



ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA PARISH COMMUNITY

3680 Arlington Avenue • Riverside • California 92506-3912

February 5, 2023

Ministered by the
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere"



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Ephraim Arciga, MSC, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Luis Alfonso Segura, MSC, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Adrianus Budhi, MSC, In Residence
Rev. Joseph Christy Yesudass, MSC, In Residence
Deacon John De Gano
Deacon Manuel Rivas

Ministry Center: 7005 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506

Parish Office: 951.781.9855 Parish Fax: 951.781.3061
Rectory: 951.683.0800 School: 951.684.1091
Sick Calls (M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm): 951.781.9855
Sick Calls (after hours): 951.683.0800 x 25

MASS SCHEDULE

Face masks are encouraged upon entering the church.

SATURDAY VIGIL

***5:15 pm**

SUNDAY

6:30 am

8:30 am

***10:15 am (ASL)**

12:00 pm

***1:45 pm Español/Spanish**

5:15 pm



DAILY MASS

Monday - Saturday: *8:15 am

Monday - Friday: 5:30 pm

(Except from Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Wednesdays 5:30 pm Mass is in Español/Spanish

***Masses are Live-stream**

Visit us online: www.stcofa.org for up-to-date information

www.facebook.com/stcofa

@stcofa / #stcofa

CONFESSIONS (CONFESIONES)

Saturday (sábado): 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Weekdays by appointment only

Please call the Parish Office at 951/781-9855

FIFTH Sunday in Ordinary Time



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**"Your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father."**

Matthew 5:16

**"Brille la luz de ustedes ante los hombres,
para que viendo las buenas obras que ustedes hacen,
den gloria a su Padre, que está en los cielos".**

Mateo 5:16

QUINTO Domingo
del Tiempo Ordinario

5 de febrero de 2023

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

One God, One people in Christ, One community of love guided by the Holy Spirit to impact lives.
Un Dios, Un pueblo en Cristo, Una comunidad de amor guiada por el Espíritu Santo para impactar vidas.

MASS INTENTIONS - INTENCIONES DE MISAS

SUNDAY - DOMINGO 02/05

6:30 am St. Catherine's Parishioners
8:30 am William Bowen, Sr. †
10:15 am Sandro Capraro †
12:00 pm Intentions of Jose Antonio & Victoria Castillo
1:45 pm Daisy Pineda †
5:15 pm Intentions of 3rd Year Confirmation Candidates

MONDAY - LUNES 02/06

8:15 am Daisy Noriega †
5:30 pm Lourdes Buan †
TUESDAY - MARTES 02/07
8:15 am Intentions of Crystal Gomez
5:30 pm Intentions of Lance Michael Wiseman

WEDNESDAY - MIÉRCOLES 02/08

8:15 am Intentions of Sue Kassab
5:30 pm Francisca Laboc Iso †

THURSDAY - JUEVES 02/09

8:15 am Intentions of Juan Torres & Family
5:30 pm Tristan Caparas †

FRIDAY - VIERNES 02/10

8:15 am Intentions of Thuy Huong Nguyen
5:30 pm Escolastica Santos †

SATURDAY - SÁBADO 02/11

8:15 am Intentions of Danny Campobasso
10:00 am At WMV - Linda Neja †
5:15 pm Intentions of Henry & Bertha Peña

SUNDAY - DOMINGO 02/12

6:30 am Tristan Caparas †
8:30 am St. Catherine's Parishioners
10:15 am Leovardo & Teri Lynn Armenta †
12:00 pm Jaime Edgardo Lopez †
1:45 pm Juan Ramirez †
5:15 pm Vincenzo Lanni †

† Symbolizes Soul of Deceased



LITURGY CORNER

February 5 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 6 - Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

February 8 - Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

February 10 - Saint Scholastica, Virgin

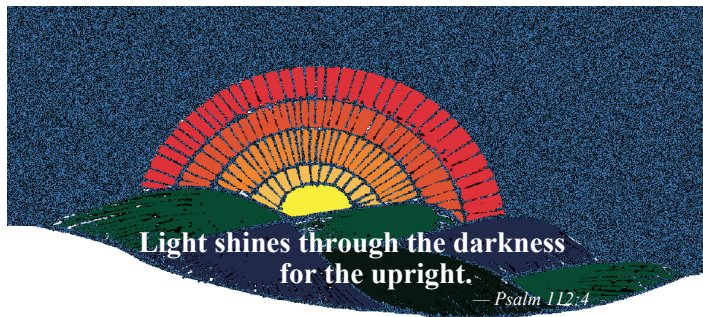
February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

