



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

February, 2023

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When I was a Chaplain at a local hospital a few years ago, I remember a gentle Episcopalian Senior Citizen who was going through tough times with her illness. It was Ash Wednesday when I visited her, immediately after our worship service for the hospital. I asked her if she wanted imposition of ashes on her forehead and she graciously declined. I then asked her what is her practice for Lent and she looked puzzled for a moment with a stare that caught me off guard. "What an interesting question, Chaplain", she said. She thinks about it for a moment and exclaims, "It is not too much of a worry for me anymore...for I have a good dryer at home and clean the tray regularly and if I find any, I just use masking tape to remove it."

I realized immediately that she thought I said the word "Lint". While humorous for both of us, it was to my surprise that Lent was not only not practiced by a large number of Christian patients in the hospital, but most had not given it a thought of what Lent was really all about and had no concept of its purpose or meaning, even when they desired the imposition of ashes, just so they received some physical indication of God's blessing on them.

As we enter the Season of Lent, we are taking the sacred path of knowing the importance of our mortality, and practice penitence, forgiveness and knowing God's mercy. Lent is a period of 40 days leading up to Easter, observed by

Christians as a time of fasting, repentance, and spiritual discipline. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday. During this period, many Christians choose to give up certain luxuries or abstain as a form of sacrifice and to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice and suffering during his 40 days in the wilderness. It is a time through the wilderness that we take a spiritual inventory of our lives and fine-tune (or completely overhaul) our relationship with God through our walk with Jesus to the cross.

People observe Lent with the hope of growing closer to God and to have the mind of Christ. Through such choices listed above, the faithful seek to deepen their spiritual lives and strengthen their belief. Lent is also seen as a time for self-reflection, self-discipline, and self-improvement, as individuals seek to turn away from sin and grow in their walk with Christ. Many also use Lent as an opportunity to take something on by helping those in need, both within their communities and around the world. The ultimate goal of Lent is to better prepare oneself for the celebration of Easter and to live a more meaningful and fulfilling life through Christ.

During the next six weeks, there will be three different weekly opportunities in our local Deanery or diocese to participate in a Lenten series program that will bring support, renewal and greater understanding of why we need Jesus in our lives, including in our parish. There are people in Christian communities who need to stop harboring the negative past with disappointment, anger, frustration, fear and are in desperate need to forgive themselves and those that have hurt others deeply in any way, yet are stuck to do so. Lent is a discovery of how to become liberated and live free, indeed. We all can have full healing and transformation; to see new options for spiritual wholeness, so that we can truly connect with the peace of God and the resurrection of Christ. Come and partake in every way you can this Lenten season and become all that you were created to be through our God that loves, forgives and transforms you and me.

A Blessed Lenten Season,
Fr. Barrett+

Bishop's Dinner at St John's Cathedral, Los Angeles CA



St John's Cathedral in Los Angeles was the site of BSC Vestry's dinner with the Bishop on a rainy January 14, 2023 Saturday night. Here are some pictures of the awesome front altar with the Lectionary on the upper right, center with ceiling and the pulpit. *Bishop John Taylor, left then **Bishop Michael Curry spoke to the gathering. Then our group bottom right → continuing on next page...



..left our group and Fr. Barrett with Bishop Curry.
Various musical groups performed inspiring spirituals during the meal.

A memorable visit to an iconic landmark cathedral built in 1925.

*Bishop John Taylor, Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles

**Bishop Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Guess Who????

Thanks to all of you who voted for last month's Guess Who. The correct answer our own Ruth Govorchin—still as cute as ever. The lucky winner of the \$10 gift certificate to Starbucks is Marion Lee.



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

Senior Warden Message 2023 January
A Message from our Outgoing Senior Warden, Allyn Lean

Fellow Parishioners as we say goodbye to one of our own Jerry Dale Hodson, may he rest in peace, we are left with a memory of a man who put others above himself including our parish and fellow parishioners.

He, Jerry will be missed!

As I depart from the vestry I look forward to the vision and care from the newly formed incoming vestry.

