



From the Rector...

PUT JESUS FIRST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us Put Jesus First during this Christmas Season.

“And she gave birth to her son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

No room for them. No vacancy. No place. Words that still seem to hang close, even today.

In a world that seeks to crowd Jesus out, where busyness abounds, and hearts are stirred to focus on other things, it can be hard sometimes to choose to keep Him first. It's all too easy to get caught up in the whole hurried dash of the holidays, and to give our attention to what seems more urgent. Our focus gets blurred; and the most important gets pushed aside.

It takes an active and daily choice to put Christ first, especially in a culture that says you're too busy to focus there. Or that life is too full. And there's no more room. May God help us to choose wisely, what voices we listen to, and where we give our attention today.

He is the One who brings true meaning to Christmas. He is the One who brings real peace in this all-too-often hectic season. He is the only One worthy of our time and attention as we slow down the maddening rush around our lives. We can know all of this in our heads, but may He help us to really believe it in our hearts...and choose to live it out this season.

So, my brothers and Sisters of Saint Christopher's, Families and Friends; I invite you to do these three things during this Christmas Season:

1. Make room for Him
2. Become renewed.
3. Become refreshed.

Dear God,

Help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention on other things. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today...and keep you first in our hearts and lives. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

God Bless You in this Season of Advent,

and as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Fr. JJ Bernal +

From Padre Miguel...

PARUSIA

Parusia. ¿Conoce esta palabra? La parusia significa el Advenimiento glorioso de Jesús al final de los tiempos o segunda venida de Jesús al final de los tiempos para el juicio final. Relacionar la parusia con el tiempo de Adviento que celebramos nosotros los cristianos todos los años antes de Navidad tiene mucho sentido.

Permitame explicar esto. Navidad es la celebración donde recordamos la encarnación y nacimiento del Hijo de Dios, Jesús. Antes de esta celebración nos preparamos con lo que llamamos tiempo de Adviento, que debemos entender como un estar recordando su nacimiento como un gran regalo que nos dio Dios Padre para nuestra salvación y una espera de su promesa de su segunda venida. En otras palabras, si bien el Adviento precede inmediatamente al tiempo de Navidad como preparación para esta fiesta, también desde el punto de vista espiritual tiene por finalidad la preparación del creyente para la segunda venida de Cristo y el encuentro definitivo con Dios.

¿Me doy a entender? Celebrar la Navidad es también recordar que Jesús nos prometió volver por segunda vez y esto lo hacemos en el tiempo de Adviento. Y entonces acontecerá la Parusia, el advenimiento de Jesús, su segunda venida gloriosa.

Ya les recordaba en uno de mis sermones dominicales. Para nosotros los de la Iglesia Episcopal, hablar de la segunda venida de Jesús no nos asusta, nos debe de llenar de alegría, como alegres y con cena Navideña celebramos su primera venida, la Navidad. No tenemos miedo de este Segundo regreso de Jesús glorioso, como recordamos cada domingo después de la consagración, "recordamos tu muerte, proclamamos tu resurrección, y esperamos tu venida en Gloria".

No sabemos cuando regresará, nosotros como las mujeres prudentes del Evangelio de San Marcos, que esperan al novio con abundante aceite en sus lámparas, simplemente lo esperamos. Y que venga cuando Él quiera. Nuestra fe y nuestras lámparas están llenas de buen aceite para recibir al novio y celebrar la gran fiesta de Jesús que regresa glorioso.

PARUSIA

Parusia. Do you know this word? The Parusia means glorious Advent of Jesus at the end of time or the second coming of Jesus at the end of time for the final judgment. To relate the Parusia with Advent that we Christians celebrate every year before Christmas makes a lot of sense.

Let me explain this. Christmas is the celebration where we remember the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus. Before this celebration we prepared ourselves beforehand with what we call Advent, which we understand as a reminder of his birth as a great gift that God the Father gave us for our salvation and a waiting for his promise of his second coming. In other words. Although Advent immediately precedes Christmas time as preparation for this feast, it also aims to prepare the believer for the second coming of Christ and the final encounter with God from the spiritual point of view.

Am I clear? Celebrating Christmas is also a reminder that Jesus promised us to return a second time and we do this at the time of Advent. And then will the Parusia will happen, the advent of Jesus, his second glorious coming.

I already spoke about this in one of my Sunday sermons. For us, those of the Episcopal Church, talking about the second coming of Jesus does not scare us, it should fill us with joy, as joyful as a Christmas dinner to celebrate his first coming on Christmas.

We are not afraid of this second return of the glorious Jesus, as we remember every Sunday after the consecration, "we remember your death, we proclaim your resurrection, and we await your coming in Glory".

We do not know when he returned, we as the prudent women of the Gospel of San Marcos, who await the bridegroom with abundant oil in their lamps, we simply wait for him. And He will come when He wants. Our faith and our lamps are full of good oil to receive the bridegroom and celebrate the great feast of Jesús who returns in glory.

*A Blessed Season of Advent and a Joyous Christmas,
Padre Miguel Ramirez Centeno +*

Advent at St. Christopher's

SACRAMENTAL RETREAT

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 2

**For all being Baptized, Confirmed, Received, and First Communion
and parents, godparents and sponsors**

CHRISTMAS PASTORELA REHEARSALS

11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 17

Dress Rehearsal (EVERYONE) on

11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 24



BISHOP VONO'S VISITATION

Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting with Bishop

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Baptism and Confirmation

11:15 a.m. Reception Luncheon in Rice Hall with Bishop Vono

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 12

Rosary and Mass

Light Supper follows



LAS POSADAS

6:00 p.m. Friday, December 15

Everyone welcome!



