




All are Welcome

ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



SECOND SUNDAY OF
Lent

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

- MK 9:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
© 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

LENTEN RESOURCES ARE available on our website:

stmaryslg.org/lent-2024

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT

■ Tristan ■ Donna ■ Alexis ■ L.J. and ■ Chase

who recently celebrated the Rite of Election at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph.

May the Lord bless them as they continue their preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT
12:00 NOON & 7:00PM IN CHURCH



Stations
OF THE CROSS



ADA WEEK 3: THANKS VERY MUCH

to all who have helped us reach **54%** of our 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal goal of \$193,916. If you have not yet made your pledge, please join the other parish families already supporting this crucial campaign. We would like all pledge forms returned, regardless of the gift amount. **Remember: every dollar over our goal will help us fix our faulty heating and cooling system in the church.** Mail your pledge or donate online at DSJ.org/ada.



Keep Up-To-Date
through our eNewsletter.
Sign-up or view recent
eNewsletters 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: 8:30am

Rosary - 8:00am

Live-Stream & In Person

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm

(Office Conference Room)

ADORATION

LIVE STREAMED

Mondays - 9:00-10:00am

Thursdays - 7:00 pm

stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

SUNDAY DONATIONS

are best made online

stmaryslg.org/donate

Envelopes can be mailed in
or dropped off at the
Parish Office

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Abraham passed God's test to offer his beloved son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. *Have you ever felt tested by God?*

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of God's generous love and affection for us, ever willing to defend and protect us. *As we continue the Lenten journey, to whom might you offer some comfort and care this week?*

Gospel:

After witnessing Jesus' transfiguration, hearing God's voice, and commanded to silence, Peter, James, and John must have been spiritually and emotionally drained. *What helps energize you spiritually?*

©LPi

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;
Psalm 116;
Romans 8:31b-34;
Mark 9:2-10

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today's readings are a powerful testimony to God's profound love for each one of us. It is a reminder for us, as Christian stewards, to surrender all that we have to the Gracious Giver. This is an important message that is conveyed during this holy season of Lent as we partake in the suffering, death, and resurrection of God's only Son.

The First Reading from Genesis is the infamous story of God putting Abraham to the test. God commands Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, to the Lord as a sacrifice. Abraham obeys the Lord. He takes Isaac up to the land of Moriah, builds an altar, and prepares to slaughter his son. Yet, a messenger of the Lord cries out at the last moment to stop him, "Do not lay your hand on the boy... I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." Because of Abraham's faithfulness and surrender to the Lord, the Lord blesses him abundantly, "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky."

We can only imagine how Abraham felt, offering the life of his son, not understanding why, but blindly obeying. Yet, Abraham's response of total surrender to God's plan is a beautiful testament to trust in God's deep love for us. As Christian stewards, we are called to surrender all to the Lord — our time, our talents, and even our material possessions. We should willingly give God our entire lives with the confidence that He will take care of us. When we surrender all to the Lord, we are allowing Him to be in charge. And just as we see in Abraham's story, when God is in control, He blesses abundantly. Our God is all good, all-knowing, and all-loving. All that He has in store for us is for the good of our salvation. He will not disappoint.

St. Paul echoes this message so beautifully in our Second Reading. He says, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?" God loves us so much that He gave us His only Son who suffered, died, and rose for us. He has given us His very best. Can we not entrust our entire lives to Him knowing He will continue to pour out His love on us?

In our Gospel, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain, apart from the rest. It says, "he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white." Then God spoke out from a cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Peter, James, and John had this intimate moment with Jesus, seeing Him as He truly is.

God desires to have this intimate relationship with us too. As we entrust our lives to God, He will more fully reveal Himself to us. We will more clearly see Christ in our lives as He truly is and, in turn, we will become more dazzling ourselves.

Let us strive to journey up the mountain with Jesus during this Lenten season — growing in our intimate relationship with Him. May we reflect on His profound love for us on this journey. And let us pray for total surrender to His providence.

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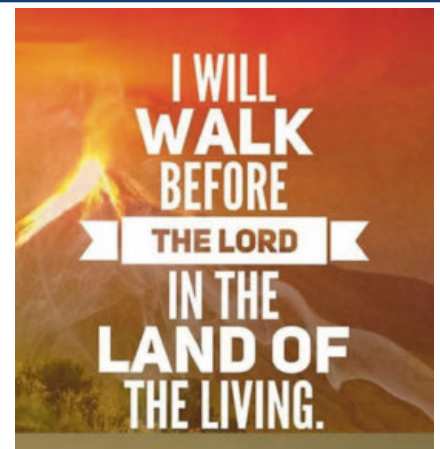
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If it is an **EMERGENCY** and you need to reach a priest call **669-219-9465**.

