

Saint Joseph Basilica

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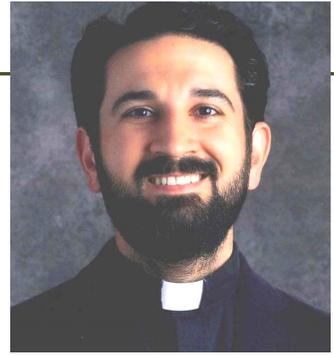
The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.
When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

MATTHEW 13:45-46



July 26, 2020 • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clergy Corner: A Message From Fr. Mario Rizzo



Dear Friends,

As Fr. Sunil, Deacon Peter, and I finish our 14 day quarantine this weekend, I want to begin by thanking you for the support that you offered us. We were not lacking in prayers or well-wishes, nor food for that matter. It was really a privileged moment for me to witness this outpouring of affection; when some would rather recoil from another's struggle, so many in the community did not hesitate to come forward and offer assistance.

We saw the other side too, though, didn't we? Some panicked because they did not know every detail, which led to rumors, perhaps to be expected. Just yesterday I got a text from an old friend from Brentwood, who had moved to Memphis, saying, "I heard you got infected." I had to laugh out loud; the world has more information about my own health than I do. This is a lesson not just pertaining to COVID, but to life; don't believe everything that you hear, and be prudent with what you share.

Some people have argued that moving forward we should share this kind of medical information with the community in an effort to be "transparent." While this may sound persuasive, the parish's re-opening committee has agreed not to share this information, because neither the CDC, the State of California, nor the County of Alameda require this kind of sharing. On the contrary, to share this information against someone's will would be illegal. What we are obliged to do is to follow the official guidelines from these entities, especially when it comes to what to do when someone develops symptoms or comes into contact with someone who has. This is what we have done.

From the time we were informed about the prospect of re-opening in early May, I formed the committee to give guidance on the official guidelines, and this is what they have done, day in and day out, first by creating a playbook that prepared us for this very moment. Granted, we were not expecting any of the clergy to get sick, but we were prepared. As soon as symptoms were made known, we quarantined immediately, notified the proper people to quarantine themselves, and cancelled subsequent public gatherings. That is transparency. And rather than cause fear or panic, this should actually set your mind at ease to know that at St. Joseph you have a team of people who has your safety as their top priority; who will tell me to my face that, even though I have no symptoms, I need to quarantine. That's how dedicated and precise our team is. If you would like to see the playbook for yourself, it has been on our website, and is available here.

Safety is our top concern, and we will go above and beyond where we need to. The CDC guidelines tell us that as of Sunday, all three clergy will be officially clear to come out of quarantine. We want you to know that – COVID positive or not – we abided by their regulations to model the correct response during a time when so many people are ignoring them. And yet, we recognize that people may still be skeptical, choosing to believe rumors instead, which is why we have decided not to hold Mass or drive-through Communion this Sunday. Barring any unforeseen changes or new orders from the State or County, we will take reservations next week for the Mass on Sunday, August 2. This weekend, we will offer Mass on Facebook and YouTube at 12pm.

I would like to close by reiterating my thanks to our community. As Catholics, we have this innate sense of coming together when faced with adversity. The proof: out of the struggles of the last two weeks a group has formed to pray the Rosary every night at 8pm on Facebook Live. We would love to have you pray with us. May Mary, Help of Christians, guide us through these difficult times.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Mario

Parishioners Update

We bid farewell to the Engebretson family who will be moving back to Minnesota in August. Andrew has been a leader in St. Joseph's BSA Cub Scout Pack, he and his wife Dani became Catholic this year through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and their two older children attended St Joseph Elementary School. Andrew shared the following:

"I cannot thank you enough for being a part of my family's journey to the Catholic faith. I am so happy for my wife and myself, along with our children, to all have this faith now, to be part of the apostolic Church, and to participate in the truth of man's relationship with God through Jesus. With our three children's baptism, Dani's baptism, my confirmation and first Eucharist all at St Joseph's Basilica, and our children's first years in elementary school at SJES, this community will always hold special meaning in our lives. We are sad to leave and we will definitely return to visit when we can.

St Joseph's has brought us all closer to our Lord and Savior, and I sincerely believe it was the purpose for our long journey away from our friends and family to California for these past six years. I cannot express with words what this journey has meant to me, finally finding the peace I have sought for my entire life. You all hold a special place in my heart, not only for being a part of that journey, but as it was also a unique and wonderful pleasure to personally get to know and learn from each of you. Thank you for being who you are and being there for us."



