



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

March, 2022

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A Holy Lent Equals A Practical Faith

While it is true that we know how the story of our new life as Christians actually begins with the empty cross as the symbol of Christ's resurrection, isn't it also essential that we have a liturgical season that helps us intimately walk along the side of Jesus from the wilderness to the Cross, for us to get in touch with His compassionate ministry with us, His feelings and emotions with us. It is a time that we experience a taste of the struggles that he endured-- to realize His pain and suffering through His humanity and divinity. The season shows us how much Jesus truly empathically knows where we are coming from in our own pains and sufferings and demonstrates the ultimate sacrifice through living the way of the greatest love for all of us.

To aid us in our journey of a Holy Lent, our Sanctuary is filled with the "feast of the senses" during this season, reminding us of how important it is to become closer to Jesus, especially during our hardships, and to take an inventory of our mortal lives; to discover how we can be even more involved in our faith and live our faith in new and fresh ways to express our Risen Lord in thought, word and deed.

Our continuing Book Study on Thursdays during Lent has been focused on the "Practical Christianity" on our Lenten journey, through our wilderness together as a congregation. From our Scripture lessons, our worship space, our discipline, prayers, fasting, and Alms giving, etc., we are immersed in the ways we can

become better connected with Jesus and to actively demonstrate our faith to others; for others to know the love of Christ and desire to become followers of Christ because of us, all because of witnessing our own praxis. Within Lent, it is essential to practice walking the way of God's love intimately and to seek to understand how our Lord's journey can change lives through our faithful trek.

Our practical faith during Lent is shared especially at Holy Week, also called Passion Week; Passion because it truly reveals the Passion (sufferings) of our Lord Jesus for all of us within humanity, in the grief and misery that He willingly went through on our behalf. We cannot truly grasp the meaning of such an incredible redemptive event that the Apostles witnessed from the crucifixion of our Lord and then the empty tomb three days later without walking through the journey. Our practical faith of going through the final moments of what transpired and to be a part of the victory of our risen Lord cannot be described in simple words, it can only be experienced. This is what liturgy is all about.

May this Holy Lent at our parish bring such passionate and experiential awareness of the love that God has for all of us; to actually practice a faithful living liturgy in our lives that can be shared in knowing that **nothing** can separate us from the love of God and to become fully restored and renewed through the healing and transformative power by the Spirit of the resurrected and living God forever. Amen.

Fr. Barrett Van Buren+



OUTREACH UPDATE

FOCUS for FEBRUARY was LAUNDRY LOVE

Many thanks to all who donated!

Update from Doug Lee, Laundry Love Coordinator:-

On February 27, 2022, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love helped **57 people do 645 loads of wash, spending \$837.50**. In addition, we gave out 30 face masks, 14 beanies from Caring Crafters, 6 rain ponchos, 56 (1.69 fl. Oz) bottles of hand sanitizer from the Placentia American Legion Auxiliary, many mint candies, and about 10-15 bottles of hotel toiletries from Beverly Cardwell. Maria, the Busy Bee Laundry attendant, handled everything, with no help from Blessed Sacrament volunteers. "Earth Breeze" provided all the detergent for free

Thanks very much to all our supporters.



MARCH/LENT FOCUS



Please consider supporting, through Episcopal Relief & Development, the humanitarian response to the crisis in Ukraine. To donate, go to: [//www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) and select Ukraine Crisis Response Fund. Or, if you would rather, you can write a check to Blessed Sacrament with the memo "Ukraine Response Fund" and your envelope number.

Please pray for all those affected.

LOOKING AHEAD—APRIL FOCUS

BRIGHTEN the lives of CHILDREN in need with an EASTER BASKET

Each Basket should contain:

- 1 hygiene item (shampoo, body wash, tooth brush, toothpaste, etc.)
- 1 gift item (crayons, coloring book, cars, jump rope, soft toy, etc.)
- 1 Chocolate Bunny
- Easter Candy
- Other fun items

Please wrap your basket in cellophane and bring to church no later than Sunday, April 10th.

