

**Website:** [saintlorenzo.org](http://saintlorenzo.org)      **Facebook:** @Slrwalnut  
**Twitter:** @Lorenzoruiz747      **YouTube:** Lorenzo Ruiz Walnut  
**Instragam:** @st.lorenzoruiz\_walnut



Dear Beloved Parishioners, Friends, and Benefactors,

## A Blessed New Year!

As we set forth embracing the new year, I find myself reflecting on the **blessings** and **graces** that enveloped our community throughout 2023. Our journey together has been nothing short of **extraordinary**, and I am filled with **gratitude** for the beautiful family community of St. Lorenzo Ruiz. I am especially and **deeply grateful** to the **countless volunteers, servant leaders, priests, and benefactors** who contribute to its vibrancy.

Let us collectively revisit the treasures of the past year, *reimagining* and celebrating the **gift of Christmas** not as a fleeting moment but as a *way of life* to be shared *infinitely*.

"Welcome Home. Where Heaven Kisses Earth" is not just a mere phrase but has become the **heartbeat** of our community. To "*Hang Out With Jesus*" is a constant invitation to recognize Jesus' presence in the present, because as we learned in the **Emmaus** story, Jesus is not confined to the past; rather, *He dwells within us*, urging us to share His **love** with others.

In the tapestry of our diverse parish, much like the three Wise Men who journeyed from different corners of the world, we acknowledge that **Jesus, the gift of Christmas, is for all**. Our unity lies in the recognition that we are a **family**, entrusted to the **Blessed Mother's care**. Inspired by the example of **Zacchaeus**, we extend beyond our comfort zones, embracing others with a heartfelt **hospitality** that radiates warmth.

As we now anticipate the unfolding chapters of 2024, let's continue to answer our Bishops' call for a **Eucharistic Revival** and become *living vessels of Christ's love*. Let's **nourish** ourselves with the **Word of God** daily and let it be the *guiding light* in our lives. In being a **Eucharist** for each other, we embark on a journey of mutual sharing and love, *disembarking* for one another and *staying* with each other, just as Christ did for us. When we come to church, let our *smiles and hospitality* echo the sentiment of "*Welcome Home*," embracing everyone we encounter. Invite at least two people to join our faith community, extending the warmth of our **parish family** to others. *Each ONE, Take TWO!*

May we be a **beacon of Christ's love**...and be a **Eucharist**, radiating the warmth of our parish family to all who cross our path.

Again, a **Happy New Year!**

With love, gratitude, and prayers,  
Fr. Tony

# Worship

WE PRAY & WORSHIP.  
WE ARE A PRIESTLY  
COMMUNITY.

## SLR FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

As part of the Friday Eucharistic Adoration in our parish, let us continue to come together each Friday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Come and stay with Jesus for an hour. Bring your friends & family and receive blessings when you stay for the Benediction until 9:30 p.m.

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

### Weekdays

15 min before daily 7:00am  
& 7:00pm mass  
Fridays 7:30-8:30pm

Saturday  
3:30pm to 4:30pm

January 14, 2024  
Second Sunday in Ordinary  
Time

**INVITATION:** We are all called to a life of holiness. But it's not always easy to grow in holiness and strengthen one's relationship with God on our own. Consider reaching out to your parish and asking about spiritual direction – a spiritual director will help you fine tune your ears to be more attentive to the Lord's voice.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## National Eucharistic Congress Updates


Everyone is encouraged to attend the National Eucharistic Congress next July 2024. Our partner agency, Corporate Travel, has arranged an extension for the early bird discount. The new deadline is **January 15, 2024**. Please be sure to book before this date to claim your discount. See the flyer below for more details.

