

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church



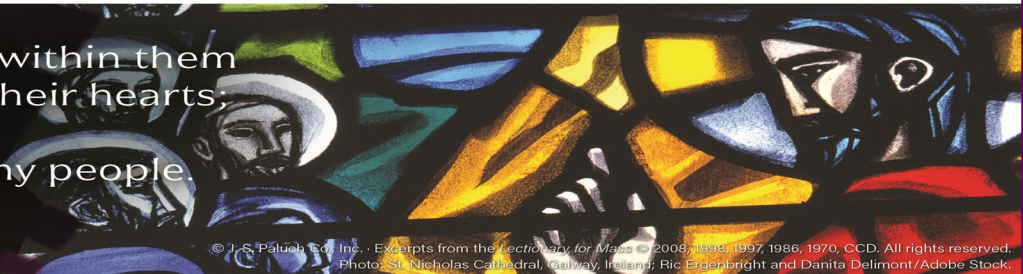
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(909) 465-5503 • FAX (909) 465-1683
E-mail: info@sptacc.org • Web site: sptacc.org

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Faith Community, Baptized into Jesus Christ, formed by Word and Sacrament, and Empowered by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Seek to be a visible sign of God's love. We seek to build the Kingdom of God by: Using our unique gifts to minister to one another, Welcoming all and caring for those in need, Teaching our faith to others and Uniting in worship as a family with the Body of Christ.

I will place my law within them
and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

JEREMIAH 31:33



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Photo: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Galway, Ireland; Ric Egerbriant and Danita Delimont/Adobe Stock

DEAR HOLY PEOPLE OF GOD:

Today is the 5th **SUNDAY of LENT!** And also the 3rd **SCRUTINY SUNDAY.** Let's be one with Jesus in welcoming our brothers and sisters ELECT to God's Family – the Church.

In today's gospel, Martha – crashed by grief over the death of her brother Lazarus, compelled her to tell Jesus: **"Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died."** To comfort her, Jesus replied:

"Your brother will rise again; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live..."

Hereafter, Martha believed that Jesus is the God of life! And they proceeded to where Lazarus was buried. Looking at Lazarus' grave, Jesus wept! The people around him said: "See how he loved him!" Jesus' tears are expressions of love, and intended for Martha and Mary over the death of their brother Lazarus. They're tears of life that conquer death; they're tears of joy that vanquish sadness.

One writer has this to say about "tears":

"Don't be afraid of tears – your own or those of neighbors... they communicate without words. They are signals that there is something deeper to be understood. If you're crying, it's a sign that your heart is still tender... Let your life be rich in tears: tears of compassion when you see a malnourished child suffering on TV; and tears of sadness when someone you love is ill... Remember, your tears are precious to God. They are like stained-glass windows in the darkness, whose true beauty is revealed only when there is light within."

God still weeps today! when you sin, he weeps for you - his tears become waters of forgiveness; when you come back to Church, he weeps for you - his tears are waters of hospitality and joy. God also weeps for death's images in our world, like the destruction of human life caused by the Coronavirus-19.

So today, Jesus tells us:

"Take away the stone!" And let's take away our heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh. A new heart that makes us visible signs of God's love.

"Lazarus, come out!" And let us come out from our tombs of pride and greed and become prophetic voice of life for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless of our society.

"Untie him, let him go free!" Let's unbind ourselves from issues that enslave us, like racism, abortion, and capital punishment. Jesus summons us to become sources of life and hope for others.

