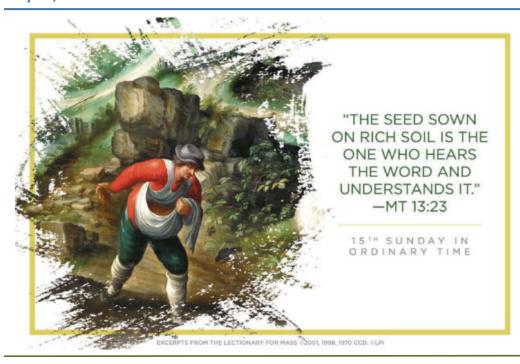
July 16, 2023

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE - PASTORAL PLAN JUNE UPDATE

In May and early June, we held 11 consultation sessions with nearly 300 participants on the 1st draft of the pastoral plan as well as consultation sessions with 100 priests during their study week. The groups that participated include priests during their study week, deacons and wives, principals of our elementary and high schools, parish business managers, parish catechetical leaders, youth and young adult ministers, campus ministers from our Catholic high schools, university campus ministers, synod delegates, and representatives from the religious orders, Catholic movements, and Catholic organizations in our diocese. Watch Bishop Cantú's Update at https://youtu.be/yH4Ocw9XAW8

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

stmaryslg.org/faithformation

Questions? Email Michael Lomas mlomas@stmaryslg.org





Keep Up-To-Date

with St. Mary and our community through our eNewsletter. Sign-up or view recent eNewsletters on our website at:

stmaryslg.org/enewsletter



Sunday 9:00am and Daily Masses are Live Streamed on our website

stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm - In Person Sunday Masses: 9:00am

Live-Stream & In Person 11:00am & 5:00pm - In Person

Mon - Sat: 8:30 am Live-Stream & In Person

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm (Office Conference Room)

SUNDAY DONATIONS

are best made online stmaryslg.org/donate

Envelopes can be mailed in or dropped in the mail slot at the rectory

ADORATION LIVE STREAMED

Thursdays at 7 pm stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. *How might you help friends or family trust more in God?*

Second Reading:

Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the

children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption?"

Gospel:

Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. *How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?*

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TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-11;

Psalm 65;

Romans 8:18-23:

Matthew 13:1-23

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today's readings are filled with analogies for the stewardship way of life, demonstrating the slow and steady, yet powerful effect this lifestyle will have on those who fully embrace it.

In our first reading, from Isaiah, the Father speaks to us of the gentle but unstoppable power of His Word, using the analogy of the Word as "rain and snow" that water the earth, "making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats." He tells us that His Word to us always serves a purpose, always. It gives us life, sustains our very being. Christian stewards must fill themselves with this nourishment every day. When we commit to regular prayer time with God's Word, we can absolutely count on it to take root in us and transform our lives.

The analogy of the fertile and fruitful growth foreshadows a well-known parable our Lord offers in today's Gospel passage from Matthew, the Parable of the Sower. Here, Jesus tells the story of a sower who scatters seed on many different kinds of land.

Some of the seeds land on a path where birds carry them off before they even have a chance to take root. Other seeds land on rocky ground with little soil. Those seeds begin to grow but are fragile, having weak roots of little depth. As soon as things begin to heat up, they get scorched and die. Then there are the seeds that land on what would have been fine soil but for the fact that the soil also contains thorns. Those seeds have a fighting chance to put down solid roots, but the thorns choke them just as they are beginning to grow strong.

Finally, there are the seeds that land on deep and healthy soil. These seeds produce abundant fruit.

Jesus explains that the "seeds" are all those "who [hear] the word of the kingdom." Clearly, this Word is meant for everyone, as the sower scatters it far and wide. Yet, few of the seeds land on soil where they can take root and finally flourish.

This is where the stewardship way of life comes in. When we give the best of our time, talent and treasure to serve God and others, we create lives filled with that rare "good soil" needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive.

How does this happen? Stewardship living removes the "rocks" of mistrust from our lives as we develop an unshakeable faith that God will always provide for our needs. It clears away the "thorns" of worldly ambition that make us self-centered, fill us with needless anxiety and stifle our focus on God. Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the sacraments which in turn nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives, making us receptive to God's plans for us and ultimately producing abundant fruit through the way we live each day.

Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life, allowing the Sower to do His work in us, slowly and steadily. The Master Gardner will surely produce miraculous fruits through us.

