MARCH 23, 2025 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR MISSION

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ that gathers together to celebrate the mysteries of God's love. We support and strengthen one another in our commitment to the Catholic faith. We serve those in need and share with all the Good News of God's unconditional love.



PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 - 7:00PM



OUR PARISH GOAL: \$200,000.00

(of which, \$20,000.00 will be used to upgrade our church sound system.)

Thanks to those who have already responded with a gift to the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal. We have raised \$161,895.00 toward our goal through the support of 173 households as at March 10, 2025.

Gifts can be made by scanning the QR code on the right, through our parish office or online at www.dsj.org/ADA

"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; 9it may bear fruit in the future."

- Luke 13:8-9





MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Vigil: Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am and Daily Masses are **Live Streamed** on our website stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

DAILY MASS

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm (in church)

ADORATION

Mondays - 9:00-10:00am Thursdays - 7:00-8:00pm

PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm 408-354-3726

Email:
parish.office.@stmaryslg.org
Web: stmaryslg.org

If it is a non-medical emergency and you need to reach a priest, call the parish office, and follow the prompts.

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030 Web: smslg.org

x139

x137

x118

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

God reveals to Moses that He has heard the cry of His people, and He is coming to rescue them from slavery in Egypt. What prayer do you need answered from God?

TODAY'S READINGS Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15: Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

Second Reading:

Paul believed the mistakes of the Israelites in the desert serve as an example and a warning of what to avoid in our journey with God. *How might you show* gratitude to God this upcoming week of Lent?

Gospel:

Jesus taught one must repent to bear good fruit in life. Can you think of some good fruit you have borne from repenting?

Today's readings capture the essence of God's Lenten message to us, His people, offering words of compassion and mercy as well as warning of the need to repent and make the most of the gift of time He has given us.

The First Reading, from Exodus, recounts Moses' first encounter with the living God who provides reassurance of His nearness to the people in their suffering and tells of His desire to deliver them from slavery into freedom and fullness of life. He tells Moses, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them... and lead them... into a land flowing with milk and honey." This compassionate God goes even farther, revealing His name to the people as a sign of intimacy with them and telling them, "This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

Our Second Reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that God, though full of mercy and compassion, is also just, and that there will be consequences for our behavior. He admonishes us, "whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."

Today's Gospel passage includes the familiar parable of the unfruitful fig tree. It is preceded by an interesting dialogue between Jesus and some people reporting the news of the day, asking for His "take" on the matter. They tell Jesus about a bloody massacre that some Galileans had suffered at the hands of Pilate. They expected Him to confirm their view that the Galileans had done something to deserve such a death. But Jesus defies their expectation, telling them that the people who died such an awful death were no more sinful than they themselves are. He goes on to say the same of another recent event in which a group of people had been killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. They, too, Jesus says, were no more sinful than anyone else. They were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when tragedy struck.

The point He is making is that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that — a gift. None of us knows how much time will be granted to us, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor.

Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well?

The season of Lent is a time to reflect carefully on the way we spend our time. Do we give first priority to God, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so.

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PARISH DIRECTORY

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Faith Formation x123 Confirmation x123 **Baptism** x110

OCIA / OCIC (Initiation) x123 Music Ministry x122 Marriage x139 Pastoral Care of the Sick x139 **Funeral** x137

If it is a non-medical EMERGENCY and you need to reach a priest, call the parish office and follow the voice prompts.

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MISCONDUCT

Financial: REPORT 888-325-7863

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Children & Vulnerable Adults: 844-372-1691 thics point



Readings for the Week						
Sun	3/23	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42				
Mon	3/24	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3- 4; Lk 4:24-30				
Tues	3/25	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38				
Wed	3/26	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19				
Thu	3/27	Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23				
Fri	3/28	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34				
Sat	3/29	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b; Lk 18:9-14				
Sun	3/30	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41				

			Mass Intentions
Mon	3/24	8:30 am	Daniel Moilanen (birthday)
Tues	3/25	8:30 am	Josh LoBue and family (birthday)
Wed	3/26	8:30 am	Barbara Dalderis †
Thu	3/27	8:30 am	Michael (the elderly homeless man) †
Fri	3/28	8:30 am	Johannes Kirmeier †
Sat	3/29	8:30 am	Allan and Katty Coulson (wedding anniversary)
		5:00 pm	Catherine Egerbrecht (wedding anniversary)
Sun	3/30	9:00 am	Marcial Laplace (special intention)
		11:00 am	George Shannon †
		5:00 pm	Irma Loya †





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.

