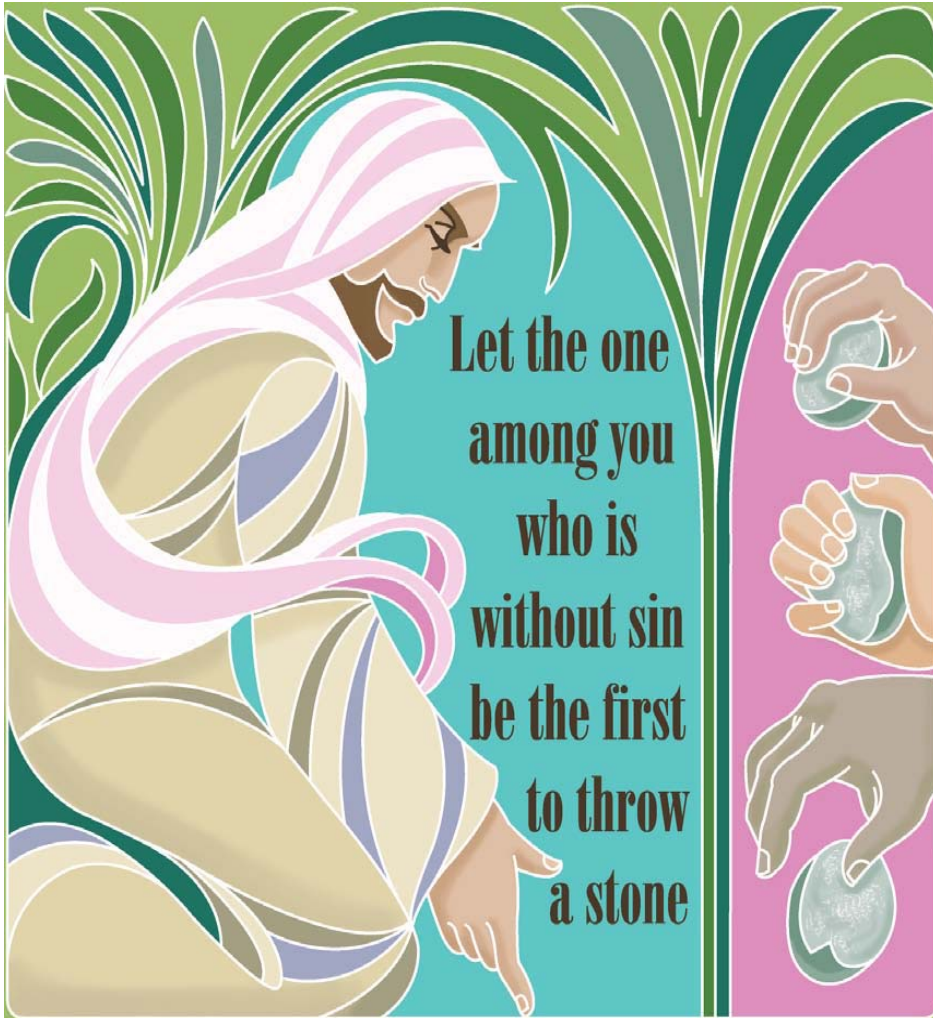


# St. Raymond Catholic Church

12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90242

Phone: 562-923-4509 Fax: 562-869-3359

Website: <http://SaintRaymond.org> Email: [info@SaintRaymond.org](mailto:info@SaintRaymond.org)



Let the one  
among you  
who is  
without sin  
be the first  
to throw  
a stone

## ST. RAYMOND PARISH

A joyous place filled with warmth and good friends,  
A peaceful place filled with trust and love,  
A place where everyone feels welcome,  
A safe place to grow and learn,  
A community that has been blessed.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil Mass:**  
5:00 pm

**Sunday:** 7:00 am, 9:00 am,  
11:00 am (English)  
1:00 pm (Spanish),  
5:30 pm (Life Teen)

**Weekdays:**  
Monday-Friday  
6:30 & 9:00 am

**Saturdays:** 8:00 am

**Holy Days of Obligation:**  
As Announced

## CONFESSIONS

**Saturdays:** 3:45 - 4:45 pm  
**Tuesdays, Thursdays:** 8:30-9:00 am  
or call the Parish Office for an  
appointment with the priest on duty

Please see page 2 for details for:

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

## BAPTISM

## CONFIRMATION & EUCHARIST

## MARRIAGE

## HOLY ORDERS & RELIGIOUS LIFE

Please call 213-637-7248

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Friday:** 10 am to 6 pm  
**Saturday:** 10 am to 3 pm  
**Sunday:** 9 am to 12:30 pm

## Our Parish Priests

Fr. John Higgins, Pastor  
Fr. Paul Thomas, Associate Pastor  
Fr. Ambrose, In Residence

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 13, 2016**

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. John W. Higgins, Pastor

Rev. Paul Thomas, Associate Pastor

Marc Nuno, School Principal

Sr. Paula Strohfus, C.H.F., Director of Religious Ed.

