CHRIST HAS RISEN

Where is your sting, O death? Where is your victory, O hell? Christ has risen, and you are overthrown. Christ has risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ has risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ has risen, and life reigns. Christ has risen, and not one dead rests in the grave. For Christ having risen from the dead became the first-fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and majesty to ages of ages. Amen.

—Byzantine Pentekostarion
Dear Friends,

As this is the bulletin letter that will go out for Easter, I was thinking that I would write an Easter message. But since this letter is going out today, Holy Thursday, I didn’t feel quite right focusing solely on Easter. Yes, we are anticipating Easter. We know what happens at the end of this week. But the way to that outcome is only experienced through one path, the Cross.

With all that has been going on in our world the last several months, the temptation is to want to avoid the Cross, or discuss it as little as possible. But this does us a great disservice, for the Cross is not something that stands outside of us, opposed to us, as something that we can potentially prevent if we try hard enough and make all the right moves. For the Cross is what Jesus willingly accepted. God went to the Cross, and because He did, he changed it for the rest of humanity. He took away its old power and gave it a new one.

Because of the Cross we have the Resurrection. And so, in the days leading up to Easter, we do not flee from the Cross, as the Apostles did, but we linger close by with Mary. After our Good Friday service at 12pm, we will pray the Stations on the Cross at 3pm on Facebook Live, and later that evening at 7pm we invite you to join us on Zoom to meditate on Jesus’ last words that He spoke from the Cross. If we enter into these moments, we begin to peel away what frightens us most about the Cross and our own suffering, in order to reveal that what lies beneath is not so scary, but actually quite remarkable; that amidst great suffering we can experience great love, because suffering is about service. We call Christ’s suffering His “Passion,” because it was there that He loved us and served us most passionately.

I’d like to share a quote with you from Pope Francis’ homily from Palm Sunday last week:

“We were put in this world to love [God] and our neighbors. Everything else passes away, only this remains. The tragedy [of the virus] we are experiencing summons us to take seriously the things that are serious, and not to be caught up in those that matter less; to rediscover that life is of no use if not used to serve others. For life is measured by love. So, in these holy days, in our homes, let us stand before the Crucified One, the fullest measure of God’s love for us, and before the God who serves us to the point of giving his life, and let us ask for the grace to live in order to serve.”

How many of us during these unsettling times are learning anew how to serve, and so also how to love. I know I am. And where we rediscover this, where we relearn how to wash each others’ feet, we remember that it is in the darkness that we see the light most clearly, most brilliantly, most beautifully. Afterall, we read that the Resurrection took place just before dawn, the darkest time of night.

So do not rush to Easter. Linger in Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and follow our Lord on the path that He Himself was not afraid to walk. Learn to live as Jesus teaches; our parish’s mission statement. Which means, to love and serve passionately, so as to rise victoriously.

A blessed Triduum and Easter Season to you and your family.

Your brother in Christ,
Father Mario
Faith Formation Update

Alleluia! He is risen!

Easter comes and we celebrate the mystery of our redemption, even in the midst of COVID-19. This pandemic has changed many things, but not the reality of the Good News. Children’s Liturgy of the Word meets online, and we attend Mass via livestream, praying together in virtual community. Sheltering in place has delayed the celebration of Baptism for the elect who have been preparing for over a year in RCIA, but they continue to gather via video conferencing in readiness for when public Masses resume and they can be washed by the waters of Baptism and receive the Bread of Life within this St. Joseph community. The RCIA sessions in the Parish Center are suspended, but by working online, catechumens continue their formation and inquirers discover where God may be calling them. First Communions have been postponed until fall, so families are continuing their preparation at home. Children’s Faith Formation carries on through parents’ efforts at home aided by online resources and videoconferencing. We are an Easter people! If you are looking for help with growing in faith, contact Anne Marie at afourre@sjbalameda.org or 510-995-9409.

