

ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MAY 31, 2026 | THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE
SAVED.

— JOHN 3:17 —

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Artist: Harmenszoon van Rijn Rembrandt
©LPI

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

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:30 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	310-316-0466
Funerals	424-458-7861
St. Lawrence Martyr Gift Shop	424-385-0546

To become a member of our community of faith visit
www.stlm.org/im-new or stop by the Pastoral Center.



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 MAY 31 - JUNE 8

Sun	5/31	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	6/1	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Tue	6/2	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Wed	6/3	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Thu	6/4	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Fri	6/5	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Sat	6/6	Closed
Sun	6/7	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	6/8	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm

PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY

O Divine Mystery, O Sacred Trinity! Surround us with Your wisdom, love, power, and grace. Draw us to Yourself. Help us to rest in Your goodness. Amen. ©LPI

Fond Farewell to Our Principal Next Weekend



May 31, 9:00 am Mass | Reception to follow

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31 at 9:00 am as we celebrate Janell O'Dowd, our school principal, and thank her for her years of faithful service to our parish school. A special School Mass will be offered, followed by a reception in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend and share in this time of appreciation.

Msgr Peter O'Reilly's 65th Ordination Anniversary

Sunday, June 14, 9:00 am Mass | Reception to follow

Join us as we celebrate Msgr. Peter O'Reilly's 65th Anniversary to the Priesthood! We thank God for his many years of faithful service to our parish and the Church. Receptions will follow the 7:00 am & 9:00 am Masses. Please join us in honoring Msgr. Peter on this special occasion.

June Holy Hour

As our parish school community celebrates the graduation season during the first week of June, our June Holy Hour will not take place. We look forward to gathering again in July for this beautiful time of prayer, adoration, and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you for your understanding, and please continue to keep our graduates and their families in your prayers.

Calling All SLM School Alumni & Families

Save the date of October 3, 2026 for our sparkling 70th Celebration. Register today to receive more information.



THIS IS THE HOUR FOR *love*
OUR GOAL: \$159,641
PLEGGED: \$ 64,650



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Wade Lenton	Julia Poprac	Lee Flores
Jerry Utpadel	Monica Rangel Santos	Brent Everhart
Diane Cole	Ray Rafael Payuyo	Toni Azzi
Desmond Armstrong	Elizabeth O'Reilly Koehler	Mary Herati
Mark Herati	Gregg Cassity	Wanda Noone
Olga Gilroy		

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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

Msgr. Peter Amy	Jim Zampetti	Daniel Brauer
	Christopher Stephens	

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." (Exodus 34:5)

Psalm: Glory and praise for ever! (Daniel 3)

Second Reading: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Gospel: 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)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday:	Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18
Monday:	2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday:	2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17
Wednesday:	2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27
Thursday:	2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34
Friday:	2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mark 12:35-37
Saturday:	2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:38-44
Next Sunday:	Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58



SUNDAY, MAY 31

7:00 am	Christina Lucas
9:00 am	Mary Centofante †
11:30 am	Georgina Camacho †

MONDAY, JUNE 1

8:10 am	Yasser Fathi †
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TUESDAY, JUNE 2

8:10 am	Richard Krai †
12:00 pm	Phyllis Hickey †

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

8:10 am	Catherine Luthardt
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THURSDAY, JUNE 4

8:10 am	Ryan Rivero †
12:00 pm	Otto Geering †

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8:10 am	Charlie Betz †
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SATURDAY, JUNE 6

8:10 am	Manuel Jalandoni †
4:00 pm	Johanna May

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

7:00 am	Jeanne Austin
9:00 am	Ann Haley †
11:30 am	Orsy & Delmy Castro

(† 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 ones 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.



SAINTS
O.C.I.A. in Pastoral Center
Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!



GOSPEL MEDITATION by FR. JOHN MUIR

I was 16 years old on a youth group retreat in the mountains. One night, I opened my heart to the message being proclaimed: that God so loved the world that He sent His Son for us. Later, I lay under the pine trees and looked up at the countless stars. They seemed different. No longer cold, distant balls of chemical reactions, they appeared as an expression of God's love, as if He were giving those stars directly to me. The truth of God sending His Son changed how I saw the whole universe.

That is what today's Gospel reveals: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." (John 3:16) The universe is not just a whirl of impersonal forces or empty space. At its heart is a gift: the Father eternally giving the Son, not to condemn, but to bring life.

