



St. Bonaventure Catholic Community *Comunidad Católica de San Buenaventura*

5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 • PHONE (925) 672-5800 • FAX (925) 672-4606 • www.stbonaventure.net



CHILDREN'S LITURGY WITH FR. DAVID AT 9:00AM MASS

Second Sunday of Advent *Segundo Domingo de Adviento*

December 10, 2017

MASSES IN ENGLISH/EN INGLÉS

Saturday Vigil/*Sábado*: 5:00 PM

Sunday/*Domingo* 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM

MISA EN ESPAÑOL/IN SPANISH

Domingo: 12:45 PM

DAILY MASS/MISA DIARIA (CHAPEL/CAPILLA)

Monday/*Lunes* thru Friday/*Viernes* : 6:30 AM & 9:00 AM

BAPTISM/BAUTIZOS

In English: Call the office to begin the process. This requires two months preparation

En Español: Llame a la oficina para solicitar información y concertar una cita con el Sacerdote. Este proceso requiere mínimo dos meses de preparación.

MARRIAGE/MATRIMONIO

Call the office to arrange with a Priest or Deacon. This requires six months preparation.

Llame a la oficina para solicitar información y concertar una cita con el Sacerdote. Este proceso requiere mínimo seis meses de preparación.

RECONCILIATION/RECONCILIACIÓN

In English: Saturdays 3:30 PM (in the church) or by appointment.

Llame a la oficina para hacer una cita con el Sacerdote.

Mission

As disciples at St. Bonaventure, we are committed to know Christ better and make Him better known. To this end we are committed to...

Keep connected to our parish community,

Nurture the development of our faith and knowledge of Christ,

Offer to share the Holy Spirit's gifts of time, talent and treasure,

Worship through prayer, Mass and the Sacraments.

THOUGHTS



from
Father Oscar

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

by Fr. Oscar Rojas

Advent is a beautiful time of preparation. What do we have to prepare? We have to prepare our hearts to welcome and receive the coming of the Lord. Advent has four weeks to get ready to embrace the Lord. Each day is an opportunity to reflect about what we can change in our lives. There are many things in our hearts which do not let us live happily. There are things in my life which I should change because they do not let me live as a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the prophet Isaiah said **"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."** This messenger was John the Baptist, who appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins – complete repentance for the sins we have committed. We should be convinced that we will receive forgiveness if we go through a baptism of repentance.

John the Baptist came to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord, and he called them to repentance. He was an extraordinary man for his message, and for his ascetic appearance. God called him to be a prophet and announce the Gospel in the desert, and many people moved there to listen to him. The prophet Isaiah presents him as a voice. It was a voice only. It means he was a humble man who said **"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."** He did not brag that he was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. His invitation to prepare the way of the Lord was a message of love, peace and happiness. He did not take advantage of his ministry; proclaiming that they should be prepared to receive a mightier one. He did not feel worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of the Lord's sandals. He knew that the one coming was the Son of God, who has the power to baptize with the Holy Spirit. John the

Baptist proclaimed a message of preparation to straighten our way.

The message of preparation that John the Baptist announced before Jesus becomes alive now. There is so much violence, crime, discrimination, envy, hatred, anger, pride, selfishness, and authoritarianism. To prepare the way is to remove the poison of sin within our hearts and be ready to host the Lord in our lives. He wants to be born in our hearts. He wants to live with us. He wants us to save us from sin. Therefore, he comes to live among us for love of all. Let us listen to the Word of God during this Advent season and take seriously the invitation of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. Through the sacrament of Confession we prepare our hearts and make a beautiful place to welcome the Lord. The sacrament of Confession is a sacrament of love. God gives us mercy, pardon, restores our heart and deletes our heavy burden. Let us listen to the messenger who is proclaiming the good news.

