



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

Pentecost Edition, May, 2023

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THE SPIRIT OF OUR LIVING GOD IS ALIVE AND WELL



This is our Pentecost Edition of our church newsletter and based on what has been transpiring during this Eastertide and the plans that are being finalized for our campus here at Blessed Sacrament and throughout our diocese, I say that the Holy Spirit is doing awesome work through each of us and we give thanks to God!

We have now hit the 50 days after Easter and are celebrating the most vibrant moment of our church liturgical calendar. Pentecost is the birthday of our Church in Jerusalem around 30 CE, 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. The importance of Pentecost lies in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, which empowered them to proclaim the teachings of Jesus and establish the early Christian church. It also marks the beginning of the spread of the Gospel to people from various nations and languages.

As we examine our parish ministries and the amazing outreach and in-reach we have done in what is considered a small but mighty and spirit-filled community, we can truly celebrate and joyfully reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Blessed Sacrament and all of our members. We have seen first-hand of the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering us all for ministry, providing spiritual gifts, and fostering peace, unity and commitment among us. We are given confidence, direction, knowledge and tenacity through the Spirit of our living God that is alive and well within each of us.

No matter the changes or the circumstances that we encounter, God has got this and we will be victorious. Let us move forward in this season of after Pentecost and be in a "spirit-filled consciousness", where we let go of all that distracts us from the reality of God's love and resurrective power upon us and just get into the paradigm of God's grace and peace that is within us, so that we can operate through the power of the Holy Spirit and to have a mindset that "In Christ, we live, move and have our being". A blessed Pentecost and Ordinary time for all of you.

The Spirit of God within,
Barrett+

Blessings Received from Blessed Sacrament

By
Ruth Govorchin

The Govorchins moved from Torrance to Yorba Linda November 1985. We had attended St. Cross 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 me, 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 at church and loved to go 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 blessed with too many blessings to name and we continue to receive "blessings" from Blessed Sacrament.

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?}

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.

In the past three years, with the arrival of **Fr. Barrett Van Buren**, our love and commitment to Blessed Sacrament has only been strengthened. We adore Fr. Barrett and think he is a precious man. We are so thankful that he is here to shepherd our church through the building of the Santa Angelina Low Income Senior Housing Ministry. Fr. Barrett has truly risen to the occasion like few others could have.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Thanks Be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Confirmation of Matthew Stephen Clark

What a joyous, May 9, 2023, Saturday for the Confirmation of Matthew Clark at the St. John's Cathedral in Los Angeles. We were involved with 7 other churches with a total of 28 to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed. Our supportive group for Matthew, which included our Deacon Dominique, Senior Warden (Ned), his Spouse (Sandy), our Treasurer and the sponsor of Matthew (David), Doug and Marion, Dave, Leo, Fr. Barrett and Matthew's parents, were the only representatives attending that laid hands upon The Confirm and praying together in such humble fashion to our Lord. It was a beautiful day that new members of the Episcopal Church were added to our diocese and that we all celebrated together such a united sacred event.



Before start, Matthew and his mom, Fr. Barrett and Dave Freeman, Matthew's sponsor as procession, with Dcn. Dominique leading, starts; Matt and Dave on way to front followed by other candidates.



Bishop John Taylor and The Very Rev. Anne Sawyer, brings up end. and gathers at the front of the altar with Dcn. Dominique who later presented the Gospel.

Confirmation starts as clergy approaches and Matthew prepares to be confirmed.



Matthew, only Confirmand who knelt, which showed such humbleness before God, by the laying on of hands with BSC and Matthew's parents at this most sacred moment. Assisting Bishop Taylor is The Very Rev. Anne Sawyer, Interim Dean and Priest-In-charge at St John.



At conclusion, Matthew stands now confirmed with parents behind him. A proud mom with Matthew shortly after conclusion of his Confirmation and some of the BSC parishioners in back, who attended.



Confirmation photo at front door of St. John's with Matthew, BSC parishioners and clergy from St. John's and Blessed Sacrament.



Celebration luncheon at Eatily in Century City.



Gifts presented at Sunday service in honor of his confirmation included a complete set of The NRSV Bible with the Apocrypha and The Book of Common Prayer, given by the parish and Vestry.

The Dr. Voiza Arnold and Dr. Joe Arnold Passport Office

By Dr. Joe Arnold

On Saturday afternoon, April 29, 2023, the Placentia Library held a Dedication Event to recognize their decision to name one of their Passport Offices in our names. The event was conducted by the President of the Library Board, Jo-Anne W. Martin, and the Library Director, Jeanette Contreras. One of our grandsons, Mitchell Jones, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Barrett was gracious enough to provide the Invocation. Among other things, we received Certificates of Recognition from Congresswoman Michelle Steele and Assemblyman Phil Chen. Several years ago we decided to make the library one of the focuses of our giving. We first discovered the library when we moved to Placentia in 1974 and we have great memories of taking our children, and later our grandchildren, there on a regular basis.



My wife, Voiza, also was able to share the story of her first encounter with a public library. She grew up in a little town in southwestern Missouri called Carthage. While she was in elementary school one of her teachers told her class that there was a beautiful Carnegie Library in their town where, if they wished, they could get a library card. So, one weekend she decided to walk down from her home, enter the library, and asked if she could get a library card. And sure enough, she got a library card, and checked out her first book. And the rest is history."



Joe & Voiza in front of now Dr. Voiza Arnold & Dr. Joe Arnold Passport Office.



Afterwards, a reception with commemorative cake!

