

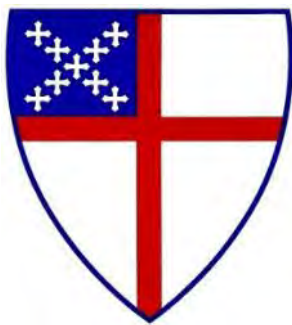


# THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

*St. Clement's by-the-Sea*  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**Member, Anglican  
Communion  
PARISH MISSION:**

*Follow Christ through the  
way we live and love,  
spreading the good news  
of God in Christ, opening  
our hearts to all, and  
experience and spread  
joy in the process.*



**"This Church of  
Ours is Open To  
All...There Will  
Be No Outcasts."**

-The Most Rev. Edmund  
Browning Emeritus  
Presiding Bishop



## Nicholas...

For the December/January edition of the *Anchor Newsletter*, I typically write a reflection on the three seasons of the Church that we encounter during these months, namely: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. However, I'm carrying around a little joy in my heart these days as we approach the feast day of St. Nicholas, and I felt the need to once again share a word about him. Because, you see, I'm still amazed at how few people realize that "old Saint Nick" was an actual person. I've spoken to you about him a few times over the years, so you certainly know, don't you? But, here's a little refresher in case some of his story has slipped your memory.



Saint Nicholas is better known as "Santa Claus," of course, but the historical Nicholas (c.270-343) was an actual saint of the Church and was bishop of Myra (a town in modern-day Turkey) in the fourth century. Often on his feast day, my wife will drop off cookies at our neighbors' houses and include with them three small bags of those gold foil covered coins that have chocolate inside. While the neighbors always like the cookies (who wouldn't), they often are perplexed by the gold coins. That's because they may never have heard the story of St. Nicholas and so don't know of the coins' significance.

As you might imagine, I'm only too happy to share the story of one of beloved saints! The most famous of those stories goes something like this. There was a man who had been blessed with three daughters. But he was a poor man, and in those days a dowry was required when it was time for a young lady to marry. The prospects for any woman who could not marry, in those days, were bleak, indeed heartbreaking. The man did not know what to do, for he was also a proud man, too proud to ask for help and he would not accept charity from anyone.

As the oldest of his daughters reached marrying age, the man despaired. What would become of his beloved daughter, as he was aware that he could not provide what was needed for her. Our good saint also knew of their plight, for they were a faithful family as well. And on passing by the house one evening, well after dark, Nicholas tossed a small bag of gold coins through an open window to provide for the young lady's dowry. She was rescued from what would have been a miserable fate and could eventually wed.

...Continued on next page

Everyone rejoiced at this miracle, but the father, though elated was also suspicious. Remember he was a proud man. Time passed and life continued, until the second daughter reached the age to marry, and the man again began to worry. “How,” he wondered, would he provide for this beloved daughter? He’d never be able to do so, given his limited means. One night, after dark, again came the good saint, who throw another bag of gold coins through an open window. The family was saved and the girl could marry.

But, this time the father was a bit indignant. “A miracle once perhaps,” thought the father, “but twice?” He wasn’t one to take anyone’s charity, even if it was for a good reason. When the third daughter came of age, the father was on the lookout. He watched every night through the window at the passersby and stayed awake. He was too proud. But, our enterprising saint outsmarted him, climbing up the chimney at the end of the house and onto the rooftop, he dropped the bag of gold down through the chimney, where it fell right into the youngest daughter’s stocking that had been hung there to dry in front of the fire.<sup>1</sup>

She found it in the morning and was delighted to tell her father of the third miracle, that saved her from a life of destitution and hardship. The father, who had stayed awake to watch had to acknowledge that he had no idea from whence that saving grace had come. And so had to rejoice with all his daughters at the blessings they had received. And so, to this day, we remember Nicholas and those three bags of gold coins, which we sometimes find in our stockings that we hang in front of our fireplaces.

Nicholas becomes famous for his kindness toward children and his anonymous gift-giving (illustrated in the story above), from which we get the tradition of children getting presents “from Santa Claus.”<sup>2</sup> As with other popular saints, many stories arise about Nicholas. Some say that he saved the people of Myra from starvation during a famine. Others say that Nicholas successfully negotiated with the emperor to lower taxes on the people who were struggling to meet them. They also say he preached the gospel in a way that ordinary folk could understand it easily, and that he helped the poor and any who were in need,<sup>2</sup> which is truly saintly, isn’t it?

