please support this event. Tickets are available after all the Masses from now until the event, and in the Parish Office. Ticket price is \$45 each, or \$40 each for a table of 8 or more. Doors open at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. Last year's event was great fun and a rousing success. Get your tickets early so you won't be left out!

■ CLAYTON VALLEY COUNSELING CENTER (CVCC) AT YOUR SERVICE

For 15 years, CVCC has been serving the St. Bonaventure Community. The Counseling Center, with licensed therapists, serves individuals, couples and families, and prepares engaged couples for marriage using the well-established Prepare Program. ☎ 925-210-6176.

■ PREGNANT? NEED HELP?

☎ 1-800-910-0191, The Gabriel Project



OUTSIDE PARISH

■ **ST AGNES SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, January 29, 2017, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Please join us for classroom visits, hospitality and book fair.

■ **CARONDELET'S ANNUAL MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT: Sunday, Feb. 26 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

This is a special time for mothers and daughters to explore, affirm and celebrate their unique bond in a renewing, relaxing and spiritually enriching atmosphere. The event includes the retreat, coffee/juice service, brunch and Mass.

The retreat is open to all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, alumnae and their daughters who are currently in 9th grade or above. To register visit: www.carondeleths.org

■ **SAVE THE DATE: WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS Saturday, February 11, 11:00 am The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland Diocese.org/WDS**

Bishop Barber invites all who are sick or ill, as well as family members, caregivers and healthcare providers, to observe this day with him and with many priests, religious and laity from throughout the diocese. Please join us on February 11 in this special opportunity to pray for healing and hope in this fragile population. This day will include Mass, Anointing of the Sick, blessing of caregivers and healthcare providers, distribution of holy water from Lourdes, and a reception after Mass. For more information, visit oakdiocese.org/WDS.

World Day of the Sick, initiated by Pope Saint John Paul II and held annually worldwide near the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland and Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

■ **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

For all grades on Sunday, January 29, the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week from 11:30am until 1:30pm. Applications will be given out at this time

■ **JOIN US FOR PASTA DINNER NIGHTS**

When: February 19, March 19, May 21, August 20, October 15, November 19, and December 17

Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Where: San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr. Danville

Cost: \$15 (Adults); \$10 (Children 12 & under)

Menu: Spaghetti (with meat and vegetarian sauces), salad, garlic and French Bread, dessert and beverage

Purchase tickets: sandamiano.org (925) 837-9141

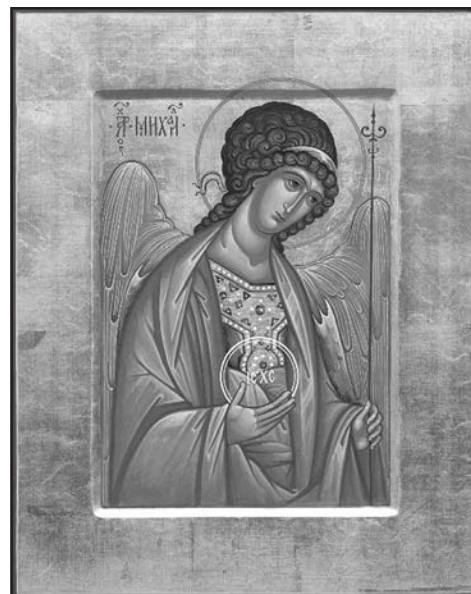
■ **ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION**

Traveling Exhibit of Religious Icons, both contemporary and traditional, at St. John's-Clayton and St. Michael and All Angels-Concord, December 10 – February 17

Icons in Transformation showcases the paintings of Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska in her only Bay Area appearance.



To Be Seen by Ludmila Pawlowska



Traditional icon from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia

More than 150 contemporary icons by internationally known Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska, plus traditional icons from the Vassilevsky Monastery in Russia, will be displayed. The exhibit is divided between St. John's Episcopal Church, 5555 Clayton Road in Clayton (across the street from St. Bonaventure) and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 2925 Bonifacio Street, next to Baldwin Park, in Concord. Dec 10, 2016 – Feb 17, 2017

At St. Michael's: Fridays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. . Other times by appointment by calling Gary Carr at 925-890-7839.

