



*The Cathedral of*  
**ST. EUGENE**

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

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector  
Rev. Bala Sundar Rao Putchakayala, 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	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](http://www.steugenec.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 7:25 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 11, 2022

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

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 12

Mañanitas -OLOG Grotto – 5:30 am  
Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Priestly Ordination – Cathedral – 11:00 am  
Reception – Becker Center – 12:30 pm  
Spanish Mass – Cathedral – 4:30 pm; Reception in Becker Ctr  
K of C Video Series – PLC (Hope Room) – 6:00 pm

#### TUESDAY DECEMBER 13

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

#### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

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

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

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

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

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

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

Rorate Mass Cathedral – 5:30 am  
Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am  
Confession – Cathedral – 3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm (SP)

### SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

#### ~ RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS ~

This weekend, December 10 & 11, the Second Collection will be for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Next weekend, December 17 & 18, the Second Collection will be for our Tuition Assistance Program.

#### ~ THANK YOU ~

The Little Flowers Girls' Group would like to thank all those who gave gifts for their "Project Christmas Child". They packed 12 shoe boxes for needy children. There were 4 extra bags of donations from St. Eugene's that were donated to needy children. May God bless and reward you!

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

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### For the Week of 11/27/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$11,526.
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<i>Second Collection: No Second Collection</i>	
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#### ~ 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! 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@steugenes.com](mailto:office@steugenes.com). The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

#### CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING ~

We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the Cathedral for the Christmas Season. The decorating will take place on Saturday, December 24th, beginning at 8:45 a.m. and will last for approximately two hours. Call Barbara at 707-529-1413 if you can help!

#### ~ 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.

#### ~ 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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 10</b>
8:00 am	Walter Cotton, deceased
4:30 pm	Irene Forkner, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Deceased members of Legion of Mary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
7:30 am	People of St. Eugene's
9:00 am	William Avilla, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	Deirdre & Martin B. McCormick, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	Members of "2000 Hail Mary's", living
5:30 pm	Rose Marie Hall & Kelso Family, living
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Lisa Tran, living
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
6:45 am	Monalisa Douglas, living
8:00 am	Ricardo Olvera Galvan, deceased
4:30 pm (Sp)	Jose Luis Ponce, living
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
6:45 am	Francisco Rivas, deceased
8:00 am	Richard Anthony Macdonell, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Carol Green, living
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 14</b>
6:45 am	Kirsten Merrihew, living
8:00 am	Sirena Vasquez, living
9:20 (Sch)	Ray Templeton, deceased
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
6:45 am	Casey Jewell, deceased
8:00 am	Bernie Welchon, deceased
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 16</b>
6:45 am	Special Intention
8:00 am	John, Laforge, deceased
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Lisa Tran, living
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 17</b>
5:30 am (Rorate)	Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa
8:00 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
4:30 pm	George & Chris Schirle, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Pablo Fernandez, deceased

### ~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.

## SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

### ~PRIESTLY ORDINATION~

**This 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 live-streamed on our YouTube channel. Just go to YouTube and type in, "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 candle-light, usually before Dawn. Come join us in the Mass of our ancestors (Latin) on **Saturday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 am**.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY

### ~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIDEO SERIES~

What does it mean to be a man today? Most men want to lead fuller and more purposeful lives - to be better men, better husbands and better fathers. The Knights of Columbus is hosting a 12-part video discussion series, "Into The Breach". Please join us for food, fraternity, and prayer as we discuss "**Evangelization**" on **Monday, December 12**, at 6:00PM in the Parish Life Center (Hope Room). Open to all Catholic Men 18 years and older.

## SAVE THE DATE

### ~EPIPHANY BREAKFAST~

The Knights of Columbus annual Epiphany Breakfast will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2023, in the Becker Center, from 8am till noon. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee & orange juice—all for FREE! Donations are gratefully accepted. Raffle prizes available! Providing assistance this year will be the boys from the Troops of St. George.

### ~WALK FOR LIFE~

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2023 "Walk for Life" in San Francisco on Saturday, January 21st. Two buses will leave St. Eugene's at 8:00am and drop us off at St. Mary's Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to the SF Civic Center for the rally. There are restaurants along the way. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by "The Walk for Life" down Market Street 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 before 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office and will be sold on a first come/first served basis. The cost is \$28.

# MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ~FROM THE PASTOR~

All of us have heard people say that we/the Church have no way of knowing when our Savior was born and that December 25th was chosen because the pagans also happened to celebrate their Sun god on that day. As we will read below, we DO know when Jesus was born. Let us use this knowledge to educate others who may not know this truth. Also, our Second Reading from St. James tells us about the virtue of patience. We will read about St. Monica regarding this often forgotten virtue.

## THE BIRTH DATE OF CHRIST

### ~YES, IT REALLY IS DECEMBER 25TH~

“The Catholic Church, from at least the second century, has claimed that Christ was born on December 25. However, it is commonly alleged that our Lord Jesus Christ was not born on December 25. For the sake of simplicity, let us set out the usual objections to the date of December 25 and counter each of them.” [For the sake of brevity, we will only look at objection 3 and its reply. –editor]

### ~OBJECTION~

**Objection 3:** Christ could not have been born in December since Saint Luke describes shepherds herding in the neighboring fields of Bethlehem. Shepherds do not herd during the winter. Thus, Christ was not born in winter.

### ~REPLY~

**Reply to Objection 3:** Recall that Palestine is not England, Russia, or Alaska. Bethlehem is situated at the latitude of 31.7. ... As the great Cornelius a Lapide remarks during his lifetime, one could still see shepherds and sheep in the fields of Italy during late December, and Italy is at higher latitude than Bethlehem.

### ~SACRED SCRIPTURE~

“Now we move on to establishing the birthday of Christ from Sacred Scripture in two steps. The first step is to use Scripture to determine the birthday of Saint John the Baptist. The next step is using Saint John the Baptist’s birthday as the key for finding Christ’s birthday. We can discover that Christ was born in late December by observing first the time of year in which Saint Luke describes Saint Zacharias

in the temple. This provides us with the approximate conception date of Saint John the Baptist. From there we can follow the chronology that Saint Luke gives, and that lands us at the end of December.”

### ~JOHN THE BAPTIST~

“Saint John the Baptist would have been conceived somewhere around the end of September, placing John’s birth at the end of June, confirming the Catholic Church’s celebration of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist on June 24. [To understand how we know this, please take time to read the entire article given at the end of this excerpt. – Editor] The second-century *Protoevangelium of Saint James* also confirms a late September conception of the Baptist since the work depicts Saint Zacharias as High Priest and as entering the Holy of Holies—not merely the holy place with the altar of incense. This is a factual mistake because Zacharias was not the high priest, but one of the chief priests.[iv] Still, the *Protoevangelium* regards Zacharias as a high priest and this associates him with the Day of Atonement, which lands on the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishri (roughly the end of our September). Immediately after this entry into the temple and message of the Archangel Gabriel, Zacharias and Elizabeth conceive John the Baptist. Allowing for forty weeks of gestation, this places the birth of John the Baptist at the end of June—once again confirming the Catholic date for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist on June 24. The rest of the dating is rather simple. We read that just after the Immaculate Virgin Mary conceived Christ, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. This means that John the Baptist was six months older than our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 1:24-27, 36). If you add six months to June 24 you get December 24-25 as the birthday of Christ. Then, if you subtract nine months from December 25 you get that the Annunciation was March 25. All the dates match up perfectly. So then, if John the Baptist was conceived shortly after the Jewish Day of the Atonement, then the traditional Catholic dates are essentially correct. The birth of Christ would be about or on December 25. Sacred Tradition also confirms December 25 as the birthday of the Son of God. The source of this ancient tradition is the Blessed Virgin Mary herself.”



~KNOWN IN THE FIRST CENTURY~

“So the exact birth date (December 25) and the time (midnight) would have been known in the first century. Moreover, the Apostles would have asked about it and would have, no doubt, commemorated the blessed event that both Saint Matthew and Saint Luke chronicle for us. In summary, it is completely reasonable to state that the early Christians both knew and commemorated the birth of Christ. Their source would have been His Immaculate Mother.

