Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prayer to the Mother of the Lord
for all mothers

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your “Yes” to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God’s word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own “Fiat.” May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love—the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.

On this Mothers day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

Every rectory office has received a panicked phone call from a person who has been invited to serve as a godparent, or from someone newly engaged, who suddenly “needs to get confirmed”. While the lack of confirmation is not an obstacle for marriage, it is for godparenting. Many are surprised that the Church seems to be looking for a kind of sacramental “seal” on one’s baptism before the door opens fully to this ministry. Yet if you think about it, would you want someone to guide you to a place that he or she had not yet been? A godparent has to be someone who has “been there” and knows the way.

Although signet rings and wax seals have passed from use, our society depends on “seals of approval” ranging from certificates of quality to the familiar safety seals on medicines and foods. While Eucharist is the “seal” of the sacrament of baptism, there is a sense in which one’s Christian initiation is also incomplete without confirmation. Have you been confirmed? Perhaps it’s time to inquire now, before you have to make the dreaded phone call!

R.C.I.A.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
For information on the Catholic Faith and the process of inquiry, please call:

Jo & Frank Wilhelmi
805-526-6194

-Rev. James Field. Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.
Parish Information

**RECTORY**
1305 Royal Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065
526-1732   526-0067 (fax)
Email: Parish@StRoseSV.com
Ron Browne • 526-1732
Parish Business Manager
Website: www.StRoseSV.com

**HOURS**
Monday to Friday:  8:00am—8:00pm
Saturday:  9:00am—5:00pm
Sunday:  8:00am—4:00pm

**Facilities Manager**
Norm Ouellette • 551-3704

**ALTER SERVER MINISTRY**
Ty McDermott, Director • 526-1732
AltarServers@srls.org

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion—coordinators**
George Lemos
Tony Lemos (elvisman7@sbcglobal.net)

**LECTORS MINISTRY**
Tony Delgado 584-6987

**LIFE TEEN / YOUTH MINISTRY**
Adam Cross, Youth Minister • 526-8181
YM@StRoseSV.com
Claire Castello, Assistant Youth Minister
YMA@StRoseSV.com

**MINISTERIO HISPANO**
Libia Perez, Director • 915-4605
Libia@StRoseSV.com

**MUSIC MINISTRY**
Clare Delto, Director • 526-1732
Music@StRoseSV.com

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
Kim Costa, Director
526-5513 • 520-7638 (fax)
Kim@StRoseSV.com

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**
Julia Dobrucki • 584-1203
Julia@StRoseSV.com

**24 HR. LIFE CENTER HOTLINE FOR UNPLANNED PREGNANCY**
Call 1-800-973-7334
All our services are FREE and information is kept strictly confidential.
www.facebook.com/
PregnancyCounselingCenter

**SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN**
Lisa Zabaglo • 527-6582

**SUB-ROSA YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**
Adam Cross • Coordinator

---

**PASTOR**
Rev. Joseph P. Shea

**Associate Pastor**
Fr. Bill Nicholas

**Priest in Residence**
Fr. Jim Maher

**DEACONS**
Dn. Peter Wilson
Dn. Terry Reibenspies
Dn. Louis Fernandez
Dn. Edward Posvar

---

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Daily:**
8:30am & 5:30pm

**Saturday:**
8:30am; 5:00pm *(Vigil)*;
7:00pm *(Spanish)*

**Sunday:**
6:00am, 7:00am, 9:00am,
11:00am *(Family/Children)*,
1:00pm *(Spanish)*, 5:00pm *(Youth)*

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**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Monday:**
9:00am—10:00am

**Tuesday:**
4:00pm—5:00pm

**Wednesday:**
9:00am—10:00am

**Thursday:**
4:00pm—5:00pm

**NEW HOURS**
Friday
4:00pm—5:00pm
Saturday
3:00pm—5:00pm
6:00pm—7:00pm

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**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

