

**December 25, 2021**  
**Nativity of the Lord**

*Isaiah 9: 1-6*

*Psalms 96*

*Titus 2: 11-14*

*Luke 2: 1-14*

Bartimaeus and the Cloak of Salvation

The Prophet Isaiah (Is. 9: 1-6) proclaims, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

Do we all not want to hear such words? Do we not want to live in such physical, social, moral, and spiritual light!? Of course we do. Let us look at this year's "guest speaker".

You might recall this person from several weeks ago. His name is Bartimaeus. We first see him in Mark's Gospel when he encountered Jesus. Bartimaeus was physically blind. He wanted to see.

Bartimaeus sat along the street everyday begging. He wore a cloak. The cloak meant everything to him. It was his shelter, and it was his livelihood. How was it his livelihood?

The Roman authorities issued cloaks to beggars. It was the beggar's credential. It was a permit to sit on the street and solicit. The cloak was laid out by the beggar in front of himself. People then knew he was legitimate, and they would toss coins onto the cloak.

On the day Jesus came to town Bartimaeus was filled with hope and enthusiasm. He was solidly in his place waiting for the moment Jesus would pass by. As Jesus did come by Bartimaeus famously cried out, "Jesus Son of David, have pity on me!"

Other people around Bartimaeus sought to stop him from making himself known. They told him to be quiet. He was being a bother to Jesus. The crowd of people were attempting to mislead Bartimaeus. He would have none of it! Bartimaeus cried out all the more. His persistence worked.

Jesus recognized Bartimaeus. "Bring him to me," Jesus told the people. All of a sudden the same people who tried to stop the man now encouraged him to go to Jesus. Were they sincere? There is nothing said about any of them helping Bartimaeus to find Jesus. Remember, he was blind.

Bartimaeus jumped up. Leaving his precious cloak behind he ran in what he estimated to be the direction of Jesus. Being blind there would be no way he would ever find the cloak again. He would be out of business. What if he did not find Jesus or what if Jesus was a fraud?

Bartimaeus stepped out in Faith. Is Faith blind?? Do only fools rely on Faith?

Many people were healed by Jesus. Such are found in the Gospel stories. Yet, only Bartimaeus is given a name. He is named because he gave witness to Jesus. His conversion was so great a matter, incredible, that it made a profound impact on the people watching. With his newfound physical sight he followed Jesus thereafter. He advanced the message of Jesus the Christ.

Bartimaeus' sight was that of Faith. He did throw off the cloak. He trusted Jesus was going to heal him. The man received physical sight because he had spiritual sight.

I must say, when I decided to follow Jesus into the priesthood I rushed forward in similar fashion. I left all behind. All my dreams of what I may be in life were thrown aside. It took a while to do so. I know God had been calling me and I was reluctant. But in the end, I threw off my cloak and ran forward.

Where are you in life now? Regardless of age, God continues to call you forward. There is always some road left to travel. No matter what you did in your past or did not do, now may be the moment to run toward Jesus and to salvation.

When you are blind, you choose wrong paths. Darkness reminds you to seek the Light. Move beyond being helpless. Move to the light. Jesus is the light, and he has come into the world already. Jesus points to the Father of all love.

Come with Bartimaeus beginning the Christmas Season. Come and discover the promises of God. See, God keeps promises. Leave behind the old cloak of your life. Run to Jesus and take on the cloak of Salvation.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Holy Family

1Sam1:20-22,24-28;1Jn3:1-2,21-24;Lk2:41-52

### STEWARDSHIP

Attendance last week: 258  
Tithes Collected: \$5,144.00  
Online Giving: \$280.00  
Total: \$5,424.00

Attendance for 12/05/21: 266  
Tithes Collected: \$7,729.00  
Online Giving: \$353.00  
Total: \$8,082.00

Attendance for Immaculate  
Conception: 59  
Immaculate Conception  
Collection: \$824.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Retired  
Religious: \$320.00

### COMMUNITY

#### Schedule of Liturgies

**Holy Family, Sunday December 26th. 9:00am  
and 10:45am. There is no Saturday vigil mass.**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
December 31st: 4:00pm, Vigil Mass**

**January 1st: 10:45am Mass**

**The Following Weekend Schedule is as Always:**

**Saturday: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 9:00am & 10:45am**

#### CALENDAR OF SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS

##### Stewardship Sundays

January 15, 23, 30,

Stewardship Recognition Sunday

February 6th. A parish family will be recognized.

**Ash Wednesday. March 2nd. Liturgy will be at  
7:00pm.**

**Reconciliation Thursday. March 3rd. A special  
prayer service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
will be at 7:00pm.**

**Anointing Friday. The Sacrament of the Anointing  
of the Sick will be offered.**

##### Holy Week Begins

**Passion Sunday, April 10th  
Holy Thursday, April 14th at 7pm  
Good Friday, April 15th at 7pm**

**Easter Vigil, April 16th at 8pm  
Easter Sunday, April 17th  
Masses at 9am and 10:45am**

### STEWARDSHIP

**Stewardship is the care we take of the gifts we  
have been given. The primary gifts are those of  
Time, Talent and Treasure. Within these are  
found all the other attributes you may find in  
yourself.**

I think of the talents I have been given by God.  
They are many. I could not decide what course  
in life I should take. I wanted to do all the things I  
ever dreamed of. Yet, in the practical sense I  
could only pick one way in life, one vocation.