At St. John's: Sundays 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Other times by appointment by calling Gary Carr at 925-890-7839.

Admission is free, but donations gratefully accepted. For more information, please call Gary Carr at 925-890-7839, or visit our websites www.saintjohnsparish.org; www.saintmichaelsconcord.org.

NEED A NEIGHBOR?

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Ministry is here to assist parishioners with temporary, minor needs. Those we serve must be adults (over 18 years old) and physically mobile. There are established community organizations in place to meet long-term and other needs.

We Offer:

- Assistance with transportation to the parish, the grocery store or doctor. *We can assist in finding regular rides to a specific Mass or parish offering
- Assistance with an errand or a light task
- Visiting the sick or homebound

For assistance leave a message ☎ 672-5800 x2238. We will pick up calls Monday-Friday. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours of the call. Please note that the ministry is not designed for immediate or emergency needs. It can take a few days to locate a volunteer to meet the need.

CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH HOUSING

We're Off to See the Wizard! Contra Costa Interfaith Housing's (CCIH) annual auction gala, *Ruby Slippers-There's No Place Like Home* is Saturday, February 4, 2017 at Diablo Country Club. This *over the rainbow* evening includes a silent and live auction, dinner, and dancing. We are looking for fun and unique items for the auctions, as well as wine and gift cards to local restaurants and retailers. Do you have extra airline miles? Maybe a timeshare? We're open to your ideas! Visit <http://bit.ly/2dQy0d2> to donate an item or, if you have any questions, email elba@ccinterfaithhousing.org. See you on the yellow brick road!

**SANCTUARY LIGHT IS LIT FOR
 ROBERT FENN**
 January 21 to January 27, 2017



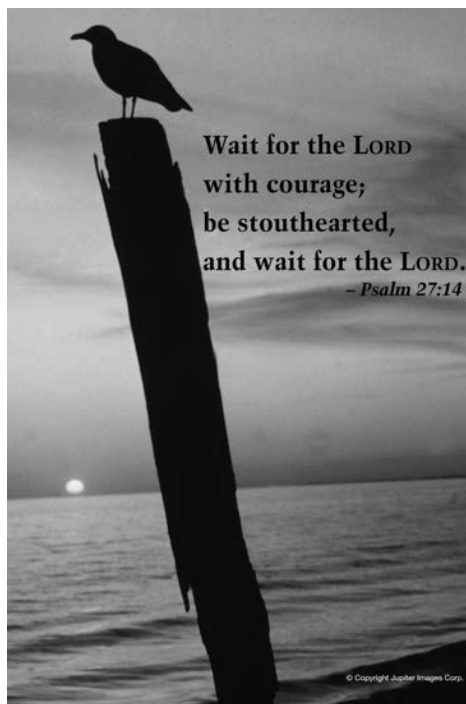
Day of Prayer
 for the Legal
 Protection of
 Unborn Children



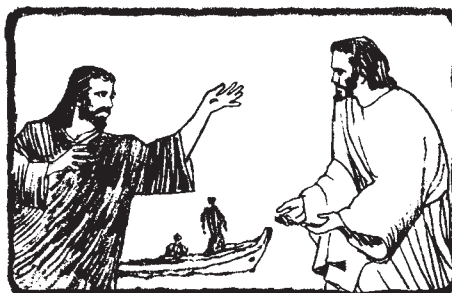
© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Pray For Flood Victims



© Copyright Jupiter Images Corp.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**Mass Intentions
 For The Week**



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- 5:00 Pat O'Brien
 Susan Sweeney
 Joseph Lachky
 Maria Micallef