Vigil:
5:30pm

**Holy Day:**
6:00am; 8:30am; 12:00pm;
5:30pm; 7:00pm *(Spanish)*

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**ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL**
1325 Royal Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065
John P. Sanders, Principal
Website: www.srls.org
526-5304 • 526-0939 (fax)

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA**
**AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
577-8208
St. Rose School Alumni
Teresa Moran Runyon
alumni@srls.org
www.srls.org/alumni

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**MOTHER CABRINI CIRCLE**
**GIFT STORE**
Located in the vestibule; open before &
after morning Sunday Masses;
Tuesdays 2–6pm & Thursdays 12–4pm

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**SACRAMENTS**

**ANointing of the Sick**
Administered throughout the year.
Please call the Rectory any time in
the case of serious illness or going into
surgery.

**Baptisms**
English: 1st Sunday of the month
Spanish: 3rd Sunday of the month
By appointment; please call or visit the Rectory.

**MARRIAGES**
Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Please
call or visit the Rectory.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)**
Jo & Frank Wilhelmi • 526-6194

**DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR with BENEDICTION**

**Novena**
Mother of Perpetual Help
Wednesdays at 6:00pm

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**
Dot Goerisch • 526-5640

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP**
Ched & Lumi Cruz
584-6160

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST**
Joanne & Erwin Ilustrisimo
304-0753

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #5803**
Rick Ostrich, Grand Knight
501-8818

**SERVING THOSE IN NEED**
Earl Todd
581-0957

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Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
For information on the Catholic Faith and the process of inquiry, please call:

Jo & Frank Wilhelmi
805-526-6194
On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, Jesus speaks about being the gate by which His sheep enter to find protection and safety. Jesus has entrusted this role of a gate keeper in special way to the ones whom we honor in a special way this weekend—our mothers.

Have you ever noticed that across time and space, mothers everywhere share certain similarities? Someone compiled a list of possible sayings of Biblical mothers. See if any of these sound familiar:

CAIN! Get off your brother! You're going to kill him some day!

NOAH! No, you can't keep them! I told you, don't bring home any more strays!

ABRAHAM! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!

DAVID! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp. We pay good money for those lessons!

SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO! Leave those clothes outside. You smell like you have been running in a fire!

GIDEON! Have you been hiding in that wine press again? Just look at your clothes!

JUDAS ISCARIOT! Have you been in my purse again?

Some of us had Moms like that, didn't we? Some of us still do. We may be grown-up now, but to our mothers, we are still fair game for their protective love.

The other day I read about a Chief of Police in Knoxville, Tennessee who was at a City Council meeting when his pager went off. The Police Chief was startled to see that the call was from his mother. Concerned, he rushed to the press table and phoned her.

"Phil Keith, are you chewing gum?" asked his mom, who had been watching the council meeting on cable TV. "Yes, mom," answered Chief Keith. "Well, it looks awful," his mother said. "Spit it out."

Police Chief Phil Keith dutifully removed the gum and went back to his meeting. Just because everyone else regards us as responsible adults, doesn't mean that we can fool our Moms. They know better and sometimes they will tell us.

Mothers everywhere seem to share certain universal characteristics, but the greatest and most common characteristic of mothers—from Bombay to Boston—from Lithuania to Los Angeles—is their protective love. Mothers are the sheep gates who ferociously protect their children in their comings and goings. When we were growing up, we probably didn’t understand or appreciate that protective love. At times, we may have resented it. But all we had to do is live life a little bit, and then we realized how truly selfless, generous, hard working, loving and wonderful our moms were and are. It was probably said best in a touching reflection that I read last week. It is entitled, “The Meanest Mother in the World.” Although it was originally written in 1967, it still is very apropos for today. It read as follows:

I had the meanest mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs or toast. When others had cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids' also. But at least, I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother as I did. My mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and where we were going. She insisted if we said we'd be gone an hour, that we be gone one hour or less—not one hour and one minute.
I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us. Not once, but each time we had a mind of our own and did as we pleased. That poor belt was used more on our seats than it was to hold up Daddy's pants. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can begin to see how mean she really was.