So today, let us become **life-givers**
and **hope-builders!**

God bless,

Fr. Romy Seleccion, MS

FIFTH
SUNDAY OF
LENT
MARCH 21, 2021

Mass Intentions & Readings for the Week

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 20

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Iniga de las Alas, Leo De Leon,
Jenelita Picar, Cherie Perez,
Richard Garrido, Msgr. Ching Ensinares,
Sr. Vivian Sun, Sr. Claire Gietzen,
†Sinforiana Raz, †Shalla de Guzman,
†Florante Maglalang, †Jesus Ayala, Jr.,
†Severino de las Alas, †Claro Reyes,
†Sr. Blandine Marie Thanh,
†Julian Guevara, †Rowell Ramirez,
†Avelina Mijares, †George Ronquillo,
†Lenny King

Sunday, March 21

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Alternate readings (Year A):

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;

Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

5th Sunday of Lent;

Third Scrutiny

Sierna Lizar, Elizabeth Lujan,
Benjamin Raz, †Concepcion Lasquete,
†Shalla de Guzman, †Jesus Baluyot,
†Florante Maglalang, †Delia Tayag,
†Gaspar Sinco, †Abdon Rocabado,
†Amadeo & Lola Castillo, †Rafael Diaz,
†Glen Hironaka, †Rosalinda Deypuart,
†Felipe Alolod, †Ramona Salvador,
†Anastacio Cuaresma, †Dom Rosacia,
†Herminia Ancheta, †Kathy Moreno

Monday, March 22

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];

Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

8:00 a.m. Leo De Leon, †Victor Gaerlan,
†Ferdie Gaerlan, †Shalla de Guzman

Tuesday, March 23

Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8:00 a.m. Leopoldo & Maria Dalusong, Oliver Tabares,
†Fortunato Cruz, Jr., †Shalla de Guzman

Wednesday, March 24

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

8:00 a.m. †Shalla de Guzman, †Cesar Dumdum,
†Grace Garcia, †Michael Sanchez

Thursday, March 25

Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Michael Urgo, †Ana Palencia,
†Olga Bermudez, †James & Carmen Eder

Friday, March 26

Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Abstinence

8:00 a.m. Lester & Lea Picar, Karlie Becker,
†Bernard Muffuh, †Shalla de Guzman

Saturday, March 27

Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

For the People of the Parish,
Manuel Payawal, Georgina Bautista,
Steve & Annette Gamboa,
Enrique Gomez, †Sinforiana Raz,
†Shalla De Guzman, †Milagros Llanos,
†Jun Morelos, †Moises Cuevas,
†Vanessa Garcia, †Alfredo Albay,
†Lenny King

Sunday, March 28

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession);

Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;

Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

Lorie Ong, Michael Ocampo,
Michael Jibaja, Leo De Leon,
Benjamin Raz, Sr. Charis Kwon,
†Mark Medina, †John Illarmo,
†Courtenay Wroth, †Shalla de Guzman,
†Florentino & Filomena Acacio,
†Crisanto del los Reyes, †Julie Gobin,
†Julio Del Mundo, †Bing De Las Alas,
†Roel Ramirez, †Ramon Benjamin,
†Juan Rueda, Sr., †Jose Luna, Jr.,
†Gabriela Salazar

† Deceased

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE SICK AND SUFFERING: Yvonne Acosta, Victor Almaraz, Ana Alvarado, Luis Arieta, Leni Basilio, Leodi Basilio, Joe Bok, Jeanette Byczek, Allison Carlos, Jun Castillo, Cella Family, Ernesto Cruz, Gus Davila, Charlie Field, Wayne Fisher, Roberto Garcia, Ida Garza, Harvey & Patricia Geiss, Steve & Annette Gamboa, Ida Garza, Fr. Martin Gyongyos, Jose Guadalupe Guerrero, Jon Hosea, Leo de Leon, Marlene Lombardo, Fr. Michael Maher, ss.cc., Joe Manzanares, Larry McCann, Fr. Pat O'Hagan, ss.cc., Raymond Henderson, Ninfa Hidalgo, Lina Medenillo, Rosenio Medenillo, Kathy Moreno, Gloria Pacheco, Margarita Pacheco, Charlie Perez, Jenelita Picar, Susie Pinter, Raymond Rodriguez, Judy Sacaris, Roy Singzon, Joe Tolido, Stephanie Tribe, Dcn Paul Von Ins, James & Mary Watson and Sheila Williams.

DECEASED: William Phillip Blackett, Renato Martinez, Sascha Vannier Palacios and Maria Teresa Salcedo.

