



A REFLECTION FROM FR. VINCENT PINEDA, PASTOR

August 24, 2025 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." - Luke 13:24

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

Today's Gospel presents us with challenging imagery – a narrow gate and a closed door. These words might initially seem harsh or exclusive, but they invite us to examine the nature of discipleship and the urgency of responding to God's call.

The passage begins with someone asking Jesus, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Instead of giving a direct answer about numbers, Jesus redirects the focus to the individual's response: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate."

The narrow gate isn't narrow because God wants to exclude people, but because the way of discipleship requires something of us. It demands that we leave behind what weighs us down – our selfishness, our pride, our resistance to change. We can't carry all our baggage through a narrow gate; we must choose what truly matters.

The imagery shifts to a closed door, where people claim familiarity with the master: "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets." But the master responds, "I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers." This suggests that casual association isn't the same as genuine relationship. Knowing about Jesus isn't the same as truly knowing him.

The passage concludes with a surprising reversal: "Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." This challenges our assumptions about who belongs in God's kingdom. Sometimes those who seem closest to God may be furthest from authentic discipleship, while those we might overlook – the humble, the repentant, the struggling – may be nearest to God's heart.

These teachings aren't meant to create anxiety about our salvation but to encourage authentic discipleship. They call us to examine our relationship with Christ: Is it genuine or merely superficial? Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary to follow Jesus closely?

The narrow gate also reminds us that following Jesus isn't always the popular or easy path. It requires intentionality, commitment, and often countercultural choices. But Jesus doesn't call us to this path to burden us – he calls us because it leads to life.

This week, reflect: What might you need to leave behind to enter through the narrow gate? How can you move from knowing about Jesus to truly knowing him? Where might God be calling you to authentic discipleship, even if it's challenging?

Blessings, *Fr. Vincent*

☞ OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, **9:00 AM — 4:00 PM**
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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE AND FEATURE ARTICLE

August 30-31, 2025

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM Msgr. Michael Mitchel

5:30PM (Vietnamese) Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Fr. Vincent Pineda, with by Dcn. Joseph Cabrido

8:15AM(Villages) Fr. Eddie Obero

10:00AM Fr. Eddie Obero with Dcn Sunny Offorjebe

12:00PM Fr. Vincent Pineda

2:00PM (Spanish) Joseph Page

4:00PM Fr. Phong Nguyen

6:00PM TBD



A REFLECTION FROM DEACON SUNNY OFFORJEBE PATH TO HEAVEN REQUIRES COMPLETE COMMITMENT

I have wondered what makes an athlete special? What is the difference between athletes who win championships and those who lose them? What quality separates those who set world records from those who don't? I concluded that, It is not just physical abilities and talents that make soccer players and Olympians truly great athletes, rather it is their total commitment to their sports. They have to spend more hours training than everyone else.

These mental qualities- not just the physical ones - are what make athletes truly legendary and land them in the Hall of Fame.

The same can be said of the saints. They are not necessarily the most innocent. They do not always have impeccable pasts. But they are the ones who were willing to enter through the difficult, narrow gate that Jesus speaks about in today's gospel.

Just as athletes are committed to their sports, saints are committed to Jesus. At every moment of the day they have their eyes and ears open to all the ways that God is revealing Himself to them.

Because of that absolute commitment, they are willing to go anywhere and do anything for the sake of God and desire for heaven They will follow Jesus wherever He leads them and they will never refuse anything He asks them. They deny themselves pleasures so that they will have the freedom to say "yes" without reservation to whatever Jesus may be asking of them. They are humble servants who want only to do God's will.

There are also some big differences between elite athletes and saints. . Athletes compete for their own glory, whereas saints compete for the glory of God. Saints are motivated by love - love of God and love of neighbor. Athletes rely on their own strength and abilities. Saints rely on the strength of God who makes all things possible and so seek to one day enter the Kingdom of God with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In today's Gospel Jesus makes it clear that the path to Heaven is not sweet and easy. Rather, it is narrow and demands sacrifice. No one gets there without deep commitment and effort.

But there is good news. None of us walks this path alone. We have a team of saints who have gone before us and are cheering us on. **We also have the Church to point the narrow way out to us and to give us everything we need for that difficult journey.** And we have Jesus who walks ahead of us, who picks us up when we fall, and who leads us back when we've lost our way

Today's second reading encourages us to accept the difficulties of life with courage and patience. Just as parents discipline their children so that they'll be prepared for adulthood, the sufferings of this life strengthen us to push through that narrow gate to heaven.