We had to wear clean clothes and take a bath. The other kids always wore their clothes for days. We reached the height of insults because she made our clothes herself, just to save money. Why, oh why, did we have to have a mother who made us feel different from our friends?

The worst is yet to come. We had to be in bed by nine each night and up at eight the next morning. We couldn't sleep till noon like our friends. So while they slept, my mother actually had the nerve to break the child-labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. I believe my mother laid awake at night thinking up mean things to do to us. She always insisted upon us telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us—and it nearly did.

By the time we were teenagers, she was much wiser, and our life became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door to get us.

If I spent the night with a girlfriend, can you imagine she actually checked on me to see if I was really there. I never had the chance to elope to Mexico, that is, if I'd had a boyfriend to elope with.

I forgot to mention, while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 and 13, my old fashioned mother refused to let me date until the age of 16, that is, if you dated only to go to a school function. And that was maybe twice a year.

Through the years, things didn't improve a bit. We could not lie in bed "sick" like our friends did, and miss school. If our friends had a toe ache, a hang nail or serious ailment, they could stay home from school. Our marks in school had to be up to par. Our friends' report cards had beautiful colors on them, black for passing, red for failing. My mother, being as different as she was, would settle for nothing less than ugly black marks.

As the years rolled by, first one and then the other of us was put to shame. We graduated from high school. With our mother behind us, talking, hitting and demanding respect, none of us was allowed the pleasure of being a drop-out.

My mother was a complete failure as a mother. Out of four children, a couple of us attained some higher education. None of us have ever been arrested, divorced or beaten his mate. Each of my brothers served his time in the military service of this country.

And whom do we have to blame for the terrible way we turned out? You're right, our mean mother. Look at the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade. We did not take part in a riot, burn draft cards, and a million and one other things that our friends did. She forced us to grow up into God-fearing, educated, and honest adults.

Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean. Because, you see, I thank God, He gave me the meanest mother in the whole world.

Most of us sitting here probably had mothers just like that. And that's why, on this day on which we honor our mothers, in this perfect prayer of thanks—the Holy Eucharist—collectively we want to say: "Thank you, God for giving us the Meanest Mothers in the Whole World as our gate keepers in life."

Happy Mother’s Day to all our mothers!
**What Does Jesus Expect of Me?**

Jesus calls you to follow him. Your life could be an adventure with God. St. Rose of Lima Parish extends a warm welcome to all who wish to join our faith community for worship and fellowship. Come Feast on His Word, develop your Knowledge, and Build a Family of Faith. If you are new to the area, or coming back Home, we invite you to make St. Rose of Lima your parish by calling the Rectory at 526-1732 or stop by during office hours or visit our website: www.StRoseSV.com

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**“A time to be born…” Ecc 3:2**

Pray for those newly baptized.

- Juree Castro
- Justis Castro
- Alejandro Fabian
- Leo Malesh
- Mauricio Rodriguez

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**“A time to heal…” Ecc 3:3**

...And pray for one another.—James 5:13-18

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<td>Ruben Gonzalez</td>
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<td>John Hughes</td>
<td>Mary Rose Hughes</td>
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<td>Barbara Knight</td>
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<td>Yvonne Salcido</td>
<td>Donald Salvas</td>
<td>Terriane Soria</td>
<td>Alex Sprague</td>
<td>Bryan Sprague</td>
<td>Colina Stephanson</td>
<td>Irene Velasquez</td>
<td>Maryann Walters</td>
<td>Sharon Yaqui</td>
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**“A time of war and a time of peace…” Ecc 3:8**

Pray for those serving in the military.

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<tr>
<th>U.S. Army</th>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Alatorre</td>
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<td>Ryan Osier</td>
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<td>Juan Ignacio Rios</td>
<td>National Guard</td>
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<td>Kaplan Sharpe</td>
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<td>Armando Peña, Jr.</td>
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**“A time to die…” Ecc 3:2**

Pray for the souls of all our beloved departed and their families especially...