We have an appointment to deliver baskets on Monday, April 11th.



If you have any questions or need more information please call or email Marion Hetherington, our Outreach Coordinator, at 714-595-4219 or cssquared@roadrunner.com

Dear Friends,

Greetings on our Lenten journey. Here is a prayer from the Bishop for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Mark Eddington, in response to the terrible situation between the Ukraine and Russia:

God of timelessness,
From chaos and disorder
you brought forth the beauty of creation;
From the chaos of war and violence
Bring forth the beauty of peace.
God of compassion
You saw the humanity of the outcast and the stranger;
Help us to see the evils of our hatreds and suspicions
and to turn them into the embrace of your Beloved Community.
God of peace,
Through your love on the cross
You overcame the power of violence and death;
Turn us away from the love of power
That we may transform a warring world
through the power of your love. Amen.

We are so thankful that our parish has become committed to the March Outreach for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), and to choose to provide assistance to Ukraine. It is heartening to know there are so many people who care about others a half a world away with whom they have no connection except their common humanity. A holy Lent begins with a Spirit to serve and give alms to those less fortunate. Let us pray and fast for world peace this Lenten season. Blessings.

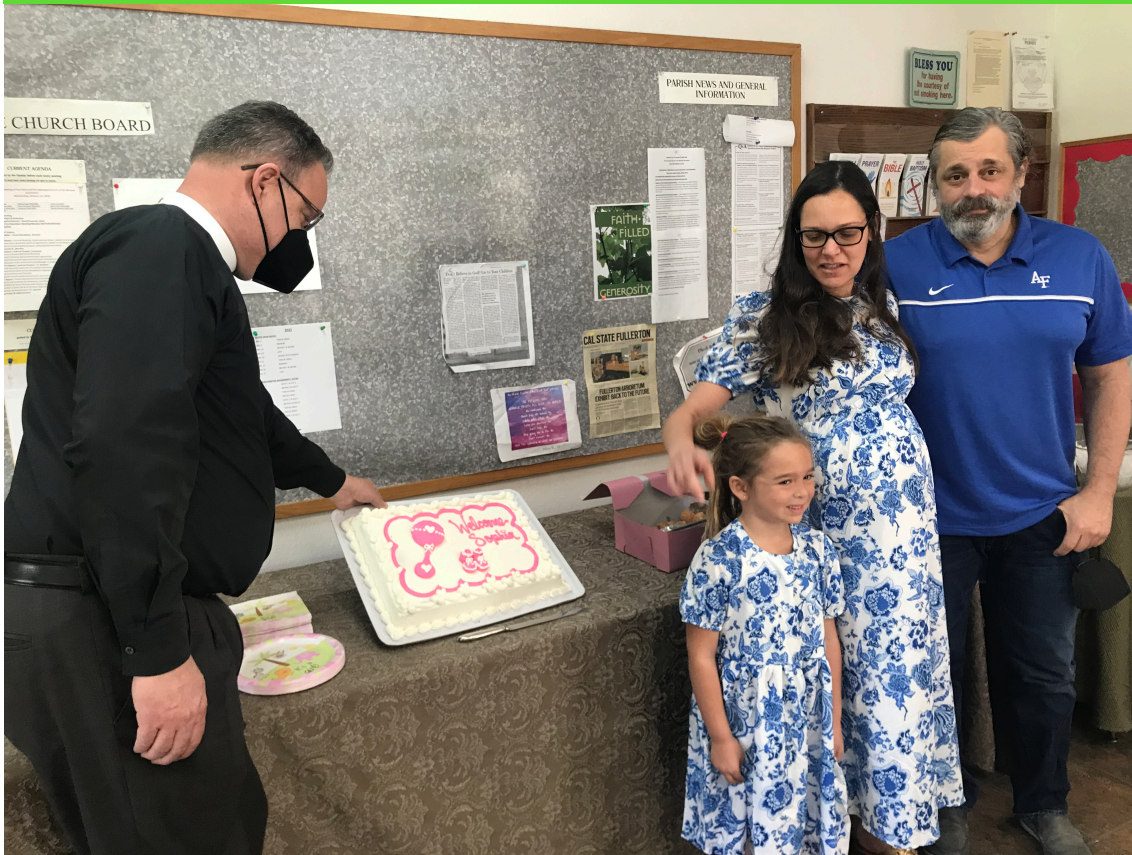


First day of Spring (Spring Equinox) Sunday, 20Mar2022
0832PDT/1532UT

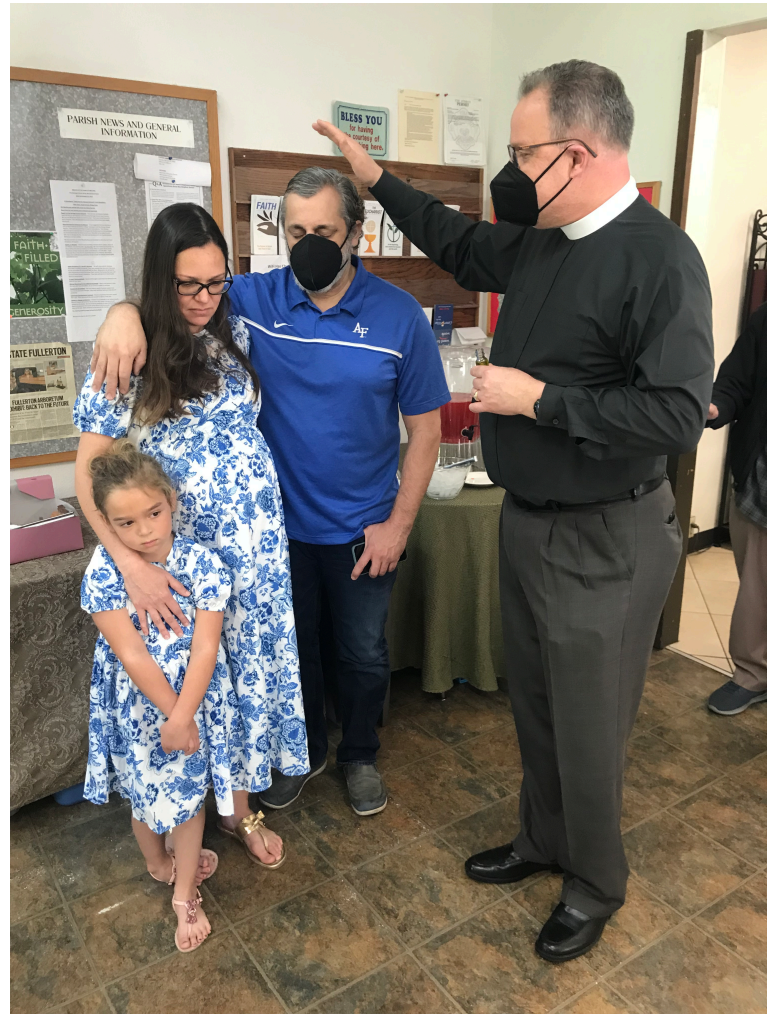
Celebration & Blessing!