Saint Paul Miki and Companions, he was a Japanese Jesuit scholastic, and his twenty-five companions were crucified at Nagasaki, among them the Mexican, Felipe de Jesus, first martyr from the Americas to be beatified; protomartyrs of the Far East (canonized in 1862 by Pope Pius IX). ORDO

Saint Jerome Emiliani in the Church's art, he is with a ball and chain with which he was fettered as a prisoner of war in Italy in 1508. From the dungeon he asked Mary for help, and he escaped soon after. He eventually returned to his native Venice, where he was a helper and father to orphans and abandoned children; he died in 1537.

Saint Josephine Bakhita at the age of nine, she was kidnapped from her home in Sudan, force-marched for eight days, and sold into slavery, she was cruelly treated. Eventually with a kind Italian family, she made it to Italy, where she embraced the faith; she died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000.

Saint Scholastica twin sister of St. Benedict, she died in 543, eventually interred in the same grave with her brother. St Gregory the Great wrote, "so death did not separate the bodies of these two, whose minds had ever been united in the Lord".



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St. Catherine Church has radio frequency capability at 72.9 MHz Wideband Audio Input with 10.0 db for the FM Radio that you can hear with your in-ear headphone direct from the presider's microphone.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — If you share your food with the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, then light shall break forth upon you (Isaiah 58:7-10).
Psalms — One who is just is a model for the righteous (Psalm 112).
Second Reading — My message to you, says Paul, was not clever words of wisdom but the proclamation of Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).
Gospel — You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

Brothers and Sisters,

On this 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time our readings give us much to think about. We are all called to be salt of the earth and light of the world. Life isn't about "me" and my wants. Life is about noticing the vulnerable people around us and sharing our time and energy to support them. We are called to be the voice for those who do not find the justice that they need to live in dignity and peace.

Today's 1st reading from Isaiah reminds us that our Christian focus should be on those in need, to the homeless, the naked and the hungry. Sheltering, clothing and feeding the poor has its origin in God's covenant with Israel. He freed Israel from bondage. In response to God's gratuitous love, the people were to share their bread with the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. A community that lives in a right relationship with God is a shining light that dispels darkness, a theme that resounds in today's gospel. St. Paul in our second reading contrasts God's wisdom with human wisdom. The movie, "The Song of Bernadette" which gives us the story of Lourdes and its miracles, begins with the words: "For him who does not believe in God, no explanation is possible; for him who believes in God no explanation is necessary." These words aptly describe the lesson to be drawn from today's reading. The source of human wisdom is the Spirit not Paul's wisdom or eloquence. Paul makes it clear that the power and wisdom of God and God's word are not to be judged by human standards.

In today's gospel, Matthew uses salt to illustrate what happens when a disciple's fervor for the Word of God go flat. Of all the seasonings, *salt* is the most ordinary. Of all the necessities, *light* is one of the most basic. Jesus calls us to be salt and light, to be common elements which give flavor to life, and help people find their way. Both salt and light, are symbols preserved through the centuries that reveal the many dimensions of God's relationship with the human race. In the ancient world salt was used as a means to preserve foods, for purification of people, conquered lands, sacrifices and a sign of hospitality. People who dined together were united in a sacred bond of friendship through the shared sign of salt. Salt was as a sign of the covenant bond that existed between Yahweh (God) and the people. It was referred to as a "covenant made in salt" (2Chr. 13:5); this relationship with Yahweh is permanent and not to be broken. If disciples become flat like salt without flavor and take God for granted, they will be useless in service to God. Disciples are to become the salt of the earth.

Light is the primary symbol in our church. We are all Disciples, called to be a light to the nations. By example we are to reveal God to the world. We as disciples are to be the beacon on the hill, the city that lights up the world. We are salt and light because Jesus called us and all are to respond. Final thought: If we are truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world, people should be able to see Jesus alive and active in us. Do they?

