St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Community

November 29, 2026 | First Sunday of Advent



Rev. Msgr. Paul Dotson, Pastor | Rev. Joe Kim OFM Conv., Associate Pastor

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

ROSARY

Every Monday	7:00 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

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 7

Sun	11/29	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	11/30	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Tue	12/1	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Wed	12/2	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Thu	12/3	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Fri	12/4	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Sat	12/5	**Closed**
Sun	12/6	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	12/7	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm

OUR PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER

Lord Jesus, everything we have is a gift from You. Give us grateful hearts and generous spirits. Help us use what You have entrusted to us in loving service of others. May all that we are and all that we have belong to You. St. Lawrence, pray for us. Amen.

Blessing for Advent Week 1

Dear Lord, As this Advent season begins, pour Your blessing upon us. Bless our Advent wreaths and readings, our retreats and reconciliations. You are our God and our guide; be with us as we journey. Amen. ©LPi

Holy Hour with Vespers

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 pm | In the Church

Join us for Holy Hour and Evening Prayer as we come before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In the quiet of His presence, we rest, listen, and intercede for our parish and world. Come spend this sacred time in adoration, Scripture, and communal prayer as missionary disciples seeking Christ together.

Christmas Tree Lighting & Ministry Appreciation

Friday, December 4, 6-8 pm | Parish Courtyard

Celebrate the Christmas season at our Christmas Tree Lighting and Ministry Appreciation Celebration! Enjoy live music, festive refreshments, and parish fellowship as we thank our dedicated ministry volunteers. Gather with family and friends for the tree lighting, visit the Parish Gift Shop, and share the joy of Christ's light!

December Rosary Reflections

This December, deepen your prayer through our monthly Rosary Reflections, focusing on vocations and stewardship. As we meditate on the mysteries of Christ's life, may we recognize God's call and respond by generously offering our time, talents, and gifts. Available in the church bulletin racks and online at **stlm.org/rr**.

Plan Your Giving - 2026 Deadline Fast Approaching

It's almost the end of the year, have you made your plans for your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)? Making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA may help reduce your taxable income while supporting St. Lawrence Martyr.

Monthly Stewardship Report

Thank you for generously supporting the Catholic community at St. Lawrence Martyr and beyond. In the spirit of stewardship and transparency, we'll share a monthly summary of our income and expenses. May God bless you for your generosity and faithful support.

Category	Sep 2026	YTD: Jul-Sep
Operating Income	179,360	550,606
Operating Expenses	204,986	574,981
Net Income (Loss)	**(25,626)**	**(24,375)**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Philip Watson	Pat Haynes	George Steele III
George Steele IV	Diane Hilts	Michael Caputo
Jayne Rhames	Corey Hansen	Latarrin Sheppard
Jessica Ortiz	Anthony "Ray" Jacobsen	Howard Elexis

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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

Joe Landini
Oly Meyer
Mary F. McGoldrick
Jerry Perry

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Isaiah 63:19)

Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80)

Second Reading: The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:6-7)

Gospel: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mark 13:35)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPi

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday:	Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-71 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37
Monday:	Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday:	Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday:	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
O.C.I.A. in Pastoral Center
Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
7:00 am Dn. Art Fitzpatrick †
9:00 am Fr. William Norvel †
11:30 am Dale Bowman †

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
8:10 am Andres Derain, Sr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:10 am Bo Kennelley†
12:00 pm Reinhart Behren

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
8:10 am Maureen Dempsey †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:10 am Alvaro Fernandez †
12:00 pm Mary & Henry McKeown †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
8:10 am Randy Halle †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:10 am Joseph Blinn †
4:00 pm Sr. Darlene Young †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:00 am David Walter Smith †
9:00 am Virginia Smith †
11:30 am Loretta Smith †

(† 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.



GOSPEL MEDITATION BY FR. JOHN MUIR

A friend once told me, "When I was young, I was so broke, I couldn't even pay attention." It's a clever line. Even when your pockets are empty, you can still be attentive. And yet, we often find creative ways to spend our attention on anything but what matters most.

We begin the season of Advent with Jesus' words about how we maintain our attention. He says, **"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37)**. He describes servants waiting for their master's return. Their task is simple: stay alert. Be ready to open the door, welcome him, and serve. That is why they're there. Advent reminds us that this is the purpose of our lives, too. God is coming to us. The question is whether we are awake and ready to receive him.

How do we train our attention for God? One powerful way is the age-old Christian practice of vigils. Praying in the quiet stillness of night — free from all distraction — focuses the heart and awakens a deeper awareness of God's presence. This Advent, watch for the coming of the Lord by the practice of vigils. Not in theory, but concretely. The Lord is coming. The awake, attentive heart will recognize Him. ©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC
Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Filing up on Advent

I've learned the hard way to keep Saltines on the top shelf, far out of the kids' reach.

Saltines are a perfectly lovely little snack, but they're so light and salty and full of air that my children consume entire sleeves of them without realizing it. "I'm not hungry — I ate a bunch of Saltines!" they protest when I call them to the table for dinner.

I think I'm going to have it tattooed on my hand, just so I don't have to keep saying it: what fills you up doesn't necessarily feed you.

This, unfortunately, is so often how I am with Advent. I gorge myself on the nonsense that looks, sounds, and tastes like Christmas — but never really feels like it. It all appears harmless — light and full of air — these decorations, these social engagements, these consumeristic spirals of gift-giving, these drive-through light shows. I don't even realize it's happening until, on December 25, I find myself so tired I can barely drag myself across the finish line.

The lie at the heart of all that excess is the same as the lie at the heart of any evil: I am empty, and all this nothing can fill me up.

Because December 25 isn't the finish line, is it? It's the beginning. Advent is supposed to be the time of preparation, the time of stillness and calm, of watching and waiting, reflection and renewal. A time that — gasp! — reenergizes you, so that when the lord of the house comes, he won't find you passed out in a pile of tinsel and cookie dough.

So be watchful. Be alert.

Collen 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.

Sunday Reflections available online stlm.org/sunday

ALLOWING GOD TO SHAPE OUR LIVES

Identify one responsibility God has entrusted to you. Approach it with renewed purpose, asking Him to shape your heart through your service. Take one intentional step to use your gifts more faithfully, remembering that He continues to form us as we answer His call.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK
REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Advent begins not with a demand that we accomplish more, but with an invitation to recognize what God desires to accomplish in us. Isaiah calls us the work of God's hands. The psalmist asks for restoration, acknowledging our need for His grace. Saint Paul reminds us that God has enriched us with spiritual gifts and remains faithful to His promises. Jesus entrusts each servant with meaningful responsibility. Our vocation begins with this truth: God calls, forms, and sustains us. Our task is to cooperate with His grace, allowing our ordinary responsibilities to become expressions of His love.

- *Am I allowing God to shape the direction of my life, or am I asking Him simply to bless the plans I have already made?*
- *What might change if I approached my daily responsibilities not merely as obligations, but as opportunities to cooperate with God's work?*

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

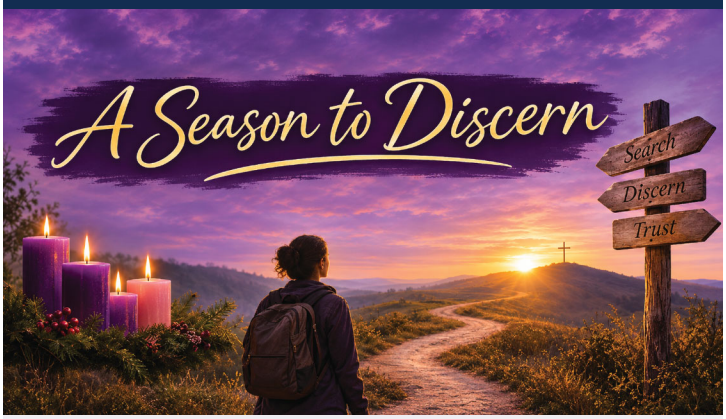
Imagine helping someone build a beautiful house. One person measures the wood, another paints, and someone else plants flowers outside. Everyone has a different job, but together they create something wonderful. Jesus tells us that God gives each person special work to do. We don't all have to be good at the same things. God knows our gifts and helps us learn how to use them. During Advent, we remember that Jesus wants to be part of everything we do. Even small jobs, like helping set the table or comforting someone who is sad, can become acts of love.

- *Why do you think God gives different people different gifts and responsibilities?*
- *What ordinary task could we do with extra love this week as a way of serving Jesus?*

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.

LIVING THE CALL



I think that for most of us, not a day goes by when we are asked to make a decision in some matter. Simple or complex (or life-changing), each decision made carries a certain degree of importance with it.

The word “discernment” is one that finds its way into some of my reflections that I share with our catechumens and candidates in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. We first meet them as "inquirers" – they often are searching for something that is missing in their lives. They spend many months taking in information about God and the many facets of Catholic spirituality. But at some point during this process they will be asked the question: “Have you found what you were looking for?” Jesus asks a similar question of his disciples in John 1:38: “What are you looking for?”

To arrive at an answer, this presumes that one knows the thing that was being searched for. What if I don’t know what I’m seeking? What if I don’t know what I’m missing? As these catechumens and candidates gradually mature in their faith, I see within each a process of conversion taking place. And if they have found what it is they are searching for – even a small taste of it – they say “yes” to all of it and are fully received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Very brave.

What I have learned from accompanying these catechumens and candidates is that trusting in God’s plan, as they eventually do, is really the answer to such questions. I think Advent – the beginning of a new liturgical year - is the perfect time to ask that question again.

Darlene Pickell, O.C.I.A. Coordinator

SLM GIFT SHOP

Sun | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tue, Thu & Fri | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wed | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Mon & Sat | Closed

CHRISTMAS STORE IS NOW OPEN



Christmas is coming - visit early for the best selection of ornaments, nativities, and gifts that celebrate the true spirit of Christmas.

NO DONUTS THIS WEEK

We look forward to sharing Coffee & Donuts next week.

Freewill offerings always greatly appreciated and support our Donut Ministry.

SOBER, NOT SOMBER

Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays | 10:15 AM
Parish Hall - Upstairs

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 handmade blanket, lovingly crocheted or quilted by parish volunteers.

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?

AMERICAN MAHJONG CIRCLE

Tue, Dec 1, 9:00 am | Parish Hall
New and experienced Mahjong players sharing laughter & good conversation.
310-540-0329 x540

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mon, Dec 7, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
Young Adult fellowship and formation guided by Young Adults Leaders.
310-540-0329

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tue, Dec 8, 10:00 am| Parish Hall
Knit or crochet? Share your gifts to bring comfort and care.
310-375-2211

LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

Tue, Dec 8, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
Ministry open to members of the LGBT+ Community, family, friends & allies.
Don.Burt@stlm.org

ONE IN CHRIST MINISTRY

Wed, Dec 9, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
A ministry for racial healing and cultural celebration. Come pray with us.
310-540-0329 x 276

CATECHISM & COFFEE

Fri, Dec 11, 9:00 am | Parish Hall
Discussion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church led by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.
310-540-0329

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

Fri, Dec 11 | Nebres Group
Small groups discuss topics through the lens of faith and provide support for each other.
310-722-0176

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sun, Dec 13, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
Group meeting for those mourning the loss of a loved one.
310-540-0329 x 540

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

Mon, Dec 14, 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

ST. KATERI CIRCLE

Fri, Dec 18, 6:00 pm | Call for location
Native American prayer group devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha.
310-901-2432

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Sun, Dec 20, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
A group of women supporting each other through life's many transitions.
310-540-0329 x 540

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Sun, Dec 27, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
Gathering of people who are directly or indirectly affected by caregiving of others.
310-540-0329 x 540

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY ROSARY

Mon, Dec 28, 7:00 pm | In the Church
Dedicated to bringing the message of life to the parish & the world.
310-678-2583 | DaleSheckler@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Wed, Jan 6, 10:00 am | Pastoral Center
Small Community of Faith who love reading & discussing books.
310-415-0876

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

Thu, Jan 21, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
Supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and Los Angeles County.
310-540-0329 x 380

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Wed, Jan 27, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
Family Support Group for those with loved ones suffering from mental illness.
310-792-0244

PADDLE N PRAISE

Resuming in March 2027| Lower Courts
All adults 18 and over invited to fun, faith and fellowship through Pickleball.
424-408-9738

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Knights of Columbus Council 1990
Men's fraternal group supporting parish activities & several charitable organizations.
424-383-0988 | bgnknight@gmail.com

Open Arms Ministry
Friendly visits to home bound parishioners.
310-540-0329 x 540

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

Stephen Ministry Message Line
Christian friend to listen, pray and support you in difficult times.
(Confidential) 310-540-0329 x540

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.

Tuesdays 9 am | Parish Hall | 310-540-0329 x540



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the SLM Parish Hall 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!

Do you knit and/or crochet?

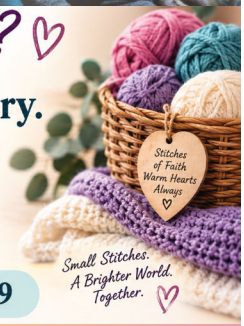
If you are a fiber artist, please consider joining the

St. Lawrence Prayer Shawl Ministry.

We meet twice a month in the parish hall, where we exchange ideas, patterns, pick up yarn, share good company, and laugh.

Our creations consist of lap robes, shawls, baptism blankets, and outreach items for those in need.

By sharing your talent, you are actively participating in God's call to this ministry of care and comfort. Our community thanks you in advance for saying "Yes"!!



Please call the parish office for more information. | **(310) 540-0329**



THE LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

"One Heart" is the LGBT ministry at Saint Lawrence Martyr Church. We are dedicated to the loving acceptance and integration of all persons into our faith community by listening to, understanding, and supporting one another as followers of Jesus.

2nd Tuesday of each month | 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center

Deacon Don | don.burt@stlm.org

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.

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center Chapel

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





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. Joe Kim, OFM Conv. where we discuss various topics of interest. We meet the second Friday 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