Support Your Parish

Sunday Collections

As our parish continues to Shelter-In-Place following the order by our state and country officials and also the guidelines issued by Bishop Michael Barber, our Basilica remains open for private prayer, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm. Sunday, 9 am - 12 noon & 1 pm - 5 pm. And, private Sunday Masses or some parish events are live streamed or via video conferencing.

While you are ‘away’, your clergy and parish staff remain working hard diligently to serve our Parish Community the best possible way we can despite some limitations. And as such, your continued financial support is very important to us.

You can sign up for Online Giving/Faith Direct: by visiting our website: https://sjbalameda.org or https://membership.faithdirect.net/CA702 (code CA 702). It easy and secured. Or you can mail your offertory donations to the Parish Office: 1109 Chestnut Street, Alameda CA 94501. You may also drop off your Sunday envelopes through the mail slot at the Parish Office.

Phishing by Scammers Alert

During this trying times, parishioners have been the target of scammers again, who make attempts to take advantage of our willingness to help the Church or those in need. We would like to remind parishioners to be wary of scams that might involve someone impersonating a priest or other members of staff by email (usually a gmail account), asking for you to purchase gift cards and then transmit the codes back to the scammer.

Please know Fr. Mario or staff will never solicit gift cards or ask you to wire transfer money. Always take care in sharing personal information by email or online. For more information about this and other scams, the Federal Trade Commission gives more details about the scam and how to protect yourself.

Pray for the Sick

May those who are in need of our prayers, place their trust and faith in the comforting presence of the Lord. Amen

Sandy Anderson, Natalie Ackerman, Romelita Bautista, Emma Branigan, Ronald Bautista, Jazlynn Cain, Nia Cain, Fong Che, Jan Curtis, Mary Cronin, Lee Corral, Jamal Downs, Sherry Eastwood-Falls, Michael Long, Michael Lancaster, Monte McEntee, Joann Miller, Maureen McGee, Lolla Manibusan, Michael Ricica, Becka Smith, Rachel Sutherland, Nory Reyes, Evangeline Reyes, Ramon N. Tirona, Prosperidad Salamanca, Dee Pickett, Charles H. Thomas & John Verduzco.

Please call (510) 522-0181 if you would like a name to be added to the list.

Mass Intentions

Our parishioners can continue to request for Mass Intentions while the Parish Office is closed during the Shelter-In-Place. Requests are available the beginning of May. Please email your request to Parish Secretary, Sherley Lim: secretary@sjblameda.org. Please provide the following information when requesting for the Mass Intention:

- Name of person requesting
- Name of person for whom Mass is offered - living or deceased
- Date of Mass requested
- Telephone and email information

Note: There is no guarantee of availability of Mass for a requested date. We will confirm request by email or phone call.

The suggested stipend is $10/request. Upon confirmation, check for stipend can be mailed or drop off to the Parish Office. Please indicate date of Mass on memo line.

Mass Intentions

- **Easter Vigil, April 11**
  8:00pm For the People of the Parish

- **Easter Sunday, April 12**
  12 noon Mass For the People of the Parish (Live Streamed)

- **Monday, April 13**
  8:00 am †For All Souls

- **Tuesday, April 14**
  8:00 am †Liliano Lupetti
  †Elisa Hankins

- **Wednesday, April 15**
  8:00 am †For All Souls

- **Thursday, April 16**
  8:00 am †Evelyn Bertelsen

- **Friday, April 17**
  8:00 am †Violet Cary

- **Saturday, April 18**
  8:00 am †For All Souls
  5:00 pm For the People of the Parish - Living and Deceased

- **Sunday, March 19**
  7:30 am For the People of the Parish - Living and Deceased
  9:30 am †Jennifer Stahl
  11:30 am †Miguel Antonio Gamo
  7:00 pm †Rose Lee Kam

Please remember to include St. Joseph Basilica in your will
Break Open the Tomb

Lord of Easter’s Promise, I live in faith of the Resurrection, but such is the nature of my faith that so much of me remains entombed.

Break open the tomb.

