



The Bethlehem Hebrew for 'House of Bread'

Winter Issue 2022-2023

Email: office @bscplacentia.org

Website: www.BlessedSacramentPlacentia.org

Phone: (714)528-2995 Fax: (714)528-2997

Preparation, Expectation & Change through Christ!!



With all the changes going on in our Church, in the economy, and in our personal lives, what is it that we hope for in the near future? What is it that gives us peace and assurance within upcoming days and months ahead? What is it that provides us with joy and contentment, love, and delight in the upcoming years of our Lord?

Advent is about the reordering of Creation. There are major changes that are taking shape in our lives that can also make room for the Christ to enter into our existence and provide for us everything that is listed above and more. Along with lighting the candles of an Advent wreath, we also need to focus on our Scripture lessons during Advent that give us prophetic messages of a new world order that will bring us new opportunities, new visions, new directions, and new lives.

We receive vivid images from the inspired Word of God of the spiritual impact of reinstating a ruler who is open to the Spirit of the living God and who will rule with compassionate and wisdom-filled authority focused on the meek, the lowly, the sick and tired, and the disenfranchised. Transformation will become evident. Whatever seems impossible will become possible. As St. Paul states, "All things work together for good for those that love God and those called to God's purpose."

We need to ask what God's purpose is for us during this Season of Advent and Christmas upon us. What is God calling us to change? How do we allow the Coming of Christ to radiate in our hearts, minds and souls? In the Gospels, we are provided an understanding of Advent, both the first and second coming of Christ; of how the church thinks afresh about how to join God in the Jesus movement towards a world that is more like the realm of heaven.

To get to that understanding and partnership of the reign of God, we have to let go of our egoism. I can think of no better Advent guide than John the Baptizer, whose instructions for preparation are condensed into one word: "Repent!" Repentance is the first step towards interconnecting with Jesus in the community moving towards the Realm of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

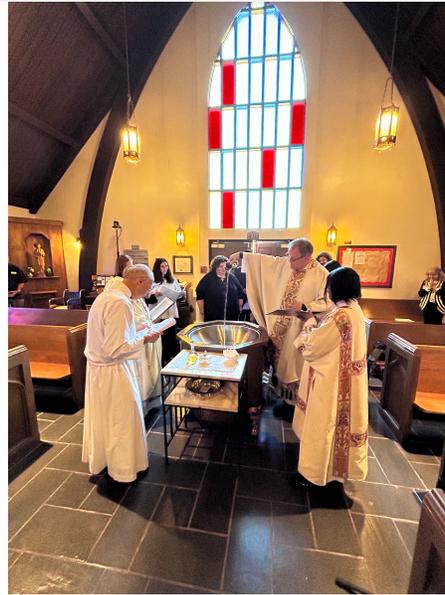
To repent is to clear one's mind and to ask God to cast out anything that is NOT of Christ. We turn away from such negative involvement, and instead turn towards God and the attitudes and actions of the realm of heaven. This is why Advent is considered a "minor penitential" season of preparation and expectation. The root meaning of "to repent" is "to turn" or to have a dramatic change of mind and direction. To repent is to turn away from the old self and become a new creation in Christ.

The Four "R" Formula in our Scriptures is simple. First, we **repent** of our sins known and unknown (idolatry, violence, anger, injustice, judgement, exploitation, selfishness, etc.). We then **renounce** them and **receive** Jesus into our lives in a fresh new way; we turn towards the values and practices of the Realm of God (Review the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23). We then are able to be **released** and liberated to be all that God wants us to be. Such change is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit within each of us.

So, in this time of Advent and Christmas, let us also become the unexpected Gift of all those we are in contact with, and begin anew with a change of heart, a change of direction, a change of purpose and calling. As our campus is being transformed before our eyes into an exciting new outreach ministry, with new buildings and grounds and future residents abiding, let us all also begin a change that this season provides by allowing Christ to reside within us, through the abiding grace and love our Lord Jesus Christ. A blessed Advent and Holy Christmas to you, all. AMEN.

