



Journey to Christ

Publication of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church

MISSION STATEMENT We, the parish of Sangre de Cristo, are a Roman Catholic Community united by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and guided by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church. We willingly accept our mutual responsibility to carry out our true mission, doing the will of God, thus living out our faith as heirs in the hope of eternal life.

Advent/Christmas Season 2015

volume 6, no 1

What's Happening? IN OUR PARISH AND THE CHURCH

Vacation Bible School Our parish's program this past summer was titled "Sparky's Lab," a science-based theme, where the children learned, "God's plan for everyone is Jesus." Twenty-six students attended from kindergarten through 5th grade during the week of June 1-5. Their activities included games, music, crafts, lessons, experiments, snacks and fun! We want to thank the seven adult and six youth volunteers who made this program possible and so successful. This event occurs only once a year, so don't miss out and mark your calendars for Summer 2016.

Greetings FROM YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Have you ever considered serving Sangre de Cristo as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council?

The Parish Pastoral Council's duties include:

- Assisting the Pastor by participating in the pastoral care of the parish
- Serving as a medium for members of the community to make known their views of both spiritual and temporal matters
- Promoting the best interests of the community
- Making recommendations for its good management and proper development

Membership on the Pastoral Council is limited to two years, but since service is voluntary, members may serve a shorter term if desired (i.e. one year).

The Council By-Laws dictate that Pastoral Council members will represent a cross section of the various cultural, gender, and age groups comprising the total parish membership to the extent available to serve. Therefore, it is important that new members volunteer to serve, thus ensuring proper representation of our parish demographic.

The Council meets at least quarterly but as often as monthly if needed.

So if you want to be involved in the leadership of our parish, consider dedicating your talents to the Parish Pastoral Council. Father Thomas and the Council members are encouraging all members of Sangre de Cristo to consider...even those who have previously served on the Council.

For more information or to express your desire to serve, please contact us via any of the following:

- Visit or call the parish office at 505-293-2327
- Talk to any Pastoral Council Member
- Call Tuk Koslik at 505-508-0611 or Michelle Rigsby at 505-235-8768.

Journey to Christ volume 6, no 1 **publisher** Pastoral Council **editors** Laurette Luff and Diane Day

contributing writers Christine Luke-Jones, Tuk Koslik and Deacon Paul Ortwerth

contributing photographers Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church and Briana Vargas

Journey to Christ is a newsletter publication of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church, 8901 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

phone 505.293.2327 **fax** 505.292.0590 **website** www.sdecabq.org **website admin** Daniel & Kristen Sandoval at sangredecristoweb@gmail.com

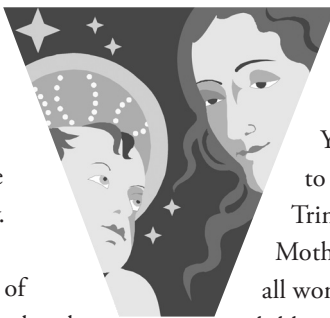
Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church © 2015. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Liturgical Season ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

The appellation of the season is ADVENT and Christmas. This name, *advent*, can mean arrival, beginning, a dawn, the coming on and initiation of the new. For the apostles, the birth of Jesus is the advent of a new everlasting covenant initiated by the Father and Maker of all and with a girl named Mary. She believed His invitation sent by an angel named Gabriel. She was courted to be His wife and mother of His only son. By her fiat, heaven and earth were joined and the age of fulfillment came. They sent Jesus into a world in darkness and the world was in the power of universal terror. The world was living in fear of death. It resounds in our ears because issues of that time are here, now, present in our time. This was about to change forever.

They call it the Nativity or *Natividad*, the day of Jesus' birth. It rings out, it shouts, angels sing, and anew the glory light of God shines in the darkness. Now a new star is seen by wise men. They came by caravan across the desert before them to seek the new born King, promised of old, of the line of David. We celebrate His coming at the Mass of Christ, our Christmas.

It is interesting that our Pope Francis took his name from the role of Saint Francis and it was this Francis of Assisi who started the Holy Crèche tradition we have today, as our beloved Nativity set venerated across the Christian world. And, yes, we still rejoice



and celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Because the fear of death that makes all captives of sin is now replaced by this holy fear of God.

Yes, it is wonder and awe that my Lord should come to me. Because of Mary who is so intimate with the Trinity that she is eternally related to them as Queen Mother of all who believe in the name of Jesus. Now all women may be like Mary and become the mother of children who will live in the eternal city. Shout and rejoice!