- Leonard Chin
- Maria C. Martinez
- Dolores Zarate

---

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Monday</strong></th>
<th>Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3, 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12</td>
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**MASS INTENTIONS**

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**Adult Education & Faith Formation**

**Continuing Adult Faith Formation**

The Continuing Adult Faith Formation classes will resume in September.
Have a blessed summer!

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**DEVOTIONS**

**Adoration Schedule**
Monday, 9:00am – Saturday, 3:00pm

"Adorers are needed:

- Tuesday: 3am
- Wednesday: 4am, 1pm, 9pm & 10pm
- Thursday: 10am, 11am, 12pm & 1pm
- Friday: 7pm, 8pm & 10pm

Visitors and scheduled Adorers please be sure to sign in, it is the only way we can be sure that Jesus is not alone.

**Team Leaders**

- 12am-5am: Theresa Wong 428-0942
- 6am-11am: Cathy Sullivan 526-7628
- 12pm-5pm: Anita Koller 526-9910
- 6pm -11pm: Kathy and Frank Cross 501-8431

---

**Divine Mercy Chaplet**

Tuesdays & Fridays at 3pm

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour & Benediction**

with Deacon Ed Posvar

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

Wednesdays after the daily 5:30pm Mass

Family Novena In Honor of the Holy Infant

Jesus of Prague Every Friday at 6:00pm

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**Flores de Mayo 2014**

**Filipino American Catholic Ministry**

St. Rose of Lima Church

**Sunday, May 18 - 11:00 AM Mass**

Liturgical Music – Filipino Choir of Southern CA

Flowers for the floral offering will be available at the church main entrance before the mass.

Light luncheon and entertainment will follow immediately after the mass in the parish hall.

You are all welcome to share your favorite fruits, desserts, pies or cookies.

---

**Bible Study**

All our Bible Studies are back in session this week. Come and see what we’re about.

**Bible Study of Psalms**

With Fr. Bill

Tuesday, May 13

Saturday, May 17 (repeat of same material)

In the church, immediately following the 8:30am Mass.

For questions or comments, please call Annette Lercel, Bible Study Coordinator, at 584-3533.

---

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed Ministry**

We are a Christ-centered, self-help program. We meet the 1st & 3rd Friday of the month in Room 11 of the church. 7:00-9:00pm. All adults are welcome!

Friday, May 16: “How To Find Your Purpose Through The Life Of Jesus Christ, In The Temptation By The Devil In The Desert,” by Dr. Bennett Annan.

Contact: Jean Jenners (JosephM34@sbcglobal.net), call 526-1732 or visit: www.StRoseSV.com/DSW.html

---

**Freedom in Our Lives Ministry**

Freedom in Our Lives Ministry invites all adults to a Christ-centered program that could change your outlook on life.

Our mission is to help people overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups. Meetings are held in Classroom 11 of St Rose of Lima School.

Dinner & fellowship begins at 6:15pm on the

2nd & 4th Friday of the month.

General meeting from 7:00-8:00pm

Coming to St. Rose of Lima... Terry Barber will be here on Sunday, May 25 at 3:00pm.

---

**Memorial Day Mass**

Monday, May 26

There will be only one Mass here at St. Rose of Lima at 9:00am

There will not be an evening Mass or Confessions.

Assumption Cemetery

Rev. Paul Hruby will be celebrating Mass at 10:00am at Assumption Cemetery.
Children’s Memorial Mass
The Bereaved Parents Support Group of Holy Cross Catholic Church invites all parents, grandparents, family and friends to a Memorial Mass in honor of all our children of any age who have passed away. The Mass will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Church at 13955 Peach Hill Rd., Moorpark on Thursday May 22 at 7 PM.
For those who would like their child's name read before the Offertory, please register by calling Imelda Tjia at 805-553-9034 or email missingyouall@att.net.
Please bring a SINGLE long stem flower to be presented to the front of the altar when your child’s name is called. Reception will follow after Mass at the Parish Office dining room.