**Discounted Price extended until January 15, 2024**


# Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

**INDIANAPOLIS  
JULY 17 - 21, 2024**



with Archbishop José H. Gomez  
and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



**BOOK NOW!**



For more info: Please contact  
Sheila 626-327-1380

**Let us 'hang out' with Jesus...with one another!**

## First Communion

Please contact  
Ray Apodaca 626-222-4674  
909-595-9545  
rayapodaca@saintlorenzo.org

## BRING THE FAITH HOME

*"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."* (1 Samuel)

Have you ever heard God calling you? In what way and how? I believe that my parents, teachers, clergy, and those entrusted to lead the church became God's vehicles to invite each of us to provide service to the community and to the church at most. During my elementary school days, we would gather as a group and go around the neighborhood to form a block Rosary with the guidance of one family. During the Christmas season, we would group again to go caroling, and during summer, another family would group the young children to form the *Flores de Mayo* event. The whole year is full of activities all related to the life of the church.

But all of these changed when I came to America, got married, and started my own family life. I wanted to draw my children to the church life that I experienced during my younger days. I started by volunteering my time as a choir member and then found a prayer group in the church. It was difficult to balance family, church, and work schedule. There was this motto that keeps creeping up into my brain that says: "God first, family second." So, that puts work as third?

Looking back at what I've done, I saw that God has guided me in what I've started and believed in. It wasn't easy. There were obstacles and difficult situations that made me ask God:

*"Are you really asking me to serve you? Is this where you want me to be? Is it me who just want to be here because I believe that I have something to offer you that no one else can? Did my serving you become an escape from the sometimes-harsh realities of family life?"*

And then, there were life changes: a diagnosis of an incurable illness, having my first grandchild, early retirement, then the unexpected death of my husband.

This time, I asked God, "NOW WHAT?" I was no longer listening. I was ignoring and questioning and bursting into tears like a toddler in tantrums. But God never left me. He allowed me to walk with my family and the community that he has allowed me to serve.

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.

And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

*Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will.* (Psalm 40)

*Sheila Sobretudo*

SLR Coordinator, Come Down Zacchaeus Program

# Service

WE SERVE & WE SHARE.  
WE ARE A KINGLY PEOPLE.



**Please COME & Join our... SLRC**  
**'Word Made Flesh'**  
**a 'way of life' on the Road to (and through) Emmaus**

... A program & undertaking of SLRC inviting, encouraging and enabling the community to 'read', 'reflect', 'share' and 'pray' on the Word daily and liturgically.

*"Stay with us, for night comes quickly, The day is now almost over"*

*Celebrate Valentine's weekend with your spouse in the most meaningful way.*

## CANA Marriage Spirituality Retreat (CANA in Galilee)

**Feb. 24 and 25**  
**St Lorenzo Ruiz Vellucci Hall**

*A 2-day retreat that is OPEN and FREE to all married couples!*  
*Meals and snacks provided*

Call for more info and to register:  
Jose & Cecilia (626)391-2212 • Alain & Cecille (818)421-6505 • Parish Office (909)595-9545

### Confirmation

Michael Mutuc 909-595-9545 (ext 116)

michaelmutuc@saintlorenzo.org

### Youth

Noah Basit 909-595-9545

noahbasit@gmail.com

## ST. FRANCES OF ROME

501 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702

**Mass & Healing Prayers** Friday Jan 19



*Mass & Healing Prayers*  
celebrated by  
FR. PARKER SANDOVAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY  
7:00 P.M.  
MASS FOLLOWED BY HEALING PRAYERS

## A Witness of LIGHT to the CITY OF ANGELS

*As a gift from God, human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace.*

Please join Archbishop José Gomez, Auxiliary Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Faithful of the Archdiocese in a special Eucharistic Celebration of Life

### REQUIEM FOR THE UNBORN

Saturday, January 20, 2024 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Downtown Los Angeles

COME AS AN INDIVIDUAL; COME AS A FAMILY; COME AS FRIENDS;  
COME AS A PARISH; ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Information available at [www.olacathedral.org](http://www.olacathedral.org)

**Let us always pray  
for one another.**



We thank our January  
Liturgical Sponsors

**Sponsor of Light**

Odette Bigornia

*In thanksgiving for the gift of life*

**Sponsors of the Word**

Mario & Perla Pajota

*In celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary*

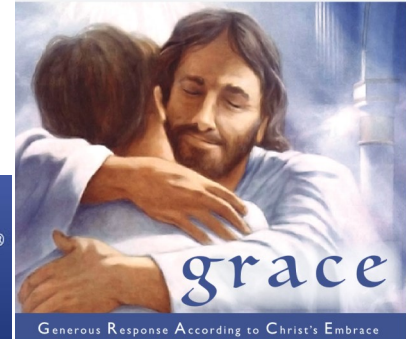
# Temporalities



**Stewardship**

Summary of collection will be posted next week.

