

April 14, 2024 - Third Sunday of Easter You alone, O Lord, bring security to my dwelling. ~ Psalm 4:9

St. Patrick Catholic Church

San Francisco's Historic Landmark #4 Founded in 1851 756 Mission St. (between 3rd and 4th Streets) San Francisco, CA 94103 Tel (415) 421-3730 ~ Fax (415) 512-9730 www.stpatricksf.org

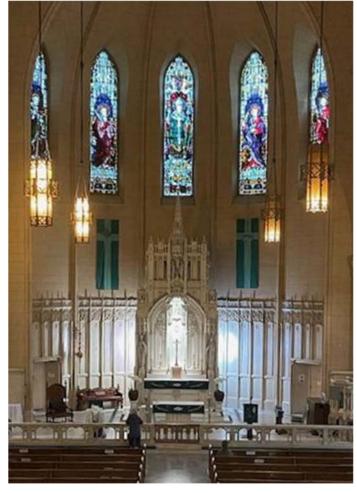
Pastoral Staff

Fr. Roberto "Fr. Obet" A. Andrey - *Pastor* Fr. Ted (Teodoro) Magpayo - *Parochial Vicar* Deacon Ferdinand Mariano - *RCIA Coordinator*

Rachelle Morales and Nenette Murata - *Religious Education Coordinators* Charles Corpus - *Music Coordinator* Virginia Dilim - *Wedding Coordinator* Nora Regaspi - *Office Manager* Camelle Sudario - *Parish Receptionist* Emy Pasion - *Bookkeeper*

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Saturday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m 5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Tagalog Mass: 1st Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Family Mass: 2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Charismatic & Healing Mass: 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m.



April 14, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Easter ~ Year B

Acts 3:13-15,17-19; Ps 4:2,4,7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

Peter proclaims the wonders of the Lord (Ps); the suffering Messiah is raised from the dead and has been glorified (1). This Jesus is our intercessor, and our offering for sin (2), our peace (3).

Third Sunday of Easter

The grand and dramatic story of God comes into focus in today's readings. The passages from Acts and from the Gospel of Luke describe how Jesus' disciples began to understand how Jesus fits into the larger narrative of God, Israel, humanity, and all of creation. In the Gospel, Jesus interprets the scriptures for his followers. He shows how his seemingly shameful death was actually the fulfillment of God's promises. Jesus shows how his life, death, and resurrection are the surprising turning point of the scripture story. We, the Church today, find ourselves in the middle of this story. We first look back, to recall God's overflowing and steadfast love, beginning from Creation, through Christ, until today. We then look forward to the fulfillment, already launched by Jesus, of the Reign of God. With this perspective, we play our part in the drama, joining God to bring God's work to completion.

The Surprise Messiah

After the crucifixion of Jesus, his disciples were in despair. Not only had they seen their master's horrible death, their own lives were now at risk, for the crucifixion suggested to them that Jesus was not the awaited Messiah after all. The Messiah had been envisioned as somehow coming in power, liberating Israel from foreign domination and signaling God's longawaited return to dwell again with Israel. The Crucifixion suggested to them the possibility of God's rejection of Jesus, or Jesus' failure to achieve God's purposes.

This is partly why the disciples were amazed when Jesus appeared. God had vindicated Jesus by raising him. The Resurrection revealed that God's promises were actually fulfilled, precisely through this death. Through the cross, God had indeed liberated the people from sin and death. God had truly returned, in Jesus and then later in the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit. The dominion of sin and death had been broken. The Resurrection was the first display of the new kingdom of God, in Jesus.

Not For Heaven Only

In the Gospel passage, Jesus specifically emphasizes his bodily presence. He invites the disciples to touch him, and he eats some fish in front of them. He makes it clear that he is not a ghost and did not shed his physicality or his humanity when he was raised. The disciples began to understand Jesus in a new way. Christians later articulated this as Jesus' bodily resurrection. The resurrected Jesus, both human and divine, reigns both in heaven and on earth.

So when Jesus sent his disciples, and today sends all of us, to proclaim God's kingdom, he never means "for heaven only." God aims to renew, not reject, human bodies, human culture, and the created universe. God's project for us is here and now, within all the limitations and messiness of daily life. We are called to care for each other, for the earth, and for all God's beloved creation.

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Looking for Lay Ministers

The proclamation of the Word of God at Masses and other Liturgies is one of the sources of faith, wisdom and understanding God and Jesus have given to the Church. Because of its importance, the Church takes great care in ensuring that the Spoken Word is proclaimed with dignity and reverence. As a parish, we try our very best to fulfill these expectations.

The source and summit of our life as a people of God are the gifts of Christ's Body and Blood, the Eucharist, and the community gathered to share in this Eucharist. Over time, the Church has seen the need for Lay Faithful to assist with the distribution of Communion at Masses and other Liturgies. As well, Eucharistic Ministers assist the parish by bringing Communion to people who are unable to attend Mass.

If you're looking for a way to serve your parish, or if you've ever wanted to be a lay minister and serve during Mass, now is your chance. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Living God's Word

The Eucharist is meant to energize us to take Christ's presence out into the world. It may be easy to see ourselves in today's scriptures as the weak sinners, but we should also envision ourselves in the roles of Peter, John, and Luke. In the Eucharist Jesus feeds us and sends us to "preach in his name to all the nations" (Luke 24:47). We are his witnesses.

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Living Stewardship Now

Pause and review how you are loving and serving the Lord in daily life. What do you need to do differently? Are there things you need to do less, or to do more? Are you being called in a new direction?

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Grace

A vocation is a grace. By its nature it presupposes and requires that a voice should be heard - the voice of the Father through Christ and in the Holy Spirit, the wonderful invitation: Come!

