



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

November, 2023 Thanksgiving Edition

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A TIME FOR GRATITUDE AND THANKFUL HEARTS



A dear parishioner gave me a gift for my office when I was installed as the New Rector for our parish four years ago. It was a sign that says, "Today is a good day to thank God." Every time I see it, it quickly gets me on the right track to have an attitude of gratitude and to realize how grateful I am for all that God has continuously blessed me with in my life. How about you? Have you taken the time today or this week to truly thank God for what you have been blessed with? Such a spiritual practice to begin the week with such thanksgiving in our hearts is probably familiar to you when we have Holy Eucharist. Each Sunday Mass is dedicated to the great Eucharista (Gr. Thanksgiving). It is a time to give thanks to the gracious living God for all of the provisions He has given to us.

During this month of November, it is time of Thanksgiving, preparation and celebration!! We are about ready to embark on a new liturgical year for the Church, and before this occurs, we enjoy the glorious Thanksgiving feast with our families and loved ones. In the coming up holiday festivities, we need to give thanks to God for the wonderful country we live in; the freedoms that we hold so dear in our hearts. We need to give thanks for our households, also for what God is doing in our church with new members, more children, a new parish hall, a new image of our church grounds, our enhanced music program, our new Santa Angelina ministry, and so much more. And as we reflect on all that we give thanks to God for in our earthly pilgrimage, let us express it in various ways that make a difference.

Let us give with thankful hearts through just a few examples of Stewardship: with the completion of our Pledge Cards; in what ways we plan to participate fully in a ministry God has called each of us into for building God's reign; regular participation in Worship; giving to Outreach ministries in our parish to help those less fortunate; involvement with our parish in new activities and events that promote community and fellowship. We are called to be in a mindfulness of gratitude, love and compassion and with God's help—we can truly express incarnational servanthood with a grateful heart.

In all that we do in our work, with our families, our friends and our ministries—let us truly reflect on our sincere gratitude and express why we give thanks through such generosity that is **rooted in abundance** and thanksgiving for our sovereign God. In every moment and in all things, "we will praise the name of our God and magnify our Lord with Thanksgiving" (Psalms 69:30). Always, let us all be such instruments of Thanksgiving in our hearts.

In Christ,
Fr. Barrett+

Beloved Parishioners Celebrate 50 years of Marriage



Former Senior Warden Allyn Lean and his cherished wife Nancy have celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They also renewed their marriage vows. What better place to celebrate and renew vows than in Hawaii. The only issue is that they don't look old enough to be married 50 years! Congratulations to both!

Bishop Taylor Blesses Scully Parish Hall



On Monday October 23, 2023 at 3 pm, Bishop John H. Taylor visited Blessed Sacrament to bless our new Parish Hall named Scully Parish Hall after our first rector. Scully Hall is part of the 65-unit Santa Angelina Apartments, which are affordable and permanent supportive housing for low-income seniors. They are expected to open in January 2024.



Fr. Barrett had organized a beautiful liturgy and program for the blessing of Scully Parish Hall. Father then learned that the Fire Marshal was coming at 3 pm for the final inspection, which is the same time as our service was beginning. Therefore, the blessing service could not process into the new parish hall but was held in the new central plaza, where the hardscape cement was still drying. Matthew Clark, our acolyte holding the Paschal Candle, led the Bishop, Fr. Barrett, and Deacon Dominique in the blessing. Children from the Children's Learning Center came and sang happy birthday to the Bishop. (His birthday was 2 days after the dedication.). Our beautiful choir then sang a Taize anthem - Ubi Caritas. The choir members present included Ashley Mangino, Aimee Aul, JR Arnold, Carol Morris, Teri Neihbur, JoAnne Powers and Adrien Roberts.

The Dagestino's were also present but due to health reasons, could not personally appear (upper left waving in the white car). All cheered them!



Following the blessing, Blessed Sacrament hosted a mid-afternoon reception, of delicious items prepared by members of our parish. Members prepared a charcuterie board, pigs in a blanket, rice balls, cheese and crackers, and a vegetable tray. In addition, cheeseburgers and macaroni cheese were donated by Crafter Burger Co, and street tacos were donated by Tacos Way Mexican Restaurant, our neighboring restaurants. There was even a delicious Birthday Cake for the Bishop. CLC with surprise birthday wishes for Bishop Taylor!

At the very end, Father got word that we passed the fire marshal's inspection and could go into the parish hall. What a culmination to a great afternoon.



Pano of the venue on this historic day!

Outreach October/November 2023

Laundry Love

On 10/19/23 Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 44 clients, doing 385 loads, spending \$596.25 (\$13.55/client, 8.75 loads/client, \$1.55/load). Thirteen 8 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer contributed by Sheila Jordan, assistant director of CLC, were given out. Several coloring books and boxes of crayons were given to children. Tom Johnson substituted for vacationing Marion and Doug Lee. It turned out that Tom was ill and had to let Maria, the Busy Bee Laundry employee, handle some of Laundry Love by herself. Thank you very much to all supporters and especially to Maria of Busy Bee Laundry.

Supplies for the Children's Learning Center

The Outreach Committee collected items such as construction paper, copy paper, non-toxic makers, antibacterial hand soap, napkins and bathroom size paper cups for the Blessed Sacrament Learning Center.

