



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic Parish Inspired by
Dominican Spirituality
Igniting the Faith for the Salvation of Souls**

Christmas

Christmas Vigil Masses

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Dawn Mass

Isaiah 62:11-12
Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20

Christmas Day Masses

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

With the birth of Jesus Christ, the Holy Family begins. To celebrate this divine reality, we gather with our families and friends to remember what is truly important, our faith in God and the gift we are to each other. We welcome our student's home from college, extended family members from out of town and, perhaps, even first time visitors to St. Dominic's Church.

Over our Christmas liturgies, the Church gives us three Gospels to contemplate. Our Vigil Mass' Gospel details St. Matthew's genealogy. This genealogy ends, "Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations." The Gospel asks us to start our journey in the desert with Abraham, our father in faith, contemplate the power and majesty of being descendants of the greatest King of Israel, David, and enter into the sorrow and pain of our ancestors held captive in a foreign land. Then we also are asked to long for the Christ, the Messiah who is to come.

At the Midnight Mass, an angel of God reveals to the shepherds the Messiah has come when it declares, "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." A savior has come in the line of King David to restore the Kingdom of God. This kingdom is to be eternal and because the savior is the Lord, our God.

Christmas morning's Mass reveals to us the Word of God, which was with God from the beginning, through which all creation came to be, and is God whom has come to the earth. This new relationship with God starts at Christmas with the birth of Jesus Christ because, "From His [Jesus'] fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

This Christmas please take some time to contemplate the reality of our relationship with God. Allow yourself some time to enter into the eternal plan of our salvation. Spend some time with our Lord Jesus Christ reading the Gospels, in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and in communal prayer at Mass. Of course, we enjoy all the beautiful traditions that surround Christmas but take some time to refocus this Season on Jesus Christ and what He means in your life.

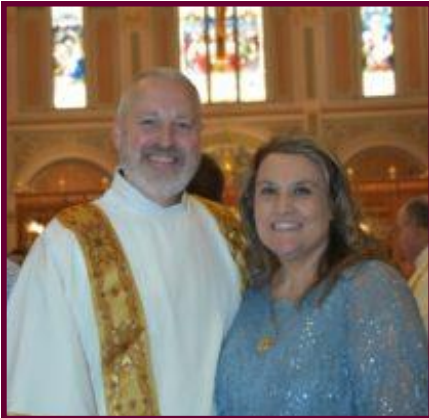
If you have been away from the Church and have questions, please know I am always available to speak with you. Also, please consider attending our Catholics Returning Home series, which begins on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 pm.

Holy Christmas! Fr. Jerome



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Thanks to your generous support, our parish's Saint Vincent de Paul Society was able to make the Christmas season bright for those in need in our community. Through our "Giving Tree," we distributed over 570 gifts and 116 Christmas dinner boxes.



Here are organizations benefiting from your generosity: SVDP's Benicia clients, Vallejo Together, Springs Road Convalescent Hospital, Heartwood Avenue Healthcare, Shamia House, Christian Help Center, Catholic Charities of Solano and Yolo Counties, Casa de Villarasa, & LAAM. Also, we sent food and toys to the fire victims of Paradise. A heartfelt thanks for sharing the love of Christ and offering hope for those in need!



Catholics Returning Home

Come Home to the Catholic Church, there's a place for you here!

Beginning January 8th
7:00 pm
In the Ministry Center
Siena Room

Were you raised Catholic but seldom attend Mass? Do you feel separated from the Church and want to know more about the Church as it is today?

We invite you to join us, and others, as we explore and enrich our faith together. Registration is not required and attendees join in on as many or few sessions as they wish. No commitment, just answers to your questions.

Topics for each session include:

- January 8 *Welcome! Overview of the Series*
- January 15 *Our Faith Journey*
- January 22 *The Church Today*
- January 29 *Walk Through of the Mass/Q&A*
- February 5 *Explanation of Reconciliation/Q&A*
- February 12 *The Creed; What Catholics Believe & Discipleship*

For questions or more information, please contact
Gaye Rose or Susan McCain at (707) 747-7220
email: comehome@stdombenicia.org



8 Week Scripture Series Opening the Word With Deacon Errol Kissinger

Mondays
January 14th-March 3rd
at 9:15 am
In the Ministry Center
Siena Room



Join St. Dominic's as we "Walk the Walk"
Walk for Life West Coast January 26th!
Parishioners will be meeting in the school parking lot at
10:00 am and traveling together to take
BART into the city.
email respectlife@stdombenicia.org