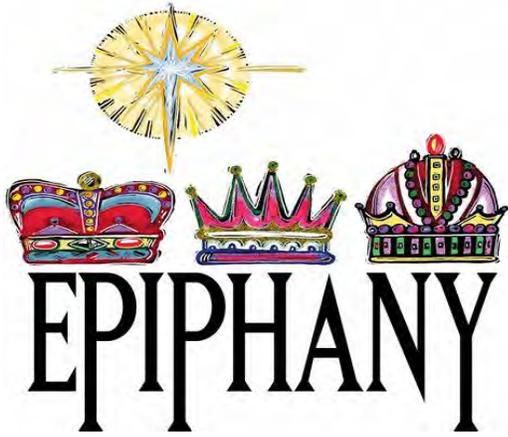


Parish Newsletter
For
8 January 2023



From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel

Today is a feast of gospel reversals. Herod had taken the title of “king of the Jews” to himself and perverted it by his ambitious grasp for power. In contrast, Jesus was born as a powerless king of the Jews, the title that will be ironically nailed to the humble throne of His cross. Historical controversies aside, the magi thrill our imagination and bring wonder and excitement to the faith-filled search for Jesus that is the focus of every disciple’s journey through life. The magi are the surprising, seeing ones, guided to Jerusalem by their own drive to seek wisdom and by nature’s partial revelation in the star that rises in the east. In that city they learn where they will find the child from the special revelation of God’s word and wisdom to Israel. They see through the hypocritical protestations of Herod’s wish to go to pay homage himself to the newborn child. Herod and his coterie are blind; they have access to the wisdom of the Scriptures, but they refuse to see the meaning of what the prophets wrote. Herod is frantic at the possible risk to his power, while the magi, aristocratic scholars from abroad, are almost naively willing to take risks and add to their scholarly wisdom the wisdom of the Hebrew

Scriptures in their search for the royal child. In the wolfish company of Herod and his cohorts, Matthew sees the magi as witnesses to the later call for all disciples to be “shrewd as serpents and simple as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

The beauty of this imaginative narrative encourages us to what poetry encourages us: to keen listening, to silent reflection, to transcendence of the ordinary by giving it our full attention. A star, a baby with its mother, human and holy words can lead us with the magi into and beyond the mystery of Christ in silent homage. In our Christmas creches, the magi may seem “odd men out” in the humble company of Mary, Joseph, and the child. But with their fine gifts and opulent robes they do belong there, for they are symbolic of every nation on earth that, in the words of the responsorial psalm 72, we pray will come to adore God and participate in a kingdom of justice and peace that only God can establish, especially for the poor and needy of the earth.

As we gaze on the magi and hear their story, are we mindful of strangers who come to our own place, not in rich robes but usually in the poverty of contemporary seekers and stargazers: the refugees and asylum seekers from many nations, those tired of hypocrisy and disillusioned about political power mongering, the young who want a star that is worth following to rise in their lives, even though the journey may be difficult, the old and middle-aged who still dream of something more to enlighten them? And do we not all, at some time, feel ourselves to be strangers and foreigners seeking to belong to a true home that will be the new Jerusalem?



Living Liturgy – Setting Out On A New Journey

While we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany today, in many Latin American countries, *El Dia de Los Reyes* (Three Kings' Day) is celebrated on January 6. This is the twelfth day of Christmas and is marked by gift-giving, mirroring the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh brought to the Christ Child by the three wise men. Some celebrations begin the evening before and include parades of decorative floats and people dressed in costumes of kings bearing gifts. We take some time today to think about what gifts we bring into our own ministry and how we share these gifts with the church, the Body of Christ.

In a 2021 homily, Pope Francis tells the faithful that “we need to learn ever better how to contemplate the Lord.” He highlights three key phrases in his sermon: “to lift up our eyes, to set out on a journey, and to see.” As we contemplate the day, how might we offer our gifts of liturgical ministry to foster these three actions of lifting eyes, journeying, and seeing? Francis urges believers to lift eyes in hope and trust in God, to begin journeys of experience and learning, and to see beyond appearances towards things visible and invisible.

