

# The Rose

Santa Teresita's Monthly Newsletter

December 11, 2012  
Volume 2, Issue 5

## The Spirit of Christmas

Why is Christmas celebrated with so much joy each year? Pope Benedict reflects that during Christmas we are not simply celebrating an abstract mystery nor just a great season. Rather, "At Christmas, we remember something very concrete and important for man, something essential for Christian faith, a truth that St. John summarized in these few words: "The Word was made flesh."



In the darkness of the night of Bethlehem, a great light was truly lit: The Creator of the universe incarnated himself, uniting himself indissolubly with human nature, to the point of really being "God from God, light from light" and at the same time, man, true man...he has incarnated himself freely to make us truly free, free to love him." (Christmas Reflection December 17, 2008)

Let us love Christ freely this year!



## Saint Nicholas' Gift

The morning of November 6, 2012 dawned upon the grounds of Santa Teresita and the empty Good Shepherd Cottage, waiting for its new family to move in. Today was the day we celebrate the feast of Saint Nicholas, but it was also the day for the Good Shepherd Cottage's licensing inspection. Many preparations had been made and many prayers prayed. We all waited with eager expectation for the inspector to arrive. As she completed her tour of the grounds and greeted the current residents at Bethany, the inspector was amazed by our joyous anticipation to open the doors of the Good Shepherd Cottage. The results: St. Nick provided us with a great gift: the news that we will soon be moving into our new home!



819 Buena Vista Street,  
Duarte, CA 91010 | 626-359-3243  
[www.santa-teresita.org](http://www.santa-teresita.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 16th**  
**3:00pm**

Posadas Prayer and Celebration  
All are welcome to come join us in this first day of the Christmas Novena.  
Beginning in St. Joseph's Chapel

**Tuesday, December 18th**  
Mayfield Senior School Christmas Concert for our Residents

**Monday, December 24th 7:30pm**  
Christmas Vigil Mass  
No Midnight Mass

**Tuesday, December 25th,**  
**10:30am**

Solemnity of Christmas Mass

**Thursday, December 27th**  
**11:00am**

Christmas Meal and Entertainment for the Residents of Santa Teresita

**Thursday, January 10th**  
**8:00 a.m.**

"Cataract Surgery 2013" by Dr. Andrew Phillips  
LIFE Breakfast in Madonna Hall  
RSVP (626) 256-3059

**Saturday, January 12th**  
**1:30-3:00pm**

Santa Teresita Open House  
RSVP (626) 408-7802

## Catechetical Corner

### “What does ‘Christ’ mean?”

The word "Christ" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "anointed". It became the name proper to Jesus only because he accomplished perfectly the divine mission that "Christ" signifies. (CCC 436) Jesus' messianic consecration reveals his divine mission, "for the name 'Christ' implies 'he who anointed', 'he who was anointed' and 'the very anointing with which he was anointed'. The one who anointed is the Father, the one who was anointed is the Son, and he was anointed with the Spirit who is the anointing." His eternal messianic consecration was revealed during the time of his earthly life at the moment of his baptism by John, when "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power" (Acts 10:38), "that he might be revealed to Israel" (Jn 1:31) as its Messiah. His works and words will manifest him as "the Holy One of God" (Mk 1:24)." (CCC 438) Christ's great messianic work is to free people from the slavery of sin and to lead them to union with the Father. We celebrate the beginning of this messianic work on Christmas day.



## Advent: A Time of Fruitful Waiting

Holy Mother Church blesses us with various liturgical seasons throughout the year. We are now full swing into the time of Advent. From latin roots (*Ad*: to and *Veni*: Come), Advent is a time of waiting. As each of us has experienced even in the small things of life, waiting can be long and sometimes torturous. However, the waiting of Advent should be filled with joy. Yes, there is a sense of impatience in our longing, but a joyful impatience. We are longing ardently for the coming of Our Savior whom we know will come because He has promised it! Yet, our waiting must not be a time that we fritter away, filling it with the

trivial and mundane stuff that occupies so much of our “empty” spaces of time. This time of waiting is meant to bear fruit in our lives. It is a time in which we are privileged to prepare a special place in our hearts and in our lives for the coming of Christ. Think of a family preparing for the birth of a new child. A new room is prepared, names are planned and many other concrete preparations are made. Each of us are called during this time of year to make concrete preparations for the Birth of Christ into this world. He will come afresh into our lives in the measure with which we have made preparations for Him. Are you preparing your heart for Christ?



## Fantasia Fun!

As the sun dawned upon the beginning of the day of Fantasia, there were great hopes that the clouds would break for the day of festivities. The clouds in the sky did not disperse, but blessings as well as water were rained down upon all that gathered this year for Fantasia. We joyously moved to a dryer place and the fun began. The children enjoyed their annual Christmas Cookie decorating and the fudge was a hit. The hamburgers and hot dogs sizzled as the Cotton Candy was spun and the Korean food dished out. Young and old gathered

alike to fill the grounds of Santa Teresita with joyful laughter and conversation. As the entertainers performed their musical scores, we were even able to enjoy a short, spontaneous performance by our little elves (teen volunteers). All the hard work that went on behind the scene was evident by the simple joy and relaxed atmosphere that surrounded each area of activity. Near the mid-day, the clouds did break for a while and even the car show continued. Thank you to all our faithful volunteers and to each of you who attended this year's Fantasia. Your presence is what makes our yearly Festival so uniquely special.

