

# THE BETHLEHEM

# Hebrew for "House of Bread"

March,2023

E-Mail: office@bscplacentia.com Website: http://www.BlessedSacramentPlacentia.org Phone: (714) 528-2995 Fax (714) 528-2997

#### Holy Week: the final days that lead to transformation.



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, and 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.

The "Feast of the senses" during this season of Lent are 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. This is a sacred time on our liturgical calendar when we fully take account of who we really are, who God is fully to us and in what ways have we lost sight of our expression of our intimate relationship to God; to repent and turn our lives around with God's help at the foot of the cross, where the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world-- the action that fully restores us, "for by His stripes, we are healed".

During this period, there is a formation in us happening when we are reminded where we have all fallen short of the glory of God and to completely recognize Christ's redemption for us all. It is at the cross when the curtain is torn, and we all become one with God within the "Holy of Holies" and the best is yet to come! There is a restorative component for all of humanity through what Jesus did for us. As St. Irenaeus stated, "God passed into humanity so that humanity might pass over to God." Christ's passion and crucifixion is the great "Passover" that defeated the powers of evil and that Christ's death and resurrection provided full inclusion within God's Covenant once and for all. Through Christ, being transformed and divinized as one with our immanent God is true atonement for all Christians. Within our weekly Lenten Bible studies, devotions and Worship, we are immersed in the ways we can become better interconnected with our Lord and Savior, and to be empowered to actively demonstrate our faith to others; to know the love of Christ by witnessing our own praxis and serving the other. Within Lent and Holy Week, 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.

We cannot truly grasp the meaning of such an incredible redemptive event that the Apostles witnessed of the empty tomb and seeing our risen Lord, if we do not truly comprehend how and why Jesus went through the darkness to the light; from the last supper to the Garden, from the Garden to the trials, from the scourging to the Cross, from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the resurrection. It is through such experience that we personally identify Christ's victory within us.

May this Holy Week at our parish bring such passionate and experiential awareness of the love that God has for all of us; to actually live knowing that truly **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 our resurrective and living God forever. Amen.

Fr. Barrett Van Buren+

# OUTREACH March 2023

The month of March we are focusing on the UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO) BOXES, LAUNDRY LOVE, EASTER BASKETS, AND BLESSING BAGS.

#### UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO) BOXES

The United Thank Offering (UTO) invites every Episcopalian to NOTICE the good things that happen each day, GIVE thanks to God for your Blessings, and MAKE an offering for each blessing by dropping a coin in a UTO Box. Through annual UTO grants, every penny you donate becomes BLESSINGS for others through the USA and wider world. Through UTO grants, community leaders have been empowered to solve water crises, hold vaccine clinics, purchase laundry equipment, and teach families about agricultural projects to support individual families in the Diocese of Kurunagala. The United Thank You Boxes are due March 26.

#### LAUNDRY LOVE

Laundry Love's dedicated volunteers, led by Doug and Marion Lee, gather once per month (the third Thursday of the month) at Busy Bee Laundromat in Fullerton. Families, singles, couples gather to receive services. On February 16, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love helped 56 clients do 546 loads spending \$909 (\$1.66/load, \$16.23/person, 9.75 loads/person). Thirty-nine 8 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer (from Sheila Jordan, CLC Assistant Director) and many facemasks were given out. CLC contributed \$20. Also, the coin machine repairman at Busy Bee contributed \$20. EarthBreeze.com provided free detergent. Busy Bee Laundry attendant Maria led Blessed

Sacrament volunteers Marion Lee and Doug Lee. Thanks very much to all supporters and our very special Laundry Love Facilitator, Doug Lee. The Peacemakers make beanies too, which are distributed as needed. As mentioned by Doug Lee, the cost of washing and drying clothes has increased, therefore, your donation will help offset the funds which are provided by our parish.

#### EASTER BASKETS

This year we will be donating Baskets to the children participating in activities at the Whitten Center which is operated by Placentia Community Services.

They ask that baskets be wrapped in cellophane and contain a chocolate bunny, a stuffed animal, a toy(s) of some type and small candies which could be contained in plastic easter eggs. Ideas for toys, coloring books, crayons, word puzzle books, school supplies. Use your imagination. Outreach will deliver the baskets on **Monday April 3**.

#### BLESSING BAGS

As you enter the church, you may have noticed or even taken a small back pack or cloth bag containing hygiene items, a beanie, socks, a list of referrals for shelter and food in Orange County, a snack and a McDonalds Gift Card. These bags are almost gone. In fact, just yesterday, one of the members of Outreach distributed a bag to a man, sitting on the curb across the street from the church. This bag may not be much, but when you acknowledge someone by engaging in conversation and handing them a Blessing Bag you/we are doing what our Savior, Jesus, would have done. **Donations needed**: Granola bars, hygiene items: sunscreen, hand sanitizer, lotion, socks (preferably dark colors) small containers of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, and brush are greatly appreciated.

