

Walking In Simple Joy | Losing Your Life to Find It

Dear SFoA Family,

There is a strange moment in every marathon — usually somewhere past mile eighteen — when your body is begging you to stop, and the only way forward is to want something more than you want comfort. You cannot think your way through that mile. You have to want the finish line more than you want relief. Runners have a word for the version of you that emerges on the other side of that mile. It is not the same person who started.

This Sunday's Gospel picks up immediately after last week's — right after Peter has correctly named Jesus as the Christ (Mt 16:21-27). And now Jesus tells them what that actually means: suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Peter, still riding high from getting the answer right, pulls Jesus aside to correct him. "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." And Jesus turns on him with words that must have landed like a slap: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me."

What Peter wanted was a Messiah without a cross. What Jesus offers is different: "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

I do not think Jesus is asking us to be miserable. I think he is naming something true about how life actually works, something every parent, every caregiver, every person who has ever truly loved someone already knows in their bones: the life you cling to too tightly shrinks. The life you give away expands. The people I know who seem most alive are, almost without exception, the people who stopped protecting themselves and started spending themselves — on their families, on this parish, on the poor, on God.

That kind of dying is not comfortable. Peter did not want to hear it, and if we are honest, neither do we. But on the other side of that particular cross is a kind of life that self-protection can never produce.

What are you clinging to that God is inviting you to release?

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Vincent



"Rebuild my Church." — Christ to St. Francis of Assisi

 **Office Hours** Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (*closed for lunch*)
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE & FEATURED ARTICLE

September 5 - 6, 2026
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00 PM Msgr. Michael Mitchell
5:30 PM (Vietnamese) Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM	Fr. Phong Nguyen
8:15 AM (Villages)	Fr. Vincent Pineda
10:00 AM	Fr. Vincent Pineda
12:00 PM	Fr. Eddie Obero
2:00 PM (Spanish)	TBD
4:00 PM (Vietnamese)	Fr. Phong Nguyen
6:00 PM	Fr. Eddie Obero



Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) | What do I have to do with it?

There is no one common definition of Artificial Intelligence, commonly referred to as AI, but it generally refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception and decision-making.

AI is claimed to have its origins in 1950s but only recently did it explode into the world lexicon because of rapid advances in hardware and software technology.

So, by now, may have used AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude or Google Gemini. Or you've heard stories about its use, or more concerningly, its misuse in schools or at work

As AI capabilities continue to grow, it is understandable that its continued development must come with ethical governance and protections for all. It is such an important subject that Pope Leo released his first encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, on this topic in May. He is very concerned with safeguarding the human person, and placed the dignity of the human person a fundamental criterion in guiding its technological progress.

It is comforting to hear that many of the technology developers have been dialoguing with the church, expressing their concern about their own creation. In a recent interview, our own Bishop Oscar Cantú stated, ""What the technologists have said to the church is that they've become frightened of these machines, of what they're capable of, that they don't understand why they're doing the things they do. They are not predictable, and so that's of deep concern."

Some of the potentially dangerous capabilities of AI include cloning voices, designing new lethal chemical weapons, launching cyberattacks to cripple critical infrastructure, and autonomously guiding military drones. The emerging technology also has the capability to create realistic fake videos, images and voices that could be used to spread misinformation.

So what can you or I do? We can start by reading Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*. His first two chapters summarizes the church's Catholic social teaching which must guide us in our decision making in its use. We are asked to prioritize human relationships and the common good. AI is a powerful tool but it must serve human dignity rather than replace human connection or reduce people to mere data.

The digital version of *Magnifica Humanitas* can be found here <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

"...We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us
 & revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace." - (no. 15)



Faith Formation

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

OCIA (Adults) & Adult Confirmation:

- Registration Window | Ongoing
- <https://sfoasj.com/ocia>
- <https://sfoasj.com/confirmation>

OCIA (Adults):

Sessions 10:00AM to 11:30AM in the Parish Office

- August 30 SESSION
- September 6 SESSION

OCIA (Children):

Sessions 10:00AM to 11:30AM in the Parish Office

- August 30 SESSION
- September 20 SESSION

REMINDER: **DEADLINE TO REGISTER**
FOR JOY & SECOND YEAR PREP FOR FIRST COMMUNION
IS TODAY, AUGUST 30, 2026.

