St. Francis of Assisi Parish

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

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WORSHIP & MEDITATION

FIRST READING:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day.
(Jer 20:8)

PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

SECOND READING:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the
mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual
worship. (Rom 12:1)

GOSPEL:

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me."
(Mt 16:24)

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Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple.

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A REFLECTION FROM LESLIE LEGACION, MUSIC "WE WILL RISE"

In front of us, behind us, and to the left and right of us: Distant Learning. Working from Home. Fires. Negative and Positive results. Smoky Air. This list can go on and on, but the keyword is "**us.**" This is happening to us; our families, our friends, our communities. I'm sure you've asked yourself, *¡God, where are you? Why is this happening? When will this end?"* And maybe you haven't seen yet a ray of sunshine in the midst of the gloom and smoke.

But, as easy as it is to say; and hard as it is to believe at this moment, ***everything will be okay.***

Some of you may know that I am the music teacher at St. Mary's School in Gilroy and every year the 8th grade class picks a theme for the entire school year; one that the students and teachers can refer back to; pray and reflect upon. This year's theme is "**We will rise. Our Faith is Stronger than our Fears."**

I believe that's not just the school theme, but the theme for everyone right now. This is a constant reminder that our trust and relationship with God allows us to see the light at the end of this very long and dark tunnel. We react to the most challenging situations with a different perspective and a strength that is not our own. We have so many heavy crosses to carry in our lives right now; but when my will crosses with His will, then his will be done. I was blessed and inspired to compose the theme song for St. Mary's this year and one of the verses says this:

Every battle we fight, we fight with integrity.
Every word that we say comes straight from the heart.
When we are weak, and down on our knees,
just give it God; for He sets us free,
we will rise. We will rise.

I truly believe that my 8th grade class chose a beautiful theme this year because it resonates with everyone all around the world. Remember, our faith is stronger than our fears. We will rise.

SPEAK TO ME LORD

This Weekend's Readings Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Next Weekend's Readings Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reading I	**Reading I**
Jeremiah 20:7-9	Ezekiel 33:7-9
Reading II	**Reading II**
Romans 12:1-2	Romans 13:8-10
Gospel	**Gospel**
Matthew 16:21-27	Matthew 18:15-20

OFFICE HOURS

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Mass INTENTIONS

Monday, August 31

Edna Esguerra (Birthday)
Sam Ajluni+
Rene Santos+

Tuesday, September 1

Velia Pagliaroli+
Poompeyo Paclijan+
Eulogio Borlaza+

Wednesday, September 2

Hoang Yan and Toan (Anniversary)
Medy and Arlene Cabebe (SI)
Souls in Purgatory+

Thursday, September 3

Paul Schrieber+
Dana Schrieber (Health and Healing)
Expedito Reyes+

Friday, September 4

Perfecto Santiago+
Amelita Aranda +
Eliazar Visenio+

Saturday, September 5

Eliazar Visenio+
Sor. Ligaya Sison (Bday)
Carmen Perez+

Saturday/Sunday, September 5-6

Saturday, 430PM

Elpidio de Jesus+
Chelsea Doefer (safe baby delivery)
Dominic Bien Nguyen+

Saturday, 630PM

Sunday, 8AM

Maria Yen Pham+
Thomas Duong Le+
Rosemarie Noza+

Sunday, 10AM

John Bui+
Bill Marsella+
Irma Hernandez+

Sunday, 12PM

Eliazer Visenio+
Julita Custodio+
Alejandro Reyes Sr+

Sunday, 4PM

Teresa Nguyen Xuan Huong+
Ronald Davis+

Sunday, 6PM

Raymond Fields and Family-SI
Melchor S. Ocampo +
Phan Family (Thanksgiving)

This week, we also pray for ...

- ✞ Juan and Alicia Sanchez (Health)
- ✞ Rustico Baluyot Sr. +
- ✞ Cedric Pacifico (Birthday)
- ✞ Luisa Laucheugco (B'day/Healing)
- ✞ Nelia Gobaleza+
- ✞ Gerardo Huerta (Healing)
- ✞ Goodwin Family (Thanksgiving)
- ✞ Rufino P Cayabyab II+
- ✞ Edwin Agustin (Healing)

stewardship

AUGUST

OFFERTORY

Masses	$ 3,315.00
Drop/Mail	$ 1,340.00
Online Offertory	$ 6.944.00
	Total: 11,599.00

If you are interested in donating on-line, please visit our webpage at www.sfoasj.com and click on

Online Giving Or scan

to get started with this convenient giving option.