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

- 7:30 Elsie Georgantis
 Women's Christian Fellowship
 Jim Beasley
 Bud Brinkerhoff
- 9:00 Joe Mangini
 Robert Fenn
 John Sangalang
 Timothy Joseph Mazza
- 11:00 St. Bonaventure Community
- 5:00 Norma M. Evaristo & Family
 Fr. David Lawrence & Family
 Fr. Richard Mangini & Family
 Sister Roberta Carson & Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

- 6:30 Communion Service
 9:00 Bud Brinkerhoff
 Lucy Walsh
 Ofelia Camantigue

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

- 6:30 Children with Autism
 9:00 Frances Tonna

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 6:30 Communion Service
 9:00 Communion Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- 6:30 People with Parkinson's Disease
 9:00 Emily Crescencio
 Fernan & Ricardo Villalba

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

- 6:30 Communion Service
 9:00 St. Bonaventure Volunteers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

- 5:00 Irma Palma Pongco
 Joie Legazpi
 Ben Marquez
 Souls in Purgatory

■ DIA DE LA INAUGURACIÓN, 20 DE ENERO

Padre Ricardo Mangini

Todos hemos escuchado los últimos comentarios sociales y políticos de muchos comentaristas. Ha sido bastante diferente, y tal vez extraño antes y después del ciclo de la elección. No sólo con los candidatos que agitaron la situación, pero ahora parece ser que Rusia y su Presidente también.

Retórica Crea Expectativas

Así comenzamos una nueva administración del Gobierno Federal, el nuevo Presidente ha sugerido muchas derogaciones de las leyes y ha suscitado muchos temores entre millones de personas en relación con las minorías, inmigrantes, salud, planes de comercio y relaciones con otros países. A veces, el nuevo Presidente suena bastante razonable y otras veces bastante irrespetuoso – casi como un matón

Mientras que cada uno tiene su propia personalidad, teoría, sobre-simplifica los problemas complejos y crea sonidos duros pero todo es muy superficial. Necesitamos reflexivos y respetuosos miembros del Congreso para expresar la realidad, multiculturalismo, pluralismo religioso y trabajar juntos los estadounidenses para el bien común.

Desconcierto Crea Ansiedad

Mucha ansiedad y desconcierto ha sido levantado, no sólo antes de las elecciones, sino también después. Es fácil de encontrarnos en nuestros hogares y decir a nosotros mismos, “así me siento cómodo,” sin tener que ponernos en los zapatos de muchos americanos que apenas sobreviven, ya sea por salud o por americanos indocumentados, u otras clases de personas que son invisibles y que viven en los bordes de la pobreza o peor. El no importar de nadie o el permanecer en la ignorancia acerca de todos no es una virtud estadounidense.

La Apariencia de Unidad Nacional

Hablando del problema de inmigración, Monseñor Jose Gomez hablo en la noche después de la elección sobre un problema que ninguna administración republicana o democrática de los últimos 30 años ha

sido capaz de resolver, porque el Congreso no va a hacerlo. Y ahora algunos tienen la esperanza de construir un muro y la deportación se convertirá en la solución, sin considerar que el hotel, restaurante, los jardines y sector agrícola podrían ser destruidos. El inmigrante no ha robado empleos que los estadounidenses quieren. Lo que ha hecho esta elección es dejar que el racismo, la discriminación, individualismo indiferente y la desnuda aplicación de ley estallara en divisiones que siempre estuvieron ahí.

Estados Unidos No Es Un Negocio

Sera bueno hacer una solución de negocios a la vida americana e internacional para resolver todos nuestros problemas sociales? Una cosa es construir una empresa; otra es construir y reconstruir una sociedad de personas.

Tenemos que orar por el Presidente Donald Trump y por todos los que guiaran nuestro Gobierno Federal porque estamos entrando en territorio desconocido y una manera completamente diferente de dirigir y gobernar. No creo que tenga un buen éxito si no hablamos civilmente y con respeto uno al otro.