Fr. Barrett and Allyn Lean, our former senior warden, also attended the ceremony. We are honored to have Dr. Joe as a beloved parishioner at Blessed Sacrament.

Outreach

Soles 4 Souls Shoe Collection—May 14 to June 11

Soles 4 Souls turns unwanted shoes and clothing into opportunity, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use. They providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. People living in poverty want a better life, but many lack opportunity.

From May 11 to June 14, the Blessed Sacrament Outreach Committee invites you to donate gently used shoes. Storage is at a premium. Therefore, please place the shoes in a box rather than a storage bag. If you do not wish to provide a box, Outreach will provide a cardboard box labeled Soles for Souls at the rear of the church, south of the front door.

Laundry Love

On April 20, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 58 clients, doing 512 loads, spending \$960 (8.83 loads/person, \$16.55/person, \$1.88/load). CLC contributed \$20. Sheila Johnson, the CLC Asst. Dir., contributed 48 eight oz. bottles of hand sanitizer, of which 46 were picked up by clients. Five coloring books and boxes of crayons were given out, as well as muffins and cupcakes from CLC. Laundry Love coffee was available at the church for financial supporters and volunteers of Laundry.

The owner of Busy Bee Laundry gave Blessed Sacrament \$740 as a 2022 discount. Blessed Sacrament is so "blessed" to have Doug Lee oversee this loving ministry.

Blankets for Young Mothers

On Wednesday, May 10, Outreach delivered blankets and gift cards to 16 young mothers. The beautiful blankets were made by members of the Peacemakers Ministry. They were blessed by Fr. Barrett at the 9:15 Mass on Sunday May 7. Members of the Peacemakers Ministry are Sandra Bergert, Bev Cardwell, Susan Dolliver, and Carol Morris. Some of the blankets had been knitted by Claudia Canfield, who passed away recently.



Gift cards packed and ready to go and blankets being blessed by Fr. Barrett before being delivered.

Blessed Sacrament Children's Learning Center (CLC) hosts Annual Fundraising Auction and Dinner—Hard Hat Happy Hour

A great time was had by all one-hundred people who attended the 24th Annual CLC's Auction and Dinner Fundraising Event on Saturday, May 13, from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Yorba Linda Community Center. The evening was full of fun, food, fellowship, and fantastic items up for bid. The food was catered by Fratellino's in Brea. There was a live, a silent auction, opportunities drawings, and a grand prize raffle.

The live auction featured such things as "free CLC Luncheons for the school year; a dinner 4 four at the Placentia Fire station; two preferred seating with parking for the May 27 Angels game against the Miami Marlins; and a ride along for one adult with a Placentia Police Officer; Baseball Legend Ted Williams signed authenticated memorabilia; and class quilts.

In addition to other fun games, there were **85** delightful gifts, baskets, etc. in the silent auction. Needless to say, there was something for everyone.

This year's Grand Prize Raffle is a 2-night stay in a Big Bear Cabin donated by Phil's Bear Caves Cabins. (\$1,000.00 dollar value, excludes Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.) Raffle Tickets are only \$5.00 each.

The CLC also recognized Ruth Govorchin for her incredible service in donating quilts for the last 23 years In some years, she donated as many as six quilts. She was not able to contribute this year but needless to say, it will be the next century or never, when this record is broken. To show their appreciation CLC made a quilt for Ruth!!! As the picture below shows, she was thrilled.



Our dear Ruth Govorchin receiving her thank you quilt from Tracie Donaldson, CLC Director.



The Whole Crew: CLC Director and Staff, Fr. Barrett, and Blessed Sacrament volunteers.



Fr. Barrett, Dave Juergens, and Gary Niebuhr selling drink tickets.



Fr. Barrett, Tracie Donaldson, Adrian Gonzales, and Patty Bell.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER!!!

Guess Who???

Thanks to all who voted for last months's 'Guess Who". The correct answer is our own... Carol Ann Miller. The lucky winner of the \$10 Starbucks gift certificate is Diane Compton.



Our "Guess Who" for this month is one of the nicest men in our parish. This 5th grade picture shows a little mirth and fun which our contestant keeps to this day. 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???

Altar Guild Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up the church for the Sunday services and cleaning up afterwards. Altar Guild Members also sign up to cover major holy days such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week. In addition, they are responsible for baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

The Altar Guild currently has nine members: Deacon Dominique Piper, Sandra and Ned Bergert, Maureen Burton, Mary Dalessi, Susan Dolliver, Marion Lee, Richard Reyes, and Rose Valdez.

The Altar Guild has three teams. Each team is responsible for every **third week** and the team usually meets each Saturday morning to set up for the Sunday Service(s) and then cleans up after the service(s). In the summer when the Ned and Sandy Bergert are out-of-town, the teams are responsible for every other week.

At this time, the Altar Guild needs a few more members, particularly since the Bergerts are out-of-town during the summer months. **Please let Father Barrett know if you would like to join our group. Not only is this a very rewarding ministry, but it is also a lot of fun and a way to develop and deepen friendships.**

Editor's Note

For our readers who are reading the printed hard copy with grey scale pictures, I would like to inform you that this publication is available in full color from the Placentia Blessed Sacrament website or from the link in your E-Tidings email as a pdf download here: <https://blessedsacramentplacentia.org/> at the home page, click on The Bethlehem Newsletter link in upper right corner. Click on desired issue archived back to April, 2022 with the scale moving later with each new month.

Enjoy!

Summer Solstice will occur on 21 June 2023 at 0756:00 PDT/1456:00 UT/GMT

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