

December 21, 2008

Forth Sunday of Advent

# ***Saint John Vianney***

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997  
1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
Soon to be: 1000 26th Ave NE, 87144

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

As Father Mansfield will surely informed you, we are on a delay for the opening of the church. As nice as it was to see some snow, it has delayed the work that PNM needs to performed. They are scheduled to change the PNM box location on the 29th. Then after this is accomplished the city needs to install the water meter and do the final inspection on the building for us to hold mass. Keep the faith, we will have a Parish Hall soon which we will be able to take ownership of with our first mass.

Carl E Beyer

~~First Mass at new location will be December 21st at 10AM. This will be the only mass on this special day.~~

**New Schedule - To Be Determined**

### **Upcoming Events**

- December 24th Christmas Eve Masses ..... 5PM, 7PM
- December 25th Christmas Mass ..... 10AM
- To Be Determined ..... Archbishop Michael Sheehan Celebrates Mass
- To Be Determined - New Mass Schedule ..... Saturday 4PM, Sunday 8AM, 10AM
- To Be Determined ..... CCD Classes Resume

# CCD Classes

## To Be Determined

Fr. Scott and The Building & Finance Committee would like to thank Coz and Donna Madrid, Steve and Tabitha Chaves who helped with placing tabs on St. John Vianney Flyers.

### Christ in Christmas by Carl E. Beyer

This is the time of year when I wonder how many celebrate Christmas with Christ in their lives without realizing they do. This time of celebration is only for one reason. The birth of our Savior.

Raised by an Atheist step-father and a mother that had real social problems I do remember Christmas. Being one of the youngest I remember having Christmas Sundays. We would celebrate Christmas together the Sunday before Christmas so that the siblings could celebrate Christmas with their own families. With seven children Christmas was always festive. Then with the nieces and nephews threw in, we had a self made crowd.

What is Christmas if not the celebration of the love that Jesus spreads through out the world. We certainly had that love among us siblings and looked forward to the gathering. There was no big presents since we had a bunch of presents to purchase but we took the time to make the presents personalize for each.

I often wonder how so many of my siblings and myself sought out our Lord. Was it because of those gatherings at Christmas? The love between us is the very fiber of Jesus in our lives. No grace was said before our meals but we all sat down together and we all shared our love. Jesus works through us in this season and many do not even realize the work that is being done in their hearts.

If I haven't mention previously this was all accomplished with dysfunctional parents. But our problems with our parents could not stop us siblings from enjoying each other. After my step-father died my Mom once had us celebrate Christmas in her bar. There is nothing like a Christmas with a "regular" coming up and asking you what you got for Christmas. After that we made a point to start taking Christmas into our own hands and celebrate them in one of our homes. Even in a country bar, it doesn't quite work with babies and small ones running around. On the other hand we were able to have some mean games of 8-Ball that Christmas.

So say a special prayer this Christmas that the love people share will open their eyes to the love of Jesus Christ. God Bless you all, now go forth and share Jesus' party with those you love.

***Merry Christmas***

***Happy***

***Birthday***

***Jesus Christ***

John and Nathan was pondering John's problems.

"Andrea and I want to get married," said John, "but we can't find anywhere to live."

"Why don't you live with Andrea's parents?" suggested Nathan.

"We can't do that," said John, "they're living with their parents!"

### ***Mormonism-Christian or Cult--Part 3***

We previously refuted the pivotal belief for Mormons, the Great Apostasy, using Scripture and reason. Today I hope to refute this belief using historical research. The most powerful historical basis on which this can be done is to use the writings of the early Fathers of the Church who lived during the first two centuries after the death of the last Apostle, St John. These historians cover the period that Mormons claim the progressive corruption of the Catholic Church and its teachings took place.(1)

