March 10, 2024 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

- John 3:20-21

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

LENTEN RESOURCES ARE available on our website: stmaryslg.org/lent-2024 EASTER FLOWERS: Page 5 or visit https://bit.lv/48wID0c

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT

Tristan Donna

■ Alexis

I.J.

and Chase

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE TUESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00PM IN CHURCH

DSJ PASTORAL PLAN TOWNHALL - Join Steve Milligan, Director of Pastoral Planning and Implementation, on Wednesday, March 13, from 7 - 8 pm as he discusses and answers questions about the Diocese of San Jose's new pastoral plan, "Renewed in Christ Together in Mission." - More info on page 5.





ADA WEEK 5: WE ARE GRATEFUL

to all who have participated in the Annual Diocesan Appeal! At 73% of our goal, we are only \$51,637 from success. Please help make our success reality. If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please join the 159 parishioners (7.5% of our parish) who are already part of this effort. Remember that our parish will be able to use for the repair of our heating and cooling system in the church anything over 100% of our goal. Donate online at **dsj.org**. Your pledge is important to our diocese and to our parish!!



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 church* **Sunday Masses:**

9:00am

Live-Stream & in church 11:00am & 5:00pm - *in church*

> Mon - Sat: 8:30am Rosary - 8:00am Live-Stream & in church

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:

We hear how God reacted strongly against Israel's disobedience and infidelity, ultimately sending them to exile in Babylon. But God also showed mercy to Israel in sending king Cyrus of Persia to rescue them. As we enter the fourth Sunday of Lent, for what do you need God's mercy in your life?

TODAY'S READINGS 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 137; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Second Reading:

Paul taught the Ephesians that by God's mercy and grace, we have been saved through Christ for the good works that God has prepared for us. Where in your life do you feel like you are doing God's work?

Gospel:

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God loves the world and desires to save it. *In what ways do you show love and respect for our world?*

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REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is what is called Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "Rejoice" in Latin. Tthe entrance antiphon begins Laetare, Jerusalem ("Rejoice, Jerusalem!")

The actual midpoint of Lent occurred this past Thursday, and this day has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, when we sort of lessen the soberness normally attached to Lent. The priests and deacons have the option of wearing pink or rose vestments rather than purple or violet. This Sunday has a corresponding day during Advent called Gaudete Sunday. The point of both these days is providing us with encouragement in the midst of our penitential seasons.

As part of this more upbeat attitude and approach to our celebrations of Mass this weekend, there is a focus on salvation and redemption, which is the reason we have to "rejoice."

Our First Reading comes from the final chapter of Second Chronicles, so it includes the beginning of the Babylonian Exile (607-586 B.C.). The chronicler spent a lot of time addressing the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (thus the statement Laetare, Jerusalem ("Rejoice, Jerusalem"). The final verses of today's readings are indeed the closing of Chronicles. Chronicles points out to the Jewish people, and to us also, that they are strongly connected to God's overall plan. "Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up (return to Jerusalem) and may his God be with him." The people were released from exile by King Cyrus of Persia in the first year of his reign. Where the Books of Kings seems to be centered on stern moral judgments, Chronicles is essentially a book of hope. That is why we rejoice. Christ's saving grace gives us hope during this time of Lent.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, our Second Reading, reminds us "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God." What a reason to rejoice. God loves us even when we are not lovable. He loves us even when we do not give Him a reason to do so.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). It is difficult for us to even conceive of the magnitude of that multifaceted gift, from God's unconditional love for us to the extraordinary gift of his son Jesus to the fabulous gift of everlasting life.

Stewardship calls us to appreciate all of God's gifts, but if we only focus on the gifts listed above, our gratitude should know no bounds. Pope Francis has said, "God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. We all have the ability to understand and receive God's gifts." We need to recognize God's gifts and especially during our preparations for Easter, find ways to show and live out our gratitude.

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PARISH DIRECTORY

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Fr. Seth Kupo, <i>Parochial Vi</i> skupo@stmaryslg.org	icar	x138
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Percival Perlas, <i>Music Dire</i> pperlas@stmaryslg.org	ctor	x122
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Funerals		x137

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

St. Mary School 408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue

Los Gatos, CA 95030 smslg.org

Monica Hernandez, *Principal* mhernandez@stmaryslg.org

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x118



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun	3/10	4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE SUNDAY, <i>Second Scrutiny</i> 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21. <i>Scrutiny</i> (<i>Year A</i>): 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
Mon	3/11	Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tues	3/12	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wed	3/13	Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thu	3/14	Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Fri	3/15	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat	3/16	Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12; Jn 7:40-53
G	2/15	5 TH SUNDAY OF LENT, Third Scrutiny

Sun 3/17 Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33. Scrutiny (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130: 1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Mass Intentions					
Mon	3/11	8:30 am	Steven Wilson †		
Tues	3/12	8:30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory †		
Wed	3/13	8:30 am	Dr. Michael Patrick Dunn †		
Thu	3/14	8:30 am	Eric and Monica Roman (birthday)		
Fri	3/15	8:30 am	Hildegard Benson †		
C-4	3/16	8:30 am	Benito and Maria Guadalupe De La Riva (healing)		
Sat		5:00 pm	Donna Hainey †		
	3/17	9:00 am	Louis Denis Laplace †		
Sun		11:00 am	Carol Rakich †		
		5:00 pm	Dolores Blefari †		

ENLIGHTEN & ENGAGE: NAVIGATING LIFE'S TRANSITIONS – COMPLIMENTARY SENIORS SPEAKER SERIES

Welcome to Life's Next Chapter: Rightsizing Decisions for Silicon Valley Seniors - a seminar series offering vital insights into medical considerations, home consolidation, and relocation opportunities. Led by expert speakers, providing insights for you and your loved ones.