As we begin this new year, we are being invited to “set out on a new journey” to offer the gifts we have been given by God in service to one another within our parish community. We are called to see beyond monetary gifts and to recognize that gift-giving includes time in ministry, seeing the light of Christ in each other, shining for each other. Lifting up our eyes to the light of the star that guides us to Jesus requires our surrender and complete trust in God. We may not know the way, but we trust that God points us in the right direction. Epiphany is not an event of an ancient time – it is a manifestation of finding God and God’s presence within ourselves and in our own community of faith.





Questions for Further Reflection, Meditation, and Faith Sharing

- How can you cultivate attentiveness in your own life?
- Where do you miss the signs of God's presence and action?
- How can our own interests and skills reveal God to ourselves and others?



St. Peter Martyr School Open House

Check out St. Peter Martyr's School Community on Sunday, January 29th from 10am - 12pm to kick off Catholic Schools Week. Please invite your friends and family to see our great campus and the wonderful work the students will have displayed. Tours will be available.

Please check in at the tour table located outside the school office or call to schedule an appointment for this day.

Now accepting applications for Preschool through 8th grade. Financial Aid is available. Apply online at: <https://stpetermartyrschool.org/admissions/how-to-apply>
Questions? (925) 439-1014
or spmschool@cndo.org

UNBOUND
HEART OF THE FATHER

Next weekend, January 14th and 15th, we will welcome a Guest Homilist from the organization known as "Unbound," a ministry that reaches out and supports children in other countries. The visiting priest has been rescheduled from a previous weekend when it wasn't possible for him to be with us as I had come down with Covid. I know you will give him a warm welcome. There will be flyers, brochures, and information about their ministry available on the Credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Pastoral and Financial Report for 2022 will be presented to the parish on the weekend of January 28th and 29th. The report chronicles the life of the parish over the last year and helps us to remember how the Holy Spirit has guided our programs, ministries, outreaches, and continued to form us as "missionary disciples." 2022 was in many ways, an historic year for us. It will also give a financial accounting of our Stewardship as well as present the Budget for 2023. I hope you will plan to be at one of our liturgies that weekend to receive its presentation. The report will also be available on line at our parish website.

Volunteering is
a work of heart



On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank all those who volunteer in so many ways, both seen and unseen, each week:

To those who clean the sanctuary each Saturday morning in preparation for the weekend: **Al Cosce, Jun Bajet, Ada Nnaji, Phi Hadsell, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, and Steve Rojek.**

To **Virginia Noack** who cleans and cares for the bathrooms each day as well as vacuuming the carpets both inside and outside the narthex each morning.

To **Lisa Lombardo** who records our liturgies and uploads them to our YouTube Channel for those who cannot be with us in person.

To our Parish Security Team: **John Connelly, Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Tony Gumina, Dave Simpson, Brian McCoy, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Jose Perez, and Bill Barbanica.**

To all our Liturgical Ministers: **Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Music Ministry, Adult Acolytes, Sacristans, and Altar Guild, Members of the Art & Environment Committee, and Members of the Liturgy Committee.**

To those who assist in the office: **Bev Iacona, Lorraine Lohmeier, Alicia Perez, and Mel Costanza.**

To those who assist with finance matters, counting the collection and doing the required financial accounting.

Those who facilitate the twice monthly food distribution in our parking lot when the Food Truck arrives from Contra Costa-Solano Counties Food Bank.



Coming in February 2023! “Catholic Social Teaching: A Guide for Decision Making,” presented by Susannah Nelson. All sessions are on Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The dates are February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and March 7th.



Help needed for rides to our church

If you are interested in joining a small group of parishioners from each liturgy to be available to give rides to our parishioners so they can attend mass, please let me know. Some of our parishioners cannot afford the expense from their homes to use uber. Any one requesting a ride would reside in their own home.

