



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

January, 2024

E-Mail: office@bscplacentia.com

Website: <http://www.BlessedSacramentPlacentia.org>

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

The Explanation for the Season of Epiphany

"Receive the light and pass it on. I give that you may give." -Lumen Chant



The Luminaria Chamber Singers sang this beautiful Latin chant with candlelight in their concert right before Christmastide in our sanctuary last month. It was so exquisite and sacred. The lyrics to the chant listed above are not only preparing our hearts for the Season of Christmas of the Incarnation, but also for the reason of the Epiphany Season that we are now celebrating; coming to recognize the manifestation of God in life by us being touched by the Light and giving back to God's Creation of what we received.

To understand the significance of the Epiphany Season and how the Latin lyrics resonate the full meaning of such a Theophany (Manifestation of God in our lives through the Holy Spirit), we have to start with THE EPIPHANY. "Epiphany" is a word of Greek origin, related to such English words as "theophany," "phenotype," and "phenomenon." It means an appearance, a displaying, a showing forth, an obvious bright visible expression of God that is making clear or public. The light has extinguished the darkness.

The light of Christ is born on Christmas in a humble manger, yet it was much later that the Wisemen finally found the residence of Joseph and Mary with the Toddler Jesus as the Light of the world. The Adoration of the Magi (A Gentile community) is appreciated when such a group of non-Jewish Astronomers, Astrologers and Spiritual Practitioners followed the bright star that led them to the home of the Holy family. The Magi from the Persia region in the East brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to reinforce the prophecies that our Savior for all humanity was found. They received the light and gave it

back as an offering to God.

The First Sunday after The Epiphany is the Baptism of our Lord Jesus by John in the Jordan River. Again, the Holy Spirit is at work with great orchestration to have the Jewish community witness before them the Trinity involved, and that the Baptism brought about Jesus' identification and how the Holy Spirit was interconnected in all Baptisms in the future through Christ. The Light of the World was made manifest through the Baptism of Jesus. They received the light because of what Jesus the Christ gave to them and they became the Church to give back to others what they received.

In the following weeks of the Season of Epiphany, the lessons from Scripture provide an inclusive plethora of theophany's that depict the manifestation of God through the Old Testament, through Jesus, the Apostles, various disciples, and ultimately within contemporary testimonies-- through us as the Body of Christ today in continuous revelation. Through our Baptismal Covenant, we will note that all stories of Epiphany start with receiving the light and passing it on because of the Holy Spirit within each of us.

We today as God's holy people through our Baptismal Covenant are all part of The Theophanies and the Epiphany of Christ in our lives. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in faith, to continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in communion, in the prayers, to repent, to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving all as ourselves. We are also called to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

It is a continuing legacy of Christ to build the reign of God together. The Theophany is NOW. The Epiphany is continuous through all of us. We can do all of the works and even greater works through Christ who strengthens us; we will with God's help through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us receive the Light of God and pass it on, for our Lord gave it to us, so that we would give it to others in return.

Jesus said, "We are the Light of the World, let the Light so shine before others through us that they see the good works." Let it be so for the glory to God in the highest. Amen.

A blessed Epiphanytide,

Fr. Barrett+

Ed Note: Due to illness just after the December issue went to press, Fr. Barrett and Penny postponed their anniversary celebration to the second week of January, 2024. We hope they are having a great time and recovery and pray for their safe return.

The Celebration of Christmas

The Christmas liturgies this year at Blessed Sacrament were absolutely beautiful. Along with other non-liturgical events, The entire season could not have been more inspirational and gratifying. We highlight below each of these events as they happened in chronological order.

I CLC Pancake Breakfast and Breakfast with Santa.

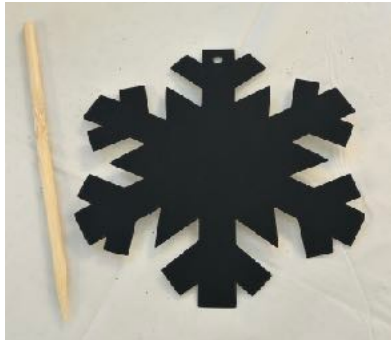
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, DECEMBER 16, 2023

Ho! Ho! Ho! A good time was had by all! CLC families, Sunday School Families, and Local Neighbors!