~ Pope Paul VI

Happy Birthday!! Happy Birthday to our Parishioners

celebrating a birthday this week.

| Edward Patrick Alvarez | 04/14 | Vince Ramirez | 04/18 |
|------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Katherine Dougan | 04/14 | Ligaya Gementera | 04/19 |
| Rei Charles Quioco | 04/14 | Maria Iris Fernandez | 04/20 |
| Nino Joseph Cunan | 04/15 | Erica McCraken | 04/20 |

Please Pray for our Holy Father's Intention for April



<u>Pope's Intention</u>: For the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

LEGION OF MARY - ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Contact Person – Cathy Bohol – (415) 760-1966 Margarita Galindo – (415) 283-9945, Parish Office – (415) 421-373 JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL **PRAESIDIUM** Meeting - Sundays at 11:30 am in Bitanga Hall



The Legion Family Worldwide On all continents In over 170 countries 4 million active members 5 million auxiliary members



The Founder Frank Duff 1889 - 1980

Legion of Mary's History

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on the 7th of September in 1921.

It is a lay Catholic organization giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in

almost every country.

Legion of Mary's Aim

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members

developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's works.

Legion of Mary's Unit

The unit of a Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussions. Persons who wish to join the Legion

must apply for membership in a praesidium.

Legion of Mary's Active Works

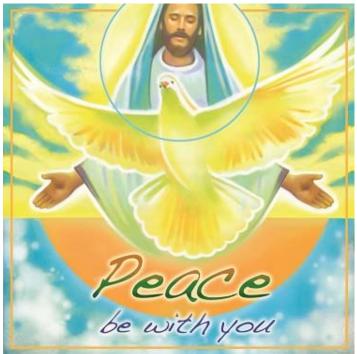
The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of everyone. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in homes

and hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolate and missionary undertakings

sponsored by the parish. The works are more of spiritual works of mercy.

Legion of Mary's Active Membership

This membership is open to all faithfully practicing Catholics. Members attend weekly meetings and engage in prayers and active works. Candidates under 18 years of age can be received in a Junior Praesidium.



Saints & Special Observances SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29 Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51 Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52:59 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Today's Readings

First Reading — The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead (Acts 3:13-15, 17-19).

Psalm — Lord, let your face shine on us (Psalm 4).

Second Reading — We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one (1 John 2:1-5a).

Gospel — Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:35-48).

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

God's Word Today

The Easter season is a time of mystagogy. Mystagogy is an ancient word that simply means "unfolding the mysteries." During the Easter season, the Church unfolds the mysteries of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection so that the newly baptized, along with the entire community of believers, can grasp more fully the meaning of the paschal mystery. Today's scriptures offer a lesson in mystagogy for us all. Jesus' place in salvation history is recounted by Saint Peter in the first reading and interpreted by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage. Like students who sit at the feet of their master, let us gather around the table of God's word, asking God to open our hearts and minds to a renewed sense of the meaning of the paschal mystery in our lives.

~ From Saint Margaret Sunday Missal, copyright © J. S. Paluch Company

Jesus, shine through me and be so in me that every person I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. ~ John Henry Cardinal Newman

Church

God sends no churches from the skies, Out of our hearts they must arise.

~ Anonymous

A Gentle Reminder...

Please don't forget to fulfill your pledge obligation to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA). St. Patrick and the Archdiocese of San Francisco thank you!!

Relevant Radio

Tune your radio to 1260 AM or 101.7 FM for 24-hour broadcasts concerning Catholic teachings and prayers.

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St. Patrick Church Lifetime Donors

You can still make a donation by going to our parish website: *www.stpatricksf.org*. On our homepage scroll down and click Online Giving. Create an account if you don't have one. Once you have created an account, please choose the Lifetime Donor option. We are asking a Lifetime Donor to donate a minimum of \$20 a week or \$80 a month. Your privacy and financial information are safe with us. And we recommend that you use your credit card for an easier and faster transaction.

Thank you for your generosity and support. For more information, email us at *information@stpatricksf.org* or call us at 415-421-3730 We have 89 Lifetime Donors as of 11 Jan 2024

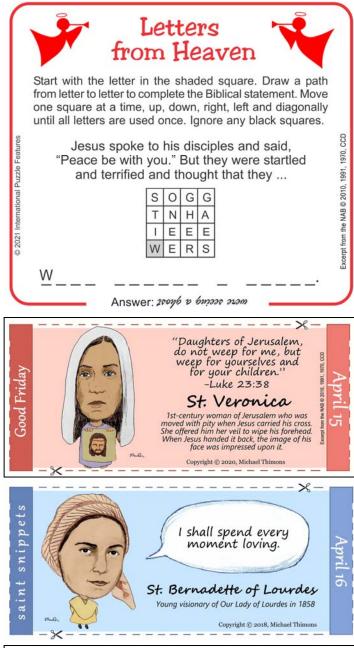
In Memory of Nicomedes & Juanita Abello Eleanor Lawsin Marilou Alegre Corazon M. Ambata Roberto Andrey Ben Jacob Banatao Joy, Jen & Jackie Bandelaria Valente Banez Eufemia Barcelona Evelyn Bird Maria Bravo Mercedita Cadiz Mamerto (MC) Canlas John & Judith Casper Dr. Beverly Lynn Bolinger Sandra Cea Derrick Chang Felix Chang Dan & Katya Coming In Memory of William Cotter, Jr. Michelle, Nathan & Cora Cuison Thelma Dancel Evangeline Viray De Leon Brian Dela Pena Rowena Cruz Diaz † Rosalinda Del Rosario Virginia Dilim Justin Edwards Joycelyn Espanol Joseph & Maria Fang Rizalexallenallan Fernandez Familia Galindo Moreno Y Berziga Lolita Gamboa Lilian Gomez Josefa Gonzales Alvin Gonzalez Therese Guintu Ina Howard The Ignacio-Ramos Family Manolito & Dulce Jaldon Georgina Jose Kaiser Permanentesf, 4Center & Oncology Kusina ni Tess Judy Neri Labaria Tita Labaria Dan And Annie Lacap