Sandy Gallegos, Director of R.C.I.A.

Danette Buckley, Director of Liturgy

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Erik Landesfeind, Parish Administrator

Laura Larios-Varela, Secretary

Elaine Kunkel, Bulletin Editor

Joan Lueke, Parish Records

### PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Ambrose Kadambukatt, OCD  
Chaplain, St. Francis Hospital

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish Office** 562-923-4509  
**Parish School** 562-862-3210  
**Religious Education Office** 562-862-6959

**Parish Web Site:** <http://SaintRaymond.org>  
**Parish Email Address:** [info@saintraymond.org](mailto:info@saintraymond.org)

**School Web Site:** [www.straymondschool-downey.org](http://www.straymondschool-downey.org)  
**School Email Address:** [principal@straymondschool-downey.org](mailto:principal@straymondschool-downey.org)

**Youth Ministry:**

**BAPTISM:** One Sunday a month. Call Parish Office to make arrangements for class and Baptism..

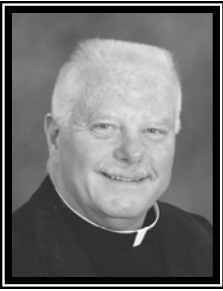
**FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Please call our Parish, School, or Religious Education offices to learn about education opportunities for the reception of these sacraments. We also have an initiation process for adults seeking Baptism in our Church!

**MARRIAGE:** Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to anticipated wedding date.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** In the event of serious illness or medical emergency, anointing of the sick may be arranged by contacting the Parish Office. Make an appointment to come by before a surgery.

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

ALTAR SERVERS.....	Kathi Bode 923-3142	MARRIAGE NULLITY.....	Fr. John W. Higgins 923-4509
ALTAR SOCIETY.....	Danette Buckley 923-4509	MEN'S PRAYER GROUP .....	Fr. John W. Higgins 923-4509
ANGEL TREE.....	Lupe Salgado 923-4509	MUSIC DIRECTOR (ENGLISH).....	Jose Soto 923-4509
BAPTISM .....	Laura Larios-Varela 923-4509	MUSIC DIRECTOR (SPANISH).....	Uri Ceballos (818) 429-1583
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.....	Jill Lavey 923-5819/Elaine Kunkel 531-9620	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/CATECISMO.....	Sr. Paula Strohfus 862-6959
CONFIRMATION (High School).....	Lupe Salgado 923-4509	RELIGIOUS RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH.....	Diane Garcia 862-8309
DETENTION MINISTRY.....	Sr. Teresa-Los Padrinos 940-8711	RCIA - ADULTS & TEENS.....	Sandy Gallegos 923-4509
DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY.....	Larry Wysocki 927-1482	SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN/Families First.....	Elaine Kunkel 531-9620
FINANCE COUNCIL.....	Ray Lavey 923-4509	SANDWICH PROGRAM.....	Silvia Larson 818-9445
GUADALUPANDS.....	Teresa Solomon 644-3496	SCHOOL & SCRIP-GIFT CERTIFICATES.....	School Office 862-3210
HALL & ROOM RENTALS.....	Park Place Catering 866-5464	SENIOR CITIZENS.....	Sr. Paula Strohfus 862-6959
HAND MAID MINISTRY .....	Kathi Bode 923-3142	SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.....	Paul Iacovitti 923-4509
HEALTH MINISTRY.....	Jill Lavey 923-5819/Elaine Kunkel 531-9620	SPANISH BIBLE STUDY.....	Connie Ochoa 928-7291
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION.....	Perry Shurko 804-0230	SPANISH PRAYER GROUP.....	923-4509
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.....	Mario Mendoza 622-1803	TIJUANA ORPHANAGE.....	Irma Landesfeind 862-8837
LEGION OF MARY.....	Olivia Hernandez 884-9513	WEDDING COORDINATOR (English).....	Tami Shilling 869-3260
LITURGY COMMITTEE/LITURGICAL MINISTRIES.....	Danette Buckley 923-4509	WEDDING COORDINATOR (Spanish).....	923-4509
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES/SPANISH.....	Marcial & Blanca Espinoza 869-3661	YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY.....	Francisco Sandoval 291-6111
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER.....	Jacob & Sarah Flores 923-7335	YOUTH MINISTRY.....	923-4509



## From our Pastor Fr. John Higgins

### STRAIGHT LINES

“God writes straight with crooked lines,” the saying goes. The power of Paul’s testimony that everything is junk but knowledge of Jesus and the power of his resurrection is a straight enough message. And, God knows, Paul had a crooked journey before his blinding insight straight from God.

