ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SEP 14, 2025 | THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS





Rev. Msgr. Paul Dotson, Pastor
Rev. Charles Balamaze, Associate Pastor | Rev. Msgr. Peter O'Reilly, In Residence
Deacon Don Burt | Deacon Jim Egnatuk | Deacon Dale Sheckler

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM (Sunday Liturgy) Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 5:00 PM

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Saturday 8:10 AM Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL

 Sunday
 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

 Monday & Friday
 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

 Saturday
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

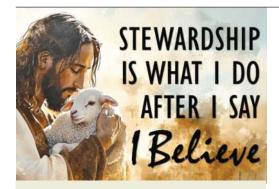
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Pastoral Center	310-540-0329
Office for Worship	310-316-0090
Office of Religious Education	310-316-4460
O.C.I.A. for Adults	310-316-0961
St. Lawrence Martyr School	310-316-3049
Youth Ministry/Confirmation	310-540-0329 x251
Funerals	310-540-0329 x274
St. Lawrence Martyr Gift Shop	310-540-0329 x249

To become a member of our community of faith, please stop by or call the Pastoral Center at 310-540-0329 or register online: https://www.stlm.org/im-new



GIVING TO ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR IS EASY WITH ELEXIO

Forgot your envelope? Are you visiting us today and want to make a ONE TIME GIFT? Want to give to a special collection? Follow these easy and secure steps to Text-to-Give:

- Text GIVE to 424-414-STLM.
- Follow the text instructions to complete your donation.
- Save the number as a contact in your phone to make future giving faster and easier.

You may also give by scanning this QR Code with the camera app on your cellphone or visit STLM.ORG/GIVING



We thank you for your generosity and support of our St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Community.

PASTORAL CENTER HOURS

SEPTEMBER 14 - SEPTEMBER 22

Sun	9/14	08:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mon	9/15	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Tue	9/16	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Wed	9/17	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Thu	9/18	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Fri	9/19	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Sat	9/20	Closed
Sun	9/21	08:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mon	9/22	08:30 am - 12:30 pm

01:30 pm - 04:00 pm

PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY

Dear God, Expand my heart in new ways today, to understand the love You have for me, to take that love deeply into myself, and to act from that love. Amen. ©LPI

Faith Formation Registration Open

Registration for Children's Faith Formation, Bridge, and Confirmation are now open. Use the QR Code to learn more about each program or to register.



Adult Confirmation sessions are underway

If you missed the first one, don't worry—it's not too late to join us this year. This is a beautiful opportunity to strengthen your faith and complete your initiation into the Church. We meet at 7:00 pm in the Chapel on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our next session is on October 9. It's not too late—register today!



Friday Night Movie: Cabrini

Friday, September 19, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall

Join us for a cozy movie night featuring Cabrini, the inspiring story of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and her incredible mission of faith, courage, and service. Enjoy popcorn during the film, then stay for a thoughtful discussion led by Fr. Charles. Come for the movie, stay for the conversation, and be inspired by the life of this remarkable saint!

CFM Kick Off - Eyes on the Endzone

Sunday, September 21, 4:00-7:00 pm | Parish Hall | 310-621-1850

Would you like to meet families of all ages; grow closer as a couple and family; show your children the joy of helping others; talk about life and laugh with other parents; become more a part of the St. Lawrence community? Then you belong in the Christian Family Movement (CFM) family of families! All families are welcome to join - newly married, couples/single parents with children of any age, and empty nesters with their wealth of experience. Small groups are forming now! Join us for our Kickoff Event this Sunday afternoon to learn more about the SLM Christian Family Movement.





COLLECTION THIS WEEK

The Black and Indian Mission, founded by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground. **BlackAndIndianMission.org**

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for all those suffering illness and in need of healing and comfort.

Jo Margolf Dorian Campbell John Cardinali

Grace Catena Laetitia Edge Parsa Jahromi

Laura Martz Hillary Torres Tamara Fick
Virginia Rose Eduardo Cervantes Cathy Doyle
Rogelio Vázquez Chris Wolf James Duffy
Rafael Ramirez Dan Olsen Monica Rangel-Santos

Ginger Barclay Riley White Diane Cole

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

May all the souls of the recently departed, through the mercy of Christ, rest in peace.

