

Community News

<http://bldtrenton.com>

*"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love,
but the greatest of these is **LOVE**" 1 Corinthians 13:13*

REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR THE LORD IS COMING

Today... I Choose to Rejoice!

*Rejoice in the Lord
always. I will say
it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4*

**Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and
Holy One of Israel.**

As disciples of our Savior, Advent is a good time to reflect and pray, asking the Lord the question, "what must I do," and prepare ourselves to meet the Lord every time we celebrate Christmas. It is a season of giving, a time to share gifts. Perhaps, it is an opportunity to forgo buying things for ourselves and, instead, find ways to share our material resources with our less fortunate neighbors. The gospel teaches us to give with love and responsibility, more than casual charity but sharing with empathy and concern for the poor, to allow them to experience life with joy and a bright hope for their future.

Another lesson we can learn from the gospel is the call to overcome self-centeredness, greed and abuse of authority, and instead act with honesty and justice. It is a challenge to one's dignity to practice Christian virtue and integrity at the workplace and in all our professional and business transactions. The culture of wrongdoing becoming socially acceptable poses a great test which may confront us in our dealings, and requires a lot of discipline and resolve to do what is morally right. Finally, John proclaimed to the people that *"one mightier than I is coming,"* (Lk 3:16). He pointed to Jesus Christ who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit, empowering us with fire by His Gifts and Fruit. We are to live a life in the Spirit to maintain our relationship with the Lord, allowing Him to take over every aspect of our being and continue transforming us into righteousness, away from any transgressions that keep us away from God.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us pray that peace and harmony may reign in our hearts. Let us be grateful and truly rejoice in the Lord. As we acknowledge the Good News of our salvation and share this with others, we will live the promise in the prophecy of Zephaniah: *"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love,"* (Zep 3:17).

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for fulfilling your promise to send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as our Messiah. Thank you for Your steadfast love and faithfulness. We are grateful for the bountiful blessings You have given us that we may share them in a good way. We pray for graces for people who are in need. Enlighten those who are tempted to do evil and be the light of their lives. We pray for a better Christmas this year even in the midst of trouble and uncertainty. We pray this through Christ our Lord, with the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Reflection Question:

Have you ever experienced bringing joy to others, especially to those who are really in need of help, the homeless, the jobless, and the sick, those who are imprisoned? Share your feelings about this. What are your challenges in going out of your comfort zone to do evangelization & mission work? How do you intend to overcome these challenges?

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). This is the exhortation of St. Paul to all of us as we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Traditionally, the Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "rejoice." It is symbolized by the pink candle of the Advent wreath. The reason for rejoicing is the Good News that Jesus Christ, our Savior, has come. Jesus was born; He became man to bring salvation to this world. His ministry of teaching and healing proved that He was the awaited Messiah and His mission was to bring man back to God. Celebrating Advent is truly a fulfilling way to prepare our mind and heart for Christmas.

"What should we do?" (cf. Lk 3:10). People, filled with much expectation, asked John the Baptist as he told them to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, preached repentance to them and baptized them with water. He strongly called upon them to mend their ways, by being kind and generous, by showing compassion and justice to everyone, by being truthful and contented with the blessings they received. He taught them conversion from all forms of abuses, wrongdoings, and undisciplined ways which have remained uncorrected.

THIS SUNDAY'S COUNSEL

36th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THEME:

We prepare for the coming of our Savior when we share the good news of justice and righteousness

PROMISE:

"...He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you." (Zep 3:17b)

WORD:

Zep 3:14-18/ Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6/ Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

ORDER:

1. *"Strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones." (1 Thes 3:13)*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Persevere in prayer, go to confession and receive Holy Communion regularly.
2. Be united as one community through our weekly worship and word sharing.
3. Do charitable works and share your blessings during this season of Joy.
4. Bring your children and the young generation close to Jesus and Mary.

