



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH
TUJUNGA
1920-2020

Family-Community-Church

January 29, 2023

Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School

A Catholic Tradition in the foothills of Los Angeles since 1920



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3, 12-13
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146
– Happy the poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor

Fr. Rolly Astudillo
☎818-352-3218 x 103
✉frrolly106@gmail.com

Deacons

Dn. Mar Enriquez
☎818-802-1639
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Dn. Ramon Villasenor

☎818-352-3218
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In Residence

Fr. Jiwan Kim
✉jiwankim@yahoo.com

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass
5:00 pm (English)

Sunday Mass

7:00 am (English)
8:30 am (Spanish)
10:30 am (English)
12:30 pm (English)

Daily Mass

Monday through Thursday
7:45 am
Friday: 8:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:30 am - 1:00 pm
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday

8:00 am - 12:00 pm
✉ollenriquezy@gmail.com
☎818-352-3218

Church Location

7315 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042

Office Location

7344 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042

OLL School Office Hours

✉officemanager@olltujunga.org
☎818-353-1106

Adoration and Benediction

First Fridays after 8:30 am Mass

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Rosary

After Daily Mass

Baptism and Marriages

Please call the Parish Office
☎818-352-3218

Today is the beginning of National Catholic Schools Week, stretching from January 29 to February 4 of this year. It is annually celebrated in the United States for us to reflect on the exceptional education that comes with the existence of Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and to the world.

We are familiar with the gospel passage of today: the Beatitudes. This Gospel passage on the Beatitudes is just fitting in our celebration of National Catholic Schools Week as Catholic Schools are agents of Catechism and Evangelization based on the Beatitudes especially in a society that is becoming more secularized. Jesus calls a person blessed based on attitudes or values of the Kingdom. Biblical scholars call it "The Sermon on the Mount" because it was delivered from a mountain top.

Why is it from a mountain? The significance should by now be clear: Moses in the Old Testament had gone up a mountain in order to receive the law of God for his people; Jesus is now the new Moses who is proclaiming his new law to the new people of God from a mountain.

The Beatitudes are living values that go back to ancient times. In the first reading, we hear of the prophet Zephaniah saying that God's punishment is near and there is only one possibility of salvation: seek the Lord with humility and justice. To Zephaniah, this is the meaning of conversion: to become like the humble, to become like the poor. To Zephaniah, the "poor" is one who has no security, and for this reason, puts his trust wholly in God and submits to His will.

In the second reading, Paul admonishes the Church in Corinth to set things right before the Lord who has given them life in Christ and that the problems of this community stems from each one vying to be above the others, each one wanting to dominate, to be great and, to be rich.

On the contrary, "Let him who would boast, boast in the Lord."

In a world laden with "get rich quick schemes" and "quick fixes", the Beatitudes literally disturb the core of every human being. The Beatitudes put our values to the test. People desire to be served by God and others than to serve them. To serve with love and humility is taboo for many people.

What we ordinarily understand as people who are blessed is opposed to God's standards of real blessedness. We may envy those who have power, wealth, prestige, and health; we pity those who are poor, suffering, mourning and persecuted.

The Beatitudes start with "How blest are the poor" followed with a long list of those who are blessed. Our Lord is not promoting a self-defeatist attitude to be poor, suffering, lonely and mourning. In fact, the Church cries with anguish at the dehumanizing effect of poverty and suffering.

There are people who may have plenty without being mindful that their possessions would be able to support their needs even for a hundred lifetimes. They still want more and think that they still do not have enough. There are also others who become poor as a matter of decision and choice for the Kingdom of God whether they have more than enough in life or not.

If going to heaven were a case of buying a plane ticket, every one of us would probably get one even if it would cost us a fortune. We know, however, that this is not the case.

In 1990, during the worldwide retreat of priests in Rome, Mother Teresa told them, "I have just been reelected as superior general of our congregation. I accept this position with deep humility. I am only 80 years old, and the term will last for six years. There is still much to be done."