THE PREGNANT WOMEN AND ALL THE NEW MOMS OF OUR PARISH:

*If you would like prayers, support, meals and a gift after your baby is born,
contact Maile Dafun-Long 909-896-3395,
Elizabeth Ministry.*



EVENINGS OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, March 22nd - Friday, March 26th
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Church
And/Or Courtyard

Spanish: Monday, March 22nd
Wednesday, March 24th

Reservations will be required. Please check the Church Website for details.

PASTORAL COUNCIL SELF-NOMINATIONS

We Are The Church!! Our gifts and talents are needed at St. Paul the Apostle, the faith community where we live our lives of faith in the Lord Jesus. As we are continually challenged to be a community where peoples' lives are filled with hope, we reach out to everyone to be a part of this sacred journey through the many ministries offered throughout our parish.

The St. Paul Pastoral Council Ministry is actively seeking 3 new members to replace the outgoing members. The ministry of The Pastoral Council assists our pastoral leadership in discerning the will of God for the parish through the wisdom of our graced community. The council takes on a consultative role to work within our community in order to communicate the needs of the parish to our leadership through the process of praying and working together to engage in, strengthen and continue to build and support the actions of the Body of Christ.

Nominees must be registered and participating members of our parish. This is a 3-year commitment. The self-nominations forms are available in the foyer of the Church or outside of the Parish Office. Please return the forms by **Friday, April 30th**.

Visit Our Website
SPTACC.ORG

This Weekend!

THIS WEEKEND IS MCF

We are grateful to all who have continued to support the Ministry Center Building Fund. Fr. Romy and the Finance Council have approved a temporary change in how the funds received are to be used.

BLOOD DRIVE RETURNS



St. Paul the Apostle and the Knights of Columbus are having their Blood Drive on **Wednesday, March 24th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** in Maher Hall.

For appointments, call 800-879-4484 or visit Istream.org.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

BEREAVEMENT "SEASONS OF HOPE"

The Bereavement Ministry Support Group continues to meet via Zoom. **Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** If you or someone you know are experiencing a loss, please contact Leeza Montoya at 714-342-8418 for information. Our next Zoom meeting will be **tomorrow, Monday, March 22nd**.

~Bereavement Grief Share Ministry



Year of ST. JOSEPH



In Advent, Pope Francis announced that this particular liturgical year would be the **Year of St. Joseph**. The Pope noted that “Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

As Catholics, we often pray to the saints and ask for their heavenly intercession. During this liturgical year, we have the unique opportunity to pray and reflect on the life of St. Joseph. We also have opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence (or remission of all temporal punishment due to sin). This indulgence can be applied to oneself or to a soul in Purgatory. There are many ways in which special indulgences may be obtained during the Year of St. Joseph. For example, one can meditate on the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes, perform Corporal or Spiritual works of Mercy that follows St. Joseph's example, etc. For additional opportunities, you can check the following websites:

The Vatican (via the Relevant Radio website . . .

<https://relevantradio.com/2020/12/vatican-announces-year-of-st-joseph-and-plenary-indulgence/>

Catholic News Agency . . .

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/fifteen-ways-to-gain-an-indulgence-in-the-year-of-st-joseph-81304>

Here at St. Paul the Apostle, we suggest that parishioners begin a personal consecration to St. Joseph. On March 19th (the Feast of St. Joseph). We recommend that you begin by praying a prayer to St. Joseph (see below). This prayer should then be prayed consecutively (each day), for a total of **33 days**. On **Tuesday, April 20th, at the end of the 8:00 a.m. Mass**, the Prayer of Consecration will be led by the presider for all who have decided to participate in the consecration to St. Joseph. If you have a St. Joseph medal (easily obtained through a religious good store, such as the Madonna Shop in Upland, CA), it will be blessed at that time.

In this Year of St. Joseph, may we like St. Joseph, overcome our fears and hesitations, protect and defend the presence of Christ, and bring his presence to the world around us each day.

Blessings,

Fr. Mike

Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** will be on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, beginning at **9:15 a.m.** and ending at **10:30 a.m.** (**OR** when the line of those waiting to receive *Reconciliation* ends, whichever comes first).