Thank you in advance for your generous giving.

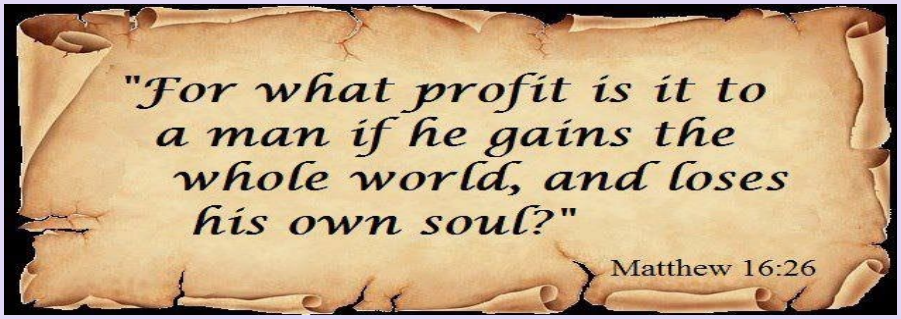
Reflection

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

"¿Qué beneficio tendría para uno ganar el mundo entero y perder su vida?" - (MATEO 16:26)

San Francisco de Asís dijo una vez: "Recuerda, eres lo que eres a los ojos de Dios, y nada más". A menudo olvidamos esta sabiduría de corresponsabilidad cuando gastamos todo nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoros para obtener más riquezas del mundo. Necesitamos establecer nuestras prioridades basadas en los valores de Dios y no en los valores del mundo material.



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2020

SUN 8/30	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27
MON 8/31	1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/Lk 4:16-30
TUE 9/1	1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 [17]/Lk 4:31-37
WED 9/2	1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/Lk 4:38-44
THR 9/3	1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/Lk 5:1-11
FRI 9/4	1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Lk 5:33-39
SAT 9/5	1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/Lk 6:1-5
SUN 9/7	Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2020

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

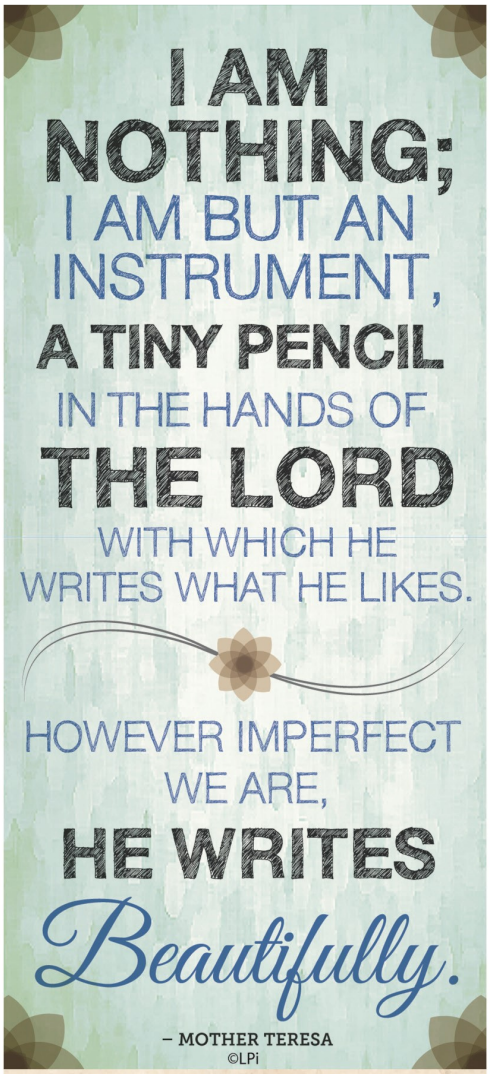
Thursday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