Regardless of our age, when we think that there is still much to be done, we are still very young. We have only just begun. ❖



Cast into the Deep (January 29) Catholic Education: A Legacy Evelyn Cortes - OLL School Principal

I thought it would be fitting as we kickoff the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2023, that I share some historical context of our school and parish. The story of Our Lady of Lourdes goes back to the years following World War II when “the Foothills experienced a massive influx of new families desiring Catholic Education for their children who had to attend a parochial school in Glendale.” It was then that Fr. Dennis Falvey (Pastor from 1929 – 1949), in his years as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Tujunga, came up with a vision to prepare the parish community to chart a course for new generations to come through worship, education and organizations. In 1946, Father Falvey convened a committee to consider the possibility of establishing a school in Tujunga. William Chisholm was assigned the task of drawing up plans for an initial two-room school which was completed in 1949. He then invited the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to staff the new school. Our Lady of Lourdes School welcomed its first pupils on September 13, 1949.

Fr. Patrick Collins succeeded Father Falvey as pastor in 1949. He expanded the school in 1951 and again in 1959. Three of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Miss Bernice Fay taught two hundred twenty-five children in grades one through six. Sister Mary Carla taught first grade and Sister Mary Baptist taught second and third grades. The fourth-grade teacher was Miss Fay. Sister Mary Gilberta was in charge of the fifth and sixth grades. She was also the Principal. The playground was, for a time, provided by nature but later the rocky ground was leveled and topped with asphalt. In its second year of existence, the seventh grade was opened. Enrollment increased by one hundred and a new member was added to the faculty. Enrollment in the school increased by fifty in the third year and it continued to do so; eventually there were two classrooms for each grade. In 1960, eight more classrooms were added across the street to increase the number of classrooms to sixteen. In the years between 1971 and 1978, one classroom at each grade level was closed, thus returning the classroom count to eight rooms. In September of 1986, Our Lady of Lourdes opened its Kindergarten class. In 2011, the parish preschool, Our Lady of Lourdes Rose Cottage Preschool, opened. As we approach the 74th anniversary of the school and having just celebrated the centennial of our parish, I thought it was fitting to give those who may not know the history of Our Lady of Lourdes School a bit of historical context and some insight into our bright future.

At the beginning of this school year, I started my sixth year as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School, Tujunga. We are a dynamic, close-knit, Catholic school and parish community dedicated to having a close and personal relationship with God through acts of service, worship, and praise. We are committed to academic excellence and to fostering the best in each and every student. I would like to share with you some of the exciting developments at OLL School.

We have often heard our pastor, Fr. Rolly, say that “we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us”. Just like the founders of OLL School did many years ago, we are well on our way and are working diligently on the plans to re-open our preschool, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten into the new Our Lady of Lourdes Children’s Center. The need for a

quality, affordable, and Faith-filled early childhood education program housed on one campus is what Our Lady of Lourdes School can provide, giving priority to the safety of all our students, faculty and staff.

Our new preschool will focus on educating our youngest students ages three to four. Just as we inherited a legacy from those who came before us, we are now the bearers of what the present generation can benefit from and enjoy and what the future generations will inherit from us. But Our Lady of Lourdes School does not stand by itself. Our School is part of the parish. It is a parochial school. In order to continue to propel our school and parish forward for another hundred years, we need the support of our community.

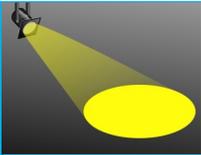
Here are some ways you can help. First, spread the word about Our Lady of Lourdes School to your family, friends, and neighbors. Tell them about all of the wonderful things that are happening at OLL School. For example, tell them about the makerspace plans and how the students will utilize these spaces to create and engineer. Tell them about the new Green space project that the school together with the PTO has fundraised and is working towards. But most importantly, tell them about the love, friendships, and support this community has to offer. Secondly, please support our school fundraisers. Coming up, we have our Lion Dash Run. Please support our event by making a one-time donation or by sponsoring a student per lap. Our Gala will be taking place in April, and we need attendees, sponsors, and donations. This is a fun event that helps to generate money for the school.

In May of this year, we will be hosting a golf tournament. Exciting and fun details to come in the near future, but in the meantime, dust off your golf clubs!

