

The Deacon’s Bench

Deacon Jim Carper, Parish Life Director

The deacon’s bench, historically, is where the deacons sat during church services in the early protestant church. It seemed an appropriate title for this small section of our Church Bulletin; since it is an opportunity for me to share with you what’s going on in our Parish, from my point of view.

What are the Three Meanings of “Coming” during Advent?

There are three meanings of 'coming' that Christians describe in Advent. The first, and most thought of, happened about 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. The second can happen immediately as Jesus wants to come into our lives now. And the third will happen in the future when Jesus comes back to the world as King and Judge, not a baby.

It’s Been a Great Year

What a powerful year 2018 has been! We are a church that celebrates life change and, while numbers aren’t everything, they are incredibly encouraging. Even though we have accomplished much together this past year, there is still much to be done as we continue pressing on in our call to create life change by introducing people to the Gospel. To that end I want to invite you to help us finish the year strong and prepare ourselves for an exciting 2019 by prayerfully considering an end-of-year financial gift to St Bernadette Church. Please remember that your gift funds a parish that changes lives. Thank you for being a part of the St Bernadette family and helping us accomplish the vision God has given us.

What are you Waiting For?

When the word “wait” is screamed, what feelings are stirred in us? It depends on the voice and the situation that delivers that word, right? Since childhood we’ve been taught Advent is about waiting. But, “What are we waiting for?” An advantage of speaking more than 1 language, is the way we translate a word can lead to a new meaning. For example, the verb “to wait for” in Spanish is the same as the verb “to hope.” Hence, “What are we waiting for?” can also mean: “What are we hoping for?”

Need a tax credit?

The end of the year is a good time to make a substantive gift to your parish.

**INVITE A FRIEND or FAMILY MEMBER TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY!
Come Home to St Bernadette**

Last Sunday’s Collection.....\$7,914.00		
Intentions for the Week		
Saturday	5:30PM	+Claudia Chase +Henry Mingleton,III
Sunday	8:00AM 10:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners +Raymond V. Dupart, Jr. +Frank Mullen
Monday	8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Tuesday	8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Wednesday	8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Thursday	8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Friday		NO MASS
December 2nd First Sunday of Advent		
First Reading		-Jer. 33:14-16
Psalm		-25:4-5,8-9,10,14
Second Reading		-1Thes. 3:12-4:2
Gospel		-Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
December 9th Second Sunday of Advent		
First Reading		-Bar. 5:1-9
Psalm		-126:1-2, 2-3,4-5,6
Second Reading		-Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel		-Luke 3:1-6

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED

Especially, **HENRY MINGLETON,III and CLAUDIA CHASE**. May they and all who have died be received into Our Lord’s heavenly kingdom; and may those grieving the loss of loved ones be consoled and strengthened through faith and prayers.

ADVENT PENANCE LITURGY

Will be celebrated at St. Bernadette **on Tuesday, evening, December 4th @ 7p.m.** This will be an opportunity for individual confessions in preparation for Christmas.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Is this Saturday, Dec. 8 @ 10a.m. and is a holyday of obligation wherein all Catholics are obliged to participate in Mass on this Day.

LOS ANGELES

SANTA'S SWEET SHOP BOUTIQUE & BREAKFAST

Sponsored by the Confirmation Class on **Sunday, December 9th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.** The breakfast is \$8.00 per person payable at the door. Please come have a wonderful breakfast, buy delicious sweets handmade by our confirmation teens and purchase great gifts from the vendors. If you have any questions, please contact Norma Jean Jackson @ 323-293-4877.

ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree names are now available on the tree in the vestibule. Your **UNWRAPPED** gifts are due in the rectory by **Sunday, Dec. 16th by 12noon.** Also, **there will be no wrapping party this year.** If you have any question please, contact the rectory @ 323-293-4877

CHILDREN CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Children 3 years and older to sing for Christmas Eve. 5:30 pm. Mass. Please see Mr. or Mrs. Jackson for a CD and rehearsal dates. 323-791-7564 rejoicingvoices@gmail.com

OUR ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT AT MATER DOLOROSA RETREAT CENTER

in Sierre Madre is set to take place on January 18-20, 2019. This year's theme is straight from Paul's letter to the Philippians (4:6-7): "**Be Not Anxious! Living in the Peace of Christ**" Don't miss out. All men of the parish are invited. Call now-don't miss this chance for spiritual renewal with your fellow parishioners. You can register on line by typing in www.materdolorosa.org and highlighting the corresponding links, or call Mater Dolorosa Weekend Retreat Coordinator Cathy Hainley for reservations and information at (626) 355-7188. Or call Gilbert Wright, Retreat Captain for St. Bernadette, at 213.257.3004.

ST BERNADETTE SPECIAL MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

1st Weekend: Christian Service collection
3rd Weekend: Debt-Reduction collection

SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection.

Bible Study Sessions

Please join us in studying the Bible and in experiencing the Living Word of God.

**Every first and third Thursday of the month in the hall
12:00pm-1:30pm and 7:00pm-8:30pm.**



COFFEE HOUR

December

2nd Mike Romo
9th Santa's Sweet Shop
16th
23rd
30th Rachel's Hope

To have doughnuts available after Mass we need more volunteers from the parish to sponsor them.

**Please call the rectory@ 323-293-4877
if you can assist. Thank you for your support!**
**Slauson Donuts: 3451 W. Slauson Ave
323-292-6398**
**Yum Yum Donuts: 1976 So. La Cienega Blvd
310-836-6061**

Did You Know?

Keep Santa visits safe and secret-free

It's the Christmas season, which means children around the archdiocese will be lining up for a picture with Santa and a chance to tell him what they hope to find under their trees this year. The Santa visit is a fun holiday tradition, but it's not a time when parents can let their guard down. Santa and his helpers are usually volunteers and may not have gone through screenings or tests to ensure your child's safety, so it's up to you. Keep an eye on anything happening while your child visits with Santa. Never step away from the action, even for a moment, and don't allow your children to be led away to another room. For a copy of the complete VIRTUS® article, "Safety for Children AND Santa's Helpers," visit <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/Pages/VIRTUS-Current-Online-Articles.aspx>.