



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

February & March, 2024

E-Mail: office@bscplacentia.com

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

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

WELCOME TO A HOLY LENT



Welcome all to a Holy Lent. This season of "the lengthening of the days" is the time we take a look at ourselves and our relationship with God; for the preparation of the faithful for this upcoming Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, serving in additional ways, simple living, and self-denial.

Lent is the beginning of our personal reflection and taking full inventory of our need for repentance and to get back on the right track. We need to first remove the areas in our own lives that attempt to block God's continuous love from coming into our hearts. Lent is that sacred time to take down the walls that we have built that separate us from the Covenant of our gracious God.

Our loving and compassionate paternal God desires for us to be changed, renewed, and redeemed. Along with our agony, distress, pain and suffering, God is crying out to all of us this Lenten journey: "When is enough truly enough for you, my precious children?" When are we going to wake up and as children of God fully participate in an intimate relationship with God for all creation? When are we all going to fully participate in our faith and take the necessary steps to provide the paradigm shift back to our spiritual well-being?

During the following weeks in our 40-day journey through the desert with our Lord, our Lenten trek this year provides us disciplines of prayer with the Anglican Rosary, Lectio Divina, Bible Study, and Worship that leads us in the right perspective to find God's amazing grace. "Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us all to God."

Before going into the wilderness and beginning the ministry, Jesus prepared us by establishing the understanding of the need of our baptismal covenant and to vividly

demonstrate how the Heavenly Father and He were interconnected and ready to transform the world with God's amazing grace. This is the foundation of Lent.

The time is now for us to turn our hearts and the hearts of others towards full repentance, forgiveness, and compassion. The time is now, not only for self-denial, but also an active approach of forgiving each other, feeding the poor, nurturing the poor in Spirit, taking care of the sick and less fortunate in new ways both in-reach and outreach, and to pray for our enemies.

As Christians, the time is now for us to say, "Enough is enough with the numerous types of injustices around our society. The time is now for us to say, Yes Lord, we as the Body of Christ will continually be involved in new ideas to heal our land and to be that beacon of light in community partnerships that will transform.

What is God saying to each of us with our baptismal covenant within Christ this moment? What does God want us to do to change the world today? How is God going to use us during our desert walk and into our own resurrected ministry and passion in Easter and beyond? This is what Lent is all about.

The time is now to have all immersed by a spiritual renewal that drenches us to truly respect the dignity of every human being. WE need to all recognize the covenant of God and live it with full engagement like our Lord Jesus, first starting through the living water and then moving through the wilderness and onward through our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. This is where our healing and renewal begins. Welcome to our holy Lent.

A blessed Lenten season,

Fr. Barrett+

Blessed Sacrament Outreach

Supplies for residents of Santa Angelina Senior Living Community

Our focus for the months ahead is gathering household items for 21 formerly unhoused individuals who are joining our Santa Angelina Senior Living Community. Hope Through Housing gave us a list of suggested items needed. * Hope Through Housing is providing the individuals with furniture: bed, couch, table chairs, dresser, and end tables.

Laundry Basket	Dish set for four	Pots and pans set
Flatware for four	Cooking Utensils	Can opener
Glass set for four	Paper towels	Toilet Paper
Dish Soap	Sponges	Multi-surface cleaner
Hand Soap	Toothbrush	Toothpaste
Body bar of soap	Shampoo	Shower curtain with curtain rings
Toilet brush	Toilet plunger	Bath Towels (2)

Bed coverings Mattress pad

Several outreach members have been gathering items. A grant was obtained from Deanery 9 as well as a Costco gift card. We have been in contact with other groups to assist with funding this project, The Placentia Roundtable Women's Club and the Fullerton Elks Lodge.

Each basket of items is approximately \$185.00.

Most all of the items have been purchased except for the following: 15 Comforter Sets (which contain full bed size sheets, nine (9) mattress pads, 15 shower curtains, 21 full bed size blankets and four (4) pots and pans sets.

If you wish to assist us with gathering a few of the last remaining items as well as putting the baskets together, please contact Teri Niebuhr at tnieb@sbcglobal.net.

Please note and many thanks to our Piece Makers crafters who have knitted/crocheted 21 blanket throws for our new neighbors.

Laundry Love

On 1/18/24, **Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love** served 75 people, doing 689 loads, spending \$1,050.00 (9.2 loads/person, \$1.52/load, \$14.00/person). Volunteers Susan Dolliver, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee assisted Busy Bee Laundry employee Soledad. CLC contributed \$20. CLC Assistant Director Sheila Jordan contributed 48 eight oz. bottles of hand sanitizer, which were all taken. About 5 face masks were taken. 5 coloring books, 5 boxes of crayons, and one toy stuffed dog were given to children. Thanks very much to all supporters.

DCN. DOMINIQUE PREACHES, A GUEST, & FR. BARRETT'S BIRTHDAY



On January 21, 2024, we were treated to a sermon by our Dcn. Dominique, and we also had a guest at our service. Pictured above are Dcn. Dominique (left), the Peace (middle), and our guest, the Rev. Mother Andrea Arsene, with Fr. Barrett and Dcn.

Dominique (right). The Rev. Mother Andrea Arsene is a graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She is currently rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. Dcn. Dominique's sermon was, as usual, uplifting and inspiring.



Finally, we also celebrated the birthday of our beloved rector. Happy Birthday, Fr. Barrett!

Candlemas 2024





Candlemas is celebrated conjoined with The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple 40 days after Christmas. This is a holy time blessing all of our candles being used for the year in Worship, as well as individual white candles provided for them to be returned to the Parishioner's homes as the light of Christ represented.

What a great transition to include our Annual Meeting and Fellowship meal immediately following the Mass. There cannot be a greater example than the Annual Meeting expressing our parish as the light of Christ and a beacon of light on the hill for all to see.

