

# St. Bernard de Clairvaux Church

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## Pastoral Team:

Fr. Boniface Perri, Pastor

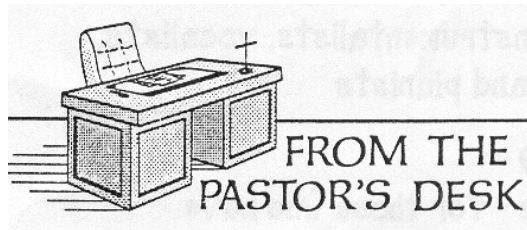
Fr. Jose Johnny, Associate Pastor/Chaplain to Sacred Heart Kerala Community

Fr. Francesco Pica, In Residence

Gina Orofino, Parish Secretary    Brenda Carvalho, Bookkeeper



Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him



What symbols do you identify with Christmas; there are Candy Canes, Christmas Trees and many festive traditions. But in my mind the one that speaks to us the most is the nativity scene. It is so easy to put one out in our home and then forget about it like another decoration. But there is a quiet power in the image that invites us to come, to think about the Characters. What would Our Blessed Mother be thinking, knowing that her son was also the Son of God? How tenderly did she love Him? What would Joseph be thinking when he saw the Sheppard's or the wise men coming to see the new born Messiah or how those magi and Sheppard's would have imagined how the world would change because of that momentous day?

We see in most nativity scenes the child Jesus one hand offering a blessing and one arm wide open to welcome all who come. The world is busy with so many activities and priorities and the Christmas season seems to be busier still. But the nativity reminds us that as nice as these things are it is not the primary point of the festive Solemnity. People were just as busy those many years when Jesus was born, but God invited them, to put all the things we do in proper balance. First just be with Him, Worshipping and loving the Lord, letting that love and charity extend to all those coming to be with the Lord as well, forming a community around them as we must move into the world, with its business but also filled with God's goodness to us, it's challenges and opportunity for growth in grace and holiness to let our light be seen by all.

I wish you, your families and friends a Blessed and Happy Christmas

*A tutte le famiglie della nostra  
comunita' parrocchiale,  
Tanti e tanti auguri  
per un felicissimo e Santo Natale*



**M**ARY, is often associated with mercy and rightly so. As Jesus lay in the Manger with no more than the breath of the donkey and ox to keep Him warm, Mary wanted to alleviate all that caused the Blessed Lord harm and to comfort Him. Whenever we are moved to do the same with those we see, that is true mercy in action.

Mary also held up Her Divine Son to the Wise Men showing Him to them and to all who come seeking God. In this way, Mary acts as the perfect model and Mother of the Church and all of us Her children, both showing Christ to all who come to us, so that they may know and Love Him and in imitation of our Blessed Saviour to show mercy to them as well. In this way, Mary fulfills the two great laws of Christ: to Love God in all our strength, mind and soul and to Love our neighbour as ourselves.

As a true disciple of her Blessed Son, she stays close to Him throughout her life and this finds her standing at the foot of the cross. At that moment, Jesus gave us Mary as our Mother too, after he had been nailed to the cross, He addressed her in these words "women behold your Son" then he said to John "behold your mother". Jesus looks at us one by one; behold your mother, he says. John took her into his home, received her lovingly and cared for her with the greatest respect. He brought Mary into his home, into his life. Spiritual writers have seen words of the Gospel as a invitation to all Christians to bring Mary into their lives.

Our Lady, close to her son, fulfills her mission as mother of all by interceding continually for them. On this Solemnity of Our Lady, we begin the new year. Truly there could not be a better start of the year and all the days of our life, then being very close to Mary. With the confidence of children, we go to her, so that she may help us to live holiness every day of the year.



**CHANGE TO**

**SPANISH MASS SCHEDULE**

Since the Spanish Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month has become very popular, we have decided to add another Mass. Starting in January 2024, the Spanish Masses will be celebrated every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month.



**2024 Offertory Envelopes**

Your 2024 Sunday donation envelopes are available for pick up at the back of the Church.

**Please do not use your old envelopes.**

Please check that your name, address and envelope number are correct. If your name does not appear on any of the boxes, if you are a new envelope user or if you are interested in Pre-Authorized Giving please contact the parish office.

**Thank you for your generous financial support throughout 2023.**

**BUSTE PER L'OFFERTA DOMENICALE 2024**  
Sono pronte le buste per l'offerta domenicale 2024.

**Vi preghiamo di prelevare il vostro pacchetto.**

**Se iniziate quest'anno ad usare le buste, chiamate in ufficio per registrare.**

**Grazie a tutti per il sostegno finanziario che date alla parrocchia.**



**SUNDAY  
MISSALETES  
ON SALE**

This year we are able to offer the Sunday Missalettes for the New Liturgical year at a cost of \$ 5.00 each. These will be available from the parish office during office hours or after the weekend Masses from the ushers.

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 23<sup>rd</sup> TO SUNDAY, DEC. 31<sup>st</sup>**

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:00 pm Luigi, Angelina, Rosina & Francesco Sottile  
Ferdinando & Melina Marchese  
Rocco Vitulli  
Elide Buset  
Catherine McIntyre  
Loreta Alati  
Amelia Filice

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Enzo & Georgia Simone  
Mauro Ardizzi  
Pia Ardizzi  
Iolanda Florio  
Dante Mazzini (12 yr death anniversary)

10:30 am Tita Russo  
Giovanna Antoniali

12:00 pm PRO POPOLO

**MASSES FOR THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

5:00 pm English Mass

12:00 am Midnight Mass English

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 am

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am Giovanni Monte  
Adolfo Molella  
Antonio Simone

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Holy Rosary  
7:00 pm

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am Beniamino & Liberata Alonzi

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Holy Rosary  
7:00 pm

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm Thanksgiving for the Monte Family  
Catherine Mc Intyre

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 am **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Francesco Conforti  
Pietro Patriarca  
Mauro Ardizzi  
Pia Ardizzi  
Iolanda Florio  
Nazzareno Tari

10:30 am Nazzareno Tari

12:00 pm PRO POPOLO

5:00 pm **VIGIL MASS MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

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