Faithful



2023 DDF SPECIAL COLLECTION IS THIS WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 4 & 5

You can make your donation several ways:

- ▶ **In the collection basket at Mass**
 - ▶ **Via ONLINE GIVING** at St. Catherine's website: www.stcofa.org
 - ▶ **Mail your check to St. Catherine of Alexandria-7005 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506**
- Donating to DDF supports your Church and Ministries. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!*



STEWARDSHIP . . . Thank you for supporting your parish, St. Catherine of Alexandria!

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 Summary of Weekly Sunday Offering January 29, 2023

	Actual Collection	Budgeted Collection
January 1st	\$ 15,870.04	\$ 16,500.00
January 8th	\$ 22,555.25	\$ 16,500.00
January 15th	\$ 16,040.37	\$ 16,500.00
January 22nd	\$ 17,868.17	\$ 16,500.00
January 29th	\$ 15,308.81	\$ 16,500.00
Actual Collection		\$ 554,749.76
Budgeted Collection		541,650.00
YTD Collection Overage		\$ 13,099.76

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH FINANCIALLY.

2023 Diocesan Development Fund January 29, 2023

DDF Assessment	\$ 86,800
Less: Pledges Made	2,429
Total Pledges Shortfall	\$ 84,371
DDF Assessment	\$ 86,800
Less: DDF Pledge Payments	2,429
Total Amount Payable to the Diocese	\$ 84,371
Number of donors	42
Parishioner's participation %	1%

PLEASE SUPPORT DDF-2023.

**FEBRUARY 11
OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

On February 11, 1858, a beautiful woman appeared to visionary Bernadette Soubirous in a remote stone grotto outside Lourdes, France. When asked her name, the Virgin Mary replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception."



In the spot where she requested a chapel, a spring bubbled forth. "The spring that Mary pointed out to Bernadette in Lourdes is the humble sign of this spiritual reality. From her believing heart, from her maternal heart, flows living water which purifies and heals".

-Pope Benedict XVI



In 1992, Pope John Paul II designated February 11th as World Day of the Sick, "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind."



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY MINISTRY
WARM BLANKETS & SOCKS NEEDED**

Cold weather is coming on and it is hard to get warm without socks or blankets. Those less fortunate than us are in need of our help.



We are asking for donations of **NEW SOCKS AND CLEAN, GENTLY USED BLANKETS. All items must be sealed individually with plastic or in a trash bag.** Donations can be dropped off during weekend Masses in the container located at the entrance of the church or at the Ministry Center Monday-Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Thank you for helping those in need!

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

The mobile clinic will be at St. Catherine's school from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for adult clients on Saturday, February 18, 2023. **During this time, please call 714-633-4600 for pre-screening and to make an appointment.**



Free Adult Medical care is offered, labs and meds are as low cost as possible. Patients sign in on a first-come, first-served basis. For additional information or to volunteer visit their website at www.lestonnacfreeclinic.org.

**HEALTH FAIR AT ST. CATHERINE'S INSIDE PARISH HALL
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

VINCENTIAN CORNER



In the Gospel today, Jesus says, "You are the light of the world," he is calling us to live our Christian vocation in words and deeds.

Be a "light" to those living in poverty and in a world of darkness by giving a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank

you for your generous donation. You are giving hope to those in most need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 951/684-7386 so that together we can help those who are suffering.

Please remember that any contributions by check should be made payable to SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL and not to St. Catherine's.

Are you feeling called to join our team of volunteers? Please contact Robert Lucero at (951) 784-7642 for information.

+ + +

We pray for the grace to be the salt of the earth and to be a light of the world -**Loving God, hear us!**

+ + +

We are in need of CRACKERS, PASTA SAUCE, CANNED CHICKEN for the grocery bags given to those in need of assistance with food. Please help. Thank you.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

We pray to the Lord for the sick, especially those nearing life's end: May they be cared for with tenderness and compassion as they prepare to enter eternal life;

+ + +

"Healing Broken Hearts-One Weekend at a Time.

CS Lewis said: "Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace within difficulties."

**A Time for Mercy/Rachel's Vineyard
Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing
March 10-12 2023**

A safe place to renew, rebuild & redeem hearts broken by abortion.