The best known Fathers of this two century period are Saints Clement, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Polycarp, and Irenaeus. These men are well known and their writings are well documented historical pieces. A study of these early Fathers indicates there were no “Church members (who) drifted from the principles taught by Jesus Christ and the Apostles.”(2) In fact, we find consistent teaching of Catholic doctrine. One of the earliest Fathers of the Church, St. Clement of Rome, discusses the martyrdom of “those men who lived such holy lives there must be added a multitude of the elect, who suffered terrible indignities and tortures on account of jealousy, shining examples in our midst. Because of jealousy, women were persecuted, Danaids and Dirces, suffering frightful and unholy indignities. Stalwart, they finished the racecourse of *the faith* and received a noble reward, in spite of weakness of their sex.”(3) Does this description of martyrdom show Catholics drifting away from principles taught by Jesus? In addition, St. Clement very plainly explains for posterity the succession of bishops from the Apostles. “Our Apostles knew through our Lord Jesus Christ that there would be strife for the office of bishop. For this reason, therefore, having received perfect foreknowledge, they appointed those who have already been mentioned, and afterwards added the further provision that, if they should die, other approved men should succeed to their ministry,”(4) Since St. Clement describes the basis of bishopric succession to this very day, how can anyone claim the “...Church was no longer led by a priesthood authority (and) error crept into Church teaching.”(5)

St. Ignatius of Antioch (died A.D. 110): St. Ignatius was a co-worker of St. John. On his way to martyrdom in Rome, he wrote letters to several bishoprics. One of these letters sent to the Smyrnaens [ca A.D. 110] is a powerful condemnation of those who reject the doctrine of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. “They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, Flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father, in His goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes. It would be better for them to have love, so they might rise again.”(6) Note again that there is no reference of a great apostasy.

St. Justin Martyr(died A.D. 165): This disciple of St John explains how Christians are to build up their faith and *pass it on*: “We declare, moreover, as we have been taught that He, the Creator, has no need of blood offerings and libations and incense. Rather we praise Him...by prayer and thanksgiving for all the things...granted us. We have been instructed that the only honor worthy of Him...(is) to offer thanks to Him in solemn prayers and hymns, for our own

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creation, for the means of achieving health, for the variety creation,...and to beseech Him in prayer that we may exist again in incorruption through our faith in Him.”(7)

St. Polycarp of Smyrna (A.D.69/70-A.D.155/156): Another disciple of St. John explains how Christians are to build up their faith *and pass it on*. “Now may God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Eternal High Priest Himself, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, build you up in faith and in truth, in meekness perfect and without resentment, in patience and in long-suffering, in endurance, and in purity. May He set your lot and portion among His Saints,-and ourselves along with you, and all others under heaven who *in the future in our Lord Jesus Christ, and in His Father*, who raised Him from the dead.”(8)

St. Irenaeus (ca. A.D. 140-died A.D.202): One of the most prolific Fathers of the Church, St. Irenaeus tells us that “The true gnosis is the doctrine of the Apostles, and the ancient organization of the Church throughout the whole world, and the manifestation of the body of Christ according to the successions of bishops, by which successions, the bishops have handed down the Church *which is found everywhere*; and the very complete tradition of the Scriptures, which have come down to us *by being guarded against falsification*, and which are received without addition or deletion; and reading without falsification, and a legitimate and diligent exposition according to the Scriptures, without danger and without blasphemy; and the pre-eminent gift of love, which is more precious than knowledge, more glorious than prophecy, and more honored than all the other charismatic gifts.”(9)

These Fathers of the Church are very clear that there is no “great apostasy” during the first 200 years of the Church’s existence. Specifically, St. Irenaeus’ tells us that the bishops authority commenced with the Apostles who have handed on the Catholic faith “which is found everywhere” and is “guarded against falsification” by the Magisterium of the Church comes to us today in the same form. What the Apostles taught is now taught by our bishops today. Was there a “great apostasy” that destroyed the Catholic Church?

I will try to finish my Mormon exposition two weeks hence. In the meantime, may God bless us all.

