



PADRE
SERRA
PARISH

Encounter Jesus, Be Disciples

DECEMBER 20, 2020 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Small, Slow Work of God

What are you waiting for? If we know what we are waiting for, then we will know how to wait. And we will know how long to wait. Because if what we are waiting for is truly good and worthwhile, we will be willing to wait as long as it takes.

What are we waiting for? We wait for the small, slow work of God.

God comes to be with us, Emmanuel, in a manger. It's all quite unexpected. There seems quite a big gap between what God's Chosen People were expecting and what they were given in the Christ Child Likewise for us, there is often a yawning gap between what we expect to happen and what in fact does.

Be alert! Watch! God does not enter the world like a Hollywood superhero. The King of the Jews, all the hopes and dreams of a people, is born in the small and obscure little town Bethlehem. Not in Jerusalem. Think of God entering the world in Spokane rather than San Francisco. Or Oxnard rather than Montecito.

Be alert. Pay attention. Hiddenness and smallness are majesty. The wounded and the weak, the last, the lost, the littlest and the least are to be seated at the head table according to God's promise. They, too, are of infinite value. Because God is found there. Where and with whom you least expect.

Look! Even among the poor, the sick and the ignorant, the small, slow work of God can be done and is being done. The disciple of Jesus is to live and work in hope. Hope is not the same thing as cheery optimism. Hope isn't wishful thinking. Remember that in the lifetime of some of us, the Berlin Wall came down, Apartheid crumbled, peace came to Northern Ireland (at least for the moment). Illiteracy rates worldwide are decreasing. God is at work in a corrupt world. But God's work is slow.

We cannot right every wrong, but we can never stop hoping in the slow small work of God. God's presence is constant. Look to those people and events, those places where you least expect God to be present. There you might find what you are looking for: the small slow work of God lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

Sometimes you have to learn how to see anew. And how to wait. Again. And again.





Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm

Online

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!
Visit www.padreserra.org/mass



Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Serra Center

You can save a life!

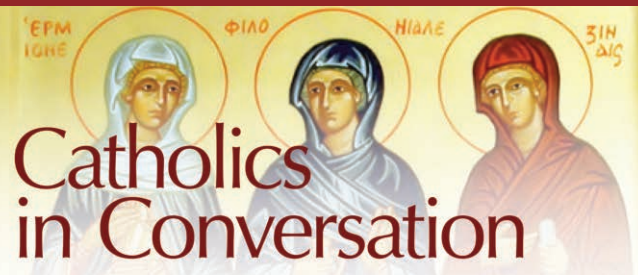
Please know:

Only healthy people are encouraged to come give blood. In fact, donors must be feeling well and free of respiratory illness symptoms, including fever, to be eligible to donate.

We are checking donors' temperatures upon check-in and masks are required to be worn by all donors.

We are using CDC guidelines for social distances at our donor centers and blood drives.

To schedule an appointment call (805) 543-4290 or visit www.padreserra.org/news/blood-drive



Catholics in Conversation

Women Deacons: Past, Present & Future

Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28

7:00 pm, via Zoom

Celebrate the New Year with a conversation from the comfort of your home reading, reflecting upon and discussing the women as deacons in the Catholic Church. The four conversations will provide a space for spiritual reflection on women's contributions. Reading material will be provided.

For questions about this exciting look into the experiences of women and the possibility of new way of working as a Church community, contact Anne Hansen ahansen47@gmail.com, (805)443-0812 or Teresa Runyon teresa@padreserra.org. (805) 482-6417

Register for Zoom: www.padreserra.org/cic



Hospitality Ministers Needed

Matthew 22:39 - Love your neighbor as yourself

To make sure that we are all as safe as possible at Mass, we need ministers who are as lovingly assertive as they are welcoming.

Responsibilities are to ensure that people sanitize as they arrive, wear their masks properly, and maintain a six feet distance from those outside their household.

We especially need people willing to serve at the 4:00 pm Masses on Saturday and Sunday. If you'd be comfortable in this role, please contact dominic@padreserra.org



GATHERING

Ready the Way

Curtis Stephan

Refrain

Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way

1 of the Lord. 2 of the Lord.