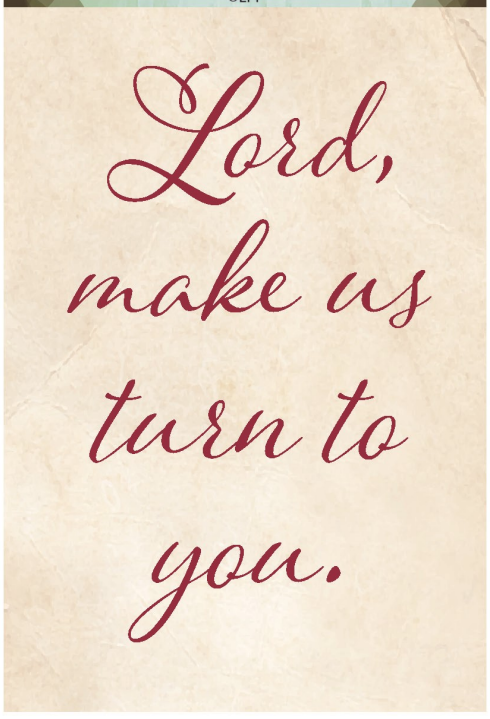
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

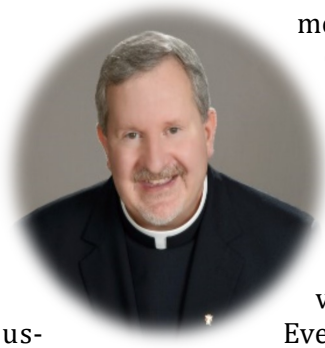
Secular problems require savvy secular solutions. We are trained to solve problems, be successful and productive, and find our way through all that life presents to us. Corporations value those who can decipher the best avenue to take in order to resolve an issue. How do you train and renew your mind? Facts, figures, scientific tools, analytical processes, best practices, and models of varying kinds are at our disposal. If we don't know the full and proper course of action, we can easily find it. But there is a knowledge that goes far beyond all these things that makes a direct claim on the essence of our being. It satisfies a deeper thirst and hunger that keeps us restless until it is satisfied. Our minds, hearts, and souls cannot only be nurtured purely by secular and temporal things. We must seek the enlightenment that comes from God. This allows us to see the value of suffering in order to achieve a greater good and the losing of our very self in the service of something greater. Faith only makes sense if it can bring us to this heightened awareness.





STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT – JULY 2020

Thank you to everyone, who continue during this pandemic, to support the mission and ministries of our parish during the month of July. Our average weekly collection was **$13,434 (7% decrease vs. June 2020).** You also generously donated to various important causes in our July (second collections) at **$3,181 ($795 a week.)** This brings our July weekly total to **$14,229**. We budgeted our Sunday Offertory income for the current fiscal year (4 weeks) at **$62,588** and received **$53,736 (-$8,852).** Any additional income helps us to pay-down our $2 million debt. As you know, we are dependent upon you, our parishioners, for our living-out our parish mission.



SAN MATEO & SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE RELIEF FUND

In response to the August 2020 wildfires that are endangering communities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, Silicon Valley Community Foundation has established a charitable fund that will benefit those affected by these destructive fires and their aftermath. Donations to the San Mateo & Santa Clara County Fire Relief Fund will support nonprofit organizations based in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties that are working directly with individuals and families who have been harmed by this disaster. The organizations include, but are not limited to: **Puente de la Costa Sur**; **Coastside Hope**; **Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County**; **Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley**; **Bill Wilson Center**; **Silicon Valley Independent Living Center**; **San Andreas Regional Center**; **American Red Cross** & **ALAS (Ayudando Latinos a Soñar)** https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/san-mateo-santa-clara-fire-relief

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – SECOND COLLECTION – MORTGAGE DEBT REDUCTION

Next Sunday, there will be a second collection to reduce our $2 million-dollar parish debt. The sooner we pay off this debt, the more funds we will have available to support other vital services in our growing parish. **Over the last 12 months, we were able to reduce our debt by $106,000 through your generosity in this monthly collection.**

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON $15,000? Isn't that a fun question? Well, it's only possible when you participate in our **St. Francis of Assisi Fundraiser Sweepstakes**. It's easy! Just visit our parish web page. You can find all the information you need in one place there. At the same time, your support of this once-a-year fundraiser supports dozens of ministries that serve hundreds of people every month. Don't delay. Get your entries in today. Winners will be chosen on October 4th, our parish feast day. We also have an exciting **online auction**: vacation getaways, gift baskets and more. Everything you need to make your bid is on our parish home page. If you have any questions, just call the parish office. Thank you for your generous support.

