

# 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](http://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 through Friday:

8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Saturday:

12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.



***January 21, 2024 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

*The kingdom of God is at hand.*

*Repent, and believe in the gospel. ~ Mark 1:15*



**January 21, 2024**  
**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B**

*Jon 3:1-5,10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20*

The Ninevites heard the preaching of Jonah and repented of their evil ways (1), thus experiencing the Lord's compassion (Ps). Do we repent when we hear the preaching of Jesus (3)? Do we invest our lives in the world rather than in God's kingdom (2)?

### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Simon and Andrew, James and John were working when Jesus called them. They immediately put down their nets and followed Jesus. Can you imagine? The disciples walked away from their previous way of life and toward another, in which Jesus and his way take precedence. They put aside anything that would stand between themselves and the life of discipleship. Jonah acted similarly—he perceived the Lord's call and responded without question. He literally walked a different path, toward Nineveh. No doubt, Saint Paul's own dramatic conversion was in his mind as he wrote to the community in Corinth. The path of discipleship is about holy perspective. Do not let anything stand between you and Christ.

#### **Leave Behind**

Simon, Andrew, James, and John abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. The nets were their livelihood, the most important tools for their work as fishermen. For these first disciples, their nets represented all they knew life to be about, and all it could be. Yet they put the nets aside, risking an unknown future in order to "catch people" as Jesus promised. What do you need to leave behind? Most people will not be asked to give up their livelihood in order to answer Christ's call. Yet we certainly must abandon everything that prevents us from living our lives authentically as followers of Jesus. Sometimes we must let go of the life we know in order to embrace a living, compelling, meaningful life of faith in Christ. Prayerfully examine your faith and life. Is there attachment to material possessions? Are there relationships or feelings that prevent you from living and growing in faith? Is there a negative habit that gets in the way? Let go of what stands between you and the Lord. Invite God's healing presence, forgiveness, and mercy to transform the nets—all that holds you back—and risk answering Christ's call to discipleship.

#### **Walk Toward**

Jonah did not simply walk away from his previous way of life. He walked toward Nineveh. The disciples did not only abandon their nets. They walked toward Jesus and to a life of discipleship. G. K. Chesterson is quoted as saying, "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been tried and found difficult." Yet Christian living is also deeply meaningful. What would happen if you truly took the call to follow Jesus to heart? It isn't only about turning away from things that are counter to the Christian way of life. As it was for Jonah, the disciples at the seashore, and Saint Paul, a true life of faith is also about walking toward God, about loving God and neighbor, about risking an unknown future filled with life and goodness, holiness and grace.

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### **New Mass Schedule**

We will return to our pre-COVID-19 Mass schedule beginning Sunday, February 4, 2024.

#### **Sunday Masses:**

5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday  
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Masses on Sunday.

We will also have a monthly Tagalog Mass at 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month and a monthly Charismatic & Healing Mass at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

#### **Weekday Masses (Monday - Saturday)**

7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m. (Vigil Mass on Sat)

Confession will be available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Appointments are preferred.

### **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.

### **Lenten Recollection**

Everyone is invited to our Lenten Recollection on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the church followed by Mass at 12:10 p.m.

### **Happy Birthday!!**

Happy Birthday to our Parishioners born this week.

Tess Diaz	01/21	Zedrix Manganaan	01/25
Jessica Chan	01/22	Albert Tactay	01/25
Jannet Perlas	01/22	Maria Timonera	01/25
Michaela Anne Nangca	01/23	Ross Emmanuel Pelaez	01/26
Mercy Ventgan	01/23	Mayville Marte	01/27

### **Please Pray for our Holy Father's Intention for January**



**Pope's Intention:** For the gift of diversity in the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

## St. Patrick Church Lifetime Donors

You can still make a donation by going to our parish website: [www.stpatricksf.org](http://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](mailto: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	Felicitas Locsin
Corazon M. Ambata	Merly Lorete
Roberto Andrey	Fe Macatangay
Ben Jacob Banatao	Beltran C. Marces
Joy, Jen & Jackie Bandelaria	Corazon Mariano
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Ahvin Gonzalez	Victoriano & Carmen Uchi & Family
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Ina Howard	Boying & Rosie Vasquez
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Manolito & Dulce Jaldon	Vida Ventura
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Kusina ni Tess	Cielito Littaua Yoma
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Dan And Annie Lacap	

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.

~ Mark 1:15

## Saints & Special Observances

Tuesday: optional memorial ~ St. Vincent, Deacon, Martyr

Wednesday: Memorial ~

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

**THURSDAY: FEAST ~**

**THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE**

Friday: Memorial ~ Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Saturday: optional memorial ~ St. Angela Merici, Virgin

**SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7,10; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15,17-19; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20

**THURSDAY: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18**

Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a,10-17; Mk 4:35-41

**SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2,6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28*

## Patrician Meeting

The Legion of Mary is inviting you to an in-person Patrician Meeting on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm in McKenna Hall, St Patrick's Church.

**TOPIC: Servant of God Alfie Lambe, His Life and Works**

In 1953, a shy Irish-born 20-year-old of delicate health left Dublin to promote devotion to Our Lady as a lay-missionary and a representative of the Legion of Mary to South America.

Alphonsus "Alfie" Lambe died only six years later on January 21st and was buried in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires that introduced Alfie's Cause for Beatification in 1978.

His cause for potential canonization to sainthood continues today.

**Speaker: Margarita Galindo**

Please join us and share your thoughts and questions about the topic.

## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — The people of Nineveh believed God and turned from their evil ways (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).

**Psalm** — Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

**Gospel** — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:14-20).

*The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997.*

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## Week of Prayer For Christian Unity

The 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) will take place beginning January 18<sup>th</sup> under the banner of the theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself." The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 was selected by the Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches, and the Christian Churches in Burkina Faso, coordinated by the community of Chemin Neuf, a French Catholic and ecumenical community of vowed and lay people and its local community in Burkina Faso.

The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, reflects the connection between love of God and love of neighbor with a particular concern for challenging the boundaries of who is considered "neighbor". In this pericope, Jesus is questioned as to the path to eternal life. His answer is not to only observe the commandments, but to also imitate the love of God in the giving of self for another. It is a call for charity, mercy, justice, and unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

This oneness was ruptured at various times during the history of the Church, most notably in 1054 when Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians severed the bonds of unity and then again in 1517 when protests over perceived ecclesiastical abuses led to the fragmentation of western Christendom. Thankfully, most of the acrimony of the past is behind us, and Christians are more and more yearning for doctrinal unity and pastoral charity among all believers.

### Prayers For Christian Unity

Gracious Father,  
we pray to you for your holy catholic Church.  
Fill it with your truth.  
Keep it in your peace.  
Where it is corrupt, reform it.  
Where it is in error, correct it.  
Where it is right, defend it.  
Where it is in want, provide for it.  
Where it is divided, reunite it;  
for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.  
R./ Amen.

~ William Laud

Almighty and eternal God,  
you gather the scattered sheep  
and watch over those you have gathered.  
Look kindly on all who follow Jesus, your Son.  
You have marked them with the seal of one baptism,  
now make them one in the fullness of faith  
and unite them in the bond of love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R./ Amen.

### Living God's Word

There is one problem with Christian discipleship. No one will ever become a master. The most we can strive for is to be journeymen, like Jonah and Jesus' disciples. We can only show others the way if we commit ourselves to the journey and walk at the Master's side, trusting and listening and following the ways of the Lord.