Apostle John said, "He was the Word of God, and was God made flesh and dwelt among us." The prophet John said, "He was the Lamb of God." The prophet said, "He would baptize us with the Holy Spirit." We have life because we have the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul said, "He emptied Himself and took the form of a man and suffered and died for the forgiveness of our sins and our adoption. For this reason He is given the Name above all names, so all must bend their knee and proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord. Now all men are to be kings and reign with Him."

Fall on your knees before the risen Lord—the baby Jesus. Be beggars of the Spirit and let the Holy Spirit make you holy, loving, and faithful. Believe and rejoice for He is coming. The angels sing, "ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, Alleluia! The Savior is born to you this day." —*Deacon Paul J Ortwerth 2015*

Feature 1 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Photo Courtesy of Briana Vargas

- "The Women's Bible Study group has given me the opportunity to read and study Scripture with a group of amazing ladies of different ages and backgrounds."
- "The WBS has shown me that God has a great plan for me with a great instruction Book."
- "The WBS has given me much food for thought, helping me to grow in my love for God through His gift of the Holy Scriptures by internalizing the message, changing my life, improving myself and doing more for others".
- "The WBS has been an incredible journey studying various

books of the Bible—and the sharing with each other is most rewarding, just growing in the Word."

- "The comfortable exchange of ideas of the very diverse women participating in the group is made possible by the guidance of our facilitators who 'set the tone' and enhance the basic study course with their added research. This results in a number of 'Well, I never thought of it, that way before', or 'so that's what's meant', by a certain passage. This is very valuable and has given me a greater understanding of the

Bible than I could have achieved on my own."

These are a few of the responses from the ladies who have participated in the WBS which began in 2004. We meet on Wednesdays from September through May at 10:30–12:00. This year we are studying *Acts of the Apostles*, Chapters 15–28, focusing on St. Paul's mission to the Gentiles. If you wish to grow in your knowledge of Scripture and experience 'community' with others, we invite you to 'Come and Share'.

—Facilitators: *Christine Luke-Jones, Lillian Rozelle, Joan Reynolds and Maggie Garner*

Feature 2 OUR PARISH MINISTRIES

Everyone is encouraged to be part of a ministry. Regardless of your age or talents, there is a ministry that needs you. If you are already involved in a ministry, thank you for your gift of time and talent. If you are not yet involved, it's time to get involved. Review the following list of ministries and find one or two that sound like something you would like to do. It's a great way to meet new people and to serve your parish community. For information about any of our ministries or to volunteer, please call the parish office at 293-2327.

Altar Care

Cares for altar and linens.

Altar Servers

Assists the celebrant during the celebration of Mass and other occasions.

Art & Environment

Assures that the Church is appropriately appointed for the various liturgical seasons, feasts and celebrations.

Collection Counters

Counts and reports donations received at weekend liturgies.

Confirmation

Provides preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for mid and high school aged young people.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Distributes Holy Communion at Masses and Communion Services.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Home bound

Visits those unable to attend Mass bringing them Holy Communion.

Finance Council

Advises regarding financial aspects of the parish.

Greeters

Provides hospitality and welcomes people at weekend liturgies.

Lectors

Proclaims the readings at Masses.

Legion of Mary

Visits and prays with home bound parishioners, as well as door to door contacts within parish boundaries.

Mass Team Leaders

Sets up items needed for Mass; organizes Eucharistic Ministers, people to take up gifts; and people to do collection for the Mass. Assures that all assigned liturgical ministers are present and finds replacements of vacancies.

Ministry for the Needy

Provides a Food Pantry and other temporal assistance to the needy.

Music

Coordinates vocal and instrumental choirs and groups that lead music for liturgical celebrations.

Newsletter (*Journey to Christ*)

Informs parishioners of news, activities and parish ministries through twice-a-year mailings at Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

Parish Council

Advises on issues regarding the life of the parish.

Prayer Shawl

Prays while knitting and crocheting shawls to be given to those in need of comfort.

Pro-Life

Educates and organizes activities on respect for life issues.

Religious Formation

Directs and coordinates religious formation programs for children and adults, i.e. children's religious education and Rite of Christian Initiation for Children and Adults (RCIC & RCIA).

Wednesday Morning Group

Holds weekly parish social following Wednesday morning Mass.

Women's Bible Study

Gathers women to study Scripture while enjoying a time of fellowship and study of God's Word.

Please check the Sunday bulletins or call the Parish office for upcoming events.

A Huge THANK YOU to the Newsletter Ministry volunteers and our Parish Staff in preparing this newsletter for mailing, i.e. printing, folding, tabbing, labeling, and stamping.

We, the Journey to Christ Newsletter Ministry, send our Blessings to you and your family during this Advent/Christmas season.