However, once I said yes to God all the things, I  
thought of doing in my lifetime slowly began to  
unfold for me. By saying yes to God and  
accepting His call to the priesthood all my  
talents were put to good use.

Take a good look at yourself. What talents do  
you have? What gifts stand out to you? How  
might you put them to use for the glory of God  
and His people?

You are gifted. You are a unique creation of  
God. Take care of all that you are and take  
care of all that is around you. Be a good  
steward.

**Stewardship Days begin January 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone  
will have the chance to contribute his and her  
Time, Talent and Treasure. Stewardship of our  
parish is your calling and responsibility. Please  
be prepared to give of yourself. Also, your  
financial support is so very important!**

#### The Twelve Days of Christmas The Meaning Behind The Song

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days  
between Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, the birth of  
Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, the day  
Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise  
Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the  
world.

The Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas"  
may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it

actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a secret catechism that one could sing in public without fear of arrest - a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

One partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

From here on, the order is different from the original song!

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

<http://forums.catholic.com/showthread.php?t=404279>

### Reflections From Father Dennis Rausch

Follow reflections from Father Dennis Rausch on his webpage: [fatherdennisreflections.com](http://fatherdennisreflections.com)

Fr. Dennis is a friend of Fr. Bob and of our parish. He graces our church nearly every weekend with his reflective homilies. Read his webpage and find an even deeper insight to the movements of the Lord.



Archdiocese of Miami Development Corporation

1. Your generosity has been a blessing to the Archdiocese of Miami and your Parish throughout this past year. Your continued support allows us to help our church family and continue to spread God's word throughout the world. Thank you! [www.isupportabcd.org](http://www.isupportabcd.org).
2. The Archdiocese of Miami's Development Team is committed to making your Estate Planning more effective, efficient, and personally fulfilling. For assistance designing and evaluating an Estate Plan, please contact Sabrina Paul-Noel, at the Office of Planned Giving. (305) 762-1112.
3. "After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. (Luke 2:46-52)

After frantically looking for Jesus for three days, Mary and Joseph find Him in the Temple in Jerusalem, in the midst of the teachers. God's great gift of faith reveals Christ's divinity to us. Are we, as Christian stewards, open to this gift?

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

Wednesday, January 5

8:00 a.m. † Norman Pratis by Parish

Thursday, January 6

8:00 a.m. † Rene P.Llerandi by Family

Friday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Stan Lalewicz & Michael Crepage by Chris & Bill

Saturday, January 8

4:00 p.m. † Lorraine & Charles Walgenwitt by Carol Walgenwitt

† Beverly Ann Lacks by Jose Gonzalez & Bill Caruso

Sunday, January 9

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

10:45 a.m. † Fr. Ken Wolnowski by Parish  
Doris Kraft & Dale Francis by Fr. Bob

### MASS INTENTIONS

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

11:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Saturday, December 25

10:45 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Sunday, December 26

9:00 a.m. † Palumbo Family by Fr. Bob

10:45 a.m. † Rene Perez Llerandi by Perez Family

† Mary Coppola by Lynn Wright

Monday, December 27

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, December 28

8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Wednesday, December 29

8:00 a.m. † Familia Atancuri by Carmen & Miguel

Thursday, December 30

8:00 a.m. † Jack Symonette by Terry

Friday, December 31

4:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Saturday, January 1

10:45 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

10:45 a.m. † Elba Ortiz by Ronald Rodriguez & John McDonald

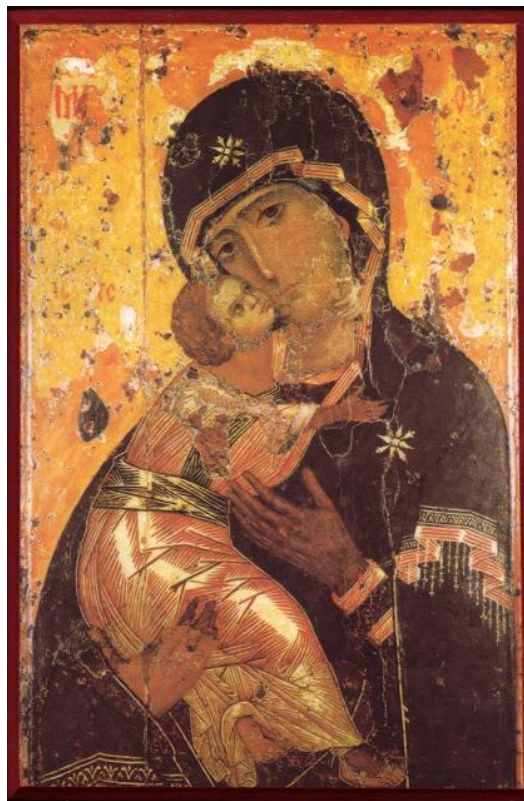
Victims of Abuse by Fr. Bob

Monday, January 3

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Midwest Tornado Victims by Parish



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