Felicitas Locsin Merly Lorete Fe Macatangay Beltran C. Marces Corazon Mariano Loren Masangcay Evelyn Mendoza **Rachelle** Morales Jeff & Nenette Murata Norman & Lily Nangca Vilma Nangca Glorina Ochangco Florentina Palacio Jesus & Marilu Paningbatan Carlito Pantig Jun & Emy Pasion Joseph, Joshua, Jordan & Liam Evelyn Sabucdalao Perdue Naomi Quioco Lolita Ramos Alma Raymundo Damian Regaspi, Sr. & Family Marino & Elisa Reves Fr. Raymund M. Reyes Hersie Rosales Matthew Rothschild Rosalina San Diego Concesa San Pedro Mario, Nelly, & Tracy Sarmiento Shigehisa & Trinidad F. Sasajima Estela Sullivan Jennifer Sunga Emma & Dominic Tirone (FH) Victoriano & Carmen Uchi & Family Laura Vanmunching Boying & Rosie Vasquez Alden, Mercy Ventigan & Kids Vida Ventura Josephine Villa Edwin, Rosalie, Krista, Ezra & Juliana Cielito Littaua Yoma Claudine Yu Charlie A. Yparraguirre

Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024

You alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.

~ Psalm 4:9

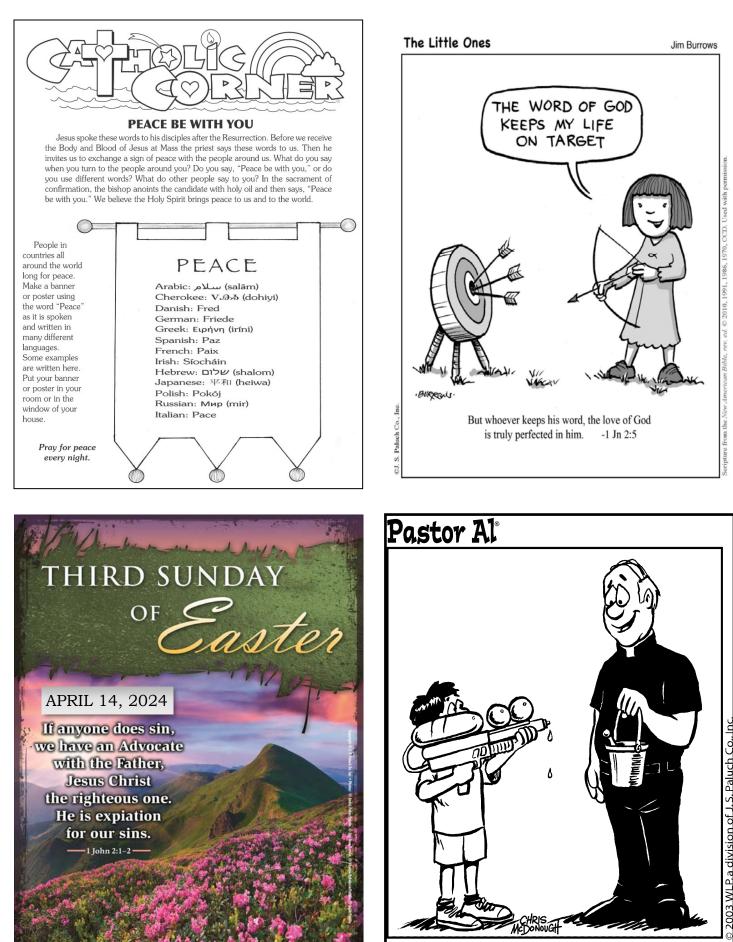


Treasures From Our Tradition

The season of First Communions is here, and invitations pour in as the new communicants, mostly seven years old, gather extended families for their first reception of the Eucharist. Recently, the celebrations are often on Sundays, in the regular gatherings of the faith community. There, it becomes clear that First Communion is meant to initiate a regular pattern of reception, and that there is to be a second, third, hundredth, thousandth celebration.

Eastern Catholics and Orthodox children follow a different plan, since they are given a taste of the consecrated wine at their baptism as infants. We Western Christians delay until "the age of reason," but many years ago, Communion was not for children at all. Twelve to fourteen was the typical time for Roman Catholics to receive for the first time, and in those days this was a transition into the adult world of work and marriage. The custom did not begin to shift to childhood until reforms set in place by Pope St. Pius X began to take hold in the 1920s. If you are going to a First Communion, you can give thanks that the table of the Lord is today open so much more lavishly than before.

James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



"Holy water in a super soaker *would* save me a few steps, but I doubt the bishop would approve."

Fulfillment

It is interesting that during the Easter season, when we do not hear a reading from the Old Testament, it becomes so important. This is particularly true today. Peter's speech begins with a prayer formula familiar to Jews: "The God of Abraham" (Acts 3:13). It likewise contains the potent phrases "Holy and Righteous One" and "mouth of all the prophets" (3:14, 18). Peter was stating in no uncertain terms that the law, psalms, and prophets had been fulfilled in Christ. This is reinforced by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage, when he states that everything in the scriptures (to the early Christians "the scriptures" were what we call the Old Testament) had to be fulfilled. Above all, Jesus and Peter both emphasize that we are witnesses to all of this, and are sent forth to bear witness to it in the world. The Latin Missa, from which our word "Mass" comes, means "sent" (as in "mission"). As we leave Mass today, let us remember to be witnesses to all that has been fulfilled in the risen Christ.

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Treasures From Our Tradition The month of May has not only good weather, but an interesting pedigree. It is named after the Roman goddess Maia, said to be the mother of Hermes, or Mercury. The Romans saw it as "love's month," while in England, more practical farmers called it "Three Milks," since the cows grazing on springtime's bounty could produce at a phenomenal rate. Old customs die hard, and Christians have never made peace with Maytime frolics. No wonder that popular tradition dedicated the month's prayers and devotions to Mary, although we cannot lose sight of the fact that the liturgy always has Easter at the center of celebration. Recent developments have enriched Mary's place in a cycle of feast days woven through the whole year, dedicated Saturday as a weekly day for devotion, and highlighted Mary's role in the Advent story. In fact, every day of the year Evening Prayer centers on the singing of Mary's Canticle of Praise. The fifty days of Easter culminate on Pentecost with Mary, present of course for Christ's birth, waiting in the upper room for the birth of the church.

~ Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Feast of Faith The Second Reading

The Liturgy of the Word generally follows a consistent pattern of three readings and a psalm. The second reading is always taken from one of the New Testament epistles or the book of Revelation, and generally is not intentionally aligned with either the Gospel or the first reading.

Where would we be without these letters in which great saints and apostles like Paul, Peter, James, and John share their wisdom and pastoral good sense with the early Christian communities? It is in these letters, even more than in the Gospel narratives, that we learn what it means to be church: to live with each other, in the world yet not of the world, in these days after the Lord's resurrection. Each New Testament letter was written by a particular leader for a particular community at a particular time. We are reminded of this at the beginning of the proclamation-"A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians," or the Corinthians, or the Thessalonians. These texts were shaped by their particular historical and cultural context, but at the same time, through the liturgy, these letters are written to us, here, today. They speak to the realities of Christian living no matter where—or when—we live. They are truly "the word of the Lord" for us.

Savoring the Experience

One of the wonderful things about vacations is the time we spend two or three weeks afterward savoring the experience, sharing vacation photos and memories with our family and friends. This kind of reflection puts us back in touch with the original experience and reminds us of the relaxation and wonder the vacation afforded us. Today, on the Third Sunday of Easter, the Church blesses us with reminders of what we celebrated two Sundays ago. All three readings are reflections on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ. One of the threads running through these reflections is that the purpose of the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection was to save us, to forgive our sins. We are given fifty days to ponder this reality—fifty days to savor the experience of Christ's dying and rising for us.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co. Reflecting on God's Word

Some vaccinations only last so long. After a predictable amount of time the immunity wears off and people are susceptible to the same old disease again. That's when it's time for a booster shot. It seems that we also need booster shots for faith. Baptism alone is not enough. The joy and peace that filled our communities two weeks ago are probably starting to flag and our old selves may be starting to re-emerge. We need a weekly dose of Resurrection appearances, in the Eucharist we share.

All three of this week's readings as well as the psalm point out the weakness of our human faith. Yet they emphasize the forgiveness and blessing that are always available to those who turn to "Jesus Christ the righteous one." Can we recognize ourselves in Luke's Gospel today? Do we realize how deeply we depend on our weekly "booster shot" of the Eucharist to remember and reclaim the saving presence of the risen Lord?

~ Virginia Stillwell Copyright © 2014, World Library Publications. All rights reserved

Treasures From Our Tradition

With the Easter season well under way, we now resume our survey of the sacrament of the sick. The pastoral care of the sick will be misunderstood if we start from the vantage point of the sickroom. Begin with the Sunday assembly, from which the sick person has been separated by the crisis of illness, and whose absence is given expression in prayer and service. The goal is to extend the consolation of the Lord's presence at the table to those who are apart from it, and for the assembly to enfold them in prayer.

Secondarily, the goal is to teach people what the Church desires for all those who are sick. Seeing ministers dispatched to the sick from Mass every Sunday might help a caregiver realize that their dear one can also receive Communion. Witnessing the anointing of a woman facing surgery might help another person to overcome hesitation and ask for the sacrament's healing and strength. Society's impulse may be to marginalize the sick, but the tradition of our community is to see them at the center of our life. When Roman persecutors ordered St. Lawrence the Deacon to hand over the jewels of the church, he assembled a motley crew of the sick and the infirm and announced with all humility, "Behold, my lord, the treasures of the church of Christ."

~ Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Nature's Lessons

Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.

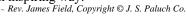
Believing in Jesus Christ

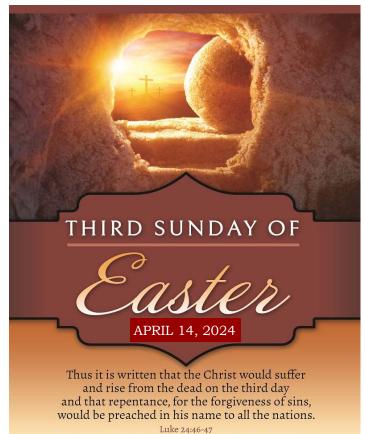
Throughout the Easter season, all three of the Sunday readings are taken from the New Testament—the Christian scriptures. Together they explore what it means to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the One who fulfilled the prophecies of the Jewish scriptures.

Today's selections refer to our human weakness, yet they emphasize the forgiveness and peace that are available to those who put their faith in "Jesus Christ the righteous one" (1 John 2:2). In the Acts of the Apostles Peter invites everyone to "repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19). The First Letter of John calls Jesus Christ "explation for our sins" (1 John 2:2). Finally, in the Gospel Jesus greets the disciples with "Peace" and urges them to preach "repentance, for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47).

Treasures From Our Tradition

There are many ways in which religious communities are organized. Some have a central authority in a congregation, and others have a "rule" that is shared by all the members, but are a kind of federation of independent houses. Sometimes, congregations with distinct histories and ministries decide to merge. Several years ago, one of the largest mergers on record took place. Seven independent congregations of Dominican women religious, most in the Midwest, are now one new congregation enfolding more than seven hundred members spanning thirtysix states. The oldest of the founding groups, the so-called "Kentucky Dominicans," began as a frontier community in 1822. Other communities have European roots. To get to this historic moment, the sisters spent many years in conversation, and approved the new structure by a two-thirds majority vote. This was then ratified by the Holy See. The merger allows the sisters to pool their resources in order to be more effective in ministry. They are living the Paschal Mystery, experiencing Christ's dying and rising in an inspiring way.





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Fault or Fate?