This year our annual Family Fun Days Carnival will be held in September. Please come and enjoy the rides, games, food, and music. Bring your friends and family and support our largest fundraiser. If you are a business owner you may want to consider sponsoring a booth or asking your employer for a donation to our carnival. Thirdly, we will be coming out with innovative ways to raise funds for the schools because we believe that poverty should not be a hindrance to Catholic Education.

“Charity begins at home” is another often used adage. If we want to see our school grow and thrive for another 74 years, we must invest in it. If we want to hand down the legacy of a Catholic Education, we must be willing to contribute to it. In the world we live in today, where violence, racism, and apathy seem to prevail, to be able to pass on our Faith to future generations, Catholic education is the most valuable investment we can ever make. ❖





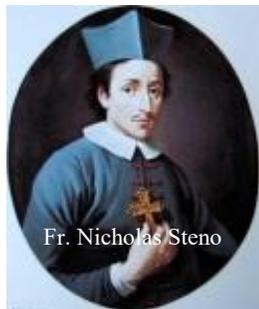
Civilization and Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Week

I was born in a culture where parents invest in the education of their children. Public Schools abound in the area but my parents looked at the mission school established by the Belgian Missionaries as the best place for their children to study. Academic excellence, quality education, class size, catechism and Catholic Tradition and its richness were important.

Fruits of Catholic Education were obvious. Graduates from Mission Schools topped College Entrance Examinations, Bar Exams for lawyers, Board Exams for teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Many came back to their local place as missionaries and witnesses to their faith: teaching in public schools and climbing the ladder of leadership, leading Pastoral Councils, church advocates for Justice and Peace and many more.

Since time immemorial, world civilization owes far more to the Catholic Church. Even modern civilization stands indebted to the Church for the university system, charitable work, international law, the sciences, and important legal principles. The Church, in fact, built modern civilization. What is striking though, is how in popular and modern culture, the substantial – and essential – Catholic contribution has gone relatively unnoticed.



Fr. Nicholas Steno

The point is that, in our present cultural milieu, it is easy to forget, or even, not to learn in the first place, how much our civilization owes to the Catholic Church. Certainly, most people recognize the influence of the Church in music, art and architecture. The Catholic contribution to science went well beyond ideas to accomplished practicing scientists, many of whom were priests. For example, Fr.

Nicholas Steno, a Lutheran convert who became a Catholic priest, is often identified as the Father of Geology; the first person to measure the rate of acceleration of a freely falling body was Fr. Giambattista Riccioli; and Fr. Roger Boscovich is often credited as the father of modern atomic theory. The Jesuits so dominated the study of earthquakes that seismology became known as “the Jesuit Science.” Even though some thirty-five craters on the moon are named for Jesuit scientists and mathematicians, Catholic Education’s contribution to astronomy are all but unknown to the average educated person. It seems that the Church’s role in the development of modern science remains one of the best-kept secrets of modern history.

In the area of books, Catholic monasteries were known for their vast libraries. From the early centuries of the Church, monasteries were the center of education. Thus, the word “clerical error” was coined after the clergy who lived in monasteries. We owe the great bulk of ancient literature that survives today to monastic libraries and scriptoria (rooms set aside for the copying of texts and manuscripts). When these works were not saved and transcribed by the monks,

their survival is due to the schools and libraries associated with the great medieval cathedrals.

In addition to their careful preservation of the works of the classical world, monks did another work of immeasurable importance as copyists: the preservation of the Bible. Without their devotion to this crucial task and the numerous copies they produced, the Bible would not have survived the many wars, especially the onslaught of the Barbarians in the middle ages. Modern civilization’s admiration for the written word and for the classics comes to us from the Catholic Church that preserved them through wars and invasions.



Manual labor, expressly called for in the Rule of St. Benedict, played a crucial role in the monastic life. Priests, brothers and nuns, who committed themselves as consecrated virgins to lives of prayer and sacrifice and looking after the poor and the sick, were attached to their monasteries and became centers of scholarly and cultural pursuits in what might be called the “practical arts”. Agriculture is a particularly significant example. Wherever they went and established a monastery, they converted the wilderness into a cultivated country, pursued the breeding of cattle, labored with their own hands, drained morasses and cleared away forests. Before long, they also managed to dike and drain the swamp and turn what was once a source of disease and filth into fertile agricultural land. They introduced crops, industries, or production methods with which the people had not been previously familiar. Because of them, for example, Germany was rendered a fruitful country.

