



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Balasunder, 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

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	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.steugenec.com
School: 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.

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



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.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 7:25 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 4, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00,
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA – PLC – 10:30 am
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 5

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

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm
Adult Bible Study – PLC – 7:00 pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLY DAY
Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
School Mass – Cathedral – 9:20 am
Golden Opportunities Luncheon – PLC – 11:30 am
Latin Mass – Cathedral 5:30 pm; Bi-Lingual Mass – 7:00 pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral – 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm &
6:30 pm (Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

~ NO SECOND COLLECTION ~

This weekend, December 3 & 4 there is no Second Collection. *A collection will be taken on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.* Next weekend, December 10 & 11, the Second Collection will be for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. See box below for more info about this collection.

~ RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS ~

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests received very little pay. As a result, hundreds of US religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. Also, sadly, there are far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. Your generosity is thus greatly appreciated!

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of 11/20/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$11,819.
<i>Second Collection: No Second Collection</i>	

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

Christmas is a time for gifts, celebration, and joy! To celebrate this special season, our store is having TWO specials of the month: all books (excluding used books and those marked 40% off) are 25% off, and all statues (including Nativity sets) are 25% off! It's not too early to start doing your Christmas shopping! (Also, we have a great Spanish-language section!) 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.

~ PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT ~

The Parish Annual Financial report for last Fiscal Year, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, is available in the parish office to registered parishioners. If you would like a copy, please stop by and pick one up or send an email request to office@steugen.com. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

~ 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. Green rebate cards are in the vestibules. Turn in the card to Kringle's when you buy your tree. If you don't have a card or forget to take a card with you, just tell your sales clerk that you are from St. Eugene's and want to participate in the rebate program. The parish uses the rebates to help offset the cost of church Christmas greenery.

~ ADVENT WITH OUR LADY ~

All women are invited to join "Women of the Word" this Tuesday, December 6, from 9-11:00 am in the Parish Life Center for a special brunch. We are honored to also have a special program presented by the Marian Sisters. Please join us!

~ FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES ~

For those not receiving the Christmas mailing, you will find Christmas Flower donation memorial envelopes in the vestibules. **The deadline for loved ones names to be published in the Christmas bulletin is Tuesday, December 13, by 12:00 noon.** Return your envelopes either to the collection plate by Sunday, Dec. 11th, or to the Parish Office by Dec. 13th. Names from envelopes received after this will be published in subsequent bulletins after Christmas.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 3
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for the offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living & deceased members of the Russell & Rinaldi Families.
4:30 pm	Scott & Ann Webb, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Gabriel Olvera, living
Sunday	December 4
7:30 am	Dustin & Jared Marson, deceased
9:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Emmelia Zoe Rhine, living
5:30 pm	Frank & Norma Fitzpatrick, deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Barbara Wold, living
Monday	December 5
6:45 am	Familia Jimenez-Garcia, living
8:00 am	Mike Jessup, Edwin Carrol, deceased and all Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	December 6
6:45 am	Dorothy Joan Prowse, deceased
8:00 am	Narcisa & Manuel Lastimosa, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Kelly McGuire, living
Wednesday	December 7
6:45 am	Edna Griffith, living
8:00 am	Romeo, Elsbeth Girogi & Valerie Maramonte, deceased
Thursday	December 8 – Holy Day of Obligation
6:45 am	Joseph Womack, deceased
8:00 am	Salvador Barba Velasquez, deceased
9:20 am (School)	Robles Family, living
5:30 pm (Latin)	Andrew Robles, living
7:00 pm (Bi-Lingual)	For all Unborn Babies
Friday	December 9
6:45 am	David Bjornstrom, living
8:00 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Lisa Tran, living
Saturday	December 10
8:00 am	Walter Cotton, deceased
4:30 pm	Irene Forkner, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Deceased members of Legion of Mary

The bulletin submission deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. We reserve the right to edit or omit items. E-mail items to: office@steugenes.com.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION~

This Thursday, December 8th, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church teaches that from the very moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of Original Sin. This means that from the beginning, she was in a state of grace, sharing in God's own life, and that she was free from the sinful inclinations which have beset human nature after the fall. Please see the *Parish Calendar section of the bulletin for Mass times*.