November Thanksgiving Baskets

As we do each year, we will be Blessing others with all of the ingredients to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. Please fill a basket (a box is preferred) with the following food items to feed a family of five (5) and bring to church on by Sunday November 19. Boxes will be distributed Monday, November 20.

\$25 Grocery Store Gift Card to purchase a turkey

1 Box of Stuffing

1 Can Cranberry Sauce

1 Box of Dry Potatoes

1 Can of Candied Yams

2 Cans of Green Beans

2 Cans of Corn

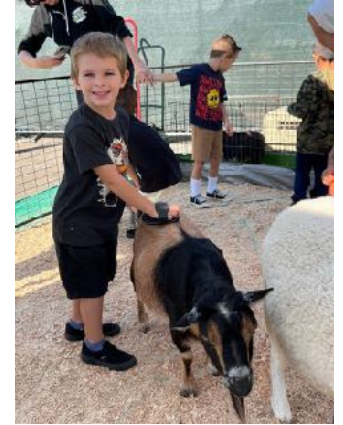
1 Jar of Turkey Gravy

1 Bag of Rolls

1 Pumpkin Pie (no frozen pies please!)



Halloween Season with CLC



Halloween Season started with the Great Pumpkin Patch and Petting Zoo!



Many costumed groups from CLC descended on the office to collect their treats from Fr. Barrett. Patty Bell in her straw costume looks on in the distance....

Then back to school....but first, gonna get sugared back up from the parade.





The big parade underway. Many cute costumes, happy parents and staff taking part.



CLC Annual Bike a Thon



Our bike a thon was a huge success bringing in close to \$5000!!

Special Celebrant at both Masses on November 19, 2023

On Sunday, November 19, 2023, we have the pleasure of welcoming the Rev. Holly Ostlund of Food For The Poor. Rev. Holly Ostlund is an Episcopal priest of the Diocese of Southeast Florida and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Barry University, and the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest.

We are looking forward to her being the celebrant at both Masses that Sunday. Please give her a warm, Blessed Sacrament welcome. (Please note, there will not be Adult Education Class on November 19, 2023.)



Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor (FFTP) is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation and does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Thanks to its faithful donors, the organization's programs are providing housing, health care, education, clean water, emergency relief and micro-enterprise assistance, in addition to feeding hundreds of thousands of people each day.

Fact Sheet about Food For The Poor (FFTP)

Celebrating its 41st year, Food For The Poor (FFTP) is an **interdenominational Christian relief and development organization** working primarily in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

FFTP does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance.

Since our founding, FFTP has built 93,608 homes for the destitute. In 2022, the charity built 1,556 homes for families in need of safe shelter.

In 2022, FFTP installed 1,564 water projects that provide water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of people in need.

In 2022, FFTP shipped 2,691 essential tractor-trailer loads of aid. Since inception, the charity has shipped more than 98,600 tractor-trailer loads.

Our Child Sponsorship Program, known as Angels Of Hope, sponsors 6,645 vulnerable children in 126 children's homes in Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where they receive food, clothing, shelter, education and love.

In 2022, FFTP began the implementation of two sustainable community developments (SCD) in Honduras, bringing the total of SCDs currently under development to nine, with locations in Guatemala, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Sustainable community development, which typically takes about five years to complete, involves identifying and addressing economic, social, spiritual challenges that arise in a community, and empowering families to be self-sufficient and able to thrive long-term.

Better Business Bureau - FFTP meets the extensive standards of America's most experienced charity evaluator, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance (October 2022 - October 2024).

Candid (Formerly known as Foundation Center and GuideStar) - Lists FFTP as a Platinum-level nonprofit organization for demonstrating a commitment to transparency (2022).

Forbes - FFTP is Ranked Number 17 on Forbes magazine's America's Top 100 Charities (December 2022)



Guess Who???



We did not have a winner for last month's "Guess Who". Therefore, we are repeating this sweet baby picture. The picture is of a beloved member of our Congregation. Not only is he beloved, but he is also "high energy" and Blessed Sacrament would be hard pressed to survive without him. You see him almost every Sunday. In the picture, he is perhaps preparing to someday sit in the Bishop's Chair.

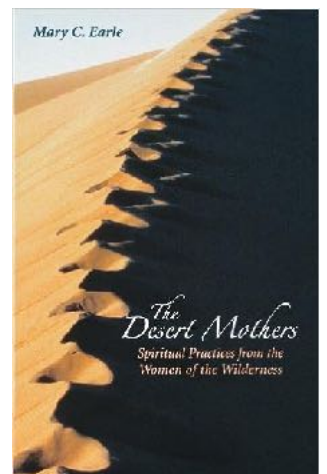
Please Email or call Patty Bell at pbell@bscplacentia.org or 714-528-2995 with your guess. The lucky winner will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card and be announced in the next Bethlehem. Good Luck!!!
If we do not have a winner this month, we will be discontinuing the Guess Who

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

DEANERY WIDE WOMEN'S HALF DAY RETREAT

The Women's one day retreat is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and has been moved to **Trinity Episcopal Church in Orange**. Julie Mussche will be leading the retreat. RSVP required. This event cost \$35.00 to be paid in advance. Please contact Fr. Barrett at 714-528-2995 x 403 or Fr. Steve Swartzell at 714-637-1390. This fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and for the facilitator.

Please get the suggested book **The Desert Mothers** by Mary C. Earle, as illustrated.



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