

*And the Word
became flesh
and made his
dwelling among us,
and we saw his
glory, the glory
as of the Father's
only Son, full of
grace and truth.*

THE
NATIVITY
OF THE
LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2017



"Madonna" by Arild Rosenkrantz

Welcome Home!



Is there an issue that is keeping you from coming to Mass every single week? A question or concern, a past injustice, or a problem that seems insurmountable? *You are welcome here! Let's talk!* Fr. Bert is eager to have a conversation about **whatever is on your heart – no topics barred.** Every question and concern is *important and welcome.*

Is there any reason you are unable to receive Holy Communion? **Let's resolve it together!** Call Fr. Bert to schedule a time to sit down and discuss — it could be easier than you suspect. You deserve to receive the Eucharist and enjoy intimacy with Jesus Christ!

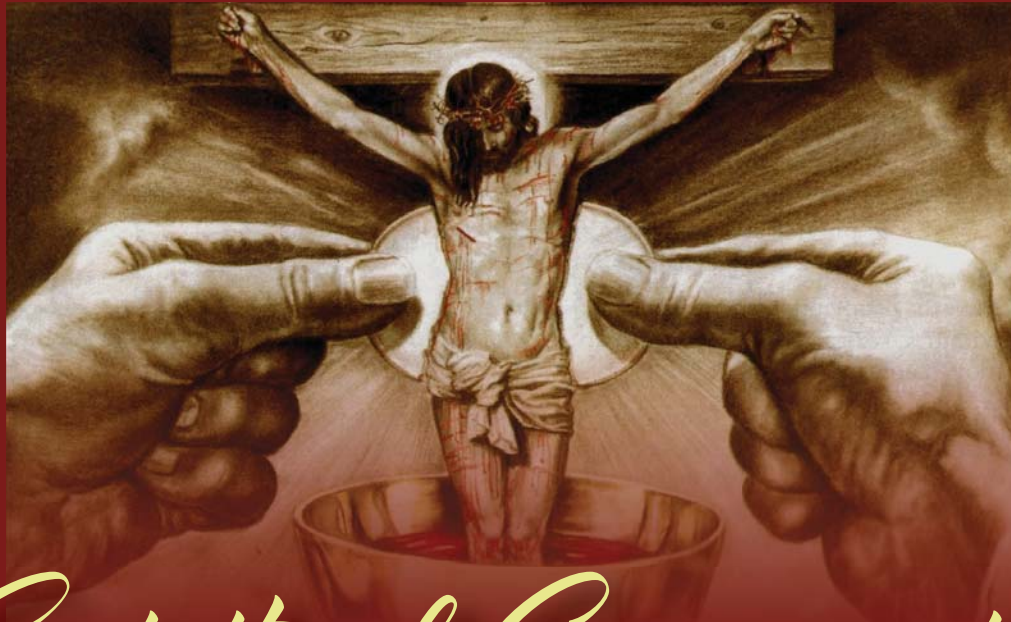
Have you been married outside the Catholic Church and want to come home? *Welcome!* Let's meet to discuss having your marriage blessed by the Church! If an annulment is needed for a previous marriage, **Fr. Bert can help!** Pope Francis has made annulments a simpler and more healing process.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? **Everyone is welcome to join our family** in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). We are eager to meet with anyone who is inquiring about our faith. Call to learn more opportunities to discover or re-discover the Catholic Faith!

Your children are welcome here! Let us help you gift them the Truth and Love of Jesus Christ! Call us to learn about classes and clubs for K-12th grades. **Children with special needs are welcome!** *Registration is free;* all our classes are supported by free-will donations alone.

Would you like to be involved in a ministry? **Our parish family needs your talents and willing heart!** We need new Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers/greeters, and Altar Servers, to name a few! Most training is done individually so you can enjoy one-on-one time to learn and ask questions.

We want to welcome you home!
Come by our church office or call (661) 323-3108 ext 1.



Spiritual Communion

"Lord Jesus Christ, I ask to share in the fruits of the Holy and Living Sacrifice of the Eucharist, and offer it up as a gift to You, along with our pain and suffering, as we forgive all sinners, Our Lord and Our God!"

