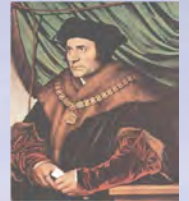




SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 Marketplace Irvine, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · www.stmirvine.org



Mass schedule

Daily– Monday to Saturday: 8 am*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:00 pm Vietnamese/English

6:00 pm English

Sunday Mass

8:00 am English

9:30 am English*

11:30 am English

1:00 pm Spanish

3:00 pm Chinese

5:00pm English

* Livestreamed Masses

Morning Prayer: Mon, Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am

Adoration: Every Friday at 6:00pm

24 Hour Adoration: on the 22nd of every month

If the 22nd falls on a Saturday, then Adoration will be on Friday.

If the 22nd falls on a Sunday, then Adoration will be on Monday.

Confession: Saturday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

Baptisms and Marriages: contact the office for details

TEXT TO GIVE: 949-344-2801



@stmirvine

Welcoming all, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Parochial Vicar Emeritus

Weekend Assistants

Deacons

Founding Pastor

Rev. Eugene J. Lee

Rev. Kiet Ta

Rev. William Krekelberg

Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem

Rev. Joseph Justice

Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite

Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen

Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun

Deacon Bernie & Mrs. Pam Ocampo

†Rev. John E. Janze

Office Information:

Office:

949-551-8601

After-hours emergency:

949-551-8601 ext. 7

Fax:

949-551-5879

Religious Education:

949-551-8029

Youth Ministry:

949-551-8602

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.”

Luke 2:13-14

December 25, 2022 • Christmas



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).
 Psalm — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).
 Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).
 Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).



The offices will be closed for Christmas break from Dec 24 – Jan 2
If you have an emergency, please call (949) 551-8601 ext. 7

Collections and Expenses 12-5-22 to 12-11-22

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$21,599	\$12,821	\$34,420
Maintenance Fund	\$1,137	\$1,201	\$2,338
Other income	\$8,115	\$1,228	\$9,343
Total income	\$30,851	\$15,251	\$46,102

Regular Expenses	\$0
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Believe & Grow	\$295	\$5,537	\$5,832
Capital Campaign			

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Maintenance Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property.

Thank you for your generosity!



- Sat 12/24 4:00pm †John Richard Schulte
6:00pm Per Niklas & Rachel Cinco-Hedde & Family
8:00pm Haes Shake
- Sun 12/25 12:00am Dang Nguyen
8:00am †Patsy O'Sullivan
10:00am †Gabby Paz
12:00pm Raul Ramirez
2:00pm Teri Mostero
- Mon 12/26 8:00am Steven Tran
- Tues 12/27 8:00am †Ken Freund
- Wed 12/28 8:00am Rachel Cinco & Family
- Thurs 12/29 8:00am †Andrea Maciel
- Fri 12/30 8:00am †Cecelia Ovadia and Joseph Andrade
- Sat 12/31 8:00am Lex Coliflores
Ron Mostero
The Paredes Family
Elizabeth & Richard Kulas
†Solidad Caringal



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING



- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Flory Aguilar | Elena Monico |
| Carole Caplett | Ernie Natividad |
| Marietta Charbonneau | James Natividad |
| Beata Durdovic | Susan Nakagama |
| Kathy Ellis | Karen Norton |
| Merrie French | Cathal O'Regan |
| Bill Flood | Deacon Tony Patronite |
| Marco Gama | Gerald Pilkington |
| Susie Giannantonio | George Quitoriano |
| Alina Gram | Paula Jane Ramirez |
| Tina Halberg | Donna Rohrer |
| CJ Hassett | Eileen Rossi |
| Julissa Huerta | Ann Rupp |
| Brooke Huismans | Sr. Jeanne D'Arc Salinger, R.S.M. |
| Sharon Jones | Norma Santiago |
| Natalia Julian | Jack Scharff |
| Ty Vivian Knisely | Susan Shadley |
| Richard & Elizabeth Kulas | Cheryl Skudlarski |
| Kevin Lee | Fred Spitzkeit |
| Patrick Lee | Jesus Villanueva |
| Kathy Meals | Raymund Villanueva |
| Shella Arciaga Mercado | Roger Wells |
| Jim Miller | Michele Wills |

Please email bulletin@stmirvine.org to add a name. Names will be included for one month, if requested.

