

WELCOME TO PAX CHRISTI WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 8, 2019

NEW HERE?

MASS TIMES:

Saturday ~ 5:00pm
Sunday ~ 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Mondays ~ 8:30am
Tuesdays ~ 8:30am
Wednesdays ~ 6:00pm
Thursdays ~ 8:30am (Word/Communion Service)
Fridays ~ 8:30am
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private) ~ Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am Mass.

Nursery provided for infants through age 4 during Sunday Mass times.

SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER:

Baptism ~ registration and info at www.paxchristi.com/baptism
Confirmation ~ info at www.paxchristi.com/confirmation
First Eucharist ~ registration and info at www.paxchristi.com/eucharist
First Reconciliation ~ registration/info at www.paxchristi.com/reconciliation
Marriage and Wedding Prep ~ www.paxchristi.com/marriage
Rosary ~ Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

Questions? Contact Andrea in the parish office, 952-405-7207.

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS AND OTHER "MOVERS":

How would you like to help Pax Christi save money by a simple email or phone call? If you plan on being out of town and notify the post office to forward your mail, also contact Maria Miller in the parish office, 952-405-7217, or mmiller@paxchristi.com, and she will do a temporary address change for the magazine, the PaxChristiNews. Or you can have the magazine stopped until you are back in town. You always have the option to view it each month online on our "NEWS" page. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY – A LISTENING PRESENCE:

BeFriender ministers are trained laypersons who are available to offer a listening ear to those who are experiencing a difficult or transitional situation. BeFrienders are here to listen and care; BeFrienders do not give advice or judge, and all conversations are kept confidential. Contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support, 952-405-7211, or jthoresen@paxchristi.com, for additional information.

A NOTE FROM FR MIKE BYRON



Dear Friends:

I have always appreciated the wisdom of whomever it was who once said that "the evidence of an intelligent person is the ability to make distinctions." That's nowhere more true than in the realm of religion, and more specifically in the reading of the bible. I've been reading a new book this week that attempts to correlate some basic Judeo-Christian claims of faith with the fact that our world view today is very, very different from the one that informed the authors of Scripture.

Let me try to be less vague here. To the question, "Is the bible true?" the answer can only be yes. But then we have to begin to make distinctions, like, "In what sense is the bible true?" Well, that depends upon which book you are reading. History books (of which there are several in the bible) tell truth in a more-or-less literal narrative fashion. Folklore and fables (of which there are also several scriptural examples) tell truth in a different way. For example, was Jonah actually swallowed up by a giant fish and spit out on shore a couple of days later? Probably not. That doesn't make the story less "true" from a faith perspective. It just means that you have to know what kind of literature you are reading, and how to discern the truth that it contains. Symbolic stories (what the scholars call "apocalyptic") tell truth in still another way, through signs and dreams and visions, like the book of Revelation or Daniel or Ezekiel. The letters of St. Paul are just that—letters between human beings—and they mean pretty much exactly what they say (though almost certainly not all of them were actually written by Paul.) Poetry, like the book of Psalms, is not read the same way as the daily newspaper.

My reading this week focused on the story of the so-called "Original Sin" story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, at the very beginning of the book of Genesis. Putting aside the fact that there was nobody else there in the garden to take notes on the unfolding of events, does the truth of that story lie in the insistence upon a talking snake and a fruit tree? Some Christians would say that it does, but for Catholics it is not necessary to hold that opinion. We can make intelligent distinctions here, which not only don't undermine the truth of the story but actually make it more credible.

Why this matters is that all of us are given the responsibility in baptism to be sharers of the faith that we hold. We are to be evangelizers, especially to a younger generation. But that does not mean handing them a bible and telling them that they have to believe every word of it as if it were literal narrative history. Some of it is. Some of it isn't. To require that others put faith in stories that are quite evidently unbelievable on a descriptive level is to do positive harm to our mission. So, let's make some distinctions.