At this time, **ALL** celebrations of this sacrament will be **OUTDOORS**. Also, a minimum 6' (six foot), physical distancing between the priest and penitent must be maintained.

Everyone coming to receive the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, **MUST**:

- Be wearing a **mask** that completely covers the nose and mouth areas.
- Maintain the 6' (six foot) physical distancing between all persons present (noted exception: those who are living in the same house).

The location for the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* will be just **outside** the entrance doors of the Church at Entry Gate #1, just off of Boys Republic Drive (see illustration).

If the above noted days and times are not convenient, an appointment may also be made to celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. Please note that there will be **NO INDOOR** celebrations of the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* at this time.



Mass Intentions



The **Schedule of Mass Intentions** for the month of **April, 2021** is now available. Please contact the Parish Office!!

JOURNEY OF HOPE

The San Bernardino Catholic Divorce Ministry is offering a Divorce Support Group "Journey of Hope" for anyone to join by Zoom. This group is led by facilitators from St. Paul the Apostle.

Journey of Hope is a 6-Week Program to support those going through the emotional pain of divorce and separation. Key challenges and unique family dynamics as a result of this unexpected journey will be addressed as well as a safe environment to share concerns and reconnect with understanding and a new hope.

Wednesdays, Now through April 14th
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

See parish website for more information or contact us via email at CDM@sdiocese.org

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Preschool is enrolling new students for our 2020-2021 school year.



Contact the Director, Chrissy Stutzman at cstutzman@sptacc.org for more information.

Please Continue to Pray
For Our Military

TO REPORT THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

By a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer, contact the toll free *Sexual Misconduct Hotline* **1-888-206-9090**

PARA REPORT EL ABUSO SEXUAL DE UN MENOR

Por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, empleado o voluntario, llame a la *Línea Directa de Conducta Sexual Inapropiada* al **1-888-206-9090**.

**SATURDAY**

4:00pm – Livestream (*English*)
5:00pm – Maher Hall
 6:30pm – Livestream (*Spanish*)

SUNDAY

7:00am – Maher Hall
 9:00am – Livestream and **VCL***
1:00pm - Church - **Spanish**
3:00pm – Church
5:00pm – Church

You will need to reserve your seat through our Parish Website seating system. The reservation system enables us to have immediate contact tracing should the need arise. It also ensures that we do not exceed the maximum number of people for each mass and we will not have to “turn anyone away” from attending the Mass since their seat is already reserved. **NOTE:** If for some reason you will not be able to attend the Mass, please be considerate and **cancel** your reservation, so that someone else may attend the **“In Person”** Mass. Thank you.

* – **VEHICLE COMMUNION LINE**

- ♦ The *Vehicle Communion Line* is a **direct continuation** of the 9:00 a.m. Livestream Mass. In order to receive Communion (Eucharist), you **MUST**:
- ♦ Have already received your First Communion
- ♦ Have participated fully and completely in the 9:00 a.m. Livestream Mass (i.e., watched and responded throughout the Livestream Mass)
- ♦ Be in a state of grace
 Meet the *Eucharistic Fast* requirements (e.g., no food or beverages for **1 hour before** you receive the Eucharist. Noted exception: water and medication)
- ♦ All cars will enter through Gate #1 on Boys Republic Drive.
 You will **NOT** be parking, but simply entering into the *Vehicle Communion Line*.
 Please follow the directions of all *Guidance Ministers* as they direct you to one of the Communion distribution points.
- ♦ Please be aware that you **will** be exiting your vehicle in order to receive Communion (unless you have great difficulty walking).
- ♦ Please be aware that there is **NO** “upper age limit.” If you meet **all** of the above requirements and you are in good health (i.e., have no symptoms of illness – such as fever, cough, etc.), you are welcome to receive communion.
- ♦ In keeping with Diocesan guidelines, at this time, Communion will be given **in the hand only**.