Nicholas has something in common with our patron, Clement, as both are saints of seafarers. England, a great seafaring nation, had at one point some 400 churches named for Nicholas.<sup>3</sup> But it is Dutch actually who bring the name “Sinterklaas,” or “Santa Claus” to the New World. Nicholas is often depicted wearing his bishop’s attire, in his case, red with white trim, and with a white beard, showing both his age and wisdom. It doesn’t take much imagination to see how these evolved into the big red coat and stocking hat that we see today. And, I’m guessing the Dutch were already representing him in winter attire (December 6th being rather cold in the Netherlands).

I’m not sure when Nicholas migrated from sunny Myra to the North Pole. But some things still harken us back to Nicholas’ true roots; the candy cane, for example, which is shaped to resemble a bishop’s staff. Surely, Clement Clarke Moore’s poem, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, has a lot to do with how we imagine “Saint Claus” today, arriving by a flying sleigh, led by Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. But note that the sleigh lands on the rooftop, and that Santa brings his gifts down through the chimney, which has some resonances with that famous story of Nicholas above.

We do know the actual Nicholas was for a time imprisoned for his faith, under Emperor Diocletian, and that he had been subsequently freed when Constantine ascended to the throne. We know he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And that he may have been present at the Council of Nicaea. We know also that Nicholas is a patron saint of several countries, including most famously Greece. In the late eleventh century most of Nicholas’ relics were taken from Turkey to Bari, Italy, where they are still revered. But, beyond this, not much is known.

Well, I know that much of this was familiar to some of you, but perhaps you learned one or two new things about this ever-popular saint. Thank you for indulging my joy as I reflect upon his life again.

And remember that if a young person ask you if Santa Claus really does exists, you can respond with all honesty, "old Saint Nicholas, he certainly does!"

As always, I welcome your feedback: [frpatrick@scbythesea.org](mailto:frpatrick@scbythesea.org)

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Patrick

<sup>1</sup> See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Nicholas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/bishop-of-myra/>

<sup>3</sup> *Holy Women, Holy Men*, (New York: Church Publishing, 2010), Pg. 104

*Save the Date! Third  
Sunday of Advent*

December 12, 2021 - 10am

VIRGEN DE  
GUADALUPE  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe FEAST DAY*

*8AM Service as usual*



Join us for a combined bilingual service in celebration of Mary, as we mark the Virgin of Guadalupe feast day. A delicious lunch of tamales will be provided and Mariachis to serenade us!

*Únannos para una misa bilingüe en celebración de María, mientras celebramos el día de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Tendremos una fiesta después de la misa con un almuerzo delicioso y música por Mariachis. ¡Todos están invitados!*

ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

# ANNUAL MEETING 2022

**Sunday, January 30th**

Combined service at 9:00am  
Followed by brunch in the Parish Hall  
and the 2022 Annual Meeting

**All reports are due January 15th.**

*Every*   
 **Perfect**  
*Gift*



The sign up poster will be available at coffee hour, along with envelopes for the donation and dedication information. You may also call or drop by the office to sign up. Donations can be dropped in the drop box, mailed, or use the QR code in the Sunday bulletin and indicate "Sunday Flowers". Please contact Katrina Soto with any questions.

# Covenant Groups

## Grow in your faith and care for one another



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent we will celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of St. Clement's by the Sea Covenant Groups. Those of us who participate have found our weekly time together an immense blessing. **Please pray** about joining one of the current groups, so you also may experience the joy of fellowship, faith growth and care.

Currently, we have around 25 participants. If you attended our Ministry Fair, you may have read some of the comments listed below:

*Experience support and compassion through the pandemic*

*See faith through other's experience*

*Understand the weekly scripture better*

*Make new friends and find deeper connections*

*And so much more.....*

Currently, three groups meet weekly via Zoom, and one in person. Each group has a facilitator (info listed below). We spend time sharing our lives with each other. Using prepared questions, we discuss the upcoming lectionary Gospel reading, and then close with prayer requests and prayer. As God brings in more people, we are ready to increase the number of groups (either in person or by zoom).