In many areas, the Church made an indelible imprint on the very heart of Modern Civilization and was a profoundly significant force for the good of society. She has shaped the kind of earth we inhabit and the kind of people we are.

~ Fr. Rolly Astudillo

SAVE THE DATE

Bereavement Support Group

The OLL Bereavement ministry will begin a 6-session bereavement support group on April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, and 16, 2023



Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 11, 2023
9:00 am to 12:30 pm
OLL Church

Details to follow

Parish News

Schedule of Masses and Reconciliation

Confessions

Saturday at 3:45 - 4:45 pm (music room - entry by baptismal font)

Sunday Masses (all Masses are indoors)

Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Sunday at 7:00 am, 8:30 am (Spanish), 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Live Stream: Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 8:30 am (Sp)

The Link to the live streamed Masses is:

<https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/>

Daily Masses

Monday - Thursday at 7:45 am; Friday at 8:30 am

Wearing a face mask in Church is not required. It is a matter of individual preference.*
Let's respect each other's preference.

*LA County Public Health

EDGE COMES TO OLL

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program for grades 6th-8th. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find a solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way.



Classes will be held every 2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00PM-8:00PM

The next class is on Monday, February 13th,

Semester is from Jan. 23rd-Jun. 5th

Fee: \$30 (covers supplies, materials, and snacks)

For More Info Call (818) 606-5165 or email lourdesconfirms@gmail.com



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Celebrate Catholic Schools during the week of January 29th – February 3rd, Now, entering its 49th Anniversary (started in 1974 by the National Catholic Educational Association). There are activities planned for each day of the week for teachers, students and families to instill the importance of Catholic education amidst a secular culture in a digital age, including School Mass with the Parish and an Open House for OLL School on Feb 2nd to showcase what OLL School is all about.



RE CONGRESS COMING SOON

RE Congress is a dynamic gathering of the global church, welcoming all to meet Jesus through Connection, Learning and Worship. Expert speakers in the field of catechesis and evangelization are offering dozens of workshops in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This year, the RE Congress will be held on Feb 23 - 26 in person at the Anaheim Convention Center. As in the past, there will be workshops, exhibits, concerts, liturgies, Sacred Space, Keynote Addresses, and a Youth Day on Feb 23.

To register go to the RE Congress website at <https://recongress.org/register>. See the flyer on p. 10 of eBulletin

In the News:

Thank You for your generosity



Tamale Sale

The RICA Team is grateful for your support of our Tamale Sale. The tamales sold out after the 8:30 mass, with only the preorders left to be picked up the rest of the morning.

Thank you for your generosity.

Baby Shower

The Catholic Daughters would like to thank all of you parishioners of OLL from the bottom of our hearts for your wonderful response to our Baby Shower last Weekend. The Pregnancy Counseling Center was thrilled to receive all the beautiful baby clothes, useful baby equipment, diapers and very generous monetary donations.



Thank you all so much!!



The Eucharistic Congress for the San Fernando Pastoral Region will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 9am - 1pm at Our Lady of Grace in Encino. It will include Music, Prayer Reflection, and Mass. Admission is free. Please reserve your seats early. This event is part of the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Revival. Please see the Flyer on p. 9 for details and registration information.

Centennial Commemorative Book

If you missed the Centennial Book Distribution on the Hospitality Patio, you may pick up your book from the Parish Office. Please be sure to sign the copy that will be included in the Time Capsule. And, if you did not take your portrait with Lifetouch Photography or you did not pre-order the book, there is a limited number available for sale for \$45.



Blood Drive: In partnership with American Red Cross, the OLL Health Ministry will sponsor a Blood Drive on Sunday, **February 5th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm** in the auditorium.

DONATE BLOOD NOW AND SAVE LIVES.

Please register online at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> or call 1-800 RED CROSS. Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrating our Saint for the Week

February 3: St. Blaise, Bishop, Martyr: St. Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, who suffered martyrdom about AD 316. Not much is known about St. Blaise and much that has been written are legends and traditions compiled some 200 years after his death ("Acts of St. Blaise") that has come to be widely regarded as true. It is said that he was born into a noble family and that he was a physician before he became a bishop. In AD 316, although religious tolerance had been established for 3 years, Emperor Licinius, co-ruler with Emperor Constantine I, ordered the arrest of St. Blaise who would not renounce his Christian faith. Even as he walked on the way to jail, people came to him to be healed. Legend has it that a boy who had a fishbone stuck in his throat was sent by his mother to St. Blaise. St. Blaise healed him, as he did others of various ailments. For this reason, St. Blaise is known as the patron saint of diseases of the throat and other illnesses, among other things. On his feast day it customary for the priest to bless the throats at the Mass using 2 candles, with this prayer:

"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." ~ Blessing of throats

Papal Prayer Intention for :

January: For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

February: For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



Help keep the children and young people in your parish safe



It is important to understand how we, as Catholic adults, can make a difference in protecting the lives of our children and young people. Every adult, whether they are parents or not, can contribute to the safety of the children in our communities in a variety of ways. Be a trusted adult in the lives of the children and young people around you, so that they can turn to you when they need help. Stay up-to-date on the Church's policies and procedures regarding child safety and speak up if you see something that falls outside of them. Caring adults who are invested in the safety of our most vulnerable Church members can and are protecting children every day. For more information see The Archdiocese of Los Angeles Administrative Handbook Chapter 9: Safe Environment: <https://handbook.la-archdiocese.org/chapter-9>.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is committed to ensuring that parishes, schools and ministries are safe places for everyone in our community. For more information about support for victim-survivors and abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, visit: lacatholics.org/protect.

**Mass Intentions
January 28 to February 3 , 2023**



Saturday January 28 5:00 PM

Tito Suarez †--*20th Death Anniversary*
Moises Bueta †
Evelyn Nolasco Sisante †
Emil Saul †--*40th Day*
Diana Suarez—*Thanksgiving*
Mary Joan Centina-- *Thanksgiving*

Sunday January 29 7:00 AM

Bienvenido Venus †
Ronald L. Dizon †

8:30 AM

Elvira Palomino †--*Birthday Remembrance*

10:30 AM

Father & Brother Yanwang †
Steven Harris †

12:30 PM

Bernadette Leyva—*Healing*

Monday January 30 7:45 AM

Manuel Alejo †
Angela Picar †
Frank David Carmona †

Wednesday February 1 7:45 AM

Ricardo Cruz Sr. †
Cecilia De Los Reyes—*Birthday Blessing*

Thursday February 2 7:45 AM

Eloisa De Guzman—*Birthday Blessing*

Friday February 3 8:30 AM

Thomas Ford †
Alice Velasquez-Yazon—*Birthday Blessing*

**Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."**

Mt 5:12

Readings for January 30 to February 5, 2023

1/30	Heb 11:32-40 / Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 / Mk 5:1-20
1/31	Heb 12:1-4 / Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 / Mk 5:21-43
2/ 1	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 / Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a / Mk 6:1-6
2/ 2	Mal 3:1-4 / Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 / Heb 2:14-18 / Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
2/ 3	Heb 13:1-8 / Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc / Mk 6:14-29
2/ 4	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 / Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 / Mk 6:30-34
2/ 5	Is 58:7-10 / Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Mt 5:13-16

From scripture to life...

How closely do you live the Beatitudes?

en Nuestra Parroquia

Calendario de misas y reconciliación

Confesiones: Sabado a las 3:45—4:45 pm (sala de música. entrar por el área del coro)

Misa dominicales:

Sabado a las 5:00 pm

Domingo a las 7:00 am, 8:30 am (Español), 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Misas transmitidas en vivo: a las 5:00 pm; 8:30 am (Español)
<https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/>

Misas diarias

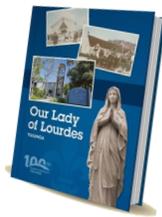
de lunes a Jueves a las 7:45 am; Viernes a las 8:30 am

No es obligatorio usar mascarilla en la Iglesia. Es una cuestión de preferencia individual.*
 Respetemos la preferencia de cada uno.

*LA County Public Health

Libro Conmemorativo del Centenario

Si se perdió la Distribución de Libros del Centenario en el Patio de la Hospitalidad el fin de semana pasado (3 y 4 de diciembre), puede recoger su libro en la Oficina Parroquial. Asegúrese de firmar la copia que se incluirá en la Time Capsule.