Through Isaiah, God reminds us all that the past great works were as nothing compared to the new creation. “Can’t you see it?” we are asked, as if we are still wandering along our crooked lines.

And there is no straighter line than that between the woman whose misery is intense and the God whose mercy in Jesus is deeper and more acute. You just can’t beat this kind of good news.

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### Jubilee Year of Mercy

How fitting that the first Sunday Angelus of Pope Francis, who has made mercy his papacy’s theme, took place the last time today’s Gospel about Jesus’ encounter with the adulterous woman was proclaimed. “Jesus’ attitude is striking,” Francis declared. “We do not hear words of scorn or condemnation, only words of love, of mercy, an invitation to conversion: ‘Neither do I condemn you’ ” (John 8:11). Francis continued: “God’s face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God’s patience, the patience [God] has with each one of us? That is [God’s] mercy. [God] always has patience, patience with us . . . understands us . . . waits for us . . . does not tire of forgiving us” if we return ‘with a contrite heart’ ” (Pope Francis, Angelus address, March 17, 2013). Parishes preparing catechumens may proclaim Jesus’ raising of Lazarus. Referring to Lazarus, and all those “raised” from the “death” of sin, Jesus defines the community’s “mission of mercy”— “Untie him and let him go” (John 11:44).

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## Desde el escritorio del Padre Higgins

### RENGLONES RECTOS

“Dios escribe derecho en renglones torcidos”, dice el refrán. El testimonio contundente de san Pablo, cuando nos dice que todo es basura fuera del conocer a Cristo y experimentar la fuerza de su Resurrección, es un mensaje bien directo y claro —aunque Dios sabe que Pablo anduvo por una senda bien torcida antes de recibir la luz cegadora del Señor.

Isaías nos recuerda que los grandes milagros del pasado no son nada en comparación con la nueva creación que Dios va a realizar. “¿No lo notan?” nos pregunta el profeta, como si todavía anduviéramos perdidos por nuestras sendas torcidas.

Y no hay renglón más derecho que la línea que conecta la intensa miseria de una mujer pecadora con la misericordia de Dios que se muestra en la persona de Jesús. ¡Eso sí que son Buenas Nuevas!”

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### Año Jubilar de la Misericordia

Otra de tantas coincidencias sucede otra vez, el primer Ángelus que rezó el Papa Francisco fue en la fecha en la última vez que se proclamó la historia del Evangelio de hoy, el encuentro de Jesús con la mujer adúltera . . . En ese entonces el Papa Francisco dijo que “la actitud de Jesús es sorprendente”. “No escuchamos palabras de condenación o desprecio, solo palabras de amor, de misericordia, una invitación a la conversión: ‘Tampoco yo te condeno’ ” (Juan 8:11). El Papa Francisco continúa diciendo: “el rostro de Dios es el de un padre misericordioso, que siempre tiene paciencia. ¿Han pensado en la paciencia de Dios, la paciencia que tiene con cada uno de nosotros? Ésa es su misericordia. Siempre tiene paciencia, paciencia con nosotros, nos comprende, nos espera, no se cansa de perdonarnos si sabemos volver a él con el corazón contrito” (Papa Francisco, Rezo del Ángelus del 17 de marzo de 2013). Las parroquias que están preparando a catecúmenos pueden proclamar la historia de Lázaro cuando vuelve a la vida. Refiriéndose a Lázaro y a todos aquellos que “se despertaron” de la “muerte” del pecado, Jesús define la “misión de misericordia” de la comunidad: “Desátenlo y déjenlo ir” (Juan 11:44).

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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## LIFE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY !!!

### Welcome to St. Raymond Parish

We're delighted you've come to our parish, and we hope you'll find a home with us. Being a registered member allows us to better serve you; you can register by calling (562) 923-4509 or going online to <http://SaintRaymond.org>.