C.L.O.W. (Children's Liturgy of the Word):

At the 8:00AM, 10:00AM, & 12:00PM Masses

- September 6
- September 27

FEAST DAY SILENT AUCTION | WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We're gearing up for our annual parish feast day on October 3, and we'd love your help!

We're looking for exciting items:

- vacation homes/condos
- experiences

for our silent auction. Your contribution could make a huge impact to our parish community!

If you would like to donate to our silent auction, please contact **Jerma Simpson** at lerma.simpson@dsj.org OR at (408) 223-1770 ext. 316.

Youth Ministry

UPDATES

NORTH STAR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Saturday, September 5th, 2026
(YYA Pilgrimage Night)



E.C.H.O. Junior High Ministry:

- Registration | OPEN NOW for all 6th-8th Graders!!!
- www.sfoasjyouth.com/echo

Kick-Off Session =
Friday, September 18 at 6PM

ONFiRE

2026

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

📍 Six Flags Discovery Kingdom



I.G.N.I.T.E. High School Ministry

- Registration | OPEN NOW for all 9th-12th Graders!!!
- www.sfoasjyouth.com/ignite

Kick-Off Session = **ONFiRE**
Saturday, September 12

WEEKLY OFFERTORY TOTALS

COLLECTION TOTALS

Week of August 3 - 10, 2026

Masses	\$ 15,650.00
Online	\$ 4,708.00
Mail	\$ 1,605.00
OLPH	\$ 220.00

Grand Total \$22,183.00

*We are deeply grateful for
your faithful stewardship &
generosity!*

ParishSOFT®
Giving



Pilgrim Certificate Order Form



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 31	Edna Esguerra (Birthday) Nic Serafica+ (Birthday) Rose Jao+ Senya & Dianne Fontanilla (Healing)
Tuesday, September 1	All Souls in Purgatory+ Joseph Vang Van Nguyen+ Anna Tran Chuc+ Joseph Nguyen Trach+
Wednesday, September 2	Hoang Yen & Toan (Anniversary) David Diaz+ Filomena & Consolacion Concepcion+ Maria Chanh Tran+
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Consolacion & Enrico Yap Sr.+ Enrico Yap Jr.+ Ben Ocmeja+ Ramona Moral Castro (Birthday)
Thursday, September 3	Expedio Reyes+ Francesca Inuman (Birthday) Emil Blas Perez Anna Maria Vu Thi Thuoc+
Friday, September 4	Conversion of Nguyen & Lan Maria Magdalena Le Thi Thieu+ Dominico Nguyen Cong Trong+ Alice Lawrence+ (10 Year)
Saturday, September 5	Isaac Soriano Sr.+ Maria Ligaya Sison (Birthday) Rose Jao+ Ester DeGuzman+

Saturday/Sunday, September 6

4:00PM Vigil	Elpidio de Jesus+ Edwin Figueroa+ Rose Jao+ Cora Mendoza-Lu & Family (Thanksgiving)
5:30PM Vigil (Vietnamese)	Leo Hồ Quý Chương+
8:00AM Chapel	Nathan Crafts (Special Intention) Ronald & Eden Crafts+ Joseph Tran Dinh Huy+ Joseph Tri Tran+
8:15AM Villages	Michelle Gillette+
10:00AM Chapel	Dong Nguyen+ Zian Angelo (Birthday) Rose Jao+ Diem Nguyen+
12:00PM Chapel	Milagros Pedroza Roble+ Agapita Pedroza+ Adolfo L. Reyes (Birthday) Albert Herrera (Birthday)
2:00PM Chapel (Spanish)	Victor Jose (Birthday)
4:00PM Chapel (Vietnamese)	Teresa Jennifer Vu+ Anna Do Dam Thuc+
6:00PM Chapel	All Souls Living & Deceased+

