



The Cathedral of  
**ST. EUGENE**

2323 Montgomery Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
(707) 542-6984

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector  
Rev. Alan Acevedo, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence  
Deacon Mike Heinzelman  
Deacon Gary Moore  
Deacon Russ Bowden

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:  
[cathedralresponse@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralresponse@gmail.com)

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	578-8848
School Office – Sharon Jeffrey	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	206-5579

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

### WEBSITES

Parish: [www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)  
School: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org)

### REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

### MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



### MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

### PERPETUAL ADORATION

**Perpetual Adoration** is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

**Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament** is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

### DEVOTIONS

**Recitation of the Rosary** is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

### CATHEDRAL SHOPS

**Cathedral Thrift Shop** Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

**Cathedral Books & Gifts** Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 12, 2021

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm  
RCIA & RCIF – Becker Center and School -10:30 am

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 13

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am  
PSR – School – 3:45 pm  
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
School Mass – Cathedral – 9:20 am

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 16

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 17

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 18

Rorate Mass – Cathedral – 5:00 a.m.  
Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am  
Confession - Cathedral -3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Mass – Cathedral -4:30 pm; 6:30 pm (Spanish)

#### ~MSGR. BECKER CENTER UPGRADES~

Recently, we were notified by the County Health Department that the flooring in the kitchen of the Msgr. Becker Center needs to be replaced. The Finance Council, as well as the Parish Council, have also recommended that we do much needed upgrades to the kitchen and bathrooms, for they are also in poor condition. To take care of all of these upgrades, we will need to raise approximately \$100,000 (the kitchen floor alone will cost upwards of \$20,000.) The Becker Center is used for a multitude of parish activities. For example: school lunches, fundraisers and social activities for the Knights of Columbus, the Italian Catholic Federation, ceremonies, etc. As your pastor, I am asking for your consideration in making a **year-end, tax deductible donation** to help the parish complete this work. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of this endeavor! – Fr. Epperson

The bulletin item deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. E-mail items to: [office@steugenes.com](mailto:office@steugenes.com)

### Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### For the Week of: 11/28/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$14,229.
Collection Revenue Received for: Thanksgiving Day	\$3,417.

#### ~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

December is the month of the Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of the Lord. It is also the month in which we celebrate the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (on December 12<sup>th</sup>)! In honor of this day, everything in the store related to Our Lady of Guadalupe will be 25% off. The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at 542-0250.

#### ~LOOKING FOR LECTORS~

We are in need of Lectors who can read at our Sunday Masses, most particularly, the 5:30 p.m. Mass. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Tony Nelson at: [opsmanager@steugenes.com](mailto:opsmanager@steugenes.com) for information about signing up and undergoing a brief training session.

#### ~KRINGLES CHRISTMAS TREE REBATES~

Buy your tree at Kringle's Korner Christmas Trees at the Luther Burbank Center and earn a 15% rebate for St. Eugene's. To get the 15% rebate, just tell your sales clerk that you are from St. Eugene's and want to participate in the rebate program.

#### SECOND COLLECTION

#### ~RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS~

This weekend, December 11 & 12, the Second Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The Second Collection next weekend, December 18 & 19, will be for our Tuition Assistance Program. As always, thank you for your generosity!

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITY

#### ~EPIPHANY BREAKFAST~

Save the Date for the Knights of Columbus annual Epiphany Fundraiser Breakfast that will take place on Sunday, January 2, 2022, in the Becker Center, from 8am till noon. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate & orange juice. Kids can whack the piñata at 10:15 and 11:45am. Please join us!

#### ~JOB OPENING~

Cardinal Newman High School is looking for a Campus Ministry Coordinator. For more information, please contact: [bogel@cardinalnewman.org](mailto:bogel@cardinalnewman.org).

