

# 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

[www.stpatrickssf.org](http://www.stpatrickssf.org)

**January 25, 2026 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Wait for the Lord with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. ~ Psalm 27:14*

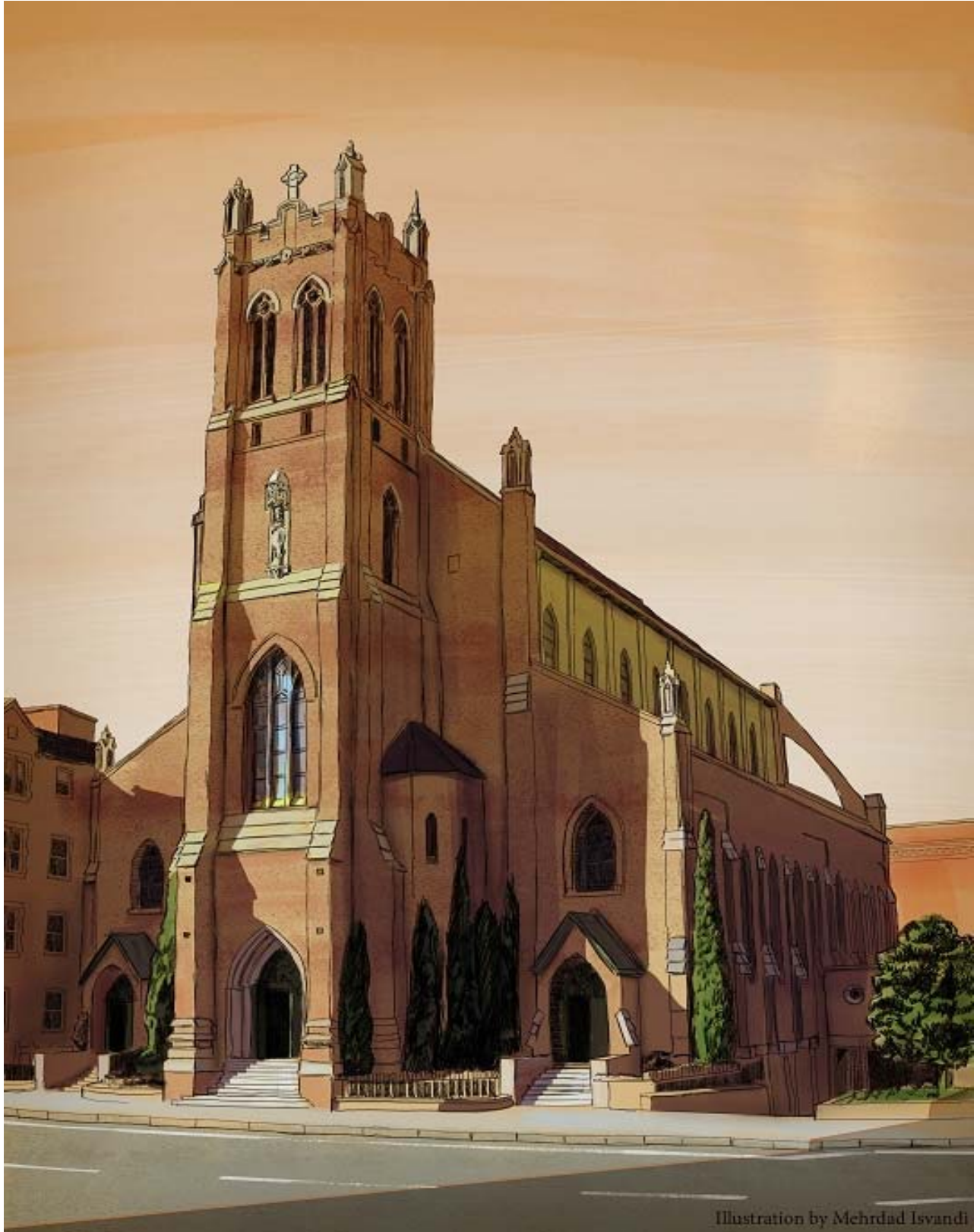


Illustration by Mehrdad Isvandi

### **Pastoral Staff**

Rev. Andrew Spyrow - *Pastor*  
Rev. Teodoro "Fr. Ted" P. Magpayo - *Parochial Vicar*  
Rev. Celestine Tyowua - *Parochial Vicar*  
Deacon Ferdinand Mariano - *OCIA Coordinator*

### **Parish Staff**

Rachelle Morales and Nenette Murata -  
*Religious Education Coordinators*  
Charles Corpus - *Music 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.

### **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 through Thursday

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

**Sacred Heart**

First Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m..

**Sto. Niño Devotion**

Every Friday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

**Our Lady of Fatima**

First Saturday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

### **Happy Birthday!!**

Happy Birthday to our Parishioners  
celebrating a birthday this week.

Ishmael Bolis	1/25	Ariel Anne Sullivan	1/28
Zedrix Manganaan	1/25	Russel Jan Gonzales	1/29
Maria Timonera	1/25	Timothy Jon Udtohan	1/29
Ross Emmanuel Pelaez	1/26	Amelito Benzon	1/31
Maria Bravo	1/28	Mary Ann Bolis	1/31
Jay Lopez Orque	1/28	Isabelita Cabungcal	1/31

### **Heart**

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

~ John Bunyan

### **God's Loving Care**

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: "the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali." Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don't want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God's care with "abundant joy and great rejoicing," Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are.