No es probable que el Presidente Trump cambiará su personalidad o su manera de hablar aunque he escuchado y me siento muy animado con los razonados comentarios de las propuestas de las personas que ayudaran a llevar el gobierno, que parecen comprender el funcionamiento del gobierno y de las normas de derecho. Que puede convertirse en un escudo de racionalidad que está dispuesto a trabajar con la complejidad de gobernar para el pueblo.

Grupos Empujando Agendas

Existen tantos grupos, incluso desde dentro de la iglesia católica que quiere reducir las libertades ahora concedidas por la ley porque no concuerdan con opiniones plurales. ¿Dónde está el punto medio? Espero que nuestro nuevo gobierno buscará definir el punto medio. No creo que podemos ir hacia atrás, pero tenemos que encontrar la manera de avanzar juntos.

Tal vez todo esto traerá a todos a una nueva aclaración y redefinición de lo que es bueno para la sociedad. Mientras que

hay muchas personas que creen que toda persona tiene derecho a hacer lo que ellos creen es correcto, que es el camino a la anarquía. Mantener todo como estaba y hacer la vida muy buena para una minoría de ciudadanos también estallará en la revolución y la anarquía.

¿Qué Podemos Hacer?

Una persona puede hacer muy poco para mover la sociedad de una manera u otra. ¿Qué podemos hacer juntos? ¿Cómo nos organizamos juntos? ¿Tal vez necesitamos un departamento de salud mental y espiritual, un departamento del bien común? Que no proporcionará dinero de los impuestos, sin embargo; podría mejorar la salud mental y espiritual en general de los Estados Unidos.

Poner nuestras oraciones en el escritorio de Dios

Como escribí un par de semanas atrás, necesitamos poner nuestras oraciones en el escritorio de Dios.

“¿Qué clase de país queremos, oh Dios? ¿Qué tipo de corazón queremos que nuestro Presidente y su gobierno tengan? ¿Qué quieres?”

“Pueden estar juntos, para que todos con razonabilidad puedan llevar nuestro país adelante. Tu estas todavía a cargo y tu Espíritu Santo no sabe de paredes.

“Sabemos que el dinero, poder, economía y retórica es el ruido presente de nuestra sociedad. También sabemos que tú no tienes ninguna tolerancia de sueños rotos y personas destruidas.

“Escucha las oraciones de tu pueblo. Renueva nuestros gobiernos y los corazones de todos los pueblos de este gran país. Ayuda a nuestros líderes a encontrar soluciones de lo que no han pensado.”

■ EL EVANGELIO DE MATEO Y EL AUTENTICO SEGUIDOR DE CRISTO

Nosotros podemos haber sido bautizados como católicos pero eso no significa que somos auténticos seguidores de Jesús. Este es el punto de Mateo en su evangelio. Por esta razón la historia de la Epifanía es más que camellos, Reyes Magos, oro, incienso y mirra. La estrella de Jesús nos atrae a él.

Pudimos haber ido a Catecismo y escuela católica. Pudimos haber hecho nuestra Primera Comunión y Confirmación. ¿Pero dónde es que están nuestras vidas hoy?

Pudimos haber recibido los regalos de la Fe, Esperanza y Amor, pero donde están en nuestras vidas hoy?

Los escritores del evangelio no escriben sobre cómo ser un buen católico, porque la Iglesia Católica nunca existió entonces. **Lo que existía era una conciencia de ser un seguidor de Jesús, que reunía a la gente para vivir una vida** en común para vivir el espíritu de Jesús resucitado y estar el uno para el otro, que se reúnen en oración para recordar a Jesús, protegiendo y ayudándose unos a otros como amigos y creyentes.

Jesús nunca intento establecer una organización, o un instituto con miembros pagados o no pagados. No somos un lugar de hospedaje que no hace diferencia en nuestra vida normal.