Verse 1

1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and

1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole,

1. and read-y the way of the Lord. to Refrain

Verses 2, 3

2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk
3. Let us see your face; in our hearts we pre-

2. in your truth, so we may love more like you
3. - pare a place. Come bring this world your mer - cy and grace

2. and } read-y the way for you, Lord.
3. as we }

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:3, 4a. Text and music © 2004, Curtis Stephan. Published by spiritandsong.com*. All rights reserved.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Advent Wreath Service

John Schiavone

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
(Lord, have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Chri - ste e - lei - son.
(Christ, have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All

(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
(Lord, have mer - cy.)



Reading 1

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading 2

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ,
 his only Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,*
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried;
 he descended into hell;
 on the third day he rose again
 from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of God
 the Father almighty;
 from there he will come to judge the
 living and the dead.

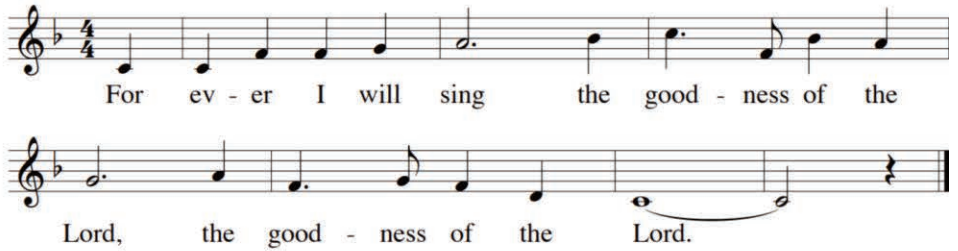
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and life everlasting.
 Amen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89: For Ever I Will Sing

Marty Haugen

Refrain



For ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the
 Lord, the good - ness of the Lord.

1. I have found David my servant, with my holy oil I have anointed him, that my hand may ever be with him and my arm make him strong.
2. My faithfulness and love shall be with you, in my Name your name will be exalted.
3. He shall cry to me, "My God, my rock of salvation, my salvation."

Text: Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27-29. © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; alt. verses 21-22, 25, 27, Marty Haugen, © 1988, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL.
 Music: Marty Haugen, © 1988, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Behold, I am the
 handmaid of the Lord.*

May it be done to me according to your word.

Luke 1:38

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Alleluia

Michael Joncas



Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia,
 hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, ICEL.
 Tune: Michael Joncas, b.1951, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

INTERCESSION RESPONSE

"Mass of the Father's Love"

Divinum Mysterium, arr. Carol Browning



Hear us Lord, O hear our prayer.

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PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

The King Shall Come

Trevor Thomson

Verses 1, 2



1. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And
 2. O bright-er than the ris - ing morn When

1. light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the
 2. he, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some

1. east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.
 2. place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.

1. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To
 2. O bright-er than that glo-rious morn Shall

1. bear, and fight, and die, But crowned with glo - ry
 2. this fair morn - ing be, When Christ, our King, in

1. like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
 2. beau-ty comes, And we his face shall see!

Verse 3

3. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau -
 3. - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy peo-ple pray: Come

3. quick - ly, King of kings. Come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: Greek; tr. by John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt. Music © 2013, Trevor Thomson.
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EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

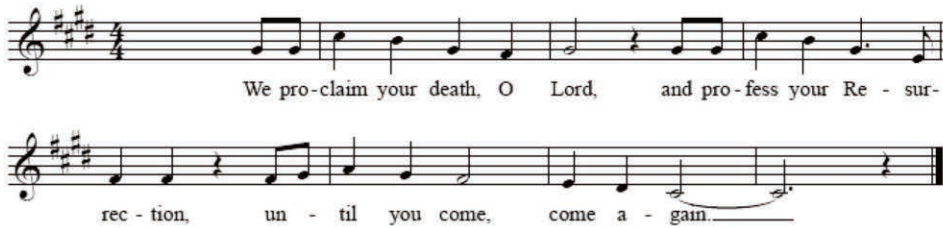
“Walking in the Air” Mass Howard Blake, arr. Dominic MacAller & Dan Houze

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly _____ Lord God of
 hosts. heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho-san - na, ho-
Fine
 san-na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. _____
 Bles - sed, _____ bles - sed is he,
 he who comes in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho

Memorial Acclamation A



We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Re - sur-
 rec - tion, un - til you come, come a - gain. _____

Great Amen



A - men, A - men, A - - -
 men. A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men.