WHAT ARE THE PERTINENT POLITICAL AND MORAL ISSUES AT STAKE TODAY?

As Catholics, "we bring the richness of our faith to the public square." This means shedding light on the shadows that plague our society. How does the church shed light on issues of human life? On the situation and rights of Dreamers and immigrant families? On religious freedom and conscience rights? On the realities of xenophobia, human trafficking, racism, and even infanticide? All of these are current issues that need to be met with the Church's testimony that all human beings, from conception to natural death, have inherent dignity, are created equal, and have the right to life. Visit www.cacatholic.org for more information on how to think through these issues as a faithful Catholic. Also, view the U.S. Bishops' publication *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* for timeless insights on these timely social issues at usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & TEENS – REGISTER THIS MONTH

As your Pastor, I want to encourage all parents and guardians to also make plans for your children's ongoing faith formation, as our own programs commence in just a couple of weeks. Your parish stands ready to help you in fulfilling this pledge. Over the summer, our Faith Formation Staff (Lisa and Kevin) have been hard at work preparing for this new year of learning and living our Catholic faith. We have programs for children in pre-school through high school. Our vision of faith formation, structured to engage children and youth in a process, that is instructional, challenging, and fun. Please refer to the Sunday Bulletin or our parish website for more information.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

JOIN OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SWEEPSTAKES!

HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF $15,000!

SECOND PLACE PRIZE: $1,000
THIRD PLACE PRIZE: $500

Ticket Entries and more details are now available online at https://go.rallyup.com/sfoafundraiser or our parish website www.sfoasj.com!

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THE SWEEPSTAKE

Entry Prices

25 Entries | $25
75 Entries | $50
200 Entries | $100
400 Entries | $150
600 Entries | $200

Official rules:· This sweepstakes is a fundraising event for St. Francis of Assisi Church· All entries are considered donations· All entries must be received by 09/30/2020 11:59 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time.· Winner Announced: 10/04/2020 11:45 AM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time· One free sweepstakes registration allowed per person during this event. Free registration entry can be found at: https://go.rallyup.com/sfoafundraiser/mailentryrequest· Conditional Winner(s) will be chosen through a random selection process by RallyUp or its representative. Odds of winning depend on the number of tickets held. A verification process will take place during which conditional Winner(s) will be required to sign paperwork re-confirming their eligibility and ability to participate. · Additional information can be found at https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/business-and-professions-code/bpc-sect-17539-15.html

Francis of Assisi is kicking off their 26th Annual Raffle Fundraiser. This is the Main Fundraiser for the parish. Due to the Covid-19, we are having an exciting online Sweepstakes. This will help keep everyone safe in this time of social distancing, while also complying with state and local regulations. All proceeds stay within our parish to fund many local programs in the community.

San Francisco de Asís está iniciando su 26º evento anual de recaudación de fondos para la rifa. Este es el evento principal de recaudar fondos para la parroquia. Debido al Covid-19, estamos teniendo un excitante sorteo en línea. Esto ayudará a mantener a todos a salvo en este momento de distanciamiento social, al mismo tiempo cumplirá con las regulaciones estatales y locales. Todos los ingresos se quedan dentro de nuestra parroquia para financiar muchos programas locales en la comunidad.
Visite el sitio web:
Annual Saint Francis of Assisi Fundraiser Sweepstakes Sorteo anual de recaudación de fondos de San Francisco de Asís Por favor apoye a la parroquia participando en el sorteo y tendrá la oportunidad de ganar un gran premio de $ 15,000.