The Outreach Committee will gather in person and on Zoom again, Tuesday, March 28 at 2:00 PM.

Please come by or zoom in to hear about upcoming events. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Teri Niebuhr (tnieb@sbcglobal.net), Anita Cruz (<u>anita.cruz1@sbcglobal.net</u>) or Marianne Weisel at (<u>marweisel1@gmail.com</u>).

#### Guess Who???

Thanks to all who voted for last month's "Guess Who". The correct answer is Todd McIntosh, our football star and 8 a.m. usher. The lucky winner of the \$10 Starbuck's gift certificate is Doug Lee. Our "Guess Who" for this month is a little cutie and a beloved member of our parish. You've got to love the hair! Please Email or call Patty Bell at <u>pbell@bscplacentia.org</u> 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???



## The Presentation of our Lord/Candlemas



The ancient and sacred Candlemas Service that dates back to the early Church took place just a couple of weeks before Lent. We wanted to make sure no one missed out on such a special service that emphasized how we are the light of the world during the season of Epiphany and always.

Parishioners gathered in our sanctuary where white candles were blessed and lighted. Passing the flame to others, the candles represent the light of Christ and that the light of Christ is always with us.

All candles will be taken home by parishioners.to be lighted daily to remind each family member of the light of Christ in their homes. As a well-known tradition during the season, families also had planned to have their places of residence also blessed by both Fr. Barrett and Dcn. Dominique Piper. It is a season that reminds us all of the manifestation of Christ in our hearts and lives.

Our newest choir member, Ashley's daughter, Ivy Mangino, prepares for her debut! Then a blessing and healing prayer for Carol Ann Miller after being anointed by Fr. Barrett took place. Ivy models her new Choir robe tailored by Carol Morris. Thank you, to Fr. Barrett for an inspired sermon, the Altar Guild, our members of our Choir and Instrumentalists for putting together such a beautiful service.

# Vestry Retreat 2023



Our retreat was held at St. Paul's Commons in Los Angeles with a total focus on our new program that we are implementing at our parish: **Invite**, **Welcome and Connect**. Our Guest Facilitator was our Archdeacon of our Diocese, Laura Siriani. We had the opportunity to discover how God desires us to be even more engaged with the members and visitors of our parish and to get people connected to really know each other and to know our parish better as a whole.

The full day Retreat and workshop offered Morning Prayer, breakfast and lunch, interactive groups for discussion and brainstorming, and review of the materials from the book and packets put together. The gathering consisted of both current and previous Vestry members, as well as active Lay leadership.

A Committee was formed that will create what is called "Welcome Mat", a special meeting every two months to better get acquainted with new people who have started to come to Blessed Sacrament and desire to learn more about them individually and for them to learn more about our ministries and the parish as a whole. Our first Welcome Mat will be **Sunday**, **March 26**<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Sung Mass at 10:30 AM in our temporary Parish Hall.

Individual members of the Committee will also be assigned as part of a "companion system" with each new person that has started to regularly attend our services and get them more involved. The Committee member will also serve as a "Connector" to assist with having the regular visitor meet other people in our congregation and involved with whatever ministry or activity God is leading them towards. The individual assigned will also answer any questions and keep in contact with each potential member of our parish.

# The Eve before the beginning of Lent

#### Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras

After dinner and Lenten games, entertainment was provided with Karaoke and fun times by all!!



Our Lenten Activities started out with a joint Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras celebration pancake dinner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Parish Hall. Just before the dinner, last year's crosses were burned to create ashes for Ash Wednesday. Regalia was provided including 3 strands of beads/guest along with hats and masks. Our able crew helped prepare and serve the meal with a backdrop for pictures providing a great background. Then we sat around and ate our pancake dinner.



More songs featuring Aimee Aul, and a great duet with Fr. Barrett and Patty from a routine "I Love New York" and then an ending with Ivy and Ashley.

## Lent

### Ash Wednesday





"We are but dust and to dust we shall return."

Morning Ash Wednesday drive through imposition in North Parking lot on a clear Wednesday morning. Some may have walked up and your editor rode his bike. The evening service was broadcast on Zoom and a screenshot of the imposition of the congregants, and finally Fr. Barrett and Dcn. Dominique. A truly moving day.

#### Lenten Souper Salad Supper and Lenten Devotion



Thursday Evening Services during Lent followed by delicious soup and salad and a discussion. The meditation, on this occasion, was the story of Jesus healing the man who was born blind. This is the Gospel reading for 19 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent. You can watch this and earlier ones on our Facebook page! 16 March 2023 for this one!