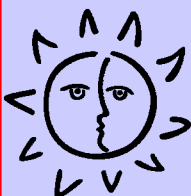
Finally, we ask that you bring **hand sanitizer** with you and make sure that everyone in the vehicle is wearing a **face mask** that completely covers your nose and mouth.

March-April Calendar Dates!

March 22	Con 1 Retreat 2 nd session Zoom for Monday classes
March 29	Con 1 Retreat "in person" week in Maher Hall
March 29-April 2	NO CLASSES—HOLY WEEK—Office open 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
	Office closed Good Friday April 2nd
April 5-9	NO CLASSES - EASTER WEEK - Office Closed
	Easter Monday April 5th
April 12	All Classes, All levels resume
April 14	Con 1 Retreat via Zoom for Wednesday Classes begins
April 21	Con 1 Retreat 2nd session Zoom for Wednesday Classes
April 28	Con 1 Retreat "in person" week in Maher Hall

Lenten season is full of both wonderful and sad symbols as we are reminded of what Jesus did for us.

SUN—reminds us that Easter's light is already waiting for us at the end of Lent.



SNAKE AND FIG LEAF—reminds us that sin is real, dangerous and scary and leads us away from God.

DOVE—acts to remind us that God is really "The One".

FISH—tells us we are all fishers of people—God's disciples.

THE DONKEY AND THE PALM LEAF—As Jesus rides triumphant into Jerusalem "humble and riding on a donkey"; as cheering crowds wave the palm leaf crying out "Hosanna!"



BOWL & TOWEL—Jesus washes the dusty feet of his disciples reminding us how to love one another.

LAMB—is a reminder of the Passover meal and that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

BREAD AND THE CUP—reminds us of the Last Supper and the institution of the First Eucharist.

BAG OF COINS—a sad reminder of Judas and betrayal.

ROOSTER—and so the cock crows to remind Peter of his denial of Christ.

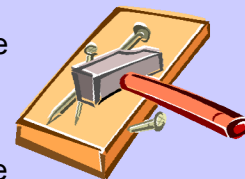
ROPE—portrays the bondage Christ suffered for us to free us from bondage to sin.

WHIP AND PILLAR—sorrowful reminder of what Jesus suffered and how bravely he withstood punishment for us.

ROBE—the soldiers place a robe on Christ intending to mock Him but it is truly a Royal Robe.

HAMMER AND NAILS—the simplest of tools that should build and the nail that reminds us how wide his arms were spread for us.

SPEAR—Yes, He is dead!



LADDER—reminds us of Jesus removal from the cross and burial in the tomb. Now we await Easter morning!

BUTTERFLY—reminder of His resurrection—like a butterfly bursting from its cocoon **HE IS RISEN!**

Ministry Center Hours by Appointment
 Mon– Thurs 10:30am-7:30pm
 Fridays: 8:30 am-5:30pm

Closed "Off" weeks and Saturday and Sundays
 Phone: 909-325-8900 - Website: www.sptacc.org
 Director of Catechetical Ministry: Jeanie Kiefer

GROWTH

Jeremiah 31:31-34 // John 12:20-33

In this reading, it's revealed that the Lord will make a new covenant with the people of Israel. He is making the effort to show who he truly is so that they are able to fully experience the love and the divinity of the true God. As he tells them that they will all know Him, this reveals how, by making an effort as well to grow closer to God and to get to know Him, He will always be with us. It's stated in the Gospel, "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" (John 12:20-33). We can often get discouraged when our prayers are not answered. We can often question our faith and ask "why?". However, God is always with us and is always in our hearts. We just need to strengthen our trust in our faith. By doing this, we are able to truly grow closer to our heavenly Father.

Gabriella Torres . Spark Ministry . St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

GRUPO DE ORACION "JESUS ENTRE NOSOTROS"

Te invita a tener un encuentro con Dios a través de la Oración, el Rosario y la Formación.

Nos reunimos por la plataforma virtual del Zoom todos los **Martes de 7:00 a 8:30 p.m.**

Para más información, comuníquese con Angélica y Miguel al 909-973-8531 o con Marcelo al 909-917-8135.