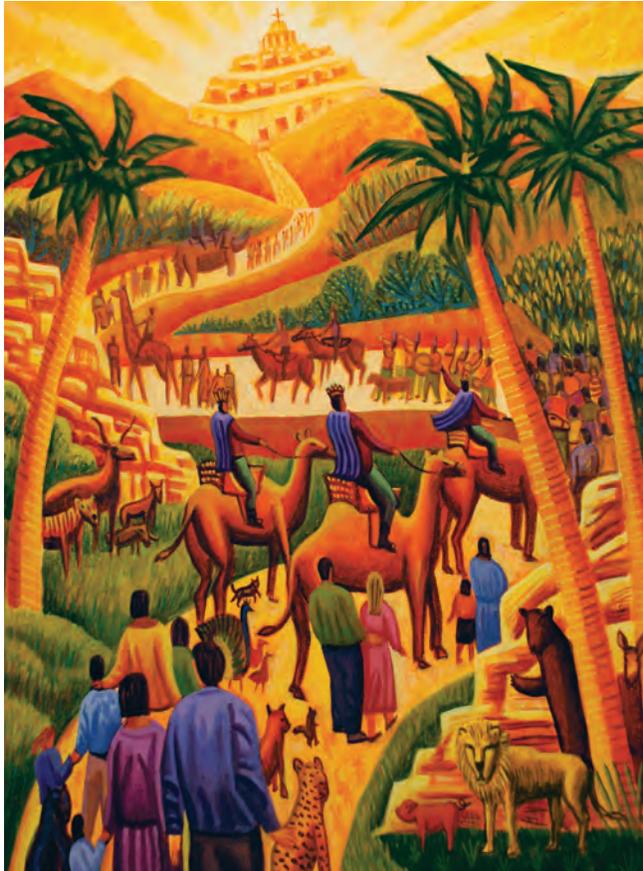
If you are interested in helping, please reach out to me. I need your name, phone number and email address and which mass you attend. I will coordinate the first ride and after that I will let you and the parishioner work out the rides you so generously offer. I can be reached at daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net

are there. We cannot return to fighting among ourselves, among liberal and conservative ideas. We cannot return to ignoring the needs of those around us. We cannot return to the way things were. We must find another way to help the world come to peace. We must take a different route. What does that route look like in your life?



They opened their treasures and offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Matthew 2:11b

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Star-Crossed

God our Creator
you guided the Magi to the infant
through the brightness of a star.
Gold, frankincense, and myrrh,
the Magi presented.
May the light of Scripture
guide our journey
as we offer to you
our worship and discipleship.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, January 8, 2023
Illumination and Glory



Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12. The radiance of God's glory is clear as we celebrate Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in the visit of the Magi. In the first reading, Isaiah addresses Jerusalem, saying, "Your light has come." Continuing, Isaiah tells of people from afar bringing gifts: "All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."

The Magi proclaim the Lord's birth, when they arrive in Jerusalem, inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" Alarmed at this query, the jealous King Herod begins a search for the one he considers a rival to his power. But this newborn is not destined to compete with the king.

Isaiah had foretold that the newborn would "shepherd my people Israel." This is not the language of an earthly ruler. Jesus continues to be manifest in us in the readings and the Eucharist. On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we thank God for the gift of the Eucharist, a gift that we can continue to receive throughout our lives.

Matthew's Gospel is a particular type of Jewish story that intends to make a theological point and is heavily influenced by biblical tradition and diverse sources. These visitors to the holy family were clearly good-hearted, kindly, and motivated by faith in prophecy and astrology. Honor their generosity by extending good will and kindness to family, friends, and coworkers.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Tuesday, January 9

The Baptism of the Lord

The readings of the Christmas season conclude with the heavens opening and a voice saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” What could be a more joyous way to end the season? During Christmas Time, we have experienced the birth of our Savior, the manifestation to the Magi, and Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. As we enter Ordinary Time in winter, pause to reflect on each of these in-breakings of the kingdom and how they have affected you. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7, Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 9–10; or Acts 10:34–38; Matthew 3:13–17.*

Monday, January 23

Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children weaves the secular with the sacred. Wherever we are on this day, we pray that God will protect all unborn children. Although the unborn are nameless to us, we can easily look around and offer thanks to God to all those who have been born. Consider using some of the photos from the Christmas cards that you have received this year to start a conversation with children about our belief that all life is sacred. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 72:2,3–4ab, 7–8, 11–12, 13–14; Matthew 5:1–12a.*

Wednesday, January 25

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul reminds us that conversion to deepen faith and service of others is sometimes sudden. For most people, though, conversion to living in Christ is gradual, like a never-ending timeline of good works, struggles, reconciliation, renewal, and stronger faith in Jesus. Today, pray that we may never hesitate to serve God by serving others with kindness and understanding. Pray also to follow the example of St. Paul and to learn from struggles, so that you can dedicate your life to following Christ. *Today’s*

readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; Mark 16:15–18.