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
8:00 am	Farrell Franklin Crone, deceased
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 (Sp)	Jose Luis Ponce, living
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
5:00 am (Sp.)	Anita Garcia, deceased
7:30 am	Giampaoli & Tessier Families, living & deceased
9:00 am	William Avilla, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Sanchez-Barba Family, living & deceased
5:30 pm	Erin Johnson, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Gregory Ivovic, deceased
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
6:45 am	All Ancestors of Jose Landin
8:00 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 14</b>
6:45 am	Alfredo Jimenez Gomez, deceased
8:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Hart, deceased
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
6:45 am	Ramona Arroyo, deceased
8:00 am	Bernie Welchon, deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	Kitzia Leon Luna, deceased
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 16</b>
6:45 am	Rene Cornelis Autonius Gunnewegh, deceased
8:00 am	Paul Palanos, deceased
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 17</b>
6:45 am	Scott & Ann Webb, deceased
8:00 am	Krista Sarmiento, living
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 18</b>
5:00 a.m.	TBA
8:00 am	McShane & Stronge Families, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 pm (Sp.)	Pablo Fernandez, deceased

### ~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Cata-pang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales and Nick Sidjakov.

## SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

### ~RORATE MASS~

A Rorate Mass is a beautiful, ancient Advent custom, whereby Mass is celebrated, illuminated only by candlelight, usually before Dawn. The Mass is a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary and so is celebrated in white, rather than Advent purple. In a time before electricity, a pre-dawn Mass for the workers was celebrated entirely by candlelight. Come join us in the Mass of our ancestors on **Saturday, December 18, at 5:00 am.**

### ~BIBLE STUDY~

We will be starting an 8-week Bible study beginning on Wednesday, January 5th. The study will focus on how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan. The class will meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Hope Room (upstairs) of the Parish Life Center (PLC). All students are required to purchase a study guide at a cost of \$16.95 due by check on the first day of class. Please contact Steve for more information or to reserve a seat in the class. 707-292-0054.

### ~LITURGY Q&A~

*Why does the priest sometimes offer the Mass "ad orientem"? It seems like he's turning his back to the people!*  
(Part 3 of 3 )As mentioned last week, during the liturgy the priest offers the holy sacrifice to God on our behalf, and is the presider of the sacred banquet, just as Jesus was at the Last Supper. In addition, he is our spiritual leader; we follow him, like sheep follow after their shepherd. In order for sheep to journey safely to new pastures, the shepherd must look ahead for potential dangers as he leads the way toward the destination he knows will be best for them. He cannot be looking at his sheep at that point because he is responsible to focus on what's ahead to keep them safe on their journey. Likewise, as our leader in *ad orientem* worship, the priest faces God ('liturgical east'), prayerfully guiding us on the narrow road to our common destination of Heaven.

## RESPECT LIFE

### ~WALK FOR LIFE~

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2022 Walk for Life in San Francisco on **Saturday, January 22nd**. The Bus will leave St. Eugene's at 7:45am and drop us off at San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to SF Civic Center for the Annual Walk for Life Rally. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by The Walk for Life down Market St. at 1:30pm. We will board our bus at the end of The Walk around 3:30pm and we will arrive back at St. Eugene's around 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office on a first come/first serve basis. The cost is \$27. *All passengers are required to wear a mask while on the bus.*

# MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ~FROM THE PASTOR~

This week, I'd like to look at some themes from both the 2nd and the 3rd Sundays of Advent. The first theme is found in the Gospel of Luke 3:1-6 (2nd Sunday of Advent) where we hear John the Baptist preaching about a baptism of *repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. Then, in today's first and second readings, we see the theme of joy, which also happens to be the theme this "Gaudete" Sunday. (Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.) We will begin by reading about "remorse vs. repentance" for our sins and then we will read some saintly quotes regarding joy. We also just celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, so I would like to take a look at some Q&A on that topic as well as a good question about John the Baptist. Let's read on ...