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### **Our Fascinating Faith** **Ordinary Time**

Between the end of the Christmas season and the start of Lent, the liturgical year begins a period known as Ordinary Time. That season is interrupted by the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then resumes again after Pentecost. The English translation of the Latin name for this season has received much criticism because of our association of the word "ordinary" with something of lesser value, the opposite of something special. Critics point out that Sunday is the original feast day of the Church, that there is nothing at all "ordinary" about our weekly celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. Translators explain that in this context the English word "ordinary" retains the root meaning of "ordinal," something counted "in order," and that the Sundays throughout the year are in fact named by their numerical order.

It is helpful to understand how all five of the "special" seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) fit together to unfold the single mystery of Christ. As we continue the year now with Ordinary Time, we are mindful that what we celebrate is indeed as "extraordinary" an experience of God's grace as one could ever imagine.

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### **The God Squad Catholic TV Mass**

FATHER HARRY  
**God Squad** PRODUCTIONS  
The God Squad Catholic TV Mass, aired every Sunday, provides inclusion for those who are homebound, hospitalized, incarcerated and/or unable to attend Sunday Mass.

Monsignor Harry Schlitt began broadcasting the TV Mass in the late 1970s and it has been airing ever since. Please watch the TV Mass on Sunday mornings on the following stations:

*In San Francisco*

*KTSF (CH 26) at 6:00 a.m.; KRON (CH 4) at 5:30 a.m.;*

*and in Sacramento*

*KTXL (Fox 40) at 5:30 a.m.*

You may also view the Mass at any time by going to *Father-Harry.org*. You may also find the program beneficial to you, someone in your family, or a friend.

We need your participation and support to continue this valuable ministry.

### **Damaged Blessed Items**

If you have any damaged blessed items, including statues and Bibles, as well as sacramentals, such as crucifixes and rosaries, please feel free to drop them off in our gift shop. We'll make sure they are disposed of properly and respectfully.



## 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 93 Lifetime Donors as of 14 August 2025**

In Memory of Nicomedes & Juanita Abello	Kusina ni Tess
Cristina Agbayani	Judy Neri Labaria
Mariou Alegre	Tita Labaria
Corazon M. Ambata	Dan And Annie Lacap
Roberto Andrey	Eleanor Lawsin
Perla Ardanas	Felicitas Locsin
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Josefa Gonzales	Victoriano & Carmen Uchi & Family
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Therese Guintu	Alden, Mercy Ventigan & Kids
Norma Gumawid	Vida Ventura
Ina Howard	Josephine Villa
† Ponciano & Marlene Icatar	Rianty Winarta
Georgina Jose	Edwin, Rosalie, Krista, Ezra & Juliana
Kaiser PermanenteSF, 4Center & Oncology	Cielito Littaua Yoma
Agnes Kumi	† Charlie A. Yparraguirre

## 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.

## Upcoming Events in the Archdiocese of San Francisco

**Jan 27** – Divorced or separated Catholics are invited to join an online support group, Tuesday evenings, from 5:00 – 6:30pm. The groups are co-sponsored by the Archdiocese and led by Carolyn Klika, a certified Catholic Divorce Healing Coach. Participants are welcomed into a respectful, confidential environment offering prayer, faith-based reflection, and practical guidance rooted in Catholic teaching. Each gathering focuses on a relevant theme—such as healing from grief, discernment, boundaries, forgiveness, or rebuilding hope—to gently support participants wherever they are on their journey. Next sessions are Jan 13 and Jan 27. Open to all – contact Carolyn Klika [carolyn@aboundingjoyministry.com](mailto:carolyn@aboundingjoyministry.com) to register.

**Jan 22 – Apr 8** - The Archdiocese is pleased to sponsor participation in the Build a New Life Workshop (BNLW), a 12-week, Christ-centered healing program for separated and divorced Catholics. Through this sponsorship, parishioners may register for the Core Workshop Experience at a reduced rate of \$49 (regularly \$119) or the Full Guidance Package for \$299 (regularly \$499). This program offers transformational spiritual and emotional support to help individuals heal, regain clarity, and move forward with hope. A diocesan discount code will be provided for registration. Parishes are encouraged to share this opportunity with those who may benefit. Info /Registration here: <https://www.aboundingjoyministry.com/events>

**Feb 7** Adventures in Marriage Relationship Skills Workshop for couples. St Mark Church (325 Marine View Ave, Belmont), 8:30 – 4:30. Learn skills to make your marriage even better – this award-winning, skills-based, evidence-informed workshop has been offered to 1000s of satisfied couples around the country. Every important vocation requires continuing education – how about your marriage (the most important vocation!)? Here and here are a couple of articles with more information. Registration fee includes lunch, snacks, and all materials. Newly married (2022 or more recent couples) are ½ price; if you already attended an AIM workshop you can also attend for ½ price – contact Ed. Register at [www.sfarch.org/aim](http://www.sfarch.org/aim) or use QR code on attached flyer. (Next workshop will be April 18, St Anselm Church in Ross.)

## Feast of Faith 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.

Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

## Mass Intentions for Jan 25 - 31

Date	Time	Intention
<b>Sunday 25</b>	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Therese Guintu SI Norma Gumawid SI Ina Howard SI All The Parishioners Of St. Patrick
<b>Monday 26</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	BD Cynthia Enriquez † Alfonso Lakindanum TG Stephen Sun
<b>Tuesday 27</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Luna, Ryan & Alicia † Lourdes Villanueva † Ponciano & Marlene Icatar
<b>Wednesday 28</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Jo Tjin Thoy BD Maria Bravo SI Agnes Kumi
<b>Thursday 29</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Marilyn & Lorenzo Sumulong SI Felicitas Locsin SI Fe Macatangay
<b>Friday 30</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Naomi Quioco SI Dionisio Mendaros SI Matthew Rothschild
<b>Saturday 31</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Rosalina San Diego SI Jaymie Lynn Santiago SI Estela Sullivan

## Catholic Prayer Corner

### Respect for Life Prayer

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power. We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift. Bring us to greater awareness of the sanctity of human life and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Living Stewardship Now

Talk with your children about what you and they believe. Pray with them, read the Bible and stories of faith to them. Show them in your actions and words how to live as followers of Christ. Your own example carries more weight than any other teacher.