Where I’ve buried my compassion, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my humility, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my humanity, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb.
Where I’ve buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I’ve found a Savior no grave can withstand.
Help me to roll away this stone and find the miracle of new life.
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.

Amen

The Easter Season

Easter is not just celebrated on Easter Sunday. It’s an entire season that lasts for 50 days! This time of joy and exultation, from the Resurrection of the Lord to Pentecost, is one feast day, or one “great Sunday.”
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(Office Closed for lunch: Noon to 1:00pm)
Volunteer Coverage
Sat. 8:30am - 12:30pm / Sun. 8:30am - 1:00pm

Parish Website: www.sjbalameda.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjbalameda
FORMED: www.sjbalameda.formed.org

Clergy:
Rev. Mario Rizzo - Parochial Administrator
(510) 995–9421 / frmario@sjbalameda.org
Rev. Sunil Orathel - Priest In Residence
(510) 917-9558 / sunil@sjbalameda.org
Dcn. Peter Lawongkerd (Youth Ministry Coordinator)
510-995-9474 / deaconpeter@sjbalameda.org

Sacrament of Marriage
Preparation for registered, active parishioners should begin at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Please contact Fr. Mario Rizzo directly to begin the process. Call (510) 995-9421 or email: frmario@sjbalameda.org.

Sacrament of Baptism
Please stop by the Parish office or check our website under “Sacraments” for information.
- For infant baptism (6 or younger) contact Parish Office, 510-522-0181
- For adults or children over age 6 please contact Anne Marie, 510-995-9409

Parish Staff:
Steve Mullin - Pastoral Associate
510-995-9475 / smullin@sjbalameda.org
Stan Schonberg - Business Manager
510-995-9411 / business@sjbalameda.org
Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation
510-995-9409 / afourre@sjbalameda.org
Sr. Asha Kooliyadan R. - Director of Pastoral Care
510-995-9406 / srasha@sjbalameda.org
Eric Bertelsen - Liturgy Coordinator
510-995-9404 / ebertelsen@sjbalameda.org
David Howitt - Music Director
510-995-9403 / dhowitt@sjbalameda.org
Michael Chinnavaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
mchinnavaso@sjbalameda.org / 510-5220181
John Scott - Youth Mass Music Coordinator
sjbyouthband@gmail.com / 510-522-0181
Susan Gahan - Coordinator for Funerals
510-995-9416 / sg@sjbalameda.org
Sherley Lim – Parish Secretary
510-995-9420 /secretary@sjbalameda.org

Community Staff:
Julie Guevara - Interim Principal, SJND High School
510-523-1526 / jguevara@sjnd.org
Katherine Francisco – Principal, Elementary School
510-522-4456 / kfrancisco@csdo.org

St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471

Note: All events or gatherings are canceled during Shelter In Place

St. Joseph Basilica Ministries
All God’s Children Prayer Group - Mondays, 7:00-9:00pm, Basilica
Basilica Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Basilica
Bible Study - Thursdays, 10:00-11:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Children’s Choir - Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm, Basilica
CIA (Christ in Action Children’s Ministry) - Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Basilica
Cub Scouts - Weekly Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Learning Center (Ends June)
Grief Support Ministry - 2nd Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Parish Center (Damien Room)
Guadalupe Ministry - 1st Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Knights of Columbus - 2nd Thursday, 7:00-8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Legion of Mary - 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7:00 - 8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Legion of Mary - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Reconciliation Room
Moms’ Bible Study Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Pastoral Care Team - 1st Saturday, 8:45-9:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Inquiry - Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Parish Center (Mother Teresa Room)
St. Vincent DePaul Society - 4th Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Spirit Ensemble rehearsal Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm, Basilica
Sp. Needs Inclusion Ministry - 4th Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Parish Center (Mother Teresa Room)
Taize Prayer Service - 4th Friday, 8:00-9:00pm, Basilica
Young Adults - 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:30pm-9:00pm, Parish Center (Damien Room)
Young Families Potluck - 3rd Saturday, 10 – noon, Notre Dame Hall