



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

June 2020

E-Mail: office@bscplacentia.com

Website: <http://www.BlessedSacramentPlacentia.org>



In Communion, what we eat, we become!

Last year, I was officiating a funeral here at Blessed Sacrament and afterwards was invited to the reception at the family's home. During the meal, a young man asked me at the table, "Father Barrett, what is the real benefit of being a Christian?" I turned around and said, "That is a great question...and I believe that coming to know the real presence of Christ in our lives is what it is all about, to have our lives transformed as sacred servants and as a result, to transform others in the same way, through the power of God's love and grace."

The answer that I provided spurred on other conversations throughout the dinner table with several sharing how they are seeking something that can fill their void in their own lives, that can give them a fresh start, a new outlook and spiritual perspective. They expressed how so many were needing a message of hope, peace and ultimate joy, especially in these uncertain times. I turned around and said to this small group at the table, "It is through knowing the real presence of Jesus in our lives that we can have such a life and live it abundantly."

In this special Corpus Christi Edition of our *Bethlehem Newsletter*, our patronal feast of Blessed Sacrament is recognized. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED!! We come to appreciate the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, instituted by Christ as a sure means of that grace in our lives. This is a great celebration of the life of our parish that we discover that through Holy Eucharist, the Word of God and through Community, we establish relationship, and all come to know the real presence of Jesus. This is the reason why we worship as Christians, this is the reason why we become Christians, to become what we ingest, to become all we were created to be.

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The Feast of Corpus Christi is not a day that we expect Jesus to return to us as a "big wafer" coming from heaven, as someone shared lately on Facebook, sarcastically. This special time of our Patronal Feast of The Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament commemorates the immense gift of the Eucharist in our lives and in the Church and how our Lord gave such an opportunity to discover the real presence of Christ in our lives.

Think of how many are looking forward to The Holy Eucharist being made available again, by us being one of the many churches opening Sanctuary doors to in-person worship this month, after not receiving due to our pandemic reality. But the reality of our desire in our hearts to receive the real presence of Christ provides us all that we need through our faith and hope, when we are unable to receive. And when we are able to obtain the body and blood of Christ by safe means, let us never take it for granted

Through the real presence of Christ, the sacrament of the bread to be the body and blood of Christ is to nourish and strengthen us for our journey through life. According to Tradition in the church and through sacred texts of various church leaders: **What we eat, we become.** We see with human eyes the bread and wine (Theologically, receiving the bread is receiving *both* the body and blood of Christ). We see with eyes of faith and spiritual understanding, not merely just bread consumed, but the risen and living Christ being manifested within us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In closing, while we are all discerning the appropriate location and timing of the physical presence of our worship and to eventually receive again the Holy Eucharist, know that no matter where we are or what venue or platform is decided by you or the leaders of the church, you are still being fully nourished spiritually by the real presence of Christ. This is confirmed in our Book of Common Prayer that when one is unable to eat and drink the Bread and wine, there is the assurance through such desire in ones heart that all the benefits of communion are received spiritually, even though the Blessed Sacrament is not physically consumed (BCP page 457).

It is through such an intake within our mind, body and soul, that we desire to receive Holy Communion with fervent love and respect -- not merely as a matter of routine, but to be at ONE. The Eucharist is the *Sacrament* of our full union with God, through what Jesus did for us; the real presence of Christ forever within us, no matter the temporary absence of any physical substance taken orally. It is how we spiritually ingest it in our communion and receive it spiritually by faith that truly matters.

This is what Corpus Christi is all about.

Amen.

Barrett+



CORPUS CHRISTI is our Patronal Feast of the Parish (Sunday, June 14th)

The following parishioners have shared how Blessed Sacrament has been, and is, a blessing to them.

Long ago in an adult Sunday school class, Fr. David asked each of us to share why we come to Blessed Sacrament. My response was from John 6:68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." So for me, that is the attraction. That there is excellent fellowship with very wonderful people is icing on the cake.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Juergens

The best part of Blessed Sacrament is its compassionate congregation and rector. They are very interested in each other's well-being.