I trust our new mission Invite, Welcome, and Connect to be introduced by Ned Bergert will be our way forward as epitomized by Jerry's smile and work ethic around the Church when we were blessed by his company.

The most important element of any thriving congregation is the welcoming nature of the parish and congregation.

A smile is a pathway to engagement and drawing an open conversation with our constituents and guests.

I can say we were a bit hamstrung by Covid moving through my term on the Vestry, yet the smiles and sense of volunteerism were always present.

I have so many to thank for managing circumstance through very difficult times as we found new ways to engage our public and parishioners.

We became tech savvy through Zoom Broadcasts and came to understand the relevance of masks.

We became innovative financial experts to sustain our sanctuary.

Given our demeanor and deportment as a Vestry, Parish, and Community we will continue to touch people and be an inviting oasis away from the hustle and bustle of our temporal lives.

I have been very blessed to have the opportunity to serve you all and am reflecting on the lessons gained from the experience.

Alas, my term ends and I wanted you to know how much I valued each one of you and your thoughtfulness and prayers as well as the mark that is indelibly etched on my soul as a result of your many kindnesses.

Thank you again for the experience and look forward to new vistas as our Thoughtful Rector moves us into 2023 along with his capable staff.

Allyn Lean, Senior Warden

Outreach

The Blessed Sacrament Giving Tree

On December 5, 2022, Outreach delivered **25 gifts and \$500 in Walmart Gift Cards (\$25.00) each** to the Placentia Community Services office located in the Whitten Center in Placentia.

Note: The Friendly Center, formerly located in the Whitten Center moved their office to Buena Park.

Ivanna Paz and her staff greeted us and was happy to receive our gifts.

Thank you all for not only the gifts and gift cards and socks but for keeping the tradition of helping those in need during the Christmas season alive and well at Blessed Sacrament.

Blessings Bags, Our Outreach in January 2023

January is the month that Outreach will replenish the supply of Blessing Bags. Last year we stocked hand-sewn cloth drawstring bags with toiletries and other supplies for those in need. \$10 McDonalds cards were given to parishioners to either hand out separately or with a Blessing Bag.

We invited our parishioners to take one or more bags to distribute to folks in need. This year, one of our members, Marianne Weisel, purchased inexpensive back packs which we will stock with similar items and at this time of year, handmade beanies will be included. **Won't you please help us with supplies for the backpacks? Suggested supplies include small shampoos, conditioners, soaps, hand sanitizers, shavers, socks, tooth paste and tooth brushes, water, and snack bars.**

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Teri Niebuhr, Anita Cruz or Marianne Weisel.

Laundry Love, December 2022 & January 2023

On 12/15/22, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love helped 45 people do 407 loads, spending \$622.50 (9 loads/person, \$1.53/load, \$13.83/person). An infant cap and baby blanket from Maureen Burton were given to a 5-month old baby girl named Heaven. 2 boxes of crayons and 2 coloring books were given to children. Volunteers were Marion Lee, Matthew Lee, and Doug Lee, assisting Busy Bee Laundry attendant Maria. Thanks very much to all supporters.

On Jan. 19, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 42 clients, doing 406 loads, spending \$680.00 (9.7 loads/person, \$16.19/person, and \$1.67/load). We bought 3 plastic bags at \$0.75 each. We helped a student with \$1.50 for drying, even though she paid for her wash. EarthBreeze.com provided detergent at no cost. About 10 coloring books and crayon boxes were given out. CLC contributed \$20. Blessed Sacrament volunteers Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee helped Busy Bee attendant Maria. Thanks very much to all supporters.