The series begins this month with a local renowned author, Tami Anastasia, MA. She is the author of the book, 'Essential Strategies for the Dementia Caregiver: Learning to PACE yourself'. Tami is a dementia consultant, educator and speaker. Tami holds a Master's Degree in Counseling, a Certificate in Gerontology, and a Certificate in End of Life.

> Date: Saturday, March 23rd Time: 11:00am -12:30pm **Hoffman Center**

Refreshments & Light Appetizers Provided



Tami Anastasia, MA



Diane Bucher Host 408.803.3999 www.dibuchergroup.com DRE: 01872997 Realtor





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

Out of love for us. God sent His son into the world, to illuminate the truth that brings salvation. But light can be blinding to eyes that have only seen darkness. Pray that God will teach us to walk bravely in the light.

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 LAETARE SUNDAY

Dear Lord, We've been in this season of Lent for a few weeks now. I want to recommit myself in this time — renew and strengthen my resolve. Help me to use these last few weeks to grow closer to you. Amen.

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FAITH IN ACTION



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

For those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers: **Bruce Welch; George Bommarito; Valerie Bruno; Julio Emberto**

For those who have recently died:

Msgr. John Coleman; Bill Flora; Pat Malysz; Antonio Battencourt; Victoria Miramontez; Richard Hernandez; Peter Kraljev; Linda Graham; Janice Gallagher

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!

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

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: 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

OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING

	Jul. 1 2023 to Feb 25, 2024
Budget	\$ 518,980.00
Actual	\$ 517,950.00
Difference	- \$ 1,030.00

Stewardship of TALENT

March 16 & 17

5PM Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 9AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 11AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 5PM Sunday: 5PM Sunday Ensemble



March 23 & 24 - PALM SUNDAY

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





Join Steve Milligan, Director of Pastoral Planning and Implementation, on Wednesday, March 13, from 7 - 8 **pm** as he discusses and answers questions about the synodal journey to spiritually renew our diocese. He will share:

- ♦ How the Diocese of San Jose developed the new pastoral plan, "Renewed in Christ Together in Mission.'
- An overview of the six priorities and the implementation process.
- How parishioners can support the plan's goal of spiritual renewal of our diocese.



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

WHEN: Sundays till April 21st at 10:00 AM WHERE:



UPCOMING TOPICS

3/17/24 God is with us - Part 1 3/24/24 God is with us - Part 2

3/31/24 The Story of the Eucharist - Part 1 4/7/24 The Story of the Eucharist - Part 2



WHY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT **CALLED LAETARE SUNDAY?**

- The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem".
- The fourth Sunday marks the half-way point of the Lenten season, even though the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is the actual middle day of Lent.
- Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Symbolizing joy, rose-colored Mass vestments may be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays of Lent. According to the Roman Missal, instrumental music is permitted and the altar may be decorated with flowers.
- The tradition of using the color rose is thought to come from the tradition of the Golden Rose; at one time popes sent golden roses to Catholic heads of state in Europe on this Sunday.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was once called Refreshment Sunday, or the Sunday of the Five Loaves, for the miracle of the boy with loaves and fishes in the Gospel of John.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was also previously observed as Mothering Sunday, in reference to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, where the faithful are called "sons and daughters of God". Families visited the church where they were baptized, or made offerings to the cathedral, or mother-church, on this Sunday.

HOW CAN WE OBSERVE LAETARE SUNDAY IN OUR HOME?

- Surprise someone with a rose, or have roses on the dinner table.
- Plant a rose bush at home or for a friend.
- Share stories of where family members were baptized; take a drive to "your mother church".
- Go to Mass at your cathedral.



A nice way to remember or honor someone at Easter and help make our church beautiful, is with a donation to the Easter Altar Flowers. *The donations are used* throughout the year to beautify the church.

There are three ways you may participate:

- Flower memorial envelopes will be placed around the entrances of the church. These can be returned to the collection baskets or parish office.
- ♦ You may go online https://bit.ly/48wID0c
- You may mail a check to the parish office with a note including the names.

Please clearly print names. For memorials to honor a living person, please write "living" after their name. All donations need to be submitted by Monday, March 18 to be listed in the Easter bulletin.

ST. MARY SCHOOL



Our third graders wowed us with their president reports while our fifth graders stepped up as secret service agents to keep them safe!





Stations of the Cross

MARCH 8 & 15 | 7 PM

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www.dsj.org/lent



For other inquiries please email DYR@dsj.org

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.

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