4th Sunday of Advent

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

December 24 2017 * Volume 17 Issue 52
During the Christmas season, we here at the Cathedral, tend to attract more visitors. This is especially true of our Christmas Midnight Mass and Children’s Christmas Eve Mass. These additional bodies can certainly help us appreciate the beauty and mystery of our celebrations. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every Sunday was so filled with excited people worshipping before our Risen Savior? For us regular Sunday worshippers, these thoughts go through our head.

The truth is that with additional people at mass, a greater strain is made on our liturgical resources. Do we have enough space? Is it time to open the balcony? Are you able to be a Eucharistic minister at the midnight Mass and again at 11:00am? More custodians are needed for bathroom duty yet they shouldn’t have to work on Christmas day. The choir is practicing for their concert and trying to get the music ready for additional Masses. Our sacristy has to accommodate three bishops and concelebrating priests. Changes in our liturgical environment need to be made, even more complicated this year because our 3:00pm Mass for Advent is followed just two short hours later with our first Christmas Eve Mass.

Our visitors, as well as many of our regular parishioners, are unaware of the addition strain. Many visitors come and, from our perspective, look like this is the first church they have ever been in. Some carry in their drinks and get here early to reserve large sections. There will be a lot of talking, and questions, and no parking. Many who are trying to help can start feeling frustrated.

I wonder, if on that holy night when Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem, they encountered such a commotion of visitors and “regular” citizens. The Bible tells us that the town was so crowds that not a single room was unoccupied. Imagine the strain that was being put on those poor people. Finding a place to park must have been infuriating. Don’t even think about the state of their bathrooms with so many people around. Yet, if nothing else, the story of Christmas is about hospitality and how human hearts can be so blind to what all of creation is silently groaning for.

To us, it may look as if some people do not have a clear understanding as to what this is all about (does any of us really understand?), but everyone who is present will be looking for a place to rest and find hope. For everyone, our Cathedral is that place; a place to experience a welcoming handshake and embrace; a place to get out of the cold; a place of hospitality and brotherhood. All who pass through our doors (including me) are searching for something. We pray that this Christmas, we are all able to be God’s ministers so that Christ can be born in each one of us.

God bless you all. Fr. Michael

~A Reflection for Advent~

By Elizabeth Scala

The Advent readings in Isaiah (Isaiah 7:10-14) are fraught with beauty and mystery, and they often perfectly capture the sense of human smallness that always accompanies Advent, at least for some. Here, the Lord invites Ahaz — who does not believe — to request a sign, and not just any sign, but a great one. Ahaz, using language that sounds plous but is in fact slyly meant, says he will not ask; he will not tempt the Lord.

In truth, Ahaz does not want a great sign from God, because he knows that if God delivers, he will be forced into belief, or at least acknowledgement, of what he prefers to keep at a distance.

For an unbeliever, God’s invitation is a challenge. EWTN Foundress Mother Angelica, PCPA, liked to tell a story about a woman who accompanied a friend of the monastery for a visit. The woman was invited to take some of the nun’s books as a parting gift, but refused the offer, and when Mother asked why she replied, “If I read them I know I will have to change, and I don’t want to change.”

This was Ahaz’s challenge, and he did not wish to meet it, because change — whether it be a new job, a new neighbor, a wedding or a new baby in the family — always brings with it a measure of vulnerability.

And as we read early on in Advent, to be vulnerable terrifies us, and makes us want to self-protect, to secure ourselves from any surprises out of our control.

Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!

What would you ask of God, were he to offer such a sign, understanding that the sign would not be a mere symbol, but a condition of reality, just as something as pretty and distant as a rainbow is a sign and also a real effect of water droplets and light refraction? God’s sign, in Isaiah’s prophecy, is the advent of the Constant Reality of God-With-Us.

God. With us. Not for a little while, not for 33 years, not as a metaphor, but forever, and in the Flesh. In the tabernacle of your nearest Catholic church. Every day, in every time-zone on Earth, again, and still, and still, and still.

Yes, it’s a great change, and it makes us vulnerable because the Living God as Reality sees us as we are, and we want to hide, because we know our sins, and think we don’t want to change and be vulnerable before God.

We’re not so far from Ahaz, most of us, because — as St Paul writes — “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a Living God.” And yet all he really wants us to do, is be willing to draw near, and return his gaze, in trust.

Come, Lord Jesus! As we near Bethlehem, increase our desire to see you, to know you, which will help us to better trust you. Increase our trust until it is as deep as the nether world, and high as the sky, so there is no room left, for our fear. Amen.
The Christmas Pageants

Members of both English and Spanish CCD classes re-enacted the story of the Nativity for parents and guests, interspersed with classes singing Christmas carols. Performances were followed by parties with special treats for all.