~PRIESTLY ORDINATION~

Next Monday, December 12, at 11:00 am, His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa, will ordain Deacon Gabriel Sanchez-Navarro to the Holy Priesthood here at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. The ordination will be followed by a reception in the Msgr. Becker Center. Because December 12 is also the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr. Sanchez-Navarro will be offering a Spanish Mass (his first Mass) at 4:30 pm on this same day. There will be a reception in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe immediately following Mass in the Msgr. Becker Center.

~RORATE MASS~

A Rorate Mass is a beautiful, ancient Advent custom, whereby Mass is celebrated, illuminated only by candlelight, usually before Dawn. Come join us in the Mass of our ancestors on Saturday, December 17, at 5:30 am.

~EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL RETREAT~

A Eucharistic Revival Retreat entitled, "Jesus, Light of the World," will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Mendocino from December 27 - January 1. For more information about the retreat, please text or call Fr. Robert at 936-203-0572. Accommodations will be at The Hill House Inn, which runs about \$120 per room/per night—Call them at, 707-937-0554 to reserve a room.

IN MEMORIAM

†Fr. Bruce Lamb†

Please remember Fr. Bruce Lamb and his family and friends in your prayers. He passed away on 11-14-22. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. " *May he rest in peace.*

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, 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, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Margaret Keifer, Joan Cosgrove and Denise Ealy.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Today we will look at two things: First, our first reading from Isaiah 11 which talks about “the stump of Jesse.” Who, you may ask, was Jesse? Jesse was the father of King David, from whose lineage Jesus comes. Your second question might be: “Why is this phrase of interest?” To that, I say, read the article below! Second, as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, let’s read a bit more about the singular gift of God of being conceived without Original sin that was given to our Blessed Mother.

THE STUMP OF JESSE

~A FIERCE ARRIVAL OF JUDGEMENT~

“Every year during Advent, we hear about the “stump of Jesse” and the lion laying down with the lamb, but what does all of this mean? It is easy for biblical prophecies to sound like nice religious language with poetic flourish, but little meat on the bones. However, prophecies like this one from Isaiah 11 are essential our understanding of who Jesus is and what kind of victory he wins by his coming into the world. He is not just a nice religious teacher, but the king who brings justice for the poor and strikes the wicked with “the rod of his mouth.” His coming is a fierce arrival of judgment and the blossoming of a new era of hope and salvation. He conquers injustice and brings us into an age of perfect peace.”

~A SHOOT FROM A STUMP~

We have a lot more to look forward to at Christmas than a bunch of presents under the tree. The Baby of Bethlehem is not just cute and cuddly, but he comes to establish his reign over the universe, and most especially in our very hearts. Isaiah 11 offers us another glimpse into what the reign of this coming Messiah will look like—how it can and will transform us from the inside out if only we open our hearts to the child in the manger. The prophecy begins with a botanical reference—a shoot sprouting from a stump. This image comes from the cultivation of olive trees, an image also referred to in Psalm 128:3, which pictures sons as olive shoots around the table of their father. The basic idea is that old olive trees cease producing fruit from the

main trunk, instead sprouting fruit-bearing shoots from the base of the stump, which grow up around the fruitless central trunk. One olive trunk could have three, four, or more mature shoots spring up around it, like “sons” around their “father’s” table. The “stump” is not necessarily cut down, just unfruitful. Here in Isaiah 11, the messianic king is pictured as a shoot and Jesse (David’s father) as the stump. This is significant, in that Isaiah is inviting us to see the Messiah not as another one of David’s heirs, who have failed to be faithful to the Lord, but as another David, a new son of Jesse. “

~GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT~

“The second verse mentions seven attributes of the Messiah, which the Church has adopted as the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (Catechism, 1831). These gifts are not just characteristics of Christ, but are given to the baptized as dynamisms which bring Christ-like virtues to completion in us. Notably, the translation of the last two elements in our NAB translation follows the Hebrew, which differs slightly from ancient Greek and Latin versions. In v. 2, where the Hebrew indicates “fear of the Lord,” the Greek has *eusebeia*, godliness, and the Latin similarly has *pietas*, piety. In v. 3, where the Hebrew begins a new idea about the Messiah’s “delight” being in the fear of the Lord, the Greek and Latin continue the series of attributes, saying he will be “filled with” the fear of the Lord. The tradition of the Seven Gifts follows from the Greek and Latin versions.”

~JUDGEMENT & FIDELITY~

“The Messiah, like David (1 Sam 16:13), will have the spirit of the Lord. Also, the picture of an ideal messianic king recalls the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-9. In the passage at hand, the gifts of the Holy Spirit lay the groundwork for the messianic king’s just judgment. The three pairs of ideas in 11:2 (wisdom/understanding; counsel/strength; knowledge/fear of the Lord) are the foundation of messianic rule: right judgment, execution of judgment, and covenant loyalty. Isaiah highlights the messianic king’s covenant knowledge of God and his covenant loyalty displayed by his wisdom and obedience. Isaiah 11:3-4a emphasizes the idea that the Messiah will

hand out judgment impartially, so that even the poor and oppressed, who can't hire high-powered lawyers from big firms and therefore usually get the short end of the stick, will receive just and proper judgment. The second half of v. 4 indicates the power that the messianic king possesses, power to punish evil-doers and bring about justice for the oppressed. The Messiah does not just bring peace and flowers, but just judgment which sets things right. The "rod of his mouth" in v. 4 is like the sword in the mouth of the Messiah at the Second Coming (Rev 19:15), a symbol for his judgment. Isaiah 11:5 draws attention to the fidelity of the messianic king, his loyalty to God's covenant. Its picture of covenant loyalty as clothing reveals the closeness of loyalty – it is something that we wrap ourselves with, indicating its importance in our hearts. "

~PREDATORS & PREY~

"Isaiah 11:6-9 paints an idyllic scene, which depicts the reign of the Messiah through the behavior of animals. Once his reign is established, the carnivores will become herbivores; the predators and their prey will lie down peaceably together. It may seem that a bizarre turn has taken place: we were talking about the new David's just judgment and equitable rule and now we're in a James Herriott book, looking at the cute animals behaving in strange ways. But the point is more symbolic than literal. The predators (wolf, leopard, lion, bear, cobra, adder) symbolize the oppressors, and the prey (lamb, kid, child, calf, cow) symbolize the oppressed. Those who had been enemies will now be friends. The oppressors will be at peace with the oppressed. The alarming idea of a baby playing by a cobra's den reminds me of the climax of Rudyard Kipling's story, Rikki-Tikki-Tavi. In that tale, the cobra villain slithers up to a family's breakfast table and is poised to strike the baby – mom and dad are both paralyzed with fear, when all of the sudden the story's hero mongoose attacks the cobra and saves the baby's life. After the messianic king executes his judgment, an era of peace will be ushered in. Note that in v. 9, the prophet explains that the reason that peace will reign in "all my holy mountain" (Jerusalem) is because "knowledge of the Lord" will have spread to the whole world. The lesson is that covenantal knowledge of God brings about peace. Of course, this final peace has only begun to be brought about through the life and proclamation of Jesus, but will come to its lasting fulfillment at the final judgment. The last verse of our passage, Isaiah 11:10, depicts the "root of Jesse" as a

signal, standard, or rallying point for the nations. The Hebrew word for "root" is not the same as "stump" in 11:1, which indicates to me that 11:10 is talking about the shoot of 11:1, not the stump. The messianic shoot has become a point of in-gathering, both for the dispersed people of Israel and Judah (11:11-12) and for the Gentiles (11:10). This passage in Isaiah prophesies the just and wise reign of the messianic king, a new David who will judge the oppressors wisely and execute just judgment powerfully. He will be characterized by his covenantal loyalty to the Lord and his judgment will bring about an age of peace and ingathering. It is a baby who champions such a powerful peace that babies and cobras can live in harmony." Advent's Fierce Peace, by Dr. Mark Giszczak, <https://catholicexchange.com/advents-fierce-peace>

~THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION~

"The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is part of God's plan. Christ, who receives his human flesh from his mother, receives this flesh from a person who, by a singular gift from God, herself comes into this world without original sin. ... The Mother of God was an Immaculate Conception in a sin-filled world. Those whom she loved suffered from the effects of original sin and her exemption would not have made her cold and aloof, but would have quickened her to life with a deep compassion that would have cut into her heart. She would have been to this world a sign of contradiction, a stranger, someone who would have always been on the peripheries, deeply in love, but beset with grief at how much God's love is refused in a fallen world. Whatever we feel at the effects of the world's refusal to love, would have been intensified for Christ's mother. She would know, better than us, humanity's desperate need for a Savior and the consequences of our refusals of God would have been overwhelming, if not for the grace that she received in her relationship with her Divine Son. The Immaculate Conception does not mean that Christ's Mother did not need a Savior or that she somehow saved herself. In fact, it means the opposite. Christ saved her in an extraordinary way and gave her a holiness that she did not achieve for herself. He did this for her, for the sake of her mission- a mission that only she would bear. This gift of holiness is what the Immaculate Conception is all about." What the Immaculate Conception Means, by Fr. Steve Grunow, for entire article go to: <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/what-the-immaculate-conception-means/4584/>

MI FE CATOLICA

~DEL PASTOR~

~SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO~

Hoy veremos dos cosas: Primero, nuestra primera lectura de Isaías 11 que habla del "tronco de Jesé". ¿Quién, se preguntarán, era Jesé? Jesé era el padre del rey David, de cuyo linaje procede Jesús. Tu segunda pregunta podría ser: "¿Por qué es interesante esta frase?" A eso, le digo, ¡lea el artículo de abajo! En segundo lugar, al celebrar la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción, leamos un poco más sobre el singular don de Dios de ser concebida sin pecado original que se le dio a nuestra Santísima Madre.

EL TRONCO DE JESE

~UNA FERROZ LLEGADA DEL JUICIO~

Cada año, durante el Adviento, oímos hablar del "tronco de Jesé" y del león que se acuesta con el cordero, pero ¿qué significa todo esto? Es fácil que las profecías bíblicas suenen como un bonito lenguaje religioso con florituras poéticas, pero con poca carne en los huesos. Sin embargo, profecías como ésta de Isaías 11 son esenciales para comprender quién es Jesús y qué tipo de victoria obtiene con su venida al mundo. No es sólo un simpático maestro religioso, sino el rey que trae justicia para los pobres y golpea a los malvados con "la vara de su boca". Su venida es una llegada feroz del juicio y el florecimiento de una nueva era de esperanza y salvación. Él vence la injusticia y nos lleva a una era de paz perfecta. "

~UN BROTE DE UN TRONCO~

Tenemos mucho más que esperar en Navidad que un montón de regalos bajo el árbol. El Niño de Belén no es sólo lindo y adorable, sino que viene a establecer su reino sobre el universo, y muy especialmente en nuestros corazones. Isaías 11 nos ofrece otra visión de cómo será el reinado de este Mesías venidero: cómo puede transformarnos, y lo hará, de dentro a fuera, si abrimos nuestros corazones al niño del pesebre. La profecía comienza con una referencia botánica: un brote que brota de un tronco. Esta imagen proviene del cultivo de los olivos, una imagen a la que también se refiere el Salmo 128:3, que presenta a los hijos como brotes de olivo alrededor de la mesa de su padre. La idea básica es que los olivos viejos dejan de producir frutos desde el tronco principal, sino que brotan brotes fructíferos desde la base del tocón, →

