



Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Co-patroness of the Unborn

601 E. California Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307

4600 E. Brundage Ln., Bakersfield, CA 93307



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Administered by the Oblates of St. Joseph ♦ www.osjusa.org

PARISH CHURCH / IGLESIA PARROQUIAL:

Daily Mass English: Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.

Misa Diaria Español: Lunes-Sábado 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass English: 5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil;
6:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Misa Domingo Español: 7:00 p.m. Sabado Vigilia;
12:00 p.m.

Adoration: Thurs 11:45 a.m. through Fri 6:30 a.m.

Confessions/Confesiones: Thu/Jue & Fri/Vier 6:00 p.m.

SHRINE/PAVILION / SANTUARIO/PABELLÓN:

Sunday Mass English: 11:45 a.m.

Misas Domingo Español:

8:15a.m.; 10 a.m.; 1:45 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, CO-PATRONESS OF THE UNBORN — VISION STATEMENT

In the spirit of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish is to be a humble, bilingual, pro-life, pro-family Catholic community, joyfully announcing the Gospel. We welcome all to religious education in the fullness of the Truth entrusted to the Church. We invite all to celebrate with reverence and unity the real presence of Christ in the rites of our Liturgy. We call our members to the humble obedience of faith and to sacrificial service for the sake of building up the Body of Christ.



January 2, 2022

The Epiphany OF THE LORD

Magi from the east
arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn
king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