Fr. Barrett+

**Baptism of Brigitte Bellavoine & Alexander Richey
The Rev. Barrett Van Buren & The Rev. Lyn Crow,
presiding.**



Beginning upper left, presentation of the Candidates, Brigitte Bellavoine by Ashley Mangino and Alexander Richey by Karen Laufer, his mom and godparents. Pouring and blessing of the water



Center: Brigitte is bapitized by Rev. Lyn Crow

Bottom: Alexander is baptized by Fr. Barrett Van Buren



Upper row: Chrism anointed Alexander and Brigitte as Christ's own forever and a candle is lit...

Bottom- candles are presented to light their way into the world as newly baptized.

We welcome the newly baptized!





Ashley and Brigitte with Amy and Choir with musical offerings...



...Amy on flute & Yuyoung Jeong on Piano.
Baptismal cake with Brigitte & Alexander—yum!

Guess Who?

Thanks to all of you who voted for November's Guess Who. The correct answer is our parish pianist and newly Baptized Brigitte Bellavoine—still as cute as ever. The lucky winner of the \$10 gift certificate to Starbucks is **Susan Dolliver**.

Our "guess who" this month is a beloved parishioner pictured in 2001. Please Email or call Patty Bell at pbell@bscplacentia.org or 714-528-2995 with your guess. The lucky winner will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card and be announced in the next Bethlehem. Good Luck!!???



Blessed Sacrament Celebrates Enrique Ortega, our newest Bethlehem Choir Member

Enrique Ortega is our newest member of the Bethlehem Choir. Ashley Mangino, our Choir Director, was able to interview Enrique before his Senior Recital at Cal State Fullerton on December 6. Below is a transcript of that interview.

ENRIQUE'S SENIOR RECITAL

Enrique Ortega, our illustrious new Bethlehem Choir tenor, is giving his Senior Recital at Cal State Fullerton on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Building.

In anticipation of his upcoming recital, Ashley Mangino, our Choir Director, interviewed him regarding his plans for the future:

Ashley: So you are a Senior Music Education major at Cal State Fullerton, and what do you want to do with your degree?

Enrique: I definitely want to teach high school, high school choirs at this moment in time. It always changes, but right now, that's where I'm looking forward.

Ashley: What sparked your desire to be a musician?

Enrique: My older brother started playing the trumpet, and I was jealous, so I started playing instruments too. I first started out on a violin that was way too small for me, so that's why I quit a year later. Then I started playing the saxophone -

Ashley: In elementary school?

Enrique: Yes. In sixth grade I started playing the saxophone. And I played it all the way up to college; actually, and I recently quit playing the instrument.

Ashley: So you could be in the wind ensemble, too!

Enrique: Okay, let's not go too far! My saxophone days are behind me, but I started singing in my sophomore year of high school. Freshman year of high school I took the music appreciation class led by the choir director of my high school. And she loved getting band kids, because they already knew how to read music. So I was everything she wanted, so she really pushed me to join choir. And eventually, I did, I folded, and now I'm here; so I'm singing.

Ashley: Wonderful! Who are your musical inspirations? Who do you listen to? You're a tenor with a very beautiful voice, so who are the tenors that you have looked up to over the course of your education?

Enrique: I would just go with Pavarotti, really. If I could be even half as good as Pavarotti I would have made it in this world. He's definitely my go-to. And when it comes to teaching - because I think that's even more important than me performing, Dr. Christopher Peterson, the head of pedagogy at CSUF, is my chief inspiration, also Dr. Robert Istad, the head of music. They are everything I want to be in a teacher and more. Whenever they're teaching, I'm making little mental notes, just like what they do, how they do it, how they go about it. I'm in the right place.

Ashley: You obviously want to go in the direction of teaching, which has a whole other scope than performing, so what do you like about teaching?

Enrique: What I like about teaching is that it has the ability to change, and it has the ability to inspire. I wouldn't be here except for my choir teacher in high school, Mrs. Salmon. I invited her to my recital, but she still hasn't read the message yet, but I hope she comes. That's the reason why I want to become a teacher is that I was given the opportunity of music because someone gave it to me. I want to give it back to my future students. I always found teaching kind of intuitive, and I don't find myself very nervous when it comes to a crowd, so it kind of works out like that.