Crafts Table with scratch art materials and ribbons to hang projects. Snowflake with lines by your Editor and by others showing variable paper color patterns, so that even with the same shape, each snowflake will be different.



Santa's kitchen crew who prepared the pancakes, sausages and drinks.

II Luminaria December 17, 2023

A WORLD PREMIERE BY BRIGITTE BELLAVOINE



Absolutely beautiful and inspirational!!!! Including works by: **Palestrina**, **Abbey Betinas** and **Peter Dyson**.

III Christmas Eve Children's Mass 4:30 PM

The Children's Mass at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve featured 3 choirs: The CLC and Sunday School Choirs, directed by Ashley Mangino; and the California Children's Choir directed by Chung Uk Lee with Brigitte Vellavione on piano.



The CLC (Children's Learning Center preschool) Songbirds with families procession to the Crèche & Lighting of the Christ Candle. Thanks to all who participated and to Patty Bell our



Children's Choir accompanist and chapel song leader. Thanks for the great performance too!



Now on to an inspiring sermon by Fr. Barrett, followed by the pre Communion Anthem, Communion up front and in the pews as all are served. Returning to altar for the lighting of the candles to send the Light out into the World as the Sanctuary is darkened.



Lights back on for the Recessional and a Postlude with Brigitte on piano.

Then off to the Reception!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!!



At the reception the wish-extended cake was cut, and lower left, Doug Lee, Jack Patterson, Bev Cardwell, and Carol Ann Miller assisting, hosted a wonderful reception in the Parish Hall. **Thank you Hospitality Team!!**

IV The Christmas Eve Service 9 PM



The Christmas Eve service was presided over by Fr. Barrett and Fr. Rick Byrum. The music was greatly enhanced by the late hour. Incense was generously used in all aspects and Fr. Barrett's vertical swing was caught even on Zoom as can be seen by the Thurifer passing in front of Jesus' ankles!

Prior to the final blessing, the lights were dimmed to enhance the sacred moment of the glowing Manger scene of the Holy Family together in the stable with animals.

As the congregation sang the hymn, Silent Night, each person gathered to kneel at the site of the Creche by Candlelight. The people gathered as one Spirit united, with each person lighting one another's candle, originating from the Light of Christ candle on the Advent wreath.

On this holy night, as our Sanctuary became illuminated by such candlelight, we all reflected on how the Light of the world came to us in the flesh through our Lord in such a humble way; the Baby Jesus is the incarnation that has changed our lives forever.

V Christmas Morning



After Mass,
Mimosa time!
Lots of sweets too
and our servers,
the Cardwells.
Thanks to all who
got this spread
setup.

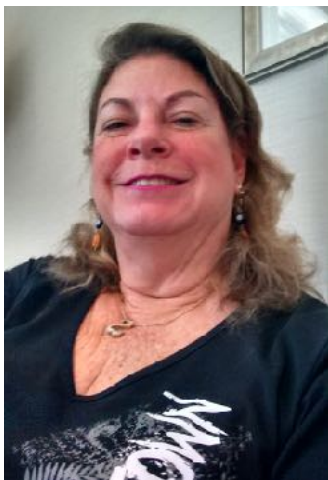


Performaces by Brigitte
Vellavione on piano and
singing, Amy Aul on flute
and Roxanne Young on
harp.

Published 16Jan2024

A special thank you to our clergy and all who make the Christmas Season so special.

Vestry Candidate Beverly Cardwell



Having been a member of Blessed Sacrament since 2015, most of you know me and have seen me around campus. I currently live in Yorba Linda with my wonderful husband, Mike, and our sweet little rescue dog, Sam.

I was born, raised and educated in Whittier and Hacienda Heights and I am the oldest of 6 children from a very Catholic family. Rather than college, I chose a career in the property and casualty insurance industry, where I eventually held numerous management positions until I retired in 2009.