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1818, 1817, 1816, 1815, 1814, 1813, 1812, 1811, 1810, 1809, 1808, 1807, 1806, 1805, 1804, 1803, 1802, 1801, 1800, 1799, 1798, 1797, 1796, 1795, 1794, 1793, 1792, 1791, 1790, 1789, 1788, 1787, 1786, 1785, 1784, 1783, 1782, 1781, 1780, 1779, 1778, 1777, 1776, 1775, 1774, 1773, 1772, 1771, 1770, 1769, 1768, 1767, 1766, 1765, 1764, 1763, 1762, 1761, 1760, 1759, 1758, 1757, 1756, 1755, 1754, 1753, 1752, 1751, 1750, 1749, 1748, 1747, 1746, 1745, 1744, 1743, 1742, 1741, 1740, 1739, 1738, 1737, 1736, 1735, 1734, 1733, 1732, 1731, 1730, 1729, 1728, 1727, 1726, 1725, 1724, 1723, 1722, 1721, 1720, 1719, 1718, 1717, 1716, 1715, 1714, 1713, 1712, 1711, 1710, 1709, 1708, 1707, 1706, 1705, 1704, 1703, 1702, 1701, 1700, 1699, 1698, 1697, 1696, 1695, 1694, 1693, 1692, 1691, 1690, 1689, 1688, 1687, 1686, 1685, 1684, 1683, 1682, 1681, 1680, 1679, 1678, 1677, 1676, 1675, 1674, 1673, 1672, 1671, 1670, 1669, 1668, 1667, 1666, 1665, 1664, 1663, 1662, 1661, 1660, 1659, 1658, 1657, 1656, 1655, 1654, 1653, 1652, 1651, 1650, 1649, 1648, 1647, 1646, 1645, 1644, 1643, 1642, 1641, 1640, 1639, 1638, 1637, 1636, 1635, 1634, 1633, 1632, 1631, 1630, 1629, 1628, 1627, 1626, 1625, 1624, 1623, 1622, 1621, 1620, 1619, 1618, 1617, 1616, 1615, 1614, 1613, 1612, 1611, 1610, 1609, 1608, 1607, 1606, 1605, 1604, 1603, 1602, 1601, 1600, 1599, 1598, 1597, 1596, 1595, 1594, 1593, 1592, 1591, 1590, 1589, 1588, 1587, 1586, 1585, 1584, 1583, 1582, 1581, 1580, 1579, 1578, 1577, 1576, 1575, 1574, 1573, 1572, 1571, 1570, 1569, 1568, 1567, 1566, 1565, 1564, 1563, 1562, 1561, 1560, 1559, 1558, 1557, 1556, 1555, 1554, 1553, 1552, 1551, 1550, 1549, 1548, 1547, 1546, 1545, 1544, 1543, 1542, 1541, 1540, 1539, 1538, 1537, 1536, 1535, 1534, 1533, 1532, 1531, 1530, 1529, 1528, 1527, 1526, 1525, 1524, 1523, 1522, 1521, 1520, 1519, 1518, 1517, 1516, 1515, 1514, 1513, 1512, 1511, 1510, 1509, 1508, 1507, 1506, 1505, 1504, 1503, 1502, 1501, 1500, 1499, 1498, 1497, 1496, 1495, 1494, 1493, 1492, 1491, 1490, 1489, 1488, 1487, 1486, 1485, 1484, 1483, 1482, 1481, 1480, 1479, 1478, 1477, 1476, 1475, 1474, 1473, 1472, 1471, 1470, 1469, 1468, 1467, 1466, 1465, 1464, 1463, 1462, 1461, 1460, 1459, 1458, 1457, 1456, 1455, 1454, 1453, 1452, 1451, 1450, 1449, 1448, 1447, 1446, 1445, 1444, 1443, 1442, 1441, 1440, 1439, 1438, 1437, 1436, 1435, 1434, 1433, 1432, 1431, 1430, 1429, 1428, 1427, 1426, 1425, 1424, 1423, 1422, 1421, 1420, 1419, 1418, 1417, 1416, 1415, 1414, 1413, 1412, 1411, 1410, 1409, 1408, 1407, 1406, 1405, 1404, 1403, 1402, 1401, 1400, 1399, 1398, 1397, 1396, 1395, 1394, 1393, 1392, 1391, 1390, 1389, 1388, 1387, 1386, 1385, 1384, 1383, 1382, 1381, 1380, 1379, 1378, 1377, 1376, 1375, 1374, 1373, 1372, 1371, 1370, 1369, 1368, 1367, 1366, 1365, 1364, 1363, 1362, 1361, 1360, 1359, 1358, 1357, 1356, 1355, 1354, 1353, 1352, 1351, 1350, 1349, 1348, 1347, 1346, 1345, 1344, 1343, 1342, 1341, 1340, 1339, 1338, 1337, 1336, 1335, 1334, 1333, 1332, 1331, 1330, 1329, 1328, 1327, 1326, 1325, 1324, 1323, 1322, 1321, 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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 1 - January 8

Mass † Intentions

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday January 1st

5:30 pm (Church) Anniversary of Gerardo & Guadalupe Ramirez

7:00 pm Sp. (Church) Cumpleaños de Mirna Guzman / Familia

Sunday January 2nd

6:45 am Eng. (Church) Parishioners

8:15 am Sp. (Shrine) † Cecilia Benítez

10:00 am Eng. (Church) In Thanksgiving / Orozco Family

10:00 am Sp. (Shrine) † Olga Acevedo / Familia Acevedo

11:45 am Eng. (Shrine) Birthday of Cindy Cerda

12:00 pm Sp. (Church) Guadalupanos Vivos & Difuntos

1:45 pm Sp. (Shrine) † Luis Paulino Ramírez / Mamá

5:30 pm Sp. (Shrine) † Agustina González / Patricia

6:30 pm Eng. (Church) † Rafael Patiño / Esposa e Hijos

Monday January 3rd CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

7:00 am Eng. (Church) † Sofia Maya & Margarita Lara

8:00 am Sp. (Church) Acción de gracias al Divino Niño

Tuesday January 4th SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

7:00 am Eng. (Church) † María del los Angeles Hernández

8:00 am Sp. (Church) Cumpleaños de Héctor Cabrera / Maxi

Wednesday January 5th SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

7:00 am Eng. (Church) † Urbano Cervantes / Family

8:00 am Sp. (Church) † Humberto Gutiérrez & Juana Torres

Thursday January 6th CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

7:00 am Eng. (Church) † María de la Concepción González

8:00 am Sp. (Church) Sacerdotes O.S.J. / Arcelia

Friday January 7th CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

7:00 am Eng. (Church) Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am Sp. (Church) † Isidro Vidal / Altagracia

