

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

971 O'Hara Avenue, Oakley, CA 94561-5785

www.stanthonyoakley.com

Parish Office/Oficina Parroquial (925) 625-2048 Fax: (925) 625-4433

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Lunes, Miércoles, Viernes) 9AM to 12PM and 1PM to 6PM

Welcome / Bienvenidos

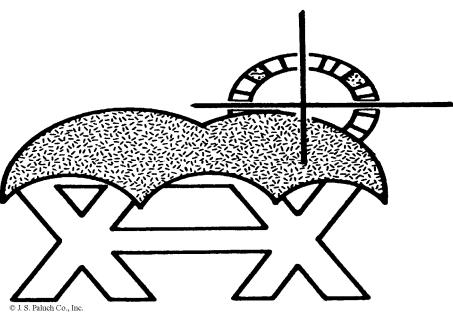
December 27, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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27 de diciembre de 2020

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

SOMOS LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE DIOS

Las lecturas de Israel están repletas de relatos de parejas estériles a quienes Dios les concedió el milagro de tener hijos. Sin duda el relato más conocido es el de la primera lectura de hoy: Lucas se inspiró en este relato para contar el milagroso nacimiento de Juan Bautista, hijo de Zacarías e Isabel, y el nacimiento aun más milagroso de Jesús, hijo de María y José. En ambos casos, vemos ejemplos o modelos a seguir de personas que confiaron en Dios. Más que ser ejemplos de personas que confiaron, son modelos de entrega incondicional de sí. Abandonaron sus propios preconceptos y prejuicios sobre el funcionamiento del mundo y entregaron sus vidas a creer en un Dios que

puede hacer que haya vida en lugares en donde era inconcebible que la hubiera; un Dios que puede convertir la muerte en una vida nueva e inimaginable; un Dios que puede, hoy, tomar a un niñito de padres humildes en un pueblo insignificante y convertirlo en una luz para el mundo entero. Esto es a lo que se nos llama a hacer cada día como Sagrada Familia de Dios: confiar no sólo en nosotros mismos y en la manera en que pensamos que deberían ser las cosas, sino a abrirmos y entregarnos en fe a un Dios de promesa infinita.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or Psalm 105.

Second Reading — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Gospel — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Los que honran a sus padres recibirán bendiciones y pagarán sus pecados (Sirálide 3:3-7, 14-17) ó Génesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Salmo — Dicho el que teme al Señor, y sigue sus caminos (Salmo 128 [127]) ó Salmo 105 (104).

Segunda lectura — Vivan una vida de amor sincero, sean agraciados, hagan todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús (Colosenses 3:12-21) ó Hebreos 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Evangelio — María y José llevan a Jesús al templo para consagrarlo al Señor (Lucas 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

Salmo responsorial: Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominical © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial Administrator
Deacon Alberto Cruz
Deacon Emeritus Joe Tovar
Deacon Emeritus Alan Layden

Parish Secretary, Carolina Jauregui (925) 625-9214

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATORS

Teen Confirmation	Emma Arcayena	RCIA (English)	Michael Maeda
Adult Confirmation	Jaime Jauregui	RCIA (Español)	Esperanza Vega
CCD (English)	Natalie Earley	RCIC	Monica Cardoza
CCD (Español)	Belen Capilla	SPRED	John Dixon

David McIntyre, Facilities and Security Coordinator, (209) 610-8766



St. Anthony

St. Anthony Parish Mission
*Our community follows Jesus
 by praying, loving and serving God.*
*Nuestra comunidad conoce y
 sique a Jesús rezando, amando, y
 sirviendo a Dios.*
 St. Anthony, pray for us.
 San Antonio, ruega por nosotros.

CONFESION / CONFESION

Saturday: 3:30PM to 4:30PM or by appointment

MASS SCHEDULE / HORARIO DE MISAS

Daily: 8:30AM Bilingual in the Plaza

Sunday: 10AM English in the Plaza

12PM Español en la Plaza

DEVOTIONS

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday: 8PM to 10PM in the Plaza

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY AND FUNERAL CENTER

2200 East 18th Street, Antioch, (925) 757-0658

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services (CFCS) at Holy Cross Cemetery and Funeral Center. Their staff will contact the parish office to assist you with your arrangements.

