

WELCOME TO SAINT BARBARA PARISH!

In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

PARISH OFFICE

2201 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 682-4151 (Tel) • (805) 687-7841 (Fax)
www.sbmission.org • stbabs@yahoo.com
Hours: Tuesday - Friday • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
(Priests are also available by appointment)

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SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Minimum of six months' preparation time. Call the Parish Office for further information.

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SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Baptisms and baptism preparation classes may be scheduled by contacting the Parish Office. Registered parishioners only.

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SACRAMENT of ANOINTING of THE SICK

After the Noon Mass on the last Sunday of the month, or please notify the Parish Office if there is a need for this sacrament.

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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to coordinate music, liturgy, reception, and other needs.

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REGISTERING AS a PARISHIONER

New to Santa Barbara? Interested in making St. Barbara Parish your faith community? Please complete a parish registration card, available from the ushers or by calling or stopping by the Parish Office, and return it to us in the collection, at the office, or by mail.

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HOW DOES ONE BECOME CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a community-based process for welcoming new members into the Roman Catholic Church. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office.

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ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
Preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist
Sunday Religious Education Classes, Grades 1-6 (Oct-May)
Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word (Oct-May)

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YOUTH MINISTRY and CONFIRMATION

St. Barbara Parish junior high and high school youth are welcome to join their peers from St. Raphael Parish. Please contact John Vasellina, Youth Minister at St. Raphael Parish, for more info (805-964-3466 ext. 1).

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ROSARY for PEACE

Prayed on Saturday mornings after the 7:30 Mass.

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TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND the CROSS

Contemplative prayer and song seasonally scheduled throughout the year.

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SCHEDULE of MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00 PM

SUNDAY

7:30 AM • 9:00 AM • 10:30 AM (Children's Liturgy of the Word) • 12:00 Noon

DAILY MASS in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

7:30 AM (Monday-Thursday, Saturday) • 12:10 PM (Friday)

HOLY DAYS

Please call (805) 682-4151 for schedule

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

The Magi began their journey searching for this newborn king in a most unorthodox way: they followed not a roadmap, but a star. They allowed themselves to be led not by human plotting of routes but by divine guidance. Their journey ended when the star "stopped over the place where the child was," they entered, and offered homage and gifts. What is truly manifested to us on this feast is the mystery of God's presence to us in the newborn king, but also the mystery of God's presence in the loving and caring way God leads us to life eternal. We have only to do as the Magi did: surrender ourselves to God's guidance and God's surprises.



When it comes to our life journey, even though we know our destination (eternal life!), we soon discover that there is no direct or clear-cut route. The journey of faith has many detours. If we wish to arrive at our eternal destination, we must surrender our plans and expectations to a God who often takes us to unexpected places and unexpected persons.

We can hardly expect a star to guide us to our eternal destination. But this doesn't mean that God is no less present to us than to the Magi, guiding us where the divine will wishes us to go. God guides us today in many and sometimes surprising ways: through the commandments, through the proclamation of Scriptures, by the model of goodness and holiness of people around us, by our consciences, during prayer, even through the actions of our enemies—in any manner or place we look beyond ourselves to the good of others.

Recognizing God's guidance is but one part of finding our way on our life journey. Another part is dying to self; that is, we must actually follow God's guidance, even when that takes us where we might not want to go.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are the signs I encounter that make me aware of God's presence in my life?

DEAR PARISHIONERS and VISITORS,

We are blessed to have people from all over the world come to visit our beautiful Mission church. At the same time, it can be bothersome when we are trying to celebrate liturgy and droves of tourists are flocking inside to get a picture, creating a ruckus and distracting us from prayer. I try to be as patient as possible. Then there are our own people who, for one reason or another, arrive late to Mass – some as late as the Our Father! I must confess that this is a pet peeve for me. As much as I understand being late, it still annoys me and I have to work at letting go of the frustration. To calm down, I tell myself, "You don't know the reason why they are late – it might be very convincing." Then my other critical side answers, "They should at least wait until a pause in the reading or the prayer before being seated!" I go back and forth with these thoughts and end up losing focus.