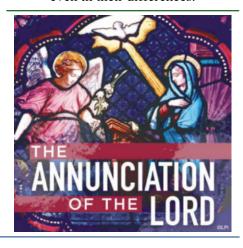
LIVE THE LITURGY -INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus Christ is the ever-vigilant gardener. He desires us to bloom, that we will do what we were created to do, that we will bear the fruit that God intended. Will we let him cultivate our ground and prune our imperfections? Will we let him save us?

POPE FRANCIS' UNIVERSAL PRAYER INTENTION: MARCH

For families in crisis:

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



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: Janel Shultz; Jack Hanley; Ryan Heath; Dave Najour; Rose Arnaudo; George Bommarito; Ken Ardent; Marietta Riney; Adam Thielmann; Michelle Antonowicz; Elisabeth Venesualea; Honora Hannan

For those who have recently died:

Diane Piziali; Herb Robbins; Paul Mahoney, Sr.; Patricia San Juan; Janet Mannina; Linda Austin; Helena Hugger; Renee & Noel Preaseau

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.



MARCH 29 & 30

5:00pm: Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 9:00am: Adult Choir & Piano/Organ 11:00am: Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 5:00pm Sunday: 5pm Sunday Ensemble

St. Vincent de Paul has a very active conference at St Mary! We meet every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 9am Mass in the Junior High Library.



Visit us 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

"WHEELCHAIR SUNDAY", April 5 & 6.



Since 2003, the Knights of Columbus have sponsored over 100,000 wheelchairs for children, teens, and adults who needed one, but couldn't afford one. Please join the Knights of Columbus and representatives from The American Wheelchair Mission, to learn how \$150 can purchase and deliver a free wheelchair to someone in need.

The Knights of Columbus and The American Wheelchair Mission will be here at all Masses on Apr 5 & 6 to explain how you can help the poorest of the poor, gain mobility and freedom. Join them and Fr. Angelo for this very inspirational and moving presentation.



Stewardship of TREASURE

Managing God's Gift To Us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE!

Our Goal for March is \$80,000.00

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 to Mar 9, 2025
Budget	\$ 555,000.00
Actual	\$ 566,426.00
Difference	+ \$ 11,426.00



St Mary School & Parish

DIAPER DRIVE

Supporting Birthright, Heritage Home of San Jose, Hispanic Ministry of Diocese of Monterey, & Sacred Heart Community Services

MARCH 5 - APRIL 4

Diapers (newborn to toddler)
Baby Wipes (flip-top packs preferred)
Formula (newborn to toddler)
\$25 gift cards (Amazon, Visa, Target, Safeway)
Handmade items (baby hats, blankets, bibs)



Donations greatly appreciated online or delivered to the yellow bins at the school & parish offices

Volunteer opportunities available.
For more information, please contact Dianna McKay
at 408-691-0145 or diannamckay2013@gmail.com

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

THE CREED ... continued

The Three Parts of the Creed

Both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed echo the Trinitarian Baptismal formula we find in Matthew 28:19: 'baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Both Creeds help us to understand who God is as opposed to who God is not.

'The first part speaks of the first divine Person and the wonderful work of creation; the next speaks of the second divine Person and the mystery of his redemption of men; the final part speaks of the third divine Person, the origin and source of our sanctification.' (Roman Catechism I, I, 4).

PART ONE - I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

In the Creed, the unity (oneness) and simplicity of God are expressed. We believe that human reason can point anyone to the existence of God. However, learning who God is (e.g. loving, fatherly, Trinity) depends on him revealing himself as such to humanity. The existence of only one God was divinely revealed to Israel in the Old Covenant (Dt 6:45, Is 45:22) and was later reaffirmed by Jesus in the New Covenant (Mk 12:29-30).

The Creed begins with the first person of the Blessed Trinity. 'By calling God "Father", the language of faith indicates two main things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; and that he is at the same time goodness and loving care for all his children.' (CCC 239).

