

# Journey to the Crèche

St. Bede the Venerable Church Open House  
December 20, 2011 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Experience the true meaning of Christmas! Visit the nativity, light a candle, listen to beautiful cathedral music, and join us for refreshments of homemade cookies and hot chocolate. Reconciliation is also available from 6:30pm – 7:30pm



In the year 1223, St. Francis of Assisi, created a manger scene for the midnight Christmas Mass in the Italian village of Greccio. St. Francis sang the Gospel and then preached about the nativity of the poor King and humble town of Bethlehem. Hence, the crèche tradition was born and is still practiced today in churches and communities throughout the world. “Crèche” is an Old French word meaning “*crib*”.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> *Journey to the Crèche* begins with an invitation for *pilgrims* to make their way along the luminary path leading to St. Bede Church. All will be welcomed inside the nave filled with beautiful cathedral music, special lighting, candles, and the narrated story of St. Francis’ creation of the first Christmas nativity...or crèche. Renditions of the crèche story will repeat every 15 minutes during the Open House. A magnificent nativity of Italian hand carved life size figures will be on display.

Over 100 St. Bede parish volunteers prepare this annual presentation. The glorious and massive nativity scene, spanning the width of the church, includes Holy Family images, figures of Magi and stable animals, oversized live Christmas trees, and an impressive display of poinsettias.

Hosted refreshments of old fashioned Christmas cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate with marshmallows will be served under the Parish Center portico. Bring your children, family, and friends. Everyone is invited! Begin a Christmas tradition that will live in hearts and minds for years to come...*Journey to the Crèche*.

For more information contact St. Bede Parish at 818-949-4300 or Lori Juma @ 818-790-4357

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