Christmas Message 2022

*"Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
-(Luke 2:14)-*



Christmas Is All About the Splendor of the Eucharist

My dear brothers and sisters,

For this year's Christmas message, my heart is longing to exalt the splendor of the Eucharist. Jesus is our God and King and in his infinite wisdom, he has desired to fulfill his promise to be with us until the end of the ages by gifting us with his Church and the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist. Jesus condescended himself to come from the highest heights of heaven, to take on flesh in the womb of Mary. The same flesh that was born in a stinky stable, the same human body that shared in all of the physical sufferings of humanity, the same body that stretched out its hands to heal, that walked from town to town, that preached the Gospel, the same body that experienced the excruciating pain of the Cross, is the very same flesh that we now receive in the Holy Eucharist!

As all the angels of heaven, the shepherds and the wisemen, with Mary and Joseph, all bowed in homage to the King of kings, let us join with them! Let us be reverent, prayerful, humble, and faithful as we gather often before the Eucharist. Take to heart this Bible verse: "We who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude (Eucharist), with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28).

When we come to Mass, we come dressed to meet the King (no shorts or t-shirts); we come early (not late), and with expectant hearts. When Eucharistic Adoration is offered, let us come to take a moment to allow our hearts to refocus on the true meaning of our lives, and to refresh our hearts in the tranquil presence of our Savior. Let us allow ourselves to struggle to grow in prayer, to explore the ways of prayer, to discipline our hearts in the way of silence, and growing in trust and surrender.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem which means, "House of Bread" for indeed Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus was laid in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals, to remind us that he came to be food for the sheep. The angels first heralded the birth of our savior to the shepherds to signify that he is both our shepherd and he is also our Lamb, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Book of Revelations describes with splendid language how the ultimate culmination of history will be when all the righteous gather together before the Throne of the Lamb who was slain. The Mass is a foretaste of this heavenly banquet.

This Christmas, my deepest and most urgent desire is that all work to enkindle a deeper devotion to the Eucharist, the greatest gift one could ever receive, and the true meaning of Christmas.

In Christ,

Fr. Eugene Lee
Fr. Eugene.

PS. As I reflect upon the year 2022, I am filled with gratitude. I thank God for bringing me here to STM. I thank God for the staff here that pours their hearts into helping STM thrive. I am grateful to those who so courageously and humbly partake in the Sacrament of Confession. I am grateful for the thousands of people who come here to share their faith with other during Mass, the many who serve so sacrificially, and the devout parishioners who come for adoration, who gathered on Zoom to pray the Rosary, who teach our children, who serve in the liturgy, who donate so much to the parish. I am grateful for my little dog Mocha who gets more and more adorable each year. I thank God for my family, my mother, father and brother and sister, and nieces and nephews who all stick together in good times and in bad. I am grateful for the new pastoral core team who are dreaming big dreams for the glory of God and who are visioning new heights for STM. I am most especially grateful to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, the Church of Christ, where we receive the Holy Scriptures, the powerful sacraments, and most especially where Jesus Christ gives himself to us in the Holy Eucharist! May God bless all of you, give you peace in your families, and may all the Christmas and blessings of the New Year be upon you!



 CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

Sponsor Forms & Saint Reports Are Due

Attention C2 families! Sponsor forms and Saint reports were due by December 17th. Please turn in sponsor forms in person to the youth ministry office and please email saint reports to Confirmation@stmirvine.org. If you have any questions or need more time, please let us know.

 YOUTH MINISTRY

SAT 8AM

Youth Ministry Office Hours

The Youth Ministry office will be closed through January 2nd. We will be back in the office Tuesday, January 3rd. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


 CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

Upcoming Confirmation Class Dates.

C1: Wed 12/14, Wed 1/18, Wed 2/1, Wed 2/15, Wed 3/1

C2: Wed 12/7, Wed 1/11, Wed 1/25, Wed 2/8, Wed 3/1

 YOUTH MINISTRY

SUN 6PM

Theology Of The Body YTH NITE

Join us on Sunday (1/08) for YTH NITE! YTH NITES are for High School teens to come together in community, have dinner, and learn how to apply their Catholic faith to their lives. We can't wait to see you! YTH NITE begins after the 5PM Mass and ends at 8:00PM!



R.E.P. CORNER



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The REP staff wishes all of our students, teachers and families a happy, holy and joyous Christmas!
See you all in 2023!



Religious Education Classes & the REP Office will be on break for the Christmas

holidays from

December 19th through January 8th.



We look forward to seeing you and your family in the new year!