PARISH LIFE

COORDINATOR: BEVERLY CARDWELL

Parish Life is the newest ministry here at Blessed Sacrament. Up until now, our common and most needed ministries have been outreach to others such as Feeding God's People, Laundry Love and our many monthly ministries. Our community has been so giving to others in need and those less fortunate than us. The generosity of our parishioners has been outstanding and overwhelming and we are sure this will continue and grow. **Parish Life**, on the other hand, is giving to ourselves. We wish to establish activities that will strengthen the relationships among ourselves. We want to do this by sharing, connecting, bonding, counseling and doing fun and rewarding activities that will bring us closer together in a common fellowship. This will include inviting new people to our party and encouraging the involvement of everyone in the parish. We intend to request the participation of the Angelinos and the Angelinas both in concept and implementation. We are in the process of planning for 2023 and some of our ideas are picnics, game night, support groups, holiday dinners and celebrations and field trips. We are open and strongly encourage any ideas that you may have for activities or would greatly appreciate your offer to act as a member of this newly founded ministry. If so, please contact Beverly Cardwell at 714 996-8445.

New Vestry

Ned Bergert



For the last 35 years my wife Sandy and I have been members of The Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament. Over those years I have grown to love the Episcopal Church and the community of Blessed Sacrament. Those gifts of love are what motivate me to seek to serve for a second time on the Vestry.

Currently, I am a member of Blessed Sacrament's Altar Guild, the Outreach

Committee and am on the Lay Eucharist Visitor's team. In addition, I assist Fr. Barrett with Morning Devotion and currently serve as the chair of the Endowment Committee. Outside the walls of Blessed Sacrament, I serve on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and within that ministry, I chair the subcommittee on laity. At the Deanery level, I act as the vice-president for Deanery 9. My wife Sandy and I were inducted into the International Order of St. Luke the Physician. Members of OSL offer prayers of healing to all those in need. In the past, I have served on the CLC board as chairman and member of the board and as a past Junior and Senior Warden for the church.

After being asked to serve again on the Vestry I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to guide my decision. He showed me that I could offer help in supporting our Rector, current Vestry members and our church family. I would be a voice of the people using my listening skills, compassion for others and team building skills that were developed in my professional environment for the past 45 years as a Certified Athletic Trainer and Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant working in both the professional baseball setting and outpatient physical therapy clinic. I would work hard to communicate the work of the Vestry and concerns the parish in a prayerful and discerning manner.

Moving forward I hope to share my vision for *restorative justice* as taught by Jesus. In these changing times the people of God are called to continue to care for our sisters and brothers in Christ. How we interact with people in and around our campus will determine the health of the church. How we open our hearts and doors to the children of God needs to be not only talked about but acted upon by all members of Blessed Sacrament. By studying the teachings of Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit, I believe we will move forward following the path of love modeled to us by God.

Susan Dolliver



In 1986, my family moved here to Placentia from the San Francisco Bay Area. I have 3 daughters and have been blessed with 5 grandchildren. My husband passed away 10 years ago. I worked in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District for many years. My time now is spent with my family, my friends, travel and hobbies. I love to read and do arts and crafts.

I attended church at Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton for many years. A few years ago, I realized that God was leading me in a different direction in my beliefs and worship. I attended several churches in the area looking for the one that I felt best answered my prayers to follow where the Lord was taking me. From the first moment I stepped into Blessed Sacrament,

I knew that my faith journey would continue here. I have now been attending since the summer of 2019. I have found a warm and welcoming church. The commitment here both to our own parishioners as well as the wonderful outreach work we do is inspiring. I am active in the Altar Guild, the Outreach Committee and our crafters group, The Peacemakers. I have also served as Clerk of the Vestry for the last year. I would like to take the next step in my commitment to Blessed Sacrament by serving on the Vestry.

Gary Niebuhr

Hello. My name is Gary Niebuhr. I grew up and was educated in Long Beach California. When I was in the third grade, my mother found out some other boys on our street were going to Sunday school. She decided that was a good idea and sent my brother and I with them. I must have had a good teacher because the basic lessons I learned stuck with me to this day. Notice I said "basic" and not "extensive". I don't remember how long this continued but it wasn't years. It would have helped if my parents attended church as well.

When I was young, my family and friends spent a lot of time tinkering with and fixing different mechanical things. I liked figuring out how things worked (ask me about my new typewriter.) I also earned money mowing some of my neighbors' lawns and repairing my old lawn equipment when it broke down. For example, my brother made a go cart out of my old edger. Eventually I graduated from Long Beach State in 1974 with a degree in Industrial Arts and a teaching credential. After spending a couple of years substitute teaching, I received full-time employment with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Los Angeles was a good place to be because they were very dedicated to industrial education. Other school districts were busy phasing out such programs. It was there where I spent the next 35 years teaching mechanical drawing, computers and technology to junior high/middle school students in East Los Angeles.



