

# Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025



This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. - Matthew 1:18-24

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## 2025 Christmas Message from our Pastor...

Dear Parishioner,

Greetings of Peace of Christ!

In Feb 2023, I, along with some of the parishioners, had the golden opportunity to visit the Holy Land. Since then, at every Christmas, I get the same spiritual chills when I quietly recall and meditate on the most holy moment, when I knelt under the Altar of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem to reach to the 14 Point Silver Star to kiss the Holy Spot where our Savior Jesus was born. Many of us couldn't hold back our emotions, everyone had moist eyes. The Star has the words "HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS EST" (Here Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary). My unworthiness haunted my conscience as I read those words. The mystery of the Incarnation was revealed to us at that very spot.

At every Christmas, we celebrate God coming to us. He wanted to convey the message of love, hope, joy and peace. He said, "I have come so that you may have life and have it more abundantly". I can understand that at times these words of Christ can be challenging, especially when we are struck with grief and loss.

However, St. John 1:5 reminds us that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it". There are so many reasons to be grateful and be filled with hope. The hope and faith in Jesus will revive us by giving strength in the times of distress. Trust in His name "Emmanuel". God is with us in all times. I am privileged once again to celebrate Christmas with you. On behalf of Deacon Dance, Deacon Craig and Seminarian Joseph, I wish every one of you Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2026.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Bernard

## Readings For Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

## Readings For the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

## FINANCE

**1st Collection= \$3,555.50**

-This week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for Retired Religious

-No 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Week

**AMA 2025 Goal: \$19,700**

**Gifts Recieved: \$17,023**

**Blance Due: \$2,677**

## Sacred Heart Rosary

**Please join us! We are here every Tuesday at 11:30am in the Chapel**

## RIP Monsignor Brenkle

It is with deep sorrow that I write to inform you of the passing of Monsignor John Jacob Brenkle, a priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, who died on December 9, 2025. Monsignor Brenkle was born on October 4, 1931, in Martinez, California, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1958, at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and later incardinated into the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Throughout his many years of priestly ministry, Monsignor Brenkle served the Church with dedication in both parish and diocesan leadership. His assignments included the following:

- **Cathedral of St. Eugene, Santa Rosa** – Assistant Pastor and later Pastor (1962; 1969–1971) Diocese of Santa Rosa – Secretary/Assistant Chancellor; Superintendent of Schools (pro tem); Director of CCD; Notary to the Tribunal; Member of the Diocesan School Board; Chancellor
  - **Holy Spirit Parish – In Residence** (1970-1971)
  - **St. Bernard Parish, Eureka – Pastor** (1974–1977)
  - **St. Bernard High School, Eureka – Principal** (1977–1979)
  - **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Calistoga** Administrator (1979–1983)
  - **Saint Helena Church, St. Helena** – Pastor (1983–2013)
- The Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Brenkle will be celebrated on Friday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m., at Saint Helena Church in St. Helena.  
Requiem ætérnam dona ei, Dómine, et lux perpétua lúceat ei. Requiescat in pace.

## DUE TODAY 21<sup>st</sup> - SVDP Blankets For Care

Our annual project Blankets for Care Homes has been underway and we are now anticipating your donations of blankets and socks that will go to residents of local care homes (Seaview, Eureka Rehab, Granada etc) this Christmas. All blankets and socks must be received by Sunday, December 21st, after 9 am Mass for delivery. Thank you for continuing to think of others. For more information, call Georgeanne at 497-9929

### Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

#### Saturday, December 20

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm +Sharon Read St Joseph Church

#### Sunday, December 21

7:30 am Don & Cathy Dellabalma St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am +Maria Jaca de Guzman Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am +Chad Kryla St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

#### Monday, December 22

12:15pm Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church

#### Tuesday, December 23

7:30am Int. Cahill Family St. Joseph Church

#### Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

**4:00pm Children's Mass Sacred Heart Church**  
**+ Michael Miles & Jenifer Lynn Miles**

7:00 pm Vigil Mass (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Ch  
11:00 pm Vigil Mass St. Bernard Church

#### Thursday, December 25

#### The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

7:30 am Hugo Pompati & Family St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am Mass Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am Mass St. Bernard Church  
12:15pm Mass (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

#### Friday, December 26

12:15 pm +Nick Giannini St. Bernard Church  
\*Followed by Adoration & Confessions

#### Saturday, December 27

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm Mass for the People St Joseph Church

#### Sunday, December 28

7:30 am Int. Dellabalma Family St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am +Dianne Luzzi St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

