



ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

3955 ORANGE AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90807 | 562-424-8595 | STBARNABASLB.ORG

*Jesus is the Reason
for the Season!*

REV. ANTONY GASPAR | REV. BERNARD SANTIAGO
Pastor Associate Pastor

Fourth SUNDAY of Advent

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

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ADVENT

PARISH OFFICE:

OFFICE # 562-424-8595

Business Manager: Sam Christi | Office Manager: Olivia Baylen

OFFICE E-MAIL:

CHURCH@STBARNABASLB.ORG

OFFICE HOURS (Phone Calls Only):

Mon-Fri: 9:00am-2:00pm

Sat: 9:00am-2:00pm

Sun: 9:00am-12:00pm

THE PARISH OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED, BUT YOU CAN
CERTAINLY DROP-OFF ENVELOPES IN OUR MAIL SLOT.
E-MAIL OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR OTHER INQUIRIES.

CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

CHURCH DOORS, OFFICE & FACILITIES ARE ALL CLOSED AT THIS
TIME. NO BOOKINGS OR EVENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

OUTDOOR MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday	7:00 am	Parking Lot Mass
SUNDAY Parking Lot	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:00 am	"Early Bird" Mass Mass Mass

LIVE-STREAM MASS/ONLINE ZOOM

Monday - Saturday Wednesday	7:00 am 7:30 am	Facebook & YouTube Perpetual Help Novena
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Facebook & YouTube
Thursday	7:00pm-8:30pm	Online Bible Study via online Zoom
1st Tuesday of the month	7:00pm-8:00pm	Reflection Talk Via online Zoom

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the Catholic Community of St. Barnabas Parish, are a people formed by Christ, called in Baptism and united in the Eucharist; we continue the mission of the Church in the world through Prayer, Apostolic Works, Evangelization, and Christian Stewardship."

Good News!

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) "CHRIST CANDLE" – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

PARKING LOT MASS

OUTDOORS
Mon-Sat: 7am
Sun: 6am / 7am / 8am

Live-Stream

Facebook & YouTube
Mon-Sat: 7am
Sun: 9am

No indoor activities
allowed at this time.
100 max occupancy.
Stay home if sick.

Mandatory Masks
Temperature Checks
Hand Sanitizing
Social Distancing

SPECIAL 2ND COLLECTION

Special Collection is continued for **The Retirement Fund for Religious**, which helps religious communities care for senior members—today and tomorrow. Visit our website: stbarnabaslb.org and click on the special donation button! Thanks for your generosity!

**Stop the spread of germs
that can make you and others sick!**



Wash your
hands often



Wear a cloth
face cover



Cover your coughs
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space
between you and
your friends



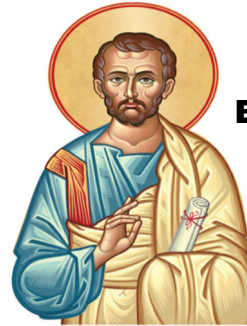
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

11/22/20:	\$ 1,890.00
11/29/20:	\$ 1,195.00
12/06/20:	\$ 6,338.00

Faith-Direct Bi-Weekly Contribution:	\$ 12,083.74 Period: 11/16 – 11/30
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Thanks for your prayerful giving. Your donation supports the operations of our Parish Community.



**SAINT
BARNABAS,
PRAY
FOR
US!**

PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage you to register as a Parishioner. To be an "Active" member at our Parish, is to participate in the life of prayer and stewardship. Being a parishioner enables a person to be eligible to sponsor a child for Baptism, to receive financial aid for Catholic Education, to be Married in the Parish, book a Funeral/Memorial Mass and to prepare one's children for the Sacraments. All adults over the age of 21, living with their parents or on their own, are encouraged to register as well. Visit our website to register!