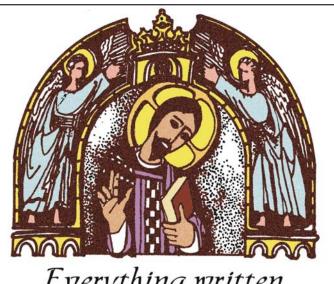
Peter seems to be pretty tough with his listeners in the first reading. He says they handed Jesus over, denied him before Pilate, asked for a murderer to be released in his place, and put Jesus to death. They must have thought they were doomed. Suddenly, he tells them they were just ignorant. And that God had planned all this long ago. So is he saying Jesus' death is their fault, or just fate? The answer of course is that it's

everyone's fault. Our sins are the reason for Jesus' death. We deny Jesus when we choose to be selfish instead of loving. We hand him over when we tell ourselves we are too busy to take time to pray. We ask for Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus when we insist on doing things our own way rather than God's way. We crucify Jesus when we follow the crowd instead of following the Lord.

It is only "fate" in the sense that our sins needed to be forgiven and God plan's for salvation was through Jesus' death and resurrection. Does that mean our sins cause something in the past to happen? There were sinners long before Jesus' time and God knew there would be sinners after that. God also planned to forgive anyone who repented their sins. In one sense, Jesus died for those who deserved to be punished for sin, and also for those who would deserve punishment in the future. He rose from the dead to show that God's forgiveness raises us up from guilt to a new life.

Peter wasn't laying a guilt trip on the listeners. After all, this is good news. God planned all this to show how much he loved us. Our response should be one of joy that we are forgiven because of that love. All we have to do is tell God we are sorry, mean it, and start living our response of love. Sins may be our fault, but Love is our fate.

~ Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Everything written about me must be fulfilled © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Third Sunday of Easter

It is interesting that during the Easter season, when we do not hear a reading from the Old Testament, it becomes so important. This is particularly true today. Peter's speech begins with a prayer formula familiar to Jews: "The God of Abraham" (Acts 3:13). It likewise contains the potent phrases "Holy and Righteous One" and "mouth of all the prophets" (3:14, 18). Peter was stating in no uncertain terms that the law, psalms, and prophets had been fulfilled in Christ. This is reinforced by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage, when he states that everything in the scriptures (to the early Christians "the scriptures" were what we call the Old Testament) had to be fulfilled. Above all, Jesus and Peter both emphasize that we are witnesses to all of this, and are sent forth to bear witness to it in the world. The Latin Missa, from which our word "Mass" comes, means "sent" (as in "mission"). As we leave Mass today, let us remember to be witnesses to all that has been fulfilled in the risen Christ.

Making the Point

Today's Gospel passage takes up the story begun on the Third Sunday of Easter a year ago, the story familiar to us as "the road to Emmaus." So remarkable was the revelation of Christ to the Emmaus disciples in the breaking of the bread that they were compelled to return to Jerusalem during the night—a very dangerous time to be traveling in those days—even though they had just walked the seven miles there after leaving Jerusalem. To reinforce their recounting of their story to the eleven, Jesus himself appears and repeats, nearly word for word, what he had told the Emmaus disciples on the road that day. Luke's repetition of this passage marks it as one that was very important to the early Christian community, one to which we should pay particularly careful attention, so our hearts, too, can burn within us as Christ speaks to us.

Proof, **Please**

The group of eleven does not seem to be as eager to have Jesus in their midst as the Emmaus disciples were. Most likely Jerusalem was still a dangerous place for them to be. After all, the story we are hearing took place only a few days after the death of Jesus. Instead of seeing Jesus as a traveling companion, they are terrified in spite of his greeting of "Peace" and need proof that it is he (akin to Thomas in last Sunday's Gospel from John). Though they are joyful upon knowing that it is he, Luke tells us he gives them further proof by eating in front of them. Most importantly, he charges them to be witnesses that he is the fulfillment of the Hebrew scriptures. Our Lectionary today omits the next verses, which tell us that Jesus was carried up to heaven that day (the day of the resurrection) and that they were made bold enough at having witnessed his risen presence to go out into Jerusalem, even to the temple, to proclaim their joyful message. We, today, ought to follow in their steps, allowing the presence of the risen Christ to send us out to proclaim his good news with joy.

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Church Etiquette ~ What is It?

It's getting to Mass on time.

- It's moving to the center of the pew so that others can fill in, even when they're late.
- It's placing the missalette back in the book holder after Mass.
- It's putting the kneeler up after Mass.
- It's checking your pew and taking your tissues, books, Cheerios, gloves, purse, keys, hat, camera, glasses and scarf with you when you leave.
- It's everyone appreciating those who do all of the above! God bless!

Fulfillment

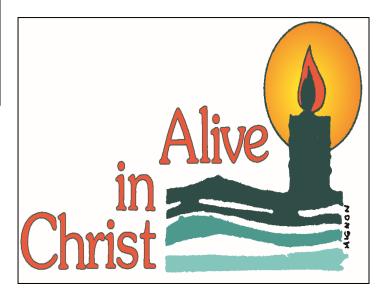
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He is Real

Fundamental to us as Christians is our belief that Jesus Christ really died on the cross, that he was truly raised from the dead, and that he will return at the end of time as he promised. It is clear from today's Gospel reading that the risen Jesus was not a disembodied spirit, or an illusion of the grief-stricken disciples. On that first Easter the disciples, as witnesses to Jesus' death, were overwhelmed with joy to see him risen to new life. When Jesus appeared among them he told them he was no ghost, and to prove his reality invited them to touch his hands and feet. Then he asked for a piece of baked fish and ate it in front of them. After this reassurance Jesus went on to explain to them once more how his death and resurrection were foretold in the scriptures. At this point he did not pose complicated questions to test their understanding; instead, he gave them a task: to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins "to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Acts 24:49). Stop and think. This is not "Give a few hours of your time, and we'll consider you've done your part." What Jesus was giving them was an allconsuming, life-long mission. They were his chosen followers, his disciples, but now the time for learning was over. They must become apostles, the ones sent on a mission. Every time we come together to celebrate the Eucharist, we are offered the love of God through word and sacrament. We are reminded of God's saving deeds and wonderful promises, and we are given food for the journey. Finally, we are urged to go forth to love and serve the Lord. What mission is Christ calling you to fulfill, that only you can do?