Los miembros de las clases de inglés y español CCD revivieron la historia de la Natividad para padres e invitados, intercalados con clases cantando villancicos. Las actuaciones fueron seguidas por fiestas con golosinas especiales para todos.
14TH WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2018
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
Join thousands of fellow Catholics and Pro-lifeers from all over California and beyond as we proclaim to the world the sanctity of life. Let’s stand up for the littlest among us at the 14th Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 27, 2018. Reserve your seat or buy your bus ticket today. The Respect Life ministry will be outside the church after masses to give you more information or contact Veronica Avina at (916) 205-0713.

The rally begins at 12:30pm in San Francisco’s Civic Center Plaza, and the walk, down the city’s Market Street, begins at 1:30pm (approx. 2 miles). It ends at Justin Herman Plaza/Ferry Bldg. For complete information about the walk, visit www.walkforlifewc.com.

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN ATTENDING MASS TODAY, MAY WE SUGGEST...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Don’t feel you have to suppress it in God’s house. All are welcome!

Feel free to sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear.

Quietly explain the parts of the Mass and actions of the priest, altar servers, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH
The presence of children is a gift to the Church! They are members of our community, and a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to the parents.

(Borrowed from the St. Juan Diego parish in Portland, Oregon)

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
On Thursday December 28, 2017 will be the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Each year, on this day we accompany Jesus, Mary and Joseph on their way to Egypt when they were going out of harm’s way until God the Father would call them out of there again. We read in Scripture: the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” (Mt 2:13)

King Herod sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the baby boys two years and younger so among them the infant King would be murdered as well. We also remember all the children that in our days lose their lives through abortion; and pray for hearts to be changed and realize that life is a gift from God and He is the only one who gives it and can take it.

Our candlelight rosary procession will start at 6pm at the steps of the Cathedral and end at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Following the procession, at 7pm we will have Holy Mass presided by Bishop Jaime Soto and consecrated by Father Michael O’Reilly and Father Francisco Hernandez.

We invite you to come dressed in white or wear a white scarf or hat as a tribute to the children. Please bring your teens and young ones to this event so the culture of life grows deeper in their hearts. For more information please contact Leticia at 916.519.0417. The Cathedral Pro-Life team will provide carpool back to the Cathedral after Mass.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

IN THIS SEASON OF GIVING...
Our Cathedral St. Vincent de Paul is continuing to accept donations of new or used sleeping bags and new socks. Please leave your donation with an usher before Mass, or drop it by the rectory during the week. Or, you can go online to cathedral-sacramento.org/giving and make a donation to “Sleeping Bags/Socks for the Homeless.”

THE BIBLE TIMELINE: Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom is a Catholic Bible study which explores the story of the Early Church in light of the Holy Spirit and demonstrates how this story is important for all Disciples of Christ. The study will include a series of twenty videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. Each week participants can attend on Wednesday at Holy Family in citrus Heights, or on Thursday at The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament downtown. We will meet from 7pm to 8:30. Begins this January 4 and ends May 31, 2018. Attendance is free. We will also provide materials. Contact Sister Jenny at (916) 444-5364 or jenny@cathedralsacramento.org to register.
### Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

**Address:** 1017 11st Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
**Phone:** 916-444-3071, Fax 443-2749  
**Faith Formation:** 444-5364

The Very Reverend Michael O’Reilly, Rector  
Reverend Kieran M. McMahon, Priest in Residence  
Reverend Nicholas Ho, Chinese Mass  
Deacon John Gisla  
Deacon Don DeHaven  
Deacon Edgar Hilbert  
Sister Jenny Aldeghi, FDCC, Director of Education  
Rex Rallanka, Director of Music

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

#### Monday to Friday
- **12:10 pm**

#### Saturday Vigil
- **5:00 pm**

#### Sunday
- **7:30 am**  
- **9:00 am**  
- **11:00 am**  
- **1:00 pm** en Español  
- **3:00 pm** Chinese  
- **5:00 pm**  
- **7:00 pm** en Español

#### State Holidays
- **12:10 pm** only

### SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

- **Monday to Friday:** 11:30 am to 12:00 pm  
- **Saturday:** 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm  
- **Domingo - en Español:** 12:30 pm a 12:45 pm  
- **6:30 pm a 7:00 pm**

### EUCHARISTICADORATION

- **Wednesday:** 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm  
- **Thursday:** 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm  
- **Friday:** 12:45 pm to 3:45 pm

### BAPTISMS (Registration is required)

- **English:** 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am  
- **Español:** 4º Sábado del mes, 9:00 am

### BAPTISM CLASSES

- **English:** 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm  
- **Español:** 2do jueves del mes, 7:00 pm

### WEDDINGS

- Contact 916-444-3071, six (6) months in advance

### GIFT SHOP

- Sundays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
- Mondays 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

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### Prayer Corner

"In trust of God's infinite goodness, we pray to lift up our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul. Almighty Father, hear our prayers for..."