The Word will give you many offers in this Advent season, but many people will spend their time on earthly things. We live in a noisy world and it is hard to listen to the voice of the Lord. But the best use of our time is in preparing ourselves to repent and forgive. Every day is a beautiful opportunity to make a change in our life. **"A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"**

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PARISH LIFE thoughts

CAR DONATION NEEDED FOR REFUGEE FAMILY

St. Bonaventure Community has sponsored and supported the Ahmadi family through the Family-to-Family ministry since June 2016. They are now in need of a newer car. The father, Najib, already holds down a full-time job but is determined to be self-sufficient without continued financial support from us. His motivation has led him to research a second job driving for Uber or Lyft during his evening hours. The requirements for this job would mean driving a 2005 car (or newer) with additional insurance. The Family-to-Family ministry will be able to help with the insurance, but we are hoping that someone in our St. Bonaventure Community might have a 2005 (or newer) car to donate to help him get closer to his goal. Najib is very motivated and willing to work long hours to provide for his fam-

ily, especially with a new baby due to arrive in mid-February. If anyone is able to donate a car for this struggling family, please call Jenelle Abrams 925-727-8531 or send an email to jenelle.abrams@yahoo.com. Thank you so much!

FAITH DIRECT

With Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent coming up, enrolling in Faith Direct is a great way to ensure your gifts to St. Bonaventure are received even while you are traveling for the holidays. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **CA725**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family! God Bless You. —Fr. Mat Vellankal



STEWARDSHIP of Treasure

Weekend of December 2 & 3 Collection

Goal: \$25,440
Actual: \$29,472
Over: \$4,032

2nd Collection
Facility Improvement Savings: \$3,672
Food for Family: 587

*EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)
included in above figures*

**THIS WEEKEND'S 2ND COLLECTION:
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Help religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the 'Retirement Fund for Religious' helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of the elders!



LITURGY & PRAYER

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Behind the miraculous appearance and icon that define Our Lady of Guadalupe is a story of persistence and courage. Our Lady helped Juan Diego make his point through her miracles. This story reminds us to trust and makes clear the certainty that, when God calls us to proclaim his kingdom, we are surrounded by the grace we need to see our mission through. Our celebration begins with **Mañanitas at 5:00 AM** featuring mariachi music and a rosary. That evening, we will celebrate a **Solemn Mass at 7:00 PM**. Bishop Elias Samuel Bolaños, from the Diocese of Zacatecoluca, La Paz, El Salvador will be joining Fr. Oscar to say Mass at 7:00pm and participate in Mañanitas. Bishop Bolaños will also be celebrating **Mass with the English community at 9:00am in the Church**. We hope that you can join us for this day of festivities!

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 PM

Give yourself the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness as you prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas. Join us for our Advent Reconciliation Service containing a short prayer service followed by an opportunity for individual confession and absolution on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 PM in the church.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING DECEMBER 23/24/25 MASS OBLIGATIONS

This year the celebration of Christmas, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord, falls on a Monday. The Church asks us to attend Mass on both Sunday, December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and on the Feast of Christmas, since the Nativity of the Lord remains a Holy Day of Obligation. The 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, December 23 and the morning Masses on Sunday, December 24 will fulfill the obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Masses on the afternoon/evening of December 24 and the morning of December 25 will fulfill the Christmas obligation.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Modified Weekend Schedule)

Saturday, December 23

3:30 PM: Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 PM: Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24

7:30 AM: Mass

9:00 AM: Mass

12:00 PM: Mass (Spanish)



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24

3:00 PM: Early Childhood

Christmas Pageant & Mass

5:30 PM: Elementary Children's Christmas Pageant & Mass

8:00 PM: Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00 PM: Christmas Vigil Mass

12:00 AM: Christmas Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

8:00 AM Christmas Day Mass (English)

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass (English)

12:45 PM Christmas Day Mass (Spanish)



GOOD NEWS for You

READINGS for the WEEK

MONDAY: IS 35:1-10; PS 85:9AB, 10-14; LK 5:17-26

TUESDAY: ZEC 2:14-17 OR RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB; JDT 13:18BCDE, 19; LK 1:26-38 OR LK 1:39-47, OR ANY READINGS FROM THE COMMON OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, NOS. 707-712