A huge THANK YOU to all of those who donated gifts for the less fortunate during this special Advent time! You really made the generosity & warmth of our amazing STM family shine brightly this Christmas!

May God bless you all abundantly!



The Library Corner

Nativity of the Lord



The St. Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Merry Christmas! The Parish Library will not be open today.

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Catholic Church liturgical year, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, where God becomes flesh and dwells among us. At Christmas, we commemorate our search for God and God's search for us. Our mission and duty are to search for Christ's voice which never quiets. He is always walking by our side, waiting for our response of 'Yes'. Our eternity hangs on this response. Christmas is the reason to say 'Yes' to God's plan for us.

Merry Christmas!



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

4PM (VIET/ENG) | 6PM | 10:30PM

Followed by Adoration and celebration

(Countdown to the New Year in silence
while adoring the King of Kings)

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

8AM | 9:30AM | 11:30AM

1PM (SPAN/ENG) | 3PM (CHINESE/ENG) | 5PM



SUGGESTED PLENARY INDULGENCE OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2022

TE DEUM. YOU ARE GOD: WE PRAISE YOU

A *partial indulgence* is granted the Christian faithful who recite the hymn, *Te Deum*, as an act of thanksgiving. The indulgence will be a *plenary* one if this hymn is publicly recited on the last day of the year.

FR. EUGENE'S COMMENTARY & SUGGESTION

Here at Saint Thomas More Church we will have Mass on Saturday, December 31 at 10:30 pm. Immediately after Mass we will begin a "silent countdown" into the new year while in Eucharistic adoration. (What a great way to enter 2023!—to be on our knees before the King of kings offering silent homage.) During this Adoration, we will be offering the Te Deum prayer.

CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING A PLENARY INDULGENCE

1. Do the prescribed work.
2. Receive Holy Communion within several days (before or after) of the indulgenced act.
3. Go to confession within several days (before or after) the indulgenced act
4. Pray for the Pope. An Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be can suffice.
5. Be free from attachment to all sin, even venial sin.
6. OTHER NOTES:
 - In order to be capable of gaining indulgences one must be baptized, not excommunicated, and in the state of grace (free of mortal sin) at least at the completion of the prescribed works.
 - To gain an indulgence, one must have at least the general intention of doing so and must carry out the enjoined works at the stated time and in due fashion, according to the sense of the grant.
 - Plenary indulgences can be applied to one's self, or to a person who has died.
 - Only one plenary indulgence may be obtained per day.
 - A single sacramental confession suffices for gaining several plenary indulgences; but Holy Communion must be received and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father must be recited for the gaining of each plenary indulgence.
 - Special exceptions can always be made for those who are sick or disabled in which case please inquire with the priest.

Obtain FINANCIAL PEACE at STM!

- Become debt free!
- Prepare for college, weddings, retirement!
- Develop the plan that makes it happen!

Financial Peace University's goal is to offer in Spanish and English. Are you Interested in being involved as a Spanish or English facilitator?

Bring Financial Peace to other families while strengthening your own.

Financial Peace starts Saturday, January 7th at 9am, St Nicholas Room.

For more information go to: stmirvine.org

or email: financialpeace@stmirvine.org

To register for class: fpu.com/1156313



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UNIVERSITY

*Come to me, all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

EVERY FRIDAY AT 6PM TO 7PM

24 HOUR ADORATION IS ON THE 22ND OF EACH MONTH

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

New for 2023

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Mondays 7-8:30 pm January 9 - April 3, 2023
OR

Tuesdays 10-11:30 am January 10 - April 4, 2023

St. Thomas More Parish
Register at GriefShare.org

GRIEF SHARE

Thank you STM Angels!

We are truly blessed by the outpouring of support of our annual Angel Tree project to help families in need.

In addition, when Catholic Charities reached out to us with an urgent request to help additional families, our St. Thomas More parish family jumped right in without hesitation.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who donated their time to assemble and package the gifts.

Due to your overwhelming generosity, St. Thomas More was able to provide over 500 families with extra love and warmth this Christmas. God bless you all during this special season of giving!

Merry Christmas!





WE ARE HIRING!

Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant/Friday Receptionist

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS as Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant:

Works as a liaison with the Capital Campaign Committee, assists Pastor with projects and deadlines, processes monthly statements for capital campaign, coordinates campaign activities, maintains and updates database, interacts with donors regarding pledges, prepares and mails thank you letters, attends and participates in staff meetings, performs any other job-related duties as necessary in the department and/or as assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Ability to maintain confidentiality, attention to detail, excellent knowledge of Google Suite, Excel, Word, graphic design experience with various publishing and social media platforms, good public relations skills, ability to work flexible hours.