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Third Sunday of Easter Mission and Reconciliation

The readings of this Sunday's liturgy celebrate the mission entrusted to us by the risen Lord and describe that mission in terms of reconciliation. Easter is the great celebration of reconciliation. All things are made new—are reconciled to God—in Christ the risen Lord. As Christ's mission was one of reconciliation, so is it the mission of all who die and rise with Christ and who seek to witness to his resurrection in their lives.

Comment

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles focuses us on the preaching of Peter. This bold orator is the same man who thrice denied Jesus, the same man who was too afraid to stand by his Master's cross, the same man who experienced a dramatic conversion at the Resurrection, and the same man who is now taking to heart and to action the mission of reconciliation imparted to him by the risen Lord. For Peter and the other apostles, the Resurrection was an experience of unparalleled forgiveness and reconciliation. Their abandoning of Jesus was forgiven, and that same forgiveness is now the subject of Peter's preaching: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." Peter knew what he was talking about. He had experienced it himself.

In the second reading, John reminds us that although Christ brings forgiveness and reconciles us to God, the day-to-day difficulties of life remain. John assures us that Christ intercedes for us, but John also calls on us to live the reconciled life by adhering to God's commandments. Conversion, John says, is not simply an exercise of the mind. It is a much more total activity, one that must be evidenced in all that we do. Only by living the reconciled life do we really "know" Christ.

Like the other accounts of the appearances of the risen Lord, today's Gospel passage begins with an experience of reconciliation: "Peace to you." The Gospel then goes on to show how the mission of reconciliation and peace is to be shared: by beginning with the Scriptures. In other words, the good—and reconciling—news is spread first by proclaiming and explaining the meaning of the Scriptures. That is why, in today's first reading, Peter begins his proclamation by explaining that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophets and of the promise (covenant) made by God to Abraham. Proclaiming this reconciling good news is the mission given the apostles by Jesus. As the apostles begin to fulfill this mission, the Church is formed.

Reflection

First there is mission, then the Church. The mission of reconciliation the risen Christ gave us comes *before* the Church. Indeed, the Church exists only because of the mission and only to fulfill the mission. When the Church ceases to carry out its mission, there is no church. It seems mighty important that we understand this primacy, to put first things first. As Church, therefore, we must be concerned, first of all, with reaching out, not in. We must extend to people, in concrete situations—in the flesh— the message and meaning of Christ's reconciling love. Happily, when we do that, the Church grows and flourishes. Attending to the mission puts first things first and only then begets the Church.

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The Spirituality of Stewardship



Stewardship is the basic expression of Christian discipleship. By stewardship we recognize that God is the origin of all life, the giver of everything, and the source of our freedom and giftedness. We respond to this grace of God through prayer, by serving God and God's people through ministry and by sharing our *time*, *talent and treasure* with those in need.

Stewards do four things: 1) receive God's gifts gratefully; 2) nurture God's gifts responsibly; 3) share God's gifts justly and charitably; and 4) return those gifts to God abundantly.

Over the years the categories of *time, talent and treasure* (the 3 T's) have been used in talking about stewardship. Here, we focus on prayer, service and sharing.

Prayer is about our relationship with God. How important is this for us? Of the 168 hours per week, of the 144 daily ten-minute slots, how much time do we use in prayer? Of course, the most important prayer is the Eucharist in which we hear God's word and receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Stewards are Eucharistic people.

Service is about gifts and needs. We acknowledge the gifts God has given us and we place these gifts at the service of those in need. Service is expressed in ministries like worship, education, community, social justice, leadership, and evangelization. Steward-ship of service is not so much that we do things for others but rather Jesus is doing something for others through us.

Stewards are generous people having a grateful heart realizing that all gifts come from the Lord. They feel an obligation to return the first and best portion (be it 3%, 5%, 10%, 20% or more) of their gifts to God, to the Church and other charities. They refuse to be co-opted by a culture of greed and live a life of hoarding. We can ask: can a person claim to be a disciple of the Lord if they are not sharing generously of their financial resources?

There is a strange phenomenon in stewardship. The greater the generosity and the sacrifice, the greater the joy. Joy is impossible without generosity, and joy is the infallible sign of God's presence.

tyr.

Wings

Faith furnishes prayer with wings, without which it cannot soar to Heaven.

~ St. John Climacus

Martyrdom

It is not the suffering but the cause that makes the mar-

The Inner Word: What's in your Heart?

The gospel paradox asserts itself in the readings. The author of life is put to death. The sinner is forgiven. The ghost has flesh and bones. Such paradoxes fill our experiences. But we are called to believe in the saving presence of Christ despite all evidence to the contrary. This is the real challenge of faith.

- How do my experiences challenge my faith?
- What do I see and yet not believe?
- How has forgiveness moved me to repent?

Applying the Word: Incredulous for joy

 \mathbf{P} erhaps the final measure of a preacher's success is the fruit of the Holy Spirit known as joy. The preacher should possess this fruit, of course. But the assembly should likewise exhibit signs of it in the way they participate in prayer, song, community, and service. Joyful people will not hesitate to approach the Eucharist—like those early disciples, they have no reason to fear Jesus or mistrust their welcome. This table is not set for the worthy and blameless, but for cowards and deserters who nonetheless trust in the peace and forgiveness of Christ. Is that not the assurance we offer each other in the Sign of Peace at every Mass? Jesus offers sinners his peace, because righteous people aren't in need of it. ~ *Alice Camille*

Scripture links

Great speeches of Acts: Peter—2:14-40; 3:12-26; 10:34-43; Stephen—7:2-53; Paul—13:16-41; 17:22-31; 20:17-35; 22:1-21; 24:10-21; 26:2-23 Response to Peter's preaching: Acts 2:41 John's soft addresses: 1 John 2:1, 7, 12-14, 18, 28; 3:2, 7, 13, 18, 21; 4:1, 4, 7, 11; 5:21; 3 John 2, 5, 11, 15 God so loved the world: John 3:16

Catechism links

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(Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph numbers) **Proclamation:** CCC 1-3; 74; 429 **Joy:** CCC 301; 736; 1829; 1832 **Peace:** CCC 736; 1829; 1832; 2305; 2317 Despite the pain and terror her two daughters suffered in the July 7, 2005 London bombings, Patty Benton spoke with optimism and forgiveness shortly after her daughters emerged from surgery to address the injuries sustained in the blast.

