

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. BERNARD

615 H St. Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 442-6466

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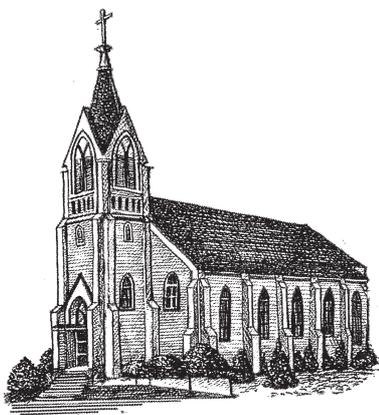
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Melanie Broswick, Children Faith Formation, Ext. 1104  
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Dianne Luzzi, RCIA 442-8812  
Issa Stemler, Music Director 840-9514  
Toni Lee Estevo, Prayer Line 445-3616 (24/7)

## **Office Hours**

Monday — Friday, 8am – 2pm  
E- Mail: [office@saintbernards.org](mailto:office@saintbernards.org)  
FAX: (707) 443-0914

[www.saintbernards.org](http://www.saintbernards.org)



## **Mass Schedule at St. Bernard**

Sundays: 10:30 am

Weekdays: 12:15 pm. Mon, Wed, Fri

Holy Days: Vigil 7:00 pm, 12:15 pm

Confessions: Wednesdays 1:00 pm-

& by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wed. 1-9pm

## **St. Joseph Mission Church Mass Schedule**

(Located on the corner of C & Henderson St.)

Saturdays: 4:00 pm. (vigil), Sundays: 7:30 am.

Weekdays: Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30 am.

Holy Days: 7:30 am

Confessions: Saturdays 3:15-3:45 pm & by appt.

# December 18, 2016, Fourth Sunday of Advent



**The Greatness of Mary:** In the Gospel Reading, in a dream, God tells Joseph to marry Mary, even though Joseph had discovered she was pregnant. According to Jewish law, premarital sex is punishable by death; and, in the ordinary course of things, pregnancy doesn't occur without sex. So, Mary's pregnancy out of wedlock exposes her to the penalty of death. Even apart from legal penalties, Mary's pregnancy jeopardizes her flourishing. As Joseph's own attitude shows, in Mary's society, no one wants to marry a woman who looks like a sinful woman and has an illegitimate child to support. It is clear, then, that Mary's pregnancy exposes her not only to legal penalties but also to suffering and shame in her society.

**God doesn't have to expose Mary to humiliation to make her pregnant, does he?** It is noteworthy, too, that Joseph needs to hear from God himself that God, and no man, is the father of Mary's child. Presumably, Joseph had already asked Mary how she came to be pregnant, and Joseph didn't believe her when she told him. That's why God had to confirm Mary's story for Joseph. How shaming for Mary to be thought a little liar as well as a sinful woman!

Why would God put Mary through this? As the First Reading indicates, it helps us to recognize Jesus as Emmanuel—God with us—to know that Jesus did not have a human father; and we are helped towards that view by knowing that Mary was pregnant before she was married.

But why didn't God protect Mary from the shame and suffering of being an unmarried pregnant woman by having the conception of Jesus result from some great public miracle involving Mary, so that everyone knows Mary's pregnancy stems only from the miraculous workings of divine power? God doesn't have to expose Mary to humiliation to make her pregnant, does he?

Well, here's one way to think about the matter. Mary's steadfastness and trust in God even in the trouble of being an unmarried pregnant woman are training for her and a sign for us, aren't they? Mary will eventually find the greatness of soul to love God and her son at the foot of the cross, in the shame of having her son die a shaming death. And, from watching Mary standing by the cross, we learn that human greatness has at its core fidelity through shame and suffering, don't we?

And so the greatness of Christ on the cross is foreshadowed by the greatness of this small woman, pregnant, shamed, and faithful.

Eleonore Stump

Question: God encountered Joseph in a dream to take Mary as his wife. "When Joseph awoke ..." Did Joseph wake up just physically or also spiritually?

## Today's Readings

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Reading II: Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

## Next Sunday's Readings, Christmas

Reading I: Isaiah 9:1-6  
Reading II: Timothy 2:11-14  
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 or Luke 2:15-20

## The Christmas Schedule

### Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve

**\*\*\*4:00 p.m. Children's Mass at Sacred Heart\*\*\***

**7:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish at Sacred Heart**

**11:00 p.m. Mass at St. Bernard**

### Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day

**7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph**

**9:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart**

**10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Bernard**

**12:15 p.m. Mass in Spanish at Sacred Heart**

### Confessions

**St. Bernard:** December 19<sup>th</sup> 1-2 pm. and December 21<sup>st</sup>.1-2 pm.

**Sacred Heart** (in English): December 19<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm. and December 21<sup>st</sup> 5-6:45pm. and 6-6:45pm.(in Spanish).

