

Christ Child Catholic Church
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service*

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 18, 2016

INNER EXPERIENCE

Matthew the evangelist has a special interest in telling his readers that Jesus should be called “Emmanuel.” He well knows that this could end up jarring us and seeming strange. Who can be caked by a name that signifies “God with us?” However, this name contains within it the nucleus of the Christian faith, and is at the center of the Christmas celebration.

The final mystery that surrounds us on every side and that we believers call “God” isn’t something far off or distant. This mystery is with us and with each one of us. How can we know it? Is it possible to believe in a reasonable way that God is with me, if I don’t have some personal experience, no matter how small?

Ordinarily we Christians haven’t been taught to perceive the presence of God’s mystery within ourselves. That’s why many imagine this mystery in some undefined and abstract place in the universe. Others seek this mystery adoring Christ present in the Eucharist. More than a few try to listen to this

mystery in the Bible. For others, the best way is Jesus.

Without doubt, God’s mystery has a way to make itself present in each one’s life. But it could be said that in today’s culture, if we haven’t experienced it in some way within ourselves, it’s difficult to find it outside of ourselves. Or to turn this around: if we do perceive God’s presence in our interior, it will be much easier to trace it in our surroundings.

Can this be? The secret consists, above all, in knowing how to just be, with our eyes closed and a gentle silence, welcoming with a simple heart that mysterious presence that encourages and sustains us. It’s not about trying to think about it, but just welcoming the peace, the life, the love, the forgiveness... that comes to us from the most intimate place within us.

When going deep within our own mystery, it’s normal to meet up with our fears and worries, our wounds and sufferings, our mediocrity and our sin. We don’t need to get upset, but just remain in the silence. The loving presence that is at the most intimate depth of ourselves will go about calming us, freeing us, healing us.

Karl Rahner, one of the most important theologians of the 20th century, affirms that, in the midst of the secular society we live in, “this experience of the heart is the only one that can help us to understand the faith messages of Christmas: God became man.”

The final mystery of life is a mystery of goodness, of forgiveness and salvation, a mystery that is with us: within everyone and within each one of us. If we welcome it in silence, we will come to know the joy of Christmas.

José Antonio Pagola.
Translator Fr. Jay VonHandorf.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage

Call the office for an appointment.

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and all Men.

MASS INTENTIONS - December 17 - 23

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Martina Durham
Special Intention
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Martina Durham
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. McGrath Family
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Tom McCormick
Thursday 8:00 a.m. + Judith Ann
Hammond
Friday 8:00 a.m. + Martina Durham

Stewardship of Treasury

Report Sunday December 10 & 11, 2016

Total Plate	\$ 2,130.00
EFT	\$ 460.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,590.00

Thanks you and God bless you!

Christmas Flower Memorial

A Christmas flower (poinsettia) memorial is a beautiful way to remember loved ones this Christmas. We invite you to make a contribution to our Christmas flower fund in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Memorial will be listed in a bulletin during the Christmas season as well as a marker placed in each donated flower’s pot.

We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray for the families and our Country.

THANK YOU!!!.....The response to the 2016 COAT DRIVE was wonderful. Our friends at Holy Trinity Church received approximately 350 coats, jackets, and hats. Our effort has provided warmth and comfort to many.

A fantastic example of caring and love for our neighbors in Greenfield, CA.

And a great big thanks to Herb for collecting additional winter wear during the annual Blessing of the Hot Rods Car Show.

Again... Thank you! Joe & Andrea Bruna

As we prepare to welcome the WORD into our world...you’re wished the good news, the grace, and the gifts of this holy season.

Merry Christmas!

Will the CHILDREN who want to be in the Christmas Eve Pageant. Please stay after Mass this Sunday December 18 for rehearsal and to pick up their costumes. Thank You!

What better way to begin the New Year than by spending time discerning God’s call?

We are hosting a “Come-And-See” Day on **January 21, 2017 for single, Catholic women ages 18-38 years.**

As you know, these are perfect opportunities for young women to get a glimpse of cloistered life and Dominican cloistered life in particular, and to help them listen more closely to God’s voice in their hearts, whatever their calling. Will you once again help us reach out and invite young women to this opportunity?

Contact Sister Joseph Marie, O.P. vocation directress, at vocations@nunsmenlo.org or visit our website at

<http://nunsmenlo.org/discernment-days/> to learn more and to register for one of our upcoming Come and See Days: **Saturday, January 21, 2017; Saturday July 15, 2017; Saturday, October 21, 2017. Space is limited and fills fast!**