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL

Office: (562) 424-7476

Fax (562) 981-3351

3980 Marron Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

Principal: Jennifer Kellam

jkellam@stbarnabas.school

www.school.stbarnabaslb.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & CONFIRMATION

Office: (562) 988-6855

1130 Marshall Place

Long Beach, CA 90807

(Office located upstairs of Parish Center)

Rel Ed Coordinator: **Juan Rodriguez Jr.**

213-840-8600 cell/text

religiouseducation@stbarnabaslb.org

Confirmation Coordinator:

Emmanuel Magallanes

213-948-7762 cell/text

confirmation@stbarnabaslb.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

12/15-12/23: Simbang Gabi Advent Night Masses 6p
 12/24: Christmas Eve 5p/8p
 12/25: Christmas Day 12am (live-stream only)/8a/10a
 12/24-25: Parish Office Closed-no calls
 12/31-1/1: Parish Office Closed-no calls



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 20th (Simbang Gabi)

Filipino-American Association; Matt & Faby Dobberpuhl;
 Ester Aglipay; +Nicole Hoang; +Melesio Reyes;
 +Genoveva Aguinaga; +Clint Rau; +Anunciacion Faban;
 +Luis G. Figueiredo; +Sol Ituriaga Madrid; +Julian
 Guerrero Abrajano; +Marvin Tran

Monday, December 21st (Simbang Gabi)

1st Friday Adoration Coordinators; Lake, Moran & Jisa
 Families; Eileen Lake; +Gene Tortuya; +Conchita Tejada;
 +Harvey; +Pedro Rago; +Nancy Rago; +Cristeta &
 +Ludovico Tortuya; +Julian Guerrero Abrajano;

Tuesday, December 22nd (Simbang Gabi)

CANA Marriage Renewal Ministry; St. Barnabas Staff;
 Matt & Faby Dobberpuhl; Christina Castro; Jocelyn &
 Ramon Rosales Jr.; +Adela & +Ramon San Andres;
 +Luan Tran; +Julian Guerrero Abrajano

Wednesday, December 23rd (Simbang Gabi)

Filipino-American Association; Samanth Christi;
 Emmanuel Magallanes; OLPH Devotees, St. Barnabas
 School; Pepito, Thelma & Christine Angeles; +Julian
 Guerrero Abrajano; +Catalino & +Francisca Masa;
 +Columba Binarao

Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

St. Barnabas Parishioners (No Personal Mass Intentions)

Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!

(No Personal Mass Intentions)

Saturday, December 26th

Sunny & Rosamma Michael; Christine Long; Joe &
 Monica Ahle & Family; All Souls in Purgatory; +Crispina
 Cordero Amago; +Esteban Joya; +Ronald Tuquero;
 +Bernardo Abad; +Nathaniel M. Capitulo; +Devin Marie
 Capitulo; +Jose L. Capitulo; +Jesus Congmon

Sunday, December 27th

St. Barnabas Parishioners; Pasamonte & Ponce Families;
 Christina Salas; Ronna Manarez; Christine & Antonio
 Boyd; Rose Hansen; +Maria M. Paraiso; +Genoveva
 Aguinaga; +Maria & +Alfredo Morante; +Gonzalo &
 +Narcisca Cruz; +Gregorio & +Aurelia Cruz; +Reynata De
 Villa; +Julian Guerrero Abrajano; +Lourdes de Vera



MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE MENTIONED AT ALL MASS TIMES.

Book your Mass Intentions via Website, E-mail or by phone. (+ indicates deceased)

PRAY & REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Ernesto Bayudan	Rudy Perez
Elizabeth Cannata	Marion Salch
Sepu Lefauseu	Julian Guerrero Abrajano
Amalia Vergel Villanueva	Byron Brummond

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people.
 (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalms — For ever I will sing the goodness of the
 Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through
 Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans
 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
 May it be done to me according to your word (Luke
 1:26-38).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 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 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

NEW PRAYERS FOR HEALING...