Sunday, December 24

Advent 4

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:30 a.m. Pastorela Dress Rehearsal

12:00 noon Greening of the Church

Altar Guild

in preparation for Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m.

Set-up and Lighting of Luminarias

Volunteers are needed to help the Brooks Family

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

(Pastorela Cast report to the Founders' Room)

6:00 p.m.

Festive Holy Eucharist and Christmas Pageant

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day

A Joyous and Blessed Christmas Day to All!

Church Closed ~ No Service



CHRISTMAS EVE MEMORIALS/THANKSGIVINGS



If you would like to donate to purchasing poinsettias for the Altar on Christmas Eve, please make your check out to St. Christopher's with "Poinsettias" on the memo line



Forms for submitting memorials or thanksgivings to be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin are posted in the pocket holder on the bulletin board in Rice Hall

Please have all completed forms submitted to the Church Office Office no later than Sunday, December 17

You do not need to contribute to poinsettias to have your Memorial or Thanksgiving included in the bulletin

*Happy
Birthday*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Navin Navidomskis 5 Ellen Brooks 6
Diana Marquez 9 Maria Moreno 14
Adam Fuller 16 Charley Brooks 17
Ramses Borunda 17 Tony Moreno 19
Victoria Villagomez 23 Vanessa Garza 28*

MEETINGS

SACRAMENTAL

RETREAT

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 2

VESTRY MEETING

11:15 a.m. Sunday, December 3

CHRISTMAS PASTORELA PRACTICES

11:15 a.m. Sunday
December 17

December 24 (Dress Rehearsal)

ALTAR GUILD

12:00 noon Sunday, December 24
for "Greening of the Church"

BIBLE STUDY

No meetings in December
Bible Study will resume in January

COMING IN JANUARY *IMPORTANT DATES*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
11:15 a.m. VESTRY MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
and Potluck Lunch

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
VESTRY and LEADERSHIP RETREAT
with Fr. JJ and Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Ruthven,
Dean of the Southwest Deanery



DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

The Martinez family, Lew and Rosie Bishop (Members), Betty and Jim Holley (Members), Luis Garcia (Member), Dorothy Muller (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Ray Vega (Vega), Nora Butler (Gilbreath), Gary Welsh, Benjamin Gonzalez (Perez), The Schofill Family (Truesdale) Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Christie Lechuga (Perez), Fernando Peña, Max & Levi Moreno (Moreno), Christy Darling, Leo Luevano (Maldonado), Jerry Brown (Shinn), Flor Alvarado (Bernal), Ruby Carr (Brooks), Tamara Banda (Brooks), Octaviano Tavares (Villagomez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Maria Morgan (Anderson), Erika Boone (East), Irma Lopez (Mowad), John Hudak (Hudak), Keni Langberg (Brooks), Mary Jensen (Brooks), David White (Brooks), Amanda Vallejo (Brooks), Skip Bambrook, Nancy Loiselle (Borrett), James Mowad (Mowad), Jo Ann Orr (Brooks), Bill Fields (Fields), Heather (Navidomskis) , Merle Ipson (Brooks)

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad: Capt. Matthew Barchie USAF, Sgt. Charles Barden, Charles East, Navy, Matthew Barnes, Jerry Carreon, Sgt. Jean-Louis Bishop, Army, Adam Garcia, Navy, Magie Gonzalez, Lt. Jody M. Daniels, Navy, Roberto Salgado, Mark Logan, USAF, PFC Jose Gonzalez, Oscar I. Gonzalez, Comd. Darren Rich, Oscar Camuniz, SP Woody Needler, , Dr. Richard Nahouraii, Army, PO2 Chester B. (Chip) Thomson IV, SST. Tim Hayes, Raymundo Ubina,

The families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad

Please contact Holly to add or delete names

OUR MINISTRIES



“Jesse’s Corner” Donation Room



Visit Jessie's Corner in Rice Hall after church to find those special gifts you've been looking for! We have confirmation cards and gifts, beautiful hand-tooled leather goods, and a new shipment of handmade keepsake greeting cards suitable for framing!

Visitenos en "la tiendita", Jessie's Corner adentro del Salon Rice, despues del servicio dominical. Ayi encontrara ese regalito especial para confirmaciones, tarjetas, las nuevas y hermosas tarjetas elaboradas a mano y aptas para poner en un cuadro, y articulos artesanales de piel.

Ask for the suggested donation for each item
All proceeds go to the Fundraising Fund for use as needed

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherselpaso.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

11:00 a.m.

2nd & 3rd Saturday of each month

CLERGY AND STAFF

***The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector***

***The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest***

***The Reverend Kenneth Anderson
Deacon (Ret.)***

***Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator***



VESTRY

***Tony Moreno - Senior Warden
Denise Anderson
Katie Hudak
Carlisle Navidomskis***

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday through Friday
Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday and Thursday
Administrator in Office at
home on**

**Monday and Wednesday
852-3954 or 252-2475**

Church Offices Closed on Friday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.*