Further testimony reveals that the Church Fathers claimed December 25 as the Birthday of Christ *prior* to the conversion of Constantine and the Roman Empire. The earliest record of this is that Pope Saint Telesphorus (reigned A.D. 126-137) instituted the tradition of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Although the *Liber Pontificalis* does not give us the date of Christmas, it assumes that the Pope was already celebrating Christmas and that a Mass at midnight was added. During this time, we also read the following words of Theophilus (A.D. 115-181), Catholic bishop of Caesarea in Palestine: “We ought to celebrate the birthday of Our Lord on what day soever the 25th of December shall happen.”<sup>[vi]</sup> For complete article go to: <https://taylormarshall.com/?s=yes%2C+christ+was+really+born+on+december+25> By: Taylor Marshall

**ST. MONICA—PATRON SAINT**

~OF PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE~

“Saint Monica, also known as Monica of Hippo, is St. Augustine of Hippo's mother. She was born in 331 A.D. in Tagaste, which is present-day Algeria. When she was very young, she was married off to the Roman pagan Patricius, who shared his mother's violent temper. Patricius' mother lived with the couple and the duo's temper flares proved to be a constant challenge to young Monica. While Monica's prayers and Christian deeds bothered Patricius, he is said to have respected her beliefs. Three children were born to Monica and Patricius: Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. Unfortunately, Monica was unable to baptize her children and when Augustine fell ill, Monica pleaded with Patricius to allow their son to be baptized. Patricius allowed it, but when Augustine was healthy again, he withdrew his permission. For years Monica prayed for her husband and mother-in-law, until finally, one year before Patricius' death, she successfully converted them. As time passed, Perpetua and Navigius entered the religious life, but unfortunately Augustine became lazy and uncouth.

This greatly worried Monica, so when Patricius died, she sent the 17-year-old Augustine to Carthage for schooling.”

~17 YEARS OF RESISTANCE~

“While in Carthage, Augustine became a Manichaean, which was a major religion that saw the world as light and darkness, and when one died, they were removed from the world of matter and returned to the world of light, which is where life comes from. After Augustine got his education and returned home, he shared his views with Monica, who drove him from her table. Though it is not recorded how much time passed, Monica had a vision that convinced her to reconcile with her wayward son. Monica went to a bishop, who told her, “The child of those tears shall never perish.” Inspired, Monica followed Augustine to Rome, where she learned he had left for Milan. She continued her persual and eventually came upon St. Ambrose, who helped her convert Augustine to Christianity following his seventeen-year resistance. ... After a period of six months, Augustine was baptized in the church of St. John the Baptist at Milan. The pair were led to believe they should spread the Word of God to Africa, but in the Roman city of Civitavecchia, Monica passed away. Augustine recorded the words she imparted upon him when she realized death was near. “Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled.” For complete article, go to: [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=1](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=1)

~THE SAINTS SPEAK ON PATIENCE~

We read in James 5, 7-10, that it is important to be patient and to keep our hearts firm and focused on the coming of the Lord. This virtue is often associated with saintliness (We often hear the phrase: “He has the patience of a saint!”) Let’s look at some pearls of wisdom from our holy saints.

**Let nothing disturb thee; Let nothing dismay thee; All thing pass; God never changes. Patience attains All that it strives for. He who has God Finds he lacks nothing: God alone suffices. — St. Teresa of Avila**

**Patience is the companion of wisdom. — St. Augustine**

# MI FE CATOLICA

## ~DEL PASTOR~

### ~TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO~

Todos hemos escuchado a la gente decir que nosotros/la Iglesia no tenemos forma de saber cuándo nació nuestro Salvador y que el 25 de diciembre fue elegido porque los paganos que también celebraban a su dios Sol en ese día. Como leeremos a continuación, Sí sabemos cuándo nació Jesús. Utilicemos este conocimiento para educar a otros que no conozcan esta verdad. Además, nuestra segunda lectura de Santiago nos habla de la virtud de la paciencia. Leeremos algunas palabras de sabiduría sobre esta virtud a menudo olvidada.

## FECHA DEL NACIMIENTO DE CRISTO

### ~SÍ, REALMENTE ES 25 DE DICIEMBRE~

"La Iglesia Católica, desde al menos el siglo II, ha afirmado que Cristo nació el 25 de diciembre. Sin embargo, se suele alegar que nuestro Señor Jesucristo no nació el 25 de diciembre. En aras de la simplicidad, vamos a exponer las objeciones habituales a la fecha del 25 de diciembre y a debatir cada una de ellas." [En aras de la brevedad, sólo veremos la objeción 3 y su respuesta. -editor]

### ~OBJECIÓN~

Objeción 3: Cristo no pudo haber nacido en diciembre, ya que San Lucas describe a los pastores pastando en los campos vecinos de Belén. Los pastores no pastorean durante el invierno. Por lo tanto, Cristo no nació en invierno.