**ALL GROUPS ARE OPEN TO NEW PEOPLE.**

**For more information or the Zoom link to join in, contact:**

**WOMEN:** Mondays, 7 p.m. Contact Laura Casellas: [Laura.casellas@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura.casellas@yahoo.com) (203)451-7598

**WOMEN:** Thursdays, **in person**, 11 a.m. Contact Hilary Viscount: [hviscount@gmail.com](mailto:hviscount@gmail.com) (714) 932-2210

**MEN:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Contact Beto Casellas: [betolaura@mac.com](mailto:betolaura@mac.com) (704)661-6994





## ST. CLEMENT'S CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

This Christmas, because of your generous pledges and contributions throughout the year, St. Clement's has funds in our outreach budget to help others for Christmas. At the November Vestry meeting, the Vestry voted to help these charity organizations with their projects to help those in need. Below is a summary of our Christmas outreach projects.

### **MIRY'S LIST**

This is an organization that has helped over 500 refugee families extending out from the LA area over the past 5 years with starting their new lives in America. As you can imagine, during the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, demand has more than doubled in the past few months. Many of these families have worked with our military operations in Afghanistan. The donations cover essential supplies on arrival, like baby supplies, mattresses, clothing, school supplies, car seats and cell phones to families who have arrived here with basically nothing. Their programs provide hope and support where there is unimaginable hardship and need. Many more families are resettling in Southern California in 2022.

Our parishioner, Laura Casellas, is an ESL instructor with Miry's List and has been volunteering with them for the past year tutoring 2 Afghan refugees with their English skills to increase their participation in the community and workforce as they rebuild their lives here in California. Laura is selecting a family for St. Clement's to assist with much needed items for their home and family. You can find out more about this organization at <https://miryslist.org/>

### **SAN CLEMENTE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

Every year, organizations in San Clemente reach out to the San Clemente Boys and Girls Club to assist with their annual Christmas gifts for the children who are enrolled in the Boys & Girls club. At the time we reached out to them to assess their needs for the children for this Christmas, they had 134 children with sponsors, but 15 plus children were lacking sponsorships. The Boys and Girls Club suggested we purchase twenty (20) \$25 Target Gift Cards for these children. You can find out more about this organization at <https://www.bgcscsca.org>

### **SAN CLEMENTE MILITARY FAMILY OUTREACH (SCMFO) THANK-A-FAMILY**

Every year SCMFO selects families in need on base who have limited funds to provide a Christmas for their families. The individuals and organizations wanting to adopt a family work with the chairman of this program on the SCMFO board to select an identified family. Reasonable "wish lists" are received from the families for items to select to purchase, or gift cards can be purchased for the parents to purchase the needed items for their children's Christmas. St. Clement's will be adopting a family with three children, ages 8, 3 and 2. You can find out more about this organization at <https://militaryfamilyoutreach.com>



SAN CLEMENTE MILITARY FAMILY  
OUTREACH (SCMFO)  
TOGETHER WITH  
MARY'S FEAST  
ARE HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL  
JANUARY 2022 BABY SHOWER

SCMFO is a ministry of St. Clement's. Members of our parish represent St. Clement's on the SCMFO Board of Directors and Volunteer Committee. Every year, SCMFO gives a baby shower for approximately 40 new or expectant mothers who receive complete layettes for their babies.

This year, as one of our Christmas outreach ministries, St. Clement's is participating in the baby shower by donating **new unwrapped baby gifts** appropriate for an infant or child up to 12 months of age.

Beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent on December 5, and extending until the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent on December 19<sup>th</sup>, a Christmas tree will be in the parish hall. On the tree will be tags labeled with baby items the military families need. If you would like to participate in this outreach ministry, please select a tag from the tree for a baby shower item(s) you would like to purchase.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we can bring much needed and appreciated baby items to the under-resourced Marine families in need via the San Clemente Marine Family Outreach annual baby shower.

***Where to bring your new, unwrapped items;***

- *to the parish hall during coffee hour and place them in the in the basket by the tree*
- *to the church office prior to Christmas Eve where there will be a basket to place your donation.*
- *If you donate a gift card, place it in an envelope with "baby shower" written on the envelope and drop it in the mail slot next to the door of the parish office.*
- *If you have any questions, please contact Jayne Lane at 774.722.4644 or [JayneLane05@hotmail.com](mailto:JayneLane05@hotmail.com) or Tina Inglish at 949.285.9576 or [ringlish@cox.net](mailto:ringlish@cox.net)*

## *Hanging of the Greens*



Wednesday,  
December 22nd

5:00pm

Save the Date...

St. Clement's invites you to get into  
the holiday spirit by helping us  
transform the church for Christmas.

