

## The Scrutinies

of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Today, as we enter into the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Lent, let us reflect upon the Scrutinies. The Scrutinies are special rites celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, at liturgies where the Elect are present.

1. The First Scrutiny on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent relates to the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4:5-42**) which tells us that **Christ is the Living Water**.
2. The Second Scrutiny on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent relates to the story of healing the man born blind (**John 9:1-41**) which tells us that **Christ is the Light of the world**.
3. The Third Scrutiny on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent relates to the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead (**John 11:1-45**) which tells us that **Christ is the Resurrection and the Life**.

The Elect, those who are unbaptized adults and have moved from being Catechumens to the newly-named “Elect,” are those in our midst who are preparing for their Baptism, which will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil mass. Part of their journey to the Baptismal font is that their reception among us through the Rite of Acceptance and their enrollment in the Book of the Elect through the Rite of Election.

The Scrutinies are intended to purify the Elects’ hearts and minds, to strengthen them against temptation, to purify their intentions, and to keep them firm in their decision, so that they may remain more closely united with Jesus Christ, and thus love God more deeply.

Even if these rites are not celebrated at the particular liturgy or parish you attend, it is still a wonderful exercise to reflect upon the journey these Elect are making during Lent as an inspiration and source of renewal for us in our own faith journey.

We continue our Lenten journey with a personal change of heart, the renewal of our Baptismal commitment to be placed with Jesus Christ, and our growing desire to act in solidarity with others, especially the poor. Let us recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ and one another.

Have a wonderful Lenten journey!

**Fr. Lieu Vu**

### ☞ OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, **9:00 AM — 4:00 PM**  
Staff Direct Line 408-223-1770

### ☞ STAFF + extension

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### The Offertory totals for the week of February 12 - 18, 2024:

**Ash Wednesday \$ 8,317.85**

Masses \$ 10,234.00

Online \$ 5,040.00

Mail \$ 3,085.00

**1st Collection \$ 18,359.00**

Church in Europe \$ 3,870.82

**Total Collection \$ 30,547.67**

*Thank you in advance  
for your generous giving!*

### 9-10 March 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY Of Lent



#### Saturday

4:00PM — Msgr. Mitchell

5:30PM — Fr. Lieu (Vietnamese)

#### Sunday

8:00AM — Fr. Robain

8:15AM — Fr. Rey (The Villages)

10:00AM — Fr. Rey (2nd Scrutiny)

Assisted by Deacon Sunny

12:00PM — Fr. Robain

Assisted by Deacon Joe

2:00PM — TBD (Spanish)

4:00PM — Fr. Lieu (Vietnamese)

6:00PM — Fr. Robain

Assisted by Deacon Andrzej



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT OUR  
PARISH BUSINESS & OPERATIONS  
MANAGER, VICTOR ESPINOZA  
AT 408-223-1770,  
EXT. 302



**Monday, March 4**

Eduardo Nicolas+

Lan da Silva (Bday)

Nolita Angeles Dizon+

**Tuesday, March 5**

Carlos Dia+

Maria Berenice Urena+ (Bday)

Benjamin Oribello (Health Recovery)

**Wednesday, March 6**

Ramon M. Santiago+  
(Bday)

Benjamin Oribello (Health Recovery)

**Thursday, March 7**

Jose Leosta+

Benjamin Oribello (Health Recovery)

**Friday, March 8**

Reynaldo Soliman+

Arvin & Matthew De Guzman (SI)

Benjamin Oribello (Health Recovery)

**Saturday, March 9**

Benjamin Oribello  
(Health Recovery)

**Saturday/Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**4PM**

All Souls in Purgatory

Toma Le Minh Tri+

Lilia Krautter+

**5:30PM (Vietnamese)**

Leo Chuong Ho+

**8AM Chapel**

Thelma F. Rodin+

**8:15 Villages**

All Souls

**10AM Chapel**

Toma Le Minh Tri+

**12PM Chapel**

George Hurley+

Toma Le Minh Tri+

Rosario Ugay+ (Anniv)

**2PM Chapel (Spanish)**

All Souls

**4PM Chapel (Vietnamese)**

Anthony Doan Tran  
(Bday)

**6PM Chapel**

Anselmo Legaspi+  
(100th Bday)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

♦ **Daily Rosary and Prayer**  
8:00AM, Chapel

♦ **Adoration**, First Friday of  
month, 9:30AM-5:00PM, Chapel

♦ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
Wednesdays, Chapel  
Rosary/Novena/Mass 6:30PM

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Saturdays, 11AM - 12PM, Chapel

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS: Crisis Mental Health Services 988

#### Suicide Hotlines

Santa Clara County 855-278-4204

Text Line: 741741

(Text "BAY" for Crisis Support in Bay Area)

California Youth Crisis  
800-843-5200

Santa Clara County Emergency  
Psychiatric Service (EPS)  
485-885-6100

NAMI Warm Line  
(open Mon-Fri, 10AM-6PM)  
408-453-0400

### The Peace Prayer of St. Francis



Lord, make me an  
instrument of Your peace;  
where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to  
be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned, and it is in dying that we  
are born to Eternal Life.