## REMORSE & REPENTANCE

### ~LOOKING BACK/LOOKING FORWARD~

"Sorrow for sin has two aspects, two slants as it were, one backwards and one forward. Looking back, the penitent regrets and detests sin; looking forward, he determines to avoid it. Determination to avoid both sin and its occasions, in other words, firm purpose of amendment, is the crucial test of the reality of contrition. He who is determined to do his best to avoid sin, undoubtedly has true repentance, even though he may feel spiritually dry as a desert and as undevout as an iceberg. The proof of contrition is in the effective will to reform. It is all-important that there should be no misunderstanding about the true meaning of contrition; remorse must on no account be confused with repentance."

### ~FIRM PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT~

"The firm purpose of amendment is the most difficult act of the penitent. It is easy enough to have remorse for sin; in fact, unless our conscience has become completely atrophied, remorse is inevitable. It is not so easy to have effective repentance. St. Alphonsus says that most bad confessions are bad through lack of practical amendment; and authorities and citations to confirm his opinion could be multiplied."

### ~SUBTLETIES OF SELF-DECEIT~

"Owing to the subtleties of self-deceit, it is fatally easy to mistake remorse for repentance. A penitent says, for example: "I am sorry for my sin, but do not ask me to break off abruptly and completely from the occasion of sin. I could not bear to appear unkind to one who has been so good to me. I do not want to hurt his feelings." Such a soul, like Pilate, is trying to serve two masters and have it both ways, and that is certainly not effective repentance. Sometimes a penitent confesses theft. "When are you going to pay back the money?" asks the priest. "What are you going to do to get the money together?" The penitent has not thought of that; he has a vague intention of paying back at some uncertain date when he can do so without the slightest inconvenience, but the idea of doing anything practical here and now has not entered his head. That is not effective repentance either; in fact, such a confession is probably only a sop [balm] to conscience."

### ~IT IS NOT A CHARM~

"... [T] he Sacrament of Penance does not operate like a charm, and absolution touches only those sins for which we are truly sorry. It is possible to have a genuine general purpose of amendment against any and every sin, without an explicit purpose against each sin; but it is never wise to rely on such a general resolution, because, besides being in all probability ineffective, it does not enable us to discriminate surely between remorse and repentance. We should test our repentance by testing our resolution. "Am I willing to employ all the necessary means to avoid this sin, no matter what the cost?" --- that is the crucial test of repentance. If we are determined to avoid a certain sin, we shall inevitably, and as a natural consequence of our determination, consider how we are going to avoid it." For complete article

go to: [www.catholictradition.org/Christ/repentance.htm](http://www.catholictradition.org/Christ/repentance.htm) Excerpted from Pardon and Peace, by Alfred Wilson, CP.





## CATHOLIC Q&A

The questions below concern both questions about the Blessed Mother's Immaculate Conception and John the Baptist's birth without the stain of Original Sin.

**Q: I have heard that the dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was invented by the Church. Please explain.**

A: "Pope Pius IX officially defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in the year 1854. He did so with the understanding that this belief would help the Catholic faithful grow spiritually towards Christ. The belief that Mary was without sin was not "invented" as numerous people mistakenly think. Many are still under the false impression that the Immaculate Conception was not believed until the year 1854 when it was defined. What they fail to realize is that the belief itself has extremely strong roots in Church writings going well back into the 4th century." For example: . "*Mary, a virgin not only undefiled, but a virgin whom grace has made inviolate, free from every stain.*" - *St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-370 AD.*

**Q: Why did it take so long for the belief in the Immaculate Conception to come about? Why was it not defined right after Jesus' death? 1854 is a long time after Jesus!**

A: "Yes, 1854 is considered by most to be a long time after Jesus. However, most Christian beliefs, including the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the New Testament Books, took centuries before they were made *official* Christian beliefs. This does not mean that they were not true, but that they took time to define properly. The same goes for the Immaculate Conception. There were many early Church fathers who believed that Mary was sinless, but it was not the most important issue that needed to be addressed in the early years of the Church. For example, it was more important to discuss Jesus and His divinity than Mary's complete lack of sin. How could the Church teach about Mary's lack of sin if it had not yet come to certain conclusions about Jesus' divinity?"