Parish Office Closed for Holidays

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, 1 January 2021, New Year's Day. The office will reopen on the following Monday, 4 January 2021 at 9AM.

New Year's Day Mass Schedule

10AM English Mass

12PM Misa Español

1:30PM to 2PM Holy Communion

Virtus Safe Environment Training

Is your certificate up to date? Many of us at St. Anthony took the training in 2017. We are required to renew our certification every three years. This is a MUST to continue in your ministerial work here. Start now at www.virtusonline.org Call Florrie Brice at (925) 354-0107 or the parish office with questions.

Clergy Sexual Abuse

Any reports of abuse should be directed to Steve Wilcox, Chancellor, at swilcox@oakdiocese.org or (510) 267-8334.

Sunday Mass Dispensation

Bishop Barber has dispensed the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses until further notice. Although the faithful are dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass, they are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday (such as following a Live Stream Mass or participating in a spiritual or corporal act of mercy).

Mass Intentions For The Week

Saturday, December 26

5PM Lucy Heredia†

Sunday, December 27

8AM Jesse Fuentes†

10AM Betty Pato†

Florrie Brice (Birthday)

12PM Fidel y Piedad Zaragoza†

Carolina Jauregui (Birthday)

2PM Alfredo y Hermelinda Gamez†

Monday, December 28

8:30AM Maria Valenzuela†

Fr. Rafael Hinojosa (Birthday)

Tuesday, December 29

8:30AM Clementina Vera†

Danny Avalos (Birthday)

Wednesday, December 30

8:30AM Rafael Manzo†

Thursday, December 31

8:30AM Hermelinda y Alfredo Gomez†

Friday, January 1, 2021

10AM Steven Saho†

Paul & Herman Urenda†

12PM Maria del Consuelo† y Albino Orozco†

Saturday, January 2

8:30AM Natali Vasquez (Birthday)

5PM †

Sunday, January 3

8AM Patricia Solari†

10AM Aristotle Juliano†

12PM Joel Lopez†

2PM Maria y Yolanda Toribio†

5PM Rosario Veas de Gonzalez†

2020 Bishop's Appeal

There is still time to make your pledge or gift as the Appeal continues through the end of the year. Bishop Michael C. Barber continues the theme of *Rebuild My Church* for the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. To give now visit www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal-donation-page

Giving Made Simple

Please continue to offer your support to St. Anthony with your monetary gifts. These gifts allow us to pay our bills. Please continue giving to the Sunday collection basket by using GIVE+; the online way of giving. Visit the St. Anthony website and search "Online Giving". Or drop your Sunday envelope in the U.S. Mailbox in the front by the Church entrance. You decide how to give, but please continue to give.

Second Collection Schedule

December 27 Maintenance Fund

January 3 Diocesan Assessment

Submissions to the Sunday Bulletin

Deadline by noon on Monday, six (6) days prior to the desired Sunday of publication. Send files to stanthonybulletineditor@gmail.com or call Michael Maeda, (925) 451-6883.

Listen, act and share on the journey to Christmas

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

Dear Friends,

The Mystery of Advent and Christmas has the power to console us in the midst of our current difficulties. God never sends us trials without giving us hope and support. If you are having a “Blue Christmas,” feeling down, isolated, as if the joy of the holiday eludes you...I have a suggestion.

1. Listen.

The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and had a conversation with her. Mary must have been silent, or praying, in a place of quiet receptivity, so she could hear what the Angel had to tell her. The Church Fathers say that Mary “conceived through her ear”—through her hearing. You, too, can experience Christ through hearing. I suggest that you set aside a private time or place. I prefer early morning or evening, when it is dark outside and my room is lit only by the lights on my Christmas tree. Then set up your music: Google “Advent Lessons and Carols from King's College” or “Christmas Lessons and Carols.” (It's also on Pandora, Spotify and YouTube.) Then listen as some of the finest music ever written celebrates The Mystery of the Incarnation, interspersed with passages from the Old and New Testament. It is like having a fantastic private retreat. Once you have encountered The Mystery, go to step two.