**If you move or change your phone number, please call the parish office at (562) 923-4509 to let us know.**

**BULLETIN INFO:** The bulletin deadline is Friday, 6 pm, nine days prior to issue date. Please fax, email, or deliver your input, in writing, to the parish office. Our fax number is (562) 869-3359 and email address is [info@SaintRaymond.org](mailto:info@SaintRaymond.org).  
*All notices are subject to available space and may be edited.*

### Check Your BLOOD PRESSURE!

**Sunday March 13th**

Come to the hall between **10:00 am and 12:30 pm**  
*Remember it's the silent killer, so don't take any chances with your life!*

### Come to St. Raymond's LENTEN MISSION

featuring Fr. Jesse Esqueda  
on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
March 14, March 15, March 16.  
7 pm in the Church

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PLANNING MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 PM

A planning meeting for the Divine Mercy Sunday Feast Day will be held in the St. Joseph Room on the south end of the school next to the convent. This feast day celebration requires a lot of help/volunteers; anyone who would like to help with the feast day celebration is encouraged to attend the planning meeting.



### Friday Nights in Lent

Friday, March 18:

**L** Turn away  
**E**  
**N**  
**T** from sin

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross in *English*  
6:30 pm Mass in *English*  
7:30 pm Stations of the Cross in *Spanish*  
8:00 pm Liturgy of the Word in *Spanish*



### BOOK OF THE ELECT

If you look into the sanctuary of the church, you will see on display the Book of the Elect. The adults in our parish who will be baptized the night of the Easter Vigil on March 26 inscribed their names in this book on Sunday, February 14. That same day they traveled to the Cathedral in Los Angeles where the book was presented to Archbishop José Gómez, who then declared them Elect of God, chosen for the Easter sacraments. Their names are Marissa Gonzalez, Susie Gonzalez, and Gisselle Guzman.

After they are baptized at the Vigil they will then be Confirmed and receive First Communion, along with our already baptized candidates. Their names are Michelle Gonzalez, Jimmy Guzman, Elisabet Marmolejo, Veronica McLean, Eddie Olivera, Ephraim Olivera, and Patty Ruiz.



Please pray for our Elect and Candidates as they complete these final weeks of preparation.

### ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

**Saturday, March 19 & Sunday, March 20**  
Italian Catholic Federation - Branch 362

For the 34th year, St. Raymond Church, sponsored by the ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION will have a St. Joseph's Table. The celebration will take place as follows:

**Saturday, March 19** - 5:00 pm Liturgy - Procession and Blessing to follow

Pasta dinner, Meatball Sandwiches & Pastries will be served 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Sunday, March 20** - Viewing 8:00 to 3:00 pm  
Pasta dinner, Meatball Sandwiches & Pastries will be served 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

MANY ITEMS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION A SUCCESS. DONATIONS OF BREAD, ASSORTED BAKED GOODS AND MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Baked goods need to be delivered Friday evening, March 18 to the Msgr. Gipson Hall or no later than 10 am Saturday, March 19.

If you would like to share in this celebration, or would like more information, please contact or send donations to Charlene Drobeck - (562) 928-1937 or Perry Shurko (562) 8040-0230



St. Joseph Table

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Sun. Mar. 13: SACRAMENT YEAR 2 CLASS** for team 1 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the large hall. Child **must** be accompanied by one parent.

**Mon. Mar. 21-Sun. April 3: NO CLASSES**

## Secular Order Discalced Carmelites

**Are you called? Do you desire to learn and experience a deeper spirituality?**

The Catholic spiritual tradition inspired by St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and St. Thérèse of Lisieux explains how to live in a closer relationship with the living Christ and the practical caring for others that flows from this relationship. We are Secular Order Discalced Carmelites (OCDS), men and women committed to living the fullness of God's love through prayer and scripture with the aid and guidance of Our Lady. For more information, please call, 562-774-3549, or, email, [council@ocds-lbc.org](mailto:council@ocds-lbc.org).

**They usually meet on the third Saturday of each month at St. Raymond's in the old hall after the 8:00 am mass.**

**SATURDAY MARCH 19th**

## CAMPANA DE AMOR Y CARIDAD

La campaña de Amor y Caridad, servirá comida a familias de bajos recursos. **El día diez de abril**, aquí en la iglesia de St. Raymond a las 3:00 pm, te invito a que participes en este proyecto, ya sea como voluntaria o si en tu vecindario conoces a familias de bajos recursos por favor pasa la información.

Te puedes comunicar con la señora Gloria Saldaña a estos teléfonos. Casa (310) 764 -1962; celular (562) 659-3656 en el celular si no contesto por favor deja tu mensaje gracias.

## ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO NEEDS FIRST COMMUNION?

If you are an adult (over 18) and have never received First Communion, there will be a new group of RCIA candidates beginning on **Monday, April 11** at 7:00 p.m. in St. Patrick Room. Through this process, you can also receive Baptism and Confirmation, if you also need those sacraments. Please call Sandy Gallegos in the Parish Office, 923-4509, to place your name on the list for the new group.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. RAYMOND

# CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2016

### MONDAY, March 14

6:00 pm Religious Education - Classrooms, OH, SJR  
7:00 pm **Lenten Mission - Church**  
7:00 pm RCIA Adult Inquiry - SPR  
7:00 pm ACC-Archdiocesan Cantor Class - STR  
7:00 pm ACC-Archdiocesan IEP Class- Convent Chapel

### TUESDAY, March 15

3:00 pm School Cheerleading Practice - MGH  
5:00 pm Quinceanera Rehearsal - Church  
6:00 pm Legion of Mary - STR  
6:00 pm Confirmation Classes - Classrooms, OH, SJR  
7:00 pm **Lenten Mission - Church**

### WEDNESDAY, March 16

6:30 pm Talleres de Oracion y Vida - Convent Chapel  
7:00 pm Life Teen Choir and Band Rehearsal - STR  
7:00 pm Divine Mercy Feast Day Planning Com. - SJR  
7:00 pm **Lenten Mission - Church**

### THURSDAY, March 17

3:30 pm Religious Education - Classrooms, OH, SJR  
5:30 pm Spanish Choir Practice - SPR  
6:00 pm Religious Education - Classrooms, OH, SJR  
7:00 pm Spanish Bible Study - STR  
7:00 pm New Mystery-Sitios de Jerico - Convent Chapel  
7:00 pm English Choir Practice - SPR  
7:30 pm Crecimiento Matromonial - OH

### FRIDAY, March 18

7:00 am Sandwich Outreach Ministry - OH  
11:00 am Hand Maid Ministry - SPR  
6:00 pm English Stations of the Cross - Church  
6:30 pm English Mass - Church  
7:30 pm Spanish Stations of the Cross - Church  
8:00 pm Spanish Liturgy of the Word - Church

### SATURDAY, March 19

7:00 am Secular Order Discalced Carmelites - OH, SJR  
2:00 pm Quinceanera - Church  
6:00 pm ICF St. Joseph's Table & Dinner - MGH

### SUNDAY, March 20

#### PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am ICF St. Joseph's Table Viewing & Lunch - MGH  
9:30 am RCIA Adults - Convent Chapel  
11:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word - OH  
1:15 pm Spanish Children's Liturgy of the Word - OH  
2:00 pm Guadalupanos - STR  
3:00 pm Planning Meeting Needy Families Dinner - SJR  
4:15 pm Life Teen Choir Rehearsal - Church  
6:30 pm Life Teen Life Night - MGH  
6:30 pm Jugadores Anonimous - STR  
6:30 pm Gamanon - SPR

**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS**

## ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES

Do you want to learn how to help a loved one in an emergency?

**Infant, Child and Adult CPR can be available for free.** Certification is available for a fee.

If you are interested in having the Health Ministry arrange for this class, please register your interest with Jill Lavey at 562-923-4509.

If there are enough people, we can arrange for a convenient time and room and let you know.



## THANK YOU

What fantastic people we have at St. Raymond Parish! **We had 53 pints of blood donated on February 28.** That's a record! The nurses were overwhelmed because we usually have around 30 pints. We are sorry for any inconvenience you may have experienced. We were able to save around 200 lives. Awesome! Thank you so much and thanks also for your time. We appreciate that Sundays are an important day for church and family. May God bless you.

**St. Raymond Health Ministry**



### TUESDAY BINGO NIGHTS

The friendliest game in town! Would you enjoy good company, a good time and a chance to win some money with payoffs of up to \$250 and Powerball up to \$1,000? Then come to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Tuesdays for Bingo Nights. **Early Bird games start at 6 pm, regular games at 7 pm.**

*Last Tuesday of each month  
benefits St. Raymond School*

### HANDMAIDS MINISTRY

**Fridays, 11:00 am**

It's time to get knitting and crocheting! The Handmaids Ministry meets on Fridays in **St. Patrick's Room** of the hall. Come to knit or crochet prayer shawls and items for those who need comfort. We also make caps and little blankets for newborns at Kaiser Downey.

You can donate any excess good yarn you might have, we could use it. Questions? Feel free to call Kathi Bode (562)923-3142.

