

“YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD, YOUR GOD, TO THE TEST.”

LUKE 4:12

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 6, 2022

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Office Hours:

9:00 - 4:00 pm for in-person visits (closed for lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm)

Mass Schedule:

Weekdays: 8:30 am
Saturday: 8:30 am &
5:00 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am,
12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Sacrament Of Reconciliation:

Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:30 am
& 3:30 - 4:30 pm,
or by appointment



ST. JOSEPH BASILICA

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Alameda, CA 94501

email:

parish@sibalameda.org

Phone:

510 522 0181

Website: sibalameda.org

Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
sibalameda/](https://www.facebook.com/sibalameda/)

Clergy & Parish Staff Contacts

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frmario@sibalameda.org

Rev. Sunil Orathel - Priest In Residence,
510.301-5975 /
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Sherley Lim – Parish Secretary,
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David Howitt - Music Director,
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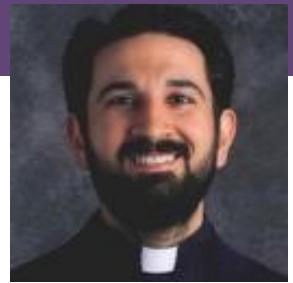
Michael Chinnavaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator,
510.522.0181 /
mchinnavaso@sibalameda.org

OUR MISSION: TO LIVE AS JESUS TEACHES

Clergy Corner

Dear St. Joseph Family,

The last couple of weeks I have forgotten to write a bulletin article. The articles are due Wednesday morning, and the days have been moving so quickly I have just lost track of time. The week of Valentine's Day was especially difficult for me. As you may be aware (since I announced her name at several Masses), a member of our parish passed away that week. Her name is Molly. She was 23 years old. Molly and her fiancé Drew had joined our parish about a year ago and attended the 9:30 am Mass. I was close to them especially because they were beginning marriage preparation. I was very excited to start this with them, as they were going to be the first couple to kick off the new program I had written about, Witness to Love. During that week, I visited Molly in the ICU at Washington Hospital in Fremont and prayed with her and Drew's family. It was an exhausting week for them, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I want to thank you for your prayers. One of the mysteries of this tragic event is that Molly's mother was getting word that people from all around the world were praying for her recovery. Sometimes life throws us for a loop. The events that confront us can sometimes be absurd and make no sense. But for those with faith, we know that even the worst tragedies can lead to something good. Molly was an organ donor. We were told that by her death, she will save six people.



During that week, I spoke with my sister about the events that were transpiring. She has an extensive background in ministering to grieving people, having worked many years at Children's Hospital Seattle as a social worker, and now as an advisor at a life-span navigation firm, helping families to gracefully navigate life's most challenging circumstances. In our talks, we reflected on suffering, its meaning, and even its value - yes, value. In moments like these, as we are confronted by our smallness and fragility, we are reminded of our need for God and our need for one another. It is in those moments that suffering points us to what is of value, the truth that even if we have to walk through crises, we are never abandoned or forgotten by God; He walks with us every step of the way. My sister opined, "I don't know how secular people deal with grief."

In the midst of life's struggles, as they are happening, it can be so difficult to see God present. There were times that week when my prayers felt futile, but being with that family, praying with them, praying over Molly, sharing stories about her, it became clear that our prayers were being heard. I will hold that week close to my heart for the rest of my life. I shared with some of you that I felt like I learned more about being a priest in that week with that family than I did in seven years at the seminary. Thank you again for walking through it with us.

I share this story with you as we begin Lent because Lent can serve to remind us of similar truths. During Lent, we voluntarily practice mortifications (from the root word mort meaning death). We enter into the desert with Jesus with increased fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We willingly choose to let go of life's comforts as a way of reorienting ourselves to what is of value, friendship with God, and the life of faith, hope, and love. Don't be afraid of the desert in your life. Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable in your fragility, or to sit with your own struggles, and those of others. It is there that you will find God, and in doing so, find yourself.

With much love,
Fr. Mario

Upcoming Events

Announcement

Memorial Mass: Joann Miller
Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am

Synod 2021-2023

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." For more information, resources, training and/or listening sessions, go to <https://oakdiocese.org/synod>



San Damiano Event: 2022 Spring Working Retreat March 13, 2022 - March 17, 2022

Working retreats have become a San Damiano tradition. In exchange for your morning and afternoon labor, we treat you to free meals and lodging. We also provide spiritual sustenance. Each day includes a morning prayer/reflection session, mass prior to dinner, and an evening prayer/reflection session. Projects are to be determined, but usually involve gardening and building maintenance.

Register here: https://sandamiano.org/events/working_retreat_spring2022/

**Pray for peace.
Walk for peace.
Join a Ceasefire Walk.**

Ceasefire Walks: Actively preventing homicides and gun violence through Ceasefire, a partnership with the City of Oakland and community partners that includes weekly night-time walks and call-ins.



About Ceasefire Walks: These events begin with an Ecumenical Prayer Service, followed by the peace walk. During the peace walk, participants hold signs and encourage the community to become more aware of this call for peace. The event concludes with a reflection among all participants.

Upcoming Community Friday night Walks, 6 - 7:30 pm: March 18. Location St. Benedict Church, Oakland.

For more information: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/events/ceasefire-walk-oakland-5>

Feast of St. Joseph March 19

To commemorate the Feast of St. Joseph, the Parish will have a Novena to our patron Saint, after the daily morning Mass, **starting March 10 through 18.**

(Note: On Sunday, March 13, the Novena prayer will be recited after all Masses)

The Bishop's 2022 Ministries Appeal: St. Joseph Basilica's Goal: **\$51,000**

This year's theme, "feed my lambs, feed my sheep" was chosen by Bishop Barber. He shared the following:

"With the launch of the Bishop's Ministries Appeal (February 26 , 2022 - February 27 2023) , the people of the Diocese of Oakland are being asked to participate in the day-to-day work of meeting the needs of the faithful. This emphasizes the ministries that go out into the parishes – faith formation and evangelization, CYO sports, formation of priests to serve those parishioners, care of the retired priests, and meeting the unexpected needs of schools and parishes."

"Feed my lambs, feed my sheep" refers primarily to Holy Communion," Bishop Michael C. Barber said. But it also extends to the ministries of instruction, catechism, schools, and charities; feeding people with the word of God, feeding people with the truth of the Catholic faith, feeding people with pastoral care," he said.

For more information or how to support the appeal, visit website: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal>

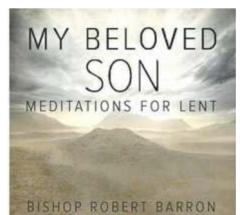


"Feed my lambs,
feed my sheep"
2022 BISHOP'S
MINISTRIES
APPEAL

FORMED Pick of the week:

My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent by Bishop Robert Barron (56 minutes)

Bishop Robert Barron offers five sermons on the spiritual discipline we must cultivate in the Lenten season, a discipline centered on Christ. These meditations cover topics such as finding our identity in God, prayer as the key to mission, our thirst for God, how to end our alienation from God, and how to embrace the way of happiness joyfully.



Video link: <https://watch.formed.org/videos/my-beloved-son-meditations-for-lent-by-bishop-robert-barron>

Parish Ministries

- All God's Children Prayer Group (*In-person: Mondays, 9-11:00 am, Parish Center*)
- Bible Study - Thursday Morning Scripture: ebmcgaffey@gmail.com (*Virtual*)
- Community Outreach Ministry: sjbasilica.outreach@gmail.com
- CRS Chapters - spippen@msjdominicans.org
- Grief Ministry: billkueppers@gmail.com
- Knights of Columbus: (*2nd Thursday, 7-8:30 pm, Parish Center*)
- Legion of Mary: terecitadeandentist@gmail.com (*4th Fridays, 7-8:30 pm, Parish Center*)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe: mlopezox@gmail.com (*1st Thursdays, 7-8 pm, Parish Center*)
- Pastoral Care Ministry: sunil@sjbalameda.org (*1st Saturdays, Parish Center*)
- Christian Initiation (for those interested in becoming Catholic): Contact Anne Marie: afourre@sjbalameda.org
- St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471
- St. Vincent de Paul Ministry: louisea.svdp@gmail.com (*4th Saturdays, 9-10:30 am, Parish Center*)
- Special Needs Inclusion Ministry: drmaponce@yahoo.com (*Virtual*)
- Taize: (*4th Fridays, 8-9 pm, Basilica. Note: November & December on 3rd Fridays*)
- Welcome The Stranger: amrossi1238@aol.com (*Virtual, 2nd Tuesdays. Contact Anna Rossi for details*)
- Young Adults Ministry: AlamedaYAG@gmail.com (*In-person & Virtual options, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 8-9pm, Parish Center*)



Faith Formation – Getting Ready for Sacraments

As Lent begins, our catechumens Liza Nguyen Heald and Lilyana Casanova enter the final stage of preparation for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This Sunday they celebrate the Rite of Sending to Election at the 9:30 Mass. They will write their names in the Book of the Elect and be sent with our prayers to the Rite of Election with Bishop Barber at the Cathedral next week.

Our teens in Youth Confirmation are also getting ready for special events. They will attend a Lenten Prayer Service with Adoration and Reconciliation this Friday, and those in their second year of preparation have an off-site retreat day next Sunday. Please keep all in your prayers.

A Lenten Journey— a story of hope



Life is a journey back to God. Occasionally we get lost along the way. Sometimes we run from activity to activity and forget about spending time with him. Sometimes we don't do the right thing and that hurts our relationship with him. But God always waits for us. During the 40 days of Lent, we're invited to slow down and focus on our journey and how we can follow Christ's will more faithfully. We do this through the three pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This Lent, we also invite you to visit CRS website to learn more of the Lenten journey to three countries: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/stories-of-hope/intro> (To support CRS, please pick up a Lenten Rice Bowls from the Basilica or Rectory porch)

SVdP 'Poor Boxes' in the Basilica are

back! For the last couple of months, the boxes for donations were being repaired after thieves had damaged them. Donations collected will benefit the poor in our Community. Thank you for your support! (*Boxes are located at all entrances to the Basilica*)

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS

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:

- 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

Christian Burial: Funerals and the Rite of Christian Burial are made in conjunction with the Mortuary of your choosing. Please contact the Mortuary first.

Note: For Funeral Mass scheduling, please contact the Parish Office 510.522.0181

Praying Together

Mass Intentions

8:30 am	Henriette & Linda Perry
5:00 pm	Marion Curtis - Birthday
7:30 am	Esteban & Felomina Lacuadra - Death Anniversary
9:30 am	1)†Wieslaw Mnich 2)†Jose Burgos
12:00 pm	†Angela Naclerio
7:00 pm	†People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
8:30am	Monday, March 7 The Residents of Bayview Nursing & Rehab Center
8:30 am	Tuesday, March 8 Belinda Rejano - Birthday
8:30 am	Wednesday, March 9 Thuy Nguyen - Birthday Thanksgiving
8:30 am	Thursday, March 10 1)†Rosita San Buenaventura - Death Anniversary 2)Mattan Nardo - Birthday thanksgiving
8:30 am	Friday, March 11 1)†Pedro Alcantara - Death Anniversary 2)Ngoc Tran - healing of health
8:30 am	Saturday, March 12 Chris Alegre - Birthday
5:00 pm	People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
7:30 am	Sunday, March 13 †Homer Dimaano
9:30 am	†Wieslaw Mnich
12:00 pm	1)†Felix L.Camerino
	2)†Patricia & Fortunato Zamora
7:00 pm	1)†Dorothy Gonzalez & Donna Turner



Praying for peace in Ukraine - even when it feels useless

(Excerpt from America - Jesuit Review)

By: [Ashley McKinless](#) | [Fr. James Martin, S.J.](#)

When the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine broke on Wednesday, I was scrolling through Twitter. What had been a mindless activity quickly became furious refreshing in a quest for more details and developments.

Interspersed among the news and commentary - videos of a CNN reporter changing into protective gear as explosions rocked Kyiv and partisans finding a usual target to blame for a conflict thousands of miles away - were prayers. (Read full article here: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/02/24/prayer-ukraine-242464>)

(CNS photo/Piroschka van de Wouw, Reuters)

Sanctuary Lamp Sponsor

The Sanctuary Lamp for week of March 5/6 is sponsored by anonymous for peace in Ukraine.

IN THE DESERT

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, and then the devil tested him. Moses and the Israelites had been in the desert for forty years before being led to the land of milk and honey. There were times when they called out to God, sure that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." We sometimes spend time in the desert as well. Not a literal desert most of the time, but a desert in which it seems difficult to perceive God's presence, times when we face difficulty and are tempted to leave God's ways behind. On this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus shows us what to do in these moments: stand firm and trust in God.

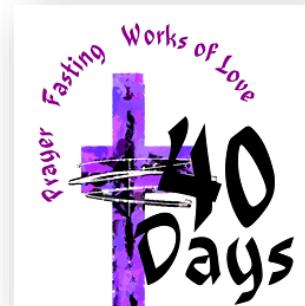
Reflection question: What Lenten observances do I intend to keep this year? Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Please Pray For The Sick & The Suffering In Our Community

Lady Tirona Bautista, Lhiza H. Brown, Jane Burgein, Ronald M Bautista, Romelita Bautista, Nia Loralei Cain, Mary Cronin, Jack & Bonnie Dailey, Rino Gacad, **Patrick Noel Kyne**, Richard Kelley, Amelia Miguel, **Jack Nelson**, Dalmacio Quinto, **Zachary Ramos**, Mary Rocca, Nory A. Reyes, Michael Ricica and Ramon N.Tirona.