9:00 am Bil. (Church) Elderly and sick SJS Sisters and caregivers

7:00 pm Sp. (H.S.) † Javier González

Saturday January 8th CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

8:00 am Sp. (Church) Familia Gutiérrez García

Pray for - Oren Por Los Fallecidos

María Bejarano & María Cárdenas who died recently.

The Epiphany of the Lord January 2, 2022

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!

Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
— Isaiah 60:1



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PARISH DIRECTORY

Oblates of St. Joseph

Fr. Larry Toschi, O.S.J./Pastor Ext. 203

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Fr. Sergio Pérez, O.S.J./Vicar Ext. 205

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Fr. Gustavo López, O.S.J./Vicar Ext. 204

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Cynthia Jiménez/Receptionist Ext. 202

cynthia@guadalupebakersfield.org

Dayana Guzmán/Receptionist Ext. 201

dayana@guadalupebakersfield.org

Office Hours

Monday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Tuesday thru Friday

9:00 am to 12:30 pm & 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

School

(661) 323-6059 ♦ Fax (661) 323-6058

Sr. Susana Del Toro Vargas S.J.S./Principal

sdeltoro@olgsjs.org

Dora Loreto/Secretary

dloreto@olgsjs.org

Religious Education

(661) 323-7642 ♦ Fax (661) 323-6016

Aida Núñez/Director

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Heidi Muñoz/Assistant

heidi@guadalupebakersfield.org

Office Hours

507 E. 11th St.

Monday thru Wednesday

10:00 am to 12:30 am & 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

And 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Sunday 9am to 12pm

Closed Thursday and Friday

Virginia Ruiz/Campaign Director (661) 323-3073

olgcampaign@guadalupebakersfield.org

Cynthia Jiménez/Safe Environment (661) 323-3070

cynthia@guadalupebakersfield.org

Ministries

Nallely Sánchez/Youth Minister (661) 731-2454

Rosa Muñoz/Liturgy Coordinator (661) 809-4534

Toña Castellanos/Pro-Life Coordinator (661) 397-4811

María Neri/Bereavement Coordinator (661) 832-8681

Sandra García/Miscarriage (661) 633-4476

Virginia Ruiz/Post-Abortion Healing (661) 281-9536

Crescenciano Rosales/Grupos de Oración (661) 327-0832

Weekly Collections

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Church Collections	12/19/2021	Shrine Collections	12/12/2021
5:30 pm Sat.	\$583	8:15 am	\$1,860
7:00 pm Sat.	\$432	10:00 am	\$1,688
6:45 am	\$638	11:45am	\$826
10:00 am	\$1,730	1:45 pm	\$1,752
12:0 pm	\$1,470	5:30 pm	\$900
6:30 pm	\$832		
Total	\$5,685	Total	\$7,026

MAIL & WALK IN DONATIONS FOR THIS WEEK: \$758
TOTAL FOR WEEK TO 12/12/2021: \$13,469

BUILDING FUND TOTAL TO 11/30/2021

Total in the Bank \$5,537,288.55

12/12/2021 SECOND COLLECTION:
BUILDING FUND \$7,995

THIS WEEK SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection for this week will be for The Building Fund. Thank You for your generosity.



ESTA SEMANA SEGUNDA COLECTA

La Segunda Colecta de esta semana será para el fondo de Construcción. Gracias por su generosidad.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Epiphany of the Lord

At the Mass during the Day

O God, who on this day revealed your
Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the
beauty of your sublime glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What can I do this week to come to know God better?