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

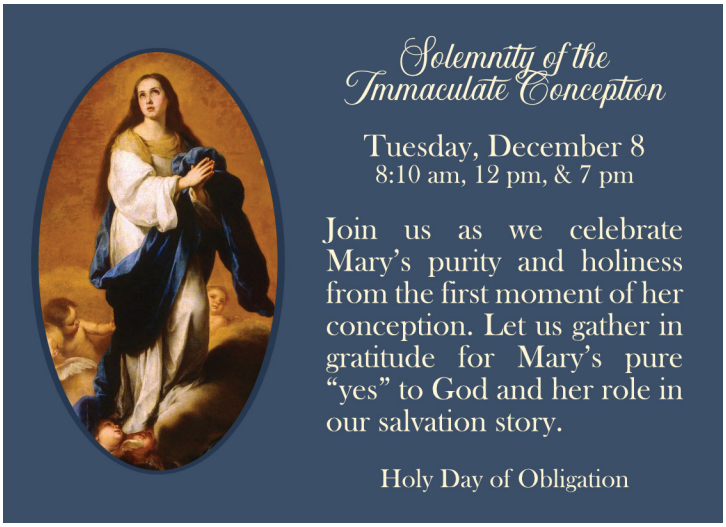
Keep in touch with us via email & text

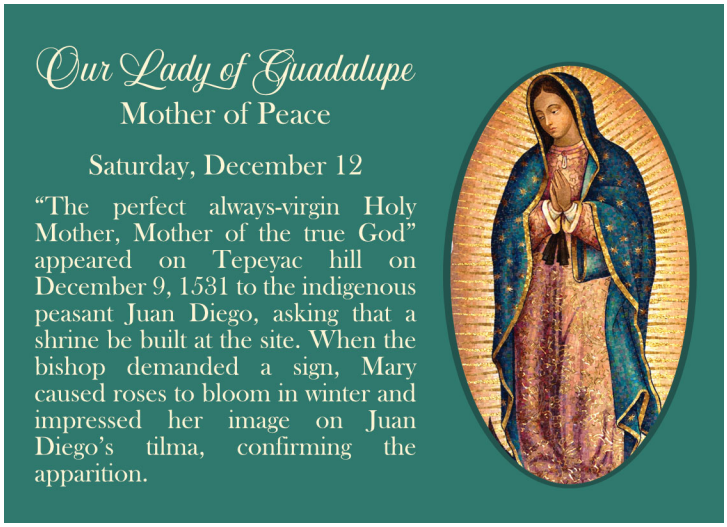
Text **STLM** to **84576**

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A TRUSTED ADULT

According to research, children who have been victims of abuse are more likely to first disclose this abuse to adults other than their parents. Educators, volunteers, or other employees who work with children are thus essential to a child making a disclosure of abuse, and it is critical that these trusted adults address any suspected abuse immediately. Research strongly indicates that child abuse is linked to an increase in trauma throughout a victim's life, and the first step in mitigating that increase is for trusted adults to act immediately when they learn of abuse. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "Disclosures Part 1: Why Are Disclosures Important?" at **lacatholics.org/did-you-know**.















FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent begins with a call to wakefulness. Jesus tells us to stay awake, not in hear, but in hope. We are invited to make room for Christ by giving Him our attention, our time, and our ordinary responsibilities. As our parish moves from Stewardship of Time into a year focused on Vocations, the First Sunday of Advent reminds us that every vocation begins with an attentive heart.

SEEK

Set aside ten quiet minutes each day this week to listen to the Lord.

REFLECT

Ask where your time has become crowded and what Christ is asking yo to make room for.

SERVE

Choose one concrete act of service at home, at work, or in parish life as your Advent offering.

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Lord Jesus, awaken my heart. Teach me to watch for You, to welcome You, and to use my time with love. Help me make room for Your voice and respond generously to the call You place before me. Amen.

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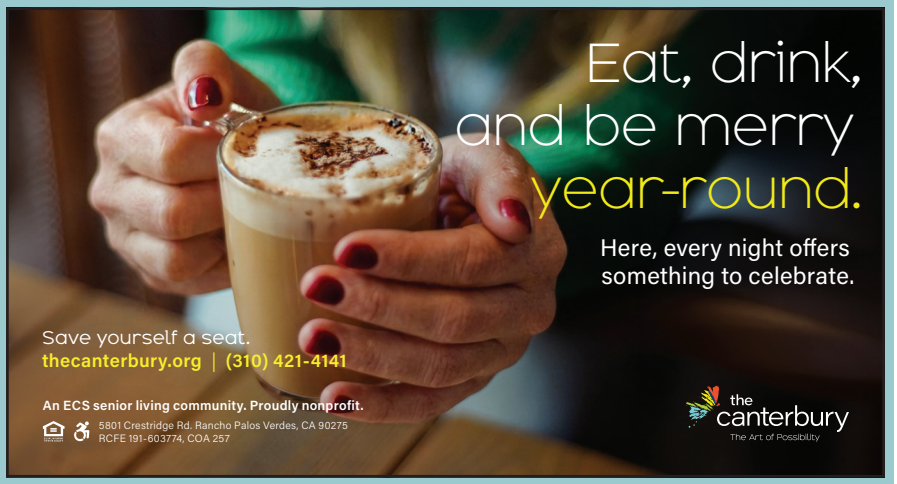
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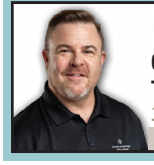
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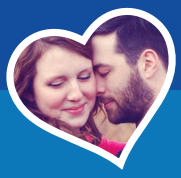

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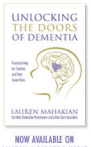

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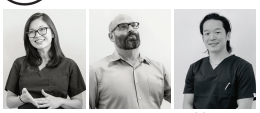

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