"One thing the Bible tells us is that we need to pray for our enemies," Benton said at a Duke Medical Center news conference. "Being angry and hateful doesn't hurt the bombers. It hurts us. I guess I just feel a great sense of sadness. They've not accomplished anything. They've lost their lives, they've ruined their families' lives, and ruined a lot of other people's lives."

Patty Benton said her family refuses to hate the terrorist who changed their daughters' lives. "It's not an enemy that I have chosen, it's an enemy that has chosen me, or my children," she said.

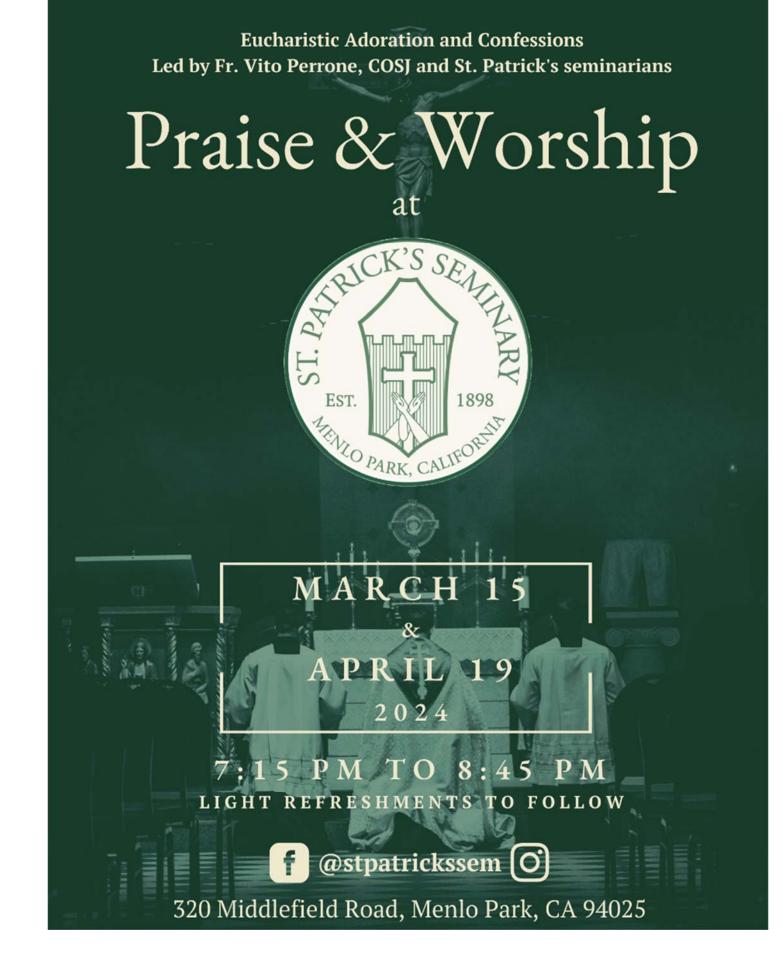
What the Bentons have chosen, however, is forgiveness, and in the process they have helped open our minds to understand scripture, just as the risen Christ did for his disciples.

> ~Tom McGrath and Brenda Coleman









The National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage

The launch from the West with the St. Junipero Serra Route, May 19, 2024

The bishops of the United States have called for a three-year grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The revival launched nationally on the feast of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), June 19, 2022. It will continue through the National

Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2024, and Pentecost 2025. The centerpiece of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival will be the Indianapolis National Eucharistic Congress.

Leading up to the National Congress, there will be a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage beginning from four points in the United States: Archdiocese of San Francisco; Diocese of Brownsville, Texas; Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota; and the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Each route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will begin on Pentecost weekend (May 18-19, 2024) and arrive in Indianapolis on July 16.



SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 18 6:30 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Holy Hour Mission Dolores Basilica 3321 16th St, San Francisco

Sunday, May 19 11 a.m. Pilgrimage Kick-off Mass with Archbishop Cordileone St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral 1111 Gough Street, San Francisco

1 p.m. Pilgrimage begins to the Golden Gate Bridge

3:30 p.m. Estimated time of Golden Gate Bridge crossing

4:30 p.m. Sunday Pilgrimage Concludes at Fort Baker (Marin side)

Monday, May 20

12:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration St. Sebastian Catholic Church 373 Bon Air Rd, Kentfield, California

1:30 p.m. Eucharistic procession to Mission San Rafael via Albert Park 151 Andersen Dr, San Rafael, California

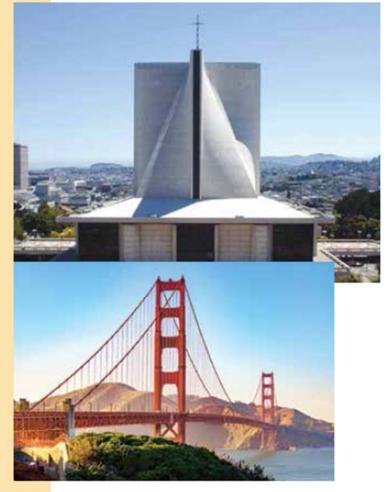
2:45 p.m. Eucharistic procession continues from Albert Park to Mission San Rafael

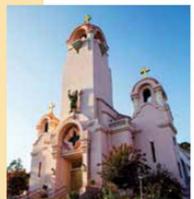
3:15 p.m. Eucharistic Pilgrims arrive at Mission San Rafael for Eucharistic Adoration

5 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Eucharistic Holy Hour **St. Raphael Catholic Church** 1104 5th Avenue, San Rafael, California

Note: Procession arrival/departure times are approximate and route subject to modification.