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## Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make ...

F	U	S	Y
F	I	O	H
O	M	E	E
S	R	N	

Y \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: *you fishermen of men*

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saint snippets



Christ has made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to him whom the angels serve.

**St. Agnes**

A beautiful 12-year-old girl from a wealthy family who was martyred in the year 304 for being a Christian.

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January 21

saint snippets

I want to do all I can to make God known and loved.

**Bl. Laura Vicuña**

12-year old Chilean girl with a deep love for God. Weakened by physical abuse from the man her mother was living with, Laura passed away in 1904 as she called her mother to repentance.

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January 22

saint snippets



It would be my greatest delight to minister to the abandoned lepers.

**St. Marianne Cope**

German-born nun who cared for the lepers in Hawaii, including Fr. Damien of Molokai

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January 23

saint snippets



Do now what you wish to have done when your moment comes to die.

**St. Angela Merici**

16th-century Italian religious educator who founded the Company of St. Ursula (from which came the monastic Order of Ursulines)

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January 27

## A New Day Dawns

Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing “by their actions” how the people turn from evil (Jonah 3:10). A new day dawns.

Next we hear Paul telling the Corinthians, “The world in its present form is passing away” (1 Corinthians 7:31). He calls for a change of heart. Stopping short of telling them to stop carrying out their everyday activities, he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live “as though” they aren’t doing the things they are doing. A new day has dawned.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, “The kingdom of God is at hand!” (Mark 1:14). Simon and Andrew abandon their nets—and even their father—and follow him. A new day had dawned.

Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Didn’t a new day dawn today for us as well?

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

“Ordinary” is not always a desirable adjective. Who would not be insulted to receive a thank-you note for your “ordinary birthday gift,” or “the ordinary hospitality at the dinner party”? No restaurant advertises its “ordinariness,” no car dealer seats a customer at the steering wheel and whispers, “Look how ordinary it is!” Yet here we are in “Ordinary Time.” The word carries a different meaning here: it does not mean these days are dull, boring, pedestrian, uninteresting. It means “ordinal,” or “numbered” Sundays, a season of the year when we follow the story of Jesus’ life and ministry in an ordered way, with each Sunday assigned an ordinal number.

You can amaze your friends with this example of Catholic arithmetic: the “Ordinary Sundays” begin with the last Sunday of Christmas, the Baptism of the Lord, continue until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, and resume after a cluster of feasts following Pentecost Sunday. The numbers are calculated by counting backwards from the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Now you know there is nothing “ordinary” about “Ordinary Time!”

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

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

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## A New Way, A New World

In the reading from Jonah, God told him to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. When the whole city repented the very first day, they showed it by wearing sackcloth and fasting from food. Sometimes we might think that way: That repenting means punishing ourselves or feeling sorry. Jesus sees things differently.

He preached repentance that was a change of heart, a new way of looking at things, a new way of acting. In the gospel today, we see an example. The first people he calls to be disciples were fishermen. They would have considered their family, their partners, and their boat as the most important things in their lives. You need all of them to be a successful fisherman. One man sitting on a dock with a pole could barely keep himself fed, much less support a family.

Yet the disciples don’t even hesitate when called by Jesus. They leave behind their boats, their nets, even their father, to follow Jesus. They don’t worry about what they will do, or look back at what they are leaving behind. Now they are fishers of men. Their “repentance” was more than just giving up sins. They were beginning a new life and a new way of looking at the world.

Saint Paul refers to this as a new world. By following Jesus, we put the values of the present world behind us and look forward to a new one. His examples could apply today as much as in his time. Marriages, joy, sadness, buying property are still considered important to worldly people. Paul doesn’t expect everyone to stop doing those things. When he talks about not using the world fully, he means not fully engaged in the world, but looking to a better one, where God is more important than any passing pleasure or pain. Is your marriage an example of God’s love for your friends and relatives? When you are rejoicing, do you give thanks to God? When weeping, do you ask for his help? When you are shopping, do you buy what you really need, or what you think will make you happy? Jesus calls us all to this new way of living. With Jesus, we can make a new world.

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

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The over 60 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

## Living Stewardship Now

God does not demand moral perfection before you can be of worthy service. God asks for a loving heart and a willingness to stick with your commitment.

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# CATHOLIC CORNER

## THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE

This week the Church reminds us of our duty to respect life. We must recognize that God created all life and that life is a precious gift. We are called to protect it and care for it from the moment any life begins until the moment it ends. It is our responsibility, our share in the work of creation, to help all life grow. We must try to provide everything necessary for life to continue to become what God created it to be.

All life on earth begins very small—an egg, a seed, an acorn, a bulb, a baby.

Look at each of these pictures. Think about what each one might grow into and then draw a picture of it. Beside each picture, write one way in which you can care for and help that life to grow.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

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Jesus said to them,  
 "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
 Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. Mk 1:17-18



They  
 abandoned  
 their nets  
 and  
 followed him

## Pastor Al®

CHRIS McDONOUGH

"I'm not speeding up Mass just because you're going to a party at the roller rink afterwards."

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## Change Our Lives

In today's first reading, Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through Nineveh, frightening the citizens out of their wits. It works! They repent before Jonah makes his way through a third of the city, and God sees "by their actions" how they have turned from evil.

Then we hear Paul telling the Corinthians that "the world in its present form is passing away." He calls for a change of heart. He stops short of telling them to set aside their everyday lives, but still he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live as though they aren't doing the things they're doing.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, "The kingdom of God is at hand!" The apostles-to-be abandon their nets and follow him. Thus in all the readings we hear an invitation to a radical and immediate change in our lives.

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## Reflecting on God's Word

First apprentice, then journeyman, and finally master. That's the way someone "travels" when learning a trade. But before "setting out" one must find a trustworthy master who will accept him to study with her. Then he must commit himself to the "journey" of learning the trade. By watching and listening to the master, by imitating her example and following her advice, the disciple gradually learns her "ways."

The Scriptures this week present a journeyman, Jonah, and a master, Jesus. Why did people trust and follow them? People responded to Jonah because he was traveling the way of the Lord himself; he had repented and set out on the journey of discipleship. They responded to Jesus because he was a master worthy of their trust and because he invited them to be his disciples, to walk at his side and to study his ways. People followed them not because of their words, but because they knew the way.

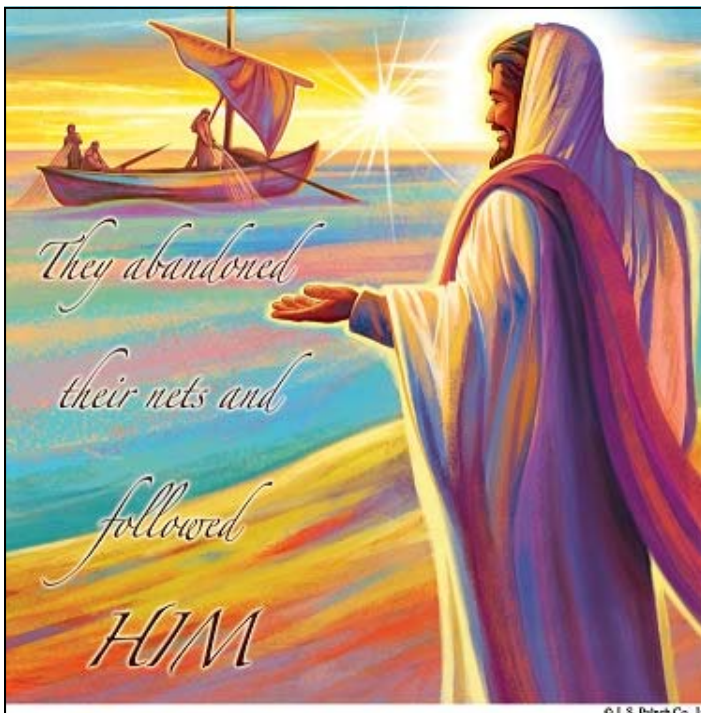
~ Virginia Stillwell

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## Gift

What I am is God's gift to me. What I become is my gift back to God.