Miles Wedemeyer Richard Krai Lucas Smith Rene Viado Danny Comparato Joan Murphy

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." (Numbers 21:7)

Psalm: Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Psalm 78)

Second Reading: He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philemon 2:8)

Gospel: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Numbers 21:4b-9, Philemon 2:6-11, John 3:13-17 Monday: 1 Timothy 2:1-8, John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12, Luke 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13



THE BIBLE: UNPACKING THE WORD

O.C.I.A. in Pastoral Center Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm ALL ARE WELCOME!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

7:00 am | Alvaro & Gisela Fernandez †

9:00 am | Terry Lines †

11:30 am | Alfonso Colonje † 5:00 pm | Annunciation Church

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:10 am | Msgr Michael Lenihan †

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:10 am | Joseph Borg †
12:00 pm | Suzanne McCarthy †

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:10 am | Emily Guzman †

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:10 am | Ron & Teri Mostero 12:00 pm | Amanda & Mike Tarrant

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:10 am | Suzanne McCarthy †

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:10 am | Emily Guzman † 4:00 pm | Amy Sabol †

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:00 am | Peggy Anderson †
9:00 am | Pedro Duran †
11:30 am | Cynthia Trenshaw †

(† Deceased)

Parishioners are invited to offer Mass intentions for loved ones, living or deceased. A donation of \$20 is suggested. You may also add your loved one to the Book of Intentions in the church by Mary. Your offering supports our parish and the spiritual work of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.



GOSPEL MEDITATION by FR. JOHN MUIR

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness — rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us. ©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini Reflection: When the unfaithful of the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal us, God invites us to look upon the cross.

The Cross is Not Negotiable

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is tough, and to do it you have to make a decision to be tough, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness is for wimps, because the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross, we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman . @LPi

ON THE DEATH OF A LOVED-ONE

Starting July 1, 2025, families experiencing the loss of a loved one may call 310-540-0329 x274 at any time to begin funeral arrangements at St. Lawrence Martyr. This dedicated line is monitored three times a day, and a minister will return your call within 24 hours.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading: In their desert wanderings, the Israelites learned that repentance leads to healing. What needs healing in your life?

2nd Reading: Paul taught the Philippians that the humility and obedience of Jesus — even to the point of death by crucifixion — led to Jesus' exaltation. When have you been challenged to be humble and obedient?

Gospel: Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that his death on the cross would lead believers to eternal life and save the world. What have you been taught about the meaning of the cross?

LIVE THE LITURGY

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it. The cross is not a symbol of judgment — the cross is what mercy looks like when it is lived out. How will we bring the cross into our lives this week? How will we live the mercy which has saved us? ©LPI



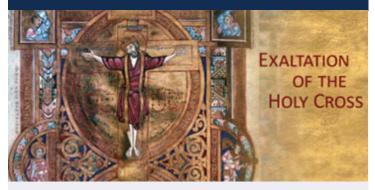
LITANY

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often "hear our prayer" or "pray for us"). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

The basis of the word "litany" comes from the Greek word for "supplication" or "petition." In a litany, the leader will make an appeal or a statement and the congregation will make the response. Litanies can also be said by one person acting as both the leader and the respondent.

Many litanies have been written, including litanies to the Holy Name of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, the Most Precious Blood, litanies appealing to the intercession of various saints, and litanies to the Blessed Mother under her different titles. There are also litanies composed for the attainment of graces and virtues, including the Litany of Humility and the Litany of Trust. ©LPi

See You in the *Eucharist*



On September 13, 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on September 14, 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated negotiations but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis).

A non-Catholic asked me why my cross had Jesus on it. "Jesus already rose from the dead!" My response: My crucifix represents the ultimate sign of Jesus' love for humanity by giving up his life on the cross. Yes, Jesus is resurrected. He is alive. He has saved us from all our sins! This "picture" of Jesus reminds me of his ultimate love for me and for all humanity.

Then I asked: Do your parents still have a picture of you as a baby displayed on their mantle? She said, "Yes." Well, are you still a baby? No, right? Why don't they just remove your baby pictures from their home? It's the same thing for me. I wear a crucifix. The centerpiece of our living room is a crucifix. We have a crucifix in all our bedrooms. The crucifix reminds me: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (John 3:13-17).