PRAYER GROUP GATHERINGS

Daily Rosary & Prayer (Chapel)
8:00AM

Adoration (Chapel)
First Fridays; 9:30AM - 5:00PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Chapel)
Wednesdays
6:30PM Rosary & Novena
7:00PM Mass

**Spanish Community
Prayer & Rosary** (Chapel; Tabernacle)
Wednesdays; 4:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Fireside)
Thursdays; 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Praise & Thanksgiving
Thursdays; 5:30 PM (Chapel; Tabernacle)

Legion of Mary (Evergreen Room 3)
Tuesdays; 6:30PM - 7:30PM

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 EPS 485-885-6100
Emergency Psychiatric Service

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



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.*

We Also Pray For...

- Those battling cancer — may God grant them endurance, healing, and compassionate hands to care for them.
- Those who have no one to pray for them — we lift them up with love, trusting that God knows each of their names and needs.
- May our parish community hold all these intentions close, as we continue to pray with faith, compassion, and hope in God's unfailing love.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

TODAY'S READINGS

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalms 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Reading II: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalms 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Reading II: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

**PARDON OUR
PROGRESS
EXCITING CHANGES
IN THE WORKS**

Dear St. Francis of Assisi
Memorial Garden Families,

We kindly ask that you refrain
from bringing new flowers or
plants until the completion of
the ongoing construction.

This will help us maintain
safety and preserve the dignity
of the space throughout the
improvements.

Thank you for your understanding,
cooperation, and continued care
for our Memorial Garden.

Sincerely,
Memorial Garden Management



Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi

Youth and Young Adult Pilgrimage Night

Saturday, September 5th at 7:00pm
in the Chapel

*Join us for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration,
and praise and worship. All are welcome.*



**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
PILGRIMAGE NIGHT**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

Schedule of Events

4:00pm

Camino from SJV to SFOA
(optional pilgrimage experience)

start: 4600 Hyland Avenue, SJ CA 95127

end: 5111 San Felipe Road, SJ CA 95135

contact person: Manny Valenzuela

◦ (408)-380-9171

◦ emanuel.valenzuela@dsj.org

contact person: Therese Bao

◦ (669)-264-7706

◦ therese.bao@dsj.org

pilgrimage walking distance (~7 miles)

- youth (under 18yo) must be accompanied by family for the walk
- young adults may walk solo or in groups
- all pilgrims participating in the Camino portion are responsible for making arrangement to retrieve their vehicles from the start location

7:00pm

Praise & Worship Adoration

Exposition / Holy Hour
Praise & Worship

8:00pm

Benediction
Fellowship to Follow



Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni

**Saturday, September 12
during the 4:00PM Mass**

*Join us for hospitality in
Sandersfeld Hall after Mass.*

The Village Catholic Community
Annual Anniversary Dinner
September 20, 2026, 5:30-9PM

Choice of Menu- Cost \$43.00 per person

For more information, contact haggertymaryann1@gmail.com

Farmers Market Ministry

We are looking for more volunteers of all ages to join the Farmers Market Ministry. Help bring produce to the Evergreen Farmers Market on Sundays and assist with bringing food to the homeless shelter.

Please email Rudy Garcia to get involved!

rudyhgarcia@yahoo.com



**The Farmers Market Ministry is looking for more
volunteers on Sundays from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.**

This Ministry collects the surplus produce from the Evergreen Village Farmers Market every Sunday and deliver them to the San Jose Supportive Housing.

Please call Rudy Garcia at 408-712-8931 if are able to help.

Hours served in this Ministry count as
community service hours for high school students!

2. “Embracing Our Wounds”

Brokenness and Healing through St. Francis, Padre Pio & Grace in Woundedness

 **Saturday, September 19, 2026 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**On Padre Pio's feast day, explore the mystery of the stigmata
and discover how our wounds become places of grace.**

**Featuring insights from Fr. Vincent's book: *“Grace in Brokenness:
Discovering God's Tenderness in Illness, Suffering and Death.”***