~ Anonymous



## Treasures From Our Tradition

As a result of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has defined a new pastoral plan for your care whenever you struggle with illness. There are rites for children, a communal rite for celebration in the parish, forms of care for the sick at each stage and transition, and for the desperately ill. There is a much broader interpretation of who may be anointed, including not only the visibly ill, but those battling addiction, or the elderly coping with the frustrating aches and pains of aging. Children under seven are normally not anointed, since the oil is associated with reconciliation. (For the same reason, they do not receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.) However, children close to that age who have a serious illness often gain a deep level of spiritual insight and maturity, and may benefit from catechesis for the Eucharist. Once admitted to confirmation and/or Eucharist, a sick child should be anointed. It is a great strength of our present rite that a section is included with prayers tailored to the experience and understanding of a child. Considering our recent history of being fairly sparing with this sacrament, the generosity of celebration today is helping us to retrieve an essential part of our tradition of reverence for the sick.

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

## Feast of Faith The Penitential Rite

Standing together in the presence of the Lord, we acknowledge our weakness, our sins and faults and failings. But the penitential rite is really less about our sins than it is about God's mercy. It is not a time for individual confession, like a mini-sacrament of reconciliation. It is, rather, a preparatory rite, preparing us to praise the mercy of Christ as we acknowledge our own weakness. When Simon Peter witnesses the miraculous catch of fish—when he realizes who is in the boat with him—he falls at Jesus' feet with the words, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). We are like Peter. The more aware of the Lord's presence we become, the more awareness we also have of our sinfulness, our weakness.

The penitential rite of the Mass takes several forms, from the traditional *Confiteor* or "I confess" to a litany, spoken or sung by the deacon or cantor with responses by the entire assembly. The penitential rite always includes the words *Kyrie, eleison; Christe, eleison*—Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. This ancient Greek prayer came to the Roman liturgy from the East, and still echoes in many of the litanies of the Eastern Rite Churches. These words turn our gaze from our own weakness to the gentleness, the kindness, the forgiving love of Christ.

~ Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Who Is a Good Steward?

### Good Stewards...

#### Receive God's Gifts Gratefully

We recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom and source of all things. We are grateful for these gifts and are eager to use them to show our love for God and one another.

#### Use God's Gifts Responsibly

As stewards, we see ourselves as caretakers of all of God's gifts. We carefully cultivate our time, talent and treasure, using our gifts to love and serve God and our neighbors.

#### Share God's Gifts with Others

As stewards, we share God's gifts in justice and love with others. We have each received different gifts from God ~ all of us must share our gifts for the benefit of others.

#### Return God's Gift in Fullness

As stewards, we return God's gifts with increase to the Lord. We give freely of our gifts out of a sense of gratitude and joy.

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing “by their actions” how the people turn from evil (Jonah 3:10). A new day dawns.

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Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Didn’t a new day dawn today for us as well?

### Time is Always Short

Paul warned the Corinthians, “[T]he time is running out” (1 Corinthians 7:29). In reflective moments, we know time is always short. There is a story told of a holy Sufi who, asked what grace had brought him, said that he awoke each morning feeling he might not live till evening. His questioner objected that “everyone” knows that. “Everyone knows it,” the Sufi agreed, “but not everyone feels it.”

There’s a difference between knowing something and feeling it so much that it changes our lives. The people of Nineveh “knew” all along what God wanted. But it took a Jonah to wake them up, make them feel what that meant, so that they would reform their actions—not “next year,” not “after the kids are grown,” not “later”—but now!

In the Gospel we see those first disciples immediately leave boats and nets, even families, to follow Jesus. They not only knew, but they felt, that time was short. The time to act, always, is now.

### This is the Time of Fulfillment

It’s not only that a truck might leap the curb, careen down the sidewalk, and sweep us away. That’s possible. But it’s also possible that we walk life’s sidewalk, day after day, living as though we are not living, putting our lives off until later. God has placed dreams in our hearts, but we might not get to them. We put them off.

Maybe there’s an attitude or a habit we’d like to put aside, knowing that we’d be better, happier, if we did. Maybe there’s a group we’d like to help, a person we’d like to get closer to, a child whose growing up we would like to share. But we’d have to do something, not merely plan to do it someday.

There is no tomorrow, you know. There really isn’t. There’s only today, this moment. Time is short. God is not later . . . in the sky . . . if we’re good girls and boys. “This is the time of fulfillment! The kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the gospel!” (Mark 1:14).

training points—the decisive moments of our lives—are of vast importance to us, and to the God who urges us into them. But no one—not even our loved ones—can follow through for us. We do or we don’t. It’s up to us. The Spirit fills us; God is ready. But we step forward, finally, on our own. That’s the mystery. That’s the adventure.

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## Not Without Love

The soul cannot live without love.

~ St. Francis de Sales

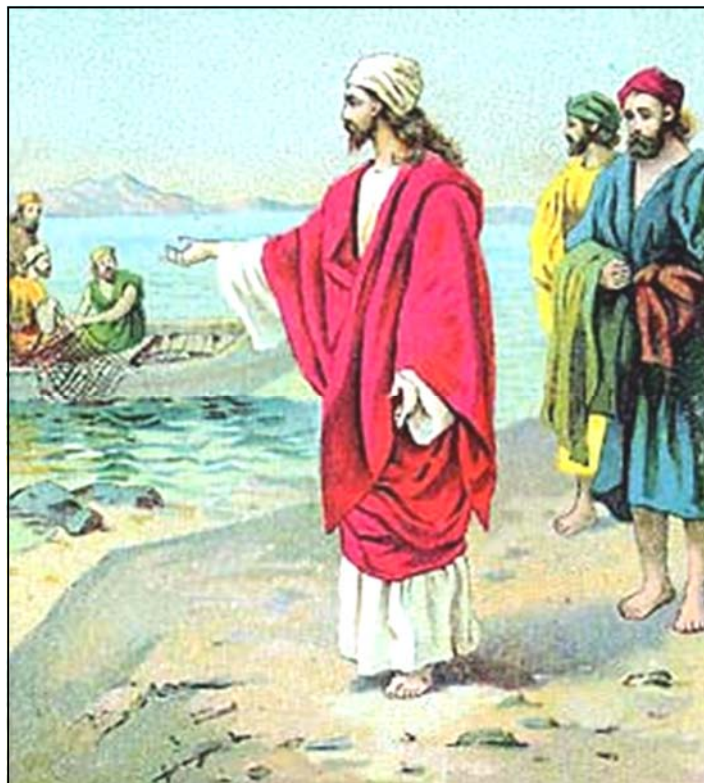
## How to Receive Communion

Communion may be received either in the hand or on the tongue. Around the year A.D. 390, Cyril of Jerusalem indicated that the early Church practiced Communion in the hand when he instructed his audience: “Approaching, therefore, come not with thy wrists extended, or thy fingers open; but make thy left hand as if a throne for thy right, which is on the eve of receiving the King. And having hallowed thy palm, receive the body of Christ, saying after it, ‘Amen.’ Then after thou hast with carefulness hallowed thine eyes by the touch of the holy body, partake thereof; giving heed lest thou lose any of it; for what thou lovest is a loss to thee as it were from one of thine own members. For tell me, if anyone gave thee gold dust, wouldst thou not with all precaution keep it fast, being on thy guard against losing any of it, and suffering loss?” (Catechetical Lectures 23:22).