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## Patrician Meeting

Join us this Sunday for the monthly Patrician Meeting, a Catholic discussion group sponsored by the Legion of Mary. This month's topic is...

### Our Spiritual Battle in Life

Speaker ~ Dcn. Ferdinand Mariano

Date ~ Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

McKenna Hall

## Pope Leo XIV proclaims Franciscan Jubilee Year

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has arranged that, from the 10th January, 2026 to the 10th January, 2027, this Year of St. Francis will be celebrated, during which all the Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace. The Apostolic Penitentiary grants the plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to those who participate devoutly in this extraordinary jubilee, which represents an ideal continuation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025.

This Jubilee Year is addressed especially to members of the Franciscan Families of the First, Second and Third Regular and Secular Orders, as well as to Institutes of Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life and Associations that observe the Rule of St. Francis or are inspired by its spirituality. However, the grace of this special year is also extended to all the faithful without distinction who, with their spirits removed from sin, visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis in any part of the world. The elderly, the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave home will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining the Jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains or sufferings to God.

In this time of celebration that culminates eight hundred years of Franciscan memory, we cordially invite all the faithful to take an active part in this exceptional Jubilee. May the shining example of St. Francis, who knew how to make himself poor and humble in order to be true alter Christus on earth, inspire our hearts to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbour and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples. Following in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, let us transform the hope that made us pilgrims during the Holy Year into fervour and zeal of effective charity. May this Year of St Francis be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church.

### Conditions for receiving the Indulgence (for oneself or for the deceased)

- Sacramental confession to be in God's grace (in the eight days before or after);
- Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion;
- To visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world, where one renews one's profession of faith, through the recitation of the Creed, to reaffirm one's Christian identity;
- The recitation of the Lord's Prayer, to reaffirm the dignity of children of God, received in Baptism;
- To pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, to reaffirm belonging to the Church, whose foundation and visible centre of unity is the Roman Pontiff.

## Effortless

The only thing that comes to a person without effort is old age.

~ Anonymous

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



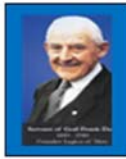
## LEGION OF MARY - ST. PATRICK CHURCH

JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL **PRÆSIDIUM**



Meeting - Sunday at 1:30 p.m. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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.

As he [Jesus] was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and ...

H	B	T	O
S	I	R	H
N	D	E	E
A	R	R	W


H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answer: *his brother Andrew*

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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

saint snippets




Everything I have written seems like straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me.

**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
13th-century Dominican philosopher and theologian; patron saint of Catholic schools  
Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

January 28

saint snippets



Win these friends of yours not with blows, but with gentleness and kindness. So begin right now to show them that sin is ugly and virtue beautiful.

**St. John Bosco**  
19th-century Italian priest who devoted his life to educating poor boys. He founded the Salesian Order in 1859.  
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January 31



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## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 25, 2026

Wait for the Lord with courage;  
be stouthearted,  
and wait for the Lord.

~ Psalm 27:14



# CATHOLIC CORNER

## THREE TEACHING SAINTS

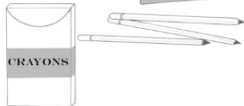
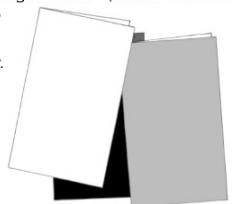
Saints come in all varieties. They come from different countries. They are young and old. They work in all different professions. But saints do share some things in common. This week we celebrate three saints who all came from Italy and were teachers.

**St. Angela Merici (January 27)** When Angela noticed the needs of the poor children in her town, she and four of her friends began teaching religion to young girls. Eventually she founded the Ursuline Sisters, the first teaching order of religious sisters. The Ursulines still teach today.

**St. Thomas Aquinas (January 28)** Thomas didn't seem like a good student when he was young. In fact, his classmates gave him a hurtful nickname, "The Dumb Ox." Thomas joined the Dominican order of priests and became a great writer, the author of twenty books that helped teach people about their faith. Because of his great intelligence he is known as the "Angelic Doctor" ("doctor" from the Latin *docere*, "to teach").

**St. John Bosco (January 31)** John was an unusual teacher. He very cleverly kept the interest of his students by engaging them with acrobatic tricks, tightrope walking, and juggling. His most important tool, however, was his kind treatment of his students, who were often mistreated by their employers and teachers. John founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales, whose members still work with students today.

This would be a good week to write a note of appreciation to your teachers. You can thank them for dedicating their lives to teaching and following in the footsteps of the great saints who were teachers themselves. Remember to include what you like best about your teacher and why she or he makes learning interesting and even fun.



## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mt 4:18-19

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 25, 2026



**"COME AFTER ME,  
AND I WILL MAKE  
YOU FISHERS OF MEN."**

Matthew 4:19

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## Pastor Al™



"...And blessed are those who leave cell phones and pagers at home, for they shall keep their pastor sane."