2. Act.

As soon as the Angel had departed, Mary acted. She went in haste to the hill country to take care of her elderly cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant. Mary acted on the Word of God. The phone company AT&T had a great ad to encourage us to make more long-distance phone calls with its “Reach out and touch someone” campaign. Cardinal Newman says, “The essence of faith is to look out of yourself.” Call a friend or relative. Write a letter or Christmas card. For you youngsters: TEXT. Reach out and express some affection to someone who means something to you. Or someone you have neglected who needs your support. Just do it. The act of giving is its own reward. Support a charity, your parish or a Catholic school. Even if your kindness is not immediately reciprocated, it makes it all the more real and pure. Act out of love, not because of what you may get back. The more you immerse yourself in The Mystery, the more the Holy Spirit will inspire you how to act on it.

3. Share.

Share the joy you get from encountering The Mystery of Christ. Say “Merry Christmas” to the cashier at Safeway. Invite a friend who is lonely to join you for Mass, or to help at the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry or soup kitchen. Invite someone for a coffee or drink, or just to take a walk and get out of the house. Small things mean so much at this time. I realize people may hesitate to meet up in person given the virus, but we can use all the electronic and human means at our disposal to share the joy of Christ’s birth. St. Irenaeus said, “How shall man pass into God, unless God has first passed into man.” Do as Mary did. Let the Word of God become fruitful in you. Let God become incarnated in you, through listening to His Word, through Baptism, through reception of Holy Communion, through immersion into the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, through the cleansing

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

On this feast of the Holy Family, we want to offer all families blessings. “Family” may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the “father, mother, child” family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today’s Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and “your descendants will be more numerous than the stars.” The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

POWER IN PRESCRIBED RITUALS

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

EXAMPLES IN OUR ELDERS

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don’t know the rubrics well, or aren’t dressed better, or “why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?” Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he sees the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

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mercy of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Then, like Mary, act on The Mystery, and share it.

Merry Christmas, my brothers and sisters.

California Catholic Conference, Catholic Health Care Ministries and Catholic Charities Support COVID-19 Vaccinations

The California Catholic Conference affirms that the imminent Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are morally acceptable and commit to working closely with Catholic health care ministries and Catholic Charities to:

- ◆ Promote and encourage COVID-19 vaccinations in collaboration with state and local governments and other entities
- ◆ Advocate on behalf of vulnerable populations to ensure that they have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines
- ◆ Provide regular and accurate information to parishioners and the community in support of morally acceptable, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

It is also vitally important that we work together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation. As Pope Francis recently expressed:

At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the “solidity” born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others. And service in great part means “caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people”... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, ‘suffers’ that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people.

[115] Fratelli tutti, Pope Francis, 2020

Bishop Barber's Statement of Support For California Catholic Conference COVID-19 Vaccine Stance

“The Catholic Church endorses the use of the COVID vaccines. I endorse the use of these vaccines. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, the bishops on the USCCB Pro-Life Committee and Doctrine committee (of which I am a member) have studied the issue and found this medicine morally acceptable. There are no cells in the vaccines that are derived from aborted human beings. I believe these vaccines are a gift from God, and appreciate the work scientists have done in such a short time to make them available.”

- Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

FORMED.org — An Online Faith Website

St. Anthony is a subscriber of FORMED.org
Select “St. Anthony Oakley, CA”

Please Pray For/Oremos Por

Deacon Joe Tovar
Andrea Spindler
Antonio Velasquez
Bartolome Robinos
Bebit Belotendos
Ben Patrick Andres
Bev Rossi
Danny Luna, Sr.
Danny Luna, Jr.
Dorothy & Mary Ann
Gay Lacsa
Gerardo Gomez
Gloria Ibarra
Grace Bustos
Guadalupe Sanchez
Guillermo Villanueva
Helen Alleman
Heriberto Diaz
Janice Contreras



Jose Munoz
Karen Valdez
Liz Escamilla
Margarita Avalos
Marge Browne
Maria Guadalupe Galvan
Marlene Layden
Mayra Murillo
Michael Makinano, Sr.
Michael Makinano, Jr.
Olga Ramos
Rocco Vicente Reyes
Rolando Abad
Ron Dion
Stella Benitez
Teri Hernandez
Tony Rodriguez
Virginia Pickell

Our Men and Women of the military services.
Names are removed periodically. If you wish to add a loved one, please call the office at 625-2048.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please notify the parish office of any parishioner who is ill or infirm to request a visit, to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or Communion at home, hospital or assisted living facility.

Live Stream Mass

Sunday Live Stream Mass will be at 10AM (English) and 12PM (Español). Come to the Plaza between Padua Hall and the Church to receive Holy Communion after the Live Stream Spanish Mass or 1:30PM to 2PM. Observe social distancing and face mask guidelines.

St. Vincent de Paul St. Anthony Conference

St. Vincent de Paul provides various forms of assistance which may include food, clothes, furniture, housing assistance, and referrals to other professional agencies through home or church-based visits. If you need assistance, call 925-325-7424.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Food Pantry

Open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8:30AM to 10:30AM in the Hall. If you need food outside of these dates call (925) 325-7424.

The RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic

Operated by a partnership between St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and Rotacare Bay Area, the clinic provides care to the uninsured. The clinic is located at St. Vincent de Paul's Family Resource Center, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA (925) 439-5060.

Support the Businesses and Merchants
whose advertisements make this bulletin possible.

Escuche, actúe y comparta la travesía hacia la Navidad

Por el Reverendísimo Michael C. Barber, SJ

Queridos amigos,

El Misterio del Adviento y la Navidad tiene el poder de consolarnos en medio de las dificultades que enfrentamos actualmente. Dios nunca nos envía pruebas sin darnos esperanza y apoyo. Si usted está viviendo una “Navidad gris”, sintiendo depresión, aislamiento, como si el gozo interior de las festividades quisiera escapar... le sugiero lo siguiente:

1. Escuche.

El ángel Gabriel se le apareció a María y tuvo una conversación con ella. María debió haber permanecido en silencio, o rezando, con tranquila receptividad, para poder escuchar lo que el ángel tenía que decirle. Los Padres de la Iglesia dicen que María “concibió a través de sus oídos”, es decir, por su buena disposición para escuchar. Usted también puede experimentar a Cristo a través del oído. Le sugiero que reserve un momento o un lugar privado. Yo prefiero hacerlo temprano en la mañana o en la noche, cuando está oscuro afuera y mi habitación está iluminada solo por las luces de mi árbol de Navidad. Puede configurar su música con Google: en mi caso pido “Lecciones de Adviento y villancicos de King’s College” o “Lecciones de Navidad y villancicos”. (También hay otras opciones en Pandora, Spotify y YouTube). Escuche cómo la mejor música jamás escrita celebra El misterio de la Encarnación, intercalada con pasajes del Antiguo y Nuevo Testamento. Es como tener un fantástico retiro privado. Una vez que haya encontrado El Misterio, dé el segundo paso.

2. Actúe.

Tan pronto como el ángel Gabriel desapareció, María actuó. Se apresuró a viajar a la región montañosa para cuidar a su prima mayor, Isabel, que ya tenía seis meses de embarazo. María actuó según la Palabra de Dios. La compañía telefónica AT&T publicó un gran anuncio para animarnos a hacer más llamadas telefónicas de larga distancia con su campaña “Comuníquese y alcance a alguien”(Reach out and touch someone, en inglés). El cardenal Newman dice que “la esencia de la fe es buscar fuera de sí mismo”. Llame a un amigo o familiar. Escriba una carta o una tarjeta de Navidad. Para ustedes, los jóvenes: ENVÍEN UN MENSAJE DE TEXTO. Salga de sí mismo, y alcance a un ser que signifique algo para usted para expresarle su afecto. O alguien a quien usted haya ignorado o descuidado que necesite su apoyo. Simplemente hágalo. El acto de dar es su propia recompensa. Apoye una organización benéfica, su parroquia o una escuela católica. Incluso si su acción no es correspondida de inmediato, la hace aún más pura y real. Actúe por amor, no por lo que pueda recibir. Cuanto más se sumerja en El Misterio, más el Espíritu Santo le inspirará en la forma en que debe actuar.