Why Catholics Believe in the Immaculate Conception, by David M. Bristow [www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/apologetics/why-catholics-believe-in-the-immaculate-conception.html](http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/apologetics/why-catholics-believe-in-the-immaculate-conception.html)

Q: I was surprised to learn that Catholic tradition holds that a third person was born without Original Sin—John the Baptist! How can this be?

A: "There is a difference between St. John the Baptist's birth without Original Sin and that of the Blessed Mother. John, unlike Mary, was conceived with Original Sin; but three months before his birth (when he leapt in the woman of St. Elizabeth upon her encounter with the Virgin Mary and the unborn Jesus), was cleansed of it. Mary, having never been subject to Original Sin, was never exposed to the corrupting effects of Original Sin, which remain after Original Sin is forgiven. Those effects include a weakening of our will, a clouding of our intellect, and concupiscence—the tendency to indulge our desires rather than to subordinate them to the right operation of our reason. Those effects are why we still fall prey to sin even after our baptism, and the absence of those effects is why Mary could remain free from sin throughout her life. John the Baptist, however, was subject to Original Sin, even though he was cleansed of it before his birth. That cleansing placed him in the same position that we find ourselves after our baptism: freed from Original Sin, but still subject to its effects."

### ~THE SAINTS ON JOY~

"*A devout life, above all things, is a life that is sweet, happy and amiable.*" - *St. Francis de Sales*

"*The soul of the one who serves God always swims in joy, always keeps holiday, and is always in the mood for singing.*" - *St. John of the Cross*

"*Laugh and grow strong.*" - *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

"*The true way to advance in holy virtues, is to persevere in a holy cheerfulness.*" - *St. Philip Neri*

"*Charity and cheerfulness, or charity and humility, should be our motto.*" - *St. Philip Neri*

"*It is always springtime in the heart that loves God.*" - *St. John Vianney*

**MI FE CATOLICA**

~ DEL PASTOR ~

Esta semana, me gustaría ver algunos temas del segundo y tercer domingo de Adviento. El primer tema se encuentra en el Evangelio de Lucas 3:1-6 (segundo domingo de Adviento) donde escuchamos a Juan el Bautista predicar sobre un bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de los pecados. Luego, en la primera y segunda lectura de hoy, vea el tema de la alegría, que también es el tema de este Domingo "Gaudete". (Gaudete significa "regocijarse" en latín). Comenzaremos leyendo sobre "remordimiento contra arrepentimiento" por nuestros pecados y luego leeremos algunas citas santas sobre el gozo de la Encarnación. También acabamos de celebrar la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, así que me gustaría echar un vistazo a algunas preguntas y respuestas sobre ese tema, así como una buena pregunta sobre Juan el Bautista. Sigamos leyendo ...

**REMORDIMIENTO Y ARREPENTIMIENTO**

~MIRANDO ATRÁS/MIRANDO ADELANTE~

"El dolor por el pecado tiene dos aspectos, dos inclinaciones por así decirlo, una hacia atrás y otra hacia adelante. Mirando hacia atrás, el penitente lamenta y detesta el pecado; mirando hacia adelante, decide evitarlo. La determinación de evitar tanto el pecado como sus ocasiones, en otras palabras, el firme propósito de enmienda, es la prueba crucial de la realidad de la contrición. Aquel que está decidido a hacer todo lo posible para evitar el pecado, sin duda tiene un verdadero arrepentimiento, aunque pueda sentirse espiritualmente seco como un desierto y tan sin devoción como un hielo. La prueba de la contrición está en la voluntad efectiva de reformarse. Es de suma importancia que no haya ningún malentendido sobre el verdadero significado de la contrición; el remordimiento no debe confundirse en ningún caso con el arrepentimiento.

~ OBJETO FIRME DE ENMENDARSE ~

El firme propósito de enmienda es el acto más difícil del penitente. Es bastante fácil tener remordimiento por el pecado; de hecho, a menos que nuestra conciencia se haya atrofiado por completo, el remordimiento es inevitable. No es tan fácil tener un arrepentimiento efectivo.