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## Called to Be Holy

In today's readings we find ourselves being drawn more deeply into relationship with Jesus. We are getting to know more about him as we see how he struggles with the news of his cousin John's arrest. His first response is to withdraw, to leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum. There he is perhaps both consoled and challenged by the words of Isaiah that Matthew quotes: "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, / on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death / light has arisen" (Matthew 4:16). Jesus contemplates his cousin's death, perhaps his own death, and he seeks the light. Maybe it is these words of Isaiah that move Jesus out of his withdrawal and into action. He begins to preach, teach, cure disease and illness, and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

The symbols and actions of baptism evolved around the experience of adults dying to old patterns of life and rising from the waters of baptism as new creations. As for newborn babies, at first it was desired to wait until the following Easter, when they could be baptized, anointed with chrism, and given a taste of the Eucharist in association with adults. The Church was always willing to baptize adults in emergency situations outside the Easter timetable, and in time, since infancy itself was a life-threatening situation, the baptism of babies became commonplace. As with the "emergency" adult baptisms, it was required that parents bring the child, as soon as health was recovered, to the bishop for the full menu of sacraments.

The very real fear of death for infants thus created a situation in which the three sacraments drifted apart from each other, and away from their original, adult celebration at Easter. Today, at last, we know a great deal about how our practices evolved. This knowledge is reshaping how we celebrate Easter, how we receive adult faith, and how we structure the faith journey of children.

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

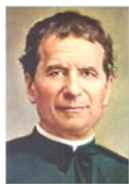
## St. Angela Merici (c. 1474-1540)

January 27

Born in Northern Italy, orphaned in childhood, Angela Merici faced a society in which education was largely the privilege of wealthy young men and based primarily in monastic schools. This reality shaped Angela's insightful conviction that society's disorder was caused by disorder in the home, and a lack of model Christian mothers the result of neglecting the education of young women. Transform the Christian family by placing an educated wife and mother at its heart, Angela believed, and the whole world would be renewed in Christ! So she gathered a small group of unmarried women, many of them Franciscan Tertiaries (lay affiliates) like herself, and set out to educate poor girls, free of charge, in their homes. She and her band of teachers called themselves companions, pioneering a new form of non-cloistered religious life for women, bearing witness to evangelical simplicity in the midst of the world, not as a formal "order" but as the Company (*compagnia*) of Saint Ursula. Known today as the Ursulines, Angela Merici's spiritual daughters continue serving the Church and society in a rich diversity of ministries.

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

## Saint of the Week

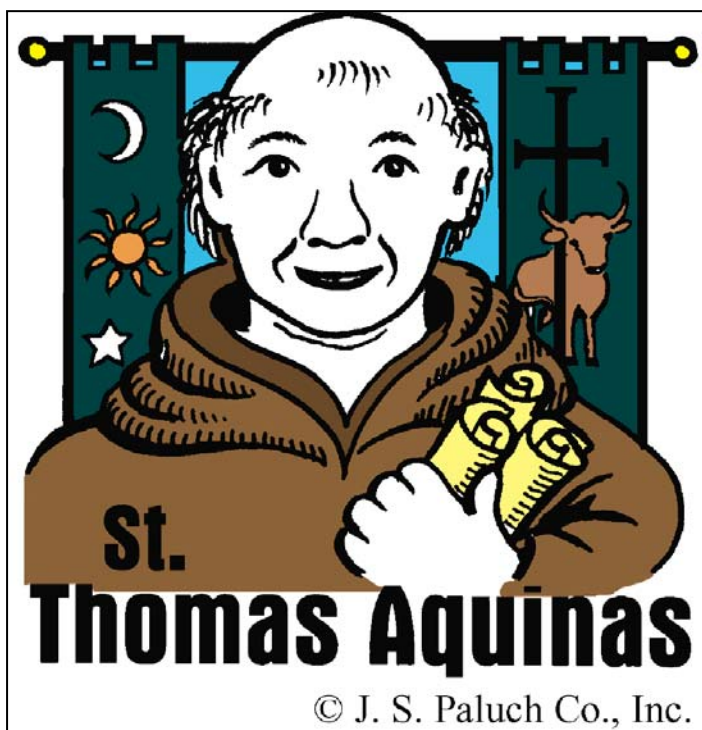
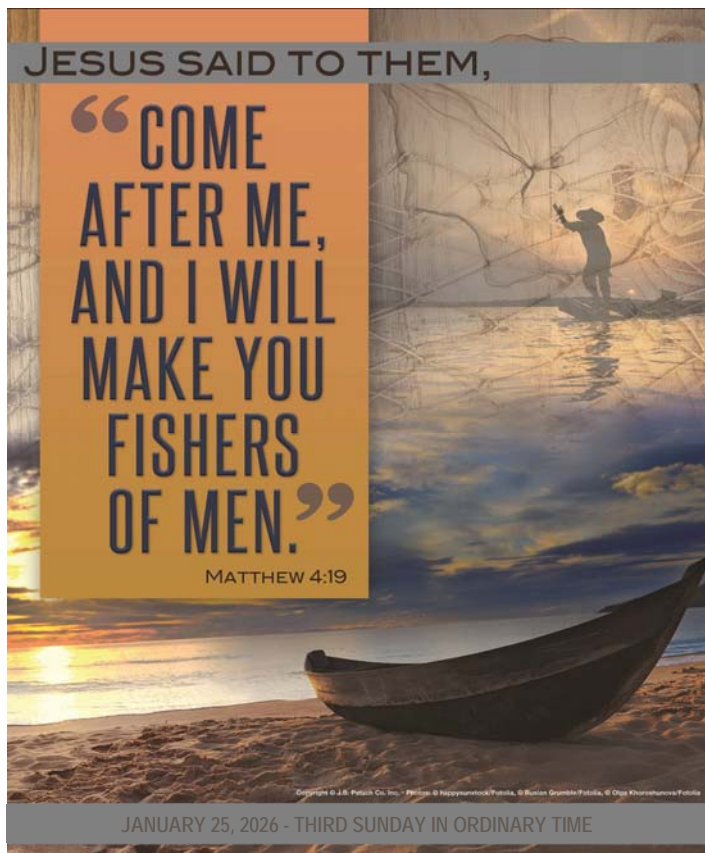


John Bosco, † 1888 at Turin; founded (1859) the Salesians, today numbering over 17,500 religious; dedicated to educating youth; with St. Mary Mazzarello, founded the Salesian Sisters; a pioneer in vocational training; first saint in history to submit to a press interview; forty thousand people filed past his body at his death; first canonized saint in whose honor a national holiday was declared in Italy; patron of editors.