Applicants apply to Lisa Bergler, Office Manager at Lbergler@stmirvine.org or contact her at (949) 551-8601 ext. 213.

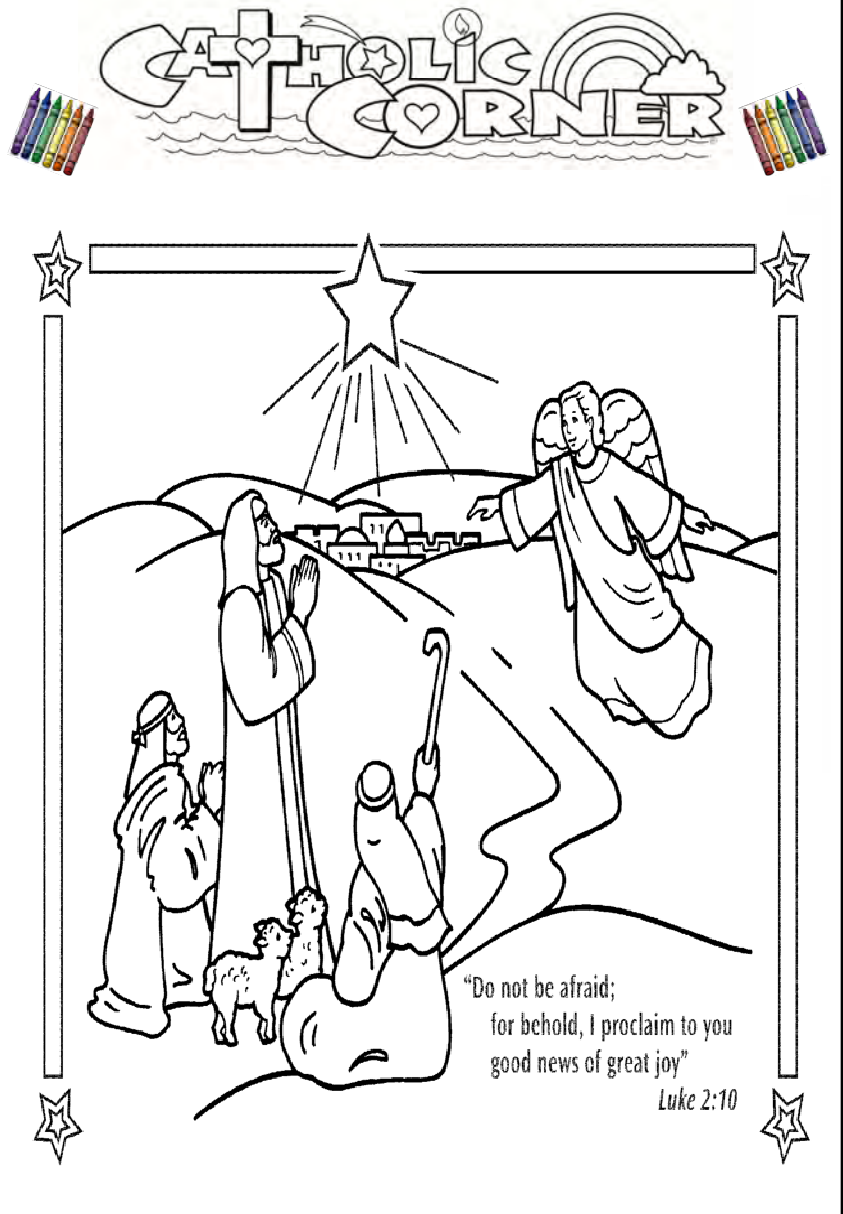
Why should I become a registered member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church?

If you are attending Mass on a regular basis at St. Thomas More, we invite you to engage with us. Registered parishioners enjoy these benefits:

- STM offers opportunities and support as you journey in faith, through praying, serving, giving, learning and belonging.
- Registered parishioners receive important updates throughout the year so that you can keep up-to-date on important parish news.
- Registered parishioners receive preference when choosing dates for celebrations such as weddings or funerals.
- Other parishes often request verification of a person's status as a practicing Catholic, attendance at Mass, etc., when that person has been asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Without registration, no such verification can be made.
- Your Sunday offerings are confidentially recorded by parish staff for proof of donation for tax purposes.