The Congregation of the Sacraments and Divine Worship permitted the U.S. Bishops’ Conference to authorize reception of Communion in the hand on July 25, 1977, provided the local bishop implements the practice in his diocese. Once implemented, the option to receive Communion either in the hand or on the tongue always remains with the communicant. No priest, deacon, acolyte, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may refuse a communicant Communion on the tongue. Likewise, once the local bishop has introduced Communion in the hand, none may refuse a communicant Communion in the hand (except when Communion is being given by intinction, in which case it must be given on the tongue).

Finally, after you have received Communion, it is appropriate to stay after Mass and thank Jesus for coming to you in the Holy Eucharist. The Church mandates that: “The faithful are to be recommended not to omit to make a proper thanksgiving after Communion. They may do this during the celebration with a period of silence, with a hymn, psalm or other song of praise, or also after the celebration, if possible by staying behind to pray for a suitable time” (*Inaestimabile Donum* 17).

After receiving Jesus into one’s own body and being drawn more closely into his, how could one do any less?





## The Raw Material

Someone has suggested that if Jesus were to send his twelve disciples for psychological testing today he might receive this reply: "Thank you for submitting the résumés of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have taken our complete battery of tests. In addition, we arranged personality interviews for each of your candidates with our psychologists and vocational aptitude consultants. It is the opinion of our staff that most of your nominees are lacking in the background, education, and skills necessary for the success of your enterprise. None of them shows an understanding of the team concept. Simon Peter is impulsive and would benefit from anger-management counseling. Andrew has no measureable leadership qualities. The two brothers, James and John, place personal ambition above company loyalty. Thomas shows a skeptical attitude that would tend to undermine morale. In his previous business, Matthew was blacklisted by the Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus definitely have radical political leanings, and appear to have unstable temperaments. One of the candidates, however, shows real potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, possesses excellent social skills, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your comptroller and right-hand man." Today Jesus calls *us*. Like Peter, we lack faith. Like Andrew, we have much to learn. Like James and John, we are selfish. Like Matthew, we have a past. Like Thomas, we sometimes doubt. If Jesus could use them, he can certainly use us. With God's help, we too can grow from strength to strength and accomplish great things for God and the Kingdom. The call to follow Jesus is urgent. Answer now.

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## Creativity

Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison once told an interviewer that raising children nourished her creativity. The interviewer was startled. Surely, he thought, spending time with helpless infants, needy children, unsure adolescents would squelch creativity and occupy the time Morrison could spend instead at her desk creating yet another novel. But no, her children knew her as mother, as the creator and sustainer of their lives. They brought out the best in her. They freed her so that she could create even more.

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## A New Day Dawns

Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing "by their actions" how the people turn from evil (Jonah 3:10). A new day dawns.

Next we hear Paul telling the Corinthians, "The world in its present form is passing away" (1 Corinthians 7:31). He calls for a change of heart. Stopping short of telling them to stop carrying out their everyday activities, he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live "as though" they aren't doing the things they are doing. A new day has dawned.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, "The kingdom of God is at hand!" (Mark 1:14). Simon and Andrew abandon their nets—and even their father—and follow him. A new day had dawned.

Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Didn't a new day dawn today for us as well?

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

One of the most unusual Catholic churches in the world is in Amsterdam: Our Lord in the Attic, or as the locals say, "Ons Lieve Heer op Solder." What looks like a beautiful narrow brick mansion alongside a canal is a clever disguise for a very well-preserved seventeenth-century home and a secret church. During the Reformation, the Netherlands was divided into Protestant Holland and the Spanish Netherlands, now known as Belgium, a Catholic stronghold. Protestant reformers seized all the Catholic parishes in Holland and "de-Catholicized" them. New laws forbade the celebration of the Mass in public. St. Nicholas Church was renamed "Old Church" by the new owners, and the dispossessed Catholics got to work "hiding" St. Nicholas Parish in the upper floors of this mansion. Other Catholics did the same thing, but this is the only hidden church that survives today. Sunday Mass is still celebrated here.

It's a beautiful hideaway, with nothing spared in regard to marble, gilding, a pipe organ, and classic Dutch painting. A few steps away, the Old Church, begun in 1250, stands emptied of the statues and carvings of its Catholic days, its windows replaced by plain glass. The new tenants gave up when it came to the ceiling, which is still painted with saints, biblical scenes, and merchant ships. The Dutch reformers were tolerant sorts, and as long as the Catholics kept out of sight, they were out of mind. Catholicism was at last tolerated in Holland after 1853, but in 1924 when the International Eucharistic Congress was held in Amsterdam, processions of Catholics were still forbidden in the streets. Today, Roman Catholics are about 19 percent of the population, and there's no need for any of them to hide in the attic.

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

## God's Word Today

Today, we are once again given an account of the call of the disciples. These Gospel stories are positioned in the early part of Ordinary Time for good reason. We know that the Lenten journey is just around the corner. That journey will take us once again to Jerusalem and to the cross and resurrection of Christ. One of the characteristics of discipleship is that one does not become a disciple solely on one's own. There is always a call, an invitation to follow the way of discipleship. When today's Gospel is proclaimed, try to put yourself in the place of those early disciples who were casting their nets. They were simply doing their daily tasks. In the middle of those tasks, the Lord calls them. Perhaps that is precisely where the Lord calls each of us—in the midst of our daily tasks. As we prepare to listen to God's word, let us open our hearts to listen to the invitation issued to each of us to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

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## ***Creativity***

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## ***Comment***

The readings from Jonah and the Gospel describe instantaneous and positive responses. Jonah is given the task of preaching conversion to hitherto unrepentant Nineveh. The demand for repentance barely leaves Jonah's lips, and the city rises up to obey. The people repent in sackcloth and ashes.

In the Gospel for this day, Jesus is walking the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Not once, but twice, he encounters a set of brothers, who abandon their nets at Jesus' call. Such spontaneous and obedient responses appear rarely. And today we get two such incidents in a row. We must not miss the point. God expects such a response from us. This is our chance, our big chance. God knows this, and if we are not too dull of spirit, we know it, too. God's call is Good News that we can seize. This may imply surrendering the bad news of our easy and trivializing habits, not someday or tomorrow, but right now.

Making such a response to God's offer of Good News calls for faith, yes, but more than that, it calls for freedom. God's call invites our free response. That is why Paul summons us in the second reading to travel light, to lead lives unburdened of those things that threaten to drag us down and keep us there. It would be drawing the wrong conclusion to infer that Paul is denigrating marriage or any other human good. Rather, he is simply calling attention to the fact that responding to Christ's summons means achieving a perspective that focuses the stuff of human life toward God.