San Alfonso dice que la mayoría de las malas confesiones son malas por falta de practicar la enmienda; y se podrían multiplicar autoridades y citas para confirmar su opinión.

~ SUTILES DEL AUTO-ENGAÑO ~

Debido a las sutilezas del autoengaño, es fatalmente fácil confundir el remordimiento con el arrepentimiento. Un penitente dice, por ejemplo: "Lo siento por mi pecado, pero no me pidas que me aparte abrupta y completamente de la ocasión del pecado. No podría soportar parecer cruel con alguien que ha sido tan bueno conmigo. No quiero herir sus sentimientos". Un alma así, como Pilato, está tratando de servir a dos amos y tener ambas cosas, y eso ciertamente no es un arrepentimiento efectivo. A veces, un penitente confiesa el robo. "¿Cuándo vas a devolver el dinero?" pregunta el sacerdote. "¿Qué vas a hacer para juntar el dinero?" El penitente no ha pensado en eso; tiene una vaga intención de devolver el dinero en una fecha incierta cuando pueda hacerlo sin el menor inconveniente, pero la idea de hacer algo práctico aquí y ahora no se le ha pasado por la cabeza. Eso tampoco es un arrepentimiento efectivo; de hecho, tal confesión es probablemente sólo un bálsamo para la conciencia.

~ NO ES UN ENCANTO ~

... [E] l Sacramento de la Penitencia no opera como un encanto, y la absolución toca solo aquellos pecados por los que realmente nos arrepentimos. Es posible tener un propósito general genuino de enmienda contra todos y cada uno de los pecados, sin un propósito explícito contra cada pecado; pero nunca es prudente confiar en una resolución tan general, porque, además de ser probablemente ineficaz, no nos permite distinguir con seguridad entre el remordimiento y el arrepentimiento. Debemos probar nuestro arrepentimiento probando nuestra resolución. "¿Estoy dispuesto a emplear todos los medios necesarios para evitar este pecado, sin importar el costo?" --- esa es la prueba crucial del arrepentimiento. Si estamos decididos a evitar cierto pecado, inevitablemente, y como consecuencia natural de nuestra determinación, consideraremos cómo vamos a evitarlo". Para ver el artículo completo, visite: [www.catholictradition.org/Christ/repentance.htm](http://www.catholictradition.org/Christ/repentance.htm) Extraído de Pardon and Peace, por Alfred Wilson, CP.

## REPUESTAS Y PREGUNTAS CATOLICAS

Las preguntas a continuación se refieren tanto a las preguntas sobre la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Madre como al nacimiento de Juan el Bautista sin la mancha del Pecado Original.

**P: Escuché que la idea de María concebida sin pecado fue inventada por la Iglesia. Por favor explique.**

**R:** El Papa Pío IX definió oficialmente la doctrina de la Inmaculada Concepción en el año 1854. Lo hizo con el entendimiento de que esta creencia ayudaría a los fieles católicos a crecer espiritualmente hacia Cristo. La creencia de que María no tenía pecado no fue "inventada" como muchas personas piensan erróneamente. Muchos todavía tienen la falsa impresión de que la Inmaculada Concepción no se creyó hasta el año 1854 cuando fue definida. Lo que no se dan cuenta es que la creencia en sí tiene raíces extremadamente fuertes en los escritos de la Iglesia que se remontan al siglo IV. Por ejemplo: "María, virgen no sólo sin mancha, sino virgen a quien la gracia ha hecho inviolable, libre de toda mancha". - San Ambrosio de Milán, 340-370 d.c.

