Christ the Newborn King

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish
December 25, 2018

Dear Parishioners:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the Christmas Mass at Dawn, we hear St. Paul address the impact of Jesus’ birth in Titus 3:4-7 When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. Yes, we celebrate the fact that God chose to enter our world and become one of us in order to lead us on the journey back to heaven. The love and joy that we experience in this holy season is meant to be savored throughout the year as we make our pilgrimage through life. As we embark upon the coming year, let us strive to be ever grateful for the graces we have received by the mercy of God.

With the challenges that both the Church and the world endured this past year, I have found some scriptures which have encouraged me and may give you confidence as well:

Psalm 27:13-14 says: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

1 Peter 1:6-7 says: In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may resound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28 says: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

In this Christmas bulletin, our parish staff shares with you the many different ministries which we have here at Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish. There is a wide variety of opportunities you have to serve your sisters and brothers here at Annunciation. Please consider how you might exercise your baptismal graces and gifts by taking one or more of our ministries described in this bulletin. May the light of Christ shine more brightly in the world today as we serve the Lord in our Church and in the broader community.

May the love of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fill your hearts at Christmas and throughout the New Year. With an assurance of prayers for you and asking God’s blessings upon you, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Bennett J. Voorhis

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Pastor
Did you know... 

Annunciation Catholic School (ACS) has 426 students enrolled in JK - 8th grade.

Our staff consists of 45 employees. Collectively the ACS staff has over 378 years of teaching experience and 326 years in Catholic Schools. Teachers participated in 1460 hours of professional development during the 2017-2018 school year.

Seven 2018 ACS graduates scored at or above the 85%ile on the St. Pius X HS entrance exam and hold 42 seats in honors courses. Seven are in the International Baccalaureate Program at Sandia High School.

ACS fielded 34 athletic teams, 2017-2018 with 261 participants in grades 5-8 and over 93 elementary students in grades 1-4.

Our annual Art Fair consists of over 2700 pieces of student art work. Seventy of those pieces were displayed at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Catholic Schools Art Festival 45 of which were awarded 3rd place or better.

ACS has a thriving music program – weekly music classes and 101 students participate in guitar, ukulele and band.

ACS has 30 student altar servers and 12 cantors.

ACS has raised over $260,000 from 10 Annual Fall Benefits, supporting music, science, PE, technology, art, environmental sustainability.

Volunteers dedicated over 1510 hours to ACS during the 2017-2018 school year.

ACS’s science program includes weekly labs for ALL students JK – 8th grade.

ACS is accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA).

Students are provided the opportunity to participate in academic competitions such as: Chess, Speech & Debate, Faith Challenge Bowl, Geo Bee, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Future City Battle of the Books and much more.

ACS community donated 820+ hours and over $13,400 to various local and national charities along with $34 dignity bags, 227 bags of rice & beans, household items and more during the 17-18 school year.

Annunciation gives each student the individualized attention and care that they need to thrive. The service oriented and faith filled curriculum engages students to become active and spirited members of the school community.

Enrollment begins January 2019

Seats are available in Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten

Open House Thursday, January 31 9:00 – 1:00

Annunciation Catholic School’s mission is to provide a Child-like and learner friendly environment to better serve God and community.

Family Centered Religious Education

Director: Leslie Monette

Administrative Assistant: Lorraine Chavez

Religious Education Programs for Children & Youth

Elementary Religious Education

- Pre-Kindergarten Minimum age 4) through Grade 5
- Meets on Wednesdays from 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in school classrooms
- Loyola Press – Finding God Series
- Registration round

RCIA/Sacramental Preparation

- For unbaptized or children missing sacraments between the ages of 7 and 14
- Received into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass
- Call for more information

The NET - Middle School Religious Education

- Grades 6 through 8
- Meets on Sundays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in gym and school classrooms
- Ignatius Press – Faith and Life Series
- Catechism, Social Justice Projects, creative faith building activities and fun
- Registration round

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

- For children in the third grade
- Need to have at least one previous year of faith formation
- First Reconciliation completed in the fall and First Eucharist in the spring

Adult Faith Formation Programs

Wednesday Evening Adult Faith Formation

- All are welcome to join our Adult Bible Study and Catechesis Programs
- Meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Magdalene Hall
- Small group discussions, fellowship and thought provoking educational materials will enrich and deepen your faith
- Coordinator: Renee Pagan