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Lamb of God

Bob Hurd



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
 1-2. have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
 7 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Spiritual Communion

I wish, my Lord,
to receive you
with purity, humility,
and devotion
with which your
most holy Mother
received you,
with the spirit
and the fervor
of the saints.
Amen.

Suggested by Archbishop Gomez



COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, Hope of the World

Paul A. Tate

Refrain

Je - sus, hope of the world, Je - sus, light in our
dark - ness, here we a - wait you, O Mas - ter Di - vine.
Here we re - ceive you in Bread and in Wine:
Je - sus, hope of the world.

Verses

All:
Come, Lord Je - sus!
Cantors:

1. Come to us, O Son of God!
2. Come to us, O Prom - ised King!
3. Come to us, O Ris - ing Sun!
4. Come to us, O Heart's De - sire!

Come, Lord Je - sus!
Come to us, O Son of Man!
Come to us, O Prom - ised Peace!
Come to us, O End - less Light!
Come to us, O Sav - ing Love!

Come, Son of God! Come, Son of Man!
Come, Prom - ised King! Come, Prom - ised Peace!
Come, Ris - ing Sun! Come, End - less Light!
Come, Heart's De - sire! Come, Sav - ing Love!

All: Shep - herd your peo - ple in love!
Come and be Lord of our hearts!
Shat - ter the dark - ness of death!
Ban - ish our doubt and our fear!
D.C.

O Come, O Come, EMMANUEL

SENDING FORTH

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high And
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In



1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our



1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. ty and awe.
 4. o'er the grave.
 5. mis - er - y.
 6. put to flight.
 7. Prince of Peace.



el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.
 Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

Merry Christmas!

It makes me happy to get Christmas Cards, to see the family pictures, and even to receive the generic year-in-review letters that come in many of them. I know these letters usually give a curated, Facebook kind of glance at people's lives, but I enjoy them anyway.

This year, though, many of my Christmas letters have started with something along the line of "What a year this has been!" or "We're all so glad in the Smith family that 2020 is coming to an end!" It's clear that people haven't been travelling, or celebrating with big family get-togethers and meals out. It has even noted that the included group photo was actually from last year. People say right up front just how much they miss everyone. Life and death finding a way regardless, baptisms, weddings, graduations and funerals have gone on, as I know firsthand. Often, though, with travel restrictions, if these important events happened at a great distance, they happened without us. Sigh.

There is an authenticity to this. The first Christmas, as portrayed in the Gospels, stripped of our romantic notions, was a story of hardship. Pregnant, completely worn out by travel, in a strange town, and displaced by the crowd, giving birth in a place where animals dwelt – this is no one's dream of the birth of a baby. We only darken the picture further by pointing out that the Romans were as dark a plague on the face of the earth as the Coronavirus, and were displacing people so that they could know how much to tax their conquered neighbors.

Angels still found reason to sing about it. I hope that you are able to find reasons to sing about it, too.

No matter how dark the world can seem, how painful our bodies get, how much we have to struggle, we are loved by Emmanuel, God with us. Regardless of how politics unfolded, or international relations decayed, or raging wildfires consumed, we are loved by Emmanuel, God with us. In spite of rancorous debate on how to address the pandemic, or the struggle to educate children, and the terrible loss for business owners and employees, we are loved by Emmanuel, God with us.



Take that love seriously. In fact, bathe your weary hearts in that love, and carry on. Get in the procession with Joseph and Mary, far from home and comfort, and fearful for Mary's health, and the baby's, and maybe your own...and carry on.

Even in these days, I wish you a blessed *and* merry Christmas!

Fr. Patrick

Fr. Patrick Mullen
Pastor

Children

12 months to Grade 8.

Little Church ~ December 20

Age 3 through kindergarten. Merry Christmas, Ms. Soraya is putting together a video for Little Church families. Children will have so much fun learning through Bible stories and songs. Spaces still available to join Little Church. To receive videos, please contact soraya@padreserra.org

Spark! ~ January 4

Grades 1 to 5. Merry Christmas, it is Jesus' Birthday. How do you celebrate it? Sessions resume on January 4, 2021. Send your pictures in the largest size available to photo@padreserra.org or use #pspsparkathome and tag @padreserra on Instagram. See page 13. Visit the gallery at www.padreserra.org/spark-at-home

Three:Sixteen ~ January 6

Middle School Ministry. Merry Christmas, May the joy of our savior's birth fill your home with blessings. What will your gift for Jesus be this Christmas? Send your pictures in the largest size available to photo@padreserra.org

Online Mass Activities

12 days of Christmas: Coloring pages to children learn the meaning behind the 12 days of Christmas.