Blessed Sacrament also has the most wonderful outreach activities.

Marion Lee

Blessed Sacrament is a True Blessing to/for me!

Being raised and educated in the Roman Catholic faith, I was taught about the Love of the Almighty/Trinity. Albeit there was a 20 year void...it was closed when I met Father Barrett and became a part of the Episcopal faith at Blessed Sacrament Episcopal church.

Father Barrett is a TRUE Priest! Pastoral in every way. A Honorable Holy man, a Family man, an Educator and a man/priest who has his heart and soul into meetings, teaching the CLC children the real meaning of our Faith and educating them in our Sanctuary. In planning celebrations, teaching adult Bible classes, celebrating Mass at an Assisted Living Home, and having a Healing service during the week, meeting one on one with people, and hearing private Confession. Plus having Prayer service during the week (Mon thru Fri) and holding Mass on Sundays at his home during this covid19 season. Father Barrett is my TRUE BLESSING!!

Carol Ann Miller

Blessed Sacrament has been for me a huge source of connection and inspiration over the years. If I had to pick one thing to focus on, it would be the music. Not just the fact that we do great music very well, which is often the case, but the fact that we really do music. As it's meant to be done. Even when it's an alternate tune and the choir hasn't exactly "nailed" all the parts, we sing music of the ages with sincerity and deep reverence. This is so rare and so very important.

When I hear the glib, ephemeral "product" that is Contemporary Christian popular music, I'm so grateful we are not relying on *that* thinned down Cream of Wheat to feed our souls. From medieval plainsong, to Vaughan Williams hymnal arrangements, to fresh contemporary settings of scripture and inspirational text, and music of substance is always offered at our little church. I am forever thankful that we have this!

Aimee Aul

The question is why wouldn't you like being a member of Blessed Sacrament Church?

The clergy and members are extremely friendly and welcoming.

You can easily see how hard the members of the parish in leadership functions have worked to make the environment Friendly and Warm. The operations suggest exemplary services attended by dedicated parishioners.

The new leadership is measured and building on past successes undertaken by a progressive vestry over the past number of years.

I enjoy all the members of the Church as well as Father Barrett who attends to his flock with great relish and enthusiasm.

Allyn Lean



"One of the best days of my life!
I was received and became an Episcopalian in
Sept. 2016."
Beverly Cardwell with Bishop Diane Bruce.

The love felt and demonstrated by the
people of the Church of the Blessed
Sacrament has been a strong support to
me. I have felt this way since January,
1978, when I first came, right up to the
present. "Behold, how these Christians
love one another!"

--Nancy Doman



The faces of Gail Rwakatare and her son, Mwendwa, show how especially blessed they are this month after receiving a much needed gift of a pre-owned Honda Civic in good condition that was originally donated to Blessed Sacrament by a local caring Christian senior citizen, well known through Fr. Barrett. Both he and Doug Lee made sure the vehicle was successfully delivered and transferred to Fr. Charles' family.

There are so many blessings that I am so thankful for as a result of Blessed Sacrament, from our music, our Adult Education, our CLC, etc.. It is an honor and privilege to be your Rector at our fine parish. One of the most recent blessings I had is when I saw all 94 Congregants together on Zoom with our "digitally present" Easter Mass in April. It was so awesome seeing all the faces of people that we had not seen for a long time, prior to the first time we used Zoom as our platform of choice for our Sunday Worship, starting Easter. I realized how much I was blessed by the connection of seeing the wonderful flock God gave me to serve all on one screen. Thanks be to God!

Barrett+

BLESSINGS RECEIVED FROM BLESSED SACRAMENT

By Ruth Govorchin,

The Govorchins moved from Torrance to Yorba Linda November 1985. We had attended St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach. Suzanne Jennifer Govorchin was an 18 year old person with developmental disabilities and lived during the week in a Lutheran group home in Mission Viejo. She worked in a sheltered workshop, Vocational Visions.