## Carry the Load

The chief thing is to take the burden on one's shoulders. As you press forward, it soon shakes down and the load is evenly distributed.

~ St. John Bosco





## Liberation and Reform

While you might have to reach for an atlas to determine that Isaiah is speaking about Galilee, today's first reading (part of which was read at Christmas) is prophetic of Jesus' future ministry in that province. The light that brings salvation and rejoicing is, ultimately, Christ. Liberation is the theme: liberation from both ignorance ("darkness") and sin (the "yoke").

As Isaiah identifies a place, so Paul describes an attitude: the attitude that develops, even among good people, of equating their own will with the common good. This always brings dissension, and so it has done in Corinth. Paul will not allow this; we are all members of "Christ's party." The gospel is not to divide us.

Matthew quotes from Isaiah in today's Gospel, presenting Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. The theme is "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). To spread this message, Jesus begins to select disciples, four of whom we meet today: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

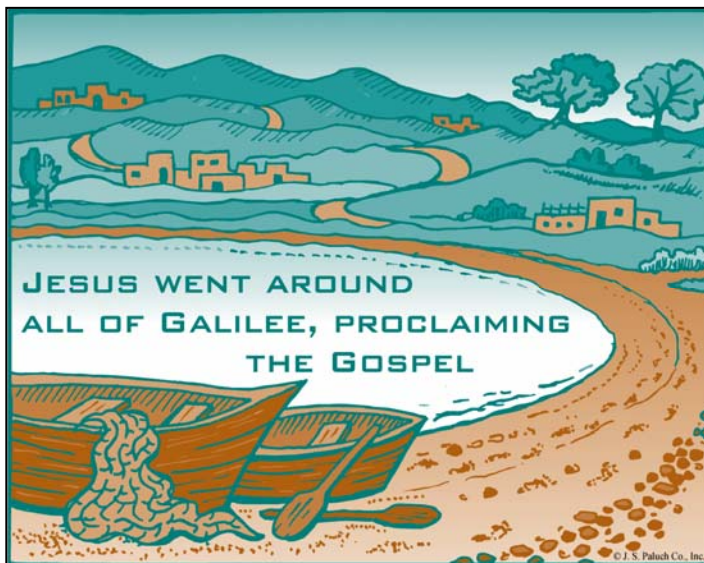
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## Treasures From Our Tradition

It's still months away, but parish ministers, especially if they are involved in the catechumenate, have their eyes on Lent and the Easter Triduum. Until fairly recent times, the last few days before Easter were shaped by an awareness of the Passion, but the faithful were left to their own devices about how to engage with these mysteries. A thousand years ago, the Easter Vigil as a solemn and central moment of initiation had vanished. By the early 1950s it was a minor moment in parish life, celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, usually with only the priests and a handful of invited guests. Most people understood it as necessary only for blessing the paschal candle and preparing the Easter water. People who were children during World War II sometimes remember that the weekly noontime test of the air-raid sirens on Holy Saturday signaled the end of Lent.

Today, of course, we see Holy Saturday as entirely within the paschal fast, and hardly the time for children to be tearing through the plastic grass looking for jelly beans and chocolate eggs. These memories point to a total collapse of the once-central liturgies of the Christian year. This impoverishment of the liturgy was mostly an accident of history. The root cause was the loss of Lent as a time focused on the final formation of catechumens for the Easter sacraments. By 1880, scholars began to piece together a vision of what once had been, and slowly, at first in a handful of monasteries in Europe, pieces of the tradition were rediscovered and celebrated.

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## Fulfilling Statements

The Gospel of Matthew was prepared for Jews who had converted to Christianity in the early church. Therefore, much of Matthew's Gospel connects with prophecies found in readings from the Hebrew scriptures. Many of these prophecies foretold the suffering, doom, and demise of the Israelites, an often recalcitrant nation. But sometimes the prophecies pointed the people to a new vision, a new hope. It is this type of hopeful prophecy found in Isaiah today. At the time of Isaiah's words (in the mid-eighth century B.C.) the Israelites were in the grip of darkness resulting from an Assyrian conquest. The Jewish leaders had rejected Isaiah's plea for courage and faith in God. Instead they followed the pagan Assyrians. It was during this time that Isaiah foretold the coming of a Savior. The hope that Isaiah offered the people was the light brought to them by God, in the promise of the Messiah.

## Following Jesus... The New Light

Matthew makes a deliberate connection between the light that shines in the darkness and Jesus, the new light that will show us the way. The Gospel author uses the reading from Isaiah to connect the people of his community to their earlier tradition so that they could walk with Jesus Christ, the new light, the new hope.

There was something urgent in the story that Matthew put down for the people. As he described the call of the first disciples, they left their nets, their boats, and their families at the summons of Jesus. Two thousand years later, we still hear the invitation and our hearts are stirred to drop all the distractions of our lives and follow Jesus. The call of Jesus leads us to a vocation. We may choose a religious life or a single life, or we may be called to marriage, but it is the way in which we live out our response that brings us out of the darkness and allows us to walk in the light.