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



Lenten Regulations

Lent is a time of prayer and penance. Our Church has a few ways of practicing these things during Lent:

Fasting

Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means consuming at most one full meal that day, while taking other smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

Abstinence from Meat

Catholics aged 14 up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday. This means refraining from eating meat products, although eggs, milk, and fish and shellfish are permitted.

Lenten Practices

All the faithful are encouraged to receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and poor, and to pray more fervently. All of these practices will help you have a more fruitful and holy Lent!

Some “Fun Facts” about Lent ... There is more to Lent than just giving up chocolate or coffee. Here are a few fun facts to help explain the season of Lent:

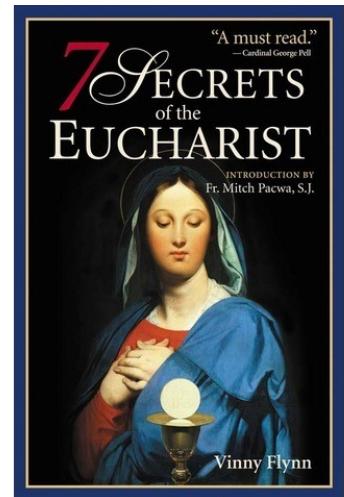
1. Lent is the 40 non-Sundays from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. The number 40 is significant: Jesus' 40 days in the desert, Noah's 40 days of floating; Moses' 40 years in the wilderness.
2. Violet is the liturgical color of Lent. This represents mourning for Jesus' death on the cross, and also honors His royalty.
3. The timing for the season of Lent is determined by the moon - since 325 AD, the date for Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. If you count backward 46 days (including Sundays), and you know when Ash Wednesday is!
4. For Catholics, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lent. Be intentional about daily prayer, practicing the self-discipline of fasting, and the charity of almsgiving of your time, talent and treasure this season.
5. We are blessed with this season to heal and train - *“the Church is not a museum for saints, it’s a hospital for sinners.”* Make use of opportunities available for reconciliation, healing, and the practice of taking our faith more seriously.

(Source: *SantaMariaChurch*)

Recommended Read: 7 Secrets of the Eucharist

An Excerpt from the book:

“The Eucharist is alive. If a stranger who knew nothing about the Eucharist were to watch the way we receive, would he know this? When you and I approach the Eucharist, does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the living person, Jesus Christ, true God, and true man? How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive! As I wait in line to receive you each day, am I thinking about how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with the graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way? Or am I distracted, busy with other thoughts, preoccupied with myself and my agendas for the day? How many times, Jesus, have I made you sad, mindlessly receiving you into my body, into my heart, with no love and no recognition of your love? How many times have I treated you as a dead object? The Host that we receive is not a thing! It’s not a wafer! It’s not bread! It’s a person – He’s alive!” (Source: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>)



The Breach In The Church

In the past two decades, more than 14 million Catholics have left the faith. In the face of these losses, Catholic men are called to put aside any hesitation to live a life of mission. We must enter into the breach.

Called to Conversion

Christ calls us to a life of continued formation so that, with grace, we can seriously engage the war for our souls. That's why the Knights have produced *Into the Breach*, a video series inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic exhortation of the same name.

Ready for Battle

Prepare yourself for the spiritual battle raging around you. To step into the breach requires every man to have faith and take action. The *Into the Breach* series challenges men to seek greatness and to be heroically virtuous, to have a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage.

Building a Brotherhood

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (*Proverbs 27:17*). Through shared experience and small group discussion, men build a brotherhood through *Into the Breach*, strengthening them in their mission as disciples.

INTO THE BREACH



You're Invited

Join us as we watch and discuss *Into the Breach*. Through small group discussions, we'll learn how to be stronger fathers, better husbands and men fit for the breach.

Location:

Elementary School's Learning Center

Date:

Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 & Apr 4, 11 and 18

Time:

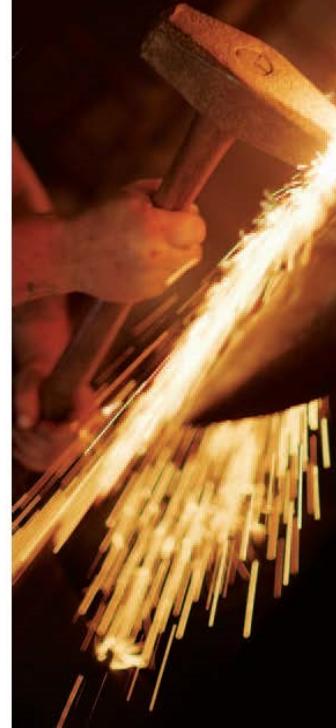
7:00 pm

Contact:

Fr. Mario, frmario@sjbalameda.org

"And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land."

Ezekiel 22:30



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for FREE
at
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