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30 Lyndon Avenue	
Los Gatos, CA 95030	smslg.org
Monica Hernandez, <i>Principal</i>	
mhernandez@stmaryslg.org	
Ceci Salgado, <i>Office Manager</i>	
csalgado@stmaryslg.org	x118

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Page 3

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT			
Sun	2/25	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10	
Mon	2/26	Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38	
Tues	2/27	St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 2, 23; Mt 23:1-12	
Wed	2/28	Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28	
Thu	2/29	Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1- 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31	
Fri	3/1	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	
Sat	3/2	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, <i>First Scrutiny</i>			
Sun	3/3	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 <i>Scrutiny (Year A): Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42</i>	

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	2/26	8:30 am	David Brown (birthday)
Tues	2/27	8:30 am	Tom Franceschi †
Wed	2/28	8:30 am	Joanne Erba †
Thu	2/29	8:30 am	Anita Wilson (healing)
Fri	3/1	8:30 am	Raymond Cavanagh †
Sat	3/2	8:30 am	Timothy Duzmal †
		5:00 pm	Gloria Magdalena Tostado †
Sun	3/3	9:00 am	Ronald Mackin †
		11:00 am	Victoria Miramontez †
		5:00 pm	Martin Oudewaal †

A SEASON FOR REFLECTION

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more and read this week's Story of Hope.

Rice Bowls are available around the church and in the parish office. Set a place for Jesus at your dinner table.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER 2024 RETREATS

Mar 1-3	San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville
May 3-5	St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista
July 12-14	San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville
Sept 20-22	St. Francis Retrat Center, San Juan Bautista
Nov 15-17	San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville

For more information or to register please go to wwme.org or call Ken & Claranne at 408-782-1413



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

The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

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POPE FRANCIS' UNIVERSAL PRAYER INTENTION: MARCH

For the new martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

PRAYER OF TRUST

Dear Lord,
Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't fully understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.

FAITH IN ACTION

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:
Bill Flora; Bruce Welch; George Bommarito; Valerie Bruno; Julio Emberto

For those who have recently died:

Antonio Battencourt; Victoria Miramontez; Richard Hernandez; Peter Kraljev; Linda Graham; Janice Gallagher; Thomas Louis Murphy; Tom Bommarito; Carol Rakich

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.



Lenten Layette is now Diaper Drive!

From 2003 to 2023, the Lenten Layette has been St Mary's annual donation drive to collect newborn baby items for expecting mothers in need. *New for 2024, we are reimagining Lenten Layette to ensure we are most efficiently meeting some of the greatest gaps for families in need in our community. We appreciate your support of Diaper Drive 2024.*

DONATIONS REQUESTED

- ♦ Diapers (ages newborn to toddler)
 - ♦ Baby Wipes (flip-top packs preferred)
 - ♦ Formula (ages newborn to toddler)
 - ♦ Handmade items continue to be welcome donations! (baby hats, blankets, bibs)
 - ♦ \$25 gift cards (Amazon, Visa, Target, Safeway)
- We will not be accepting other items.*

Donations accepted Monday, February 12, 2024 - Friday, March 15, 2024. Drop donations in the baskets in the church entry, or place in yellow bins in front of the parish and school offices

Week of March 18: Sorting & distribution (including student service). Volunteer sign ups coming soon!

BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATIONS

- Heritage Home of San Jose
- Hispanic Ministry of Diocese of Monterey
- Sacred Heart Community Services
- Birthright

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Reach out to program lead Dianna McKay at

408.691.0145 or diannamckay2013@gmail.com

Stewardship of TREASURE

Managing God's Gift To Us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE!

Our Goal for March is \$72,000.00

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:

stmarvslg.org/online-giving

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at

stmarvslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING

	Jul. 1 2023 to Feb 11, 2024
Budget	\$ 489,324.00
Actual	\$ 495,567.00
Difference	+ \$ 6,243.00

Stewardship of TALENT

March 2 & 3

5PM Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ

9AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ

11AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ

5PM Sunday: Parish Choir



March 9 & 10

5PM Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ

9AM Sunday: Parish Choir

11AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ

5PM Sunday: 5PM Sunday Ensemble

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) is offering a \$400.00 college scholarship for graduating high school seniors meeting the following requirements: 1) Roman Catholic; 2) child/grandchild of an ICF member; 3) GPA 3.2 or higher.