Thursday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is sometimes called Candlemas Day or the Feast of the Encounter in the Temple (by Eastern Christians). In the Gospel, we hear Simeon’s words of blessing and Anna’s prophecy. Many parishes bless candles for parishioners and for the year’s Masses today, a tradition that reminds us of the light of faith that we have through baptism. *Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*

Friday, February 3

St. Blaise

Little is known about St. Blaise, who was a bishop and martyr. He is celebrated as having healed a boy who was choking, likely on a bone. Recalling this miracle, the tradition of the blessing of throats arose around the eighth century. As throats are blessed with crossed candles close to the recipient’s neck, we ask God to heal all who suffer from diseases of the throat and “every other illness.” *Today’s readings: Hebrews 13:1–8; Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 8b–9abc; Mark 6:14–29.*

Saturday, February 11

World Day of the Sick

On the optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, we recall the story of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, France. Millions of pilgrims have visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes since 1862, when several miracles were confirmed as authentic. In 1992, Pope John Paul II named February 11 World Day of the Sick, a day of awareness of those who are ailing and for all who have no access to proper medical care. Today is an important intersection of loving awareness of all sick persons, with a memorial in the Church that celebrates God’s healing through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. *Today’s readings: Genesis 3:9–24; Psalm 90:2, 3–4abd, 5–6, 12–13; Mark 8:1–10.*



Just in time for Lent...
*“Catholic Social
Teaching: A Guide for
Decision Making”,
presented by Susannah
Nelson, MA in Education.*

All sessions are on Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The dates are February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and March 7th, 2023.

Pictured Susannah Nelson with her husband David Nelson





ST. PETER MARTYR SCHOOL PASTA DINNER, RAFFLE, & AUCTION



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

AT ST. PETER MARTYR SCHOOL
FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

Menu

Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread,
Beverage and Dessert

Adult Ticket - \$15.00

Child Ticket - \$10.00



Catholic Schools
Week Raffle &
Silent Auctions



Live Entertainment
from Mr. Ozel

PRE-ORDER ONLY! All Orders Must be Placed by Thursday, February 2nd

Spaghetti Dinner Order Form

(Please complete and return this portion with your payment)

I would like to purchase: _____ (#) Adult Spaghetti Dinners at \$15.00 each. (____ x \$15 = _____)

I would like to purchase: _____ (#) Child Spaghetti Dinners at \$10.00 each. (____ x \$10 = _____)

Total Cost _____

I will come and dine in at SPM School _____ (from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

I would like to pick up my orders to go at _____ P.M. (options 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (Make checks payable to St. Peter Martyr School or Venmo us @STPeterMartyr-School with Your name and Pasta Dinner In the Memo)

Name

Phone Number

Spaghetti Dinner Volunteer Opportunities

If you wish to volunteer your time to help at the Spaghetti Dinner, please contact Emma Ojeda via email ojedaemma@gmail.com

help a child

When you sponsor through Unbound, you help a child and family achieve their God-given potential. You walk with them on their path to change.

encourage a youth

Getting an education can be especially hard for young people faced with poverty. Your support provides resources and encouragement. It says, "I believe in you."

befriend an elder

Elders often experience difficulties related to nutrition, health care and social isolation. Your support helps an elder with needs like food, health care, home visits and group activities.

sponsor today

We're all part of one human family created in God's image. As a sponsor with Unbound, you'll get the satisfaction of knowing you're living out your faith as part of a caring and inclusive global community. You'll also learn about your new friend from letters and photos, and you can write and send photos, too!