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

The prayers surrounding baptism often speak of being "clothed in Christ," and clothes are an important consideration. In ancient times, adults were probably baptized without any clothes at all, and old texts survive asking people to leave fancy garb and jewelry behind as they enter the font. Baptism was typically in a private place, the community waited elsewhere, and the casting off of clothing was hardly a public moment, nor was it embarrassing in ancient cultures where privacy was largely unknown.

Nonetheless, what was left behind on one side of the font was replaced on the other as a white robe was wrapped around the newly baptized. It was a robe of honor, a dazzling sign of a new beginning for a society that valued clothing as a sign of personal identity. For the newly baptized, a whole week in white garments was the rule, through the second Sunday of Easter, called "Sunday in *Albis*," because of all the folks wearing their baptismal robes.

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

## Living God's Word

How will you respond to the invitation this week to pray for the unity of Christians? Will you allow Paul's words to enlighten you about another Christian denomination? Will you attend an event at a neighbor's church?

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## Relevant Radio

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



## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our readings today speak of the arrival of a great light in the midst of darkness. The Gospel passage from Matthew, quoting from Isaiah, identifies this light as the person of Jesus. God's new day is dawning as Jesus begins his ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing. God's new day also begins as Jesus calls his disciples and forms a community. These disciples begin a journey together, learning how to reflect the light of Christ in their own life and ministry. We know, however, that the first disciples, like the church in Corinth described by Paul, sometimes obscured this light, especially when disagreements drew them to forget their unity in Christ. We are reminded to watch, in our individual lives and in our community life, that we do not hide our light under a bushel, but instead shine light for all to see.

### A New Dawn

Darkness is a very common human experience. Have you recently been in pitch darkness? When it is really dark, not only can't you see where to take the next steps, you can't see any activity around you, whether good or bad. This is the kind of darkness Isaiah speaks of in our reading. In this darkness, the people of Israel, and all humanity, can't see how God is working on their behalf. So when Jesus arrives on the scene in our Gospel passage, it is like the first rays of sunlight from the dawn, giving clarity and hope. In Jesus we can begin to see how God is active on behalf of all people, and in fact has been working during the earlier darkness. We can begin to see where to take our next steps, and to learn how to reflect this light to others.

### From the Ordinary

When Matthew turns to the call of the first disciples of Jesus, it is striking how ordinary these men were. Jesus does not recruit "the best and the brightest" as his core team. The four disciples named here had little or no education, no special breeding, no influence in high places. They had ordinary jobs in ordinary places. But this is often how God works, throughout the story of God and the Chosen People in the Bible. Remember the call of ordinary folks like Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, and many others.

Today we are reminded that God loves us and calls us just as we are, where we are, in the present. God doesn't ask us to become somehow more acceptable ahead of time, in order to draw near to God. We are called by God to be partners and disciples, and God will teach us along the way. Wherever we are in our lives, God calls us from our ordinariness, to join our hearts with the divine Heart, and to join God in the work that must be done.

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## Send in the Clones?



In St. Paul's time, the church was so new that everyone remembered how they came to the faith. That's not a bad thing. Even today, in helping with the RCIA, I like to hear how the new converts were drawn to the Lord. But it seems that some people in Paul's time actually boasted about who baptized them. They acted as if they were better Christians because of the person whose preaching first attracted them.

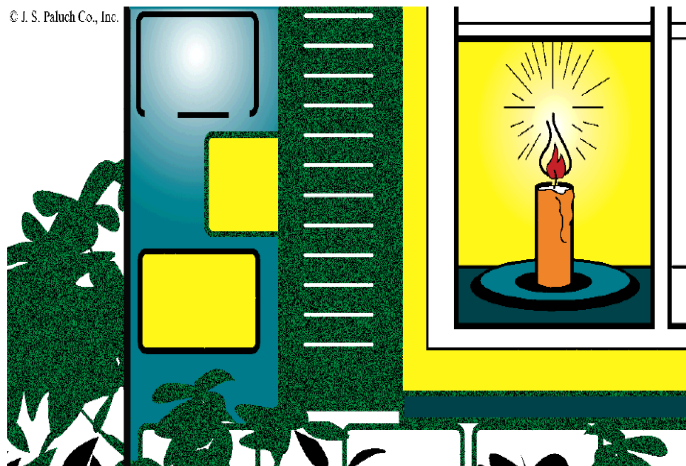
Paul, of course, would have no part in those rivalries. In fact, you can almost hear Paul laughing when he talks about people who consider Christ as just another leader of one of the factions. Christ should be the sign of unity for all Christians, not just one congregation. It may be even more difficult to seek unity today, with so many Christian churches and a modern view of diversity as somehow better than unity. While no one says they want to divide the body of Christ, I'm sure you know someone who thinks the only way to have a unified Church is for everyone to pray the same way they do.

Yet even Paul did not expect all believers to be clones of one another. He frequently wrote about people having many different gifts, yet all working to build up the Body of Christ. He doesn't mean that those gifts are divisive or that the Church survives in spite of them. Those differences are necessary; we need all the gifts that the Spirit gives us. So what can we do to help unify the Church?

First, do what Jesus himself did—pray for unity in the Church (John 17:20–21). Pray that you come to know what your own gifts are, have the courage to use them for the Church, and appreciate the gifts of others. Second, Paul was very aware of his own weaknesses. That's what he is talking about in the last line of the reading. Jesus had to die before he could rise from the dead. Without the cross, we would have never heard of the Resurrection. So also, without weakness, how can we experience God's strength? Instead of looking down on those with whom we disagree, look up to see what God may be revealing to you through that person's differences.

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

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## Reflecting on God's Word

Imagine a large group of travelers, lost in the midst of a dense forest on a starless black night. They cannot see the path; they cannot even see each other. Little by little they wander in different directions, trying desperately to find their way forward through the immense trees, all the while spreading further and further apart. Suddenly a bright white lantern shines from the edge of the forest. Their fear flees with the darkness. As they head toward the light they rejoin one another and rejoice to discover the one way out of the forest.