After retirement, I devoted my time to the enjoyment of my four, now grown, grandchildren and a few volunteer positions with the City of Placentia. I enjoyed working at the Placentia Senior Center and I was Chairwoman of the Senior Advisory Commission for the City of Placentia for 5 years.

As a new member of Blessed Sacrament, I jumped right in and joined a number of ministries including Laundry Love, Outreach, Ushers & Greeters, Peacemakers, Feeding God's People and Parish Life. I understand that it

takes a village so I have been happy to volunteer whenever needed. I have come to love that "village" and Blessed Sacrament has a special place in my heart.

I have held one full and a partial (fill in) term on Vestry and a short 8 month stint as Senior Marshall. My involvement with Santa Angelina has been from the beginning when Vestry first voted that National CORE would be our Developer.

I am very excited about our future and the wonderful things that are about to happen. The Lord's grace is certainly shining on Blessed Sacrament and it is my hope that my contribution will be welcomed by my fellow parishioners.

The Altar Guild Welcomes Two New Members

The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up the church for the Sunday and holy day services and for cleaning up afterwards. The Altar Guild is delighted to welcome two new members to our fold: They are **Matthew Clark** and **Marilyn White**. They join Deacon Dominique Piper, Sandra and Ned Bergert, Maureen Burton, Mary Dalessi, Susan Dolliver, Marion Lee, Richard Reyes, and Rose Valdez. They give new meaning to the saying, "lots of hands make light work" and also a lot of fun.

Outreach Laundry Love

On December 21, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 67 clients, doing 566 loads of wash, spending \$912.75 (\$1.61/load, \$13.62/person, 8.45 loads/person). 48 bottles of 8 oz. hand sanitizer provided by Sheila Jordan, Assistant Director of the CLC, were given out. Two coloring books and boxes of crayons were given out, as were about ten face masks. Blessed Sacrament volunteers assisting Soledad, the Busy Bee Laundry employee, were Tom Johnson, Susan Dolliver, Mary Dalessi, J.R. Arnold (who also played the ukelele), Matthew Lee, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee. CLC contributed \$20. Thanks very much to all supporters.

Toy Drive

At the busiest time of year our parishioners and Children's Learning Center parents answered the call to ensure those in need received a Christmas gift. On December 13 Outreach delivered a truck full of toys to the Placentia Fire Station on Valencia. Several firemen assisted with unloading the truck and were grateful for the delivery. Thank you all for your generosity.

Socks

A Blessed Sacrament Christmas Tradition continues Outreach also wishes to thank all who donated socks. We focus on this much needed item at Christmas time to include in our blessing bags and distribute at soup kitchens and clothing closets in our community and beyond. We keep socks in our Deacon's pantry cupboard for distribution year-round. Therefore, it's not too late to contribute. Please note, that colored socks are preferred. Thank you.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our newsletter emailed to you.



Visit www.mycommunityonline.com

Norton's Green Cleaners

Taking care of you & your clothes since 1967

- Delivery Service
- Drive-up Service
- 24 Hr. Drop Box
- Superior Cleaning and Finishing
- Laundry Fluff & Fold Service
- Couture Clothing
- Household Linens & Bedding
- Alterations & Tailoring

204 E. Yorba Linda Blvd.
Placentia, CA 92870
714-524-7130
nortonscleaners@sbcglobal.net
nortonscleaners.com

Margo's Flowers

1280 N. Kraemer
Placentia, CA 92870
www.margosflowers.net

(714) 572-8878
10% OFF
with coupon



ADVERTISE HERE
to reach your community



Call 800-950-9952

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Community!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



lpicommunities.com/adcreator

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



FREE
AD DESIGN
with purchase
of this space

CALL 800-950-9952

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Advertise in our Newsletter!

CONTACT ME Dave Hyde

dhyde@4LPi.com • or (800) 950-9952 x5820



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.lpicommunities.com

Blessed Sacrament Episcopal, Placentia, CA A B/W 05-1833

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1314 North Angelina Drive

Placentia CA 92870

P.O. Box 1449, Placentia CA 92871

THE BETHLEHEM