3. Comparta.

Comparta la alegría que recibe al encontrar el Misterio de Cristo. Dígale “Feliz Navidad” a quien lo atiende en la caja del supermercado. Invite a un amigo que se sienta solo a acompañarlo en la misa, o a ayudarlo en la despensa de alimentos o en el comedor comunitario de San Vicente de Paul. Invite a alguien a tomar un café o una bebida, o simplemente a dar un paseo o salir momentáneamente de

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

EL PODER DE LOS RITUALES PRESCRITOS

José y María presentaron a Jesús en el Templo a los ocho días, como prescribía la Ley de Moisés. Para muchas familias católicas, el ropón del bautismo pasaba de generación en generación y la celebración del Bautismo era esplendida. Lamentablemente, en nuestra cultura, los bautismos están disminuyendo. Hay muchas razones para que esto esté pasando, hay pocas personas que practican su catolicismo, más matrimonios interreligiosos, se realizan más matrimonios civiles y menos en la Iglesia también hay problemas o malentendidos que alejan a las personas. Muchos católicos han abandonado por completo a la Iglesia debido a la forma en cómo fueron tratados. Para algunos la parroquia no es un lugar donde son bienvenidos. Para otras personas, el Bautismo se ha convertido en solo un ritual que tienen que hacer por la ocasión del compadrazgo de los padrinos.

EL EJEMPLO EN NUESTROS MAYORES

Cuando alguien presenta a un bebé o niño para su bautismo, algunas personas podrían juzgar fácilmente esta situación ya sea porque los padres no conocen bien las respuestas o no están bien vestidos, o “¿por qué esa madre soltera pide el Bautismo para su bebé durante la Misa?” Pon atención que el Evangelio no dice nada acerca de la forma cómo los sacerdotes recibieron a Jesús; por el contrario, habla de Simeón y Ana. Ellos merecen una reflexión aparte. Simeón es un hombre devoto que está ahí esperando una señal especial, que él ve cumplida cuando ve al Niño Jesús. Ana solo está orando en el Templo, como acostumbraba. Después de la presentación de Jesús, ella hace lo mejor que sabe hacer, ella regresa a orar al Templo. Quizá estas lecturas nos enseñan cómo siendo una comunidad de fe puede ver lo sagrado en aquellas familias que piden el Bautismo para sus hijos, y los reciben como Ana y Simeón. ¡Qué todos aprendamos de su sabiduría!

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Segunda Colecta

27 de Diciembre Mantenimiento
3 de Enero Impuestos A La Diocesis

la casa. Las pequeñas cosas significan mucho en este momento. Yo entiendo que la gente puede tener dudas de encontrarse en persona con alguien debido al virus, pero podemos usar todos los medios electrónicos y humanos a nuestra disposición para compartir el gozo del nacimiento de Cristo. San Ireneo dijo: “¿Cómo llegará el hombre a Dios, a menos que Dios haya llegado primero al hombre?” Haga lo que hizo María. Deje que la Palabra de Dios fecunde en usted. Deje que Dios se encarne en usted, al escuchar Su Palabra, a través del Bautismo, a través de la recepción de la Sagrada Comunión, a través de la inmersión en el Espíritu Santo en la Confirmación, a través de la misericordia purificadora del sacramento de la Reconciliación. Luego, como María, actúe sobre El Misterio y compártalo.

Feliz Navidad, mis hermanos y hermanas