Today's celebration of the Epiphany has a great message for all of us who struggle with critical thoughts about latecomers and party crashers. When I hear of the Magi and their whole retinue crashing in on the newborn Jesus, unannounced and, according to tradition, twelve days after his birth, I am humbled by my petty preoccupations. I can imagine what sorts of thoughts Mary and Joseph had when they received these strangers into their home – St. Matthew does not tell us. I know that it is possible to welcome strangers, even in the middle of prayer. I will never forget my visit to the Orthodox Church of St. John on the island of Patmos. We arrived there by boat early on a Sunday morning with many groups of other tourists, anxious to see and touch the rock that, according to tradition, was where John wrote the book of Revelation. When we got to the Church, the local people were celebrating their Sunday liturgy. In fact, they were in the middle of their Holy Communion procession. They did not blink an eye as we broke through their communion line to touch the rock and then circled back out of the church. The communion hymn seemed to unite them in prayer with the understanding that their church was an important pilgrimage site.

Prayer guidelines and time frames are good – they help prevent chaos. Welcoming strangers and latecomers is also good – it is a sign of hospitality. Until we walk in someone's shoes, we must try to withhold judgment. Epiphany lets the world know that Jesus Christ came for all people. If instead, as in our case, the world is coming to us, may we be as welcoming to strangers as the Holy Family was, showing the world that we are a people of the Gospel.

May God bless us all with open, welcoming hearts this New Year!

Daniel F. Barica

Fr. Daniel F. Barica, O.F.M., Pastor

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

First Reading—Isaiah 55:1-11

Behold my servant with whom I am pleased;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

Responsorial Psalm—Psalm 29

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading—1 John 5:1-9

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit;
he went about doing good.

Gospel—Mark 1:7-11

You are my beloved Son,
with you I am well pleased.

REFLECTION on NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY of THE WORD

The Christmas season comes to an end with this feast of the Lord's baptism. God reveals his son to us as Jesus begins his work. The creation account in Genesis tells us that the spirit hovered over the waters and brought forth the world out of chaos. In the account of the baptism, Jesus comes up out of the water and the spirit descends upon him as a sign of God's favor. A new world is created in Christ.

Life Focus

- In what ways and/or by whom have you been affirmed since you were baptized?
- Recall a time when you felt that your life began anew.
- Recall a time when you were chosen to do something special. What effect did it have in your life?
- How have you been able to help this new world come about this last week?

May we continue to search diligently
for Christ along whatever pathways
God leads us.

DO YOU KNOW...

Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton

In the Battery Park area of Manhattan, near New York Harbor, sits a historic house. From its colonnaded front porch a contented young married woman, Elizabeth Bayley Seton, could enjoy the bustle of the city. Elizabeth had grown up in New York; she was a toddler when the Revolutionary War broke out. Her father was a surgeon and anatomy professor at what is now Columbia University. Her mother was from a prominent Episcopalian family.

Elizabeth's husband William represented his father's ship-merchant business. They had five children: Anna, William, Richard, Catherine and Rebecca. In the midst of this busy life, she found time to work with the poor. She even established a charity, the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children.

Then William developed health problems, complicated by worry about business reversals. Seeking a cure for him, the couple traveled to Italy, where he died. Throughout their difficult stay, they had been treated with great kindness by a Catholic family. Elizabeth was deeply touched by this and found herself drawn to Catholicism. She was received into the Catholic faith on her return to the United States. However, this was a time of strong anti-Catholic feeling. As a result of her decision her wealthy family (and many of her friends) cut all ties with her. Now she herself was a poor widow with small children.

Fortunately, a priest invited her to begin a school for girls in Baltimore. This was the first Catholic school in the United States. In 1809, with a small group of other dedicated women, she established a house in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There she formed a religious community, the Sisters of Charity. It was the first congregation founded in the United States. The order grew rapidly, serving hospitals and orphanages, but was most involved with building the Catholic educational system. Elizabeth herself trained teachers and wrote textbooks. She also worked with the poor, nursed the sick and composed hymns and spiritual reflections. She died while still in her forties, having accomplished an extraordinary amount in her short lifetime (1774–1821). She was wife, mother, widow, educator and founder.

Elizabeth is the first native-born American saint. She is buried in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at Emmitsburg. The Roman Catholic church remembers her each year on January 4.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Are you thinking about returning to actively practicing your faith? If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church, know you are in our prayers. We invite you to explore your faith and your future with the Catholic Church. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Parish Office (805) 682-4151.