The imagery of light in the darkness threads its way through the Sundays of Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent. It reminds us that the Light of the World, whose dawning we celebrated during the Advent/Christmas season, is the same light of Christ whose flame will purify and enlighten us during Lent and enkindle the fire of the Holy Spirit in us during the fifty days of Easter.

This week our first reading likens the salvation of the "District of the Gentiles" to light dispelling darkness, anguish, and gloom. Matthew's Gospel characterizes Jesus as a light arising in "Galilee of the Gentiles," beckoning the fishermen to join together in following him along the way. Paul exhorts us to remain united on the one way that follows the light of our one and only Lord, Jesus Christ.

~ Virginia Stillwell

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## Division

It is a situation that plays itself out in more and less significant ways: Christians divided.

A CYO basketball game between two neighboring parishes. Parents of the young players scream insults and threats at one another and assert their "superiority."

A Protestant and a Catholic church sit on adjoining properties. Each is vigilant about having parking violators removed from its own "private" parking lot.

An old pastor retires but continues to reside at the parish. A new pastor arrives and quickly finds his faith "community" choosing sides against him.

Saint Paul addresses similar disagreements in the early church at Corinth. He encourages the church there to make up their differences and to be united again in their belief and practice.

Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of a people weighed down by the yoke of sin and darkness. Certainly the bickering and differences among us can be classified as such. The Gospel tells of the beginning ministry of Jesus. The Light has come, encouraging us to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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## Seeking the Light


In today's readings we find ourselves being drawn more deeply into relationship with Jesus. We are getting to know more about him as we see how he struggles with the news of his cousin John's arrest. His first response is to withdraw, to leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum. There he is perhaps both consoled and challenged by the words of Isaiah that Matthew quotes, "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, / on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death / light has arisen" (Matthew 4:16). Jesus contemplates his cousin's death, perhaps his own death, and he seeks the light. Maybe it is these words of Isaiah that move Jesus out of his withdrawal and into action. He begins to preach, teach, cure disease and illness, and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

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## Kid's Eye View

One of God's main jobs is making people. God makes babies because they are smaller and easier to make. God's other important job is listening to prayers. God doesn't have time to watch TV or see a movie on account of this. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps God pretty busy. So don't waste God's time asking for something your parents said you couldn't have. Jesus is God's Son. He was good and kind and did all the hard work like performing miracles and trying to teach people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Jesus and they crucified him. Jesus told God that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that Jesus had done and all his hard work. God said that Jesus didn't have to go on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. Now he helps his Dad out and you can pray any time and they are sure to hear you because one of them is always on duty. You should always go to Mass on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in our town. At least they don't come to our church. It's good to know God's always around when you're scared in the dark or when you get thrown in deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. God put me here and God can take me back any time. So it's up to me to figure out what I can do for God.

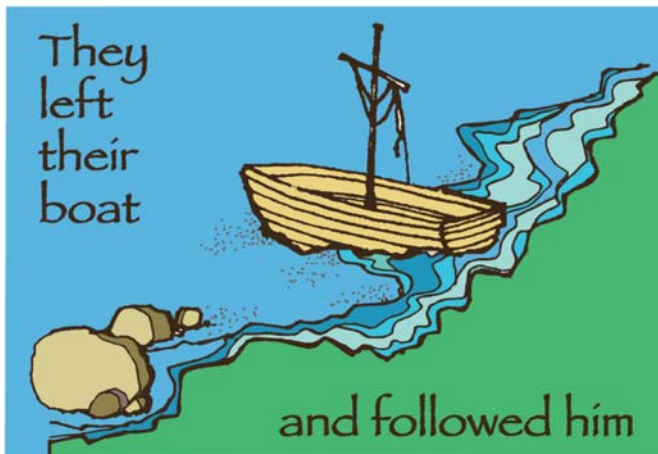
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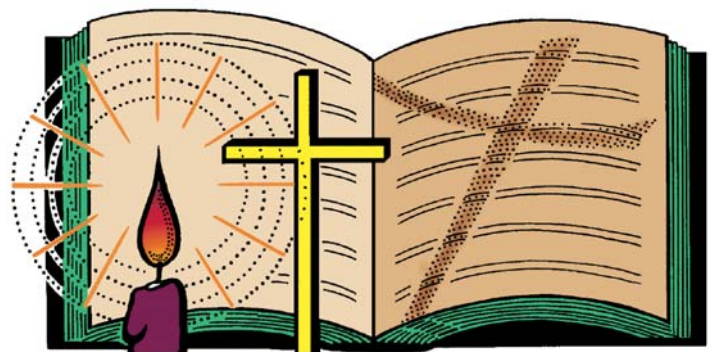
**Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
January 25, 2026**

Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted,  
and wait for the LORD.

— Psalm 27:14



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# IMMIGRANT KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IN THIS COUNTRY, EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS RIGHTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, RACE, LEGAL STATUS, NATIVE LANGUAGE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER IDENTITY.

## 1. THE RIGHT TO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

Ask for warrant under the door; verify details first.

## 2. THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

Give only your name; speak with an attorney present.

## 3. THE RIGHT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL

Call your attorney or family; keep a number ready.

## 4. THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE A JUDGE

You can ask for a judge to hear your case.

## 5. THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY RESPECTED

No one can abuse you physically or verbally.

## 6. THE RIGHT TO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS

Only sign documents with attorney approval.

## 7. THE RIGHT TO EVALUATE WHETHER YOU QUALIFY FOR ANY IMMIGRATION PROCESS

Ask an attorney if you qualify for relief program.