Retreats are confidential & non-judgmental, offered in Catholic tradition open to women & men wounded by abortion.

All inquiries strictly confidential.

To register: Call Dolores (951) 325-7702 or by email: RVTemecula@verizon.net

Early Registration Recommended, Space Limited!

Web Site: atimeformercy.org

General Info: www.rachelsvineyard.org

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Health Fair on May 20, 2023

We are in need of volunteer Dentists, Dental Assistants and Hygienists. If you can volunteer, please call Lestonnac Clinic at 714-633-4600 for information and to sign up.

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA CHURCH
3680 ARLINGTON AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CA

ASH WEDNESDAY



Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

February 22, 2023

Mass Schedule

6:30 AM - English

* 8:15 AM - English

10:15 AM - English

4:00 PM - English

* 5:30 PM - Spanish

7:00 PM - English

* Livestream Masses

12:00 PM - Liturgy of the
Word/Rite of blessing



LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

Deaths



Please pray for our beloved dead...

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Rosalia Ramos

Epitacio Cabrera

Elena Chifu

Francisca Iso

Fedrico Aguilar Ceballos

Esther Chavez

Ignacia Garcia

Chris Goulet

Adeline Orrante

James Francis Eaton

Hugo Macias

Conrad Sendino

Joseph Clarence Perea

Victor Resendiz Morales

Lydia Garcia

William Paul Huber

David Small

...May they rest in peace.

Patricia Campos

Maria Vargas

Frank Rossetti

St. Catherine of Alexandria Church's Youth Ministry

Super Bowl TV Drawing

65" LG – Ultra 4K HD Smart TV

Drawing: Sunday February 5, 2023
after the 5:15pm Mass



Tickets Donation \$5.00 each or 5 Tickets for \$20.00

Proceeds from the opportunity drawing will benefit the Youth Ministry and will help reduce cost for upcoming youth conferences.

Tickets are available to purchase:

St. Catherine Ministry Center

Monday - Friday 10am to 5pm

After Masses this weekend, February 4 & 5

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Men, are you looking for faith, hope and prayer in your life?



The Catholic Men's Fellowship is a lay

ministry, fully approved by the Church, that reaches out to all men. We act to encourage one another, to strengthen our faith in Christ, and to become better sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, and friends.

COME JOIN US!

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 pm and 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 am. Meetings are held at St. Catherine's Youth House: 6956 Nixon Dr., Riverside, CA.

ALL MEN WELCOME!

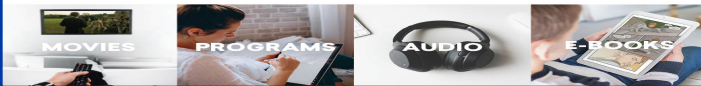
Call Jose at 949-468-6165, John at 951-741-9971, Robert at 951-784-7642 or Al at 951-212-1971; or email your contact information to:

cmfofriverside@gmail.com.

Next Meeting Date:

Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 9:00 am

FORMED



A GIFT FROM YOUR PARISH ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

It is easy to register!

1. Log on at **WWW.FORMED.ORG**
2. Click on **"SIGN UP"**
3. Select **"SIGN UP AS A PARISHIONER"**
4. Enter parish zip code: **92506**
5. Click on **St. Catherine of Alexandria ...Riverside CA**
6. Click **"Next"**
7. Type **"your name"** and **"valid email address"**
8. Click on **"Sign Up"**

After clicking on "sign up" the **Formed** website will appear and you are ready to experience the Catholic content at your fingertips—movies, programs, books and more!

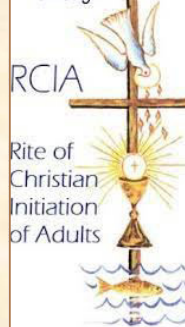
CATHOLIC Faith On Demand!

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Questions call 951/781-9855 x 33

RCIA Inquiry

Becoming a Catholic through



Have you been worshipping with us, but have never officially taken the step to become Catholic?

Have you been a Catholic all your life, but have not celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?

Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If you, or someone you know, answers **YES** to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through a process called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Please call 951-781-9855 extension 29 and leave your contact information.

We would love to help you through the journey of becoming Catholic!