WEDNESDAY: IS 40:25-31; PS 103:1-4, 8, 10; MT 11:28-30

THURSDAY: IS 41:13-20; PS 145:1, 9-13AB; MT 11:11-15

FRIDAY: IS 48:17-19; PS 1:1-4, 6; MT 11:16-19

SATURDAY: SIR 48:1-4, 9-11; PS 80:2AC, 3B, 15-16, 18-19; MT 17:9A, 10-13

SUNDAY: IS 61:1-2A, 10-11; LK 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8, 19-28

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

MOMS' GROUP

An invitation to all parish moms (and children!). Come join our St. Bonaventure Moms' Group. We meet at 9:45-11:30am on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month in Ministry Center classroom A3 & A4. **Our next meeting will be on December 20.** Come explore our Catholic faith as women and as parents, and share the joys and challenges of parenting in a casual, welcoming setting.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 24TH ANNUAL RETREAT

"The Mighty God Has Done Great Things for Me, and Holy is His Name", Lk 1:49

Fri, Jan 26 to Sun, Jan 28, 2018 at St. Clare's Retreat Center. The cost is \$225 per person. Registration flyers are available in the foyer, church office, and on the parish website. Contact Andrea for additional questions: 925-529-7675. We hope to see you there.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Advent is an opportunity to enter into a period of contemplation and reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation. In this time of parties, shopping, gift wrapping and too many things on your to-do list, come reflect on the blessings in your life. Spend some quiet time with God. Join us on Tuesdays, 4:05-4:30pm in the Chapel. Just come when you can. Call Eileen (672-5800 x2217) if you have questions.

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend with our spouse. **The next weekends are held at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville on January 12-14 and May 18-20.** Space is **very** limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Mike & Jeanne @ 925.672.2016 or Joe & Sue @ 925.680.7767 now or go to www.oaklandwwme.org



PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, **December 14 at 11:30 AM** in the Large Hall, \$13 per person.

We'll be celebrating the Birth of Jesus with a delicious pork loin dinner provided by Chef Greg. As always drinks and dessert are included. Please make reservations by *Monday December 11* by calling George Brown at 363-4708 or by registering after Mass on December 9 & 10. Adults of all ages are welcome, particularly the "Young at Heart"!

GIVING TREE "SORT NIGHT"

You are invited to help sort gifts on **Sunday, December 10** after the 5 o'clock Mass in the Church. We will take all the gifts and organize them by the numbers on the ornaments. It is truly a beautiful sight to behold the **huge** stack of gifts and the festive atmosphere as parishioners bustle about organizing presents in the Church. Each gift sparkles with the love that God has for all of us, as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus! All are welcome to join us.

COUNTRY KITCHEN: DECEMBER 16 & 17

Country Kitchen after all the Masses in the Church Foyer. This gives you an extra chance to pick up last-minute edibles to grace your holiday table. All proceeds will benefit the St. Bonaventure Food Pantry.

GOODIES NEEDED

All bakers, pastry chefs and candy makers!!!! The ladies working the Country Kitchen would love it if you would share some of your talents in your cooking/baking field and donate some goodies to be sold at all Masses in the Church Foyer December 16 & 17 that weekend to benefit our Food Pantry! We have been so spoiled in the past by your delicious sweet treats that we are really salivating with unquenchable hunger for them soon. Please consider our needs at the Country Kitchen and call Jean Gualtieri at 925.588.8020 with any questions. All homemade items can be brought to the office on Friday or to the church Saturday at 4:00pm. Wrapped and priced items are appreciated. We are looking forward to your delicious sweet treats and all your tasty bakery goods.

Thank you for your time and talents. All proceeds from these events benefit St. Bonaventure's Food Pantry.

CLAYTON VALLEY COUNSELING CENTER (CVCC) AT YOUR SERVICE

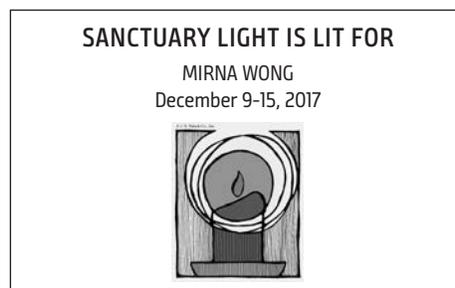
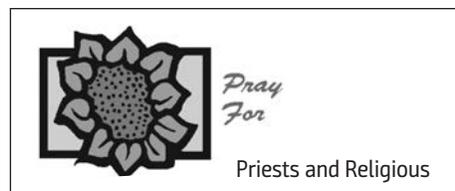
For 15 years, CVCC has been serving the St. Bonaventure Community. The Counseling Center, with licensed therapists, serves individuals, couples and families, and prepares engaged couples for marriage using the well-established Prepare Program. ☎ 925-210-6176.