## ***Reflection***

We know, of course, that the people of Nineveh responded immediately, but alas! Jonah didn't. He dragged his anchor, for sure. He had to be tossed overboard and coughed up on shore before he finally got himself turned around in the direction that led to the fulfillment of his prophetic mission—the conversion of the willing and pliable people of Nineveh.

Mark's account of the call of the disciples shows them accepting their mission instantly. The disciples abandon their old way without a second thought. Imagine yourself leaving your workplace at the drop of the hat without announcement or future plan or further thought. People who knew you well would search for a reason, a deep motivation. Jesus' call to the disciples touched their deeper sense, stirred something in the very soul of Israel and of its faithful people. The disciples recognized the one truth that was meant for them. This was the promised one of God and they were on their way. They discovered in him the freedom of the sons and daughters of God. In this new undertaking they were finally free. Not merely free *from* fish and fishing, but free *to* serve the Lord in a new and undreamed of, but wished for, way. Paul describes this sort of freedom in acceptance of the Lord's mission. He tells us that people who take up the mission of Jesus Christ must be free *from* the day-to-day worries that can drain the life out of a person. As we have noted, the person of mission—the Christian—is not called to detach himself or herself from the world, from family, from relationships. Rather, the Christian must involve himself or herself in these very worries and concerns so that they can be shaped and managed to serve the work of Christ on this great old joyful and painful earth. Christians are called to use all the tools at hand. Only then will the Christian be free, and only then can he or she help in the work of freeing others and helping them see and experience the presence of God, not by transcending this world, but by creatively taking it on.

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## ***This is Our Chance***

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## ***The Demands of Discipleship***

Today we encounter readings that already have a Lenten feel about them. Nineveh undergoes a forty-day fast, the psalmist reminds us that God alone can show sinners the way, Paul shows us how fleeting the things and events of this world are, and Jesus cries out "Repent!" before he calls his new followers. "Come after me," Jesus says, but if we are to truly live out the commands and demands of our discipleship through baptism, we must first know our need for conversion, our repentance, our need to believe in the gospel fully. Today's Gospel opens with the stark reminder of what befell John the Baptist for completely living out his vocation as the herald of Christ and the gospel: he was arrested, imprisoned, and martyred. Though few of us will experience consequences that extreme, we must all be ready to risk some sort of rejection as, heeding the call of Jesus, we live out the kingdom of God at hand, repent of our sins, and believe in the good news of salvation.

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## ***Worries***

The greatest of worries can't pay the smallest of debts.

~ Anonymous

## ***Family Influence***

Disorder in the society is the result of disorder in the family.

~ St. Angela Merici

## The Inner Word: What's in your Heart?

In the Ninevites and the apostles Simon, James, and John, scripture today has examples of immediate repentance and turning to follow God. Make a brief examination of conscience and identify what you need to repent.

- ⇒ Where have you had difficulty following God's ways?
- ⇒ What do you need to do to get back on track?

## Applying the Word: Time is running out

Jesus would spend the next three years teaching his followers how to be disciples. He didn't have time for elaborate explanations there on the beach, only a few moments to ask them to turn their lives around and move in a new direction. This is how it is for the next set of brothers, James and John, tediously mending torn nets in their father's boat; and for Nathanael, dallying under the fig tree; Matthew in the midst of his sinful occupation at the toll gate; and Judas, too, whatever he was doing when Jesus walked through his life. The capacity to interrupt our lives long enough to accept the invitation with conscious intent is crucial to calling ourselves by the name Christian. We also have to embrace the responsibility to turn, and turn again when necessary, so that we are always facing the direction that Jesus is headed. ~ Alice Camille

### Scripture links

**The hour in John's gospel:** 2:4, 4:21-26, 5:25-29, 7:6-8, 30, 8:20, 12:23-32, 16:1-4, 16-33, 17:1-5

**Paul and parousia:** Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 15:20-28, 50-56; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6-12

**Christ all in all:** 1 Cor. 15:28; Col. 3:11

**Call of the other disciples:** Mark 2:13-17, 3:13-19; John 1:43-51

### Catechism links

(Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph numbers)

**Vocation:** CCC 1-3; 541-546; 823-828; 836; 1546-47

**Discipleship:** CCC 531-533; 551-553; 783-786; 1691-1696

**Conversion:** 821; 1423; 1426-1439; 1451-1454

*The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!* ~ Luke 11:32

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## WHAT'S YOUR CALL STORY?

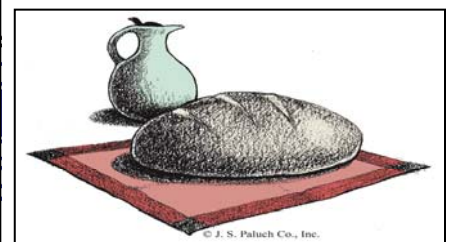
IF WE CONFIDENTLY call ourselves Christian, we no doubt have a "call story"—roughly defined as that moment when we decide that, despite our doubts or confusion, we are casting our lots with Jesus and following the path that says our lives have meaning (we are children of God), that we have a mission (to bring good news to the poor), and that we are not alone in our joy and suffering (we are the body of Christ).

Priests and religious sisters and brothers often talk about their "call story" in terms of when they first felt called to enter holy orders or religious life, but the fundamental call story records a moment independent of our chosen vocations. It is the story of our initial conversion toward Christ, of our realization that following the example of Jesus is the best way to live out our time on earth, and money, power, and prestige can't hold a candle to the joy and reward we receive in loving and being loved by God and God's people. That turning point can take place at anytime in our lives.

Once we answer the call, we can no longer comfortably turn our backs on Christ. We may still do so by being quick to anger or judge, failing to stand up to an injustice, or putting our own needs before others, but it feels like hell afterward.

Haven't heard the call? Act as if you have—that's guaranteed to improve your hearing.

—Patrice Tuohy



## ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024***

We pray, O gracious Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we all may be one as you are one. In your community of complete unity, we have our beginning and our end. To you we pray, asking for the gift of visible unity among all who believe in your Christ.

As we commemorate this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are reminded by your Word that all human beings are our neighbors and that we are to love them like ourselves and in the same way we love you. Help us to overcome the barriers and divisions we have nurtured against your will.

Grant to us, O Lord, a new Spirit of love and solidarity, that we may proclaim your good news to all of creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### ***Day 4 (Jan 21): When he saw him...***

*When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (Lk 10:31)*

#### **Scripture**

Isaiah 58:6-9a  
Psalm 34:15-22

#### **Meditation**

The priest and Levite who walk by on the other side may have had scrupulous reasons for not helping: they may have been ready to perform certain religious rituals and might have risked ritual defilement if the man had been dead. Yet on many occasions, Jesus is critical of religious leadership for placing the rules of religion ahead of the obligation to always do good. In fact, their attitudes are in violation of the Torah.

The beginning of the text for the Week of Prayer tells us how the teacher of the law wanted to justify himself. The priest and the Levite in the parable would have felt justified in what they had done. As Christians, how far are we prepared to go beyond convention? Sometimes our ecclesial and culturally conditioned short-sightedness can prevent us from seeing what is being revealed by the life and witness of sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions.