TO REPORT THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer, call the toll free
Sexual Misconduct Hotline 1-888-206-9090

**PARA REPORTAR EL ABUSO SEXUAL
DE UN MENOR**

por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, empleado o voluntario,
llame a la *Línea Directa de Conducta Sexual*
Inapropiada 1-888-206-9090

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**Prayer in Time of Illness**

Lord Jesus,

I believe that having passed through the gate of life in baptism, I will always have your protection and comfort. Yet today the pains of my illness threaten to overcome me and cause me to forget all the good things you have given me in this life.

I pray in confidence that you would send forth your Spirit to refresh and revive me as you have always done in the past. May I continue to witness to your goodness in this life so that I may be with you at the heavenly banquet table in eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

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NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS

**The Church will be closed for improvements from February 6 to February 10 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Thank you for your understanding.**

QUINCEAÑERAS

A celebration of a young lady or man's Fifteenth Birthday with a Mass and blessing.

We at St. Catherine celebrate Quinceañeras four (4) times a year in group celebrations. The next orientation meeting:

Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm.

Meeting will be at the Youth House-6956 Nixon Drive Riverside, CA 92506.

Please call Lance Wiseman at 951/781-9855 for additional information.



**HELP ST. CATHERINE'S KEEP THE PRINTED
PARISH BULLETIN AVAILABLE TO
OUR PARISHIONERS!**

The printed bulletin may stop if the advertisers do not increase. Are you a parishioner, and do you own a business? Or self-employed? Please consider advertising in our church bulletin. For information, call J.S. Paluch at (800) 231-0805 and mention Bulletin #152400, or visit their website at www.jspaluch.com. Thank you for your consideration.



Lance Wiseman - 781.9855 ext. 14
Frances Pineda - 781.9855 ext. 28

All High-School-Age Youth LIFE NIGHT
Sundays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. after LIFE TEEN Mass

LIFE TEEN (high school age teen)

Life Night is back in person and will meet almost every Sunday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you have questions or need more information, contact:

Frances Pineda at fpineda@stcofa.org or 951/781-9855 x 28
Lance Wiseman at lwiseman@stcofa.org or 951-781-9855 x 14

This Week - 2/5/23 - Game Night

Join us for a night of fun with card and board games. The night is from **7:00pm to 8:30pm in the hall.**

Next Week - 2/12/23 - "Valentine Day Social"

Join us for a night of food and fun games. The night is from **7:00pm to 8:30pm in the hall.**

Remember Life Nights are open to **all High School age youth and we invite you to join us.** They are held most Sundays 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please contact Frances if you have questions or need more information.

YOUTH SERVICE HOURS - For service opportunities, please contact Lance Wiseman at 951/781-9855 ext. 14.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER - TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING FOR A 65" LG SMART TV TICKETS. Find someone before or after masses **this weekend, Feb. 5, 2023.** Drawing will be after 5:15pm mass on Sunday 2/5/23.

\$SHOP RIVERSIDE cards for 2023 are available for purchase at the Parish Office. Cards are valid from date of purchase through end of year 2023. Please contact Lance at 951/781-9855 x 14 if you are interested in purchasing. Remember **the money raised helps support St. Catherine's youth programs.** Please contact Lance for other upcoming fundraisers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - THE EDGE - a Ministry for youth in middle school. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited for a night of faith and fun! **Our next EDGE session will be on February 15, 2023 from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.** Location: **The Youth House-6956 Nixon Dr., Riverside.** For more information please contact Frances Pineda.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - UPDATE AS OF 2/5/2023

1st Year of Confirmation - Our next module for the year will be Sunday, February 26th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm or Monday, February 27th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

2nd Year of Confirmation - Saturday, January 14th was the first of two Sponsor & Candidate gathering. If you missed the meeting, you can attend next year or contact Lance for a make-up. All 1st year make up work, mass reflection & service reflection sheets are past due.

3rd Year of Confirmation - Please pray for our candidates who are away this weekend on retreat. Thank you to the parents and sponsors who attended the retreat on Saturday, January 21st. All 1st & 2nd year make-up work, mass reflection & service reflection sheets are past due, please see Lance.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION—Classes for the 2022-23 confirmation year began. Contact Lance Wiseman at 951-781-9855 ext. 14 for more information.