If we persevere, committed on this narrow path and enter into the Heavenly banquet, all the pain and suffering of this life will seem like nothing. Fully committed, we will cross the finish line to share Jesus' victory. So let us encourage one another, keep the commitment with courage in our Faith Journey, trusting in God's Grace

Faith Formation

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R



**RE-REGISTRATION AND
NEW ENROLLMENT
FOR OUR FAITH
FORMATION PROGRAMS:**

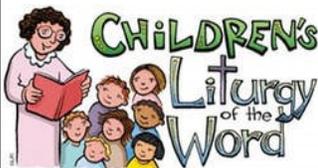
FAITH FORMATION (Elementary/OCIA/OCIC)

- ✦ J.O.Y. & Faith Formation
(First Eucharist Preparation)

YOUTH CONFIRMATION (High School)

- ✦ Confirmation 1st Year/New Registration
 - ✦ Confirmation 2nd Year/Re-registration
- <https://sfoasj.com/confirmation>

**REGISTRATION CLOSÉS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

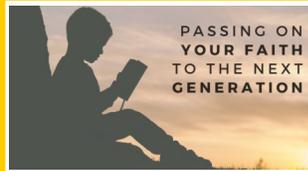


**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF
THE WORD
August 17
8AM, 10AM, 12PM Mass**

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

What is OCIA? Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Then OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is for you! The OCIA process introduces you to the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It helps you explore what it means to be a Christian. It prepares you to enter fully into our community of faith through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Becoming Catholic is more than just learning Scripture and rituals; it is discovering how to be a disciple of the Lord.

We welcome all those who are new to the faith, the unbaptized or baptized, those that have not yet been confirmed in the Church and those who are simply just searching for God. If you have more questions, contact Lerma Simpson lerma.simpson@dsj.org



FAITH FORMATION

Faith: The Next Generation

– Pass It On! Boldly go where many have gone before and help pass on the Good News

of Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith! This fall over 100 children will sign up to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic faith and to prepare for their sacraments. You can help them by becoming a catechist for JOY (Jesus Others and You) or for First Eucharist preparation. The sessions are only once a month, and you don't need any previous experience as a catechist. You will be trained and supported along the way. As you nurture the faith of our young, you will learn and grow as well! As one long-time catechist put it, "I learn so much from the children!" If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of catechists or for more information, please contact Lerma Simpson at lerma.simpson@dsj.org or at (408) 223-1770 ext. 316.

ATTENTION

FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES.

The deadline for registration for Faith Formation programs is fast approaching. **Register your child(ren) for JOY and First Eucharist preparation by September 8, 2025. No late registrations will be accepted.** Please contact Lerma Simpson for more information.

lerma.simpson@dsj.org
(408) 223-1770 ext. 316

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 25, 2025

Annette Rahardja (Birthday)
Rowena Aviles (Bday)
Cheryl Ramirez Guerrero+
Marie Azalino (Health/Healing)

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Elsa Songcayawon+
Rowena Legacion (Bday)
Souls in Purgatory
Marie Azalino (Health/Healing)

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Maria Do Thi Nga+
Maria Dung Nguyen+
Soledad Sinsay+
Ed Vallejo+

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (7PM)

Josefa Concepcion Salano+
Consolacion Concepcion+

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Maria Lan Nguyen
Kane Gines (Bday)
Deacon Joseph Chuong Do+
Marie Azalino (Health/Healing)

Friday, August 29, 2025

Anna Quynh Giao (Bday)
Shane Rodricks (Bday/Good Health/
Thanksgiving)
Ermelindo Eltanal, Sr.+
Addie Reyes Jr.+

Saturday, August 30, 2025

Souls in Purgatory
Maria Don Nguyen
Anna Le Thi Thanh Huong+
Lorenzo Ayala+ (1 year anniversary)

Saturday/Sunday, August 25-31, 2025

4:00PM Vigil

Teresita Galvez+

Tony Lu+

Bibiana and Teodoro Mendoza+

Vlardimar David+

5:30PM Vietnamese Vigil

Maria Tran Thi Tranh+

LEO Hồ Quý Chương+

Maria Lan Le Duong+

Sunday 8AM Chapel

Marie Azalino (Health/Healing)

8:15AM Villages

10AM Chapel

Ligaya Lorilla+

Giancarlo Bello+

Maria Aline Vuong+

Mai Vo (Healing)

12PM Chapel

Manuel Araujo+

Edna Esguerra (Bday)

Glenda Jimenez (Healing)

2PM Spanish

Maria Vargas+ (1 year death anniversary)

4PM (Vietnamese)

Maria Lan Le Duong+

Thanh Nguyen+

6PM Chapel

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

♦ Daily Rosary and Prayer

8:00AM, Chapel

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

♦ **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 at 7:00PM.