The term 'Father' expresses the intimate relationship between God the Creator and his creation. In particular, 'God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.' (1 John 4:9) This is the Good News.

PART TWO - I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD

The second section of the Creed is a synthesis of the Gospel. It answers the question: who is Jesus?

The word 'Christ' derives from the Greek word 'Christos' which means 'anointed One.' Therefore, to profess like St Peter, that Jesus is 'the Christ, the Son of the living God,' is to profess Jesus to be the fulfilment of the promised Messiah (Mt 16:16).

To believe Jesus to be the 'Only Son of God' is to affirm his divine sonship. The Nicene Creed developed this by adding that the Son was *'begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.'* This was in response to the Arian heresy, which claimed that the Son was the first created being and thus, different in being to the Father.

Having recognized the Son to be of the same divine being (substance) as the Father, the Church upheld the eternal existence of the Son in the Godhead. By invoking Jesus as Lord, we also acknowledge Jesus' divinity, as Lord was often used as a substitute for the Hebrew name of God – YHWH – a name too great to be expressed or described in words.

The Creed also professes the Good News of Christ's mission of salvation: that God became man to give us new life, a transformed life, through him, though his Passion, death, and his resurrection on the third day. We believe that Jesus, having ascended to heaven, now reigns at 'the right hand of the Father' and will return 'in glory to judge the living and the dead.'

Christianity is not simply good advice, do these things and you will be happy, do this and you will get to heaven. This is earth-shattering news, great Good News of a world transformed by the presence of God among us. A God who promised to remain intimately connected to our lives out of the sheer love he hold for us.

PART THREE - I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The third section of the Nicene Creed affirms the divinity of the Holy Spirit since it professes that the Holy Spirit along 'with the Father and Son is adored and glorified.' This was confirmed by the Church, at the ecumenical council of Constantinople, again in opposition to a heresy or a wrong belief (*Pneumatomachian*), which denied the divinity of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit dwells in all baptized believers and continues to preserve the Church from error. This unity articulated in our shared profession of faith is joined with the belief in 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church' and in 'one baptism.' The Creed concludes with the profession of hope for 'the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.' This is based on Romans 6:4, where those who have been buried with Christ in baptism can hope to also be raised to new life with him.

As professed in the Creed, God is a Trinity. This means that God, by his very nature, is eternally relational. Since humans were created in the 'image of God,' we were made to be in relationship, particularly with our Creator. We are called to not merely know about God, but to know him personally and intimately.

If you would like to know more about Jesus, read about him in the New Testament of the Bible. Speak to Jesus and ask him to reveal himself and the truth of his Church to you. Jesus' mission was and is to seek out and save each one of us. He will answer. You might like to use this prayer below:

I have heard of you Jesus but I do not know that what I have heard is true. I would like to know the truth about you and whether you are important to me and my life. Is it possible that there is more to life than what I know now? Is it possible that I was created for eternity with you? Can I be forgiven? I am willing to learn and would like to know the truth. If you are God then I know that you will speak to me somehow. I will wait for your answer.



UPCOMING EVENTS



APPLE NIGHT

Wednesday, March 19th, 7-8pm Abby Sobrato Junior High Library

Join us for an interactive parent session full of Apple tips, tricks, and answers to your tech questions - perfect for any skill level!





Hofmann Center

Book fair hours are posted on our website. Visit smslg.org/upcoming-events



March 16th - 20th

AROUND THE DIOCESE

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

BIBLICAL WALK-THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION

Starting Thursday March 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. 5-week Young Adult Lenten Bible Study Santa Teresa Parish, 794 Calero Avenue, San Jose

HOW THE SACRAMENTS MAKE US SAINTS – FREE EVENT - March 27 starting at 6:15 p.m. with reception, talk at 7 p.m. Fr. David Michael Moses

St William Parish, 611 S. El Monte Avenue, Los Altos https://tinyurl.com/frdavidmichaelmoses

EVENING REFLECTION FOR WOMEN - STARTING

APR 2 at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish. First Wednesday monthly. 6:00pm Mass, 7:00pm Talk followed by fellowship. Registration fee: \$15.00. Scan the QR code to save your seat. Please bring an appetizer to share.





CHRISM MASS 2025 - April 8 @ 7:30 pm Live streamed Mass at www.facebook.com/DioceseSanJose



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