When we open our eyes to see how God's love is revealed by our fellow Christians, we are drawn closer to them and so are drawn into deeper union with them.

This parable of Jesus not only challenges us to do good, but also to widen our vision. The Good Samaritan is often the one we do not expect.

#### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, As we journey with you towards unity, may our eyes not look away, but be wide open to the world. As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out, bind up the wounded and in so doing experience your presence in them: you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### ***Day 5 (Jan 22):***

#### ***He went to him...***

*He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. (Lk 10:34)*

#### **Scripture**

Joel 2:23-27  
Psalm 104:14-15, 27-30

#### **Meditation**

The Good Samaritan did what he could out of his own resources: he poured wine and oil and bandaged the man's wounds and put him on his own animal. He went further still by promising to pay for his care. When we see the world through the Samaritan's eyes, every situation can be an opportunity to help those in need. This is where love manifests itself. The example of the Good Samaritan motivates us to ask ourselves how to respond to our neighbor. He gave wine and oil, restoring the man and giving him hope. What can we give, so that we can be a part of God's work of healing a broken world? This brokenness shows itself in our world in insecurity, fear, distrust and division. Shamefully, these divisions also exist between Christians. The healing of our Christian divisions promotes the healing of the nations.

#### **Prayer**

Gracious God, You who are the source of all love and goodness: enable us to see the needs of our neighbor. Show us what we can do to bring about healing. Change us, so that we can love all our brothers and sisters. Help us to overcome the obstacles of division, that we might build a world of peace for the common good. Thank you for renewing your Creation and leading us to a future which is full of hope: you who are Lord of all, yesterday, today and forever. Amen. .

### ***Day 6 (Jan 23):***

#### ***"Then he put him on his own animal..."***

*"Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Lk 10:34)*

#### **Scripture**

Genesis 18:4-5  
Psalm 5:11-12

#### **Meditation**

The man who fell into the hands of robbers was cared for by a Samaritan. The Samaritan saw beyond prejudice or bias. He saw someone in need and

### **Day 6 (continued):**

brought him to an inn. “The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend’” (Lk 10:35). In any human society, hospitality and solidarity are essential. They require the welcoming of strangers, foreigners, migrants and homeless people. However, when faced with insecurity, suspicion and violence, we tend to mistrust our neighbors. Hospitality is an important witness to the Gospel, particularly in contexts of religious and cultural pluralism. Welcoming ‘the other’, and being welcomed in turn, is at the heart of ecumenical dialogue. Christians are challenged to turn our churches into inns where our neighbors can find Christ. Such hospitality is a sign of the love that our churches have for one another and for all.

#### **Prayer**

Father of love, in Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity. Help us to become a community that welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, building a house where all are welcome. May we come closer to one another as we offer the world your unconditional love. This we pray in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Day 7 (Jan 24):**

**“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor?”**

*Jesus said: “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor?” (Lk 10:36)*

#### **Scripture**

Philippians 2.1-5

Psalm 10:17-18

#### **Meditation**

At the end of the parable, Jesus asked the lawyer: who was the neighbor to the man victimized? The lawyer replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” He does not say “the Samaritan” and we might imagine that the hostility between Samaritans and Jews made that answer hard to admit.

We often discover neighbors in the most unexpected people, even those whose very name or origins we find difficult to utter. In today’s world, where polarized politics often set those of different religious identities against one another, Jesus challenges us through this parable to see the importance of our vocation to cross borders and walls of separation.

As with the lawyer, we are challenged to reflect upon how we live our lives, not merely in terms of whether we do good or not, but whether, like the priest and the Levite, we are neglecting to act mercifully.

#### **Prayer**

Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ came among us to show us the way of compassion. Help us by your Spirit to follow his example, to serve the needs of all your children, and so give united Christian witness to your ways of love and mercy. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Day 8 (Jan 25):**

**“Go and do likewise”**

*Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (Lk 10:37)*

#### **Scripture**

Romans 12:9-13

Psalm 41:1-2

#### **Meditation**

Through these words – “Go and do likewise.” – Jesus sends each of us, and each of our churches, to live out his commandment to love. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are sent out to be “other Christs”, reaching out to suffering humanity in compassion and mercy. Like the Good Samaritan towards the injured man, we can choose not to reject those who are different, but instead cultivate a culture of proximity and goodwill.

How does Jesus’ invitation to “Go and do likewise” speak to my life? What does this call of Christ imply for my relationships with members of other churches? How can we charitably bear witness together to God’s love? As ambassadors for Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:20), we are called to be reconciled to God and to one another, for fellowship to take root and grow in our churches and in areas affected by inter-communal conflict, such as in Burkina Faso.

As mutual trust and confidence increase, we will become more willing to reveal our wounds, including ecclesial wounds, that Christ’s love may visit and heal us through each other’s love and care.

#### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who makes us more open to each other, resolves conflict, and strengthens our bonds of communion. May we grow in mutual affection and in the desire to announce the Gospel message more faithfully, that the world may come together in unity and welcome the Prince of Peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Third Week in Ordinary Time

*We begin our prayer:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed

him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

### Meditation (*Meditatio*)

*After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:*

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

*If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.*

### Prayer (*Oratio*)

*Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.*



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## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

*Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:*

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

*This is the time of fulfillment.* How has God fulfilled his promises to me? How can I strengthen the virtue of hope in my life?

*The kingdom of God is at hand.* What do I think God's kingdom will be like? How do I see God acting in the world today?

*"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Where is the Lord calling me to go? What prevents me from following the Lord wholeheartedly?

*After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:*

## Closing Prayer:

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your love are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice  
and teaches the humble his way.

(From Psalm 25)

## Living the Word This Week

*How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?*

Discern how you can grow as a missionary disciple and participate in the mission of the Church to share the Gospel and build up God's kingdom. Reading *Living as Missionary Disciples* might help:

<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/living-as-missionary-disciples/files/assets/basic-html/page-1.html#>

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# SAVE THE DATES!

## Come out and join us



SCAN TO SEE THE COMPREHENSIVE  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
or visit [sfarch.org/events](https://sfarch.org/events)

### Dec. 13: Simbang Gabi Commissioning Mass

The Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocesan Filipino Ministry, will take place at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at 6:30 p.m.

### Dec. 15-17: Women's Healing After Abortion Retreat

If you have been carrying a burden from a past abortion, you are invited to the next healing retreat for women. Father Vito Perrone of the Contemplatives of St. Joseph and Divine Word Father James Liebner will lead this three-day retreat, which will include Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation, counseling and sharing as much as each woman is comfortable doing in this warm and healing environment. It will be held at a confidential location. If you are interested, please call 415-614-5567 or email [projectrachel@sfarch.org](mailto:projectrachel@sfarch.org).

### Dec. 22: Christmas Angels Program

The Restorative Justice Christmas Angels program supports children affected by homicide, children with a parent in prison and children affected by domestic violence and abuse. The project culminates with a family Christmas event on Dec. 22 from noon-4 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. Gifts will be distributed, food and drinks will be served and children will have the opportunity to get their photo taken with Santa. Learn more at <https://sfarchdiocese.org/christmasangels/>.