Carlos Palacios Family  
Haylee Flory & Family  
Alma Mosquera  
Luis Romo  
Deacon Don DeHaven  
Emma Valdez  
Eugenia Roque  
Alfredo Rivera  
Adolfo Espinoza  
Raymundo Guerrero  
Natalia Galan  
Salomon Galan  
Tomasa Rodriguez  
Rosa Carrillo  
Felix Nunez Claver  
Alvin Sul  
Anyrani Gonzalez  
Erin Nicole Tam  
Riley Hana  
Lee McClure  
Noah Anthony  
Hernandez  
Giang Tran  
Joel and Cesar  
Miguel and Family  
Michael Jose Mejia  
Luis Gutierrez, Jr.  
Luis Gutierrez, Sr.  
Cynthia Belarma  
Stephen and Julie  
Miles Jedlinsky Flanagan  
Louis Metzinger  
The Brown Family  
Yenecia Gutierrez  
Dennis Studebaker S.I.  
Lawrence Afamasanga  
Vailoauta Lopa  
Guy Cook  
Andrea  
Anastasia Main & Family

The Most Reverend Jaime Soto, D.D, M.S.W  
The Most Reverend Myron Cotta  
Bishop of Sacramento  
Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento

**View the Sacramento Bishop’s Corner,** which is sent via the Catholic Legislative Network to all subscribers in the Diocese of Sacramento who sign up at [www.scd.org/joincln](http://www.scd.org/joincln)

2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818  
Office Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Phone 916-733-0100, Fax 916-733-0195  
[scd.org](http://scd.org)
Dicen los bendiga a todos,
nacer en cada uno de nosotros.

dad, todos podamos ser ministros de Dios para que Cristo pueda

tas (incluido yo) están buscando algo. Oramos para que esta Navi-
hospitalidad y hermandad. Todos los que pasan por nuestras puer-

Catedral es ese lugar; un lugar para experimentar un saludo de

lugar para descansar y encontrar esperanza. Para todos, nuestra

Para nosotros, puede parecer que algunas personas no tienen una

la creación está gimiendo silenciosamente.

cómo los corazones humanos pueden ser tan ciegos a lo que toda

para estacionarse debe haber sido exasperante. Ni siquiera pienses

que se estaba poniendo sobre esa gente pobre. Encontrar un lugar

exactamente en el estado de sus baños con tanta gente alrededor. Sin embargo,

que se estaba poniendo sobre esa gente pobre. Encontrar un lugar

ni siquiera piensas en el estado de sus baños con tanta gente alrededor. Sin embargo,

considera el hecho de que en Belén, se encontraron con tal conmoción de visitantes y ciudada-

a Egipto cuando huían del peligro en que estaban hasta que Dios

a Egipto cuando huían del peligro en que estaban hasta que Dios

atiendo a nuestro Salvador Resucitado? Para nosotros los fieles

belleza y el misterio de nuestras celebraciones. ¿No sería maravillo-

Estos cuerpos adicionales sin duda pueden ayudarnos a apreciar la

La verdad es que con más personas en misa, se hace una mayor

Espacio: ¿Es hora de abrir el balcón? ¿Es capaz de ser un ministro

Así como muchos de nuestros parroquianos habituales, no están conscientes de la tensión adicional. Muchos

Nuestros visitantes, así como muchos de nuestros parroquianos habituales, no están conscientes de la tensión adicional. Muchos

Me pregunto, si en esa noche santa cuando María y José entraron

Habrá muchas conversaciones y preguntas, y no habrá estaciona-

Me pregunto, si en esa noche santa cuando María y José entraron en Belén, se encontraron con tal conmoción de visitantes y ciudadano-

Para nosotros, puede parecer que algunas personas no tienen una idea clara de qué se trata todo esto (?alguno de nosotros lo entien-

Para nosotros, puede parecer que algunas personas no tienen una idea clara de qué se trata todo esto (?alguno de nosotros lo entien-

Dios los bendiga a todos,

Padre Michael
Sharing the Gospel - Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

Prayer - God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

Mission for the Week - Name three reasons you can always

Puzzle

Find the matching shadow.

聖誕快樂！Merry Christmas!