

St. Mary Catholic Church

Walnut Creek, California - 925-891-8900 - www.stmary-wc.org

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN



OCTOBER 1, 2023
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

MASS TIMES

Monday through Friday
6:30 am & 12:05 pm

Saturday
8:30 am

Saturday Vigil Mass
4:30 pm

Sundays
7:00 am * 9:00 am
11:00 am
1:00 pm (Spanish)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Saturdays 3:00-4:00 pm
In the church

DEVOTIONS

(All take place in the chapel)

Eucharistic Adoration
Mon-Fri 7 am - 8 pm
Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm

Hispanic Holy Hour
Saturdays 9 to 10 am

First Saturday Devotion
First Sat. of each month
9 to 10 am

Catholic Man Night
First Wed., 7 pm

PARISH OFFICE
2051 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Walnut Creek,
CA 94596
www.stmary-wc.org

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
Monday through Friday

2051 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Staff and Administration

Parish Office	925-891-8900
Fr. William Rosario, Pastor	925-891-8900 william@stmary-wc.org
Fr. Bich Nguyen, Parochial Vicar	925-891-8900 bnguyen@stmary-wc.org
Ana Lau, Office Manager	925-891-8908, alau@stmary-wc.org
Aileen Baker, Bookkeeper	925-891-8911, abaker@stmary-wc.org

Faith Formation

Administration	925-891-8939
Margaret Riley, K-Grade 5	925-891-8920, mriley@stmary-wc.org
Kiona Medina, Grades 6-12	925-891-8944, kmedina@stmary-wc.org
Heather Abraham, Confirmation	925-891-8934, habraham@stmary-wc.org
Tim Mannix, RCIA & Liturgy Coord.	925-891-8921, tmannix@stmary-wc.org

School

Office	925-935-5054, stmary@st-mary.net
Mary Caren Heffner, Principal	925-935-5054

ORGANIZATIONS

Eucharistic Adoration, Ana Lau	925-891-8908
Filipino-American Ministry, Elena Gaoiran	925-525-7089
Finance Council, Brian Mulligan	925-360-0114
Hispanic Ministry, Angeles Ron	925-856-8780
Hospital Ministry, Angeles Ron	925-856-8780
Knights of Columbus, John Cuddihy, Grand Knight	925-286-4515
Men of St. Joseph, Mike Gallagher	925-464-8118
Rosary Makers, Ana Lau	925-891-8908
St. Vincent de Paul, Barb Erickson	925-360-1679
Walking with Purpose, Mary Kerfs	925-708-6989



Bring your furry, scaly and feathery friends to receive a special blessing on Wednesday, October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi
School yard - 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTION OF THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS

The First Saturday Devotion will be celebrated in the Adoration Chapel this coming **Saturday, October 7**, from 9 to 10 a.m. Come and join us to offer reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.



TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Dear sisters and brothers,

That we, as a parish church, invest in and develop young people in our congregation is vital. I write this pastor's column after being with our parish teens in San Damiano Retreat Center last weekend, where they were making their retreat as they began their journey of faith towards the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Obviously, there are many reasons why we as a church need to invest our time and resources in our youngsters, but the most important reason being there's a biblical mandate given to us by Jesus. The last words that He told us before He ascended into heaven was that the mission of the church is to make disciples.

And so we, as parents and elders in the Church need to disciple them and train them to be leaders in the church, and eventually prepare them to become disciples who will make disciples. Incidentally, the mission of our parish church is: "to know and love Christ and make him better known".

To this end, we who are older in the congregation, those who have been walking with Christ

for many years, have a responsibility to mentor younger people. Which means working as a volunteer in youth ministry, and teaching children's Sunday school.