OUTSIDE PARISH

ONE NUN'S UNIQUE JOURNEY HOME: SISTER FRANCIS MARIE CATHOLICS AT WORK, TUESDAY, DEC. 12

A decade ago Sister Francis Marie and 14 other nuns found that the desolation of being in a community not in communion with Rome was too much. They came out of a separatist religious community and back into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. In the process Sister Francis Marie felt compelling impacts from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Sister Francis Marie will tell of her own faith journey and her new community at the Catholics at Work breakfast on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The breakfast program takes place at Crow Canyon Country Club at 7 a.m., preceded by Mass at 6:30am. All are welcome. Reservations are not required, but do facilitate food preparation. Costs: \$20/member or \$30/non-member. For more information or to make a reservation go to CatholicsAtWork.org.



MASS INTENTIONS

✝ FOR THE WEEK

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**
5:00 St. Bonaventure Community
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**
7:30 Kevin Kullman
Melana Reme Francisco
Rafael & Juanita Sison
Souls in Purgatory
9:00 Rudy Mercader
Joey Mangini
Joseph Bruno
Dolores Burgess
11:00 John Muscat
Rogelio Montenegro
John Muscat
Esteban "Steve" Mercado
5:00 Liberato Family
Regina Canovas
John and Helen Parackal
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**
6:30 Cancer Patients
9:00 Phil Sorenson
Streeta Farrell
Tony Sammut
Pat Conroy
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**
6:30 Food Pantry Volunteers
9:00 William M. Jordan
Scott Holm
Jacob Arevalo
Fe Pagaduan
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**
6:30 Homeless families
9:00 Elaine
Jacob Arevalo
Carmelo Bugeja & John Muscat
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**
6:30 St. Bonaventure Office Volunteers
9:00 Jaime & Maria Diaz
Jacob Arevalo
Angie Cherepy
Darlene Bliss
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**
6:30 St. Bonaventure Pastoral Council
9:00 Pat Conroy
Tony & Joe Sammut
Jacob Arevalo
James Hale
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**
5:00 Ernesto Dizon
Emido Busuttil
Reynaldo Jose
Naty Kurdziel



REFLEXIÓN DEL PADRE OSCAR ROJAS

PREPARAR EL CAMINO PARA LA VENIDA DEL SEÑOR.



Hemos comenzado un tiempo maravilloso que nos da la oportunidad de encontrarnos con el verdadero Dios. El tiempo de adviento es un tiempo de preparación para esperar a Jesús. Cuando alguien especial visitara nuestra casa. El dueño de casa comienza a ordenarla y limpiar el lugar para que sea agradable a aquella persona. El tiempo de adviento es para preparar la casa. Sin embargo, es para preparar la casa del corazón para recibir a la persona más importante en la vida del ser humano. Preparar es remover del corazón todo aquello que destruye la paz, el amor que viene de Dios. El profeta Isaías dice **"He aquí que yo envío a mi mensajero delante de ti, a preparar tu camino. Voz del que clama en el desierto: "Preparen el camino del Señor, enderecen sus senderos".** El profeta anuncia un mensajero que vendrá a preparar el camino para recibir al Señor. Y esta profecía del profeta Isaías se cumple con San Juan el Bautista que apareció predicando un bautismo de arrepentimiento, para el perdón de los pecados. La invitación del San Juan Bautista era una invitación de arrepentimiento. Que las personas se arrepintieran completamente y que no fuera un arrepentimiento falso. Era una invitación a ser humildes y reconocer que somos pecadores y que necesitamos el perdón de Dios.