The first time Suzanne and Ruth attended Blessed Sacrament Church, Suzanne became upset from something. I had to take her out and home. I received three phone calls that evening asking for us to come back. I asked Rudy to come to church with Suzanne and I, so he could help to keep her calm. He attended with us when he was off duty from the Fire Station on Terminal Island.

All three of us were welcomed with open arms. Suzanne had no more problems in church and loved to go to learn about "Jesus". Because I was a Special Ed teacher in Fullerton School District; I was invited to become a Sunday School teacher. I brought Suzanne to class with me and gave her projects to do. Rudy would attend and make friends and assist in taking care of projects around the church.

Church service was wonderful and just what we needed in our lives. We have been so blessed with the following items-just to name a few, that we have and continue to receive from Blessed Sacrament.

Love	Caring, compassion
Faith	Friends
Hope	Self confidence
Acceptance	Thankfulness
Happiness	Kindness
Warmth	Welcoming
Forgiveness	Congenial
Belief In the Trinity	Truth
Trust	

Suzanne died January 10, 1993 in her group home. Change of medication caused multiple seizures that she didn't survive. She was a blessing to all of us. Her twin older sisters adored her. Her personality radiated to others the Love of God. She adored Jesus. {Can you just see her hugging Jesus?}.

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We made a large poster with Suzanne's school graduation photo and used the letters of her name to create a display of her life.

BLESSED SACRAMENT REMEMBERS SUZANNE

S Safe Sanctuary of Saintly people cared for her
U Understanding and Unity Uplifted her Uniqueness
Z Zeal and Zest for life reached her Zenith here
A Acceptance of Abilities by Angelic-like people
N New Testament followers Never rejected her Needs
N Nestled and Nourished by Neighborly folks
E Embraced her Exciting Effervescence and when Earthly life over-
Elevated her to Everlasting Eternal life Enfolded into the arms
of GOD

Our first-born twin daughter, Brenda Lee, survived an abusive husband and came home to live with us. She also loved Blessed Sacrament Church and had taken over the care of the church library. She had existing physical problems. She was a "decorator" and wore many different hats.

On November 5, 2018 she was coughing badly. I stepped away from her to get cough syrup; by the time I was back-she was unresponsive, eyes rolling back in her head. We called 911. She was taken to St. Jude where many doctors and staff worked on her for hours. Brenda Lee had suffered a brain bleed which spread through her brain. They sent her to Critical Care Unit where she remained on life support until the morning of November 10th when life support was taken off. She died about 10 A.M.

What a BLESSING we had with Fr. Michael Neils from Torrance, our interim priest for Blessed Sacrament. He came to the hospital and also our home to assist in dealing with all the problems we faced. He presided over a wonderful, uplifting Requiem Mass. He will remain in our hearts forever as a wonderful care giver.

Our grief for both daughters has been difficult and long lasting. Grief isn't like a cold. You never get over it-you live through it, one day at a time. Our Faith in God and Jesus Christ has helped us to deal with it. We go out to Loma Vista Cemetery during holiday times and decorate the graves of our two Blessed Daughters.

What blessings we have had during these years with Blessed Sacrament and our deep, abiding Faith during these very dark times. We will always have our deep, permeating grief but attending church for these many years has assisted us in living with our deepest grief.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord for giving us the Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the heavenly love and peace we find here.


Thanks Be To God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Just a few words about the grace bestowed upon Carol Ann and myself by our association with Blessed Sacrament. When we were looking for a Church in the area we considered 4 Episcopal churches. Blessed Sacrament was on our list because of the good people we knew from our previous church who had found a home here. Three things we looked for in making a decision were; 1) ministries to the community, 2) the congregation and it's commitment to serving God's People in need, 3) the Priest, the shepherd of the congregation.