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Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

- Mt 16:26-27

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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

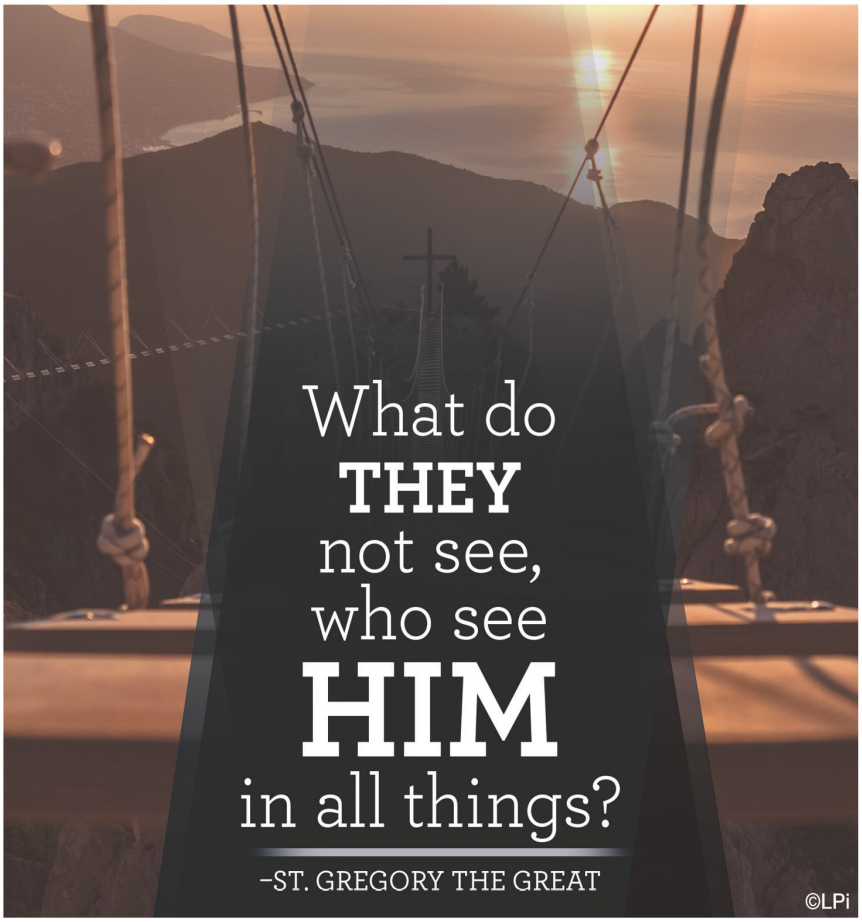
In a prayer of lamentation, Jeremiah speaks of the loneliness and isolation of answering his prophetic call. What words of comfort would you offer Jeremiah?

Second Reading

Paul urges fellow believers in Rome to remain focused on pleasing God. What do you find most challenging in this spiritual discipline?

Gospel Reading

Peter and Jesus have an intense exchange of words over Jesus' revelation that as the Messiah, he will suffer and die. How often do you think there was tension between Jesus and his 12 apostles?



Trust the Rock and Follow the Spirit

The current pandemic has created a great disruption in our lives. In the US alone 6 million people have been infected by the coronavirus, so far; 180,000 have lost their lives, and many more are grieving the loss of someone close to them. People have lost their jobs and/or homes, or are about to lose them. We are separated from our families and friends, unable to visit our sick, or participate in a funeral. Weddings have been postponed or downsized; events and vacations cancelled. We cannot go to a movie theater, or a concert, or a sporting event. Whole industries have been reshaped. We have been deprived of many things, experiences, and relationships that prior to this pandemic, may have taken for granted.

Some people with financial means are moving away from densely populated cities and small condos and into bigger homes and bigger yards in the suburbs, seeking more personal space and wanting to be closer to nature. But this new trend is being challenged now, at least in California, by the massive wildfires, which are getting more and more intense with the warming climate. I know people who had to leave their homes in search of safety. Our own community is close to the edge of the evacuation zone. Even those who are further away have been "doubly trapped" in their homes, not just by the pandemic, but also by the heat and the bad air quality all around them.

We have been strained to the limit in the Bay Area, first by the rising cost of living, then by the pandemic, and now by the fires. More and more people are considering moving away from this area in search of a better quality of life. When I first arrived here in 1982 it seemed different than what it has become. The population was just over half of what it is today; there were still quite a few orchards around, and the pace of living was slower. So, I understand those who are ready to search for another place to call home.