## Liturgical Roles\*

<u>MASS TIMES</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>
<b><u>Mar. 19 - Saturday</u></b> <b><u>5:00 pm</u></b>	Soto, B.; Otanez, V. Portillo, H.	Wiese (DC); Kunkel (DH); Caswell; Morck; Kunkel; Haddad; Villarreal	Lewis; Oropeza
<b><u>Mar. 20 - Sunday</u></b> <b><u>7:00 am</u></b>	Loza, A.; Orzco, K. Parada, J.	Buckley (DC); Sinco (DH); Ledesma; York; Ledesma; Igtanloc; Kikuchi	Ebegbulen; Leon; York
<b><u>9:00 am</u></b>	Cortez, I.; Cortez, N. Haddad, G.; Haddad, J.	Lacey (DC); Moy (DH); Mendez; Aleman; Rodriguez; Aguilar; Bombay	Orozco; Luke
<b><u>11:00 am</u></b>	Barrios, R.; Barrios, R. Espinoza, N.; Zavala, J.	Duarte (DC); Swan (DH); Vargas; Musus; Misawa; Noboa; Noboa	Duarte; Vargas
<b><u>1:00 pm</u></b>		Vera (DC); Garcia, C. (DH); Ramos; Valle; Valle; Castro	Servin; Garcia, A.
<b><u>5:30 pm</u></b>	Youth Servers	Youth Ministers	Youth Lectors

## AROUND OUR SAN PEDRO REGION & OUR ARCHDIOCESE

### **“Newlyweds 101: God Centric” Workshop Series through June**

The Office of Family Life is hosting a series of marriage enrichment workshops for couples married less than five years. These workshops, will focus on issues such as communication, finances, intimacy, and spirituality.

Donation is \$20 per couple per workshop. Couples can attend any or all of the workshops. Register by emailing: [newlyweds101@gmail.com](mailto:newlyweds101@gmail.com)

One Friday a month: **March 18**, April 22, May 20, June 24

At St. Basil Church  
637 S. Kingsley Dr.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90005.

### **SACRED HEART RETREAT HOUSE**

920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra

### **“Summoned by Divine Mercy” Conference Saturday, March 19, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm St. Joseph Campus, 507 N. Granada Ave. in Alhambra**

Cost: \$45.00 (includes continental breakfast and lunch). This conference is part of the Retreat House’s celebration of the “Year of Mercy.” Fr. George Bobowski of the Lay Institute of Divine Mercy and Sister Faustina, O.C.D., will help participants enrich and deepen their love and appreciation for the ‘greatest gift’ of God to our times. For information and reservation, please contact (626) 289-1353 ext. 203.

For information about Sacred Heart Retreat House, please contact Ms. Suzan Elliott, Retreat Coordinator, at (626) 289-1353 x204 or at: [retreatcoordinator@carmelitesistersocd.com](mailto:retreatcoordinator@carmelitesistersocd.com)  
The Retreat House’s website is at: <http://www.sacredheartretreathouse.com>

### **Mother Cabrini Chapel and Library Open House Sunday, April 10, in Burbank**

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (Mother Cabrini) Chapel and Library will have an Open House on Sunday, April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are invited to visit the Chapel where Mother Cabrini prayed for strength and guidance from Our Lady Help of Christians in her work to help orphans, the weak, and the sickly in her Orphanages, Hospitals, and Schools throughout the Country and the World. The Chapel is located at 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504. For more information, please call (626) 372-7812 or email: [cas1810@aol.com](mailto:cas1810@aol.com) or visit the website of the Italian Catholic Federation at: <http://www.icf.org>

### **Stations of the Cross on Sundays of Lent**

All are invited to the Stations of the Cross at **Calvary Cemetery**, 4201 Whittier Boulevard, East Los Angeles, on the Sundays of Lent at 2:00 pm.

On Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the gathering will include a special Reenactment of the Passion of the Lord, with San Gabriel Regional Bishop David G. O’Connell presiding. For more info, call Calvary Cemetery (323) 261-3106.

### **Mary and Joseph Retreat Center**

5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes  
**Spirituality of Aging with Richard F. Groves  
Saturday, March 19, 9 am to 4 pm.**

“A Spirituality of Aging is about Growing B/older Gracefully...” There is a new vision for mature adulthood emerging today. The wisdom of spiritual eldering offers an opportunity for everyone in our society, regardless of age, to find new ways of embracing life’s transitions. Inspired by the classic book From Age-ing to Sage-ing (Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi), this retreat draws from the world’s great cultural and spiritual traditions. The retreat is a time to reflect, be inspired and experience how we choose to live and make more soulful choices as we age. The retreat includes lunch. Cost: \$75