Michael Byron



UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISHIONER ART EXHIBIT IN PACEM IN TERRIS GALLERY

EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH December 15

TWELVE BASKETS SHARE THE JOY

STOP BY SIGNUP DISPLAYS THIS WEEKEND IN DOROTHY DAY SOCIAL HALL

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Mass Monday, December 9, 8:30am in the CHAPEL

MOMS ROCK: SPEAKER LORI VANDER POEL

Wednesday, December 11, 9:30-11:30am, Room 212, \$10 RSVP

TAKE BACK YOUR HOLIDAYS

Thursday, December 12, 7:00-8:30pm, St. Richard's Catholic Church

HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Patroness of the Americas and Queen of Mexico

Saturday, December 14, beginning with 5:00pm Mass

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT CARE CENTERS

Sunday, December 15, 2:00-4:00pm RSVP

SIMBANG GABI

FILIPINO Catholic Community

Monday, December 16, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Thomas Merton Chapel RSVP

SOULCOLLAGE®

Wednesday, December 18, 6:00-8:30pm RSVP

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

January 1, 9:00am in the Sanctuary

JUST MATTERS: FAITH AND RACIAL EQUITY

OPENING RETREAT: Saturday, January 4, 8:30am-5:00pm RSVP

CHOOSE A SESSION: Wednesdays, January 8-February 26, 1:00pm OR

THURSDAYS, January 9-February 27, 6:00pm

SHARED MINISTRY APPRECIATION

Saturday, January 25, 2020 6:00pm

LABYRINTH WALK

Tuesday, January 27, 6:30-8:30pm RSVP

ANNUAL CANA DINNER - SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 25, 6:00-9:30pm

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE LOVED ONES:

Juli, Mike, Maureen, Liz, Wayne, Kris, Greg, Amanda, Sherry, Ira, Steve, Calvin, Carmen, Martin, Alann, Ana Marie, Kathryn, Mark, Steve, Mary Jane, Bob, Joyce, and the R Family.

Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Care and Support, 952-941-3150.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 9

8:30am MASS
3:00pm Chair Yoga
6:30pm Cana Dinner Planning Mtg.
6:30pm Pack 348 Mtg.
6:30pm Troop 370 Mtg.

Tuesday, December 10

8:30am MASS
9:00am Women w/Spirit Bible Study
6:00pm 50+ Basketball
7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service
7:00pm Environmental Challenge Mtg.

Wednesday, December 11

9:30am Moms ROCK
11:00am Tai Chi
5:15pm Faith Formation Sessions
6:00pm Faith Formation Sessions
6:00pm F.I.T. Mtg.
6:00pm MASS
6:30pm Worship Video Mtg.

Thursday, December 12

8:30am Word/Communion Service
5:30pm Care and Support Ministry Event
7:00pm Al-Anon
7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous
7:30pm Music Ministry

Friday, December 13

8:30am MASS
6:00pm Confirmation Retreat Begins

Saturday, December 14

NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND
9:00am Women's AA Group
9:00am Overeater's Anonymous
4:00pm Private Reconciliation
5:00pm OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS - FR. BYRON
6:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Sunday, December 15

HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING MORNING MASSES
NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND
9:00am MASS - FR. SCHWARTZ
9:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00am GIFT Married Couples Group
11:00am MASS - FR. BYRON
11:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word
2:00pm Caroling at Care Centers
5:00pm MASS - FR. McMICHAEL
6:00pm Sunday Community Meal
6:30pm Faith Formation Sessions
6:30pm RCIA
6:30pm Young Married Couples Group

Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am Mass.
Nursery provided during Sunday Mass times.
Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RING THE CHRISTMAS BELLS!

Children, grades 1 through 6 are invited to be a bell ringer for the Christmas Eve 2:00pm Family Mass. Rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, 10:00am in the chapel. If you can be at the rehearsal and present at 1:15pm on Christmas Eve, please register online at www.paxchristi.com. Deadline EXTENDED to December 13. Come Ring the Bells! Register online, www.paxchristi.com.

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your generosity!

Week of November 24:

Basket Collection	\$14,940
Online Giving	3,341
Other	31,459
Total Week #20	49,740
Budget	36,000
Variance	13,740

YTD Actual	996,317
YTD Budget	968,000
YTD Variance	28,317

Other contribution methods include grants from donor-advised funds, stock donations, IRA distributions, payroll deductions, and online bill payments.

Donate online at www.paxchristi.com/ donations or text to give at 952-234-6729.