Registering with St. Thomas More Catholic Church is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Register today online at www.stmirvine.org or call the parish office at 949-551-8601.



St. Thomas More Ministries



Liturgy Support

Altar Servers	Mary Jane Rin	(9) 627-7125
Art & Environment	Amee Cuevas	(9) 551-8601
Eucharist to the Homebound	Fran Necikowski	(7) 505-4816
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Donaldson	(9) 552-5485
Lectors	Ed Ferguson	(951) 313-4942
Music Director, Including Wedding Music	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Sacristans	Pam Ocampo	(9) 468.6704
Ushers	Frank Ornelas (9) 857-9044	Joe Martin (9) 385-3741

Parish

Believe and Grow Together Campaign	Lisa VanDorpe	(7) 357-3080
Bulletin Editor	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Building Committee	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tony Patronite, Tin Nguyen, Leonard Sun & Bernie Ocampo	(9) 551-8601
Hospitality/Donut Ministry	Deacon Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Parish Business Manager	Stephanie Miller	(9) 551-8601
Parish Office Manager	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Welcoming Committee	Vince Salico	(7) 389-7726

Sacraments

Baptism Coordinator	Windy Lozano	(9) 551-8601
Confirmation	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
First Communion	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
First Reconciliation	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)	Deacon Bernie & Pam Ocampo	(9) 468-6604
Marriage Case Support	Contact office	(9) 551-8601
Marriage Encounter	Mike & Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Wedding Coordinator	Marcella Maurer	(9) 551-8601

Service

Bereavement	Rosie Muñoz	(9) 551-8601
Children's Homeless Lunch Ministry	Kim Lee	(7) 293-8987
Chinese Community	Deacon Leonard Sun	(7) 932-1689
Filipino Community	Mernie Empalmado	(9) 307-7479
Grief Share Ministry	K.C. Riley	(7) 875-8126
Hispanic Ministry	Victor Cota	(9) 400-7743
Homeless Lunch Ministry	Jessica Silva	(9) 294-2875
Knights of Columbus Council #13111	Mike Smith	(9) 300-1913
Respect Life	Chris Gonzales	(9) 551-8601
STM Veterans	Sgt. Bob Kohler	(9) 552-1895
St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Chacon	(9) 331-1020
Vietnamese Ministry	Huan Le	(7) 261-9893
Young Ladies Institute	Cathy Wachtel	(9) 857-5037

Spiritual Development

Adult Faith Formation / Bible Study	Tara Reynaud	(9) 551-8601
Christ Renews His Parish	Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Devotional Life Committee	Julie Whiteside	(7) 615-7205
Cursillo	Susan Navarrete	(9) 345-9130
Legion of Mary	Trisha Smith	(7) 473-3714
Library	Sam & Diana Adams	(7) 321-2405
Life Teen – High School & Young Adults	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
More Moms	Krystal Padley	(7) 345-2598
Religious Education	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Spanish Bible Study	Teresa LeMire	(7) 832-1770
When Women Pray	Paula Hines	(7) 746-1802

If you are feeling called to serve in one or more of our ministries, please email: serve@stmirvine.org

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Around the Diocese...

THE HOLY INNOCENTS



FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS PRO-LIFE ROSARY, PROCESSION AND MASS

at St. John the Baptist in
Costa Mesa

WED, DEC 28th
7:30 PM

We will gather at 7:00pm in the courtyard, and our rosary procession will take place on the parish grounds. Mass will begin at 7:30pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. No Confessions this evening.

Give each other the gift of time and attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in 2023!



2023 Dates

February 11-12

May 20-21

July 15-16

September 16-17

November 4-5

Location

Heart of Jesus Retreat Center

Santa Ana, CA

Sign-Up

ocwwme.org



LIGHT AND LIFE

The four Gospel portraits of Jesus take very different approaches to his origins. Mark has no record of Jesus' ancestry, except for his connection to John the Baptist. Matthew traces his genealogy back to Abraham; Luke even farther back, to Adam. The Gospel of John outdoes them all, tracing Jesus' origins back to the time before time, before the world was created! Jesus is the eternal Word of God. The Greek term for "Word" is logos, and it is a word with deep implications. The logos exists before creation, because all of creation came to be through the logos and, in turn, the logos will become the light of all it has created. This is what makes Christmas a season light and life. May our lives radiate this light, reflecting the life-giving Word-made-Flesh. Let our discipleship truly and fully make incarnate once again the Word-in-flesh whom we celebrate and adore: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Christmas

DECEMBER 25, 2022