### ~REPLICA~

Respuesta a la objeción 3: Recordemos que Palestina no es Inglaterra, Rusia o Alaska. Belén está situada en la latitud 31,7. ... Como señala el gran Cornelio a Lápide en vida, todavía se podían ver pastores y ovejas en los campos de Italia a finales de diciembre, e Italia está en una latitud más alta que Belén.

### ~ESCRITURA SAGRADA~

"Ahora pasamos a establecer el cumpleaños de Cristo a partir de la Sagrada Escritura en dos pasos. El primer paso es utilizar la Escritura para determinar el cumpleaños de San Juan Bautista. El siguiente paso es utilizar el cumpleaños de San Juan Bautista como clave para encontrar el cumpleaños de Cristo. Podemos descubrir que Cristo nació a finales de diciembre observando primero la época del año en que San Lucas describe a San Zacarías en el templo. Esto nos proporciona la fecha aproximada de concepción →

de San Juan Bautista. A partir de ahí podemos seguir la cronología que da San Lucas, y que nos sitúa a finales de diciembre."

### ~JUAN EL BAUTISTA~

"San Juan Bautista habría sido concebido en algún momento de finales de septiembre, situando el nacimiento de Juan a finales de junio, lo que confirma la celebración de la Iglesia católica de la Natividad de San Juan Bautista el 24 de junio. [Para entender cómo sabemos esto, por favor tómese el tiempo para leer el artículo completo que aparece al final de este extracto.] El Protoevangelio de Santiago, del siglo II, también confirma una concepción del Bautista a finales de septiembre, ya que la obra representa a San Zacarías como Sumo Sacerdote y entrando en el Santo de los Santos, y no sólo en el lugar santo con el altar del incienso. Se trata de un error de hecho, ya que Zacarías no era el sumo sacerdote, sino uno de los jefes de los sacerdotes aun así, el Protoevangelio considera a Zacarías como sumo sacerdote y esto lo asocia con el Día de la Expiación, que cae en el décimo día del mes hebreo de Tishri (aproximadamente a finales de nuestro septiembre). Inmediatamente después de esta entrada en el templo y del mensaje del arcángel Gabriel, Zacarías e Isabel conciben a Juan el Bautista. Teniendo en cuenta las cuarenta semanas de gestación, esto sitúa el nacimiento de Juan Bautista a finales de junio, confirmando una vez más la fecha católica de la Natividad de San Juan Bautista, el 24 de junio. El resto de la datación es bastante simple. Leemos que justo después de que la Inmaculada Virgen María concibiera a Cristo, fue a visitar a su prima Isabel, que estaba embarazada de seis meses de Juan el Bautista. Esto significa que Juan el Bautista era seis meses mayor que nuestro Señor Jesucristo (Lc 1, 24-27, 36). Si se suman seis meses al 24 de junio se obtiene el 24-25 de diciembre como fecha de nacimiento de Cristo. Luego, si se restan nueve meses al 25 de diciembre se obtiene que la Anunciación fue el 25 de marzo. Todas las fechas coinciden perfectamente. Entonces, si Juan el Bautista fue concebido poco después del Día de la Expiación judío, las fechas católicas tradicionales son esencialmente correctas. El nacimiento de Cristo sería alrededor o en el 25 de diciembre. La Sagrada Tradición también confirma el 25 de diciembre como el cumpleaños del Hijo de Dios. La fuente de esta antigua tradición es la propia Santísima Virgen María".

### ~CONOCIDO EN EL PRIMER SIGLO~

"Así pues, la fecha exacta del nacimiento (25 de diciembre) y la hora (medianoche) habrían sido conocidas en el siglo I. Además, los Apóstoles habrían preguntado por ello y, sin duda, habrían conmemorado el bendito acontecimiento que tanto San Mateo como San Lucas nos relatan. En resumen, es completamente razonable afirmar que los primeros cristianos conocían y conmemoraban el nacimiento de Cristo. Su fuente habría sido su Madre Inmaculada.