En nuestro tiempo las palabras de San Juan se hacen vivas. Si Juan existiera en nuestro tiempo hiciera la misma invitación a un bautismo de arrepentimiento. A sumergirnos en el amor de Dios y dejarnos transformar por la misericordia de Dios. Vivimos en un tiempo difícil con tanta violencia, crímenes, odio, rencor, envidia, poder y discriminación. El corazón del ser humano está contaminado del odio, venganza y muchas cosas que destruyen la verdadera alegría que Dios nos da. Vivimos ciegos haciendo daño a aquellos que nos aman tanto y el mal no nos permite disfrutar plenamente del amor de Dios. Sin embargo, este adviento es un tiempo de preparación para dejarnos sumergir en el verdadero amor de Dios. Aunque es una invitación libre de aceptarla o rechazarla. Para aceptarla tenemos que ser humildes y sencillos. Reconocer que necesitamos a Dios en nuestra vida para alcanzar la verdadera felicidad. San Juan Bautista era un hombre extraordinario en su forma de vestirse y de

alimentarse. Era un hombre elegido por Dios para proclamar la venida del Mesías y lo hizo con mucha sencillez.

Juan dice **"ya viene detrás de mi uno que es más poderoso que yo, uno ante quien no merezco ni siquiera inclinarme para desatarle la correa de sus sandalias".** Que humildad reflejaba San Juan Bautista y su ejemplo de vida acercaba a la gente a escuchar su palabra en el desierto. Vivía una vida plena que reflejaba ese bautismo de arrepentimiento que había transformado su vida. La transformación en el corazón llega cuando estamos dispuestos a hacer algún cambio en nuestra vida y especialmente en este tiempo de la espera de la vida del Señor. Es una oportunidad de acercarnos a Dios y de abrazar a Jesús que es el signo visible del amor de Dios. De tal manera que podamos hacer un compromiso de remover todo aquello que tenemos en el fondo del corazón que no nos dejan ser felices. Hoy no perdamos esa oportunidad de preparar el corazón, limpiarlo y que Jesús llegue a visitarnos y se quede en nosotros. Nadie sabe ni el día ni la hora en que el hijo del hombre vendrá a pedirnos cuenta de todo lo que hemos hecho. Hermano y hermana no tengas miedo de dar ese paso que te llevara a experimentar el verdadero amor de Dios. Preparémonos día en día para recibir al Hijo de Dios con amor y ternura. Acércate a Dios que es fuente del amor. Él es el camino del amor que entrara a morar en su corazón de cada ser humano.

HORARIO DE OFICINA PADRE OSCAR ROJAS

Teléfono (925) 844-9015
Cerrado para almuerzo de 12:30-1:30pm
Lunes a Jueves: 8:30 a.m. -5:30pm
Viernes: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Apareció entonces en el cielo una figura prodigiosa:

una mujer envuelta por el sol, con la luna bajo sus pies y con una corona de doce estrellas en la cabeza.

Apocalipsis 12:1

SOLEMNE CELEBRACION DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE SANTA MISA PRESIDIDA POR EL OBISPO ELIAS SAMUEL BOLAÑOS

HORARIO DE LA CELEBRACION, Martes 12 de Diciembre de 2017

Mañana

5:00 am Mañanitas
5:30 am Santo Rosario
6:00am Santa Misa (Presidida por el P. Oscar
Después de la santa Misa habrá pan y chocolate

Noche

6:00 pm Danzas
7:00pm SANTA MISA SOLEMNE PRESIDIDA POR OBISPO DE EL SALVADOR
8:30 Danza y Cena

BIENVENIDO A COMPARTIR

FAITH DIRECT

Demos una bienvenida a este otoño donando electrónicamente a través de Faith Direct, la manera más conveniente y segura para que usted pueda hacer su donación semanal a San Buenaventura. Sus contribuciones automáticas a través de Faith Direct ahorrarán tiempo valioso para usted y nuestro personal de la parroquia.

Visite a www.faithdirect.net y usa nuestro código de la iglesia: **CA725**.

¡Gracias por su continuo apoyo a nuestra familia parroquial! Dios los bendiga — Fr. Mat Vellankal