Our Confirmation process is a three year program, starting in 9th grade and confirming in 11th grade, this is the required process for anyone in either public or private schools. Contact Lance with any questions.



QUINTO Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

5 de febrero de 2023

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA Oración en Tiempo de Enfermedad

Señor Jesús,
creo que, habiendo pasado por la
puerta de la vida en el bautismo,
siempre tendré tu protección y tu
consuelo.

Sin embargo, hoy los dolores de mi
enfermedad amenazan con vencerme
y me hacen olvidar todo lo bueno
que me has dado en esta vida.

Rezo con confianza para que envíes
tu Espíritu para refrescarme y
reanimarme como siempre lo has
hecho en el pasado.

Que yo siga dando testimonio de tu
bondad en esta vida para que pueda
estar contigo en la mesa del
banquete celestial en la eternidad.

Amén. Aleluya.

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LA CORRESPONSABILIDAD VIVIDA AHORA

*¿Cuáles son tus obras de sal y luz?
¿Prestas algún servicio a tus com-
pañeros parroquianos? ¿Te involu-
cras en obras de caridad locales o
actividades comunitarias?*

*¿Necesitas aumentar o cambiar tu
participación?*

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"Brille la luz de ustedes ante los hombres,
para que viendo las buenas obras que ustedes hacen,
den gloria a su Padre, que está en los cielos."

Mateo 5:16

COMUNIDAD DE LUZ

Las lecturas de hoy de Isaías y Mateo evocan la poderosa metáfora de la luz como imagen de la comunidad reunida por Dios. Jesús habla de sus seguidores como "luz del mundo": no son la fuente de luz, sino un espejo que refleja el resplandor de Dios. Esta luz no llama la atención sobre sí misma, sino que permite revelar y celebrar la belleza y exponer y sanar el pecado. La luz de esta comunidad no es principalmente para sí misma, sino que cumple su propósito cuando brilla sobre el mundo. La luz que nosotros, la Iglesia, aportamos a nuestro mundo puede quedar oculta por "matorrales" a veces impuestos por otros y a veces de nuestra propia cosecha. Nuestras luces pueden parpadear y morir bajo el estrés. ¿Qué puede sostener el brillo de nuestra pequeña luz? Nuestras prácticas continuas de oración comunitaria, discernimiento y acción permiten a Dios iluminar nuestra Iglesia, día a día.

APRENDER A SER IGLESIA

Tras el pasaje de Mateo de la semana pasada con las Bienaventuranzas, hoy continuamos el Sermón de la Montaña de Jesús con sus imágenes de la sal, la luz y una ciudad. Jesús pasa de describir la identidad básica de la comunidad que ha reunido a considerar su impacto en el mundo. Quería que su comunidad no sólo reivindicara su identidad, sino que la viviera. Quería que su comunidad caminara con él, que aprendiera plenamente lo que esto podía significar.

Para nosotros, ser sal para los demás puede significar comprometernos y enriquecer la vida de nuestros vecinos. Ser luz puede significar iluminar y abordar los sistemas del mundo que sostienen los pecados sociales de la violencia, el racismo y las grandes desigualdades de riqueza y oportunidades. Ser una ciudad elevada puede significar mantener un alto nivel de transparencia, respeto y cuidado mutuo. Como los primeros seguidores de Jesús, se nos invita a recorrer el difícil y gozoso camino de aprender y reaprender a ser Iglesia.

MINISTERIO EN FORMA DE CRUZ

San Pablo, en el pasaje de hoy de la primera epístola a los Corintios, admite que no es un vendedor. No vino a Corinto con un discurso de venta, con una retórica hábil y una sabiduría mundana. Pablo dice que simplemente vino a hablar de Cristo crucificado. Para Pablo, la cruz es la principal revelación de Dios, y toda la vida de seguimiento de Cristo está marcada por ella. Pablo describe este ministerio en forma de cruz por cómo lo predicó al principio: con humildad y temor. Era un mensajero que parecía débil según las normas de la sociedad, para que el Espíritu pudiera llegar a sus oyentes.