"What a source of grace there is in spiritual Communion! Practise it frequently and you'll have more presence of God and closer union with him in your life."

—*Saint Josemaria Escriva*

"I love so much a soul's desire to receive Me, that I hasten to it each time it summons Me by its yearnings."

—*Words of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque*

What is a Spiritual Communion?

In 2003, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in his encyclical Ecclesia de Eucharistia:

In the Eucharist, "unlike any other sacrament, the mystery [of communion] is so perfect that it brings us to the heights of every good thing: Here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and God joins himself to us in the most perfect union."

Precisely for this reason it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist.

This was the origin of the practice of "spiritual communion," which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life.

St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you" [*The Way of Perfection*, Ch. 35.].



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

PARISH & SCHOOL

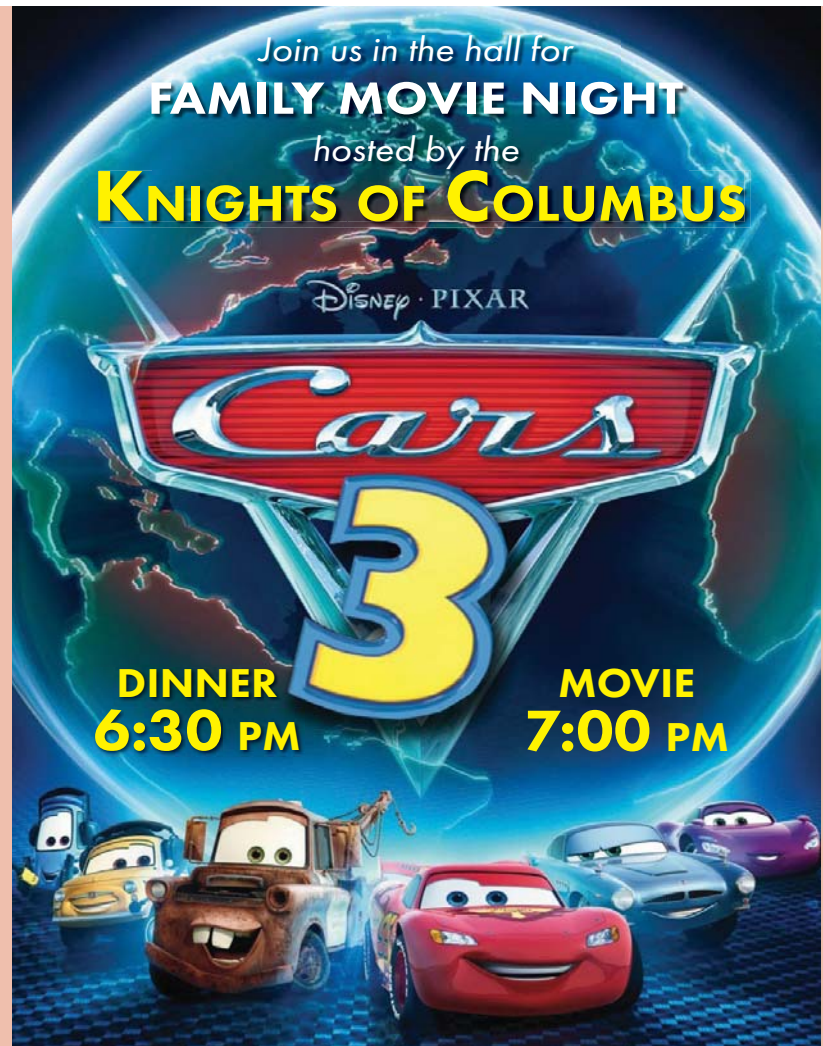
124 Columbus Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

661-323-3108

olphbakersfield.org

Parish and School Mission Statement:

To build the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ by preparing students and families spiritually, morally, and academically to love, serve, and grow as members of God's family



JANUARY 12, FRIDAY



A Family Meal

OF CATHOLIC TRADITION

Join your parish family for a FREE meal and film each Wednesday as we grow together in understanding and love of our rich Catholic tradition.

Join us in the hall every Wednesday beginning JANUARY 3RD!

FREE DINNER 5:00–5:30PM • FILM BEGINS AT 5:30PM