## ADDITIONAL RIGHTS

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408-325-5107

[klozano@ccscc.org](mailto:klozano@ccscc.org)

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CARD MESSAGES AND  
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INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS  
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FREE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
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OR CALL (415) 614-5572**



ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

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**MARCH 28, 2026 (SATURDAY)**

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hopfnere@sfarch.org

To register, **SCAN QR CODE**  
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# Wedding Anniversary Celebration

*All husbands and wives are invited to attend and celebrate their sacramental wedding anniversaries in 2025. Couples celebrating "5 year anniversaries" (5, 10, 15, 20...) will be recognized during the Mass.*



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026**

10 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.sfarch.org/anniversarymass](http://www.sfarch.org/anniversarymass) or call (415) 614-5574

Please register by: February 18, 2026

Questions/information: (415) 614-5574







## Archdiocese of San Francisco's Women's Conference

*A Retreat with the Merciful Heart of Jesus*  
*on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday*

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 4420 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, CA

\$55 per person



*Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone*  
Celebrant



*Sister M. Inga Kvassayová, ISMM*  
Speaker



*Father Jim McCormack, MIC*  
Speaker

The conference provides an opportunity to receive the Divine Mercy Sunday Indulgence,  
with time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass.

Conference will be held in the gym and Mass will be in the church.

Lunch is included.



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Learn more and register at [sfarch.org/womens-conference](https://sfarch.org/womens-conference)





# *Healing Retreat*

## *for Adult Children of Divorce*

**Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2026**

**Vallombrosa Retreat Center  
250 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA**

Weekend retreat will include Holy Mass, opportunities  
for Confession and Adoration.

For more information / registration visit:

[www.sfarch.org/lgw](http://www.sfarch.org/lgw)

or contact Ed Hopfner [HopfnerE@SFArch.org](mailto:HopfnerE@SFArch.org)







NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RENEWAL COALITION  
39TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE  
**MAY 9, 2026 - SATURDAY**



**CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
1111 GOUGH STREET (PATRONS HALL) SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109

**8:00 AM-6:00 PM (CLOSING MASS at 4:00 PM)**

**6:30 PM-8:00 PM TRIBUTE TO THE MESSIAH**

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- ROSE PAYAN, PRAISE & WORSHIP LEADER AND BIBLE TEACHER

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*Judy Labaria  
Alma Raymundo  
Cathy Bohol  
Sheila Montemayor  
Anonymous*



***Black  
Nazarene***  
***Feast Day  
January 9***

*Rosie Drapiza  
Lydia Cagampan  
Rene & Elsa Tuazon  
Celia & Paul Gravador*



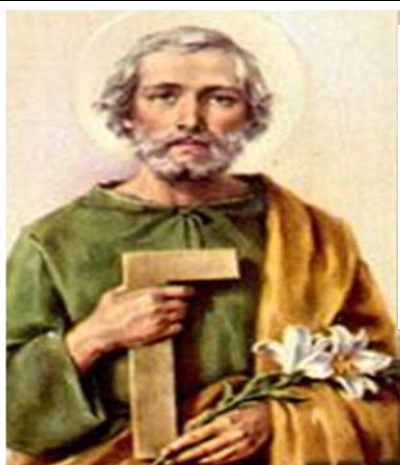
***Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help  
Devotion***  
(every Tuesday  
after the  
12:10 Mass)

*Raya & Gamboa  
Families*



***San Lorenzo Ruiz***  
***First  
Filipino Saint***  
***(Sep 28)***

*Fe Macatangay  
Jeanette Chafe  
John & Gemma O'Donnell  
Evelyn Grande  
Mely Saavedra*



***Saint  
Joseph***

***Feast Day  
March 19***

*Xenia Villamejor*

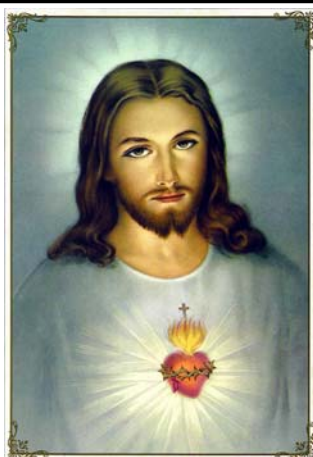
***St. Anne***  
***Feast Day  
July 26***



***Sacred  
Heart***

***First Friday  
Schedule***

***4pm Holy Hour  
5:15 Mass***



***OUR  
LADY  
OF  
FATIMA***

***Pray the  
rosary***





The Graceful Chapter

## Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Graceful Chapter

*Yap Family*



### *St. Patrick Charismatic Prayer Group*

*Charismatic & Healing Mass:  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 p.m.*

**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, feel free to call my office at (415) 554-7970 or email [Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org).

Best,

*Matt Dorsey*

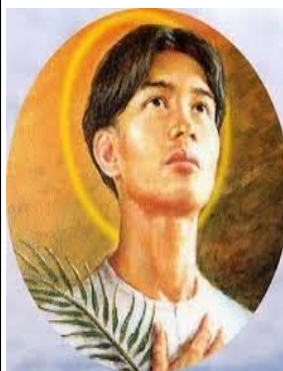


*Our Lady  
of Guadalupe*

*Feast Day  
December 12*



*St. Pedro Calungsod  
2<sup>nd</sup> Filipino Saint (April 2)*



*Elena & Mark Ramoran Gayapa  
Family,  
Romeo & Antonina Real Family,  
Dan & Annie Lacap Family,  
Jesus, Jr. & Malou Paningbatan,  
Vida Ventura,  
Nenette Murata,  
Cristin Salangsang*