Where do we go from here?
“In Whom Do You Hope?
For What Do You Hope?
What you’ve always wanted to know about Heaven, Hell and Purgatory”
Please join us for the 2nd presentation with Paul F. Ford, PhD, noted author, lecturer and Professor of Systematic Theology and Liturgy at St. John’s Seminary
Tuesdays, May 13
Padre Serra Parish, Serra Center
5025 Upland Road, Camarillo
Hospitality at 7:00pm and Presentations at 7:30pm.
Many misunderstandings and myths exist about the nature of heaven, hell and purgatory. What do the Bible and the Church teach about life after death?
How does the expectation of rewards and punishments affect how we live our lives today?
Join us for some lively discussion and more led by Dr. Ford. Sessions are free of charge.
For more information or to register, please contact TeresaRunyon@PadreSerra.org or call 482-6417.

CATHECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1036 The affirmations of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church on the subject of hell are a call to the responsibility incumbent upon man to make use of his freedom in view of his eternal destiny. They are at the same time an urgent call to conversion: “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.
For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, the leads to life, and those who find it are few.” 618
RESPECT LIFE

The Respect Life ministry is selling beautiful orchid corsages for only $5.00 after all the Masses on Mother’s Day weekend. The money raised will go to the Life Centers of Ventura County to help pregnant women in need in our community. Learn more at www.VCLifeCenters.com or call (805) 486-2721.

Thought of the Day...

“If we are like seeds destined to grow into plants, what does that tell us about our life with God after we die?” —St. Clement’s 1st Letter to the Corinthians.

Change your search engine to Goodsearch (powered by Yahoo) and earn .01 for St. Rose of Lima for every legitimate search! Visit www.GoodSearch.com to learn more and sign up. Be sure to designate “St. Rose of Lima Church and School” in Simi Valley as recipient.

Did you Know?

Take the Child Safety Quiz
Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safe in today’s fast-paced world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC’s Web site offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. The site also features an interactive quiz on child safety designed for both adults and children. To take the quiz, visit the NCMEC Web site and click on “Child Safety”: www.missingkids.com. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at 213 637 7650.

¿Sabía Usted?

Tome el Examen de Seguridad Infantil
Los padres, tutores y adultos que cuidan a niños enfrentan constantes desafíos al tratar de ayudar a mantener a los niños más seguros en el acelerado mundo de hoy. El “National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)” ofrece recursos de seguridad fácil de utilizar para ayudar a enfrentar estos desafíos. El website de NCMEC ofrece una gama de información práctica para los padres y tutores que les ayudará a proteger a los niños de cualquier daño. El website también ofrece un cuestionario interactivo sobre seguridad infantil diseñado para adultos y niños. Para tomar el examen, visite el website de NCMEC y haga clic en “Seguridad infantil”: www.missingkids.com. Para obtener ayuda especial, llame al Comité de Salvaguardar a los Niños de la parroquia. Para obtener ayuda, llame a la Oficina del Ministerio de Ayuda al 213 637 7650.

Knights of Columbus

KNIGHT GOES THE EXTRA MILE
Please support our 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, Rafael Torres, III, who will be running the 2014 Mountains 2 Beach Marathon on May 25. 100% percent of pledges or sponsorships will go directly to the Knights of Columbus, Council #5803, and will help to further our charitable efforts.

Donations can be made online at: www.knightsofcolumbus5803.myevent.com. Rafael can be reached at Rafael.Torres@lls.edu to answer any questions. Thank you for your support!!!
¡GRACIAS MAMA!

Por dejarme ser parte de tu universo
Durante nueve gloriosos meses: ¡Gracias!
Por regalarme la dicha de ver el mundo
Con tus ojos de bondad: ¡Gracias!
Por alimentarme durante los primeros
Y todos los años de mi vida: ¡Gracias!
Por regalarme las palabras
con las que nombro tus milagros: ¡Gracias!
Por amarme más allá de tu cansancio,
de tus penas y desvelos: ¡Gracias!
Por ser la sonrisa divina que acaricia
Mis luchas y esfuerzos: ¡Gracias!
Por enseñarme las veredas del amor,
La fe y el servicio al necesitado:
¡Gracias Mamá!