Ayude a mantener seguros a los niños y jóvenes de su parroquia



Es importante comprender cómo nosotros, como adultos católicos, podemos marcar la diferencia en la protección de las vidas de nuestros niños y jóvenes. Todos los adultos, sean padres de familia o no, pueden contribuir de diversas maneras a la seguridad de los niños en nuestras comunidades. Trate de ser un adulto de confianza en la vida de los niños y jóvenes que le rodean, para que puedan acudir a usted cuando necesiten ayuda. Manténgase actualizado sobre las políticas y los procedimientos de la Iglesia con respecto a la seguridad de los niños y repórtelo si ve algo contra la seguridad de ellos. Los adultos cuidadosos que invierten en la seguridad de nuestros miembros más vulnerables de la Iglesia pueden y están protegiendo a los niños todos los días. Para obtener más información, consulte el Capítulo 9 del Manual Administrativo de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles "Ambiente seguro", en <https://handbook.la-archdiocese.org/chapter-9>.

La Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles se compromete a garantizar que las parroquias, las escuelas y los ministerios sean lugares seguros para todos en nuestra comunidad. Para obtener más información sobre el apoyo a las víctimas-sobrevivientes y los esfuerzos de protección y prevención del abuso de la Arquidiócesis, visite lacatholics.org/protect.

"Alégrense y salten de contento, porque su premio será grande en los cielos".

Mt 5,12

Fiesta de bebé



Las Hijas Católicas quisieran agradecer a todos ustedes, feligreses de OLL, de todo corazón por su maravillosa respuesta a nuestro Baby Shower el fin de semana pasado. El

Centro de Consejería para el Embarazo se entusiasmó al recibir toda la hermosa ropa para bebés, equipo útil para bebés, pañales y donaciones monetarias muy generosas.

¡¡Muchas gracias a todos!!

Venta de tamales

El Equipo RICA agradece su apoyo a nuestra Venta de Tamales. Los tamales se agotaron después de la misa de las 8:30, y solo quedaron los pedidos anticipados para recoger el resto de la mañana. Gracias por tu generosidad.

Semana Nacional de las Escuelas Católicas

Celebre las escuelas católicas durante la semana del 29 de enero al 3 de febrero. Hay actividades planificadas para cada día de la semana para maestros, estudiantes y familias para inculcar la importancia de la educación católica, incluida la misa escolar con la parroquia y una jornada de puertas abiertas para la escuela OLL el 2 de febrero para mostrar de qué se trata la Escuela OLL.



RE CONGRESO PRÓXIMAMENTE

RE Congress es una reunión dinámica de la iglesia mundial, que invita a todos a conocer a Jesús a través de la conexión, el aprendizaje y la adoración. Oradores expertos en el campo de la catequesis y la evangelización ofrecen decenas de talleres en inglés, español y vietnamita.

Este año, el Congreso RE se llevará a cabo del 23 al 26 de febrero en persona en el Centro de Convenciones de Anaheim. Como en el pasado, habrá talleres, exhibiciones, conciertos, liturgias, Espacio Sagrado, Discursos Principales y un Día de la Juventud el 23 de febrero. Para registrarse, visite el sitio web del Congreso RE en <https://recongress.org/register>.

Intención de oración papal para:

Enero: Para educadores

Oramos para que los educadores sean testigos creíbles, enseñando la fraternidad en lugar de la competencia y ayudando sobre todo a los más jóvenes y vulnerables.



Febrero: Para Parroquias

Oramos para que las parroquias, poniendo la comunión en el centro, se conviertan cada vez más en comunidades de fe, fraternidad y acogida hacia los más necesitados.

De las escrituras a la vida ...

¿Qué tan cerca vives las Bienaventuranzas?