EVENTS CALENDAR CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS

Sat.-Sun. 1/15-16 Retiro Familia Natural Vive Mejor—OLG Hall
Thurs.-Sat. 1/14-22 Holy Spouses Novena M-F 7:00pm, Sat. 6:30pm,
Sun. 5:30pm
Sun. 1/23 Holy Spouses Mass & Blessing of Engaged Couples &
Renewal of Marriage Vows 11:45pm. Eng. & 1:45pm Sp. Shrine
Sun.-Sat. 1/30-2/5 Catholic Schools Week
Wed. 2/2 Blessing of Candles 8:00am—Church
Sun. 2/6 Consecrated Life Day
Sat. 2/12 Reverse Raffle—Shrine
Tues.-Fri. 2/22-25 Oblates Away— Communion Services
Wed. 3/2 Ash Wednesday—Multiple Services
Fri. 3/4-4/8 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm Bilingual—Church
Tues.-Wed. 3/10-18 St. Joseph Novena M-F 7:00pm, Sat. 4:45pm
Sun. 5:45 pm

**OFFICE WILL CLOSED TOMORROW
JANUARY 3RD FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**OFICINA CERRADA MAÑANA
3 DE ENERO POR EL DIA DE AÑO NUEVO**

PRIMER VIERNES DEL MES

ESTE VIERNES 7 DE ENERO

Gran Asamblea

7:00 PM—Misa y Hora Santa en la

Misión del Espíritu Santo

RETIRO “LA FAMILIA NATURAL VIVE MEJOR”

Se llevará a cabo el fin de semana 15 y 16 de enero del 2022 en el Salón Guadalupe de 8am a 6pm. Este es un taller para parejas casadas, parejas comprometidas y para cualquier adulto interesado. Temas cubiertos: sexualidad, matrimonio, comunicación, paternidad responsable, formación, familia natural y la misión de la familia. Para más información favor de llamar a la oficina de la parroquia al 323-3148 o a Francisco y Verónica Hernández al 333-7047.

ORACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

La Epifanía del Señor

Misa del día

Señor Dios, que en este día
manifestaste a tu Unigénito a las naciones,
guiándolas por la estrella,
concede a los que ya te conocemos
por la fe, que lleguemos a contemplar
la hermosura de tu excelsa gloria.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,
que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del
Espíritu Santo y es
Dios por los siglos de los siglos.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué puedo hacer esta semana para conocer mejor a Dios?

THE DIOCESE OF FRESNO IS HIRING!

Safe Environment Program Coordinator

This position works closely with the Director of Human Resources to promote the understanding of Safe Environment in its broadest scope. Implements diocesan goals of Safe Environment as set forth by the Bishop using appropriate Church documents as foundational resources. Operates within a team context and engages in significant ministry collaboration to deliver resources and services to parishes, organizations, and diocesan departments.

Learn more:

<https://dioceseoffresno.org/office-of-human-resources/>

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ARE IN NEED OF FAMILIES LIKE YOURS!

By August 2021, 2,282 children were and continue to be involved in the foster care system within our community, according to the Kern County Department of Human Services (DHS). The statistics show the median age of a foster child as eight years. Twenty-eight months is the average length for continued services, a period that often encompasses more than two years in a child's life. According to national statistics, an estimated 10 percent of foster children spend more than five years in the system.

Victory Family Service strives to support and improve the lives of children and youth in foster care. We recruit, support, and train resource (foster) parents to care for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse or neglect.

Even if your household isn't ready to become a resource family at this time, there are so many ways that your presence in the life of a foster child can make a difference. Therefore, we will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on California next weekend 8th and 9th of January, 2022, after Mass to provide more information and answer all your questions.

NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Come spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, next Saturday, from 9:00pm to 6:00am. For more information call José at 379-2619 or parish office at 323-314

VOCATION HOLY HOUR

Please join the Oblates of St. Joseph Priests, Sisters Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and the vocation group to pray for an increase in vocations before the Blessed Sacrament. Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:30pm at the church.

Flocknote

Scan the QR code with your phone to register and receive regular text/email information from our parish.



RETROUVAILLE EN ESPAÑOL

¿Esta en problemas tu matrimonio?

Retrouvaille, es un Programa para matrimonios en crisis.

Una LUZ de esperanza para Matrimonios.

Próximo fin de semana 14, 15 y 16 Enero 2022

La esperanza esta al alcance de una llamada telefónica.

Para más información favor de llamar a David Aguilar al 209-622-60863 o con Lupe Aguilar al 209-622-8064.

El cupo es limitado.

¡NIÑOS EN CUIDADO TEMPORAL NECESITAN FAMILIAS COMO LA SUYA!

En Agosto 2021, 2,282 niños se encontraban y se encuentran aun dentro del sistema de cuidado temporal (Foster Care en inglés) en nuestra comunidad de acuerdo al Departamento de Servicios Humanos del Condado de Kern (DHS). Las estadísticas muestran que la edad promedio de los niños en Foster care es de ocho años. Veintiocho meses es el tiempo promedio para estos servicios, un periodo de tiempo que implica más de dos años en la vida de un niño. De acuerdo a las estadísticas nacionales, un aproximado del 10 por ciento de los niños en el sistema permanecen por mas de cinco años en el sistema de cuidado temporal.

Victory Family Services se dedica a brindar apoyo y mejorar la vida de los niños y jóvenes en cuidado temporal. Nosotros reclutamos, apoyamos y entrenamos a padres de apoyo para cuidar a niños que han sido removidos de sus familias por abuso infantil o negligencia.

Aun si su hogar no está listo para convertirse en un hogar temporal en este momento, existen muchas formas de que su ayuda puede hacer la diferencia en la vida de un niño. Estaremos en la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la California el próximo fin de semana 8 y 9 de Enero, 2022, después de Misa para más información y responde a todas sus preguntas.

EL SÁBADO QUE VIENE ADORACIÓN NOCTURNA AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

Ven a pasar tiempo con nuestro Señor en el Santísimo Sacramento el sábado que viene de 9:00pm a 6:00am. Para más información favor de llamar a José Hernández al 379-2619 o la oficina parroquial al 323-3148

HORA SANTA VOCACIONAL

Por favor únase a los Padres Oblatos de San José, Hermanas Siervas de Jesús Sacramentado y el grupo vocacional para la Hora Santa Vocacional ante el Santísimo Sacramento para orar por aumento de vocaciones. El jueves 13 de enero, 2022 a las 7:30pm en la Iglesia.

Flocknote

Escanee el código QR con su teléfono para Registrarse y recibir información de nuestra parroquia por mensaje de texto/correo electrónico

CHARITY GROUP

Our parish is starting a new charity group to serve needy families in our church and in the community. We are looking for people interested in joining this group. We will have an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00pm in St. Therese room at the Shrine. Group leaders are encourage to attend. For more information you can contact Rosalie Martinez at 703-5343 or Sally Ruiz at 340-4496.

HOLY SPOUSES MASS

Feast of Mary and Joseph, the Holy Spouses is Sunday, January 23rd. We will have 2 Masses at shrine, 11:45am in English and 1:45pm in Spanish. All couples married in the Church are invited to renew their wedding vows, and couples preparing for marriage in the church will receive a special blessing, and those couples who are prepared to be enrolled in the Holy Spouses Society will be able to enroll at that time.

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The Year of the Family continues through June 26, 2022. This is a call to imitate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, totally united in the love of God and of each other. Here is a short prayer to repeat throughout the rest of this special year:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, during this Year of the Family, renew our world with a greater appreciation of God's wonderful plan for marriage, children, and family. Enlighten and assist our families. Amen.