1. Beginning Apologetics-2- How to Answer Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons, by Fr. Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham, p.23
2. The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided by, The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day-Saints, p.8
3. The Faith of the Early Fathers, Vol. 1,p.7, [5,1]
4. Ibid, P.10 [44, 1]
5. Ibid. #2 above, p.8
6. The Faith of the Early Fathers, Vol. 1,p.25,[6, 2]
7. Ibid, p.52, [13]
8. Ibid, p.29, [12, 2]
9. Ibid, p.239, [4, 33, 8]

**"OH, I SURE AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU," THE LITTLE BOY SAID TO HIS GRANDMOTHER ON HIS MOTHER'S SIDE. "NOW MAYBE DADDY WILL DO THE TRICK HE HAS BEEN PROMISING US." THE GRANDMOTHER WAS CURIOUS. "WHAT TRICK IS THAT?" SHE ASKED. "I HEARD HIM TELL MOMMY THAT HE WOULD CLIMB THE WALLS IF YOU CAME TO VISIT," THE LITTLE BOY ANSWERED.**

<b>Volunteer Schedule</b>	<b>December 21, 2008</b>		<b>December 28, 2008</b>	
	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Anderson James Dory	Tony Quinones Carl Beyer	John Christensen Tom Anderson	Tony Quinones Frank Charles
<b>EM of Holy Communion</b>	Harlan Harrington	John Jenkins	David Crawford	John Jenkins
<b>Rosary Leader</b>	Evelyn Romero	Rochelle Quinones	Jose Guillen	Rochelle Quinones
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Charles Lucero Fernando Lucero	Ariana Jenkins Gary Vigil	Peter Lucero Fernando Lucero	Gary Vigil John Reynolds
<b>Readers</b>	Julie Burnside David Crawford	Peggy Riley Michael Tafuro	Petrita Lopez Net Montoya	Pam McCarty Vicky Howell
<b>Sacristan</b>	Julie Burnside	Gerri Hover	Julie Burnside	Donna Madrid

### **Holy Rosary**

Sunday .....7:40AM  
Sunday ..... 10:40AM

### **Holy Mass**

Sunday .....8:00AM  
Sunday ..... 11:00AM

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# **Christmas Schedule**

<b>Volunteer Schedule</b>	<b>December 24, 2008</b>		<b>December 25, 2008</b>
	<b>5:00PM</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ed Uhrich Phil Griego	Tom Anderson John Christensen	Tony Quinones Frank Charles
<b>EM of Holy Communion</b>	Carrie Jenkins	Margaret Chavez	Anna Marie Hartenhoff
<b>Rosary Leader</b>	Jose Guillen	Mary Bell Lucero	Kitty Uhrich
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Angela Jenkins Ariana Jenkins	Ian Burnside Tabetha Lucero	Rocky Peyton
<b>Readers</b>	Lillian Ortiz Rosie Root	Julie Burnside David Crawford	Peggy Riley Rochelle Quinones
<b>Sacristan</b>	Donna Madrid	Margaret Chavez	Gerri Hover

### ***Prayer Corner***

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ Manuel Romero - For a liver transplant / recovery.
- ◆ Mary Q. Haygood – For her health.
- ◆ Healing and God's care for Ken and Sydney Mayer.
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.

Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to [bulletin@sjvnm.org](mailto:bulletin@sjvnm.org). We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

### **Parish Directory**

Vicar .....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator .....	Ed Uhrich
Communications .....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair .....	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair .....	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan.....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher & Altar Servers.....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector .....	Peggy Riley
Head EM .....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD .....	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker .....	Harlan Harrington
Parish Website .....	<a href="http://www.sjvnm.org">www.sjvnm.org</a>
Concerns / Questions (Leave a Message) .....	974-1778

**Debi Wendt - Realtor**  
Coldwell Banker  
263-7095 Cellular  
891-6431 Direct  
mariska564@aol.com

# The Lord is coming



## *Holy Family*

Catholic Religious Supplies  
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505-898-4659

All proceeds from  
advertising goes  
toward the building fund.

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**New Mexico Net**  
Your NM information resource  
[www.nmnet.org](http://www.nmnet.org)

*Prayers to Our Lady*

A detailed illustration of the Virgin Mary, wearing a white veil and a blue mantle over a red gown. She is shown in a prayerful pose with her hands clasped in front of her chest. The illustration is framed by a decorative border of colorful floral and scrollwork patterns.

**THE MAGNIFICAT**

My soul does magnify the Lord,  
my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
for He has looked with favor on this lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me and  
holy is his name,  
He has mercy on those who fear him in every  
generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for He has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise He made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.