Adult Confirmation

- 8-week program for catechized adult Catholics who are baptized and have made the First Communion
- Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated annually at the Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Mass in the fall
- Contact Leslee at 576-6547 for more details

Financial Peace University

- Nine-lesson class on money management
- Teaches the basics of budgeting, becoming debt-free and planning for the future
- Meets on Mondays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Baldrick Hall
- Coordinator: Mary Mahoney

Hearts Afire Parish Program

- A bold and fresh faith renewal program that aims to set hearts aflame
- Part 1: Consecrating the Heart of Jesus - to draw closer to the Merciful and Sacred Heart of Jesus by accepting His love and trusting in Him
- Meets on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in St. Magdalene Hall
- Coordinator: John Seabrooks

Knights of Columbus

- St. Magdalene Council 5922
- Fraternally Catholic men in order that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
- The Council leads and supports Church, community, families, and individuals are involved in various activities:
  - Grand Knight: Sr. Knights Patrick Schroeck
  - 4th Degree Assembly - Pope John Paul II Assembly 6773
  - Aquinian Council - Pope John Paul II Assembly 6773
- Services the faithful through the Knights of Columbus focusing on participation in parishion, Faithful Navigator, Sr. Knights Nathan Moorer

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- All are welcome to spend time in prayer at our Adoration Chapel.
- Hours of Adoration available on the bulletin board.
- Contact Leslee at 576-6547 to sign-up as an assigned adorer.

First Friday Holy Hour of Reparation

- First Friday of the month at 9 a.m. 
- The Holy Hour is led by the Jesus statue in the prayer garden.
- Prayer books provided.
- Coordinator: Joy Stotts
As we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world, let us pray for the grace to carry Him to others!  
Merry Christmas!  
Sr. Lisa Marie Salley

The Young Adult Frassati Society is the spirit of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, we provide faith-building for young adults (20’s & 30’s) through:  
• Seasonal Scripture Studies  
• Sunday Night Rosary  
• Socialization Events  
• Day Trips  
• Service Opportunities  
• Vocation Exploration / Retreats  
• Book Readings

Scouting for Kinder thru 12th
Is an integral part of our youth ministry, in development of future leadership of our Church and wider community. Our Boy Scouts Troop 280, Cub Pack 280, and American Heritage Girls Troop 39205 serve the youth of our parish throughout their formative years through discovery of interests, learning new skills and finding friendship.

Liturgies of the Word
“Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, ‘Whenever you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me.’”  
(Mark 9:37)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
“Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, shout with joy before the Lord, the King!”  
(1 Chronicles 16:1)

Music Ministers & Parish Choirs
“Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, shout with joy before the Lord, the King!”  
(Psalm 150:4)

Lectors
“Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise!”  
(Liturgy of the Hours)

Greetings & Welcomers
“Love your fellow Christians always. Do not neglect to show hospitality, for by that means some have entertained angels without knowing it.”  
(Hebrews 13:1)

Altar Servers
“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”  
(1 Peter 4:10)

Art & Environment
“Because the assembly gathers in the presence of God, Liturgy’s climate…cannot be satisfied with anything less than the beautiful in its environment and all its artifacts, movements, and appeals to the senses.”  
(Environment and Art in Catholic Worship)

ASSEMBLY
“The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy.”  
(Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)

COMMUNION MINISTERS
“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?”  
(1 Corinthians 10:16)
Parish Life and Pastoral Outreach

Director: Sr. Neczy Guan, FdCC
guan@annunciationparishhbjq.org
Administrative Assistant: Mary Agnes Sain
209-9111

"You will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger." (Lk 2:12), This is the enduring sign for all who would find Jesus. Not just then, but also today. If we want to celebrate Christmas authentically, we need to contemplate this sign: the full humanity of a tiny newborn child, the meekness with which He is placed in a manger, the tender affection with which He is wrapped in His swaddling clothes. That is where Christ is. — Pope Francis, Christmas Eve Homily 2016

Sacramental Preparation for Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process for unbaptized adults who are interested in becoming Catholic and for those baptized Christians who seek full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Weekly sessions are facilitated by Priests, Deacons, and lay leaders who are trained in catechetical teachings, Scripture reflections, personal and liturgical prayers. Sessions run from August to May on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Magdalen Hall. Call the parish office if you or someone you know wants to be a Catholic, or to complete the sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Infant Baptism Preparation Class for Parents & Godparents

This required sacramental class is held every second Sunday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. in St. Magdalen Hall. It is facilitated by married couples who explain the theology, spirituality, biblical background and liturgy of the sacrament of Baptism. If you are interested to be a part of this team of volunteer catechists, please call the parish office.