In 1979 I married my lovely wife, Teri. After living another five years in Long Beach and growing our family, we had the opportunity to move to Placentia. In 1985 Teri and our son Matt began attending Church of the Blessed Sacrament. In 2015 Teri volunteered to be Junior Warden because she knew she could recruit me to do all of her miscellaneous gardening/repair work. We had the best of both worlds. She went to the meetings and I did the handyman work. I joined Tuesday Task Force and enjoyed the community and fellowship helping at the church, rectory and Children's Learning Center. In the ensuing years I met Fr. Barrett who walked me through the basics of being a Christian; and in January of 2021 I was baptized and became a member of Blessed Sacrament Church. Serving on the Vestry will be another step in my life journey as a fledgling servant.

Ed note: Gary was nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting and all candidates were voted in by acclamation.

ANNUAL MEETING WAS A WONDERFUL GATHERING AND TRIBUTE

We wish to thank so much all the members of our parish that joined on last Sunday's 67th Parish Annual Meeting. For those of you in person, we enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal and warm fellowship. Along with our 2023 budget being approved, we also voted by acclamation our slate of three new Vestry members: Ned Bergert (Senior Warden), Susan Dolliver (Vestry Clerk) and Gary Niebuhr. Additionally, David Freeman was named our new Treasurer and Tom Johnson our new Junior Warden with Gary Niebuhr as his Deputy Jr. Warden.

We also voted for Aimee Aul to serve as the Lay Delegate for our Diocesan Convention in 2023 and Ashley Mangino as our Alternate Lay Delegate. We also included special recognition awards for all the Volunteers who had gone above and beyond in various ways to serve and minister at Blessed Sacrament. The "Golden Hammer" awards went to Tom Johnson and Dick Reimers for their continued service to the church. Jerry Hodson also received this award posthumously, which was presented to his fiancé, Sherri Baumann. The "Platinum Planters" award went to both Teri Niebuhr and Anita Cruz for their ever present and diligent work on Tuesday Task Force. And, our dear Midge Birky, who has demonstrated continuous on-going service to our community, is our latest addition to the Sacred Wall of Recognition. Thank you, Midge!

Special thanks go out to all who have made the Annual Meeting possible and also went above and beyond in various ways for the meetings success: Beverly Cardwell, Gary & Teri Niebuhr, Sandra Roberts, Maureen Burton, Carol Ann Miller, Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, Patty Bell, Marianne Weisel, Chris and Deacon Dominique Piper, Penny Van Buren, Allyn Lean, Joe Arnold, Adrien Gonzalez and Susan Dolliver. We were also very appreciative of everyone's contributions sharing in the preparation of such an important meeting.

Continuous Blessings,
Barrett+

Calendar

CIRCLE THE DATES FOR LENT:

Tuesday, Feb. 21st. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner/Mardi Gras Party @ Emmanuel, Fullerton 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.

Wednesday, Feb. 22nd Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru for imposition of ashes @ 7:00 AM-9:00 AM in the parking lot

Wednesday, Feb 22nd Ash Wednesday Mass in our Sanctuary, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM. Hybrid worship.

Thursday, Mar. 2nd Lenten Evening Prayer @ 6:00 PM, Souper Salad Supper @ 6:30 PM. Lenten series 7:00 PM-8:00 PM. In-person.

Check on E-Tidings for other Lenten Series opportunities in our deanery and diocese for Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the season of Lent. This includes St. Andrew's in Fullerton on Wednesdays and Bloy House on Tuesdays.

Starting Sunday, Feb. 26th, Preparation for the Catechumenate, Confirmation and reception into our Church. Adult education on answering all questions about the Episcopal Church and were afraid to ask. Textbook: Walk in Love. ALL are invited to attend to just learn more about the church and investigating further. 9:15 AM-10:15 AM

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