We are truly blessed to have found in Blessed Sacrament; 1) a variety of wonderful ministries which are serving the surrounding communities, 2) the people of this congregation who contribute their time, their talents, and the sharing of those gifts God's Grace has brought them, in the name of Christ our Lord, ... and ... 3) Father Barrett, who is a true shepherd of his flock. His involvement and caring for all of us and what we try to do for others in Christ's Name truly is a reflection of our Lord! Father Barrett and all our brothers and sisters at Blessed Sacrament truly "Feed our Hungry Soul"!


Thank you all for accepting Carol Ann and myself into the flock, may God bless you all as we have been blessed by God's gift of you and Blessed Sacrament to us.

Tom Johnson



I love Blessed Sacrament and my church family. I have attended Blessed Sacrament since my early twenties. They are both my spiritual rock and have helped shape me my entire adult life. Since I received my cancer diagnosis a year ago, it means even more to me than ever. I would not have been able to deal with all my tests, treatments and doctor's appointments and flourished as much as I have without God's grace and all the prayers, support and blessings of my church, and my wonderful and beloved church family.

Anita Cruz.



Blessed Sacrament has been a wonderful home for our family of 3. From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed by the congregation. As a single mom, one can sometimes feel like one sticks out like a sore thumb. This has been the case at other churches but not at Blessed Sacrament. The church welcomed us with open arms. My kids run around the grounds and receive warm smiles from others. I've often been told by others how great it is to have them in the church. My daughter, who attends the Child Learning Center, has flourished. Because she attends a school Monday through Friday and we are there on Sundays, sometimes it feels like we practically live at church. I have greatly enjoyed the Sunday School both for myself and my kids. I have learned a lot and also grown in my faith journey. This is definitely not a church where you will feel judged. Instead, it is a warm and supportive place where people truly care about you as an individual. This pandemic has truly highlighted how special this church is. Parishioners call each other to check in on one another. They pray for one another throughout the week and gather each morning for morning prayer. During a time when it is so easy to feel isolated and alone, Blessed Sacrament has gone above and beyond to make sure that everyone feels loved by God and each other. I am truly thankful to have found such a special place. Although the kids and I are alone in the area, in many ways it does not feel like we are alone because of our wonderful church family.

Olivia, Jacob and Wendy Gray



I like the people at Blessed Sacrament, who are friendly, nice, smart, intelligent, hardworking, talented, funny, and devout. I like the ministries at Blessed Sacrament, like Eucharistic Visits, Feeding God's People, Laundry Love, and Outreach. I enjoy the terrific music and wonderful musicians.

I like Fr. Barrett, who is friendly, diligent, conscientious, and hardworking. He participates as a Eucharistic Visitor, volunteers at Feeding God's People and Laundry Love, and teaches bible study.

We are fortunate to have transfers from St. Andrew's and returnees who left long ago. Both play vital roles at Blessed Sacrament now. I miss members who recently left, hope and pray that they are all alright, and would welcome them back with open arms (social distancing?) if they were to return.

We will soon have a deacon, and if we are lucky, get to keep her, depending on Bishop Taylor. *The Bethlehem* is well written and composed, and fun to read. The CLC is an integral part of Blessed Sacrament. The children and staff are nice to have around. The office staff is efficient and friendly.

I appreciate the Tuesday and quarterly work parties, Altar Guild, ushers, coffee-hour hosts, the treasurer, wardens, and the Vestry.

What is there not to like?

Doug Lee

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

DID YOU KNOW? The newsletter of Blessed Sacrament is called "The Bethlehem" because "Bethlehem" is Hebrew for "House of Bread". In the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus comes to the worshiper in a "house of bread". Father David named the newsletter in November of 1978. It has been in circulation since that time.