Unidos en el camino para una conversión.

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP

Invites you to have an encounter with God through Prayer, Rosary and Formation.

We meet via Zoom every **Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Angelica and Miguel at 909-973-8531 or Marcelo at 909-917-8135.

SANTO ROSARIO

Acompáñanos todos los **Miércoles** a rezar el Santo Rosario, unidos como una cadena que nos une el Cielo y la tierra uno de cuyos extremos está en nuestras manos y el otro en las manos de la Santísima Virgen. Oremos por nuestras necesidades y las del mundo.



Desde tu hogar en compañía de tu familia, transmitido por medio del **Zoom a las 7:00 p.m.**

ID para la Reunión : 89623583206

Contraseña: María

Sagrada Familia

Maricela Castañeda: 909-244-4432

Monica Alatorre: 909-720-9568

Bertha Palma: 626-438-6567

HERMANOS EN CRISTO CAMINEMOS CON JESÚS

Que estos 40 días sean para abrir el corazón al hermano que sufre y a la misericordia de Dios.

Los invitamos a unirnos en oración, para acompañar a Jesús en su viacrucis. Todos los **Viernes hasta el 2 de Abril a las 7:00 p.m.** por la plataforma virtual del Zoom.

Meeting ID: 89623583206

Password: María

Monica Alatorre: 909-720-9568

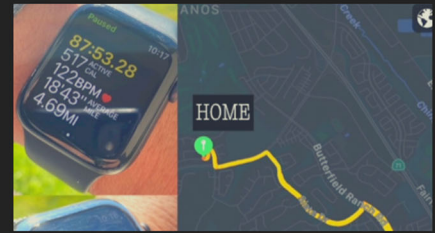
Maricela Castañeda: 626-244-4432

NOCHE DE RECONCILIACION

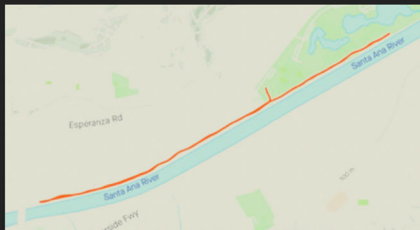
Lunes, 22 de Marzo - Viernes, 26 de Marzo
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. en la Iglesia
Y/O en el Patio

Español: Lunes, 22 de Marzo
Miércoles, 24 de Marzo

Se requerirán reservacion. Consulte el sitio web de la Iglesia para más detalles.



T H A N K
Y O U !
F O R
P A R T I C I P A T I N G
I N
R U N N I N G
W I T H
S T . P A U L
V I R T U A L 5 K



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Respect Life and Family Ministry invites all parishioners to take an active role in **40 Days for Life**, which started on **Ash Wednesday** and runs through **Palm Sunday**. This world-wide campaign to promote and protect life "from womb to tomb" involves prayer, peaceful vigils and community outreach. Locally, a coordinated effort is underway to conduct a **daily prayer vigil** from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** for the entire 40 days.

Location: Planned Parenthood Pomona
1550 N. Garey Avenue,
Pomona, CA

Learn more about this campaign by visiting 40daysforlife.com/pomona. Whether you can pray for one hour a day or one hour a week, please join this effort. Whether you join us at the Planned Parenthood location, or pray in the comfort of your home, your prayers are needed!

Contact Kelly Schlegel at 909-896-6351 or Claudia Shannon at 909-789-2310 for more information.

Take *COURAGE*

Many of us fear death: It brings sadness and an unknown. We may have experienced the grief of losing a loved one, and we may be angry that God allows death. But today's Gospel lends itself to hope. Jesus tells us that we must die in order to have new life. What a strange command. Let's pause a minute though to reflect on the nature around us. Every year, we see death come to the plants around us. The weather becomes cold and often gloomy and the trees are bare and flowers unfound. As we wait though, we slowly notice the days warming, the sun shining, and new life springs forth. There's a hustle and bustle with the birds chirping and the plants coming back to life with their colorful vigor. So too with us. We must experience a death of things in our lives that hold us back from blooming into the creation God has called us to be. We must allow these parts of ourselves to be put to death so that we may bloom in full color as we become fully alive, the man or woman God created us to be.