Picture taken at Dani's baptism in June

Get Involved - St. Joseph's Pastoral Council

The Council is currently looking for new members. All members must be parishioners and/or associated with the parish groups and organizations. Currently, members serve a two year term on the Pastoral Council with the possibility of two year extension if the member and the Pastor are amenable. If you are interested in serving please visit Parish website: www.sjbalamed.org for more details.

Blessing for Special Needs Families via ZOOM

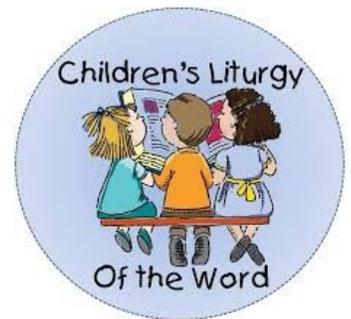
The beginning of the school year can be stressful for families with special needs children, from proposing education goals, meeting new teachers and therapists to helping kids master social skills. This year, we are all being faced with further challenges due to the pandemic. To help provide a space for healing and grace, the Special Needs Inclusion Ministry and Father Mario have arranged a ZOOM blessing meeting. Families of special needs children are invited for a blessing for the new school year on Saturday, August 8th at 10 a.m. Please join us for the blessing on the following ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87230401248?pwd=OFVJTm9ITEt2NWRtMjZEMzJaTjhMdz09>
Meeting ID: 872 3040 1248
Password: 929526

For more information, please contact the Special Needs Inclusion Ministry (jdowcooper@gmail.com and drmaponce@yahoo.com) We look forward to seeing you there!

Children Liturgy of the Word (CLW) Continue On-Line

During Sheltering in Place we offer an online "Children's Liturgy of the Word" via Zoom at 10am each Sunday, for children ages 5 to 10 and their parents. It includes proclamation of the Gospel using the Children's Lectionary, opportunities for movement and singing, and a chance for children and their parents to reflect together on Jesus's message for the day. (Tips for a good experience for all: remain in mute mode unless invited by presenter to speak; if using the "chat" box to share responses be sure your child is using it appropriately; if you do not want your child's face to be seen by others either "live" in the Zoom or shared later if recorded, be sure your video is off.) To participate, please visit our website: www.sjbalameda.org for the ZOOM link.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? RCIA continues to meet via ZOOM each week. Invite those thinking of becoming a Catholic to join us Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at: <https://zoom.us/j/607011076>.

For more information on CLW or RCIA, please email Anne Marie at afourre@sjbalameda.org or call 510-995 9409

St. Vincent de Paul School Supplies Drive Continues..

Backpacks and School Supplies will be given to the grammar school age students of our St Vincent de Paul families that we help and some will be given to the St Joseph Elementary School for students in their community.



If you missed last week's drop off, you can drop off your donation of new school at the St. Joseph Parish Center, 1119 Lafayette on:

- **Sundays July 26 and August 2, between 2:15 and 3:30 pm**
- **Saturdays August 1 and 8 between 10:00am and 1:00 pm**

We are collecting all kinds of new items for elementary and middle school students including:

Backpacks	Calculators
Binders 1" or 2"	Markers (washable)
Binder Paper, wide and college rule	Colored Pencils
Rulers	Crayons
Index Cards	Spiral Notebooks, wide and college rule
Scissors (rounded and regular)	Composition Books
Glue Sticks	Pencil Cases
#2 Pencils	Highlighter Pen

For more details, call SVdP hotline (510) 995-9471 to leave a message, or email Louise Astle: louisea.svdp@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Religious Life Discernment Retreat

On August 8, 2020, join a day long virtual retreat for Catholic women ages 18-40 interested in religious life. Sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. Register online for this Zoom event at bit.ly/discernRLife. For more information contact Sr. Mary Yun, mary@msjdominicans.org or 213.760.3085.

for Catholic women ages 18-40 interested in religious life

Come and See!

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

AUGUST 8, 2020

On Zoom

Register online:
bit.ly/discernRLife

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www.msjdominicans.org

Mass Intentions

(11am & 12 noon Masses are live-streamed
via Facebook & YouTube)

- Saturday, July 25**
11:00pm †Diomey S. Pondoc, Sr.
- 40th day of death anniversary
- Sunday, July 26**
9:30 am & 12 noon Masses
†Angela Naclerio
†Patrica H. Ramos
†Janet Kendall
†Baby Joshua
- Monday, July 27**
11:00 am †Andrew "Andy" Jennings
- Tuesday, July 28**
11:00 am †Brigitte Plant
- Wednesday, July 29**
11:00 am †Alfonso & Teresita Colobong
- Thursday, July 30**
11:00 am Nory Antonette Reyes - Healing
- Friday, July 31**
11:00 am The People of the Parish
- Saturday August 1**
11:00 am †All Souls
- Sunday, August 2**
9:30am & 12 noon Masses
†Norlito Tirona - Death Anniversary
Lydia Yalung - Thanksgiving
Jansz Family - Healing