This is not abstract doctrine but deeply personal. God gives His Son for you and me. Each human life is precious enough to be caught up in that eternal gift.

It is in the Mass where we encounter this most directly. In the Word proclaimed, in the assembly gathered, in the priest, and above all in the Eucharist, the Father once again gives His Son. What looks like bread and wine is the drama of the Trinity, laboring to love us here and now.

The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve but the blazing Truth at the center of everything: the Father gives the Son for you and me. Lord, help us to see this more clearly. ©LPI

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini reflection: Our failure to understand is not a poverty. It is a gift. It propels us constantly back to the wellspring of our glorious Faith — to Scripture, to Tradition, to the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit which sustains each and every one of us who dare to believe.

The Gift of Not Understanding

I once listened to Bishop Daniel Flores — a renowned scholar and prelate — give a 70-minute talk on the Trinitarian nature of God. In those 70 minutes, Bishop Flores said a lot of eloquent things. But what that really landed with me was not any group of words, but a single gesture.

Defining hypostasis, the term we use for the "the reciprocal dynamic relations that constitute distinct identities within the Godhead" (yes, I am using his words because I could never, in a million years, trust my own) Bishop Flores said "the Father and the Son are true God, but the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father. How not? Different hypostasis."

And here his eyes grew wide; he turned his head and opened his hands, drawing back as if from a spooked horse. The implication was clear: Any further than this, I dare not go.

I've never felt so seen.

Sometimes, I make the mistake of thinking that I am unique in my inability to understand the great mysteries. Sometimes, I despair that I am not a "better Catholic" — one who will rush headfirst into the crosshairs of a hard question, confident in the words that come immediately to my lips.

But when I saw Bishop Flores flinch at the thought of defining how, exactly, the Son is not the Father, and vice versa, I remembered that only fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

This Sunday, friends, take heart: our failure to understand is not a poverty. It is a gift. It propels us constantly back to the wellspring of our glorious Faith — to Scripture, to Tradition, to the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit which sustains each and every one of us who dare to believe.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman . ©LPI

ON THE DEATH OF A LOVED-ONE

Families experiencing the loss of a loved one may call 424-458-7861 at any time to begin funeral arrangements at St. Lawrence Martyr. This dedicated line is checked three times a day, and a minister will return your call within 24 hours.

LIVE THE LITURGY

Salvation is a gift God dearly wishes us to accept. It is not a yardstick against which He measures our worth. He has made it so simple. So, will we accept? ©LPI

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Our Sunday readings invite us into the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity—a God who is mercy, love, and communion. In Exodus, God reveals Himself as compassionate and faithful. In Corinthians, we see how the life of the Trinity shapes Christian community through peace and encouragement. In the Gospel, the Father sends the Son to save the world through love. Missionary discipleship flows from this encounter with the Trinity. We are loved by the Father, saved through the Son, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit so that we may bring hope, reconciliation, and welcome to others.

The Trinity also becomes the model for parish life and family life. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live in perfect communion, we are called to become communities of forgiveness, unity, and self-giving love. In a world often marked by division, fear, and loneliness, Christians are sent forth as living signs that God is near and that His mercy is greater than sin.

How is God inviting me to grow deeper in trust in His mercy and love?

How can my life become a more visible witness of Christian peace, unity, and compassion?

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

Our Sunday readings remind us that God is a loving Father who stays close to His children. He is patient, forgiving, and full of mercy. Jesus was sent into the world because God loves us so much and wants everyone to know His peace and joy. Families reflect God's love in simple but powerful ways: praying together, forgiving one another, helping without complaining, listening with kindness, and making room for others.

Children especially learn about God through the love they experience at home. When families practice patience, encouragement, and prayer, they become witnesses of God's presence to one another and to the world. Even small acts of love can help someone feel seen, valued, and welcomed.

What is one way our family can show kindness and forgiveness this week?

How can we help someone outside our family experience God's love and welcome?

See You in the *Eucharist*



On Saturday, June 6, at the conclusion of the anticipated (4PM) Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), we will begin a nocturnal adoration of the Holy Eucharist in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, continuing through the night until Sunday, June 7, at 7AM. When we come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we may at times feel restless or distracted in prayer. We may become painfully aware of our sins and shortcomings. We may even struggle to stay awake in the stillness of the night. Yet none of these should discourage us. What matters most is that we remain with Him. We are there first and foremost to please Jesus by our presence and our love.