*All are welcome!*

*There will be a chili and cornbread dinner served for all of those helping.*

---



ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

## *Christmas Services*

### **Christmas Eve - December 24th**

4:00 pm - Children's Program & Family  
Eucharist

7:00 pm - Misa de Nochebuena (Spanish)

9:30 pm - Carol Sing-A-Long

10:00 pm - Candlelight Service, with  
Choir, Organ & Harp

### **Christmas Day - December 25th**

10:00 am - Christmas Day Service

### **December 26th**

10:00 am - Lessons & Carols

12:00 pm - Lecciones y Canciones



St. Clement's children are preparing for the 2021 Annual Christmas Pageant which will be on December 24th at the 4:00 Christmas Eve Service. We will be practicing a bit during Advent in Sunday School, however practice is not required for most parts. So, if you have any children visiting on Christmas Eve, and they would like to be included in the Pageant, they are welcome to participate. Please arrive at 3:15 and go to the Sunday School room.

If you know in advance that you have someone that wants to join in, please let me know so that I can make sure we have plenty of costumes. Walk-ins will be either angels or shepherds.

Thank you and Happy Advent Season!

Laurie Baxter

Lbaxter1222@yahoo.com

(630) 674-3732 text or call



## Sunday School Announcement:

There will be no Sunday School class on Sunday December 26, 2021.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

A Wintertime Anchors Dinner  
hosted by Judy Johnson at her home  
Friday, February 11 @ 5pm.  
*More details in early 2022.*





## Social Justice Book Club

Thursday, January 20 at 7pm (on zoom)

Our book group will continue the journey of reading and discussing how to navigate difficult conversations around sensitive topics. We are exploring ways to positively engage with rather than just avoid people whose core values or beliefs are different than our own. We have notes to share from our first discussion about this topic which we can provide for background.

Please read through Chapter 4 of: **Let's Talk About Hard Things**  
by Anna Sale

Contact Laura Casellas, [laura.casellas@yahoo.com](mailto:laura.casellas@yahoo.com) or  
Francis Viscount, [fviscount@gmail.com](mailto:fviscount@gmail.com) for the zoom link.



Join us on Wednesday's at 11am for our weekly Bible Study. We presently meet by Zoom. You need not be a biblical scholar to participate. Just come with a desire to learn more. We will not meet on Dec. 29th.

Here is the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?  
pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YRolkNFdPQmxqdzo9)

Meeting ID: 847 6555 1451  
Passcode: 823922



## Vestry Meetings

**Tuesday, December 15th &**

**January 19th**

**7:00 pm**

**Currently meeting via Zoom.**

## - Dec. Birthdays - Jan. Birthdays -

1-Colin Casey	19-Susie Spencer	5-Mary Miranda	18-Tom Card
2-Jose Carrillo	22-Iridiana Farias	11-Barbara Fox	23-Katie Baxter
7-Don Morgan	25-Rocco Carbonara	13-Roland Daigle	
7-Georgina Williams	25-Julia Darden-Lentz	15-Gerry Beegan	
8-Will Wallett	27-Isabel Grigg	16-Patty Clarke	
13-Joe Silva	28-Claus Beneker		
16-Ken Hite	30-Andrea Morris		
19-Leticia DeLeon			

## - Dec. Anniversaries - Jan. Anniversaries -

27-Larry & Pat Sawyer

25-Kevin & Michelle Higgins



Holiday shopping is upon us , please consider Amazon Smile when making your purchases.

Amazon Smile will donate to St. Clement's, if you have selected us as your charitable institution.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bless others, the church, and her mission.



St. Clement's parishioners love socializing after services at Coffee Hour!

We need more volunteers to host our 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Coffee Hours!

Pick a date to host on the website Sign Up Genius!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5ae2ba5f85-coffee>

# *St. Clement's by-the-Sea* EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## **San Clemente's First Church**

*Welcoming all since 1929*



### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8am Sunday: Holy Communion Rite II (spoken)  
9am Sunday: Holy Communion Rite II (with choir)  
12 pm Sunday: La Misa en Español

*as well as streaming on YouTube channel*

202 Avenida Aragon  
San Clemente, CA 92672

### **OFFICE HOURS**

**Vary during these times.**

Phone: 949.492.3401

E-mail: [info@scbythesea.org](mailto:info@scbythesea.org)

Website: [www.scbythesea.org](http://www.scbythesea.org)

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector