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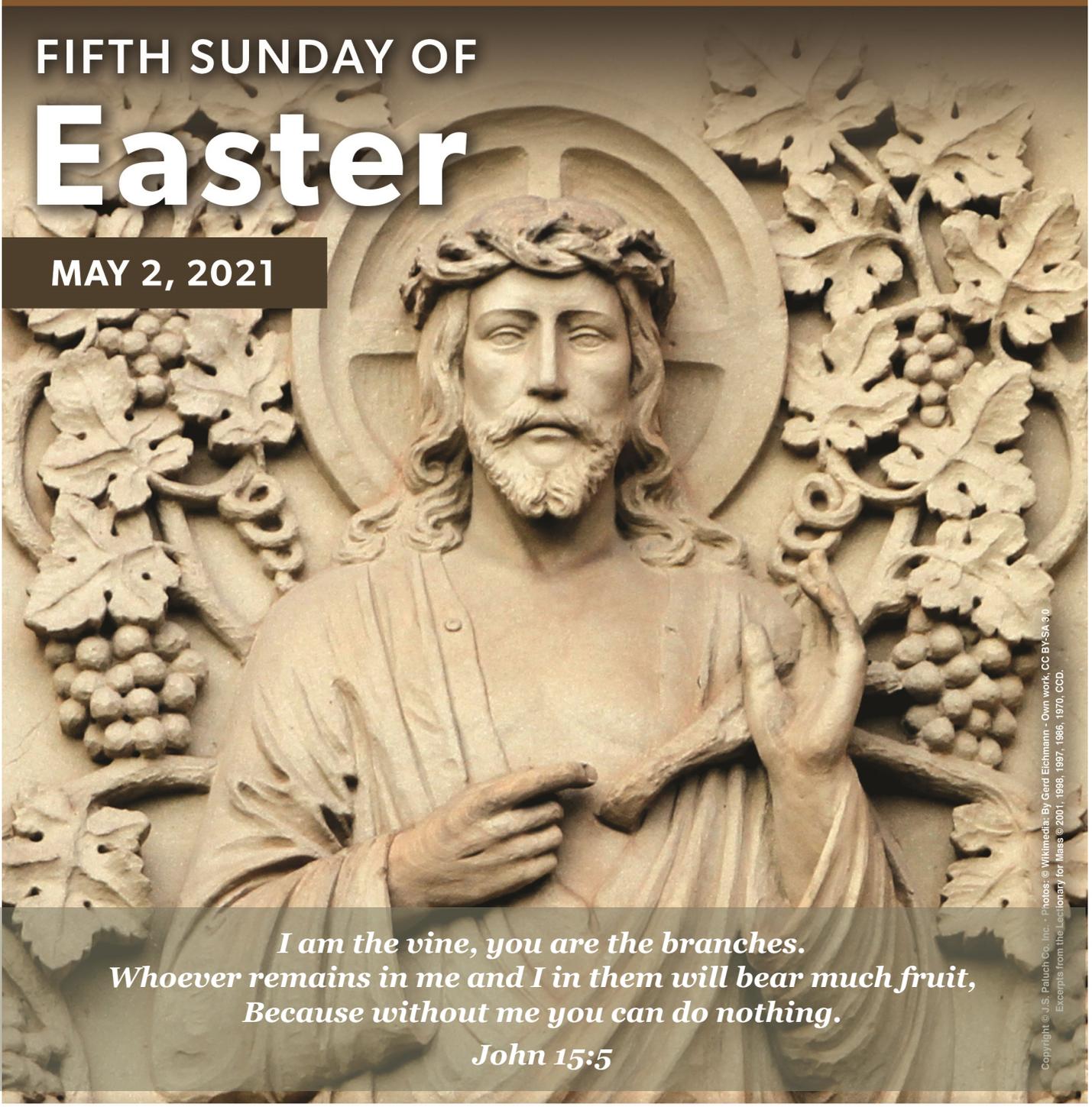
website: www.sjbalameda.org

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 2, 2021



*I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit,
Because without me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

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Clergy Bulletin Message

Dear St. Joseph family,

For this week's bulletin article, I would like to share a reflection from one of our fellow parishioners, Margo Ponce Diaz. Margo, husband Frank, and daughter Victoria are a part of our Special Needs Inclusion Ministry. As April is Autism Awareness Month, I'd like it if we closed out this month by listening to Margo speak to us. I would like to thank Margo for sharing her story. Enjoy!

Fr. Mario Rizzo

Some of you might know me as one of the members of the Special Needs Inclusion Ministry. Others know me from my work as one of the Saint Joseph catechism instructors.



My husband Frank will tell you that some days I obsessively prepare for teaching the Children's Liturgy of the Word lessons. What a lot of you might not know is that I am on the spectrum. I have to work on my social skills. To me, there are times when everything in the world feels "too loud" for me. I am often more formal than most in my interactions with others. One friend noticed that when I am having a bad day I go into "interviewing reporter" mode or am startled when I run into friends and colleagues in places where I am not expecting to see them. Sometimes I enter a room the "wrong" way when my mind falters, and I have to exit and re-enter: I have learned to be more subtle about this and other difficult moments.

From early childhood, but more and more as I grow older, the treasure of my Catholic faith has been my anchor, my citadel. My saving. Some of my most cherished early childhood memories are of the candlelit stained glass windows of Our Lady of Guadalupe church. My grandmother's voice raised in song. Learning the Lord's Prayer from my parents and praying with my parish family. The patience showed to me by my Youth Group friends during my teen years, when I would falter or stutter in small group gatherings or retreats.

Some days I feel like I carry scars, that everyone can see. Then I remember the risen Jesus' scars, and can be more at peace with my own, lesser sufferings and scars: They become tributes to something hard that I have overcome or achieved. And I can feel ok with carrying scars, having pieces of myself that don't quite fit together in the usual way.

Some days I feel like being on the spectrum has given me superpowers of sorts. I have used the same aspects of my brain that make sounds and sights reverberate so intensely to craft poems: I notice patterns where others might not see them. As a catechist, I have become very aware of the beauty of the symmetry of the Old and New Testament histories: I have tried to kindle in my student's similar awe and reverence for this symmetry. I think of the Parable of the Talents and would like to share what I can.

I take great comfort in the Gospel moments where Jesus is reaching out to those avoiding, or avoided by, the majority of society: the Samaritan woman at the well, Zacchaeus in the tree. These intensely one-on-one moments calm and dissipate the surrounding turbulence of the moment, cloak the marginalized in faith and renewal.

And in this season of Easter, one of my favorite Gospel readings is Jesus' post-Resurrection walk and dinner with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: These men were not Apostles, not in his most intimate circles. Just two followers who desperately needed his message of assurance and hope.

Jesus' life assures me that we are all warmly welcomed at his table. That we all have something to share in his house. That we are all home here: He is our treasure, and we are his.

"Margo Ponce Diaz"

The last degree of love is when He gave Himself to us to be our Food; because He gave Himself to be united with us in every way.

—St. Bernardine Siena



May is the Month of Mary!

As the **Mother of God**, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

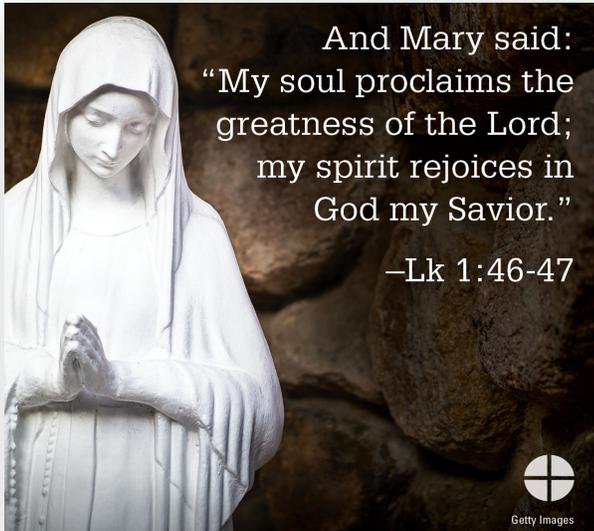
Foster Care Awareness Month

May is Foster Care Awareness Month! Join us in praying for all foster parents and children.



National Day Of Prayer, May 6

National Day of Prayer is an annual observance day that is observed on the first Thursday in the month of May. On this day, Americans are encouraged to give thanks and to turn to God in prayer and peaceful meditation.

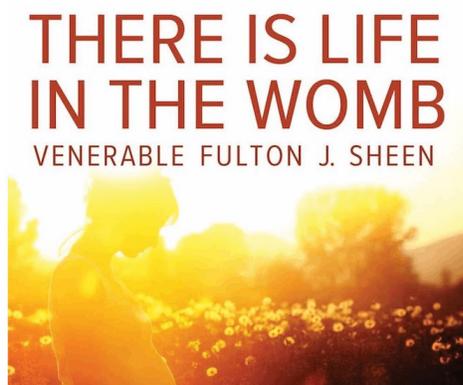


The month of May is dedicated to our mother, Mary. Spend time with her in prayer. <https://catholiccurrent.org/prayers/litany-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-mother-of-life/>

FORMED - What to Watch This Week: *There Is Life In The Womb* by Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Link to Video: <https://watch.formed.org/there-is-life-in-the-womb-by-archbishop-fulton-sheen>

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was one of the best-loved and most influential preachers of the 20th century and the author of over 90 books. He reached nearly 30 million people through his weekly program, Life is Worth Living, and his cause for canonization was officially opened in 2002. He explains the Church's teaching on life from a philosophical and historical perspective.



Parish Grief Ministry

As the COVID-19 restrictions continue and we cannot meet as a group as usual, we want to reassure you that you are still in our hearts and prayers. We are also well aware that some parishioners have now suffered new losses. Remember, the Grief Ministry is here for you. If you need or desire support around your grief/grieving, please feel free to reach out to one of us - we are available to support you via telephone, email, or text:

Bill (510) 846-3882 (Cell/text), email: billkueppers@gmail.com;

Suzanne (219) 879-4819 (Cell/text), mail: suzanne@morris.guide;

Pamela (209) 814-2586 (Cell/text), email: pamelaprime1@gmail.com.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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** on ZOOM. Click <https://sjbalameda.org/rcia> to join.

Eucharistic Adoration
Friday, May 7, Basilica

Need some peace and quiet time? We invite you to spend some time in prayers and contemplation with our Lord at the Eucharistic Adoration this Friday. Communal Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayers at 6 pm. All are welcome!



Community Prayers

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 1

11:00am †Felipa Reyes
5:00pm Vigil 1)†Paul Joseph Tan
2)†Mary Bergman

Sunday, May 2

9:30 am People Of The Parish - Living & Deceased
12:00 pm & Sherley & Patrick Thong
Live-stream Thanksgiving

Monday, May 3

11:00am 1)†Brigitte Plant
2)Miriam Aquino - Birthday

Tuesday, May 4

11:00 am †Cresenciana Sarmiento

Wednesday, May 5

11:00 am †Sally Gallagher
Sherley Lim - Birthday

Thursday, May 6

11:0 am †Gerald Jalleh

Friday, May 7

11:00 am Michael Ye

Saturday, May 8

11:00 am Hermie Camerino - Birthday
5:00 pm Vigil 1) Anna Rossi - Healing
2) For All Mothers

Sunday, May 9

MOTHER'S DAY
9:30 am & 12 noon Mass
For All Mothers

Please Pray For The Sick & The Suffering In Our Community

Sandy Anderson, Ronald M
Bautista, Romelita Baustita, Lhiza
Brown, Jazlynn & Nia Cain, Mary
Cronin, Greg Falkner, Amelia
Miguel, Nory A. Reyes, Reena
Salud & Ramon N. Tirona



*The List is refreshed monthly.
If you like a name added to the
Sick List, please email: secretary@sjbalameda.org
or call (510) 995 9420.*

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp for
week May 1st & 2nd is sponsored for
the deceased members of the
Lim & Thong Families

Weekly Altar Flowers And / Or Sanctuary Lamp Sponsor

Remember a loved one by sponsoring the weekly
Altar Flowers, or one candle for the weekly
Sanctuary Lamp. Request is open for the month of
May. Your intention will be printed in the weekly E-
bulletin. Donations for Altar Flowers, \$75 and
Sanctuary Lamp, \$20.

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

To request for a Mass Intention, email
secretary@sjbalameda.org, or call 510 995 9420.
There is no guarantee of availability of Mass for a
requested date. We will confirm request by email.
The suggested donation is \$10.
**(Note: Mass Intention Request for the month of
May and June is closed as dates are filled.)**

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Monday: Ss. Philip and James
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Friday: First Friday

Important Information

Mass Times

Daily In-person Mass

11 am, Basilica

Monday - Saturday

Livestreaming available on our Facebook Page:

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

Reminder:

Catholics in the Diocese of Oakland are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice. Those who are unable to attend Mass in person are encouraged to participate via livestream.

Drive-through or walk through Communion on Sundays

Starts 1.30 pm and ends 2 pm, weather permitting. For updates visit Parish's

Website: sjbalameda.org

Sunday In-person Mass:

5:00 pm Saturday Vigil - Basilica

9:30 am - Quad

12 pm - Basilica (Live-streaming available on Basilica's YouTube Channel)

Reservation is required to attend the in-person Mass. Please click on the following link to reserve a ticket: <https://sjbalameda.org/sunday-mass-schedule>

Reservations open on Monday afternoons and close at 2 pm on Fridays, or when capacity is filled. (Please note reservation is on **Eventbrite** and not longer on FaithDirect)

For livestreaming YouTube link and

Worship Aid: <https://sjbalameda.org/sunday-mass-schedule>



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:30pm

Reconciliation will held in the Basilica, not in the confessional.

Basilica Open for Private Prayer

- Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm
- Sunday: 9am - 11 am; 1pm-5pm

Please continue to practice the recommended hygiene and social distancing. We ask you to refrain from gathering in groups, and to avoid touching surfaces and to wash hands as often as possible.

Note: Bathrooms are closed during the weekdays.

General Information

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5:00pm

Note: The Parish Office remains CLOSED during Shelter in place but we continue to serve you remotely. If you need to contact members of the Parish Staff, please communicate with us via EMAIL or phone.

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: fmario@sibalameda.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@sibalameda.org
- For adults or children over age 6 please contact Anne Marie, 510-995-9409, or email: afourre@sibalameda.org

Clergy:

Rev. Mario Rizzo - Parochial Administrator
(510) 995-9421 / fmario@sibalameda.org

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

Parish Staff:

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

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

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

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

Michael Chinnvaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
510-522-0181 / mchinnvaso@sibalameda.org

Community Staff:

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

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

Parish Ministries During Shelter In Place

Most events or gatherings are canceled during SIP, although some are continuing through video conference or other means. For information on how to connect, contact:

- Bible Study: ebmcgaffey@gmail.com
- Grief Ministry: billkueppers@gmail.com
- RCIA Inquiry: afourre@sibalameda.org
- St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471
- Shelter-in-place ministry: sjbasilica.outreach@gmail.com
- Special Needs Inclusion Ministry: drmaponce@yahoo.com
- Pastoral Care Ministry: sunil@sibalameda.org
- Young Adults Ministry: AlamedaYAG@gmail.com

St. Joseph Online Ongoing Programs

If you're new to the parish, you might like to know that many programs are continuing online during this time.

Children's Liturgy of the Word helps youngsters connect with the day's gospel every Sunday at 10 am, RCIA Inquiry for adults thinking about becoming Catholic meets at 7:30 pm Wednesdays, and the Scripture Reflection Group offers a chance to reflect together on the upcoming Sunday's readings at 7 pm on Thursdays. The Young Adults Group offers opportunities for those in their 20's and 30's to gather virtually twice a month. Visit our website at www.sibalameda.org for details on any of these, and more.