Blessed Sacrament Hosts Baby Shower for Cassi Bittencourt

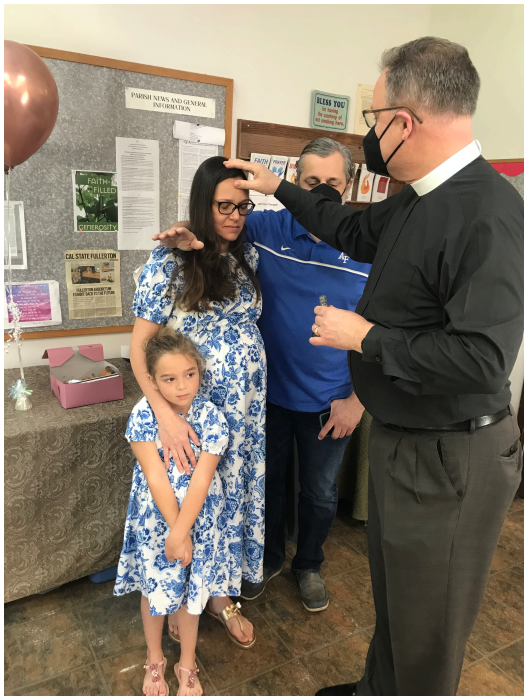
A Precious Baby is on the way and Blessed Sacrament wanted to celebrate! On Sunday, February 27, 2022, following the 10:30 service, the parish hosted a Baby Shower for parishioner Cassi Bittencourt. Cassi is expecting a baby girl (Baby Sophia) on April 7, 2022. Cassi was joined by her husband Alex and 5 year old Julia, who is soon-to-be a big sister. The decorations, food, and cake were great. The Bittencourts were showered with diapers, gift cards, and other baby gifts. Carol Morris even knitted a baby blanket and booties, and big-sister Julia also got a present. The mood was jovial and a good time was had by all. At the conclusion, Fr. Barrett and other parishioners showered the Bittencourt family with prayers, blessings, and love.



Fr. Barrett with the Bittencourt Family (L-R:Julia, Cassi, Alex)



Blessing and closing prayer



Carol Morris enjoys the Baby Shower with Soon-to-Be Mom Cassie and Big-Sister Julia



Baldwin Family House Blessing



Blessing the Baldwin family's home in Rancho Cucamonga right before Lent. The happy family with Fr. Barrett (L-R: Ryan, Rhys, Fr. Barrett, Jaime).

Mangino Family House Blessing



A happy occasion, on February 17, 2022, in Fullerton, with (L-R) Carol Morris, Fr. Barrett and Ashley holding Ivy Ray.

Drive Thru Ash Wednesday Imposition



Ashes produced from last year's
crosses

Parishioner Joe Arnold is imposed



Palm Crosses to Be Made for Palm Sunday



For the past two years, Rudy, Ruth, and Linda had graciously made the palm crosses for us. This year, we will be able to get together again to make them, and the Govorchins will be there to guide us. We will be making the palm crosses in the parish hall on **Saturday, April 9, beginning at 9:30** in the morning. You may bring a pair of scissors to cut the leaves.



Also that morning, the Angelinos will be decorating the church with palm branches beginning at 9:00. We are collecting palm branches of all lengths and types. If we have very long branches, we'll be able to decorate the crucifix behind the altar. We also need palm branches for the children and adults to carry as they process to the church during the Palm Sunday service. If you have palm branches, you may contact Marion Lee at (714) 692-0131 or marionlee8@yahoo.com. Thank you very much to the Govorchins and the Angelinos!

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service-(One Sung Service only with choral and congregational procession)	4-10-2022	9:00 AM In person only?
Tuesday Evening Bible Study	4-12-2022	6:30 PM Online only
Holy Week Preparation concert with the California Children's Choir & parish singers	4-13-2022	7:00 PM In person only
Maundy Thursday- Foot/hand washing, Dinner, Eucharist and stripping of the altar.	4-14-2022	5:00 PM In person only
Good Friday-Veneration of the Cross	4-15-2022	Noon - In person only
Good Friday Stations of the Cross - Special Music	4-15-2022	7:30 PM In person & Zoom/FacebookLive
Easter Vigil	4-16-2022	8:00 PM In person only
Easter Sunday - Rite 1	4-17-2022	9:00 AM Single service. In person & Zoom/FacebookLive

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THE BETHLEHEM

