

Our Lady Queen of the World Church

3155 Winterbrook Dr., Bay Point, CA 94565-3264 - Tel: (925) 458-4718 - Fax: (925) 458-3161
Email: rectory@olqw.org - Website: <http://www.olqw.org> -- <http://facebook.com/olqwbaypoint>



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Fr. Peter Dung Duc Ngo, Pastor
Deacon Loc Nguyen

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM (English)
7:00PM (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00 Noon
4:00PM (Vietnamese)
Weekdays: Mon-Fri. 7:30AM, Sat. 8:00AM
First Friday: 7:30PM

Devotions

Adoration & Benediction: Fridays 6:00PM- 7:30PM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:
Wednesdays after morning mass
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy: Mondays &
Fridays after morning mass

Confessions

Saturday 3:30PM to 4:30PM or by appointment

Baptisms

Pre-Baptism classes for parents and godparents held every second Tuesday of the month. Contact the parish office.

* **Spanish Classes**, contact Hilda Avelar at 925-642-3058.

* **Vietnamese** baptisms, contact Fr. Peter Dung D. Ngo at the parish office.

Marriage

Contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

Rene Asuncion, Director of Rel. Ed.

Tel:(925) 458-4574-Website: olqwr.olqw.org

Email:director@olqwr.olqw.org

• Religious Education

RCIA Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, or membership in the Catholic Church.

St. Vincent de Paul

Food pantry opens Mondays 9:30AM -11AM in the Parish hall

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 23

7:30 am Lenlen Catalya
7:30 pm Simbang Gabi

Tuesday, December 24

7:30 am Ebias Family Thanksgiving
6:30 pm (SP)
8:30 pm (VN)

12:00 am David Family

Wednesday, December 25

8:00 am Kevin Joe Dalmacio
10:00 am World Peace
12:00 pm Deceased Members of Raymond
Chen Family

Thursday, December 26

7:30 am Lamberto Bautista Jr.

Friday, December 27

7:30 am Joseph & Anna Nguyen

Saturday, December 28

8:00 am Pioquinto Yalung Zablan
5:00 pm Lorenzo Canon
7:00 pm (SP) Leilani & Larissa Cerda-Vargas

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am Zenaida Lacanlale &
Sandra Panlilio
10:00 am Michael Enriquez
12:00 pm Maria Consuelo Tupas
4:00 pm (VN)



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACTS

Filipino Association: Lourdes Servigon,
Coordinator (925-334-9111)

Hispanic Association Rosie Estrada,
Coordinator (925-639-7946)
Contacto en Español: Gladys Giron
(925-334-9873)

Columbiettes Cara Wahl, Vice President

Knights of Columbus Andrew Trias
(Andrew.trias@gmail.com)

Regina Mundi Guild Leah Abejuela,
President (labejuela@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Esther Tilton,
President SYDPOLOW@gmail.com

Legion of Mary: Rick Belza (925-261-0283)

Vietnamese Association:



Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the staff at our parish, I wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas filled with love, peace, and joy. May Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world come into our hearts and transform each of us to become more Christ-like.

Your are always in my daily prayers.

Devotedly in Christ,

Fr. Peter Ngo Duc Dung

*Merry
Christmas*

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Beverly Cawley, Kathy Nebel, Sylvia Ho, Conception Huezo, Ray & Alice Conner, Connie Trias, Claire Luna-Fernandez, Mario & Emma Dolor, Bertha Baldauf, Amy Kueck, Jovita Domingo, Carol Wagner, Julian Martinez, Virginia Cabaddu, Nena Davi, Danny Muly, Michelle McLaughlin and all those in the Parish who are sick, and all those listed in the Book of Intention.

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the rectory 458-4718.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

The collections for December 15th will be posted in the December 29th bulletin.

Thank you for your contribution support to sustain the ministries & ongoing needs of our parish.

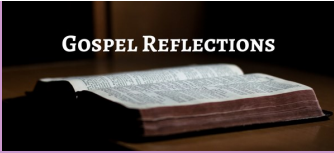
Please make all checks payable to either "OLQW" or Our Lady Queen of the World for both first and second collections. Also please put your envelope number on the Memo line.