Ken Augustine, Connie Edwards, Mary Pearson, Betty Chrysler, Delores Spak, Elizabeth N. Gabrillo, Florencio "Junn" Gabrillo Jr., Cesar Giron, Romeo Giron, Arthur Giron, Marichu Cabrera, Marissa Garcia, Roseann Vetter, Myke Bommer, Carolyn Espinoza, Ana Maria Onuna, Gene Henslee, Rosalin Martinez, Herminia Villalpando, Judy Desolo, Richard Hoover, Juanita Hernandez, Valentine Rodriguez, Cynthia Tan, Paul Hutton, Beryl Weekes, Len Tanguay, Laura & Francisco Dominguez, Rose L, Joel Nicart, Erickson Capitulo, Nathaniel Capitulo, Hector Gustilo, Mateo Leyva, Milagro E. Salazar, Kathy Wachter, Sue Ann E. Tumakay, Fr. Owen de Souza, Gloria Goul, Wilson Panickaveetil, William Dorsey, Michael Carrasco, Mary Sabate, Virginia Barch, Joseph Smith, Anna Pineda, Sol Reyes, Lorna E. Declines, Dolores Medina, Mario Visperas, Jesse Damian, Maria & Miguel Mejia, Michelle Angeles, Josh & Pam Batovsky, Robert Carambelas, Madeline Burgess, Deborah Miller, Martin Boyd, Kenneth Cheong, Bill & Gloria O'Connor, Ana Marie Sacro, Lois Lohrke, Sherrie & Heather Wren, Connie Torres, Augusto David, Gloria Dorsey, Marge Smith, Marcella Tezeno, Gregorio Dones, Romeo Valderrama, John Lucero, Peter Miotto, Byron Brummond, Arturo Garcia, Fr. Sebastian Venni, Fr. George Reynolds, Natividad S. Fernandez, Ramon Rocha, Cesar Cudal, Puertollano Family, Ann Bechen, Marge Williams, Fr. Antony Gaspar, Fr. Bernard Santiago, Wong-Gomez Family, Jason, Marika & Alex Saliba, Joseph Pham, Moreno Family, Barnum Family, Matt & Faby Dobberpuhl, Pam Smith, Celia Lim, Helen Sartorius

PARISH & MINISTRY NEWS

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00pm & 8:00pm
(Outdoors) & 12 Midnight (live-stream only)

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day Masses: 8:00am & 10:00am
(Outdoors)

THURSDAY -NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00am (outdoors)

FRIDAY -NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am only (outdoors)

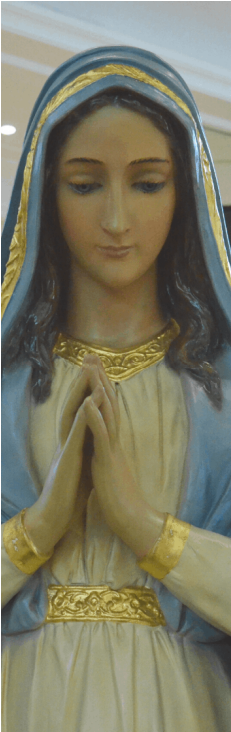


BOARDING UP THE FRONT MAIN DOORS & GROTTO FENCE

You may have noticed that a fence has been installed in front of the Marian Grotto between the Church and the Rectory/Parish Office. This was needed due to the recent desecration of the Marian statue and the persistent safety problem we encountered in recent times. The front main doors of the Church facing Orange Avenue, also had to be boarded up due to the constant late-night break-ins... visit our website: stbarnabaslb.org to read more...



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION



PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR THE PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. **We entrust ourselves to you**, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. **Help us, Mother of Divine Love**, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and **deliver us from every danger**, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Prayer by Pope Francis

dosp.org

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL

AMAZON SMILE FUNDRAISING

Set up an Amazon Smile account and select St. Barnabas School as the beneficiary to earn fundraising credit for your family or another school family in need. It is quick and easy! Please keep track of your monthly profit donations and send it into the school office for credit. Ask ALL of your friends and family members to choose Amazon Smile (and SBS) when ordering for the holidays! See the link below. *You can make an impact while you shop for holiday deals. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0527343 and AmazonSmile will donate to St. Barnabas School, at no cost to you.*

Welcome to
amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.



PARISH OFFICE IS STILL CLOSED

Our Parish Office remains **CLOSED** to the public. We are receiving phone calls Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm, and Sunday: 9:00am-12:00pm. You may certainly drop-off envelopes or notes in our mail slot - to the left of our office door railing. Call 562-424-8595 and leave your name, number & e-mail. For a much faster response, please E-mail us at: church@stbarnabaslb.org. **For all questions and inquiries, please go directly through the Parish Office & Staff only. Thank you!**

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day... the **Parish Office is also closed—NO Phone Calls**. Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!!