For more information, please call the ICF office at 1-888-423-1924 or visit their website at

www.icf.org/scholarships

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2024.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH - LENT

PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING OR MERCY, THE KEY PENITENTIAL SACRIFICES OF LENT

*This reading on almsgiving or mercy and its accompanying Lenten sacrifices is by **St. Peter Chrysologus*** who declares that to pray is to knock at the door, to fast is to obtain, and by almsgiving, we receive.*

PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING ARE INSEPARABLE

Fasting is the soul of prayer, almsgiving is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself.

When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.

Let this be the pattern for all men when they practice mercy: show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you want others to show mercy to you. Therefore, let prayer, mercy and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united prayer in our favor.

THE SACRIFICE OF ONESELF

Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart.

Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving.

WATERED BY ALMSGIVING

To make these acceptable, almsgiving must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit.

When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in almsgiving overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give

to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

** Petros Chrysologos, "Peter the Golden-worded"; c. 380 – c. 450) was Bishop of Ravenna from about 433 until his death. He is known as the "Doctor of Homilies" for the concise but theologically rich reflections he delivered during his time as the Bishop of Ravenna. People knew Peter Chrysologos, the Doctor of Homilies, for his very simple and short but inspired sermons, for he was afraid of fatiguing the attention of his hearers. His piety and zeal won universal admiration.*

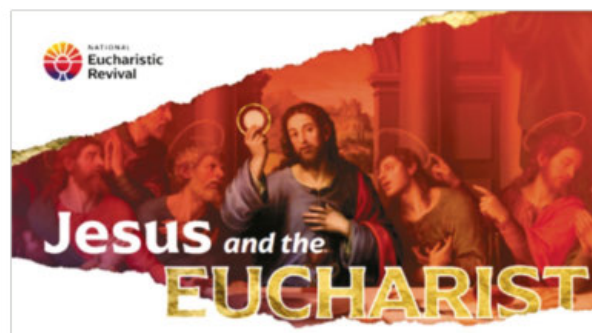
He is revered as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church; he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIII in 1729.

Archbishop Felix of Ravenna in the early eighth century collected and preserved 176 of his homilies.

Fact of Faith: **WHY IS LENT FORTY DAYS?**

The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. If Sundays are excluded from the count, the season lasts forty days. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty. Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.

The full article is available at <https://bit.ly/49fKO9A>.



WHEN:

Sundays till April 21st at 10:00 AM

WHERE:

Hoffmann Center

LENGTH:

Each study session will be one hour long; half video presentation and half small group sharing with a facilitator.

UPCOMING TOPICS

3/3/24 Why a Church? Part 1
3/10/24 Why a Church? Part 2



SCHOOL MASS LED BY 3RD GRADE

Our third graders led us in a meaningful Ash Wednesday Mass, marking the beginning of our Lenten journey! May this season of reflection bring you closer to God and fill your heart with His love ❤️.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

SHOWER VAN: Catholic Charities offers a Shower Van on Thursday afternoons 12:30-4:30 pm at Our Lady of Refuge, which offers showers to the unhoused. If you can volunteer please sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/CatholicCharVolunteer>.

PLEASE JOIN BISHOP OSCAR CANTÚ FOR A MASS OF HEALING AND PRAYERS FOR SURVIVORS OF CLERGY ABUSE

MARCH 2, 2024, 5PM

St. Athanasius Parish
160 North Rengstorff Ave
Mountain View, 94043

All are Welcome!



BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY PAN PARA EL CAMINO

Diocesan Lenten Retreat for
Liturgical Ministers and Catechists

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

Check-in & Hospitality: 7:30am

Retreat from 8:15am - 12:30pm

ST. SIMON PARISH

Led by **Fr. Brendan McGuire**, Pastor, St. Simon Parish, in English, and **Olga Islas**, Faith Formation Associate Director, in Spanish - How the Bread of Life sustains us into our life journey.

English & Spanish Tracks

Register at <https://bit.ly/3SF2fKS>

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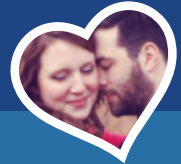
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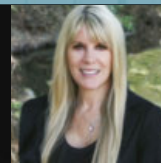
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