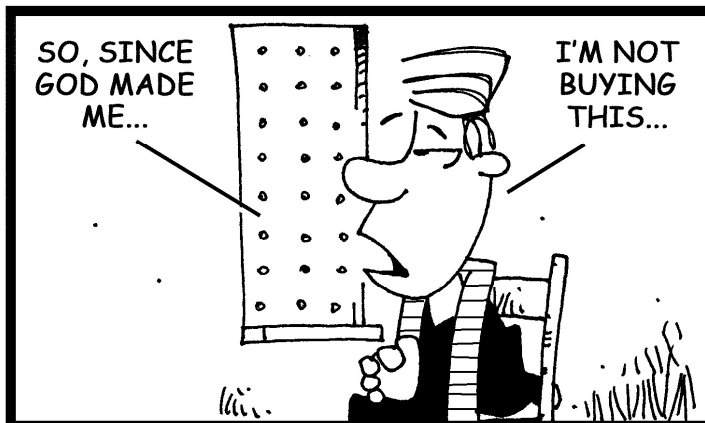
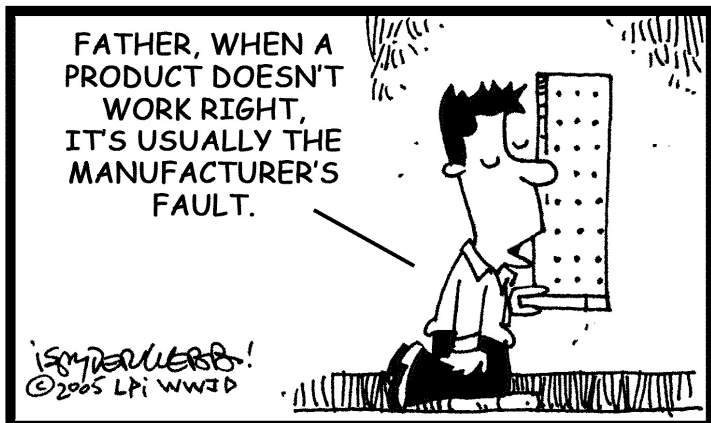
One of the key factors of whether or not young people who are raised in the faith stay in the church after they graduate college is that they had one relationship with an adult outside of their parents in the church. Like one key relationship with an adult who's not their parents in the church who was their role model in their faith journey. And that keeps so many young people involved in church.

A word of appreciation to Heather Abraham and Kiona Medina who guided our confirmation candidates through their retreat. May God bless them!

Let us as a parish church invest in the next generation. This is not an option because they are the ones who are going to make sure the church is carried forward into the future. Moreover, they bring vibrancy and positivity and energy to our parish community that will make our church grow wider.

With prayerful wishes and blessings,

Fr. William Rosario



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MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
09/30	4:30 pm	The People of St. Mary
10/01	7:00 am	Jack Larue
	9:00 am	Beverly Regan
	11:00 am	Mark Butler
	1:00 pm	Daniel Emerson Vasques
10/02	6:30 am	Louis Cruna
	12:05 pm	Remy Gaoiran, Sr.
10/03	6:30 am	Nancy Pulisfer
	12:05 pm	Renee Granados
10/04	6:30 am	Nancy Pulisfer
	12:05 pm	COMMUNION SERVICE
10/05	6:30 am	John Mooney
	12:05 pm	Mary Setsuko Moses
10/06	6:30 am	Fred Ebarle
	12:05 pm	Dan Horan
10/07	8:30 am	Helen Middleton

This Week's Readings

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24

Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9,12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 (Is 5:7a)/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

FAITH FORMATION

Our Confirmation teens and faith formation staff are so grateful for all the support received at our "Road to Emmaus" retreat! Thank you Fr. William, parishioners who shared their testimonies, all the families and all the Confirmation Sponsors. Confirmation is just the beginning! please keep our teens in your prayers as they continue to journey with the light of Christ in this world and prepare to receive their sacrament on October 28. We need them!



Respect Life
Sunday
October 1

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*Dear Lord,
What a gift You have given
in every human life.
Inspire us to respect
Your handiwork in
every human we encounter.
Embolden us to protect the dignity
of the most vulnerable
members of society.
Amen.*

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TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, “I can’t stand all these converts to the faith. They’re always rocking the boat.” It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of “us” and “them.” The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don’t we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus’ punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn’t get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. “Which did the will of his father?” asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won’t do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do God’s will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let’s reject the convenient but damaging categories of “insiders” and “outsiders.” Instead, let’s embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren’t them. They are us. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

— Father John Muir. ©LPi

God invites each of us to work in His vineyard,
but it’s our choice whether we “clock in” or stay
home. Let’s never fail to show up.
It’s the most important job we will ever have.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Have you ever wanted to explore the life of Jesus and Mary in a deeper way? Each decade highlights a sacred episode:

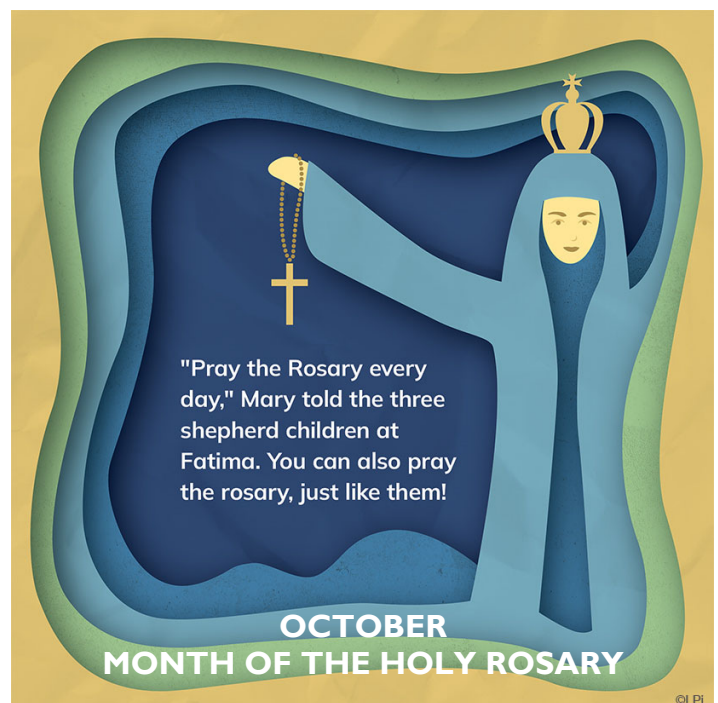
Joyful Mysteries: Through the Annunciation (1) and Visitation (2), we get a glimpse at Mary’s joyful yes to God. She gives birth to Jesus in the Nativity (3). Mary and Joseph present their son at the temple (4) and bring him there again when he is a teenager (5).

Luminous Mysteries: Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River (1) before Mary gives him a nudge to his first miracle at Cana (2). Jesus proclaims the Gospel (3), is transfigured on Mount Tabor (4), and institutes the Eucharist (5). The light is shining!

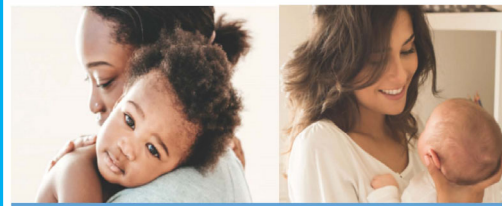
Sorrowful Mysteries: Jesus prays in agony in Gethsemane (1), knowing his hour of suffering has come. After his betrayal and arrest, Jesus is scourged (2) and crowned with thorns (3). He carries his cross (4), and Mary stands at the foot of the cross as he is crucified (5).

Glorious Mysteries: Christ is risen in glory (1)! After appearing to those he loves, he ascends into heaven (2). Jesus’ followers receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (3). Mary, unaffected by original sin, is assumed body and soul into heaven (4), where she is crowned queen, humble mother of Christ the King (5).

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September 27 - November 5
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

**YOUR ONE-HOUR COMMITMENT
 CAN SAVE LIVES**

As we begin this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign, there aren't as many abortion facilities around as there were last year. Since day 1 of last fall's campaign, we've confirmed that **25 different abortion centers have closed their doors for the last time** following a 40 Days for Life campaign! Abortion facilities where 40 Days for Life volunteers prayed have gone out of business **FOREVER** in states where unborn babies are protected, in states where abortion is celebrated, and in countries around the world, including Guatemala, Colombia, Austria, and Mexico! We even saw one of the busiest abortion facilities in **NEW YORK CITY** gone for good! If God can use 40 Days for Life to close an abortion facility in the Bronx, He can use YOU to close the abortion facility where you live!

You are encouraged to join us for an hour a day, an hour a week, OR even an hour in total! Your prayerful presence during these 5 ½ weeks may potentially save a human life and offer support to a mother in need.

To sign up, or to get more information, please contact:

friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com 925-322-0544. You may also sign up on the 40 Days for Life website:

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek> Thank you!

CARONDELET & DE LA SALLE

Carondelet and De La Salle High School's 2023-2024 Admissions Season is open! The application deadline for both schools is December 8, and Financial Aid applications open on December 1.