Whether we move or stay, however, one thing that we can all count on in this world is change. And the pace of that change is accelerating in our modern world. Not all change is bad, though. In fact, it can sometimes be very life-giving for us, opening new horizons and releasing new levels of creativity, but it is still disruptive and difficult to accept at first. We need to grieve the loss that change brings; however, resistance to inevitable change can bring suffering. We need to let go of our need to be in control and allow the Spirit to lead us.

We also need to ground ourselves in something that is unchanging and for Christians that is God's love. God is our Rock. Knowing that we can count on God's love will sustain us in life, even beyond death. God's love is that which brings peace in the midst of chaos. Trusting fully in God's love will not eliminate change in our life, but it will help us embrace it and use it for our own spiritual growth. By letting go of our own expectations and fears, we can set ourselves free to live fully in the moment. Trust the Rock and follow the Spirit.

A Reflection from Deacon Andrzej Sobczyk

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

3 EASY STEPS
To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.

Wash Your Hands
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face
Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance
Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?"

- Mt 16:24b-26

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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3GEN+
HOPE ~ HEALTH ~ WHOLENESS

LEAP into EMPATHY

Xavier Amador Ph.D., author of **I'm Not Sick. I Don't Need Help!*** writes poignantly when he moved from speaking down to his brother Henry, diagnosed with schizophrenia, and moving alongside him. The topic was medication, which Henry steadfastly refused to take. Amador writes:

> *"Usually my conversations on this topic were a disaster. I would hold my ground and pontificate about why he should take the medications prescribed for him and about how immature it was of him not to accept the fact he is ill. Brothers can often be that way…however, I was beginning to learn how important it is to listen. As I listened, I couldn't help beginning to empathize. I loved Henry, and when someone you love is in pan, it's hard not to empathize. Learning to listen led to empathy, and my empathy ultimately resulted in my brother showing a real interest in my thoughts about the illness he felt he did not have and the medication he was sure he did not need."*

Amador adds that if one has listened reflectively to the loved one's feelings, defensiveness diminishes and openness to your opinion increases. Moreover, if you have listened reflectively, empathy naturally occurs,

Family and friend may shy away from responding with empathy, fearful if we empathize with delusions or desire to omit medicine and appointments with mental health professionals, we will worsen our loved ones' symptoms. Through research, professional practice as a clinical psychologist and personal experience with his brother, Amador refutes that belief. He writes, "These fears and delusions are "the most important feelings to connect with—because they are the feelings that drive people with mental illness away from their loved ones and therapists."

So, with what feeling should you empathize? Amador emphasizes, *"Any feeling your loved one is willing to reveal."* **Whether rational or irrational, you want to empathize with:**

- **Frustrations** (about pressure from others to take medication and about personal goals not being met.)
- **Fears** (about medication, being stigmatized, and failing.)
- **Discomfort** (attributed to medication, such as gaining weight or feeling groggy, slowed down, less creative, stiff, etc.)
- **Desires** (to work, get married, have children, return to school stay out of the hospital, etc.)

Amador notes that grace occurs when you combine reflective listening with empathy. "Your loved one will ask what you think! I can almost guarantee this will happen." Amador acknowledges that navigating irrational thoughts and feelings can be wearying and frustrating for the listener. He also notes that one can slip into the quagmire of stuckness if one offers one's opinion too readily. Again and again Amador counsels patience. **"Listen and empathize and you will be asked your opinion. And that is ultimately what you want to have happen—because an opinion that has been asked for carries far more weight than one that is forced on a person who is arguing with you."** In her Bookmark Prayer, **St. Teresa of Avila** writes, "**Patience attains all things."** In practicing Reflective Listening and Empathy in being with your loved one who resists help, pray for and practice patience. Next week more on Empathy introduce Agree—step three of LEAP (Listen-Empathize-Agree-Partner.) Till then—patience.

--Barbara F. Zahner, BCC; 3GEN+ Mental Health Ministry; barbarazahner1@mac.com

***Amador, Xavier; I Am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help!; Vida Press, 2012.**

Please be aware that we must all wear masks or shields to be in compliance.