Ashley: It sounds like music has been really helpful for you in building self-esteem and building community. So what do you think - this is a big open-ended question, but what's the point of music in life?

Enrique: There's this great quote I was just reading: "Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is never enough for music." I think the real purpose of music is to just be music. Just music in and of itself, its qualities. Humans ascribe values to things. Music is just organized sound, in its purest definition. If I just tap on these books over here, it's just sounds; but if I interpret it as music, then it instantly becomes music. I'm not sure where I'm going with this.

Ashley: We're just talking about the joy of music. Obviously we're all gathered together here because music is a powerful force for good in our lives, and we're just trying to articulate that. That takes a lifetime; I agree with you. One lifetime is not long enough to extol the virtues of music. Along those lines, do you have anything to share about your faith journey? You're working at a church. I'm just wondering where you are on your faith journey--if that enters into your music-making.

Enrique: When it comes to my whole faith journey, I always kept it a little at arm's length, it was always just not the most comfortable subject for me. That's where you guys come in. At this church I feel very welcome, despite my own beliefs, and I've never felt out casted. I've been in churches before where I felt like on pins and needles, just sitting there with my hands pressed together, and I've never felt that here, so I feel very lucky. And I think it's important

too, as a music educator - just in general, music is very tied to religion. The very first recordings of music were done because the head of the church ordered for all music to be written down; so it's very linked with each other. I very much wanted this job also to explore the side that I've been neglecting, and I've come to understand it and even appreciate it. I'm very grateful for that.

Ashley: I'm really learning a lot from this interview. The moment you stepped up to perform, and you were so thoughtful and ready, and you took a moment, and -

Enrique: Everything they teach you over there. I was just following a little blueprint in my head that Professor Schaeffer told me to do. He knows a thing or two.

Ashley: When is your upcoming Senior Recital, and what are you performing?

Enrique: I'm performing a lot. It's on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. I'm going to be performing two works from Handel's *Messiah*, oratorios. I'm also going to be performing three French selections, three German selections, then two Italian selections.

Ashley: I never asked you, who is your favorite composer to sing? Enrique: This is very much Robert Schumann. Two of his German pieces are in a song cycle that he gifted to his wife the day before they got married. I know all this because I wrote an entire paper on Schumann for my degree. Schumann is definitely my favorite because he's very romantic in his way of composing. It's more about feeling than it is about anything else. That's where I really like music, where it's just all about the feeling behind it.

Ashley: I think that's a great place to end.



Left: Lobby of CSUF Music Building (Recital Hall): Enrique and some of his friends, Carol Morris, Teri Nieburg, (Enrique) and Ashley Mangino.

Right: Announcement of the senior joint recital held on December 6, 2022 of Enrique Ortega (L) and David Jimenez.

Link to recital: https://www.dropbox.com/s/jtn0ikya5yj9bea/RH_Video_130_000001.mp4?dl=0

Outreach

Laundry Love

On November 17, 2022, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 51 people, doing 456 loads, spending \$700 (\$13.73/person, \$1.54/load, 8.9 loads/person). Hand sanitizers from American Legion Placentia Post 277 Auxiliary and face masks were given out. Detergent was free from earthbreeze.com. Crayons, coloring books, activity books, and a Christian comic book were given to children. Blessed Sacrament volunteers Marion and Doug Lee assisted Busy Bee Laundry attendant Maria. CLC contributed \$20. Thanks very much to all of our supporters and a special thank-you to our Laundry Love Facilitator Doug Lee.

Thanksgiving Baskets to Friendly Center

Monday, November 21, fourteen (14) Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to the Friendly Center. The Outreach Committee appreciates you answering the call to help those in need in our community and beyond.



The Friendly Center collected 634 Turkey Baskets for families this Thanksgiving. (2,853 total individuals).

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you church family members for the prayerfully packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Tuesday evening, November 15, fourteen boxes were delivered to The Samaritan's Purse Office in Fullerton. Volunteers graciously helped unload the boxes from the truck and then we were led in prayer over the boxes by one of the volunteers.

The Outreach Committee thanks you for your generosity and creative gifts packed with love for children less fortunate in over 100 countries.