Puede que conozcamos o hayamos leído sobre quienes hablaron o vivieron con una presencia en forma de cruz. Tal vez un misionero que sirvió humildemente a una comunidad mientras predicaba a Cristo. O un grupo de manifestantes contra la injusticia, que se enfrentaron a la resistencia violenta con dignidad y persistencia. Abren un espacio para que el Espíritu transforme los corazones. Pablo sugiere que hacernos vulnerables hace posible el amor.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Isaías 58:7-10
Salmo 112 (111):4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corintios 2:1-5
Mateo 5:13-16

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Gn 1:1-19; Sal 104 (103):1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mc 6:53-56
Martes: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Sal 8:4-9; Mc 7:1-13
Miércoles: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Sal 104 (103):1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mc 7:14-23
Jueves: Gn 2:18-25; Sal 128 (127):1-5; Mc 7:24-30
Viernes: Gn 3:1-8; Sal 32 (31):1-2, 5-7; Mc 7:31-37
Sábado: Gn 3:9-24; Sal 90 (89):2-6, 12-13; Mc 8:1-10
Domingo: Sir 15:15-20; Sal 119 (118):1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Cuando compartas tu pan con el hambriento, y sacies la necesidad del humillado, entonces brillará tu luz en las tinieblas (Isaías 58:7-10).

Salmo — Aquel que es justo es un modelo para los justos (Salmo 112 [111]).

Segunda lectura — He anunciado a ustedes el misterio de Cristo crucificado (1 Corintios 2:1-5).

Evangelio — Que su luz brille ante los hombres, den gloria a su Padre, que está en los Cielos (Mateo 5:13-16).



INFORMACIÓN LITÚRGICA

5 de febrero - QUINTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

6 de febrero - Santos Pablo Miki y compañeros, mártires

8 de febrero - San Jerónimo Emiliani, presbítero; Santa Josefina Bakhita, virgen

10 de febrero - Santa Escolástica, virgen

11 de febrero - Bienaventurada Virgen María de Lourdes

San Pablo Miki y Compañeros, fue un escolástico jesuita japonés, y sus veinticinco compañeros fueron crucificados en Nagasaki, entre ellos el mexicano Felipe de Jesús, primer mártir de América beatificado; protomártires del Extremo Oriente (canonizado en 1862 por el Papa Pío IX). ORDO

San Jerónimo Emiliani en el arte de la Iglesia, está con una bola y una cadena con las que fue encadenado como prisionero de guerra en Italia en 1508. Desde el calabozo pidió ayuda a María, y escapó poco después. Finalmente regresó a su Venecia natal, donde fue ayudante y padre de huérfanos y niños abandonados; murió en 1537.

Santa Josefina Bakhita a la edad de nueve años, fue secuestrada de su casa en Sudán, llevada a la fuerza durante ocho días y vendida como esclava, fue cruelmente tratada. Finalmente, una familia italiana la acogió y llegó a Italia, donde abrazó la fe. Murió en 1947 y fue canonizada en 2000.

Santa Escolástica, hermana gemela de San Benito, murió en 543 y fue enterrada en la misma tumba que su hermano. San Gregorio Magno escribió: "Así la muerte no separó los cuerpos de estos dos, cuyas mentes habían estado siempre unidas en el Señor".

Bienaventurada Virgen María de Lourdes

El 11 de febrero de 1858, una Hermosa mujer se apareció a la vidente Bernadette Soubirous en una remota gruta de piedra a las afueras de Lourdes, Francia. Cuando le preguntó su nombre, la Virgen María respondió: "Soy la Inmaculada Concepción". En el lugar donde pidió una capilla, brotó un manantial. "El manantial que María señaló a Bernadette en Lourdes es el humilde signo de esta realidad espiritual. De su corazón creyente, de su corazón materno, brota el agua viva que purifica y cura". -Papa Benedicto XVI



11 de febrero
Día Mundial
de los Enfermos

En 1992, el Papa Juan Pablo II designó el 11 de febrero como Jornada Mundial del Enfermo, "un tiempo especial de oración y de compartir, de ofrecer el propio sufrimiento por el bien de la Iglesia y de recordarnos que debemos ver en el hermano enfermo el rostro de Cristo que, sufriendo, muriendo y resucitando, logró la salvación de la humanidad".



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