I want to sponsor:

- Any child Girl Boy Youth Elder
- I would like to contribute through my bank account or credit card (see reverse).
- Enclosed is my first monthly contribution of \$40.
(Please do not send cash. Make checks payable to Unbound.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime phone (____) _____ Email _____

Parish _____

MAIL TO:

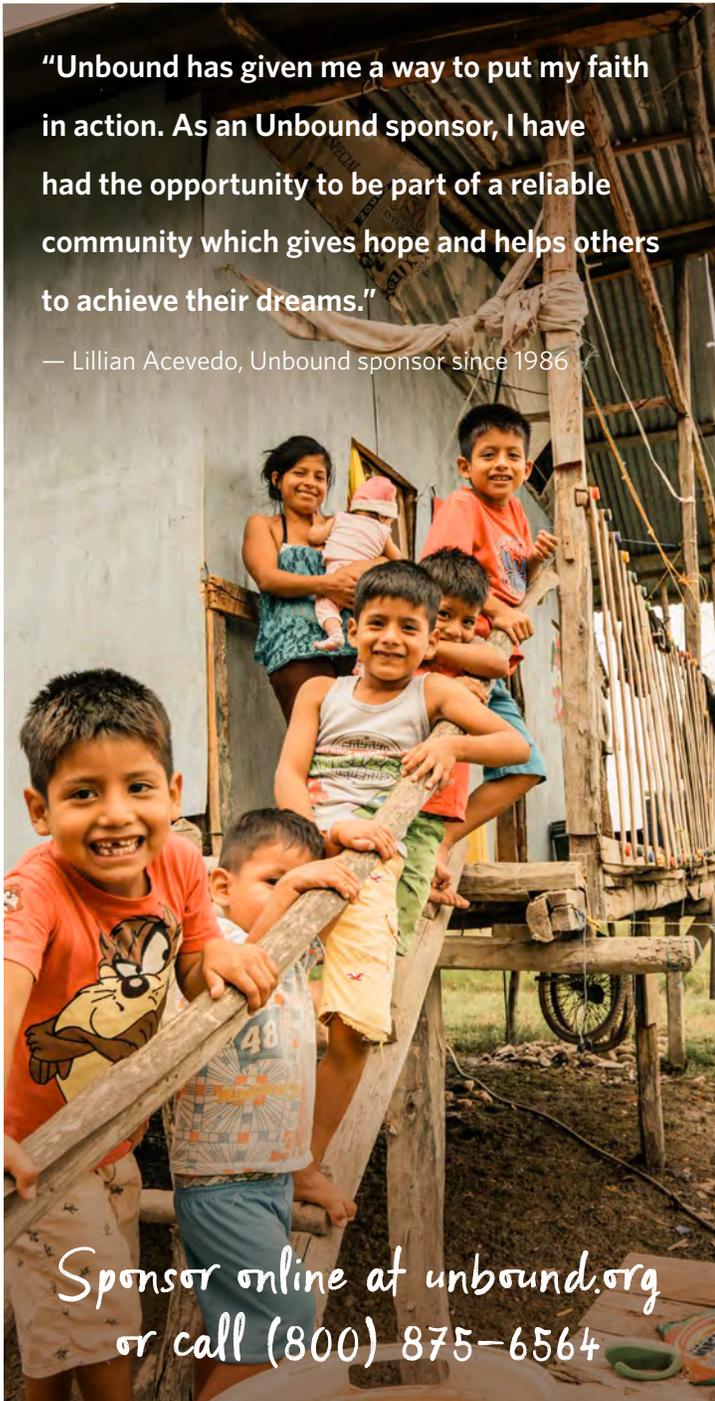
Unbound
P.O. Box 219114
Kansas City, MO 64121-9114

You can also sponsor online at **unbound.org**
or call (800) 875-6564.



"Unbound has given me a way to put my faith in action. As an Unbound sponsor, I have had the opportunity to be part of a reliable community which gives hope and helps others to achieve their dreams."

— Lillian Acevedo, Unbound sponsor since 1986



*Sponsor online at unbound.org
or call (800) 875-6564*

WHO WE ARE

Unbound is an international development organization founded by lay Catholics and grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. We build relationships of mutual respect that bridge cultural, economic and religious divides. We work side by side with people of diverse faith traditions in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

HOW WE WORK

We believe the surest path out of poverty is a self-directed one. Sponsored individuals and families use your support to work toward goals like education, dignified housing, better nutrition and developing livelihoods. Mothers lead the way in our programs through active participation in small groups. From accessing microloans to starting small businesses and forming their own credit cooperatives, mothers are creating paths to self-sufficiency for their families.

