

St. Mary Catholic Church

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

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**FEBRUARY 18, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty
days, tempted by Satan.

Mark 1:12

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

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
Sundays 7 am - 8 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
Pawel Walerowski, Music Director	925-891-8942, pawel@stmary-wc.org

Faith Formation

Administration	925-891-8939
Margaret Riley, K-Grade 5	925-891-8920, mriley@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

Cursillo Saturday Group, Bob Conlon	925-968-1929
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



Parish offices will be closed
on Monday, February 19,
in observance of
Presidents' Day

Coffee and
Donuts is back
this Sunday
after a three-
week break.



Join us in the parish hall after
the 9:00, 11:00 and 1:00
mass for treats, fellowship
and friendship.

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Dear sisters and brothers,

Quotes get noticed on social media. People tweet them, dress them up with background images or color, and add them to memes and gifs, usually for comedic effect. A few years ago, after tweeting and also posting on Facebook many quotes, my priest friend decided on Ash Wednesday to tweet, "Lent is not a diet program." He also posted it on Facebook. To his surprise, it caused a bit of a stir. It did not go viral, but people he sees in real life did notice (even if they did not love or like it on social media). They mentioned it and the meaning of that quote seemed to resonate.

Now, I could stand to lose some weight, but Lent as a means to this end is not what the season is about. It is a time of penitential preparation that aids us to have "Wondrous Encounters" with God, and to love him and love neighbor more fully. It is not focused on




self, even if we "give something up for Lent." The Lenten season is a time for us to look at where we are, and through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, done in cooperation with God's grace, move to where God wants us to be. Any self-denial that we do must lead to greater selflessness.

As Lent begins, we at St. Mary Parish hope that our Lenten resources might assist us in this effort. The traditional Catholic means of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not ends in themselves, but help us to deepen our encounter with the Risen One, Jesus Christ, in and through the community of faith and to go forth as his apostles/missionary disciples.

Please know that we will accompany you in special prayer during this Lenten season.

With prayerful wishes and blessings,

Fr. William Rosario



HOW
ARE YOU
CHOOSING TO
WALK IN HIS
SANDALS
THIS LENT?

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Dear Jesus,

This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen.



TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
02/17	4:30 pm	The People of St. Mary
02/18	7:00 am	Jon Armstrong
	9:00 am	Peggy Jannisse
	11:00 am	Barbara Forde
	1:00 pm	Alejandro Garcia
02/19	6:30 am	Bonnie Armstrong (L)
	12:05 pm	Shelby Miller (L)
02/20	6:30 am	Hugo Ramirez
	12:05 pm	Dario Isea Uribe
02/21	6:30 am	Fr. Paulson Mundanmani (L)
	12:05 pm	Bob Seaton
02/22	6:30 am	Joseph Henry Skelley
	12:05 pm	Lynn McCann
02/23	6:30 am	Marietta Cruz (L) B'D'
	12:05 pm	Alejandro Gonzalez (L)
02/24	8:30 am	Karin Lisboa & Lucy Lichota

This Week's Readings

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/
Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a,
7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps
116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

St. Mary Church
of the Immaculate Conception



Lenten Dinners

Enjoy fellowship this Lent!

Our parish tradition of Lenten dinners returns! Each Friday a parish ministry prepares a meal to serve immediately following the 6 pm Stations of the Cross

Volunteers needed

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Dinner Tickets are available after Mass or in the parish office

- Adult - \$14; season ticket \$70 (buy 5 - get 6 meals)
- Child (12 & under) - \$8; season ticket \$40 (buy 5 - get 6 meals)
- Family (2 adults & 2 children - \$40; season ticket \$220)

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks related to our Lenten dinners on the Fridays of Lent:

- Ticket sales after mass
- Set up for dinner
- Serving
- Cleanup

If you can help, please call the Parish Office





WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR RESUME TO
mcheffner@csdo.org

ST. MARY SCHOOL





TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

First Sunday of Lent

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous “Double Rainbow” video on YouTube to feel better. It’s hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. “Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!” he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, “What does it mean?” Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What does it mean?



Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante’s medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God’s promise of peace. For Dante, it’s even more: nature’s encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, “Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory.” This Lent let’s embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine. — Father John Muir. ©LPi

First Sunday of Lent

A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. Assuming both parties enter into the covenant of their own free will, it is a bond that cannot be broken. As time goes on, that covenant will be tested and its validity questioned by skeptics, but it will remain if it is real.