Jesus is merciful. He is with us in our joys and in our sorrows. He listens to our prayers, knows the burdens we carry, and understands the longings of our hearts. We need not be afraid to come before Him exactly as we are. A loving father still looks tenderly upon his child who has fallen asleep in his arms. In much the same way, the Lord looks upon us with love when we remain near Him, even in our weakness and weariness. The Apostles themselves struggled to keep watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, yet He still desired their companionship.

In Eucharistic Adoration, the Lord does not ask for perfect words, perfect focus, or perfect holiness. He simply asks for our presence, our openness, and our love. Whether we come filled with peace or burdened with worries, alert and attentive or tired from the day, Jesus receives us with tenderness. Every moment spent before the Blessed Sacrament is a grace. In the quiet of the night, may we hear once again the gentle invitation of the Lord: "Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" All are invited to spend time with Our Eucharistic Lord during this special night of prayer and adoration.

Les Rangel-Santos
Director of Worship: Liturgy & Music

SLM GIFT SHOP

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



Thank a teacher, volunteer, or friend with something thoughtful from our Gift Shop — we have gifts that say “you’re appreciated” in every season.

DONUTS THIS WEEK

Sunday | after 7 am & 9 am Masses
Enjoy a treat, and take time to visit the beautiful Marian statues and icons on display at the **Madonna Festival**.

Freewill offerings always greatly appreciated and support our Donut Ministry.

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.

BAPTISM MINISTRY

Each baby baptized at SLM receives a 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?



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mon, Jun 1, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
Young Adult fellowship and formation guided by Fr. Charles.
310-540-0329

AMERICAN MAHJONG CIRCLE

Tue, Jun 2, 10:00 am | Parish Hall
New and experienced Mahjong players sharing laughter & good conversation.
310-540-0329 x540

ONE IN CHRIST MINISTRY

Tue, Jun 2, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
A ministry for racial healing and cultural celebration. Come pray with us.
310-540-0329 x 276

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Wed, Jun 3, 10:00 am | Pastoral Center
Small Community of Faith who love reading & discussing books.
310-415-0876

CATECHISM & COFFEE

Thu, Jun 4, 9:00 am | Parish Hall
Discussion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church guided by Fr. Charles.
310-540-0329

SOUTH BAY STRUMMERS

Sat, Jun 6, 9:00 am | Parish Hall
Ukulele Group - everyone's welcome! Just bring your smile and love of music!
SouthBayStrummers@yahoo.com

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

Mon, Jun 8, 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

LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

Tue, Jun 9, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
Ministry open to members of the LGBT+ Community, family, friends & allies.
Don.Burt@stlm.org

PADDLE N PRAISE

Sat, Jun 13, 9:00 am | Lower Courts
All adults 18 and over invited to fun, faith and fellowship through Pickleball.
424-408-9738

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sun, Jun 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, Jun 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

ST. KATERI CIRCLE

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

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

Sat, Jun 20 | Rogers Group | Call for time
Small groups discuss topics through the lens of faith and provide support for each other.
310-722-0176

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

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

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY ROSARY

Mon, Jun 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 GROUP

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

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Sun, Jun 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

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

Thu, Aug 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 x540

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 x 540

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the Pastoral Center at 7:00 PM every 1st & 3rd Monday of each month as we break open the Word and have honest conversations about our faith. ALL YOUNG ADULTS WELCOME!

The SLM American Mahjong Circle

Gather for relaxed, friendly play and fellowship. Whether you're an experienced player looking to join a table or a brand-new player simply curious, all are welcome. New players are invited to watch, learn, and jump in when ready. Bring a tile set if you have one, and come connect through this classic game - sharing laughter, conversation, and good company along the way.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10 am | Parish Hall | 310-540-0329 x540

A MINISTRY FOR RACIAL HEALING & CULTURAL CELEBRATION

One in Christ - A ministry to recognize and emphasize that every person should be treated with respect and dignity as a child of God. Our mission is to offer parish-wide prayer experiences, education, and dialogue to recognize where racism and other biases exist and promote greater appreciation, understanding and respect for all persons.

1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center Chapel

Deacon Jim Egnatuk | 310-540-0329 ext. 276



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



Join us for a cup of coffee as we chat about our Faith and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A round table discussion guided by Fr. Charles where we discuss various topics of interest. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9 am in the Parish Hall. Questions/topics may be sent in advance to catechism.coffee@gmail.com.