*For reservations or more information contact the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center 310-377-4867 <http://www.MaryJoseph.org>*

### **RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKEND For Healing After Abortion April 1-3 in Duarte**

Rachel’s Vineyard retreat is for men and women struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is designed to help participants work through repressed grief and anger in a safe, nonjudgmental setting and come to acceptance, healing, and hope for the future. Developed in the Roman Catholic Tradition, it utilizes spiritual exercises and rituals to help grieve the loss of unborn children and to accept God’s forgiveness. All inquiries and registrations are confidential. Cost \$215 per person. For registration or more information please call 866-2-RACHEL. 866-272-2435. [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

### **US Passports & International Travel- Passport Fair**

Apply for or Renew your US Passport  
Barbara J Riley Community Center- D, Boggs Auditorium  
**Saturday, April 9, 2016 9 am - 2 pm**  
No appointments needed- Open to the Public

Go to [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for info on what you should bring and helpful tips.

# FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

## Fifth Sunday of Lent March 13, 2016



*I consider everything  
as a loss because of  
the supreme good of  
knowing Christ Jesus  
my Lord.*  
— *Philippians 3:8*

### SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN / FAMILIES FIRST COMMITTEE

#### Never leave your children in a hot car

Did you know that it only takes 10 minutes for a car to heat up by 19 degrees? Every so often we hear news stories of parents forgetting infants or leaving a sleeping toddler in the car, and tragedies that ensue. Never leave a child alone in a car, even for a minute. Degrees can be deceiving. Fatalities can occur at temperatures as low as the mid-50s because a vehicle heats up so quickly. Children are at a great risk for heat stroke because their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's does. Cracking a window? Not a solution. Some advanced technologies are still being developed that may help prevent heat stroke deaths in vehicles, but nothing has been proven effective yet.

For more information visit, <http://www.care.com/child-care-summer-safetytips-a-guide-to-protecting-kids-when-activities-heat-up-p1017-q6731064.html>

*For particular help you may call  
Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650*

### Please Pray for our Sick

*Healing Father, lay your hands on those who suffer, especially:*

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Peter Lofy        | Don Barrios     |
| Anna Marie Emmi   | Louie Sanchez   |
| James Montoya     | Lilian Nuñez    |
| Easton Harlan     | John Volak      |
| Gwen Schroeder    | Augustina Roman |
| Virginia Sandoval | Dawnie Frize    |
| Lucia Persico     | Lilia Barrayo   |
| Frank Maldonado   | John Wehrly     |
| John Avila        | Lisa Owens      |
| Sulema Campos     |                 |

If a family member is ill and you would like their name included in the Prayers of the Faithful during weekend Masses or the bulletin, call the parish office (562) 923-4509. Names will be included in the bulletin for a few weeks.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person we are praying for, phone, and what type of illness or surgery: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD does something new for the chosen people (Isaiah 43:16-21) *or Ezekiel 37:12-14.*

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126) *or Psalm 130.*

**Second Reading** — The supreme good is knowing Jesus as Lord (Philippians 3:8-14) *or Romans 8:8-11.*

**Gospel** — A woman caught in the act of adultery is brought to Jesus. He challenges anyone without sin to throw the first stone (John 8:1-11) *or John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45].*

### NEW BEGINNINGS

As we approach Easter each year the grocery stores and shopping malls fill with candy eggs and chicks, bunnies, and butterflies. While some people think these images distort the real reason for the season, others recognize in them signs of the abundant and transformed new life that awaits those who are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism invites each of us into a new beginning. The images of water in today's reading from Isaiah can help us reflect on this reality. Through the waters of baptism the Lord "opens a way . . . and a path" for us. The powers of evil in our lives are "quenched like a wick." Then the Lord does "something new" in us. The water "springs forth" from within the wasteland of our hearts to create a river of new life (Isaiah 43:16, 17, 19). Little by little our dry deserts are transformed into lush gardens for the praise and honor of God.