DISCUSSION: Please watch this week's *Opening the Word* video at sptacc.formed.org

Jesus is sharing with his disciples that his hour is coming. He is



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letting them know that he will soon be fulfilling his purpose here on earth—to give his life for our sin. In sharing this with his disciples, he shares the secret to living a fulfilled life. He tells us that in order to gain eternal life, we must allow ourselves to die. This seems backwards. He uses a metaphor of a grain of wheat. In order for it to bear fruit, it must fall to the ground, and then it will sprout up new life.

What death of ourselves is God calling us to? What is holding us back from allowing that part of our lives to die? Are we scared of what will happen if we do? Will we lose control? Could it mean some suffering for us? Ask Jesus for the grace to be courageous in trusting God and allow yourself to

die to the world to gain eternal life in Heaven.

RESOLUTION: Even if you've fallen short on your Lenten penance, don't give up now. With only a couple of weeks left, recommit yourself to your penance and allow yourself to experience a "death" to yourself through it.

DIGGING DEEPER: **O**bedience is often thought of as a virtue for children towards their parents or other adults. As adults, we often dismiss it because we prefer to be independent. Without realizing it, in our grasp for independence, we make ourselves into a god. We know best; we call the shots; we don't need to answer to anyone else. In today's readings though, we see Jesus, who doesn't WANT to suffer and experience pain but who tells us that he will follow the will of his Father in obedience, submitting his will to accept this suffering. Where in your life have you made yourself a god? How do you need to submit your will to God's?

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.



We encourage you to take notes as you reflect on this week readings / homily

21 DE MARZO DE 2021

*Si el grano de trigo,
sembrado en la tierra,
no muere, queda infecundo;
pero si muere,
producirá mucho fruto.*

Juan 12:24

QUINTO CUARESMA

DOMINGO DE

La lectura de hoy del libro 2 Crónicas es la conclusión de estos dos libros, un resumen breve de la infidelidad de Judá bajo una serie de reyes y los subsiguientes setenta años de exilio en Babilonia. Esta serie abreviada resume los eventos que se trataron en los capítulos anteriores, concluyendo con la conquista de Jerusalén y la deportación de sus habitantes a Babilonia.

Después de que los babilonios fueron conquistados por Ciro y los persas, Ciro construyó el gran Imperio Persa que incluía todo el antiguo Oriente Cercano. A diferencia de los anteriores asirios y babilonios, Ciro no gobernó deportando y esclavizando a los pueblos que derrotaba. Al contrario, él organizó su imperio en gobiernos regionales y financió sus proyectos de construcción, gobernando sobre todo con el título (entre otros) Rey de Reyes. Con este espíritu, Ciro instó a los exiliados a regresar a Jerusalén para que reconstruyeran su templo y su cultura originaria. En términos judíos, Ciro era un “mesías” (hebreo) o un cristo (griego), alguien ungido por Dios para llevar a cabo esta misión divina.