**January 1<sup>st</sup>, Regular Sunday Schedule**

### St Joseph Church

12/17 Sat 4:00 pm Louis Bonomini †  
12/18 Sun 7:30 am Jim Nickols † 12/19  
12/20 Tue 7:30 am Special Intention  
12/22 Thu 7:30 am Josephine Tyson †  
12/24 Sat 4:00 pm Children's Mass at **Sacred Heart Church**  
12/25 Sun 7:30 am Christmas Mass

### St Joseph Hospital

12/20 Tue 11:30 am Dr. Jack Walsh †  
12/22 Thu 11:30 am Int. Chad Kryla

**Pray for the sick:** Mervyn Dody, Yvette Logan, Petra Cortec, Erin Ford, Ryan Pepper, Heather Walsh-Redner-Ringwald, Nancy Elgin, Kathi Branum, Allie, Isela Adams, Evelyn Avila, Jim Avila, Nancy Brunner, Ed Dickinson, Sr. Gertrude Connolly, Barbara Hayes, Elizabeth McCaskill, Paul Shabata, Ashley Suthlund, Nancy Tompkins, Patricia Tritten, Victor Vellejo, Jenie Wood and John Kusters.

**Stewardship** The collection last weekend was **\$3,965** and Building & Maintenance was **\$1,418**. The second collection this weekend is for Retirement Fund for Religious (this is a national collection).

### Parish News & Events This Week

**12/18 Sunday 2-5 pm. The Knights of Columbus Christmas Party for/** parish hall  
**12/19 Mon 6:15 pm On Break** Children's Faith Formation  
**12/19 Mon 7:00 pm Baptism Prep Class/** hall  
**12/21 Wed 7:00 pm Confirmation Formation on break**  
**12/22 Thu 1:00 pm Bible Study** on break  
**12/22 Thu 7:00 pm RCIA** on break

**Children's Faith Formation News:** Our Faith Formation classes are now on Winter Break, having had our last class on the 12th. For all who are interested in attending, we will be having a **Children's Christmas Mass on December 24th at 4:00pm at Sacred Heart Parish**. Some of the children from the Faith Formation classes will be re-enacting the story of Jesus' birth as have been done in years prior. All are welcome to attend! For those who are involved, I will be contacting you with the date and time of the rehearsal, as soon as it is confirmed. Merry Christmas to all! Melanie Browick  
**Youth Ministry:** Confirmation will be taking a break, we will return Wednesday, January 11th at our usual 7:00pm time. Wishing you all a blessed break and may you enjoy the time with your loved ones! - In Christ, Analisa Alegria

**Baptism/God Parent Preparation Classes** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 pm. Call Deacon Frank to confirm attendance at 707-442-5615.

**Bereavement Support Group** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm St. Joseph Hospital Chapel – 2700 Dolbeer For more info please contact Deacon Frank Weber at 442-5615 or email at deaconweber @att.net

### St Bernard Church

12/18 Sun 10:30 am Gerrilyn Becksted †  
12/19 Mon 12:15 pm Int. Rene Alvarado  
12/21 Wed 12:15 pm Josephine Tyson †  
12/23 Fri 12:15 pm Dr. Jack Walsh †  
12/24 Sat 11:00 pm Midnight Mass  
12/25 Sun 10:30 am Christmas Mass

**Prayer Line** "If you have a special need of any sort, we have a prayer team who will pray on your behalf. Call our prayer line leader Toni at 445-3616-24/7.

### News This Week

**Posada:** You are invited to join the Hispanic Community at Sacred Heart Parish for the Posada Novena. We will pray the rosary, ask for Posada (a dwelling place for Jesus, Mary and Joseph), sing songs and have refreshments in the Sacred Shed: December 17, and 21 at 8:00pm. December 18, 19, 20, 22, and 23 at 7:00pm. These events will be in Spanish.

**Pastor's Corner** As a Christmas gift to the parishes I have personally bought copies for most families of "**Resisting Happiness**" by **Matthew Kelly**, the author of "Rediscover Catholicism" and "Rediscover Jesus". Please take a copy for your family but do not take a copy for friends and other family members as the 600 copies are for the parish communities of St Bernard and Sacred Heart Happy Advent/Christmas to you all!

I wish to thank Kris and Phil Buihner for all the time they have spent decorating St Bernard's and St Joseph for Advent and coming-up Christmas.

I would also like to thank those who worked on the Christmas mailing that was just sent out.

Looking ahead I will be taking ½ of my vacation time from Christmas Night to January 10th.

A blessed end of the Advent Season to you all.

Fr Tom

**Humor Dress-up** A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, 'Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit.' 'And why not, darling?' 'You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.'

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