# AWESOME TIDBITS FROM FR. REY

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3 March 2024

### Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2024

*Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom*

(*continued from last issue*) God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). Lent is *a season of conversion, a time of freedom*. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.

This, however, entails *a struggle*, as the book of Exodus and the temptations of Jesus in the desert make clear to us. The voice of God, who says, “You are my Son, the Beloved” (Mk 1:11), and “You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:3) is opposed by the enemy and his lies. Even more to be feared than Pharaoh are the idols that we set up for ourselves; we can consider them as his voice speaking within us. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. It is a road well-travelled. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of making us move forward, they paralyze us. Instead of encounter, they create conflict. Yet there is also a new humanity, a people of the little ones and of the humble who have not yielded to the allure of the lie. Whereas those who serve idols become like them, mute, blind, deaf and immobile (cf. Ps 114:4), the poor of spirit are open and ready: a silent force of good that heals and sustains the world.

It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life

that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God’s dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

The Church’s synodal form, which in these years we are rediscovering and cultivating, suggests that Lent is also *a time of communitarian decisions*, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent. Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighbourhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon. I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment. Woe to us if our Christian penance were to resemble the kind of penance that so dismayed Jesus. To us too, he says: “Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting” (Mt 6:16). Instead, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. This can happen in every one of our Christian communities.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: “Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this” (*Address to University Students*, 3 August 2023). Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.<sup>1</sup> I bless all of you and your Lenten journey.





## Mass Intentions for 2024 are now open!

We understand how important it is to have Mass Intentions for your loved ones and would like to accommodate all if possible.

We are limited to 3 per Mass. Please plan your Mass Intentions in advance if possible (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries). Our Mass Intention calendar is open through **June 30, 2024**.



### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH MEMORIAL GARDEN**

*"It is in dying that we are  
born to eternal life"*  
- St. Francis of Assisi

The Memorial Garden is a place for the cremated remains of those who have gone before us, and to memorialize others who have died, but are buried elsewhere. The Garden is a quiet space in which you can pray, reflect, and remember. We also honor the four periods and peoples of the history of Evergreen: the Ohlone Native Peoples, the Spanish and Mexican settlers, the ranchers and vintners, and those who have developed the land and reside here now. If you would like information about the Memorial Garden, please contact **Claudia Bernaga** (**Monday-Wednesday 9AM-4PM, Thursday-Friday, 9AM-1PM**) to schedule an appointment at [claudia.bernaga@dsj.org](mailto:claudia.bernaga@dsj.org), or 408-223-1770, ext. 102.

### **PAVING STONES**

Also part of the Memorial Garden are paving stones and the Stations of the Cross. If you wish to fill out an order form for the paving stones, you can download the order form (<https://www.sfoasj.com/paving-stones-order-form>) and mail it or drop it by the office.

### **ALL ARE WELCOME: MORNING FAITH SHARING \*EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 AM\* IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."  
- Matthew 10:40

We all have a story to tell, especially of how God has been working and continues to work in our lives, sometimes without our even knowing it!

You are welcome to share those stories in a confidential small group setting as we reflect on how Scripture speaks to us through our own life experiences. It might be a memory of when God touched our lives or it might be a challenge we are dealing with in the present moment. Sharing these stories and hearing the stories of God's presence in other's lives helps us deepen our own personal faith, bringing us into deeper relationship with each other and with God.

For more information, please contact  
**Lerma Simpson**  
at 408-223-1770, ext. 316 or  
at [lerma.simpson@dsj.org](mailto:lerma.simpson@dsj.org)



The parish gift shop is seeking volunteers who can assist with sales on Fridays and/or Sundays. Do you have retail experience? Would you like to gain retail experience? Training will be provided to all. This is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to help our parish for a couple of hours per week. Come join our wonderful team of volunteers and help to serve our community!

**To join our team or for additional  
information contact:  
The Office 408-223-1562**

Buscamos Voluntarios  
La tienda de artículos religiosos de la  
parroquia busca voluntarios para ayudar a  
vender después de la misa de 2:00 pm por una  
hora en un domingo por mes.