The Lord's Provision

December 6, 2024

TITHE: \$737.16
LOVE OFFERING: \$272.00



Thank you for
your generosity

Online Giving

You can now send your
Tithes and Love Offerings via
Paypal. Donate link can be
found at www.bldrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

God's Blessings

Annivesary

"So they are no longer two, but
one flesh. Therefore what God
has joined together, let no one
separate." Matthew 19:6

Abbot & Chie Del Pilar Dec 14
Glenn & Jo Ramos Dec 14
Ray & Ann Cabalan Dec 19

Birthday

"Before I formed you in the womb I
knew you, and before you were born I
consecrated you" Jeremiah 1:5

Phoebe Panahan	Dec 13
Chinky Rubiato	Dec 13
Kat Madamba	Dec 15
Jason Bustos	Dec 16
Rey Pasiona	Dec 16
Eric Alberto	Dec 17
Leo Llave	Dec 17
Ricky Gomez	Dec 17
Dan Catarata	Dec 17
Yoly Alcasid	Dec 18
Bill Bunoan	Dec 18
Isabel Guerrero	Dec 18
Ace Camposano	Dec 19
Ross Jacinto	Dec 19

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's Visit
For Prayer Service

Tess Corso 732-604-1914
Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

Send Prayer Request To:

www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory

Did you know?



"Dear brothers and sisters, one never knows everything about God, never! Perhaps we have in mind a powerful God who does what He wants, instead of the God of humble meekness, the God of mercy and love, who always intervenes respecting our freedom and our choices. Perhaps we even find ourselves saying to Him: "Are you really you, so humble, the God who is coming to save us?". And something similar can happen to us with our brothers and sisters too. Advent, then is a time for overturning our perspectives, for letting ourselves be surprised by God's mercy."

HIS WORD. YOUR JOURNEY. TOGETHER. Pope Francis

"The Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us — let us not forget this — has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do? Let us ask him this question repeatedly."

WEEK 1
Hope

Reminds us...
Jesus is coming

Bible Verse
Romans
15:12-13

Bible Verse
Luke 2:10

Reminds us...
The joy at the coming
birth of Jesus

WEEK 2
Peace

Reminds us...
To prepare the way
of the Lord

Bible Verse
Luke 2:14

Bible Verse
Luke 2:11

Reminds us...
of the gift of
God's love, Jesus.

WEEK 3
Joy

WEEK 4
Love

In Christ Jesus,

we welcome you all to join us every Friday
ST. VERONICA CHURCH, HOWELL, NJ

Healing Mass

1st Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Praise and Worship

2nd, 3rd, 4th (& 5th) Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Bukas Loob sa Diyos Council of Servant Leaders CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

As we recall Jesus' birth each year, let us remember that the reason He came was because of His sacrificial love and His salvific mission for all. More than the Christmas presents, let us share the real Gift of Love who is Jesus Christ Himself. Our heartfelt prayer is that all families come together this Christmas — whether physically or spiritually. And may this season bring comfort and consolation to our needy brothers and sisters with the peace, joy, hope, faith and love it brings. With gratefulness in our hearts, we share our warm greetings for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Ross & Dina Manlapat, Evangelization

As we come together in the spirit of love and unity, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas. "Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." It is all about the love in our heart and the joy of sharing. The challenge for all of us members of Bukas Loob sa Diyos for the coming year is that we must collaborate to help everyone find a greater sense of belonging in our community, where all can explore our faith, confidently face the small and big demands of this challenging life, share our doubts and fears, and find joy and peace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year BLD!

Rey and Voleth Florogo, Formation

As we prepare for His coming, let us anchor our faith in Him and ready our hearts to celebrate this season of giving and hope. Let us reflect on His love and strive to share this love with others especially to the less privileged brothers and sisters through acts of kindness and compassion. As the Lord continues to shower us with His abundant grace, let us not forget to count our blessings and extend our gratitude for the gift of life and salvation. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with His light and a Blessed New Year with His guidance and peace!

Erick & Rona Mendoza, Mission

Christmas is the birth of the Son of God, Jesus, who brought love, hope and peace to mankind. This is a season of great joy and unity in family inspired by Jesus, Mama Mary and St Joseph. Let us express our love for Jesus through our brethren by rendering service and giving gifts that their hearts most desire. In gratitude for the gifts we have received, we pray that everyone enjoy a Blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year.

Val & Fe Liwanag, Management

Christmas is a celebration of hope and love—the boundless love of God revealed through the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Jesus is the light that illuminates our darkness and hope for our brokenness. May we, as disciples of Jesus, be heralds of the good news that Christmas brings. Let us share and spread His love, peace, and joy to everyone around us - to remind them of the true meaning of Christmas. A Blessed Christmas and a Spirit-filled New Year to one and all!

Mar and Jo Tamayo, Pastoral




SINGLES
ENCOUNTER
RETREAT
WEEKEND





This Encounter is a transformative weekend where you can dive into self-discovery and connect with others in a meaningful way.

Enjoy fun activities, great food, and the chance to build friendships while exploring your relationship with God.


This retreat is about strengthening your faith and reflecting on your journey to cultivate a sense of peace.

1/3/2025 - 1/5/2025

SCAN TO REGISTER



open to single individuals ages 19 and up


The Roman Catholic Bishop of Imus
 DIOCESE OF IMUS
 IMUS CITY, 4103 CAVITE, PHILIPPINES

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

Greetings of peace and love to everyone!

As we approach Christmas wherein we will celebrate the Birth of our Savior, we are given the Advent Season as a preparation for the coming of Christ.

Through the Themes and Promises for December, every BLD member is invited to pray constantly and conduct one's life pleasing to God. The season is also an opportunity to repent and seek forgiveness for whatever sins we have committed. We should also fulfill our obligation to share the good news of justice and righteousness to others. We can benefit from all these spiritual exercises by imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary especially in her total surrender to God's will.

This coming December 24, 2024, Pope Francis will inaugurate at St. Peter's Basilica the JUBILEE YEAR 2025 with the theme PILGRIMS OF HOPE. On the following Sunday, December 29, 2024, in every cathedral worldwide, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year.

I encourage you dear BLD members to participate in the celebrations not only during the opening Mass but in all other celebrations in 2025. You can organize yourselves to go to pilgrim churches of your diocese or in any diocese all over the world. You will gain plenary indulgence by joining a pilgrimage provided you will fulfill all necessary requirements particularly Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and prayers for the intention of our dear Holy Father Pope Francis.


Incidentally, the year 2025 is also the 40th Anniversary of *Bukas Loob sa Diyos* (BLD) Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community. It was on June 19, 1985 that the first covenants were sealed by almost 100 couples in a Community Assembly. This has become the reckoning date for the BLD Anniversary.


May the BLD Community not only grow in years but more so in God's grace. In the spirit of synodality or journeying together which is the prevailing invitation for everyone in the Universal Church, may you all grow in your commitment to the covenant that you embraced as Christ's disciples.

"Strengthen your hearts to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones" (1 Thes. 3:13).

A blessed CHRISTMAS and a joyful NEW YEAR to all!

Sincerely in Christ,


REYNALDO G. EVANGELISTA, D.D.
 Bishop of Imus
 BLD Community Spiritual Director




BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS
 (OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)
 DIOCESE OF TRENTON

An Invitation To


MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
MARCH 21 - 23, 2025

Ave Maria Retreat House
 The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
 854 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 19501

Registration Fee: \$250.00 per couple
 for Meals and Accommodation
 Friday 6:30 pm - Sunday 4:00 pm

For registration and all inquiries, contact:
 Louise Ann Hernandez (732) 961-9740
 Dan Jean Cieslarski (732) 287-3434 | Toy/Malen Juarez (800) 954-2300

Join us!



WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?
 An invaluable experience of renewing marriage relationship, enriching the process of communication between husband and wife and becoming fully aware of the living presence of God in marriage and family life. It guarantees to make "good" marriages "better" and the "not-so-good" marriages "good".

WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?
 For any couple who wants to enrich their relationship whether they have been married for a short time, or for many years. This weekend is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

REGISTRATION
 Open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic or Tridentine Church.
 Submit registration form to:
 BLD-Trenton-WB24@gmail.com


BLD TRENTON
CHRISTMAS PARTY CONTEST

PAROL DESIGN

COMPETITION

December 13, 2024

- PAROL MUST BE A STAR
- ~1 METER IN HEIGHT
- ALL PAROLS DUE TO BE DISPLAYED BEFORE MASS
- MUST BE HANDMADE


BLD TRENTON

Christmas Party

13
DECEMBER

MASS BEGINS @ 7PM
ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
 61 GEORGIA RD.
 FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

THEME: WINTER WONDER LAND
 ATTIRE: CASUAL CHRISTMAS
 JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
 AND A PAROL CONTEST!

lovingly sponsored by singles & solo parents