**P: ¿Por qué tomó tanto tiempo para que surgiera la creencia en la Inmaculada Concepción? ¿Por qué no se definió inmediatamente después de la muerte de Jesús?**

**R:** Sí, la mayoría considera que 1854 fue mucho tiempo después de Jesús. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las creencias Cristianas, incluida la Trinidad, la Encarnación y los Libros del Nuevo Testamento, tardaron siglos en convertirse en creencias Cristianas *oficiales*. Esto no significa que no fueran ciertos, sino que se tomaron el tiempo para definirlos correctamente. Lo mismo ocurre con la Inmaculada Concepción. Hubo muchos padres de la Iglesia primitiva que creían que María no tenía pecado, pero no era el tema más importante que debía abordarse en los primeros años de la Iglesia. Por ejemplo, era más importante hablar de Jesús y su divinidad que la completa falta de pecado de María. ¿Cómo podría la Iglesia enseñar sobre la falta de pecado de María si aún no hubiera llegado a ciertas conclusiones sobre la divinidad de Jesús?

**P: Me sorprendió saber que la tradición católica sostiene que una tercera persona nació sin el pecado original: ¡Juan el Bautista! ¿Cómo puede ser esto?**

**R:** Hay una diferencia entre el nacimiento de San Juan Bautista sin pecado original y el de la Santísima Madre. Juan, a diferencia de María, fue concebido con →

en pecado original; pero tres meses antes de su nacimiento (cuando saltó sobre la mujer de Santa Isabel tras su encuentro con la Virgen María y el Jesús no nacido), se limpió de ella. María, que nunca ha estado sujeta al pecado original, nunca estuvo expuesta a los efectos corruptores del pecado original, que permanecen después de que el pecado original es perdonado. Esos efectos incluyen un debilitamiento de nuestra voluntad, un enturbiamiento de nuestro intelecto y concupiscencia: la tendencia a complacer nuestros deseos en lugar de subordinarlos al correcto funcionamiento de nuestra razón. Esos efectos son la razón por la que todavía somos víctimas del pecado incluso después de nuestro bautismo, y la ausencia de esos efectos es la razón por la que María pudo permanecer libre de pecado durante toda su vida. Juan el Bautista, sin embargo, estuvo sujeto al pecado original, aunque fue limpiado antes de su nacimiento. Esa limpieza lo colocó en la misma posición en la que nos encontramos después de nuestro bautismo: liberados del pecado original, pero aún sujetos a sus efectos.

### ~LOS SANTOS EN LA ENCARNACIÓN~

"Nuestro Salvador, amado mío, nació hoy: alegrémonos. Porque no hay lugar apropiado para la tristeza, cuando guardamos el cumpleaños de la Vida, que destruye el miedo a la mortalidad y nos trae el gozo de la eternidad prometida. A nadie se le impide compartir esta felicidad.

— San León el Grande

"Maestro de niños se convirtió él mismo en niño entre los niños, para instruir a los insensatos. El pan del cielo bajó a la tierra para alimentar a los hambrientos".

— Cirilo de Jerusalén

"El hacedor del hombre fue hecho hombre para que Él, Gobernara las estrellas, pudiera amamantar del pecho de Su madre; para tener hambre del Pan, la Fuente tenga sed, la Luz duerma, el Camino se canse en su camino; que la Verdad sea acusada de falsos testigos, que el Maestro sea azotado con látigos, la Fundación sea suspendida sobre madera; para que la fuerza se debilite; que el Sanador pudiera resultar herido; para que la vida muera".

-- San Agustín de Hipona

### ~SE NECESITAN ADORADORES~

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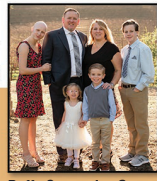


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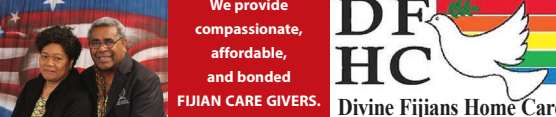
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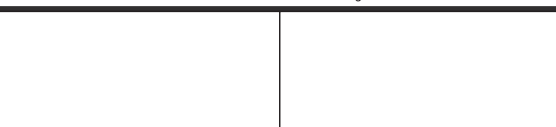
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