Thank you.



## SUPPORT THE Solidarity Fund for the CHURCH IN AFRICA

When you think of the life of the Church in dioceses and parishes, the first ideas that come to mind might be evangelization efforts, catechesis programs, sacramental preparation for families, or support for seminaries and religious communities that encourage young people to discern vocations as priests or religious sisters or brothers. While such faith-strengthening pastoral ministries are among the visible ways the Church carries out its mission to prepare Christian disciples, the Church also needs responsible administration of parish and diocesan resources. A solid foundation in financial management and recordkeeping helps pastors build trust in the local church and use limited financial resources with transparency and responsibility.

Recognizing this need, the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports episcopal conferences' efforts to train pastors, administrators, and financial staff in budgeting, management, and procedures to improve transparency and accountability. A Solidarity Fund grant to the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon helped the Diocese of Ngaoundéré train 136 members of 29 parish councils in these skills, empowering them to manage financial matters with competence and reliability. The Solidarity Fund also granted funds to the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (in the Democratic Republic of Congo) to conduct financial management training for 121 diocesan and parish staff from the Diocese of Buta. Through this training, the diocese has prepared diocesan clergy and parish staff to manage development projects, social ministries, and parish resources, thereby becoming better and more effective ministers to those they serve.

By participating in the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, you show your dedication to the growing African Church and its commitment to being good stewards of resources, building trust, and delivering the Gospel to all.

Please be generous through the offertory collection envelope or your parish's e-offertory platform. To learn more about the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, visit [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa).

FAITH DIRECT®  
inspiring secure giving®

### Second Collection—Jan. 20 & 21

**Pastoral Solidarity Fund  
Church in Africa & Church in Latin America**

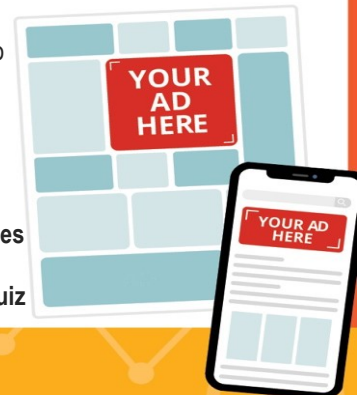


Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

## AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

**Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!**

Can your business help St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Church with a sponsorship in our weekly church bulletin? With the support of our advertisers, we receive this publication free of charge. **Please support the people and businesses who underwrite this important weekly bulletin for St. Lorenzo Ruiz**



Robert (Bob) Martin  
800-950-9952 x5865

# Youth

WE GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION  
AND SOLICITUDE TO OUR YOUTH

## Altar Server Spotlight—January 2024

Congratulations, **Nataly**, for being chosen as our spotlight altar server of the month. **Nataly** has been an altar server since 2018.



**Q:** What does altar serving mean to you?

**Nataly:** Altar serving means to me is be able to build a better relationship with God though helping the church during mass and guiding the younger ones.

**Q:** What do you like most about altar serving?

**Nataly:** My favorite part of altar serving is being able to help our priests during mass and making friends through altar serving.

**Q:** What advice would you give to future altar servers?

**Nataly:** The advice I would give to future altar servers is don't worry if you think it's hard because everyone is understanding and helpful.

### Would you like to join the altar server ministry to be an altar server?

All those who have completed their sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome to join. Altar serving hours count towards service hours.