Les Rangel-Santos
Director of Worship: Liturgy & Music
les.rangelsantos@stlm.org

SLM GIFT SHOP

Sun | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Tue, Thu, Fri | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon, Wed, Sat | Closed

310-540-0329 x249 giftshop@stlm.org

VOTIVE CANDLES

Candles are available at the Pastoral Center or in the Gift Shop. Candles are \$5.00 ea. and stay lit for five days.

DONUTS THIS WEEK

Sunday | after 7 am & 9 am Masses This Sunday we give thanks to our host

SLM Young Adult Ministry

Freewill offerings always greatly appreciated and support our Donut Ministry.

SOBER, NOT SOMBER

Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Sundays | 10:15 AM Pastoral Center (Office)

The meetings are mixed, closed, with handicapped access.

More Info | 310-540-0329 x 545

LA Central Office | 323-936-4343

DON'T DRINK - CALL FIRST

BAPTISM MINISTRY

Each baby baptized at SLM receives a free handmade quilt crafted by a lovely parishioner, or a blanket crocheted by our Knitting Ministry.

If you want to support this ministry, you may drop off a monetary donation at the Pastoral Center. Please indicate **Baptism Ministry**.

Interested in volunteering? Looking for support?



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sun, Sep 14, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center Group meeting for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

310-540-0329 x 540

SINGALONG JAM NIGHTS

Mon, Sep 15, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Bring instruments and/or the desire to sing along to well-loved songs in a group setting. RauLisaV@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Wed, Sep 17, 10:00 am | Pastoral Center Small Community of Faith who love reading & discussing books.

310-415-0876

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mon, Sep 18, 7:00 pm | Youth Center Young Adult fellowship and formation guided by Fr. Charles. 310-540-0329

ONE IN CHRIST MINISTRY

Thu, Sep 18, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center A ministry for racial healing and cultural celebration. Come pray with us. 310-540-0329 x 276

ST. KATERI CIRCLE

Fri, Sep 19, 6:00 pm | Call for location A Native American prayer group devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha. 310-901-2432

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Sun, Sep 21, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center A group of women supporting each other through life's many transitions. 310-540-0329 x 540

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

Sun, Sep 21, 4:00 pm | Parish Hall Small groups discuss topics through the lens of faith and provide support for each other. 310-722-0176

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

Mon, Sep 22, 10:00 am | Parish Hall Explore the artist within you & be part of a community who love the creative process. 310-540-0329 x 540

RESPECT LIFE ROSARY

Mon, Sep 22, 7:00 pm | In the Church Dedicated to bringing the message of life to the parish & the world. 310-678-2583 | DaleSheckler@gmail.com

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT

Wed, Sept 24, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Family Support Group for those with loved ones suffering from mental illness. 310-792-0244

PADDLE N PRAISE

Sat, Sep 27 | Lower Courts All adults 18 and over invited to fun, faith and fellowship through Pickleball. 424-408-9738

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Sun, Sep 28, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center Gathering of people who are directly or indirectly affected by care giving of others. 310-540-0329 x 540

CATECHISM & COFFEE

Thu, Oct 2, 9:00 am | Parish Hall Discussion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church guided by Fr. Charles. 310-540-0329

LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

Tue, Oct 14, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center Ministry open to members of the LGBT+ Community, family, friends & allies. Don.Burt@stlm.org

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

Thu, Nov 20, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and Los Angeles County. 310-540-0329 x 380

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Stephen Ministry Message Line

Christian friend to listen, pray and support you in difficult times. (Confidential) 310-540-0329 x375

Saturday Street Ministry

Provide food & clothing to homeless in LA. 310-540-0329 x276

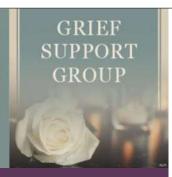
Open Arms Ministry

Friendly visits to home bound parishioners. $310-540-0329 \times 540$



The Grief Support Group is for those mourning the loss of a loved one. Our group will help you understand that there is no "expectation" for grieving. Everyone has their own process, their own way, and their own time frame. This is a group meeting where the members develop a connection and hopefully feel comfortable and at ease with each other as we journey together.