Daily Mass & Sunday Mass - Tape Delayed
Due to the instability of our Internet connection, our Daily Mass (Monday – Friday) will be broadcast by 11:00 am each day. Sunday Mass will now be available for viewing by 8:00 am

Daily Mass
We are now having Daily Mass (8:30AM) outside in the Memorial Garden Patio. We are able to have up to 50 attendees. No Reservations Needed

Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses
We are now able to have up to 50 people per Mass at our Weekend Masses. Every Monday between 9-10AM we will send a link through our constant contact emails. This link will go live at 10AM and you will be able to reserve up to 3 spaces. We ask that you try and give everyone a chance to attend and not sign up weekly. What we do suggest is if you would like to attend again, wait until THURSDAY after 3pm and if there are spaces still available, then you are welcome to fill them.

Please be aware that we must all wear masks or shields to be in compliance.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation and we look forward to seeing more of you at Mass!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
This novena and Mass is held every Wednesday beginning at 7:00PM in the Memorial Garden Patio area. All are welcome.

Prayer for Parents Educating Their Children
Parents,
eyes weary from computer screens,
nerves taut from cajoling children to school-work.
A dozen dinging notifications
from colleagues, bosses, teachers.
A tangle of meetings,
a morass of tech platforms.
Emails left unread,
worksheets left incomplete.
Parents,
darting between four tasks at once,
with a sinking feeling
that they are doing none of them well.
When Hagar was cast out into the wilderness,
and the Lord consoled and restored her,
she called this God "the God who sees me."
Parents,
God sees you.
God sees you stretching beyond your reach.
God sees you fearing you are failing your children.
God sees you fearing you are failing your colleagues.
God sees you fearing you are failing yourself.
And God consoles.
Amen.

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The prayer "Prayer of Grief and Gratitude" on page 28 originally appeared on the website of the Jesuit Conference (Jesuits.org).
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Gift Shop
The gift shop is open by appointment only. If you would like to visit our gift shop, call the parish office and we can schedule and appointment for you.

ADA 2020
ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Encountering Christ – Faith in Action.

ADA 2020 Parish Goal: $219,233
Pledged: $233,270 – Average Gift: $484

You are amazing! Despite the tremendously difficult times, we are living in, your outpouring of generosity and support for our local Church of San Jose is a true sign of God's goodness. We have gone over our goal of $220,000. We are so grateful to the **480** parishioners who turned in their gifts and pledges towards this year's ADA. Every dollar **($14,047)** from here on in (pledged and paid above our goal) is returned to St. Francis of Assisi. We have a great potential for this rebate, as 230 parishioners pledged in 2019, but not yet in 2020. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge today. Just visit our parish web page and click on the ADA logo.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

The Vision of Stewardship

I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, "He lived happily ever after." As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka's is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can't have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don't be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Instruction on Receiving Communion

Question:

How many times a day can a person receive communion?

Answer:

To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church's Code of Canon Law. Here we read, "One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ..." (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase "within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates" is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration – we can't simply show up "in time" for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).

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KIDS CORNER

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SHARING THE GOSPEL

If it were up to Peter, Jesus would never have died on the cross. Peter did not want to see his dear friend get hurt. It could have been tempting for Jesus to listen to Peter. But Jesus did not come to be happy or comfortable. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. He came to take your sins away. Jesus gave up his own life so that your life could be saved. He did it for you.

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for giving up your life to save mine.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Every day firemen, policemen and soldiers give up their lives to protect yours. Thank God for them.

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Sign-up for Sunday Mass

If you would like to reserve a place at one of our 7 weekend Masses, you must use either our *PayBee* reservation system (PayBee.com) or contact the parish office. 480 reservations are only about 15% of the number of people who attended Mass each weekend before COVID-19. In a spirit of charity, we ask that you reserve a place for only one Mass each month, so that the other 85% of our parishioners have an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. We will now record the Saturday vigil Mass which will be available by 6:00am on Sunday morning. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

A link to register for Masses will be sent out via email at 9:55AM. EVERY MONDAY. Registration will not be visible or opened up until 10AM.

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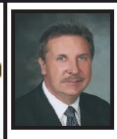

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