IV Domingo Del Tiempo Ordinario**Primera Lectura: Sofonías 2, 3; 3, 12-13****Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 145***– Dichosos los pobres en el espíritu, porque de ellos es el Reino de los Cielos.***Segunda Lectura: 1 Corintios 1, 26-31****Evangelio: San Mateo 5, 1-12**

Hoy es el comienzo de la Semana Nacional de las Escuelas Católicas, que se extiende del 29 de enero al 4 de febrero de este año. Se celebra anualmente en los Estados Unidos para que reflexionemos sobre la educación excepcional que proviene de las Escuelas Católicas que existen. La Semana de las Escuelas Católicas es una celebración nacional de la educación católica y una oportunidad para reconocer la importancia, el valor y las contribuciones de la educación católica a la Iglesia y al mundo.

Estamos familiarizados con el pasaje evangélico de hoy: las Bienaventuranzas. Este pasaje del Evangelio sobre las Bienaventuranzas encaja perfectamente en nuestra celebración de la Semana Nacional de las Escuelas Católicas, ya que las Escuelas Católicas son agentes del Catecismo y la Evangelización basados en las Bienaventuranzas, especialmente en una sociedad que se está volviendo más secularizada. Jesús llama bienaventurada a una persona en base a actitudes o valores del Reino. Los eruditos bíblicos lo llaman "El Sermón de la Montaña" porque fue pronunciado desde la cima de una montaña.



¿Por qué es de una montaña? El significado ya debería estar claro: Moisés en el Antiguo Testamento había subido a una montaña para recibir la ley de Dios para su pueblo; Jesús es ahora el nuevo Moisés que está proclamando su nueva ley al nuevo pueblo de Dios desde una montaña.

Las Bienaventuranzas son valores vivos que se remontan a la antigüedad. En la primera lectura, escuchamos al profeta Sofonías decir que el castigo de Dios está cerca y solo hay una posibilidad de salvación: buscar al Señor con humildad y justicia. Para Sofonías, este es el significado de la conversión: ser como los humildes, ser como los pobres. Para Sofonías, el "pobre" es aquel que no tiene seguridad, y por eso pone toda su confianza en Dios y se somete a su voluntad.

En la segunda lectura, Pablo exhorta a la Iglesia de Corinto a arreglar las cosas ante el Señor que les ha dado la vida en Cristo y que los problemas de esta comunidad provienen de que cada uno lucha por estar por encima de los demás, cada uno quiere dominar, ser grande y, ser rico. Por el contrario, "El que se gloría, que se gloríe en el Señor".

En un mundo cargado de "esquemas rápidos para hacerse rico" y "soluciones rápidas", las Bienaventuranzas literalmente perturban el núcleo de cada ser humano. Las Bienaventuranzas ponen a prueba nuestros valores. Las personas desean que Dios y los demás les sirvan, ellos no quieren servirle a nadie. Servir con amor y humildad es tabú para muchas personas.

Lo que normalmente entendemos como personas bendecidas se opone a los estándares de Dios de verdadera bendición. Podemos envidiar a los que tienen poder, riqueza, prestigio y salud; sentimos lástima por los pobres, los que sufren, los que lloran y los perseguidos.

Las Bienaventuranzas comienzan con "Dichosos los pobres", seguido de una larga lista de los que son bendecidos. Nuestro Señor no está promoviendo una actitud autodestructiva de ser pobre, sufriente, solitario y de duelo. De hecho, la Iglesia llora de angustia ante el efecto deshumanizador de la pobreza y el sufrimiento.

Hay personas que pueden tener mucho sin darse cuenta de que sus posesiones podrían satisfacer sus necesidades incluso durante cien vidas. Todavía quieren más y piensan que todavía no tienen suficiente. También hay otros que se deciden dejar sus bienes y eligen el Reino de Dios, aunque tengan lo suficiente en la vida o no.

Si ir al cielo fuera un caso de comprar un boleto de avión, cada uno de nosotros probablemente obtendría uno incluso si nos costara una fortuna. Sabemos, sin embargo, que este no es el caso.

En 1990, durante el retiro mundial de sacerdotes en Roma, la Madre Teresa les dijo: "Acabo de ser reelegida como superiora general de nuestra congregación. Acepto esta posición con profunda humildad. Solo tengo 80 años y el mandato durará seis años. Todavía hay mucho por hacer."

Independientemente de nuestra edad, cuando pensamos que aún queda mucho por hacer, aún somos muy jóvenes. Sólo acabamos de empezar. ❖

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