2nd Sunday of every month | 10:30 AM | Pastoral Center





Enjoy an evening of uplifting music and community! Whether you play an instrument or just love to sing, all are welcome—no experience needed. It's all about joy, not perfection!

3rd Mondays | 7:00 pm | Parish Hall

Lisa Rau | rau.lisa.v@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to join this Small Community of Faith.

Our new book is Imagine You Walked with Jesus: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplative Prayer by Jerry Windley-Daoust.

Call for more information, or just show up.

1st and 3rd Wed of each month | 10:00am | Pastoral Center Jeanine Gallagher | 310-415-0876

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the Pastoral Center at 6:00 PM every 1st & 3rd
Thursday of each month as we break open the Word and have honest conversations about our faith.
ALL YOUNG ADULTS WELCOME!

A MINISTRY FOR RACIAL HEALING & CULTURAL CELEBRATION

One in Christ meets monthly to pray with scripture toward our vision that every person be treated with respect and dignity as a child of God. We offer parish-wide prayer experiences, education, and dialog to promote greater appreciation and understanding of all cultures.

3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center Chapel Deacon Jim Egnatuk | 310-540-0329 ext. 276





ST. KATERI CIRCLE

St Lawrence Martyrs' Kateri Circle is a Native American prayer group devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha. We at St Lawrence Martyr's Kateri Circle gather once a month to share our Native American spirituality (talking circles) share our heritage, have prayer circles, participate in Liturgies, and prayer services, and offer educational presentations.

SLM SCHOOL SCRIP

Tue & Thu | 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM 310-316-3049

Available from the Parish Office outside of regular Scrip office hours.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Shawls and blankets available to give to anyone who needs an uplift. The shawls and blankets are free of charge and available in the Pastoral Center.

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

The F.A.I.T.H. (Freedom & Intervention for the Trafficking of Humans) Ministry supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and in Los Angeles County.

We are collecting toiletry items for victims of human trafficking. The items can be dropped off at the Pastoral Center during normal business hours.

faith.ministry@stlm.org 310-540-0329 x 380

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday | 8 AM - 10 AM 1st Sunday | 8 AM - 11 AM

We prepare bags of groceries for individual families and sack lunches given to the homeless. For a list of preferred donations please visit www. stlm.org/giving-back.

Monetary donations may be given online through Elexio Giving, mailed or dropped in the Pastoral Center mail slot. Please indicate **Food Pantry**.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity as we continue to serve those in need. 310-540-0329 x 276



SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL SEASON IS A GOOD TIME TO REFRESH CHILDREN ON INTERNET SAFETY

Back-to-school season is an ideal time to refresh internet safety rules with the children in your care. For example, it is helpful to establish clear guidelines like what types of sites children can visit, apps they can download, and when they can have access to electronics. Families can also consider "blackout" periods that require disconnection – possibly during dinner and leading up to bedtime. Netsmartz (https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz) offers resources for keeping children and teens safe online.

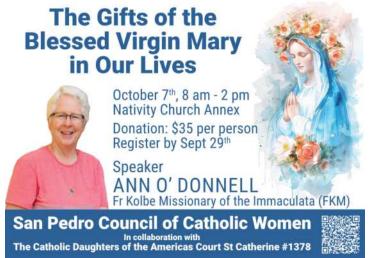
















MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7:00 PM | THE YOUTH CENTER

Our mission is to provide young Catholics with meaningful opportunities for faith development and charitable growth while connecting with other members of our faith community.











Join us if you are between the ages of 18-30s and looking for a ministry centered on faith, connection, and service.

- Meet twice a month
- Virtual Rosary Wednesdays
- Onsite Bible Study twice a month on Thursdays
- Food Pantry Volunteer first Saturdays
- Social Outings Hikes,
 Trivia Nights, Beach Days





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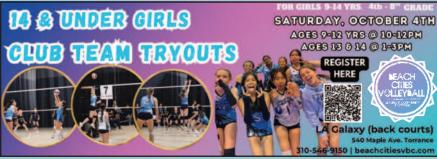
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