A LITTLE HISTORY:

Many years ago, about two blocks from the church, stood a house on Palm Drive which was the home of Hilmer and Dorothy Lodge. (*Hilmer Lodge is seen in the photograph on the following page.*) On January 30, 1956, a meeting took place at that home, comprised of Episcopalians who wanted to start a church in Placentia. Parishioner, Mary Dalessi, was present at that meeting with her father, Hilton. The meeting produced a petition required by the Episcopal Diocese for that purpose. Bishop Frances Bloy granted the petition in June of that year, and the congregation was founded on October 7, 1956.

After being a private home it was a Montessori School and after that the house stood empty for many years and in January of 2006 parishioner, Jerry Hodson, visited the derelict property and took photographs which appeared in the March 2006 issue of the "Bethlehem". (*Some of which are shown below.*) Recently, the home was demolished and a new property nearing completion stands in it's place.



BACK WHEN: In the summer of 1960, as Blessed Sacrament was just beginning construction, from left to right are Gilbert Merritt, an early church member, Father Ernest Scully, the founder; Bishop Ivor Curtis; early church member Hilmer Lodge; and the Bishop's assistant Father Wesley Havermule.



50th anniversary celebration
Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament 50-year celebration on Saturday
Schedule of Events
10 a.m.: Celebratory High Mass
12:30 - 4 p.m.: Carnival with food, activities and entertainment
5:30 p.m.: Silent auction
6 p.m.: Spaghetti dinner
7 p.m.: Live auction
Carnival Tickets will be available at the church on 1314 N. Angelina Dr.
Information: 714-528-2995

These images appeared in the Placentia News Time, Dated Thursday, October 05, 2006.

BLESSED MEMORIES



AN UPDATE FROM OUR TREASURER, JOANNE POWERS



Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament Treasurer's Summary to Parish

May 18, 2020

Thank you all for doing what you can to help the parish continue operations while we are restricted from using our facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers below rounded to the nearest \$10 for clarity.

A. Income

No plate income was received in April since we held no in-person services. Envelope was also slightly lower than monthly budget, netting \$700 less than budgeted for the month. This month's overall income was \$3470 below budget, due to no rental income from the CLC and no usage of the parish hall or church for any meetings or performances. Annajeanne rental income was slightly above budget for the month but is still \$700 behind expectation for year-to-date (YTD). Overall YTD income we are \$2070 below target, or 4 percent under budget.

B. Expense

Monthly expenses were \$420 below budget, 2% below normal expected. Electric, gas, and phone costs are down modestly during our closure. Property taxes, insurance, and water bill came due in April, resulting in YTD expenses remaining \$670 above target for the first four months, about 0.5% over budget.

C. Overall Income vs. Expenses

Total monthly expenses exceeded income (\$4170). YTD overall expenses are \$4490 above YTD income at the end of this month.

D. Balance Sheet

The parish received a large designated gift during April which can only be used for repairs to the Annajeanne property (former rectory). In addition, the savings instruments recovered substantially due to the bounce back of the stock market in April. Official Vanguard statement values were not included in the bookkeeper's balance sheet, but unofficial verification of account balances in mid-May showed a recovery of more than \$21,900.

OUTREACH UPDATE



LAUNDRY LOVE At the time of printing it is unknown if we will have Laundry Love on Thursday, June 18. Coordinator, Doug Lee, will keep us informed via the weekly E-Tidings.

FEEDING GOD'S PEOPLE Placentia Presbyterian Church continues suspending Soup Kitchen (aka Feeding God's People at Blessed Sacrament) until further notice because of the Covid Crisis. Thursday, July 9, 2020 will be the next date we are scheduled to host, and our coordinator, Jane Peterson will keep us up to date with information.



OUTREACH PROJECTS—"BLESSING BAGS" AND "JUST FOR GIRLS"

The collecting of donations for these two projects will continue when we resume worship together in our church.

A THANK YOU NOTE received from Judi Carmona (School Board) regarding the thirty five jackets parishioners donated to be distributed by the Placentia/Yorba Linda School District.