SAVE THE DATES! Come out and join us



SCAN TO SEE THE COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS or visit

sfarch.org/events

April 28: Respect Life Essay Contest Award Mass

The Archdiocesan Office of Human Life & Dignity will host a special Mass and awards ceremony with Archbishop Cordileone at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at 11 a.m. to recognize the winners and honorable mention recipients of the 35th annual Respect Life Essay Contest.

May 18: Foster Care Mass

May is Foster Care Awareness

Month. As we celebrate the important role that foster parents play, all those connected to the foster care system are invited to a special Mass at St. Stephen Catholic Church at 4:30 p.m.

June 14-16: Save the Date: Project Rachel Healing After Abortion Retreat

The Archdiocese of San Francisco sponsors Project Rachel which helps women and men heal the pain of abortion and to find the path to peace and reconciliation. The next Women's Retreat for Healing After Abortion will take place June 14-16 at a confidential location. Bilingual in Spanish and English. Talks will be in English. The retreat will be led by Father Vito Perrone, COSJ and Father James Liebner, SVD. The retreat will include Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation and counseling.: https://sfarch.org/event/ womens-retreat-for-healingafter-abortion-6/

June 15: Save the Date: Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon David Mees Join Archbishop Cordileone for the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon David Mees at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at 10 a.m. on June 15.



May 18-20: Launch of the National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage Western Route

May 18: Vespers and Eucharistic Holy Hour at Mission Dolores Basilica at 6:30 p.m.

May 19: 11 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Cordileone and pilgrimage across the Golden Gate Bridge

May 20: Pilgrimage through Marin County ending at St. Raphael Church

More information: www.sfarch.org/eucharistic-revival

SAVE THE DATE

for the launch of The National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage from the West with the St. Junipero Serra Route

MAY 19, 2024

Join Archbishop Cordileone and the Eucharistic Perpetual Pilgrims For 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

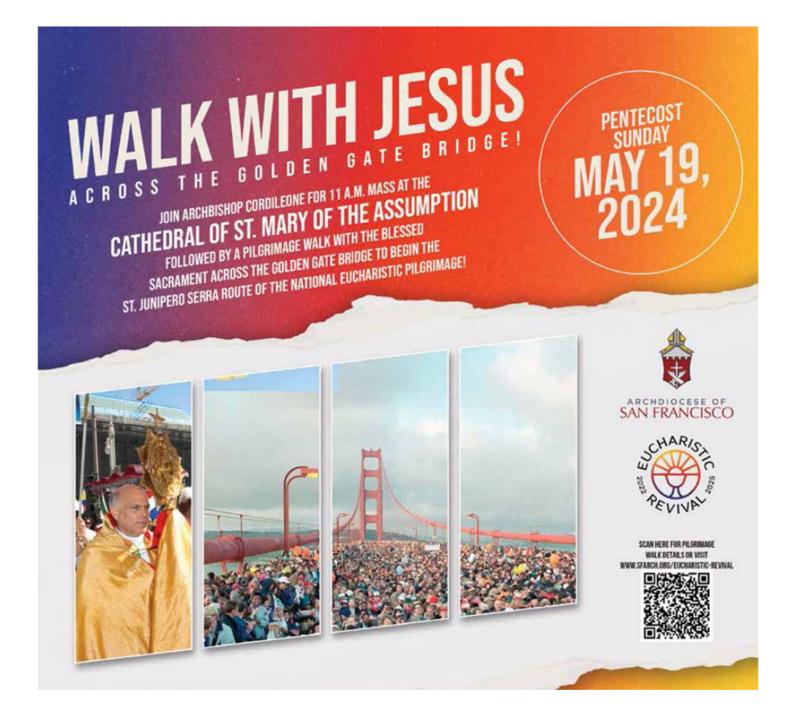
Followed by a pilgrimage walk across the Golden Gate Bridge

For More Information: www.sfarch.org/eucharistic-revival









Search & Serve Retreat May 22 - 27, 2024 San Francisco Bay Area July 6 - 11, 2024 Evansville, IN



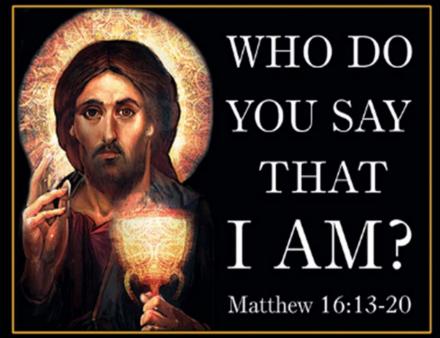
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THERE CAN BE NO EUCHARIST WITHOUT THE PRIESTHOOD

~POPE FRANCIS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO • 2023-24 SEMINARIANS



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Mass Intentions for Apr 14 - 20

| Date | Time | Intention | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Sunday 14 | 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | TG Rene & Elena Delos Santos FH Drew & Alice † Jordan Chavez SI Kenneth Kirby | |
| Monday 15 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | † Mac Miller † Jordan Chavez † Paul Walker | |
| Tuesday 16 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | † Hersha Parady † Jordan Chavez † Prudencio Mariano | |
| Wednesday 17 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | † Aniceto & Ignacia Macatangay † Jordan Chavez † Maddy Cusack | |
| Thursday 18 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | SI Kukuuwa Andam † Jordan Chavez † Nic Kerdiles | |
| Friday 19 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | SI Rev. Roberto Andrey † Jordan Chavez † Laura Vickers | |
| Saturday 20 | 7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | SI Ben Jacob Banatao † Jordan Chavez † Terry Kirkman | |

Parish Schedule

Parish Office Hours Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (in the Rectory) (appointments are preferred) Monday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Every Tuesday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

Sto. Niño Devotion Every Friday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

Sacred Heart First Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

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Feast Day January 9

Rosie Drapiza Lydia Cagampan Rene & Elsa Tuazon

> San Lorenzo **Ruiz** 1st Filipino Saint (Sep 28)

Shiela Montemayor Maribelle Olegario Gino Percival Ventura

> O GOD, You bestowed on St. Anne such grace hat she was found orthy to becom the mother of MARY, who brought forth Your only begotten SON. irant that we ma be helped by her intercession. Amen.