### "GO, AND . . . DO NOT SIN ANY MORE"

This is the scenario that St. Paul describes in today's selection from Philippians. Reading his words we can almost envision a baby chick discarding its cracked shell and a new butterfly forfeiting its empty cocoon as "so much rubbish" compared to the "supreme good" of the new lives they have begun (Philippians 3:8). But Paul is quick to point out that baptism is just a beginning. There is a lifetime to be lived in pursuit of "perfect maturity," our "upward calling, in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12, 14) In the Gospel for today Jesus echoes this lesson. He rescues the woman from her oppressors, offering her a new life with the words "Neither do I condemn you." Then he invites her to begin anew: "Go, and from now on do not sin any more" (John 8:11). As we approach Easter Jesus is inviting each of us to be fully transformed by the new life that was begun in us in the waters of baptism.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for our prayer & reflection this coming week:  
Ez 37: 12-14; Ps 130: 1-8  
Rom 8: 8-11; Jn 11: 1-45



## FOR YOUR LENTEN SPIRITUALITY

### Reflecting on God's Word

The stone probably didn't feel that heavy when it was first picked up. But it was a stone, not a pebble, and there were many of them. They would do damage, especially when hurled in self-righteous anger. Perhaps it helped the people to believe that no one stone could be blamed for her death. This was an act of the community, all of them in it together, standing up for the Law of Moses, and bringing down God's wrath upon an adulteress.

While things were starting to heat up, no one was paying much attention to the woman. They were all watching Jesus. What was with the crouching down and drawing in the dirt? You really couldn't tell whether he was writing or drawing or maybe he was just stalling for time.

Some said he had tricked them, worked some kind of magic, proof that he was indeed in league with Beelzebub. The more thoughtful ones were silent. One even said he thought Jesus was praying. Where else could his words have come from, words that redirected their gaze from the woman to themselves, words that caused stones to drop and feet to shuffle off?

His words continue to echo any time we find ourselves about to cast stones of condemnation at one another: "Let the one among you who is without sin . . ." After taking these words to heart, we might hear more clearly Jesus' final words, meant not only for her, but for us: Go and sin no more.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

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### Living God's Word



We pray that we might have the grace to see ourselves as we are, both graced by God and yet sometimes still sinful in thought, word, and deed. We pray that we might look on others with compassion and be given the power to forgive others who have harmed us, as God has forgiven us.

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### Double Standards

The philosopher Bertrand Russell, who prided himself on his atheism, once spoke of two kinds of morality that seem to exist in contemporary life—one that we preach but fail to practice, and another that we do practice but hardly ever preach. Jesus never allowed such double thinking. In today's Gospel, the crowd publicly humiliates the adulterous woman and is ready to stone her to death, a common way ancient cultures dealt with sexual and religious sins. Jesus does not question the woman's guilt, but exposes the hidden guilt in the hearts of the mob. He shames them for looking down on "the guilty one." Whom do we sit in judgment on? An alcoholic family member? A woman who has had an abortion? Illegal immigrants? Another race or religion? Our own sins may be hidden away, following us like a shadow, doing damage to us and our relationships with others. Do this: unload your guilt and sense of disapproval

## **ADVERTISING**

## **ADVERTISING**

### OUR COMMON MISSION ...

We, the Catholic Community of St. Raymond, loved and chosen by God through Baptism, share responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus.

We are called to be a loving and caring community whose members enable and support the gifts given to each by the Holy Spirit in order to be true sisters and brothers in Christ.

We are sent to make Christ visible in our world through worship, proclamation of the Word, and service to ALL.

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 13, 2016



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Theme: Jesus' love and forgiveness offer true freedom.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Against whom do you hold prejudices? Who do you believe is a greater sinner than yourself?

Youth Question: Who among your family and friends do you need to forgive so that you can heal a broken relationship and experience newness?

Children Question: How does the Sacrament of Reconciliation help us experience God's forgiveness?



Mon. Mar. 14	6:30am 9:00am	Segunda Guerrero † Rodney Develles, Birthday
Tues. Mar. 15	6:30am 9:00am	Alvin Guerrero, Birthday Julia Varela
Wed. Mar. 16	6:30am 9:00am	Alfredo & Marcelina Guerrero Eli M. Dela Madrid †
Thurs. Mar. 17	6:30am 9:00am	Sisters of the Holy Faith Matilde Garcia †
Fri. Mar. 18	6:30am 9:00am 6:30 pm	Jose Ramirez † Ernee Johnston † St. Raymond Parishioners
Sat. Mar. 19	8:00am 5:00pm	Vicente & Conrada Simpliciano † Jose Banuelos †
Sun. Mar. 20	7:00am 9:00am 11:00am 1:00pm 5:30pm	St. Raymond Parishioners Simpliciano Family Alfred Varela Josefina Contreras † Jose & Elvira Gonzalo †

### UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ....

On the following weekends we will have a second collection to support these designated activities:

- March 13 - Parish Utilities
- March 20 - Parish Maintenance
- March 27 - Together in Mission



In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.



### Weekly Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

At St. Raymond Church  
MONDAYS, 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Please join us in our Communal Prayer!

### FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Next Sunday, March 20, 2016  
St. Joseph's Table