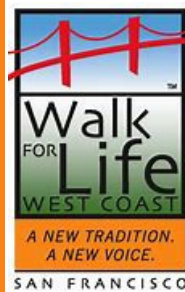
To learn more about **Carondelet**, come to our Open House on November 5 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. **De La Salle** will be hosting an Open House from 9:30 AM - 12:00 on November 5 as well.

To register for Open House, find out more about both schools, and apply, visit **carondeleths.org** and **dlshs.org**.



So that you can plan ahead, we would like to let you know that our Mass on Thanksgiving Day is going to be at 10:30 a.m. You may

bring the bread and wine you will be enjoying at your dinner to be blessed at the end of Mass.



Walk for Life 2024 SAVE THE DATE!

On January 20, 2024, we will be celebrating all life and standing for women, families, and the littlest among us at the 20th Annual Walk for Life West Coast!

Following the momentous Dobbs decision, tens of thousands of defenseless, innocent lives have been saved all over the country. Yet here, on the west coast, the regime that so casually disregards life is as powerful as ever. We will change this!

We must and shall continue to be a voice for the voiceless, to be defenders of the defenseless, and to provide hope to the hopeless. **Join us!**

As always, there will be lots of events on the day of the Walk and on the surrounding days. We have been updating our website with the most current information, but please keep checking back for all the latest news.

We can't wait to see you on January 20!

Walkforlifewc.com

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR ...

Loretta Holmes	Ed Regan	Eric Wilberg	Richard Lau	Vic Muzio
Nancie Campi	Pat O'Rourke	Sophia Gibson	Teresa Garcia	James Dufloth
Carol Erikson	David Holmes	Richard Olmstead	Henry Escano	Stephanie Wilson
Beth Wainwright	Camille Giglio	Lou Montoya	Timothy Beel	John Erickson
Danyel Sheets	Marina Rodriguez	Melanie Ezekiel	Ana Graciela Isea	Marilyn Kushner
Robin Wood	Carol Lorenzana	Ashley Mrozek	Angelina Carcueva	Anne Kavanagh
Billy Silva	Jamie Crowley	Jeremy Kemper	Eddie Brady	Esther Gamberutti
Marissa Magno	Darlene Fisher	Greg Tomlin	Barbara Ryan	Lois Belmessieri

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JOIN **THE HABIT** BURGER GRILL IN SUPPORT OF
St. Mary School

You will need to present a flyer when ordering. Look for it in a subsequent bulletin, but mark your calendar now to enjoy a delicious burger and help St. Mary on Oct. 17!

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17
3:00 TO 8:00 PM

Feel-Good
FOOD
FOR A CAUSE

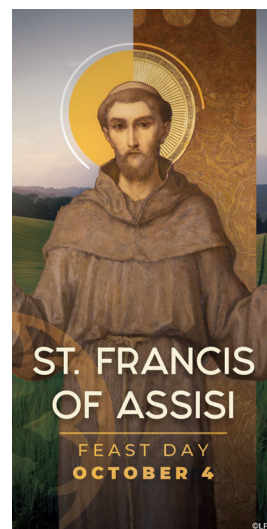
20% of sales from this event will benefit St. Mary School

St. Francis of Assisi | Feast Day October 4

St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) left a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, the Third Order of St. Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.

Born in 1181 in Italy, St. Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying as a youth. During a military expedition/battle between Assisi and Perugia, he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison and began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, St. Francis of Assisi claimed to have heard the voice of Christ, who told him to restore the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. As a result, St. Francis of Assisi abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the Catholic faith.

Today, St. Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of nature and animals, is the patron saint of the environment and animals. Each October, many animals are blessed on his feast day. ©LPi



Why are Catholic and Protestant Bibles different?

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians used a Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. This collection of the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures included 46 books. At the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the Protestant reformers began to create their own translations of the Bible (into local languages) and some began to question why the Jewish Scriptures would have included texts that were written in Greek, because, they assumed, the only valid Jewish Scriptures would have been written in Hebrew. And so, they decided to remove seven books from the Old Testament: Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Wisdom (as well as portions of the Books of Daniel and Esther). This means that the Protestant Old Testament only includes 39 books, while Catholic Bibles continue to include those original 46 books. Both Catholic and Protestant Bibles include 27 books and letters in the New Testament. ©LPi



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26° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Nada es más perturbador en la sociedad en que vivimos que ver que las personas dicen una cosa y hacen otra—algo así, como poner una cara para cada ocasión. En este domingo, estamos llamados a vivir con humildad y coherencia. Para llegar a ser de verdad coherentes existe un secreto que la Primera Lectura de hoy nos recuerda: “Cuando el justo se aparta de la justicia y comete el mal y por eso muere, muere por culpa de la injusticia que cometió. Del mismo modo, si el malvado se aparta de la mala vida que llevaba y actúa según el derecho y la justicia, vivirá”. (Ezequiel 18:26-27). La clave es reconocer el error y cambiar el modo de pensar y obrar para el bien. Para llegar a esta etapa de la vida se requiere mucha humildad.