No se necesita experiencia, se ofrecerá  
entrenamiento. Para más información en  
español o para apuntarse, puede llamar a la  
oficina de la parroquia  
408-223-1562

**PRAYER REQUEST**  
WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



### **We also pray for...**

those who suffer in silence  
those with cancer  
those who have no one to  
pray for them  
graduating classes of 2024  
those beginning new  
journeys

### **SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

**TODAY'S READINGS**  
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

**Reading I:**  
Exodus 20:1-17  
**Reading II:**  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
**Gospel:**  
John 2:13-25

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Reading I:**  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
**Reading II:**  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
**Gospel:**  
John 3:14-21



**LEGION OF MARY**

**Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help**  
is hosted by  
Legion of Mary  
every Wednesday  
in the Chapel,  
with a  
Rosary/Novena at  
6:30PM followed  
by Mass.

# Faith Formation

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### ALL PROGRAMS

**March 24** Palm Sunday (Attend any Mass)

**March 28** Holy Thursday Mass at 8:00pm

**March 29** Good Friday (Attend any liturgy)

**March 31** Easter Sunday (Attend any Mass)

**JOY** (and first year preparation for children's sacraments)

**March 3** sessions \***CANCELLED**\*

**April 14** sessions (High School Students at 3:30pm)

### First Communion Second Year Preparation

**March 10** sessions (Attend your assigned session time)

### Youth Confirmation Second Year Preparation

(Sessions 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Evergreen Rooms)

**March 5** session

### Adult Confirmation

(Sessions 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the parish office)

**April 7** session

### OCIA (ADULTS)

(Sessions 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the parish office)

**March 3** First Scrutiny (10:00 AM Mass & session)

**March 10** Second Scrutiny (10:00 AM Mass & session)

### OCIA (CHILDREN/YOUTH) Second Year Preparation

(Sessions 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM in the parish office)

**March 17** session

**March 24** session

Attend 10:00 AM Mass for dismissal to the session

### High School IGNITE

(Meet in the Gathering Hall 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM)

**March 3** sessions \***CANCELLED**\*

**April 14** session

**THE SCRUTINIES** - Last Sunday at the 10 AM Mass, our parish community along with the Elect (those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil) celebrated the first Scrutiny.

Today, we will celebrate the second Scrutiny with them at 10 AM Mass, and next Sunday, we will celebrate the third Scrutiny with them again at the 10 AM Mass.

To *scrutinize* means to examine something very closely. When we celebrate the Scrutinies at Mass, we are not scrutinizing the Elect. Rather, they are scrutinizing their own lives before God, and we are called to do the same along with them. The goal is to be strengthened to overcome the power of sin.

Together with the Elect, we identify concrete issues that they and we need to confront - we name our thoughts and actions that prevent us from living the Gospel fully. Reflecting on the Scrutinies can also be a source of renewal in our own spiritual journey.

# Youth Ministry

## UPDATES

### **E.C.H.O. Youth Ministry Schedule—Season 2**

**March 8th** session in Evergreen Rooms

**March 22nd** session in Evergreen Rooms

**April 12th** session in Gathering Hall

**April 19th** session in Gathering Hall

**April 26th** session in Gathering Hall

**May 3rd** session in Gathering Hall

**May 10th** session in Gathering Hall

**May 17th - 19th** Retreat at CityTeam Camp Maymac

**May 24th** session in Gathering Hall

\*\*\*Registrations for retreat will open after Easter!



### **CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

**March 5th** session in Evergreen Rooms

**April 9th** session in Evergreen Rooms

**May 14th** session in Evergreen Rooms

**Late May** —> **Rehearsal** (TBD; might need date/time change)

**June 2nd** Confirmation Mass & Ceremony

### **FRONT DESK VOLUNTEER**

The parish office is seeking volunteers who can work **at the front desk** from **1pm to 4pm** on **Thursdays & Fridays** until June.

Prerequisites for Role:

- basic technological skills (phone calls, reference calendar...)
- a willingness to serve and learn

**To join our team or for additional information contact:**  
**The Office at (408) 223-1770**

### **St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekend Tech Assistance Needed!**

We are looking for volunteers to assist our music director in setting up the parish laptop, screens and projectors for weekend liturgies.

If you are tech-savvy and interested in getting involved, please contact Leslie in the parish office.

Thank you!

# 2023 Contributions Statements

were mailed out the week of January 22, 2024.

Should you find an error in your statement please contact the parish business manager: Victor Espinoza at [victor.espinoza@dsj.org](mailto:victor.espinoza@dsj.org).

In your email regarding this error, please include:

- ✦ a brief **description** of the error
- ✦ your **contact information** (name, phone, etc.)
- ✦ the **date of the contribution**
- ✦ the **intended fund**
- ✦ the **amount of the contribution**,
- ✦ and the **check number or a payment verification** by your financial institution.

Requests for statement amendments need to be received **before April 5<sup>th</sup>** for our office to issue a corrected statement before the Federal Tax Filing Deadline.

Thank you for your contributions & your generosity!

## ADA PARISH UPDATE:

As of 2/20/24, the total for the ADA is \$90, 239.

*"For it is in giving that we receive." Thank you for your generosity and let's get to 100% participation!*