BETHLEHEM PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Church is much more than a building. By respecting the life of the tiny unborn at the Memorial and by the consoling and healing ministry that accompanies this, we are building Christ's Church. By spending Holy Hours before the Blessed Sacrament, we will be building Christ's Church!

You may contribute to this work of God by your donations to the building fund 2nd collections or at www.guadalupebakersfield.org/donate using the button "Give to Our Lady's Shrine". Please contribute also with your prayers.

PRAYER

FOR PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Dear Mary and Joseph, Holy Spouses, as a phase of construction for the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Copatroness of the Unborn, please guide us to prepare a Chapel for Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in imitation of your first adoration of Jesus in the manger of Bethlehem. Amen.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

If you would like to receive our weekly bulletin in your email you can sign up in our webpage and follow the instructions at: www.guadalupebakersfield.org

GRUPO DE CARIDAD

Nuestra parroquia está comenzando un nuevo grupo de caridad para servir a las familias necesitadas en nuestra iglesia y en la comunidad. Buscamos personas interesadas en unirse a este grupo. Tendremos una reunión informativa el miércoles 19 de enero a las 6:00pm en el salón Santa Teresa del Santuario. Se anima a los líderes de grupo a asistir. Para obtener más información, puede comunicarse con Rosalie Martínez al 703-5343 o con Sally Ruiz al 340-4496.

MISA DE LOS SANTOS ESPOSOS

Fiesta de los Santos Esposos María y José el domingo 23 de enero. Tendremos 2 Misas en el santuario, a las 11:45am en Inglés y a la 1:45pm en Español. Todas las parejas casadas por la Iglesia están invitadas a renovar sus votos matrimoniales y las parejas que se están preparando para casarse en la Iglesia recibirán una bendición especial. Las parejas que están preparadas para inscribirse en la Sociedad de los Santos Esposos pueden hacerlo ese día.

AÑO DE LA FAMILIA

El Año de la Familia continúa hasta el 26 de junio de 2022. Este es un llamado a imitar a la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José, totalmente unidos en el amor de Dios y el uno por el otro. Aquí hay una breve oración para repetir durante el resto de este año especial:

Jesús, María y José, durante este Año de la Familia, renueven nuestro mundo con un mayor aprecio del maravilloso plan de Dios para el matrimonio, los hijos y la familia. Iluminen y ayuden a nuestras familias. Amén.

CAPILLA DE BELÉN PARA ADORACIÓN PERPETUA

La Iglesia es mucho más que un edificio. Respetando la vida de los pequeños no nacidos en el Memorial y por el ministerio consolador y sanador que lo acompaña, estamos edificando la Iglesia de Cristo. ¡Al pasar las Horas Santas ante el Santísimo Sacramento, estaremos edificando la Iglesia de Cristo!

Puede contribuir a esta obra de Dios con sus donaciones para el fondo de construcción de la segunda colecta o en www.guadalupebakersfield.org/donate usando el botón "Give to Our Lady's Shrine". Por favor contribuya también con sus oraciones.

ORACIÓN

POR LA CAPILLA DE ADORACIÓN PERPETUA

Amados María y José, como etapa de la construcción del Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe copatrona de los no nacidos, hágannos el favor de guiarnos a preparar una Capilla de Adoración Perpetua del Santísimo Sacramento, a imitación de su primera adoración de Jesús en el pesebre de Belén. Amén.

BOLETÍN ELECTRÓNICO

Si le gustaría recibir el boletín en su buzón de correo electrónico puede registrarse en la pagina web en: www.guadalupebakersfield.org y siga las indicaciones

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Story

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a true daughter of the American Revolution, born August 28, 1774, just two years before the Declaration of Independence. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others.

The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new "holocaust," as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness.

At 19, Elizabeth was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five small children to support.

While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805.

To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809.