#### Monday, December 29

12:15 +Matthew Phelps St. Bernard Church

#### Tuesday, December 30

7:30am Mass St. Joseph Church

#### Wednesday, December 31

#### Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

5:30pm + Fr. Eric Freed St. Bernard Church

#### Thursday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

7:30am +Fr. Eric Freed and Norman Wood St. Joseph  
11:30am Mass St. Joseph Hospital Chapel  
5:30pm Mass Sacred Heart Church  
7:00pm Mass (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

**Please Pray For:** Rosemary Murphy, Eliana Omei, Pat Rider, Duane David, Thanh Strelow, Sally-Ann Thomas, Chaz Desoteau, Nagee Ellis, Theresa Martin, Jackeline Williams, Diane Kerr, Karla Kincade, Tammie Startare, Lynn Agajanian, Gary Agajanian, Linda Brown, Eliot Cabreon, Michael Arnold, Hatsue Riecke, Ray Moisa

#### **Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:**

+Colleen Cruz +Joe Thompson +Gina Costa +Stella Reyes  
+Mary Walsh+Rolly Luzame +Brenda Zwiefelhofer +  
Louise Y. Russo, +Bernadette Chapman +Saturnina  
Tetrault +Marie Giampaolo, +Tony Sistrom, +Marilyn  
Zibilich, +Diacono Frank Weber +Felipe de Jesus Silva  
Rodriguez +My-Hieu Venema +Avira Agata  
Concepta Gomes +Colby Arnett +Lorraine  
Cooney, +Chris Scott, +Sharon Omei, +Jim  
Cruz, +Deacon Jim Hercher, +Susan Bonomini



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Invitation For Christmas Pageant Participation

Come, you are invited with your children to come and participate in the Christmas pageant mass. Please contact Maria Romo or Maria Freites if you would like your child to be in the pageant. The children's mass will be on Dec. 24 at 4pm at Sacred Heart. There will be a meeting on 12/21 at Sacred Heart Church at 1:30. Thank you Maria Romo DRE

### Invitation To Christmas Open House at Rectory

Fr. Mike and Fr. John welcome you to a Christmas Open House at the St. Bernard Rectory on Sunday, Jan. 4 from 2-5pm. Please bring cookies ahead of time for this event to the St. Bernard Office.

### Invitation To Monastic Retreat For Young Men

"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" I extend a special invitation to any of our college students (or other young men) who have some free time over Christmas break to make a *Come and See* retreat here at the monastery. Consider a monastic vocation as we rejoice in the birth of the Eternal Word into the family of the chaste St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary. **I am proposing that we begin on Saturday, December 29, 2025, and conclude on Monday, January 8, 2026, but I will readily accommodate your individual college schedules.** Please contact me as soon as possible if you may be able to attend this vocation retreat, or even if you simply want to spend some quiet time in prayer and healing here at the monastery. I would appreciate it if all of you would pray for this retreat and extend this invitation to other young men who might benefit from attending. -Fr. O'Hara Holy Family Monastery, 764 Centerville Rd, Ferndale, CA 95536, 509-530-8730, HolyFamily4u2.com

### SVDP CHRISTMAS MEAL DONATIONS &

**VOLUNTEER NEEDS** St. Vincent de Paul Dining Facility will host a Christmas Holiday Meal on Thursday, December 25, 2025, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Food Donations – *Ham (preferably spiral sliced), Yams / Sweet Potatoes, Bread Stuffing, Yukon Gold Potatoes, Whip Cream (Cool Whip or Spray Cans), Candy Canes, Tiny Marshmallows, Canned Goods (large or #10 size, if possible) – Green Beans, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Crispy Fried Onions, Candied Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Fruit.* Black Nitrile Gloves – sizes M, L, and XL (sold at US Chef's Store and Harbor Freight)

#### **Volunteers are needed for the following:**

Food & Dining Room Prep: DEC 24, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Christmas Day: Serving Table Set-Up & Kitchen Help:

8:30 – 10:45 AM. Meal Service & Kitchen Help: 10:30

AM – 1:30 PM Clean-Up: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Winter Wear Donations – *Wool Blankets, Gloves, Snowcaps, Heavy-Duty Socks, Winter Coats, Hiking Boots, Back-Packs, Ponchos / Raincoats* and Christmas Gifts for Older Teens. Please contact Mary or Eric at 707-445-9588 Drop off donations between 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM, M-F at the SVDP Dining Facility - 35 W. Third Street, Eureka 95501 Thank You for your support!

**St. Bernard Prayer Line – Please Call Allen / Illeen at 707-442-6844 to pray with them for your intentions**