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Parish Office	408.354.3726	
Fr. Gregory Kimm, <i>Pastor</i> gkimm@stmaryslg.org	x139	
Fr. Seth Kupo, <i>Parochial Vi</i> skupo@stmaryslg.org	icar x138	
Michael Lomas, Pastoral A Director of Faith Formation mlomas@stmaryslg.org		
Percival Perlas, <i>Music Dire</i> pperlas@stmaryslg.org	ector x122	
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30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030	smslg.org
Monica Hernandez, <i>Princip</i> mhernandez@stmaryslg.o	
Ceci Salgado, Office Manag csalgado@stmaryslg.org	ger x118





READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun	7/16	15 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Mon	7/17	Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1-8; Mt 10:34—11:1
Tue	7/18	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24
Wed	7/19	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27
Thu	7/20	St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30
Fri	7/21	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church Ex 11:10—12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-18; Mt 12:1-8
Sat	7/22	ST. MARY MAGDALENE Sg 3:1-4a or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Sun	7/23	16 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	7/17	8:30 am	The Coffey Family (special intention)
Tue	7/18	8:30 am	Olivia Gray †
Wed	7/19	8:30 am	Olivia Gray †
Thu	7/20	8:30 am	
Fri	7/21	8:30 am	Clare Dinno †
Sat	7/22	8:30 am	
Sai		5:00 pm	Francis Sheridan †
	7/23	9:00 am	Gaylord Green (healing)
Sun		11:00 am	Gillou, Françoise and Jean-Marie †
		5:00 pm	Robert Hainey †

OUR FACINATING FAITH: VOCATIONS

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, tells us that he calls his own sheep by name and those sheep respond by following him. Unlike the early disciples, we do not have the benefit of hearing the Lord Jesus call us by name. Or do we?

Through the centuries countless men, women, and children have responded to the call of the Lord and dedicated their lives to ministering to God's people. How often have we heard the phrase, he or she has the calling?

We need look no further than our own parish to find ways that the call of the Lord is manifested. The Lord Jesus is constantly calling out to us through the celebration of the sacramental life, through the proclamation of the living word, and through the example of those who have put on Christ in Baptism.

Today the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, speaks to each one of us, the sheep of his flock. Let us listen for the call to follow him as his disciples.

Let us pray for others, as well, to hear and heed whatever God is calling them to do with their life as a baptized Christian.

Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright ${\rm @\ J.\ S.\ Paluch\ Co.,\ Inc}$



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe you
are really here in
the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you more than anything
in the world, and I hunger
to receive you.
But since I cannot receive
Communion at this time,
Feed my soul spiritually.
I unite myself to you now,
as I do when I actually receive
You in Holy Communion. Amen.

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom.

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Pope Francis' Universal Prayer Intention: July

FOR A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

A PRAYER FOR REST

Dear Lord,
Please carry the concerns we hold with us today.
Help us to rest in your assurance that you will good things for your children. Amen.

FAITH IN ACTION

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewardship Bears Fruit

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues of Stewardship that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Stewardship of **PRAYER**

Please pray with us for our parishioners, family and friends.

For those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers: Vic LoBue, Jr.; Chuck Blalock; Valerie Bruno; Julio Emberto; Carol Rakich; Frances Corpuz; Sharon Lyndon For those who have recently died:

Charles Boesenberg; Joseph Perrone; Ed Kelly; Anna Miceli; Delores Simone; Lorreene Giansiracusa; Terry Harper; Robert Hapgood Cowden

Members of our parish family who are in the military, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins and all who have no one to pray for them.

Seasons of Hope Discussion Group

The Seasons of Hope Grief Discussion Group returns for six consecutive Tuesdays. Our confirmed dates are July 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 8, 15. Meetings begin at 1:00pm and end at 2:30pm.

These will be in-person gatherings taking place inside the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 13716 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga 95070.

If you are grieving for a loved one and wish to talk to others on the same journey, the Seasons of Hope group provides a faith-based, confidential place to meet and share your experiences. Our agenda includes prayer, Scripture readings, reflection, and conversation.

Reading materials and a journal are provided. There is no fee to participate. Come alone or bring a friend. This group is open to all.

To join, call or email Carolyn Orasin at 408-867-3634, c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org. or Nancy Crowley at 408-209-6118. Please include your name, phone number, and email address so we can follow up with you.

Stewardship of TREASURE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE! Our Goal for July is \$70,000.00

Your weekly offerings enable us to meet our monthly obligations and continue to support the many parish programs at St. Mary. Thank you for your faithful support.

To make an online gift: stmaryslg.org/online-giving

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at stmaryslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

SAVE THE DATE!

ST MARY'S COUNTRY FAIR RETURNS OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

Celebrating its 55th year, the fair is a beloved community event driven by generous sponsors, volunteers and attendees that make it all happen.



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stmaryscountryfair.org or contact fair.chairs@stmaryslg.org



St. Vincent de Paul has a very active conference at St Mary's! We meet every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 9am Mass in the Parish Office Conference Room. Please see us on the parish website under at

stmaryslg.org/st-vincent-de-paul

Anyone interested in our work helping the unhoused and working poor in our community please contact conference president Sue Ahmadian at sue.ahmadian@gmail.com

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION – JOIN US!

The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) will have an information table at the Courtyard after the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, July 23. The ICF encourages and promotes faith renewal, apostolic and charitable works, heritage, and social activities in the parish.