The thousand or more letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters) and the heartache of a wayward son. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Reflection

Elizabeth Ann Seton had no extraordinary gifts. She was not a mystic or stigmatic. She did not prophesy or speak in tongues. She had two great devotions: abandonment to the will of God and an ardent love for the Blessed Sacrament. She wrote to a friend, Julia Scott, that she would prefer to exchange the world for a "cave or a desert." "But God has given me a great deal to do, and I have always and hope always to prefer his will to every wish of my own." Her brand of sanctity is open to everyone if we love God and do his will.

La Historia de Santa Isabel Ann Seton

Madre Seton es una de las piedras angulares de la Iglesia Católica Estadounidense. Fundó la primera comunidad religiosa Estadounidense para mujeres, las Hermanas de la Caridad. Abrió la primera escuela parroquial Estadounidense y estableció el primer orfanato Católico Estadounidense. Todo esto lo hizo en el lapso de 46 años mientras criaba a sus cinco hijos.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton es una verdadera hija de la Revolución Americana, nacida el 28 de agosto de 1774, solo dos años antes de la Declaración de Independencia. Por nacimiento y matrimonio, estuvo vinculada a las primeras familias de Nueva York y disfrutó de los frutos de la alta sociedad. Criada como una Episcopal acérrima, aprendió el valor de la oración, las Escrituras y un examen de conciencia nocturno. Su padre, el Dr. Richard Bayley, no usaba mucho las iglesias, pero era un gran humanitario, y le enseñaba a su hija a amar y servir a los demás.

Las primeras muertes de su madre en 1777 y de su hermanita en 1778 le dieron a Elizabeth una sensación de eternidad y temporalidad de la vida de peregrino en la tierra. Lejos de ser melancólica y hosca, se enfrentó a cada nuevo "holocausto", como ella misma lo expresó, con alegría esperanzada.

A los 19 años, Elizabeth era la bella de Nueva York y se casó con un hombre de negocios, apuesto y rico, William Magee Seton. Tuvieron cinco hijos antes de que su negocio fracasara y él muriera de tuberculosis. A los 30 años, Elizabeth quedó viuda y sin un centavo, con cinco niños pequeños que mantener.

Mientras estaba en Italia con su esposo moribundo, Elizabeth fue testigo de la Catolicidad en acción a través de amigos de la familia. Tres puntos básicos la llevaron a convertirse en Católica: la fe en la Presencia Real, la devoción a la Santísima Madre y la convicción de que la Iglesia Católica la llevó de regreso a los apóstoles y a Cristo. Muchos de sus familiares y amigos la rechazaron cuando se hizo Católica en marzo de 1805.

Para mantener a sus hijos, abrió una escuela en Baltimore. Desde el principio, su grupo siguió las líneas de una comunidad religiosa, que fue fundada oficialmente en 1809.

Las mil o más cartas de la Madre Seton revelan el desarrollo de su vida espiritual desde la bondad ordinaria hasta la santidad heroica. Sufrió grandes pruebas de enfermedad, malentendidos, la muerte de seres queridos (su esposo y dos hijas pequeñas) y el dolor de un hijo descarriado. Murió el 4 de enero de 1821 y se convirtió en la primera ciudadana nacida en Estados Unidos en ser beatificada (1963) y luego canonizada (1975). Está enterrada en Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Reflexión

Elizabeth Ann Seton no tenía dones extraordinarios. Ella no era mística ni estigmática. Ella no profetizó ni habló en lenguas. Tenía dos grandes devociones: el abandono a la voluntad de Dios y un amor ardiente por el Santísimo Sacramento. Le escribió a una amiga, Julia Scott, que preferiría cambiar el mundo por una "cueva o un desierto". "Pero Dios me ha dado mucho que hacer, y siempre he tenido la esperanza de preferir su voluntad a cada deseo mío". Su tipo de santidad está abierta a todos si amamos a Dios y hacemos su voluntad.

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