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to offer a Mass for a loved one, please e-mail the Parish Office, ATTN: MASS INTENTIONS at: church@stbarnabaslb.org, or fill up the Mass Intention Request Form on our Website. Pay thru Faith Direct online (\$10/a Mass) or you can mail in or drop-off in our mail slot at the Office. Please request dates at least 2 weeks in advance to be included in the online digital bulletin.

Visit this link directly:

<https://stbarnabaslb.org/mass-intentions/>

FR BERNARD'S BIBLE STUDY

HOLIDAY BREAK

Fr. Bernard's Bible Study will be on Holiday break and will resume sometime in January 2021.

For more info, visit our webpage:

<https://stbarnabaslb.org/bible-study/>

Join our Bible Study Group's Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/groups/biblestudyylb](https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblestudyylb)

Come and join St. Barnabas Parish's celebration of



December 15 - 23, 2020

6:00 pm Outdoor parking lot Mass

All are invited to participate in this spiritual preparation to meaningfully
celebrate the birth of Jesus!



ALL
EVENING MASSES
WILL BE
LIVE-STREAMED
ONLINE!

THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
SPONSORS &
VISITING
PRIESTS!!!

Nine Day Simbang Gabi Advent Mass Schedule

	Date	Time	Theme of the day
1 st	Tues. Dec. 15 <i>Father Antony Gaspar</i>	6:00 pm	Strengthen the virtue of HUMILITY SPONSOR: PROJECT ACHIEVE MINISTRY
2 nd	Wed. Dec. 16 <i>Father Bernard Santiago</i>	6:00 pm	Increase your FAITH SPONSOR: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
3 rd	Thurs. Dec. 17 <i>Father Reynaldo Matunog</i>	6:00 pm	TRUST in God's ways SPONSOR: SANTO NINO PRAYER GROUP
4 th	Fri. Dec. 18 <i>Father Antony Gaspar</i>	6:00 pm	Grow in OBEDIENCE to God SPONSOR: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
5 th	Sat. Dec. 19 <i>Father Bernard Santiago</i>	6:00 pm	Offer unceasing PRAYER SPONSOR: CANA MARRIAGE RENEWAL MINISTRY
6 th	Sun. Dec. 20 <i>Father Petter Thomas</i>	6:00 pm	Exercise SELF-DENIAL SPONSOR: FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
7 th	Mon. Dec. 21 <i>Father Thomas Asia</i>	6:00 pm	Develop Heroic PATIENCE SPONSOR: 1ST FRIDAY ADORATION COORDINATORS
8 th	Tues. Dec. 22 <i>Father Tony Astudillo</i>	6:00 pm	Grow in Ardent LOVE for God SPONSOR: CANA MARRIAGE RENEWAL MINISTRY
9 th	Wed. Dec. 23 <i>Father Antony Gaspar</i>	6:00 pm	Discern Heavenly WISDOM SPONSOR: FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

(This year, there will be no reception/fellowship after the mass.)

PASTOR'S ADVENT LETTER

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Happy Advent to all of you! Fr. Bernard and I have been recovering well from the Covid-19. I am happy to inform you that we will resume our ministry from this Sunday, December 13, 2020. We appreciate all your prayers and support during this time of our recovery. Our Lord has been very gracious to us with His healing grace. And we pray that other brothers and sisters who are battling with this virus within our parish and in the larger community will have the healing grace as well. Let us continue to pray for them.



Maranatha! Come O Lord Jesus! This is the theme echoed in our liturgies these days as we are in the season of Advent. We are aware that Advent is the season of eager waiting for the coming of our Lord. Our preparation is twofold: to welcome Jesus at this Christmas (immediate) and at His second coming (Parousia). The Scripture readings and our Holy Mother Church invite us to be awake in our spiritual life and get ready our hearts to welcome Jesus in our midst. It has become a customary practice for many of us, if not for all of us, that we will be planning what kind of gifts to buy, decorations to make, new dresses to purchase, cookies to make, friends to invite, sending greeting cards, and so on. Although these are important and adds to the festivities of Christmas, as Catholics, we know that the true happiness consists in preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. I encourage you to examine your heart in the light of Jesus's commandments and the teachings of our Holy Mother Church and renew your heart in the light of the Gospel. This would help us to celebrate Jesus' birth with true joy and a meaningful heart.