El Evangelio de Mateo fue escrito para ayudar a los primeros seguidores de Jesús que vivían en Antioquía, Siria para saber lo que significaba ser un seguidor de Jesús. **Que no vino de alguna teoría, sino de cómo la gente vivió y obró recíprocamente y cuidándose el uno al el otro.**

¿Cuál fue el problema? Un poco de “lucha de clases”, las diferencias financieras, una clase superior de cristianos y una clase inferior, unos a otros que no deseaban estar juntos o ayudar a los menos afortunados.

En el corazón de la interpretación del Evangelio de Mateo de Jesús hay un simple principio evangélico la manera del trato de unos a otros, especialmente “los menos favorecidos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas” indica que auténticos somos.

“Estamos desafiados a amar como el Señor ama, incondicionalmente, totalmente y sin reservas para tales es el Reino de los cielos”. (Biagio Mazza celebración P5, edición enero)

El Evangelio de Mateo destaca la oración de la iglesia, “El Padre Nuestro” como haciendo énfasis precisamente en este punto. Que cuando tratamos uno al otro como igual Dios perdona nuestros pecados, nuestro egoísmo y nuestra ceguera.

El último párrafo del Evangelio es el tema del principio del Evangelio (28: 18-20): “ir por lo tanto, (es decir usted y yo) a hacer discípulos a tantos como puedas y bautizarlos... enseñándoles a guardar todo lo que os he mandado. Y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros hasta el final de los años.”

Este es el corazón del Evangelio. San Mateo nos llama “Escribientes instruidos en el Reino de los cielos.” Esto es más que solo ser “buena gente”.

Para Mateo, tiene que haber una conexión viviente a Jesús, unos a otros, especialmente a los “menos”. Ser un seguidor de Jesús nos empuja hacia afuera, nunca para ser absorbidos en nuestros mismos.

¿Si no venimos a celebrar la Eucaristía los domingos y oír el Evangelio de Mateo, si nunca nos sentamos tranquilamente a leer

su evangelio, donde Jesús tendrá la oportunidad de transformarnos en sus auténticos seguidores?

■ ESPERANZA Y SANACIÓN DESPUÉS DEL ABORTO

3 de febrero – 5 de febrero,
Gloria Maldonado 510-384-6875,
gloriamaldonado375@sbcglobal.net,
AfterTheChoice.org

Si usted o alguien a quién usted ama está sufriendo tras el aborto, la esperanza y la sanación están al alcance a través de un retiro ofrecido por la Diócesis de Oakland y Diócesis de Stockton, es sostenido en un ambiente de cariño, y causa un cambio de vida y transformación. El grupo ofrece la sanación emocional y espiritual para las mujeres y los hombres de habla hispana y comenzará el 3 de febrero al 5 de febrero del año 2017 en la ciudad de Danville. Para más información, favor de contactar a Gloria Maldonado. Todo es completamente confidencial. Puede visitar nuestra página web al domicilio **AfterTheChoice.org**.

BAUTIZOS 2017 LUGAR DE BAUTIZO: IGLESIA · LUGAR CLASES: B-1 ENCARGADO: GREGORIO MENCHACA, (925) 826-5102 ****PARA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE CLASES, FAVOR CONTACTAR LA OFICINA****			
FECHA DE BAUTIZO	HORA DE BAUTIZO	FECHA DE CLASE	HORA DE CLASE
Sat 02/04	12:00 p.m.	Fri 01/27	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 02/18	10:00 p.m.	Fri 02/10	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 03/11	12:00 p.m.	Fri 03/03	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 03/25	10:00 a.m.	Fri 03/17	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 04/08	12:00 p.m.	Fri 03/24	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 05/20	12:00 p.m.	Fri 05/12	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 05/27	12:00 p.m.	Fri 05/19	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/10	12:00 p.m.	Fri 06/02	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/17	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/09	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 06/24	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/16	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 07/08	10:00 a.m.	Fri 06/30	7-9:30 p.m.
Sat 07/22	10:00 a.m.	Fri 07/07	7-9:30 p.m.