HIGHLY RATED STEWARDSHIP

Unbound receives top ratings from independent charity evaluators. This demonstrates the work we put into solid financial stewardship. Visit unbound.org/financials for details.



4% fundraising
3.4% administration
SOURCE: 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



AUTOMATIC BANK WITHDRAWAL

I hereby authorize a direct debit from my checking account each month for payment to Unbound. (Please attach voided check.)

Routing #

Account #

Amount \$.00

Authorized Signature Date

You may cancel this agreement anytime by contacting Unbound at (800) 875-6564 or 1 Elmwood Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66103. Please allow 2 business days to cancel.

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Unbound to charge my credit card in the amount of:

\$40 Monthly \$120 Quarterly \$240 Semi-annually \$480 Annually

Card #

Expiration date /

Cardholder name

Signature Date

So that we may process and provide a receipt for your contribution, please complete the contact information section on the front of this form.

Please print clearly.



Unbound is listed in the
Official Catholic Directory.

Diocese of Oakland



Are you being called?

Diaconate Formation Information Meetings

"By ordination, particularly and officially committed to service, the deacon is to inspire, promote and help coordinate the service that the whole Church must undertake in imitation of Christ. He has a special responsibility to identify to the Church those who are in need and particularly those who are without power of voice at the margins of our society. Among such people, the deacon is to speak about Christ and to offer them the Church's varied assistance. But in the Church, he is also to speak about the needy, to articulate their needs, and to inspire and mobilize the whole community's response. He thus becomes a representative figure in whom the Church reaches out to the needy and the needy challenge the Church." (*National Conference of Catholic Bishops: Permanent Deacons in the United States – Guidelines on Their Formation and Ministry – 1984 Revision, par 37*)

Candidate Qualifications

- Practicing Catholic for 10 years or more.
- Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and be validly married by the Church, if applicable.
- At least 33 years of age but not older than 60 years of age at the time of application.
- Good physical and mental health.
- Gainfully employed or otherwise financially secure.
- Sufficient time to devote to the formation program.
- Demonstrates leadership ability and calling to the social justice ministry of the Church.
- If married, both oral and written support, endorsement and consent of his wife and family. His wife should be willing to participate in the formation process.
- A commitment to celibacy is required of non-married candidates, as well as widowers.

Time 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday January 4, 2023

Tuesday January 10, 2023

Time 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday January 6, 2023

Thursday January 12, 2023

ZOOM meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8745798692>

Phone Connection: 1 408 638 0968 Meeting ID: 874 579 8692#

Wives are encouraged to attend

For additional information contact, Diocesan Office of Clergy Services
Cielo Barroso-Branco, 510-267-8356 C Branco@oakdiocese.org

St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life 2023 Team now forming!!

Relay for Life of the Delta is one of many Relay for Life organizations across the United States and around the world that raises funds for the American Cancer Society.

Since 2004 our St. Ignatius of Antioch parish has had a relay team for the yearly walkathon presented by Relay for Life. Every year since 2004 our team has walked and raised funds for the many services that the American Cancer Society provides for Cancer patients and their families, for those seeking advice or answers to questions, for legislative support as well as educational materials.

Our team has held many fundraisers throughout the years including pasta dinners, golf tournaments, bunco games, spring teas, garage sales, mini relay walks, as well as sponsors for our walkers. We have raised well over 145,000 dollars since 2004, thanks to the efforts of our team members who have helped with our fundraising events. Also, we thank our parishioners who have given donations, some annually for the many years we have been walking to eradicate cancer.

We will be forming our 2023 team and invite you to join us for an informational night soon to be determined. Maryann Peddicord and Alicia Perez have been co-captains of the St. Ignatius of Antioch team and have served as committee members of the Relay for Life leadership group.

If you are interested in joining us for the 2023 season, please feel free to leave your name, phone/cell number and email at 925-778-0768. We promise to contact you with further information.

If you have questions about your cancer diagnosis or that of a loved one please call 1-800-ACS-2345 or go on-line to www.cancer.org.

Alicia Perez

Maryann Peddicord

Co-captains Relay for Life