# Lenten Poems & Carols

Sunday Evening, March 12, 2023

Featuring the poetry of T.S. Eliot and the voices of Blessed Sacrament, St. Andrews, and Emmanuel Episcopal Church Choirs, the California Children's Chorus, Acacia Choir and Luminaria



Performances by these choirs and ensembles were featured interspersed during the concert. Beginning top left, the California Choir children from 4th-12th grade directed by Maestro Chung Uk Lee performed many types of songs including a traditional Korean folk song. Top center and right top, Luminaria directed by Brigitte Bellavione with Aimee on flute top center. The bottom left, Ashley Mangino directs the combined choirs of Blessed Sacrament, St. Andrews and Emmanuel Episcopal Churches, and the bottom center, she directs the Acacia Choir featuring Aimee Aul on flute. The last picture is artwork by Aimee Aul that was on the front page of the program for the amazing night. Readings by several BSC members were also featured as well as Fr Barrett with opening prayer and closing collect.

Spring Equinox will occur on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 1424:00PDT/21:24:00 UT/GMT/Z



#### PALM CROSS MAKERS AND PALM SUNDAY DECORATORS

We will again be able to make palm crosses together this year. For the past three years, Rudy, Ruth, and Linda graciously have made our palm crosses. This year we will be making them in the parish hall on Saturday, April 1, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and they will be teaching and guiding us. You may bring a pair of scissors to cut the leaves.

#### **Lenten Services**

Thursdays in Lent	Evening Prayer & Lenten Supper	6:00 p.m Evening Prayer followed by a Souper/ Salad potluck and Lenten Teaching.
Weekly on Thursdays	Weekly Healing Service	12:00 p.m. Healing service and Mass
Tuesdays in Lent	Bible Study via Zoom	6:30 p.m Weekly Bible Study utilizing the Sunday Scriptures (Zoom link provided in the e-Tidings)
Fridays in Lent	Stations of the Cross	12:00 p.m Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent

#### Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Maundy Thursday Service	4/6/23	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy	4/7/23	Noon
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	4/7/23	7:00 p.m.
Great Vigil	4/8/23	8:00 p.m.
Easter Morning	4/9/23	9:00 a.m.

### Help to support the Children's Learning Center Auction

BLESSED SACRAMENT	BLESSED SACRAMENT CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER
CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER	P.O. Box 1449 Placentia, 92871 PH. 714-528-3070
P.O. Box 1449 Placentia, CA 92871	AUCTION DONATION FORM
"Where Children Know They're Loved"	501(c)(3) Non-Profit TAX ID: 95-2478956
To Our Friends of BSCLC,	DONOR INFORMATIOIN
Blessed Sacrament Children's Learning Center is seeking your support for our school fundraiser.	Nome/Company
Blessed Sacrament Children's Learning Center	Address
24 <sup>th</sup> Auction	Gty/Zip
Saturday May 13th, 2023	
	Phone
Would you consider helping us by becoming a sponsor? Would you be able to donate your product or service?	[mol
The funds generated from this event will help us set up a scholarship program for families needing help during financial difficulties and to maintain the high	Yes, I would like to donate an Auction Item to the Children's Learning
quality of our program while keeping our tuition as affordable as possible.	Center
We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) school and childcare center in Placentia, serving more than 80 families with young children, ages 2 to 6. We offer a caring and nurturing environment where each child is valued as unique and special. We also support the parents through flexible childcare scheduling that coincides with work hours; sharing of	Description of the item:
resource information; and referrals to professionals when needed. Our program runs year-round. We are open Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00em. The Center is	Estimated Value:
funded entirely through monthly tuition paid by our school families and through fundraising.	I have enclosed my donation item.
We will be celebrating our 24th year this yeart! Our fundraiser will include a	I will deliver my donation item no later than May 1*, 2023. Please contact me to amange pick up of the item.
silent/live auction & raffles. We know the evening will provide an atmosphere of fun and	Presse consist me to smarge pick up or the item.
fellowship for everyone who attends.	Gift is in form of a certificate. (Do you need us to make a certificate for you?)
Attached to this letter, you will find our sponsor and gift donation form. Upon completion, please forward the form to:	
Blessed Sacrament Children's Learning Center	
P. O Box 1449	I would like to become a Children's Learning Center Sponsor.
Placentia, CA 92871	Enclosed is my tax deductible* check for:
We would like to have all forms returned by May 1*	\$100.00 - Bronze Level Spanson/Np.
Please help us make this fundraiser a gigantic success for our children's benefit. If more	\$250.00 - Silver Level Sponsonihip.
information is needed, contact the school office at 714-528-3070 or email us at bscic1238/vahoo.com.	
	\$500.00 - Gold Level Sponsorship.
Sincerely	Please accept my cash donation of
Tracie Donaldson - Director	
Facility # 304270495	
Tax ID # 95-2478956	
All Donations are Tax Deductible	

The CLC auction will take as stated above. Please use the info sheet as a guide and fill out the form on the right if donating. Info can be copied onto a piece of paper that can accompany your donation. If downloaded as a PDF and you want to print this page, open file in Adobe PDF Reader or Preview if on a Mac. (Double click on the file icon and if your computer can open it, it will do so on the software installed.) Then use the print option and note the page number, which you can specify in the print window for printing.



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1314 North Angelina Drive Placentia CA 92870 P.O. Box 1449, Placentia CA 92871

# ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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