Es por eso que el Señor Jesús nos narra la parábola de los dos hijos. El que dijo sí y no fue y el que dijo no y se arrepintió y se fue a trabajar en la viña de su padre. ¿A cuál de ellos te pareces? ¿Cómo respondes al llamado de Dios en tu vida, cualquiera que sea tu vocación? San Agustín nos ayuda con la siguiente oración a ser verdaderos discípulos de Jesucristo: “Te seguimos, Señor Jesús, pero para que te sigamos, llámanos, porque sin ti nadie avanza. Solo tú eres el Camino, la Verdad, y la Vida. Recíbenos, como un camino acogedor recibe. Alientanos, como la verdad alienta. Vivifícanos, puesto que tú eres la Vida”. ¡Creamos en Jesús, como los recaudadores de impuestos y las prostitutas de su tiempo! ©LPi

Lecturas de la semana

Lunes:	Zac 8, 1-8/Sal 101, 16-18. 19-21. 29 y 22-23/Mt 18, 1-5. 10
Martes:	Zac 8, 20-23/Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/Lc 9, 51-56
Miércoles:	Neh 2, 1-8/Sal 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6/Lc 9, 57-62
Jueves:	Neh 8, 1-4. 5-6. 8-12/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 11/Lc 10, 1-12
Viernes:	Bar 1, 15-22/Sal 78, 1-2. 3-5. 8. 9/Lc 10, 13-16
Sábado:	Bar 4, 5-12. 27-29/Sal 68, 33-35. 36-37/Lc 10, 17-24
Domingo:	Is 5, 1-7/Sal 79, 9. 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20 (Isaías 5, 7)/Flp 4, 6-9/Mt 21, 33-43

El Viñedo

El segundo hijo nunca apareció en la viña. ¿Se perdió? ¿Se cansó? ¿No sabía por dónde empezar?



A la hora de la verdad, las buenas intenciones valen muy poco. Todos sabemos esto, ¿no? “Muéstrame, no me digas.” “Lo creeré cuando lo vea.” Es tan cierto en el lugar de trabajo y en las relaciones como en la vida del discípulo cristiano.

No importa si tenemos la intención de trabajar en la viña. No importa si lo prometemos, si lo pensamos mucho o si hacemos grandes planes para lo que lo lograremos allí. Nada de eso importa si no nos presentamos. Antes de aparecer, tenemos que encontrar el camino.

Lo importante es que nos presentemos. Lo que importa es el trabajo, no la intención.

Pero todo esto plantea la pregunta: ¿qué significa la obra para nosotros como católicos bautizados en el mundo moderno? ¿Pasar nuestros sábados en comedores populares y refugios para personas sin hogar? ¿Estar de pie en la esquina de una calle gritando las palabras del Evangelio?

Nuestro llamado bautismal es a la viña. ¿Dónde está nuestro viñedo? ¿Cómo nos hacemos presentes? Estamos listos, Señor, decimos. Tenemos la intención de trabajar. Pero, ¿adónde vamos?

Mi viña no es tu viña, por lo que no me corresponde a mí decirte cómo llegar allí. Me alegro de que quieras ir, pero tendrás que encontrar tu propio camino, al igual que yo. Pero puedo decirte esto: solo una voz te llevará allí. Si la escuchas, encontrarás tu viña.

“Porque el SEÑOR es recto y bondadoso, indica a los pecadores el sendero.” — Salmo 25:8

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman. ©LPi



RESERVEN LA FECHA: Enero 20, 2024

Ese día estaremos celebrando la vida y apoyando a mujeres, familias, y a los más pequeñitos en la Caminata por la Vida en San Francisco. ¡Acompáñanos! Para más información, visita Walkforlifewc.com ¡Nos vemos el 20 de enero!