Otros testimonios revelan que los Padres de la Iglesia reivindicaban el 25 de diciembre como el cumpleaños de Cristo antes de la conversión de Constantino y del Imperio Romano. El primer registro de esto es que el Papa San Telesforo (reinó 126-137 d.C.) instituyó la tradición de la Misa de Medianoche en la víspera de Navidad. Aunque el *Liber Pontificalis* no nos da la fecha de la Navidad, se supone que el Papa ya celebraba la Navidad y que se añadió una misa a medianoche. En esta época también leemos las siguientes palabras de Teófilo (115-181 d. C.), obispo católico de Cesarea de Palestina: "Debemos celebrar el cumpleaños de Nuestro Señor en cualquier día que sea el 25 de diciembre"

### **SANTA MÓNICA—SANTA PATRONA**

#### ~DE LA PACIENCIA Y LA PERSEVERANCIA~

"Santa Mónica, también conocida como Mónica de Hipona, es la madre de San Agustín de Hipona. Nació en el año 331 D.C. en Tagaste, la actual Argelia, y cuando era muy joven fue casada con el pagano romano Patricio, que compartía el temperamento violento de su madre. La madre de Patricio vivía con la pareja y las explosiones de temperamento del dúo eran un desafío constante para la joven Mónica. Aunque las oraciones y los actos cristianos de Mónica molestaban a Patricio, se dice que éste respetaba sus creencias. De Mónica y Patricio nacieron tres hijos: Agustín, Navigio y Perpetua. Desgraciadamente, Mónica no podía bautizar a sus hijos y cuando Agustín cayó enfermo, Mónica suplicó a Patricio que permitiera bautizar a su hijo. Patricio lo permitió, pero cuando Agustín volvió a estar sano, le retiró el permiso. Durante años Mónica rezó por su marido y su suegra, hasta que finalmente, un año antes de la muerte de Patricio, consiguió convertirlos. Con el paso del tiempo, Perpetua y Navigio entraron en la vida religiosa, pero desgraciadamente Agustín se volvió perezoso y tosco.→

Este preocupó mucho a Mónica, así que cuando Patricio murió, envió a Agustín, de 17 años, a Cartago para que fuera escolarizado".

#### ~17 AÑOS DE RESISTENCIA~

"Mientras estaba en Cartago, Agustín se hizo maniqueo, que era una religión importante que veía el mundo como luz y oscuridad, y cuando uno moría, era sacado del mundo de la materia y regresaba al mundo de la luz, que es de donde viene la vida. Después de que Agustín obtuviera su educación y regresara a su casa, compartió sus puntos de vista con Mónica, quien lo echó de su mesa. Aunque no consta cuánto tiempo pasó, Mónica tuvo una visión que la convenció de reconciliarse con su hijo díscolo. Mónica acudió a un obispo, que le dijo: "El hijo de esas lágrimas nunca perecerá". Inspirada, Mónica siguió a Agustín a Roma, donde se enteró de que había partido hacia Milán. Continuó su persecución y finalmente dio con San Ambrosio, que la ayudó a convertir a Agustín al cristianismo tras su resistencia de diecisiete años. ... Tras un periodo de seis meses, Agustín fue bautizado en la iglesia de San Juan Bautista de Milán. Los dos creyeron que debían llevar la Palabra de Dios a África, pero en la ciudad romana de Civitavecchia, Mónica falleció. Agustín grabó las palabras que ella le impartió cuando se dio cuenta de que la muerte estaba cerca. "Hijo, ya nada en este mundo me produce placer. No sé qué me queda por hacer ni por qué sigo aquí, ya que todas mis esperanzas en este mundo se han cumplido."

#### ~LOS SANTOS HABLAN SOBRE LA PACIENCIA~

Leemos en Santiago 5, 7-10, que es importante ser paciente y mantener el corazón firme y concentrado en la venida del Señor. Esta virtud se asocia a menudo con la santidad (A menudo escuchamos la frase: "¡Tiene la paciencia de un santo!") Veamos algunas perlas de sabiduría de nuestros santos.

**No dejes que nada te perturbe; no dejes que nada te desanime; todo pasa; Dios nunca cambia. La paciencia alcanza Todo lo que se esfuerza. El que tiene a Dios no encuentra nada que le falte: sólo Dios basta.** - Santa Teresa de Ávila

**La paciencia es la compañera de la sabiduría.**  
- San Agustín

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