God's covenant with his people is real. It began with a promise made to Noah and was renewed in the person of Jesus Christ. It has been tested by man through sin and by evil through Jesus' trials in the desert. But here in 2024, it still remains as strong as ever.

This Lent, take time to rediscover and reflect on this covenant God has with us. Reclaim your baptism and make it a motivating factor in how you live your life. Take the opportunity this Lenten season provides to increase your devotion and spirituality. You will be tested and you will suffer trials, for life is not always easy. But God has always upheld his part of the agreement. Now is the time to take our part in this covenant more seriously.

God used a rainbow as a sign of his covenant with Noah and all living creatures to never again flood the earth. Are there some additional signs in your life of God’s love for us?

A poster for the Stations of the Cross. It features a large, stylized purple 'V' shape. Inside the 'V' is a black and white illustration of Jesus on the cross, with a soldier's helmet and spear visible. Below the 'V', the text reads: "JOIN US FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS" in large, bold, purple letters, followed by "FRIDAYS OF LENT" in smaller purple letters. At the bottom, there are two time slots: "6:00 pm English" on the left and "7:00 pm Spanish" on the right, separated by a small purple triangle pointing upwards.

JOIN US FOR THE
**STATIONS OF
THE CROSS**
FRIDAYS OF LENT

6:00 pm
English

7:00 pm
Spanish

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

ST. MARY LIBRARY

Several years ago, we thought it would be a good idea to have a parish library, and set out to work on creating one.

We are now happy to report that our library is now a reality. The library is located in the Faith Formation Office and books can be checked out on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.

We have books on the Bible, faith, prayer, Catholicism, and many other topics, including a limited selection of fiction titles and reference books as well as a small section of books in Spanish.



Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women, invites you to our Prayer Breakfast with our speaker, Jennifer Norton!

Saturday, March 16
9:30am-12:30pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
500 Fairview Ave, Brentwood



Jen, a Santa Clara University graduate is an award-winning artist and author whose work is inspired by her Catholic faith. She will share with us how her art helps her connect more deeply with her prayer life. Jen is also the author of two journal retreats. We look forward to hearing her inspiring story!

Tickets are \$33 if postmarked by 3/9/24; after that, please call to reserve. Or register online: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ca-walnut-creek>

For more information, call Michelle Heckle or email magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com

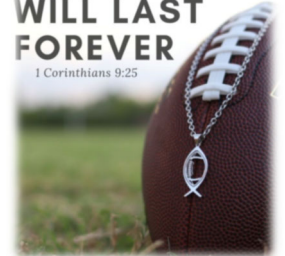
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

February 14-March 24

What would our world be like if we each would expend a SUPER effort to defend life...along the same lines as the effort those athletes participating in last weekend's Super Bowl put forth in preparing for that game?

RUN FOR THE PRIZE THAT WILL LAST FOREVER

1 Corinthians 9:25



Only our effort would not be for a game of football; it would be for a contest of souls.

Please reflect on this and on the call to witness for life that Jesus summons us to. Is He not the ultimate coach for us? Are His teachings not where we should expend our greatest effort?

Our 40 Days team is praying for each of you...that for this Lenten season you will be prompted by the Holy Spirit to commit to at least one day a week, for one hour of prayer, witnessing for life on the sidewalk...expending the effort to win souls for Christ and perhaps even increasing holiness in your own.

Christ needs you on the field. Be His MVP.

To sign up for an hour, please visit our website: www.40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek OR, email us at: friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com OR, Text/Call: (925 322-0544)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph 2:10

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR ...

Billy Silva	Jamie Crowley	Richard Lau	Anne Kavanagh	John Olson
Marissa Magno	Darlene Fisher	Teresa Garcia	Esther Gamberutti	Jennifer Zotti
Ed Regan	Eric Wilberg	Henry Escano	Lois Belmessieri	Philomena Tao
Pat O'Rourke	Sophia Gibson	Timothy Beel	Mary Walsh	Evelina Martins
David Holmes	Richard Olmstead	Angelina Carcueva	Arthur Gaoiran, Sr.	Wilfredo Laredo
Camille Giglio	Melanie Ezekiel	Eddie Brady	Jennifer Mary Field	Leah Morucci
Marina Rodriguez	Jeremy Kemper	Vic Muzio	Brianna Tappe	Becky Klemm
Carol Lorenzana	Greg Tomlin	John Erickson	Kerri Moore	Brad Klemm

TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Join us for

Holy Mass

with

Bishop Michael Barber

followed by a

Rosary Procession

to

Planned Parenthood.