In order to help you with your spiritual renewal, we are offering confessions daily from December 13 to 23 from 8:00 am - 9:00 am, and on Saturdays from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. May I ask that you avail these opportunities and invite your loved ones to do the same. We continue to implement all safety precautions in our church premise. Make sure that you wear mask at all times and keep the social distancing when you approach the priests for your confession.

Further, we also have a nine-day novena Mass (Simbang Gabi) starting from December 15th until December 23rd, 2020. The Mass will be at 6:00 pm with a particular theme for reflection every day. These nine days are another spiritual opportunity to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ in our midst. I strongly encourage you to participate in this spiritual preparation as well. I wish you all a fruitful Advent season!

With Advent Blessings,

Rev. Antony Gaspar — Pastor



THANK YOU TO OUR SECRETARY, ROSE LUCERO!

Dear Parishioners,

If you had come to the front office at the rectory to take care of your needs, you would have probably been greeted by a very nice voice and a pleasing personality, Rose Lucero. She has been serving at the Parish Office for the past couple of years. She brought with her tremendous skills and expertise which enriched the service to our parishioners. She has also coordinated the youth ministry for our Parish. It has been such a joy for me and for all the Office Staff to work with her. A couple of weeks ago, she informed us that she has accepted another position, working for her Dad's company and her last date to work with us was November 30, 2020. While we will miss her at the Parish Office and we wish God's abundant blessings on her new journey. Kindly keep her in your prayers.

GONNA MISS YOU!



With Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Antony Gaspar — Pastor



PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL! Please visit: www.youtube.com/c/stbarnabaschurchlongbeach

Pastor Al®

"I've been thinking... do you suppose that Santa wears a 'What Would Jesus Do?' bracelet?"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Winter begins
 Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
 Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
 Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Saturday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

DONATE POINSETTIAS**HOLIDAY POINSETTIAS**

It's that wonderful time of season... Christmas time! If you would like to take part in making our house of worship lovely during this time of year, we are inviting our Parishioners to donate lovely poinsettia plants! They will be placed all around the outdoor altar! You may donate a poinsettia in honor of a loved one. Just make sure you tape the name to it and the Parish Office will book a free Mass Intention, according to what date/time that needs to be filled. **Please drop them off before or after the outdoor parking lot masses.**

SPIRITUAL SYMBOLISM

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. Franciscan friars in Mexico began using the poinsettias in Nativity processions and over time the plant was introduced into the United States. Since then it has become a staple of Christmas decorations both in churches and homes.

**Dear Padre**

December 20, 2020

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us. Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR

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saint snippets

St. Peter Canisius
 Dutch Jesuit priest who reformed universities and attracted many back to the Catholic faith; known as the Second Apostle of Germany
 Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

December 21



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

The child to be born will be called holy,
 the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

CONGRATULATIONS

Wedding Anniversaries for the Month:

Robert & Fatima 12/15

Lal & Gigi Lalan 12/18 (49yrs)

Sunny & Rosamma Michael 12/26

Vasco & Julia Rodrigues 12/30 (31yrs)



Celebrating your Wedding Anniversary? Email us Names, year you're celebrating, along with your Wedding Anniversary date to:

church@stbarnabaslb.org



WELCOME NEW RCIA LEADERS

Dear Parishioners,

We are blessed to have Andrea Marquez and Susana Marquez (who are Sisters!) volunteer to lead the RCIA program for our Parish. They are replacing Phillip and Evelyn who relocated to Oregon. Andrea and Susan themselves have gone through the RCIA program and have the first-hand experience to understand and lead those who inquire about our faith. We appreciate them taking up this faith formation challenge for our adults. Please join me in welcoming them to our RCIA faith formation team. Thank you.

With Blessings,

Rev. Antony Gaspar



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.



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reverendanthonygaspar@gmail.com

Do not reply to them and immediately delete it. Alert the Parish Office if you receive another fake message with a different e-mail so we can flag it. Thanks for your understanding.



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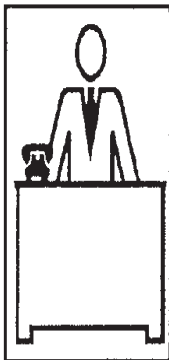


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