♦ **Spanish Community Prayer and Rosary**, Wednesdays at 4:30PM

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. Amen.*

WEEKLY OFFERTORY TOTALS

COLLECTION TOTALS

JULY 28-AUGUST 3, 2025:

Masses	\$ 15,263.42
Online	\$ 6,061.00
Mail	\$ 75.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	\$ 189.00
Grand Total	\$ 21,588.42

*Thank you in advance for your
continual generosity and
financial contributions to the needs of
our parish!*

**Please plan your Mass
Intentions in advance if
possible (Birthdays,
Anniversaries, Death
Anniversaries).**

Our Mass Intention
calendar is open through
December 31, 2025

We are now taking Mass
Intentions for Wednesday
Evening Mass for Our Lady of
Perpetual Help.

**Our 2026 Mass Intentions
will open October 13, 2025**

We also pray for...

- those in need of healing
- those who have recently passed away
- those who suffer in silence
- those with cancer
- those who have no one to pray for them
- those beginning new journeys

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

TODAY'S READINGS

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Isaiah 66:18-21

Reading II:

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel:

Luke 13:22-30

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Reading II:

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Gospel:

Luke 14:1, 7-14

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Feast Day!



Save the Date

Saturday, October 4, 2025

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

RAFFLE



Talent Show

Event T-Shirt Sponsorship Opportunities available



RUN/WALK-A-THON

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

If you would like to volunteer, you will need to follow Volunteer Compliance and be fingerprinted (if you are over 18) and take the Virtus Safe Environment Training prior to October 4. Please contact Rosie.Olivas@dsj.org



PARDON OUR PROGRESS EXCITING CHANGES IN THE WORKS

MEMORIAL GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

Dear Memorial Garden Families, We are preparing for construction in the Memorial Garden. We will be throwing out all flowers and plants in preparation of the new addition to the Memorial Garden. Please do not add any flowers or plants at this time. If you have plants in the garden, you may want to take them home. Otherwise, we will dispose of all items in the garden.

Thank you, Parish Memorial Garden Management



You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on Sept 19-21, 2025 call 408-605-4998, email: SanJose@RetroCA.com or visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.org



ATTENTION PARISHIONERS OF THE VILLAGES

The Villages

Annual Anniversary Dinner

September 21, 2025, 5:30PM-9PM

Choice of Menu-Cost \$43

For more information, contact

Haggertymaryann1@gmail.com

THE FILIPINO PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOSÉ INVITE YOU TO A PROCESSION AND EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION OF THE

JUBILEE OF MARIAN DEVOTION

and the Launching of the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO PRIESTS-USA

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
11:00 AM**

**OUR LADY OF PEACE
PARISH AND SHRINE**

2800 MISSION COLLEGE
BOULEVARD, SANTA
CLARA, CA 95054



The Diocese of San José is one of the six dioceses hosting the national assembly on November 3-6, 2026.

Celebrant

Most Rev. Rey Bersabal, DD
Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento
Fifth Filipino Bishop in the U.S.

Sponsored by:



DIocese OF SAN JOSÉ
PARING PINOY NG SAN JOSÉ



Health Education for Latinos Program SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



FOR MORE INFO

<https://www.help-fund.net/>

jesse@chpscc.org

APPLY BY
AUGUST 29!

chpscc.org/help-apply/



ELIGIBILITY

- High school students entering college/university
- Or enrolled undergraduate and graduate students
- Must be pursuing a major in a health-related field
- LatinX, low-income students demonstrating economic hardship
- Applicants do NOT need to be citizens or legal permanent residents of the US.



Women's Silent Retreats
September 5-7, 2025
September 19-21, 2025



Meditations on
The Last Discourse of Jesus

St. Clare's Retreat

Join us for a Women's Silent Retreat on The Last Discourse of Jesus, directed by Fr. Serge Propst, OP & Fr. Augustine Hilander, OP. The retreat will focus on the Gospel of John and how to live the Divine Life. The cost is \$320 for a single occupancy room, \$300 per person for a double occupancy room, or \$125 for a Saturday day commuter (no lodging). Register on our website or by phone. Registration closes one week before the retreat. For registration and more info on the Sep. 5-7 retreat:

<https://stclaresretreat.org/sep-5-7-womens-silent-retreat> For registration and more info on the Sep. 19-21 retreat: <https://stclaresretreat.org/sep-19-21-womens-silent-retreat-with-fr-serge-propst-op> Contact for registration and questions:

831-423-8093
or info@stclaresretreat.org

Why Registering Matters

Registering at your Catholic parish is more than just paperwork—it's a sign of belonging. It allows the Church to support you in your spiritual journey, helps with Sacrament preparation, and ensures you are counted as a valued member of our faith community. Join us not just in the pews, but as part of the family. **Register today!**



Parish Registration