### Jan. 13, 2024: Santo Nino Celebration

Join the Archdiocesan Filipino Ministry for the 8th annual Santo Nino Fiesta on Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. The "Santo Nino" (or Holy Child Jesus) is a symbol of the birth of Catholicism in the Philippines more than 500 years ago when Magellan presented a statue of the Santo Nino to Queen Juana of the Philippine Island of Cebu in 1521.

### Jan. 19-20, 2024:

#### 20th annual Vigil for Life and Walk for Life

The 20th annual Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 12:30 p.m. at the Civic Center in San Francisco.

Join the Walk for Life Vigil Mass on Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, all-night adoration at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Star of the Sea Catholic Church, and the Walk for Life Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 20 with Archbishop Cordileone. List of events is at: [www.walkforlifewc.com/event-info/event-schedule/](http://www.walkforlifewc.com/event-info/event-schedule/)

### Jan. 25, 2024:

#### Vespers for the Week of Christian Unity

For the 18th year, Archbishop Cordileone and Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Gerasimos will be leading Solemn Vespers in observance of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Join them at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, at St. Pius X Catholic Church.

### Feb. 3, 2024: Wedding Anniversary Mass

Celebrate your sacramental wedding anniversaries at a Mass and reception with Archbishop Cordileone on Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. Those celebrating at least five-year anniversaries (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.) will be recognized during the Mass.

### Feb. 4, 2024: Consecrated Life Mass

The Mass for Consecrated Life will take place Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. Honor consecrated men and women who serve in the Archdiocese.

### Feb. 14, 2024: Ash Wednesday

### Feb. 24, 2024: Archdiocesan Women's Conference

Women are invited to attend the Archdiocesan Women's Conference on Feb. 24 at St. Dominic's Catholic Church with Mass at 9 a.m. with Archbishop Cordileone followed by a day of reflection and prayer.

### Feb. 24, 2024: Chinese New Year Mass and Celebration

The Chinese Ministry of the Archdiocese invites you to their Chinese New Year Mass and Celebration at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. Mass begins at 2 p.m. and a dinner will follow with traditional Chinese food and entertainment.



**No one should  
be Hungry or  
Alone during  
the holidays.**



This holiday, we are counting on your compassion to help us feed, heal, shelter, clothe, and lift the spirits of those in need. Donate now to give the gift of Holiday Hope, Stability, and Renewal.



Scan the code or go to  
[stanthonysf.org/givehope](https://stanthonysf.org/givehope)  
to make an immediate gift.



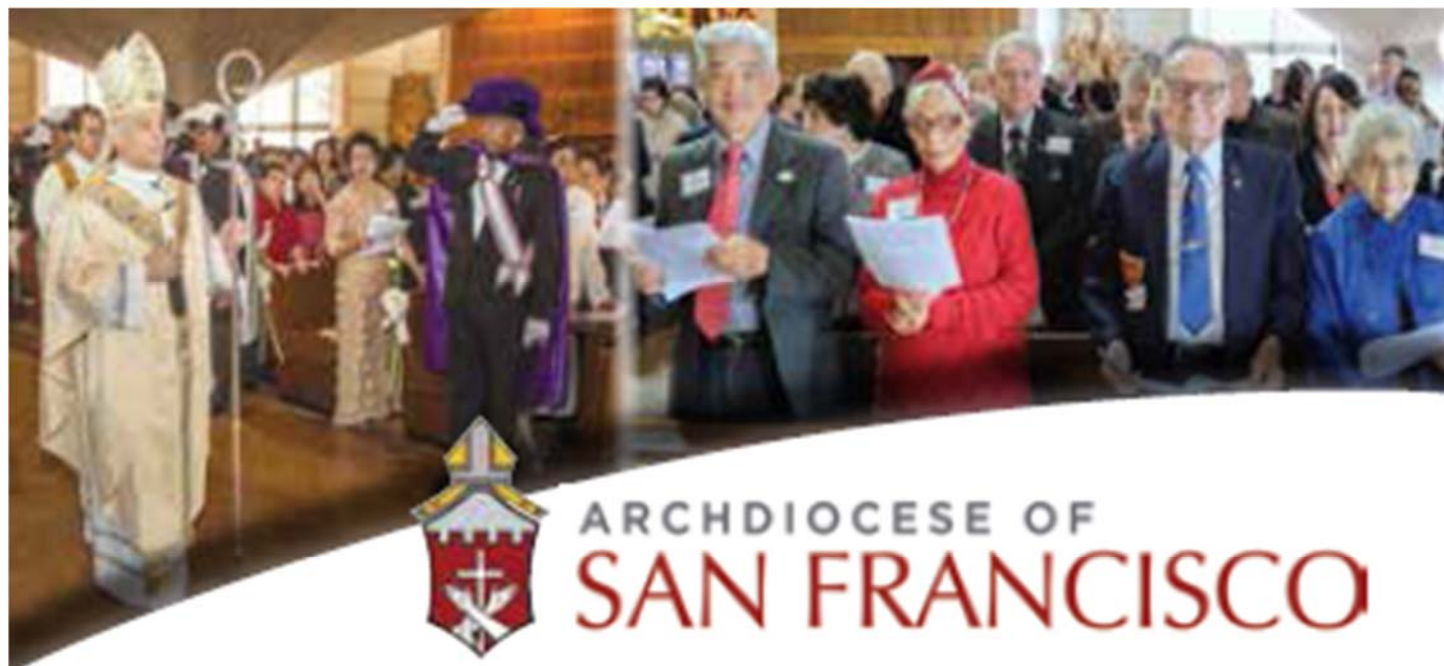
# 2024 RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Theme: Adoption as a  
Concrete Way of Love

Essay due January 26, 2024

For all students in grades K-12 in public school,  
private school, and home school. Cash Prizes!!!

For more information visit  
[sfarch.org/essay-contest](https://sfarch.org/essay-contest)  
or contact [prolife@sfarch.org](mailto:prolife@sfarch.org).



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**SAN FRANCISCO**

*Wedding Anniversary Celebration*

*All husbands and wives are invited to attend and celebrate their sacramental wedding anniversaries in 2024. Couples celebrating "5 year anniversaries" (5, 10, 15, 20...) will be recognized during the Mass.*



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

10:00 am Mass followed by reception  
\$20 suggested donation per family

**Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption**  
1111 Gough Street, San Francisco

Principal Celebrant:

His Excellency Salvatore J. Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

[www.anniversarymass.info](http://www.anniversarymass.info)

or call (415) 614-5574

Please register by: January 26, 2024

Questions/information: (415) 614-5574



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

# CALLED TO LEAD

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY** | **St Pius Church**

March 9, 2023 | 1100 Woodside Rd, Redwood City, CA 94061

*Evangelist*  
**JESSE ROMERO**

- 3-time World Police Olympics boxing champion
- 2-time U.S.A. kickboxing champion
- Retired veteran of the LA County Sheriff's Dept
- Catholic Evangelist

**8:30am – 3:30pm** (Registration 7:30am-8:30am)

**Admission: \$50**

**(LUNCH INCLUDED)**

Early bird \$40 (Register by Jan 20)

Under 20 years old: \$25



**Mass with Archbishop  
Salvatore Cordileone**

**Sacrament  
of Confession  
will be  
available**



*Father*

**SEBASTIAN CARNAZZO**

- Seminary Professor
- Father Of Seven
- Ordained Melkite Priest



*Doctor*

**SCOTT FRENCH, MD**

- Board-Certified ER Physician
- Board Member Magis Center



Register at:

**[www.sfbaymen.info](http://www.sfbaymen.info)**

For more info, contact Ed Hopfner  
email: [hopfnere@sfarch.org](mailto:hopfnere@sfarch.org)  
Alice (415) 614-5574

# Catholic in a secular world?



Formation for the mission only **YOU** can accomplish. Connect with fellow lay Catholics that will help you discover and joyfully live your mission in daily life. Confidently pass on the faith to family and friends, and become a beacon of hope in this secular and polarized society.