que crecen alrededor del tronco central sin fruto. Un tronco de olivo puede tener tres, cuatro o más brotes maduros a su alrededor, como "hijos" alrededor de la mesa de su "padre". El "tronco" no está necesariamente cortado, sino que es infructuoso. Aquí, en Isaías 11, el rey mesiánico es representado como un brote y Jesé (el padre de David) como el tronco. Esto es significativo, ya que Isaías nos invita a ver al Mesías no como otro de los herederos de David, que no han sido fieles al Señor, sino como otro David, un nuevo hijo de Jesé. "

~DONES DEL ESPÍRITU~

"El segundo versículo menciona siete atributos del Mesías, que la Iglesia ha adoptado como los Siete Dones del Espíritu Santo: sabiduría, entendimiento, consejo, fortaleza, conocimiento, piedad y temor del Señor (Catecismo, 1831). Estos dones no son sólo características de Cristo, sino que se dan a los bautizados como dinamismos que llevan a cabo en nosotros las virtudes semejantes a las de Cristo. Cabe destacar que la traducción de los dos últimos elementos en nuestra traducción de la Nueva Biblia Americana sigue el hebreo, que difiere ligeramente de las antiguas versiones griegas y latinas. En el v. 2, donde el hebreo indica "temor del Señor", el griego tiene eusebeia, piedad, y el latín tiene pietas, piedad. En el v. 3, donde el hebreo inicia una nueva idea sobre el "deleite" del Mesías en el temor del Señor, el griego y el latín continúan la serie de atributos, diciendo que estará "lleno de" el temor del Señor. La tradición de los Siete Dones sigue de las versiones griega y latina".

~JUICIO Y FIDELIDAD~

"El Mesías, como David (1 Sam 16:13), tendrá el espíritu del Señor. Además, la imagen de un rey mesiánico ideal recuerda la profecía de Isaías 9:1-9. En el pasaje que nos ocupa, los dones del Espíritu Santo sientan las bases del justo juicio del rey mesiánico. Los tres pares de ideas de 11:2 (sabiduría/entendimiento; consejo/fuerza; conocimiento/temor del Señor) son el fundamento del gobierno mesiánico: juicio justo, ejecución del juicio y lealtad al pacto. Isaías subraya el conocimiento del pacto de Dios por parte del rey mesiánico y su lealtad al pacto demostrada por su sabiduría y obediencia. Isaías 11:3-4a subraya la idea de que el Mesías dictara →

sentencias de manera imparcial, de modo que incluso los pobres y los oprimidos, que no pueden contratar abogados de alto poder de las grandes firmas y, por lo tanto, generalmente obtienen el extremo corto del palo, reciban un juicio justo y adecuado. La segunda mitad del v. 4 indica el poder que posee el rey mesiánico, poder para castigar a los malhechores y hacer justicia a los oprimidos. El Mesías no sólo trae paz y flores, sino un juicio justo que arregla las cosas. La "vara de su boca" del v. 4 es como la espada en la boca del Mesías en la Segunda Venida (Ap 19,15), símbolo de su juicio. Isaías 11:5 llama la atención sobre la fidelidad del rey mesiánico, su lealtad a la alianza de Dios. Su imagen de la lealtad a la alianza como ropa revela la cercanía de la lealtad: es algo con lo que nos envolvemos, lo que indica su importancia en nuestros corazones. "