This is

My Body

which is given

For You.

Pray for the end of abortion.

Saint Mary's Church

2039 Mt Diablo Blvd,

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Feb. 23, 2024 at 12:05pm



TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Primer Domingo de Cuaresma

Ha llegado el Tiempo de Cuaresma, que va desde el Miércoles de Ceniza hasta antes de la Misa de la Cena del Señor del Jueves Santo, dando inicio al Triduo Pascual, donde celebramos los acontecimientos principales de la Vida, Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Jesús. La Iglesia nos motiva a estar atentos, porque es un tiempo favorable para convertirnos de corazón. La Cuaresma es un tiempo que nos prepara para el Tiempo Pascual, el acontecimiento más importante del Calendario Litúrgico. También es un tiempo para recordar la historia de la salvación, tiempo fuerte para acercarnos a los Sacramentos, especialmente el de la Reconciliación.

La Liturgia, con sus signos visibles, nos prepara para que escuchemos y creamos en el Evangelio, ya que éste debe ocupar un lugar particularmente importante en nuestra vida. En este primer Domingo de Cuaresma, se nos dice que Jesús, antes de comenzar su misión, será guiado por el Espíritu Santo y será llevado hasta el desierto, donde será tentado por el demonio. Ahí, Jesús, con oración y ayuno, discernirá el plan divino que Dios tiene para él. ¿Qué plan tenemos para esta Cuaresma? ¿Quizá unas buenas vacaciones? ¿Convertirnos, cambiar el corazón, ser mejores? ¡Eso es para después! Este tiempo es para reaccionar. El Señor nos espera, cuenta con cada uno de nosotros para mejorar la sociedad. Es tiempo de trabajar en ello. “El tiempo se ha cumplido; el Reino de Dios está cerca. Renuncien a su mal camino y crean en la Buena Nueva” (Marcos 1,15) ¿Lo haremos?

©LPi

¿Qué significan los colores de las vestiduras de los sacerdotes y diáconos?

En el rito romano de la Iglesia católica, los colores de las vestiduras han evolucionado a lo largo de varios siglos y hubo una amplia variación tanto en los colores utilizados y en las fiestas y los tiempos asociadas con colores particulares. El Papa Inocencio III (1216) nos dio el esquema básico que más tarde fue prescrito por el Papa San Pío V en 1570. Los diversos colores nos recuerdan los temas dominantes de una temporada o celebración en particular.

- **Blanco:** Utilizado para las temporadas de Navidad y Pascua y en las celebraciones del Señor, de María, los ángeles y los santos que no fueron mártires. Este color también se utiliza en misas para los muertos, en bautismos, bodas y otras celebraciones festivas.

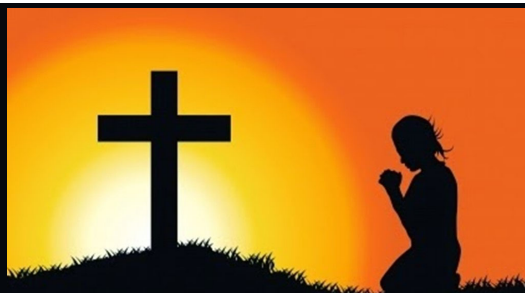
- **Rojo:** El color de la sangre y el fuego, es usado el Domingo de Ramos y el Viernes Santo, así como en Pentecostés y celebraciones especiales del Espíritu Santo. Además, el rojo se usa en las fiestas y memoriales de los Apóstoles y de aquellos santos que murieron como mártires.

- **Violeta/Morado:** El color para el Adviento y Cuaresma. También se usa el violeta durante las misas por los difuntos y en el Día de los Muertos (2 de noviembre).

- **Verde:** El color de la vida y esperanza, es usado a lo largo del tiempo ordinario.

- **Otros colores:** El color rosa se puede usar en el tercer domingo de Adviento y el cuarto domingo de Cuaresma; el negro se puede usar en las misas de los muertos y en el Día de los Muertos; el dorado o el plateado se pueden usar en ocasiones solemnes en lugar del blanco, rojo o verde.

©LPi



Querido Jesús,
Este es el primer domingo de Cuaresma y quiero comprometerme más profundamente contigo en esta temporada. Inspírame con las penitencias cuaresmales que más desees, las que me ayuden a acercarme cada vez más a ti. Amén. ©LPi

Dios usó un arco iris como señal de su pacto con Noé y todos los seres vivientes para nunca más inundar la tierra. ¿Hay algunas señales adicionales en tu vida del amor de Dios por nosotros?