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

Sunday, December 21st
Simbang Gabi

\$ 20,618.60
\$871.00



"For your heart will always be where your riches are."

- Matthew 6:21

FROM DEATH to the FULLNESS of LIFE

ELIZABETH "BETTY" PITMAN
Parishioner



May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

TOGETHER in MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL

Together In Mission is our opportunity to support 32 parishes and 46 schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that are in need. Many thanks to those who have already responded with either one-time donations or pledges.

...WE ARE STILL \$3,910 SHORT OF OUR GOAL!

The Archdiocese has formally requested full payment. If you have not yet made a donation or paid your pledged amount, please do so before the end of the year.

LET US PRAY for THE SICK

Mark Etzel " John Tapia
Maria Muñoz " Catharene Purdy
Rose Margaret Braiden " Bob Carman
LeeAnne Kryder " Dorothy McClellan

May they know Christ's healing.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training for young, new Altar Servers will begin on January 12 at 4PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Any adults interested in becoming Altar Servers should contact Bob or Claudia Chyla at 683-4966 for more information.

MINISTRY to the HOMEBOUND

If someone you know is not able to come to Mass, or would like a minister to take Communion to their home, please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. Also, with the permission of the person who is ill, we are happy to include their name in the Prayer of the Faithful and list it in the bulletin.

CATHOLIC HOMECOMING

St. Barbara Parish is reaching out to non-practicing Catholics by offering a program called Catholic Homecoming. Catholic Homecoming will meet for six weeks starting on January 11. The program offers a gentle way for returning Catholics to share their faith and consider their response to God's loving invitation.

If you have family members or friends who are no longer practicing their Catholic faith, tell them about Catholic Homecoming. More information is available by calling Andrea Duda at (805) 682-4151 x201.

PARISH CALENDAR



- Jan 7 Baptism Class at 6:30PM
- Jan 7 JPIC Meeting at 6:45PM
- Jan 8 RCIA Meeting at 6:30PM
- Jan 10 "I Conoscenti" Musical, 7:30PM in the Church
- Jan 11 Baptisms at the 9AM Mass
- Jan 11 Installation of Pastoral Council at the 12PM Mass
- Jan 11 Catholic Homecoming Meeting at 1:30PM in the Parish Social Room
- Jan 12 Altar Server Training at 4PM in the Church
- Jan 14 Leadership Meeting, 6:30PM
- Jan 15 RCIA Meeting at 6:30PM
- Jan 15 Fr. Daniel's Scripture Study, 7PM
- Jan 16 Fr. Daniel's Scripture Study, 10AM
- Jan 17 Ministry Dinner at Serra Hall (please RSVP)
- Jan 18 Catholic Homecoming Meeting at 1:30PM

THE 2009 CALENDARS are HERE

All registered parishioners are invited to pick up their copy of the 2009 calendar in the Parish Office after Mass. One calendar per family, please.

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULE

A new Ministry Schedule for the months of January and February is now available. Please be sure to pick up your copy in the Sacristy, the Porter's Office or the Parish Office.

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today.

St. Barbara Parish is a church that welcomes people from around the world and around the corner. If you are from our area, we invite you to join us in worship every weekend. Our Masses are Saturdays at 4pm and Sundays at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, and Noon.

Perhaps you've been away from the church for a while. If you would like to explore the possibility of reconnecting to your Catholic faith, we'd like to help. We invite you to join our Catholic Homecoming program, after the Noon Mass on Sundays beginning January 11, 2009. Think of it as St. Barbara parishioners holding open the door for you so you can come back into the church.

If you are a non-Catholic who is thinking about becoming Catholic, we would like to talk with you. We regularly offer Inquiry sessions where you can see if this is where you are being called. Please call the parish office at (805) 682-4151 x201 for more information.



INFORMATION REQUEST

_____ I have questions about the Catholic Church and would like to talk with someone about them.

_____ I have been away from the Catholic Church for a while and would like to talk with someone about returning.

_____ I am not Catholic and would like to talk with someone about becoming Catholic.

_____ I would like more information about _____

* * * * *

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please place this form in the collection or give it to one of the ushers.
Someone will be in touch with you within a couple of weeks.