GOSPEL READING
JN 1: 1-5,9-14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming
into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Four Masses are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus using the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel through the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the Infancy Narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this Gospel is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel begins at the beginning, as it were, and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words, "In the beginning . . .," echo the opening verse of the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. However, John's Gospel highlights that this was the divine intention from the very beginning, from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out is John's use of the expression, "Word of God." This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. In Jewish thought, this phrase describes God taking action—for example, in the Creation story and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek, or Hellenistic, thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the trinitarian faith of Christians, the word Logos came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel—the motif of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

The Nativity of the Lord



Early Celebration

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Sts. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts, and Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial *Natalitia*, asserts that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday. Arnobius can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods.

The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. About A.D. 200, Clement of Alexandria says that certain Egyptian theologians "over curiously" assign, not the year alone, but the day of Christ's birth, placing it on 25 Pachon (May 20) in the twenty-eighth year of Augustus. The December feast therefore reached Egypt between 427 and 433.

In Rome the earliest evidence is in the Philocalian Calendar, compiled in 354, which contains three important entries. In the civil calendar December 25 is marked "*Natalis Invicti*." In the "*Depositio Martyrum*" a list of Roman or early and universally venerated martyrs, under December 25 is found "*VIII kal. ian. natus Christus in Betleem Iudæ*."

De Santi (*L'Orig. delle Fest. Nat.*, in *Civiltæ Cattolica*, 1907), following Erbes, argues that Rome took over the Eastern Epiphany, now with a definite Nativity colouring, and, with as increasing number of Eastern Churches, placed it on December 25. Later, both the East and West divided their feast, leaving Epiphany on January 6, and Nativity on December 25, respectively, and placing Christmas on December 25 and Epiphany on January 6. The earlier hypothesis still seems preferable.

Origin of Date

Concerning the date of Christ's birth the Gospels give no help; upon their data contradictory arguments are based. The census would have been impossible in winter: a whole population could not then be put in motion. Again, in winter it must have been; then only field labour was suspended, but Rome was not thus considerate. Authorities moreover differ as to whether shepherds could or would keep flocks exposed during the nights of the rainy season.

Natalis Invicti

The well-known solar feast, however, of *Natalis Invicti*, celebrated on December 25, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date. For the history of the solar cult, its position in the Roman Empire, and syncretism with Mithraism, see Cumont's epoch-making "*Textes et Monuments*" etc., I, ii, 4, 6, p. 355. Mommsen (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 12, p. 338) has collected the evidence for the feast, which reached its climax of popularity under Aurelian in 274. Filippo del Torre in 1700 first saw its importance. It is marked, as has been said, without addition in Philocalus' Calendar. It would be impossible here even to outline the history of solar symbolism and language as applied to God, the Messiah, and Christ in Jewish or Christian canonical, patristic, or devotional works. Hymns and Christmas offices abound in instances; the texts are well arranged by Cumont.

Liturgy and Custom

The fixing of this date fixed those too of Circumcision and Presentation, of Expectation and, perhaps, Annunciation B.V.M., and of Nativity and Conception of the Baptist (cf. Thurston in *Amer. Eccl. Rev.*, December, 1898). Till the tenth century Christmas counted, in papal reckoning, as the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, as it still does in Bulls. Boniface VIII (1294-1303) restored temporarily this usage, to which Germany held longest.

The Crib (creche) or Nativity Scene

Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223 originated the crib of today by laicizing a hitherto ecclesiastical custom, henceforward extra-liturgical and popular. The presence of ox and ass is due to a misinterpretation of *Isaias* 1:3, and *Habakkuk* 3:2 ("Itala" version), though they appear in the unique fourth-century "Nativity" discovered in the Saint Sebastian catacombs in 1877. The ass on which Balaam rode in the Reims mystery won for the feast the title *Festum Asinorum* (Ducange, *op. cit.*, s.v. *Festum*).