Truly, our Annual Meeting manifests the immanence of Christ in our lives today through the report of over 15 vibrant ministries taking place in our community. We give thanks to God for such a presentation that we are the light of the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 2024



The Annual Meeting was held in the Sanctuary this year shortly after the 10 a.m. service. The meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Ned Bergert. Fr. Barrett said a short prayer. Susan Dolliver, Clerk of the Vestry, certified that there was a quorum present.

Gifts and Service Awards

Gifts were given to the retiring Vestry members for their 3 years of service on the Vestry (Maureen Burton, Carol Morris, and Leo Song) and to the heads of our other ministries who had served so faithfully over the past year.

Other recognition awards and gifts included:

- The dynamic duo, Penny Van Buren and Chris Piper for their work on the Zoom Platform
- Dick Reimers, the Golden Plunger Award
- Leo Song & Maureen Burton, for their work on the Bethlehem

A special award was given to Tom Johnson for his work with Santa Angelina. (Tom received a check from the Parish and an Appreciation Plaque) The congregation felt that we could never thank Tom enough for his shepherding of the Santa Angelina Project.

Financial Report

David Freeman, Treasurer presented the budget next year and discussed the overall financial position of the Church. The new budget was based on last year's actuals and assumed no new income from Santa Angelina.

Report from Core on Santa Angelina

Core, the nonprofit that has partnered with Blessed Sacrament and the Diocese to build Santa Angelina, gave a lengthy presentation discussing the arrival of the new residents. Questions and concerns were raised about issues that may arise.

New Vestry Members Elected

The new Vestry members, Aimee Aul, Beverly Cardwell and Karin Laufer were elected by acclamation. A wonderful luncheon in the new parish hall (Scully Hall) followed.

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER



A Shrove Tuesday & Mardi Gras celebration was held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church with parishioners from Blessed Sacrament in Placentia, and St. Andrews and Emmanuel Churches in Fullerton participating. The entry table was decorated with regalia. The set-up crew, the kitchen and serving crew, and the cooks did a fantastic job getting things done. The pancakes and sausages were cooked and served along with hot and cold drinks. There was a mixture of tables filled with lots of families, clergy, and staff. Blessed Sacrament was well represented.

Karaoke setup initiated first by a solo by our own Fr. Barrett doing his rendition of "New York, New York", followed by several others. Many joined in to add to the fun.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Drive Thru



What a joy it was for Ned Bergert and Fr. Barrett as they move from the drive-through..or bike thru and earlier, onsite imposition on the construction workers.

Ash Wednesday- CLC



Blessed Sacrament included a special outdoor family service for Ash Wednesday this year that included our members and combined it with Children's Chapel for CLC.



What a sacred time to worship and share the meaning of Ash Wednesday in the courtyard area in Front of the new Parish Hall. Selected Children with permission and those with their parents that desired to receive the imposition of ashes also enjoyed singing and praying together with others in the 20 minute service.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY "THE NOT SO NEWLY WED GAME"

On Saturday, February 10th, the congregation of Blessed Sacrament celebrated an early Valentine Day Fund Raising Party in their new Scully Hall. They were joined by the Placentia Chamber of Commerce members, HIS House representatives, local businesses, and neighborhood church guests. The evening included delicious appetizers and a catered Italian dinner from Fratellino's along with beverages and dessert. The Highlight of the evening was a special "Not So Newlywed Game", hosted by our own "Rob Ubanks" aka Father Barrett Van Buren. Five couples competed for a grand prize of \$100 and a beautiful arrangement of a dozen red roses. Numerous gifts were raffled and fun was had by everyone. We wish to thank the Parish Life Committee who worked so hard to help make this a night to remember! The event also raised over \$1,600 for our church.



Ecumenical Panel Discussion



We thank so much the wonderful input and contributed insight of our fine educated guest Panelists with Fr. Barrett and Deacon Dominique. They included: Mr. Michael Habashi from St. Mary and St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church in Yorba Linda and Ms. Eve Tibbs from St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine.



The one hour Ecumenical Panel discussion that helped us better understand the traditions of Eastern Orthodox and Coptic Orthodox with the Anglican Communion was a requested project by the Adult Christian Education class members. It was warmly received by all those in attendance during Coffee Hour, immediately following our First Sunday in Lent Service and Sung Mass. Eleven questions were sent to Fr. Barrett in advance by various Parishioners to get the discussion going with additional questions included on the floor.



Christian Education includes Night at the Movies

Who says Christian Education cannot be fun? We continued our "Monthly Movie Madness Meeting & Meal" on February 26th by gathering at the Brea Regal East Theatre to watch the Fourth Season of The Chosen—Episodes 4-6 on the big screen. After three hours of diving into the ministry of Jesus and His disciples, we went out for fellowship and had lively discussion about the movie at Craft Burgers

We were all moved by the segment as most of us had seen some or all of the previous 3 seasons before viewing this segment. We plan to view the final chapters in March.



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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Triduum Fellowship Meal & Maundy Thursday Service	3/28/24	6:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy	3/29/24	Noon
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	3/29/24	7:30 p.m.
Great Vigil at Emmanuel, Fullerton	3/30/24	6:30 p.m.
Easter Morning	3/31/24	9:30 a.m.
Easter Reception and Egg Hunt	3/31/24	11:00 a.m.
First time on our new lawn! .		

PLEASE NOTE that all weekly services of Morning Prayer, Bible Study and Healing Mass will not occur Easter Week (Tuesday, April 2nd through Thursday, April 4th)

"He is not here!"

He is risen!"



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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1314 North Angelina Drive

Placentia CA 92870

P.O. Box 1449, Placentia CA 92871

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