High School

Everyone 14 to 18 is welcome! youth@padreserra.org

4:12

Join Brett and peer leaders for fun and fellowship via Zoom. Ask brett@padreserra.org to add you to our GroupMe to keep you updated.

Confirmation Y1 ~ January 10

Merry Christmas! May this be a Holy Holiday for you and your loved ones. How will you be a gift to others this Christmas? Sessions resume on January 10, 2021. Please contact youth@padreserra.org for more information.

Young Adults

Everyone 18 to 39ish is welcome! www.padreserra.org/young-adults

Bible Study and More

We are gathering via Zoom twice a month on Thursdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm until the current COVID-19 situation is resolved. We will be doing a Bible Study with some other activities mixed in. See our Instagram @pspyoungadult or Facebook @PadreSerraYA for other events! For more information please contact brett@padreserra.org

Youth Leadership

Everyone 14 to 39ish is welcome!

Peer Leaders

Ask brett@padreserra.org to add you to our GroupMe to keep you

updated. Peer leaders help engage our Confirmation candidates by acting as mentors and facilitators during our weekly Confirmation sessions, our annual retreats, and at 4:12 youth nights. If you are confirmed and are interested in joining our team contact youth@padreserra.org

Adults

Women's Ministry ~ December 21

Seeds of Faith, our women's faith sharing group, will complete the study of the pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts" with the final chapter Walk Humbly with God. The bishops affirm that such "walking" leads us "to press forward without fear in rebuilding our relationships, healing our communities and working to shape our policies and institutions toward the good of all, as missionary disciples." This is an aspect of evangelization in our Church and the witness it requires. 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Cynthia cjonescampbell@yahoo.com

Caregivers Support Group ~ December 22

Caritas offers support to those who are caring for an aging parent, relative, or spouse. Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Contact Patricia sentclan@gmail.com

Men's Ministry ~ December 30

Illuman is a ministry for men, by men, to honor the uniqueness of male spirituality. Bimonthly group gatherings are designed to help guys become better, more authentic men. 7:00 pm online. Contact Dave dave.mccormick.mba@gmail.com

Living Liturgy Bible Study

Dr. Paul Ford offers a weekly reflection and study of the upcoming Sunday scriptures so we can better understand the good news message of Jesus Christ and how He is present in our lives. Until we can meet in person again, he will email a pre-recorded lesson each week or access them on our [website](#).

Bible Study: Mark's Gospel ~ Begins this January

All are invited to attend a 16-week course in the study of Mark's Gospel. This deanery-wide study is open to all men and women wishing to understand this Gospel, which is in this year's Liturgical B Gospel readings. Mondays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, via Zoom. Register/study materials: Rita ritadacorsi@yahoo.com

Virtual Catholic Conference ~ February 2021

The Los Angeles Congress is going virtual, February 19 - 21. For \$35, you will experience keynote presenters, dynamic workshops, entertainment, intercultural prayer experiences, and more ... all from the comfort of your home. Registration is now open: recongress.org

The University Series ~ Begins February 18

This 5-week Lenten adult formation series is going virtual. Some of your favorite presenters, relevant faith topics, and quality learning ... all from the comfort and safety of your own home. Fr. Patrick is presenting a series on scripture, so be sure to watch for details.

Becoming Catholic

Advent and Catholic Inquiry

Those of us who have been Catholics all our lives take the symbols and rituals of Advent for granted. But for those who are seeking to join the Church, the pre-Christmas season presents an opportunity to immerse themselves more deeply into the Catholic way of life. They catch the spirit of joyful anticipation as they worship with us. They are full of questions about the Advent wreath, the liturgical colors, and the meaning of the scriptures chosen for Advent. They learn the Catholic way of preparing for Christmas by watching online Mass and participating in works of charity like Angel Tags. The Catholic-seekers among us can be models of wonder and awe for those of us who may have become a little less enthusiastic about the season. Invite your non-Catholic Friends and relatives to attend Mass on the Grass or watch it online with you. It may refresh your sense of this meaningful time of year. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, please contact Catherine Shadduck at (805) 482-6417 x331 or catherine@padreserra.org