Please contact us at [slraltarserverministry@gmail.com](mailto:slraltarserverministry@gmail.com)



## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

**GROW:** When Samuel hears the Lord speak in today's first reading, he mistakes it as Eli calling out to him in the temple. The third time Samuel asks if he called, Eli is wise enough to realize what is going on and guides Samuel: "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel required guidance because he "was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet." In a similar way does the Apostle Andrew come to the Lord. In today's Gospel, Andrew didn't know who Jesus was until John the Baptist told him: "Behold, the Lamb of God." Andrew then began to follow Jesus, and to bring others to him. There may be times when we, like both of these men, need someone else to help us hear the call of the Lord clearly, or see his presence among us. Those who serve the Lord in this way are a great gift to us, and enable us to be that gift for others. Pray for the grace to hear what we need to hear, to see what we need to see, and to say to others, "come, we have found the Messiah."

## GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

**GO:** Despite our best efforts, the time and attention we give to our lives of faith can ebb and flow. Sometimes we can feel so connected with God that we sense his presence everywhere. But there may also be times when God feels distant and we struggle to hear his voice. Notice in today's readings how Samuel "was not familiar with the Lord" but was sleeping in the temple, close to the ark; notice how Andrew was hanging around John the Baptist and immediately followed Christ when told who he was. We can see that, already before "knowing," is a "desire to know." The Lord created us, formed us into being, and calls us to a relationship with him. We are drawn to him even before we can see or know what he has revealed to us. He is our source, and our ultimate end. We seek eternal life with Christ and a path of holiness to help us on our way. The stories of Samuel and the disciple Andrew impress upon us that God is always near and calling to us – we simply must give him the opportunity to speak, sometimes when we least expect it.





### What is the St. Lorenzo Ruiz Parish "Red Bag" concept?

The pastoral guidance of Fr. Tony in St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Parish Community is to bring us closer to God, so he teaches us to be welcoming, and we say, *"Welcome Home!"* He teaches and leads us to be generous and charitable, and we have, *"G.R.A.C.E."* (*Generous Response According to Christ's Embrace*).

These two ways are among the many actions Fr. Tony encourages us to do what God is asking us to do. Jesus told us in Mt.25:35, *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I was a stranger and you invited me in..."*

The "Red Bag" is "me" (the giver). I have the **3 T's** (**T**ime, **T**alent, and **T**reasure) that I receive from God's goodness every day. These 3T's are the contents of my "Red Bag": my time, my talents and my treasure. Through the "Red Bag," I am going out to reach many people I do not know nor see yet, God does. I can be there for them through the "Red Bag."

I am the "Red Bag." What is in me is the best and beautiful that God has created me. I will only give through G.R.A.C.E. the best of who I am and represent myself in the form of the "Red Bag," and say to Jesus (who is the receiver of the "Red Bag"), "I love you, Lord. Please accept my best gift to you in this "Red Bag" the best of who I am as you have created me to be: like YOU who are merciful and loving."

Thank you, Jesus for allowing me to share You to my brothers and sisters in need.

Your faithful disciple,

**"THE RED BAG"**



**SLR Walnut Tai Chi Group** every Tuesday morning (led by Ross & Minda Papilla) on left: their last exercise session for 2023, on right: their first exercise session of 2024.

ST. LORENZO RUIZ CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY

767 MEADOWPASS RD, WALNUT, CALIFORNIA, 91789

**\$50 per ticket**

**GRAND PRIZE:**  
**2024 TOYOTA CROWN HYBRID XLE**

**1ST PRIZE:**  
**2024 RAV4 HYBRID LE**

**2ND PRIZE: \$3,000**

**DRAWING IS NOW ON!**

Pre-Drawing Dates:

- January 28, 2024 \$1,000
- February 25, 2024 \$1,000 & iPad Mini
- March 31, 2024 \$1,000 & iPhone

For ticket information, please call Ron & Amy Milo at (909) 618-7207

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to support our church and possibly drive away in a brand new car!

Proceeds will be used for the renovation of the Velucci Hall, Church sound system and alarm and repavement and repair of the parking lot.

**Drawing: Saturday, April 6, 2024, 6:30 pm**  
(Refer to back of the ticket for Rules and Regulations)