**Learn more**



[laymission.net/  
san-francisco](https://laymission.net/san-francisco)



# Fostering a Better World

We are seeking  
warm hearted,  
globally conscious  
families to welcome  
a refugee youth  
into their home.



**REFUGEE  
FOSTER CARE**

## Who are Unaccompanied Refugee Minors?

Countless youth are forced to flee their countries due to persecution and war. Separated from family or orphaned by war and /or exploited by child traffickers, these children are displaced and alone. They long for safety, care, family, and a place to call home.

## How can you help?

- Become a Resource Parent
- Rent a Room
- Temporary Housing
- Invite us to Your Community Events
- Donate



Follow us: Catholic Charities  
of Santa Clara County



**REFUGEE  
FOSTER CARE**

Call: 408-325-5107 | Email: [rfc@ccscc.org](mailto:rfc@ccscc.org) | Visit: [www.ccscc.org](http://www.ccscc.org)



PHOTO: DENNIS CALLAHAN

I CANNOT FAIL TO MENTION THE NEED FOR FOSTERING VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD,  
FOR AS SAINT JOHN PAUL II SAID,

# THERE CAN BE NO EUCHARIST WITHOUT THE PRIESTHOOD

~ POPE FRANCIS

## ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO • 2023-24 SEMINARIANS



**David Sibrian**  
Pre-seminary Formation  
St. Anthony Parish,  
Menlo Park



**Elijah Miller**  
College III  
Cathedral of St. Mary



**Joseph McIntire**  
Pre-Theology II  
St. Stephen Parish



**Kyle Lalucos**  
Pre-Theology II  
Our Lady of Mercy



**Abraham Garcia**  
Theology I  
St. Anthony Parish,  
Menlo Park



**Cameron Sellers**  
Theology I  
Nativity, Menlo Park



**Jeff Yano**  
Theology II  
Nativity, Menlo Park



**Jerick Rea**  
Theology II  
St. Dominic Parish



**Dereck Delgado**  
Pastoral Year  
St. Matthew Parish



**Jimmy Velasco**  
Pastoral Year  
Church of the Epiphany



**Br. Mikhael, COSJ**  
Theology III  
Contemplatives of  
St. Joseph



**Leandro Calingasan**  
Theology III  
St. Augustine Parish



**Emmanuel Gutierrez**  
Theology III  
St. Mark Parish



**Deacon David Mees**  
Theology IV  
Star of the Sea, SF



**Archbishop  
Salvatore Cordileone**



**Fr. Cameron Faller**  
Vocation Director



**Fr. Andrew Ginter**  
Asst. Vocation Director



**Fr. Thomas Martin**  
Asst. Vocation Director



**Fr. Juan Manuel Lopez**  
Asst. Vocation Director

RECEIVE FREE  
COPIES OF THE  
BEST BOOKS  
AVAILABLE TO  
DISCERN THE  
PRIESTHOOD AT

**GOPRIEST.com**

Do you know someone who is called to be part of this group? Contact us:  
vocations@SFArch.org

## Mass Intentions for Jan 21 - 27

Date	Time	Intention
Sunday 21	8:00 a.m.	SI Kaiser Permanente Sf, 4Center & Oncology
	10:00 a.m.	SI Felix Chang
	12:00 p.m.	† Jordan Chavez
Monday 22	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	† Marilyn Sumulong † Jordan Chavez
Tuesday 23	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	SI Derrick Chang † Jordan Chavez
Wednesday 24	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	SI Dan & Katya Coming † Jordan Chavez
Thursday 25	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	† William Cotter, Jr. † Jordan Chavez
Friday 26	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	SI Thelma Dancel † Jordan Chavez
Saturday 27	12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	† Jordan Chavez BD Freddie Regaspi

### 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.

### Communion in the Home

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass. Please call the office at 415-421-3730 for more information.

**An expanded color version  
of our printed bulletin  
is available on our website:  
[www.stpatricksf.org](http://www.stpatricksf.org)**



## Black Nazarene

**Feast Day  
January 9**

Rosie Drapiza  
Lydia Cagampan  
Rene & Elsa Tuazon



## San Lorenzo Ruiz 1st Filipino Saint (Sep 28)

Maureen Oakes  
Fe Macatangay  
Cathy Bohol  
Alma Raymundo

Shiela Montemayor  
Maribelle Olegario  
Gino Percival Ventura  
Torno Family  
Alejandra Ayala

## St. Anne Feast Day July 26



### PRAYER TO St. Anne

O GOD, You bestowed on St. Anne such grace that she was found worthy to become the mother of MARY, who brought forth Your only begotten SON. Grant that we may be helped by her intercession. Amen.

Photo: THE HOLY ROSARY Daily  
www.rosary.com

### Parish Registration

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop in the collection basket or return to the parish office



EACH OF YOU SHOULD  
**GIVE** WHAT YOU HAVE  
 DECIDED IN  
 YOUR HEART  
 TO GIVE  
 NOT RELUCTANTLY OR  
 UNDER COMPULSION  
 God **LOVES**  
 A CHEERFUL  
**GIVER**

*Krista Mari, Ezra Mari,  
 & Juliana Mari*



*Laeti bibamus sobriam  
 profusionem Spiritus.*

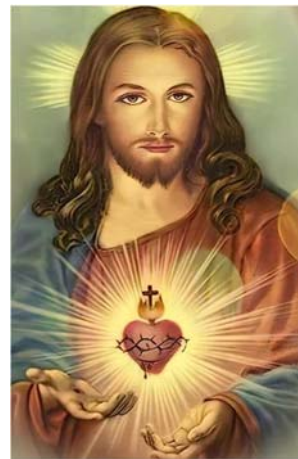
*St. Patrick Charismatic Prayer Group*

**Matt  
 Dorsey**  
 SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR



I'm proud to represent you in City Hall and grateful for the faith community we share at St. Patrick's. For help with City matters, call (415) 554-7970 or email me at [Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org).

*Matt Dorsey*



*Most Sacred Heart  
 of Jesus,  
 Have Mercy on Us.*

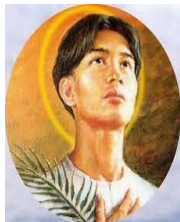
*First Friday  
 of the month at  
 11:00 a.m.*



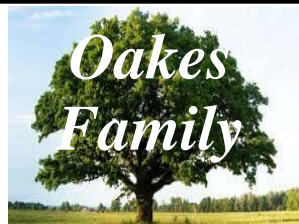
**OUR  
 LADY  
 OF  
 FATIMA**  
*Pray the rosary*



*San Pedro  
 Calunsod  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Filipino  
 Saint  
 (April 2)*



**GOD  
 PROVIDES**  
*Raya/Gamboa  
 Families*



*Oakes  
 Family*

*St. Patrick Church  
 Gift Shop*



*Marilen  
 Ojeda*