Memorial & Honorarium

Gifts for the Building Fund

This giving program benefits our parish's building fund but more importantly is a beautiful way to remember or honor a loved one or friend. If you'd like to remember someone or celebrate a birthday or anniversary, please pick up an envelope in the lobby or office. Thank you. For more information contact pam@padreserra.org

Giving

Fairways Online Auction Success

Together we raised \$9,300!! Thank you to all who participated, to the folks that won the 43 items, to those that purchased fun church swag, special thanks to our parish family who made donations, our friends and ministries who donated the beautiful baskets, and our Fairways to Heaven committee volunteers. We turn our attention now to a joyful Sunday, a reflective Advent, and a quiet, blessed Christmas. May the love of our Lord Jesus fill every nook and cranny of our hearts, minds, and lives. Through the image of this babe may we find warmth, sweetness, and joy.



Faith Sharing Question

Reflection questions for every gathering around any table

Luke 1:26-38 ~ God's Spirit comes to us in ways we least expect
In today's gospel, the story of the Annunciation, Mary of Nazareth humbly accepts the will of God, revealed by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us – he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in? Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life?

Prayer Life

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the courtyard, Monday, Dec. 21, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We decorate our homes for Christmas. Even more important is readying our hearts, both for the Lord's return at the end of time, and to celebrate His birthday. Examine your life. Confess your sins. Trust the Lord's mercy. Celebrate with joy.

Pray for Our Sick

Casey Allen, Lisa Alonzo, Kathy Berru, Karen Bonelli, Shirley Brown, Michele Burger, Katie Ceurvorst, Bette Church, Brian Church, Tom Church, Thomas Collins, Liesa Comeau, Lori Conley, Baby Wyatt Davis, Dora Doles, Kalei Durand, Noelani Durand, Joe Flores, Chella Freeberg, Sharon Garcia, Tawfik Haddad, Jerry Hanlon, Tish Hearne, Art Hernandez, Stephanie Hooper, Mary Hoppie, Mary Ann Kratochvil, Barbara Layton, Rosemary Maldonado, Glenn Mingay, Frances Mullen, Jeff Paoella, Lou Ann Paoella, Delia Quintana, Jesse Ramirez, Lolita Reyes, Connie Rigney, Mike Robles, Joseph Scordamaglia, Eugene Singer, Jackson Soyster, baby Penelope Swartz, Francisco Tapia, Sara Tapia, Larry Thibault, Linda Vesey and Tom Vesey. *(Names are refreshed monthly.)*

Remember Our Dead

Prayers for family and friends of those who have died recently:

Constance Bautista, RIP

Claire Estes, RIP

Sue Leahy, RIP

Beloved sister of Joan Derrico

Joe Presutto, RIP

Beloved husband of Jane Presutto

May they enjoy peace in their life with Christ Jesus.

Prayer Opportunities

Daily Readings: bible.usccb.org

Parish Book of Intentions: www.padreserra.org/intentions

Prayer Chain: Prayers anytime

Bette (805) 482-0067 bette_church@hotmail.com

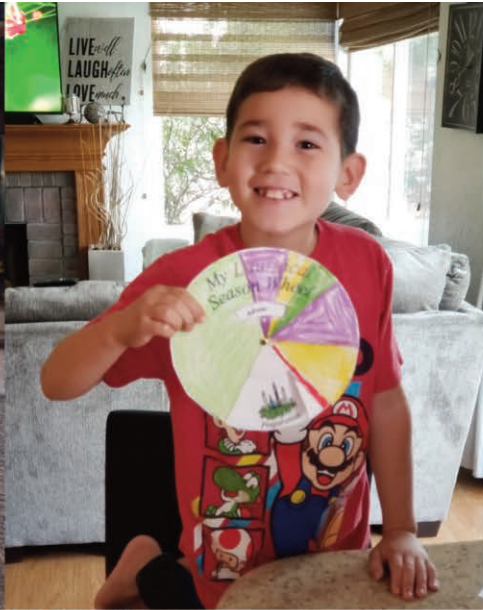
Shirley (805) 482-2617 brownshehorn@gmail.com

or visit www.padreserra.org/prayer-requests

Stations of the Cross: www.padreserra.org/stations

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: www.padreserra.org/news/olph

Blessed Sacrament Chapel: www.padreserra.org/prayer





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