LET'S GROW TOGETHER IN OUR FAITH

The South Bay Strummers is a friendly ukulele group open to all, free to join, and welcoming every skill level. Members learn, play, and share music together at community events across the South Bay - including the Torrance Memorial Holiday Festival, senior centers, St. Lawrence's BBQ and Tree Lighting, and the beloved Sleepy Hollow Christmas Lights show. Founded and led by Clint Fisher since 2002, the group brings people together through music, friendship, and fun.



Every Saturday
9:00am | Parish Hall

Clint Fisher
310-890-0975
SouthBayStrummers@yahoo.com
southbaystrummers.weebly.com

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

 **flocknote**
Keep in touch with us
via email & text
Text **STLM** to **84576**

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN: RESPECTING BOUNDARIES

A child's need to establish a boundary must always be the priority, even over an adult's desire for affection or connection. If a child does not want to give a hug or even a high five, it is up to the adult to accept that boundary and respect the child's comfort level. This is an easy way to help a child determine what feels safe and what does not and can help protect him from potential abuse. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "How to Advocate Directly With You their Safety and Wellbeing" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.



Monthly Rosary

First Monday of each Month

Monday, June 1, 7:00 pm
In the Church

Join us as we gather in prayer to lift our intentions to Our Lady. All are welcome - come and pray with our community. Led by Women's Cornerstone.



Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 3-11, 2026

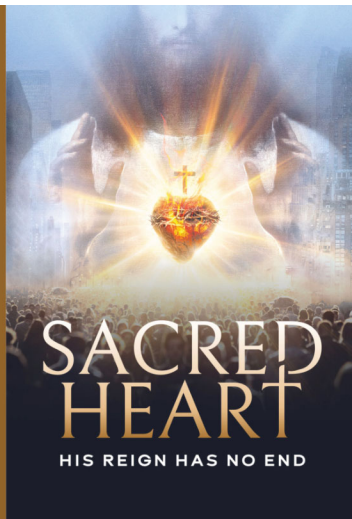
As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, all are invited to pray a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus leading up to the Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart on June 11. Let us entrust our families, parish, and nation to the merciful Heart of Christ and pray for renewal, peace, and hope.



SACRED HEART
His Reign Has No End
June 9-11 & 14
Local Theaters

A new docudrama that invites you into the heart of Jesus as revealed to a French nun named St Margaret Mary Alacoque 350 years ago.

TICKETS



Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 13, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

Donations will be accepted in the Parish Hall
Thursday, June 11, from 3:00 - 8:00pm
Friday, June 12, from 12:00 - 8:00pm.

CASH ONLY

We welcome clean, usable clothing, household goods, small appliances, décor, tools, electronics, collectibles, and small solid wood furniture.

Please note we cannot accept old or obsolete electronics, liquids, particle board items, large furniture, large appliances, or books.



Rich Heisen | 310-686-0309 | rjheisen@cbbank.com
Matt Hadnett | 310-686-7113 | Matt@southbayequity.com



The Most Holy Trinity: The Heart of Our Faith



This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity — the central mystery of our Christian faith and life. As the Catechism teaches, the Trinity is "the most fundamental and essential teaching in the hierarchy of the truths of faith" (CCC 234). Everything we believe flows from this truth: that our one God is a communion of three Divine Persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — equal in majesty, undivided in glory, yet distinct in relationship.

This is not an abstract doctrine for theologians alone. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, every time we are blessed at the end of Mass, every time we pray the Glory Be, we are professing this mystery. We were baptized into the very life of the Trinity — "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" — and it is into that divine communion that we are destined to return.

St. Augustine spent decades contemplating this mystery and humbly concluded that God's inner life will always surpass our understanding. Yet what we can know is this: God is not solitary. God is, in His very nature, a relationship of self-giving love. And we, made in His image, are created for that same love.

This week, let the Sign of the Cross be more than habit. Let it be a prayer.

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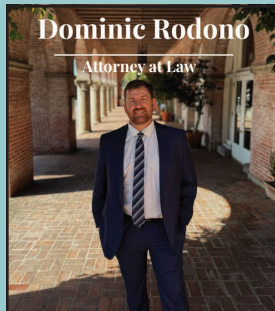
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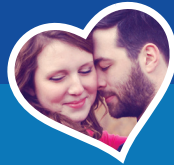
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