Children's Sermon



Children's Sermon by Fr. Rick Byrum on December 4, 2022, 10:30 Mass for children to experience a directed sermon for them as Jesus did.

Lessons & Carols



Top: The Joint Choirs of Blessed Sacrament Episcopal Church, Placentia; St. Andrews Church, Fullerton; and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Fullerton assembled.
Inset: Brigitte Bellavoine, Piano.

Bottom: Wind Ensemble with Aimee Aul, Flute and Debbie Patterson, Recorder (Left), Center and Right: Rev. Dominique Piper Deacon & Saxophone, Steve Sprague, French Horn, Wind Ensemble Director and Darcy Sprague, Clarinet.



Picture 1 -3 Ashley directing Joint Choir during One of the Choral Anthems sung.

Picture 4 Aimee Aul reading Third Lesson: Isaiah 9.

Picture 5 Acacia After School Choir with beginning solo by Esther Merilles, then continuing after solo (well done!) directed by Ashley Mangino in Picture 6.



Left: Aimee and Brigitte close with a well performed Postlude.

Right: Rev. Dominique wraps it up.

Coming Events

December, 2022

Joint Blue Christmas service December 20, 2022 at 7:00PM Emmanuel Episcopal Church; 1145 West Valencia Mesa Dr.; Fullerton CA 92833 (West of Euclid on Valencia Mesa Dr.)
Christmas Eve Family service 4:30 PM especially for children with reception afterwards with a birthday cake for Jesus and other goodies.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Mass 9:00 PM with Bethlehem Choir performing and special music with Soloist, **Hannah Kim**.

Christmas Day, Sunday December 25, 2022: one mass at 10:00 AM with special reception following. **No Sunday School**. Mimosas will be available!

January 2023

New Year's Day, January 1, 2023: one mass at 10:00 AM. **No Sunday School**.

Annual Meeting January 29, 2023 following 9:30 AM Mass. **No Sunday School**. Lunch will be served. Agenda WBIS when available in January. Hybrid meeting.

Be sure to check ETidings for latest information and updates.

Vestry/Staff/CLC Christmas Party



The Vestry/Staff/CLC Christmas party was held on December 8, 2022 at the Parish Hall at Emmanuel Episcopal Church due to our on Campus limitation. Our most profound thanks to Emmanuel for sharing this space with us. Food was brought in and set up across from the appetizers already there. Fr. Barrett opens up with a prayer of blessings and thanks.



Top: Servers' view of set up. Lots of conversation with wine and other drinks and appetizers.

Middle left: Teri & Gary Niebuhr, Leo Song, Carol Morris and Penny Van Buren.

Right: Fr. Barrett with Adrian Roberts Gonzalez, BSC bookkeeper

Bottom: L-R: CLC teacher, Daisy & husband; Assistant Director Sheila Jordan; Karen Lauder CLC volunteer & church member.



Top left: Lindsay Whipple CLC Board Chair; Jeremy, Adrien's significant other, Adrien R. Gonzalez, BSC Bookkeeper; Ashley Mangino and Brigitte Bellavione.

Left Middle standing: Gary Niebuhr, Leo Song Bethlehem Editor; Ashley Mangino, David Juergens, Adrien Roberts Gonzalez.

Lower left: Anita Cruz, Carol Ann Miller with Ashley in rear.

Upper right: L-R: Diane & Anita, CLC teachers; Tracie Donaldson CLC Director & husband Bill; Patty Bell BSC Office Administrator.

Many thanks to those who organized and helped set up and break down. Kudos to Beverly Cardwell for expert managing and David Freeman, our bartender.

Breakfast with Santa!



Welcome to Breakfast with Santa supporting the Children's Learning Center!
Guests are gathering while the Children find play equipment. Time for pancakes!

Winter Solstice Wednesday, 21Dec2022 at 1348:00PST/2148:00 UT



More areas for play and of course a chance to have a picture taken with Santa as CLC Staff assisted. Preparations are underway in the kitchen and the food was served outside at tables.

Inset: The Mangino Family

A truly magnificent time on a beautiful sunny day on December 10, 2022.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year 2023!



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1314 NORTH ANGELINA DRIVE
PO BOX 1449
PLACENTIA CA 92871**

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