It is a family organization open to membership of all Catholics from all cultures.

Please stop by and pick up the information available and have a cup of coffee and a donut. Members of the ICF will be there to answer your questions and discuss our goals of outreach. You can also visit our website: www.icf.org.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

SUNDAY OBLIGATION OF ATTENDING MASS

To fulfill the Sunday obligation to attend Mass, how long or for what parts must I be present? What is the penitential rite? Must I be present for that?

The present Code of Canon Law reads: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." It doesn't say part or parts of the Mass. The expectation is that the person will attend a complete Mass. A Catholic Catechism quotes the canon and states, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin." Before Vatican II, moral theologians and canonists would talk about the three principal parts of Mass as the Offertory, Consecration and Communion. If you missed any one of those parts, they wrote, you would not have fulfilled the obligation of attending Mass.

Today, canonists and liturgists do not use that terminology. They speak of the gathering, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the commissioning as the main divisions of Mass.

The penitential rite is part of the Mass. It takes place after the entrance hymn, after the priest has entered the sanctuary and greets the people. It can take different forms. One commonly used is the Confession of fault (Confiteor) and Lord, have mercy (Kyrie, eleison). So, if you arrive after these prayers, you are late for Mass.

While an emergency may demand that a person leave before the end of Mass, one who leaves before the consecration and Communion can hardly be said to have attended Mass. But the emergency may excuse that person from further effort to go to Mass. But to step outside because of boredom would hardly be sufficient cause or to be first out of the parking lot, no!

In 2023, we will continue to highlight holy men and women from the Americas who are canonized or in the process of canonization. We hope their stories inspire your faith!

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST. JOSÉ LUIS SÁNCHEZ DEL RÍO

José Luis Sánchez del Río was born on March 28, 1913, in Sahuayo, Michoacán, Mexico. Nicknamed "Joselito", he grew up in a strong Catholic family who prayed the rosary frequently and attended church as often as they safely could during the unrest in Mexico at the time.

Going to church publicly in Sahuayo was dangerous for José and his family was the Cristero War which broke out in 1926. During this time, the Mexican government began trying to secularize the nation, enforcing anti-clerical laws, and violently targeting churches and Christians, specifically Catholics. The government closed religious schools, exiled and executed priests, nuns, and other religious people, and seized church buildings and properties for their own use. In response to this violent disruption, Catholics across Mexico organized and took up arms against the government united under their war cry, "¡Viva Cristo Rey!" which translates to, "Long live Christ the King!" The fighting was most concentrated in the region of West Central Mexico where José and his family lived.

During his short time in the militia, the other Cristeros nicknamed him Tarcisius, the name of an early Catholic saint who was put to death for protecting the Eucharist.

During a battle in 1928 José was captured by enemy forces. The general who was leading him and the other Cisteros into battle had fallen off his horse when the animal was killed by opposing forces. José gave his personal horse to the general so the general could continue leading the troops and eventually escape capture. Horseless and thus unable to outrun the enemy, José took cover on the ground and fired until all his ammunition was gone before being taken prisoner.

Shortly after his capture, the government soldiers jailed him and their other prisoners in a church they had confiscated — this make-shift prison happened to be the church of José's baptism. While imprisoned, he prayed the rosary daily and refused to renounce his faith, even though he was told he would be released if he simply repeated the phrase, "Death to Jesus Christ." Despite having to watch others tortured and killed in an attempt by his captors to break his resolve, José chose to yell encouraging words to those being put to death in front of him instead of choosing to fall into despair. He refused to back down under the severe pressure and remained resolute in his faith in and love of Jesus.

When nothing else worked to get him to renounce his faith, his captors tortured him. They sliced off the soles of his feet then made him walk on his mutilated bare feet to the cemetery where they planned to kill him. The entire time José sang hymns and refused to despair. They stabbed and cut him many times along the way with a machete, when he finally made it to the cemetery, he was drenched in his own blood. Before he was shot in the head by the military leaders holding him captive, he was heard yelling "Long live Christ the King! Long live Holy Mary of Guadalupe!" He was a month short of his 15th birthday when he was martyred.

José Luis Sánchez del Río was canonized by Pope Francis on October 16, 2016. He is remembered with love by Mexican Catholics sometimes as San Joselito.

ST. JOSÉ SÁN

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGES

SEPT. 10-21, HOLY LAND - 11 DAY PILGRIMAGE Organized by St. Christopher Parish. saintchris.com/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-2023

SEPT. 20 - OCT. 3, FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL - 13 DAY PILGRIMAGE. Organized by Saint Anthony Parish. dsj.org/event/footsteps-of-st-paul-13-day-pilgrimage/

OCT. 2-17, HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - 11-DAY PILGRIMAGE Organized by Saint Mary's Parish - Gilroy. dsj.org/event/holy-land-pilgrimage-2/

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