~DEPREDADORES Y PRESAS~

"Isaías 11:6-9 pinta una escena idílica, que describe el reinado del Mesías a través del comportamiento de los animales. Una vez establecido su reinado, los carnívoros se convertirán en herbívoros; los depredadores y sus presas se acostarán juntos en paz. Puede parecer que se ha producido un giro extraño: estábamos hablando del juicio justo y el gobierno equitativo del nuevo David y ahora estamos en un libro de James Herriott, viendo a los animales lindos comportándose de manera extraña. Pero la cuestión es más simbólica que literal. Los depredadores (lobo, leopardo, león, oso, cobra, víbora) simbolizan a los opresores, y las presas (cordero, cabrito, niño, ternero, vaca) a los oprimidos. Los que habían sido enemigos serán ahora amigos. Los opresores estarán en paz con los oprimidos. La alarmante idea de un bebé jugando junto a la guarida de una cobra me recuerda el clímax del cuento de Rudyard Kipling, Rikki-Tikki-Tavi. En ese cuento, el villano de la cobra se desliza hasta la mesa del desayuno de una familia y está a punto de golpear al bebé; la madre y el padre están paralizados por el miedo, cuando de repente la mangosta héroe del cuento ataca a la cobra y salva la vida del bebé. Después de que el rey mesiánico ejecute su juicio, se iniciará una era de paz. Nótese que en el v. 9, el profeta explica que la razón por la que la paz reinará en "todo mi monte santo" (Jerusalén) es porque el "conocimiento del Señor" se habrá extendido a todo el mundo. La lección es que el conocimiento pactado de Dios trae consigo la paz. Por supuesto, esta paz final sólo ha comenzado a producirse a través de la vida y la proclamación de Jesús, pero llegará a su cumplimiento duradero en el juicio final. El último versículo de nuestro pasaje, Isaías 11:10, describe la "raíz de Jesús" como una señal, estandarte o punto de encuentro para las naciones.

La palabra hebrea para "raíz" no es la misma que "tronco" en 11:1, lo que me indica que 11:10 se refiere al brote de 11:1, no al tronco. El brote mesiánico se ha convertido en un punto de reunión, tanto para el pueblo disperso de Israel y Judá (11:11-12) como para los gentiles (11:10). Este pasaje de Isaías profetiza el reinado justo y sabio del rey mesiánico, un nuevo David que juzgará con sabiduría a los opresores y ejecutará con fuerza el juicio justo. Se caracterizará por su lealtad a la alianza con el Señor y su juicio traerá una era de paz y recolección. Es un bebé que defiende una paz tan poderosa que los bebés y las cobras pueden vivir en armonía". La paz feroz del Adviento, por el Dr. Mark Giszczak, <https://catholicexchange.com/advents-fierce-peace>

~LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN~

"La Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María forma parte del plan de Dios. Cristo, que recibe su carne humana de su madre, recibe esta carne de una persona que, por un don singular de Dios, viene ella misma a este mundo sin pecado original. ... La Madre de Dios fue una Inmaculada Concepción en un mundo lleno de pecado. Aquellos a los que ella amaba sufrían los efectos del pecado original y su exención no la habría hecho fría y distante, sino que la habría avivado con una profunda compasión que habría calado en su corazón. Habría sido para este mundo un signo de contradicción, una extraña, alguien que habría estado siempre en las periferias, profundamente enamorada, pero acosada por el dolor de lo mucho que se rechaza el amor de Dios en un mundo caído. Todo lo que sentimos ante los efectos de la negativa del mundo a amar, se habría intensificado para la madre de Cristo. Ella conocería, mejor que nosotros, la desesperada necesidad de la humanidad de un Salvador y las consecuencias de nuestros rechazos a Dios habrían sido abrumadoras, si no fuera por la gracia que recibió en su relación con su Divino Hijo. La Inmaculada Concepción no significa que la Madre de Cristo no necesitara un Salvador o que se salvara de alguna manera. De hecho, significa lo contrario. Cristo la salvó de manera extraordinaria y le dio una santidad que no logró por sí misma. Lo hizo por ella, por el bien de su misión, una misión que sólo ella llevaría. Este don de la santidad es lo que significa la Inmaculada Concepción". Lo que significa la Inmaculada Concepción, por el P. Steve Grunow, para ver el artículo completo ir a: <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/what-the-immaculate-conception-means/4584/>

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