Poema escrito por Padre Cirilo Bailón

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**Lecturas de la Semana**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Día</th>
<th>Referencias</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunes</td>
<td>Hch 11:1-18; Sal 42 (41):2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martes</td>
<td>Hch 11:19-26; Sal 87 (86):1b-7; Jn 10:22-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles</td>
<td>Hch 1:15-17, 20-26; Sal 113 (112): 1-8; Jn 15:9-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes</td>
<td>Hch 13:26-33; Sal 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sábado</td>
<td>Hch 13:44-52; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 14:7-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domingo</td>
<td>Hch 6:1-7; Sal 33 (32):1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pe 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE**

El 19 de abril en Uruguay se conmemora a la Virgen del Verdún, que está colocada sobre una columna de seis metros en uno de los cerros que rodean la ciudad de Minas. Esta imagen fue puesta allí por el párroco don José De Luca en 1900. Su intención era dedicar esta imagen en recuerdo del siglo diecinueve y recibir así el siglo veinte, dedicándolo a María Inmaculada en honor de Cristo Redentor.

En el 2007 la peregrinación a la Virgen del Verdún llevaba como lema “De la mano de María, discípulos y misioneros de Jesucristo”. Este bello refrán nos recuerda que vamos caminando de la mano de María, nuestra hermana en la fe, para ser como ella, discípulos de su hijo y misioneros del mensaje redentor de Jesucristo. No obstante, hay que reconocer que mucho cristianos, especialmente nosotros, los latinoamericanos, nos quedamos sólo con María y nunca llegamos a Jesús. Eso a María no le gusta ya que toda reverencia a ella debe abrirlnos a recibir a su único hijo, Jesús, y adorarlo como nuestro único Señor y salvador.

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—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
A Catholic Bible and a “Catechism of the Catholic Church” are a must for every Catholic home!
(Available in our gift shop.)

God gives us His word in the Bible, and the Magisterial Teachings of the Catholic Church provide us with direction to follow it. Another way to be a well-informed and a vibrant Catholic is to visit the USCCB website listed below where you will find a wealth of practical information.


CATHOLIC FAITH FACTS
For more apologetics, please visit: www.StRoseSV.com and click on “Faith Facts”.

Brethren of the Lord

Non-Catholics sometimes ask why Catholics believe in the perpetual virginity of our Blessed Mother when the Scriptures clearly speak about the “brothers of the Lord” and mention them by name (James, Joseph, Simon, and Jude).

What they won’t speak about is the fact that these so-called “brothers” were probably cousins or some other kinsfolk of Jesus because there was no term for the word “cousin” in the Aramaic language that our Lord spoke. In the Old Testament, there are many examples of this:

In Gen. 14:14, Lot is called Abraham’s "brother", even though he was the son of Haran, Abraham’s brother (Gen. 11:26–28). In Gen. 29:15, Jacob is referred to as the "brother" of his uncle Laban. Brothers Kish and Eleazar were the sons of Mahli. Kish had sons of his own, but Eleazar’s daughters married their "brethren," the sons of Kish - who were actually their cousins (1 Chr. 23:21–22).

Other proof against the charge that our Blessed Mother had other children is in the account of the Crucifixion of Jesus. What do the Scriptures have to say about the women standing at the cross and their children? Matt. 27:56 says, “among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.” Mark 15:40 states, “There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome”. Finally, John 19:25 tells us, “But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene”.

A comparison of these accounts of the crucifixion shows the mother of James and Joseph (Joses) to be Mary, the wife of Clopas (also called, Alphaeus) – not Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is obviously a relative of the Blessed Mother. The Greek word for sister (Adelphē), which is used in these accounts, has a variety of uses including sister, sister-in-law, cousin, aunt, kinswoman, friend, fellow citizen, neighbor, etc. There is simply no verse in all of Scripture which states that Mary had other children but there is substantial evidence that the so-called “brethren of the Lord” were simply relatives and not uterine siblings.