*Please remember to include
St. Joseph Basilica in your will.*

Pray for the Sick

*May those who are in need of our prayers, place
their trust and faith in the comforting
presence of the Lord. Amen.*

Sandy Anderson, Romelita Bautista, Emma Barrigan, Ronald Bautista, Jazlynn Cain, Nia Cain, Fong Che, Jan Curtis, Mary Cronin, Lee Corral, Jamal Downs, Gregory Falkner, Sherry Eastwood-Falls, Martha Flores, Ellie Fasso, Patricia & Suzy Glynn, Robert Javier, Jeff Murray, Michael Long, Michael Lancaster, Joseph McAdams, Monte McEntee, Joann Miller, David McGaffey, Lolla Manibusan, Michael Ricica, Gina Sifuentes, Becca Smith, Rachel Sutherland, Anna Rossi, Nory Reyes, Evangeline Reyes, Ramon N. Tirona, Dee Pickett, Charles H. Thomas & John Verduzco.



*We will be starting a new Sick List in August.
Please email secretary@sibalameda.org or
call (510) 995 9420 if you would like a name to
remain on the List.*

Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship

The Main Altar flowers and Sanctuary Lamp for the week of July 25/26 are sponsored by the Pondoc Family in loving memory of
Diomey S. Pondoc, Sr.
on the 40th day of his death anniversary.

Weekly Sanctuary Lamp or Altar Flowers Sponsor

Remember a loved one by sponsoring the flowers that decorate the Sanctuary, or one candle for the weekly Sanctuary Lamp. Your intention will be printed in the weekly bulletin. Donations for Altar Flowers, \$75 and Sanctuary Lamp, \$20.

To sponsor, and select a date, please contact Parish Secretary, Sherley Lim at: secretary@sibalameda.org, or call (510) 995-9420.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(Office Closed for lunch: Noon to 1:00pm)

Volunteer Coverage

Sat. 8:30am - 12:30pm / Sun. 8:30am - 1:00pm

Parish Website: www.sjbalameda.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjbalameda

FORMED: www.sjbalameda.formed.org

Clergy:

Rev. Mario Rizzo - Parochial Administrator
(510) 995-9421 / frmario@sjbalameda.org

Rev. Sunil Orathel - Priest In Residence
(510) 301-5975 / sunil@sjbalameda.org

Dcn. Peter Lawongkerd (Youth Ministry Coordinator)
510-995-9474 / deaconpeter@sjbalameda.org

Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation for registered, active parishioners should begin at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Please contact Fr. Mario Rizzo directly to begin the process. Call (510) 995-9421 or email: frmario@sjbalameda.org.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please visit our website under "Sacraments" for information.

- For infant baptism (6 or younger) contact Sherley Lim 510-995-9420, or email: secretary@sjbalameda.org
- For adults or children over age 6 please contact Anne Marie, 510-995-9409, or email: afourre@sjbalameda.org

Parish Staff:

Stan Schonberg - Business Manager
510-995-9411 / business@sjbalameda.org

Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation
510-995-9409 / afourre@sjbalameda.org

Sherley Lim – Parish Secretary
510-995-9420 / secretary@sjbalameda.org

David Howitt - Music Director
510-995-9403 / dhowitt@sjbalameda.org

Michael Chinnavaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
510-522-0181/mchinnavaso@sjbalameda.org

Susan Gahan - Coordinator for Funerals (Volunteer)
510-995-9416 / sg@sjbalameda.org

Community Staff:

Julie Guevara - Principal, SJND High School
510-523-1526 / jguevara@sjnd.org

Katherine Francisco – Principal, Elementary School
510-522-4456 / kfrancisco@csgdo.org

St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471

St. Joseph Basilica Sunday 9:30 am Public Mass

Parishioners are requested to register to attend the Mass each week - attendance is limited to 100 people per the Alameda County's Covid-19 Re-opening Guidance for Places of Worship. Please visit our website to watch the important video and guidelines to register for the Public Mass: www.sjbalameda.org.

A small number of seats are being reserved for people without computer access - if you know of any parishioners needing help registering, you can Parish Secretary, Sherley Lim (510) 995 9420 no later than Thursday 2:00pm to assist with registration.

We will continue to life-stream the 12 noon Sunday Mass on our YouTube. Catholics in the Diocese of Oakland are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. We encourage you to live-stream Mass each weekend for those of you who prefer to stay at home or are not feeling well. To live-stream, visit our website: www.sjbalameda.org for our YouTube link (note: new link each week).

Drive-through (walk through welcome) Communion on Sundays (until further notice):
Starts 2 pm and ends 3 pm.

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