Marion -
Thank you so very much for
the very generous donations from
Blessed Sacrament. The parishioners
of your church are truly the living
embodiment of Jesus Christ's message.
We will have a more formal
expression of our gratitude coming
in the near future.
many thanks!
Judi



If you have any questions and/or need more information regarding any of our Outreach projects please contact Marion Hetherington at 714-595-4219 or drop her an e-mail at cssquared@roadrunner.com.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER UPDATE

We held our quilt auction on Friday, May 29th and brought in \$1,900. A huge thank you goes to Diane Compton and Ruth Govorchin for their beautiful handiwork on the quilts. Covid-19 has hit our finances hard at Blessed Sacrament CLC since we were not able to have our annual school auction. To try and recoup some of the funds we are having an opportunity drawing for an amazing prize of over \$545 worth of gift cards. A huge thank you goes to Teri Niebuhr for putting it all together and all those in the congregation who sent in gift cards or money to go towards it. A drawing will be held on June 10th so you still have time to buy a ticket or two and support our school.

We look forward to opening our school doors again on June 15. Please remember, if you need to come into the school grounds for any reason, please check with the school office before doing so.

Blessings,
Tracie Donaldson, Director



BLESSED SACRAMENT
CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING!
DON'T MISS OUT ON BEING A BIG PART OF OUR FUNDRAISER
SUCCESS!

On June 10th we will be drawing one lucky winner for our

"GIFT CARD EXTRAVAGANZA FRAME"

The gift cards included are:

Summit House	\$200.00
Visa Card	\$50.00
Nordstrom	\$25.00
Cheesecake Factory	\$50.00
Target	\$30.00
Del Taco	\$20.00
Amazon	\$25.00
Ebay	\$50.00
Kohls	\$25.00
See's Candy	\$25.00
In -N- Out	\$32.00
California Pizza Kitchen	\$15.00

THIS OPPORTUNITY DRAWING HAS A VALUE OF OVER **\$545.00**

Tickets are \$5.00 each, tickets can be purchased by Venmo @Tracie-Donaldson

Please PM me your phone number so I can place it on the tickets with your name. I will send you a picture of your raffle tickets.

LET'S MAKE SOME MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL!!!

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW SUMMER ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

"DISCOVERING THE GOSPEL"

Tuesday Evenings beginning
June 9th. At 6:00 p.m.
Please contact Fr Barrett if you plan
to participate at
FrBarett1314@gmail.com

Pending direction from
our Bishop John Taylor,
June 21st could be the
date we celebrate mass in
person in our church.

Watch weekly E-Tidings
for the latest news!

Doug Lee Reports:

Eucharistic Visits are being made by phone each week.
The four Eucharistic Visitors are Fr. Barrett, Dominique Piper,
Craig Holoboski, and Doug Lee. We alternate among three
communicants: Janet Chism, Mary Hartman, and Fr. Charles
Rwakatare.

Sometimes we use this prayer, recommended by Presiding
Bishop Michael Curry:

"My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed
Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long
for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As
though you have already come, I embrace you and unite entirely
to you; never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)"

The Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Placentia.



Mission Statement

Answering the call of Jesus to follow the gospel, we honor the dignity of all God's children and strive to grow together in prayer and spirituality.

Vision Statement

Making our Lord Jesus Christ visible to the world through our word and service.

REV. BARRETT VAN BUREN, PRIEST
ALLYN LEAN, SENIOR WARDEN
DARLENE REIMERS, JUNIOR WARDEN
PATTY BELL, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
MARION & THEO HETHERINGTON, EDITORS
cssquared@roadrunner.com

**NEXT BETHLEHEM DEADLINE for the JULY 2020 ISSUE will be
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020**

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

1314 North Angelina Drive
Placentia, California 92870-3442

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Special
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Edition*

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Phone: (714) 528-2995

Fax (714) 528-2997

E-Mail: office@bscplacentia.com

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