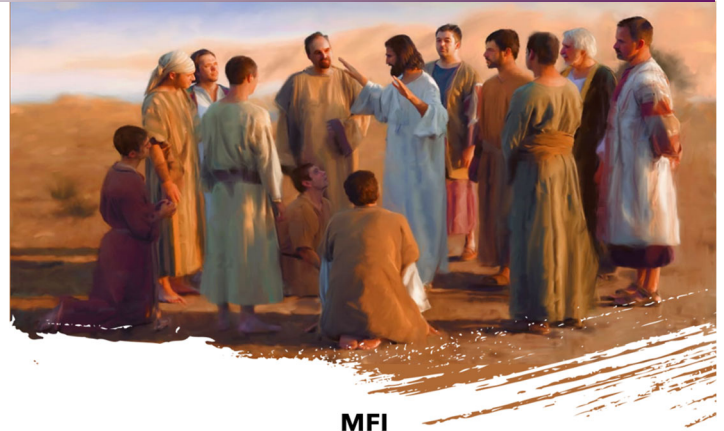
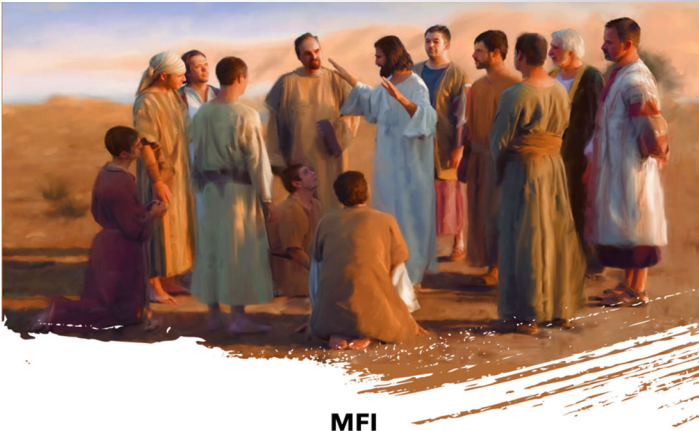
... Y EL RESCATE DIVINO

El regreso del exilio de Babilonia fue el segundo después del Éxodo de Egipto, como una narración

fundacional que determinó la identidad judía en la que nació Jesús y en la que la Iglesia se enraizó y comenzó a crecer. Si leemos entre las líneas de las dos lecturas del Nuevo Testamento de hoy, podemos ver los contornos de este mismo patrón de Dios trayendo a la humanidad del dolor al gozo: la esclavitud de los hebreos en Egipto y el exilio de los judíos en Babilonia revelan una verdad universal, que pertenecemos al Dios que es “rico en Misericordia,” y se nos asegura que “cuando estábamos muertos en nuestras transgresiones,” Dios “amó tanto al mundo” que envió a Jesús para que fuera el camino de nuestra redención, nuestra salvación.

El Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma a veces se le suele llamar “Domingo Laetare,” o “Domingo de la Alegría.” Incluso si nos sentimos abrumados por la oscuridad del pecado (del nuestro y de otros), preguntándonos si Dios realmente está obrando en nuestro favor, podemos poner nuestra fe en la Palabra de hoy de que es así. Por esto, podemos regocijarnos de verdad, ¡estamos a más de medio camino para la Pascua!

Lecturas de hoy: 2 Cr 36:14—16, 19—23;
Sal 137 (136):1—2, 3, 4—5, 6; Ef 2:4—10; Jn 3:14—21



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XIX THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Faith
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A day to explore and study the theological concept and aspects of "Pastoral de y en Conjunto" by reflecting on our personal and cultural expressions of faith and understandings of ministry. By sharing our individual and collective gifts as a rich tapestry of faith, we will envision how together we can make an impact on parish life and the larger society as we strive to bring hope to others.



Robert Lassalle-Klein, Ph.D.
Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy
for Holy Names University, Oakland, CA.
*Profesor de Estudios Religiosos y Filosóficos en
Holy Names University, Oakland, CA.*



XIX SIMPOSIO TEOLÓGICO

¡Fe
EN ACCIÓN
Dando Esperanza!

Un día para estudiar y explorar el concepto teológico y los aspectos de la "Pastoral de y en Conjunto" reflexionando sobre nuestras expresiones personales y culturales de fe, en nuestra comprensión ministerial. Al compartir nuestros dones individuales y en conjunto como un tapiz abundante de fe, visualizaremos cómo podemos hacer un impacto significativo en la vida parroquial y en la sociedad, comprometiéndonos a llevar esperanza a los demás.



Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J., S.T.D.
Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ministry for
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*Profesor de Teología Pastoral y Ministerios en
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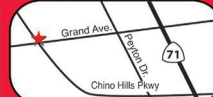
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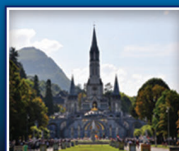
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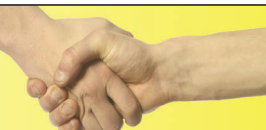
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