Sacramental Preparation for Marriage

This is a spiritual partnership between the engaged couple and a Marriage Sponsor Couple assigned by Mag. Vosburgh. They explore together the meaning of the sacrament of Marriage, and identify issues that may affect the wedding ceremony. The Natural Family Planning (NFP) Symposium is mandatory and is part of the preparation.

Pastoral Care Ministries

Visitation Ministry: It is an opportunity to visit and spend time with sick and elderly. It is facilitated by different parishioners in different nursing homes. Meetings are held quarterly at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Companions on the Journey: Provide spiritual companionship to those who are permanently homebound or terminally ill through Holy Communion and visits. The group meets on the first and third Sundays at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Consolation Ministry: Consolation Ministry walks with and supports those with living diagnosis of Autism spectrum, or who are grieving for their loved ones. The group meets every second Thursday and every fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Marianites: Marianite Sisters hold a monthly Eucharistic Adoration on the first Wednesday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Companions on the Journey: Provide spiritual companionship to those who are permanently homebound or terminally ill through Holy Communion and visits. The group meets on the first and third Sundays at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Parish Outreach Ministries

Little Rock Sacred Scripture Study Group: This is an informal study group held in the Spring and in the Fall on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in St. Francis Hall. Interested participants are invited to the Monday morning meeting at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in St. Francis Hall.

That Man Is You: A 20-week leadership program for Catholic men is held on designated Saturdays at 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. Breakfast is provided. Each topic is devoted to a topic or concept. Participants are encouraged to bring in questions or specific concerns that they want to discuss or learn more about. The goal is to support men in their faith. The next session begins on September 18, 2021.

Adult Faith Formation Programs

Endow Women’s Studies Group: Explore the Church teachings on women, calling the nature and dignity of women. Eight sessions on given topics are offered in the Fall and Spring. For details, call the parish office.

Marriage Matters Ministry: Provides an environment and resources to help couples nurture their marriages in Christ. Through two monthly dinner dates (childcare included), continuing marriage formation, and periodic family events (Picnics, movie nights, seasonal celebrations), the main objective is to strengthen the Domestic Church which are the building blocks of the Universal Church. Contact Danea Trujillo (505-406-9707) or Brenda Pacheco (505-222-4936).

Dignity of the Person - Pro-life: Are organized in the Spring and in the Fall. Topics chosen are different issues of life in relation to the person.

Reflection on Sunday Scripture Reading: It is a great opportunity to prepare for the readings in the Sunday liturgy. Materials for reflection/discussion are provided. Join us every second Sunday of the month at 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Social Concerns Ministry: Coordinates the monthly production for the poor in our city, and the “Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving” Project. The Committee meets every first Friday of the month at 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in St. Francis Hall.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Is an on-going ministry for advocacy, direct assistance to the poor, and education through home visits. Meeting is on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Women’s Guild: Meets every second Wednesday at 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in St. Magdalene Hall. They help the parish in various ways, including administrative needs served for family and guests and a Funeral Mass in the parish.

Ministry to the Seniors — GEMS: Provides a weekly prayer service that is open to persons of all ages. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center.

Glorious Enthusiastic Motivated Seniors: Provides the pastoral care to the senior parishioners in the areas of spirituality, education, recreational activities, which are organized throughout the year. In-house activities are on the third Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the parish center.

Respect Life: Promotes respect for human life from conception to natural death as set forth in the USCCB Respect Life Program. It encourages others to see the divine nature of all human life through prayer, education and charity. The group meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Recovery in Jesus Christ: A Christ-centered approach to recovery from life-controlling problems of alcohol and drug abuse. Meetings are held every first Thursday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in St. Bakhtinia Hall.

Prayer Opportunities

• Divine Mercy Cenacle: Every other Monday at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Francis Hall; locations are announced in the bulletin.

• Contemplative Prayer/Lectio Divina: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Francis Hall.

Merry Christmas and a New Year Full of God’s Blessings!