PARISH EVENTS

BAPTISM CLASS



Our next Baptism class for parents and godparents is Tuesday, January 14th at 7pm. Please register at the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

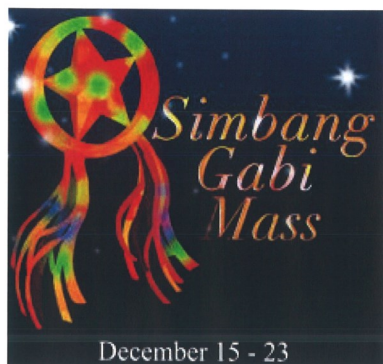
BIBLE CLASS



Father Peter will be offering a Bible class for all adults interested in refreshing your knowledge of Scripture. Classes will be on Third Tuesday night from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The next Class will be on January 21, 2020. For more information, contact Rene Asuncion or the Parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

December 21-December 30: Christmas Holiday: NO CCD CLASSES



Our Lady Queen of the World Church

3155 WINTERBROOK DR. BAY POINT, CA 94565

A NINE DAY CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Schedule

December 15, 2019 -	6:00 p.m.
December 16, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.
December 17, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.
December 18, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.
December 19, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.
December 20, 2019 -	8:00 p.m.
December 21, 2019 -	6:00 p.m.
December 22, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.
December 23, 2019 -	7:30 p.m.

A light reception provided by generous sponsors will immediately follow.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FOOD DRIVE



We will maintain a donation barrel for non-perishable foods in the church foyer; please be generous. Our groups of volunteers are here every Monday, and they always need groceries to help the needy in our community. The demand has been much greater!



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County

Are you Downsizing?

Are you Cleaning Your Closets in Prep for the Holidays?
St. Vincent de Paul Would be Grateful for Your Items!

Repurpose, Reuse and Recycle with St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County!
The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores in Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg and Brentwood support all our safety-net programs including the Free Dining Room, Free Food Pantries, Free Medical Clinic, Free Dental Program, Daytime Homeless Shelter, Auto Assistance Program and MORE!

Drop Your Donations to:

Pittsburg Thrift Store
2210 Gladstone Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Mon. - Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

Pleasant Hill Thrift Store
2815 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
7 days a week: 9 AM - 5 PM

Brentwood Help & Hope Thrift Center
8890 Brentwood Blvd.
Brentwood, CA 94513
7 days a week: 10 AM - 6 PM



FURNITURE WILL BE PICKED UP!
Call 925-439-5060 to arrange for a pickup!
Thank you!

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, December 23

8:00 pm Simbang Gabi Fellowship

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

9:15 am CH: Legion of Mary

Thursday, December 26

7:00 pm P#2: Divine Mercy

Friday, December 27

7:00 pm P#1: Hispanic Choir

Saturday, December 28

3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, December 29

1:00 pm Hall: VN School
2:00 pm P#2: Vietnamese Choir

SOLAR SYSTEM

The Maintenance Fund 2nd collection will be for the Solar System. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Tuesday, December 24, 2019

6:30 pm Spanish Mass
8:30 pm Vietnamese Mass
11:30 pm Christmas Carols
12:00 Midnight Parish Mass



Wednesday, December 25, 2019

8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm



The Music Ministry invites you to come, listen and enjoy the Christmas Carols on **Christmas Eve, December 24th at 11:30 pm**, in anticipation of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.





Spring Festival Queen

(Our Lady Queen of the World Solar Project)

Four ladies will seek your support to be chosen as the "Queen" of the "Spring Festival 2020." Purchase raffle tickets from any of the candidates and get a chance to win cash prizes.

1st Prize \$1,000.00; 2nd Prize \$600.00; 3rd Prize \$400.00. Winners will be announced on May 16, 2020. There will also be three (3) "Early Bird" drawings. Need not be present to win. 5 Tickets for a donation of \$15.00. All proceeds from the "Spring Queen Festival" will go towards the Solar Project.

Spring Queen Festival Candidates



Kim Tran



Becky Trombley



Remedios Cadena



Sylvia Hernandez