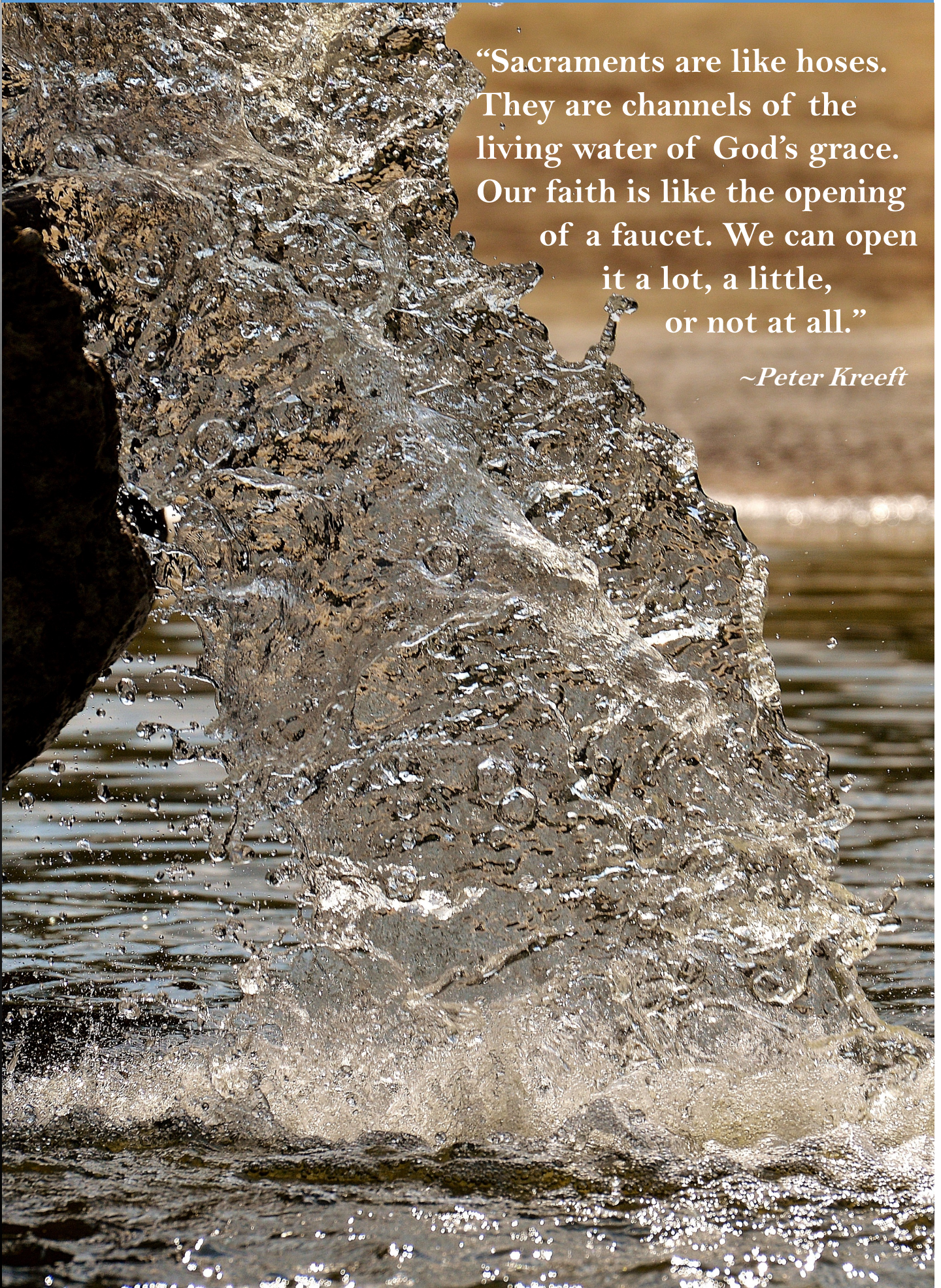




“Sacraments are like hoses.
They are channels of the
living water of God’s grace.
Our faith is like the opening
of a faucet. We can open
it a lot, a little,
or not at all.”

~Peter Kreeft



MASS SCHEDULE AND PRIEST'S INTENTIONS

Sun, Mar 15	THIRD SUNDAY of LENT
5:30 pm	† Margaret Campbell
8:00 am	† Sister Margaret Eilerman, CSJ
11:00 am	† Ken Eichinger & deceased members of the Eichinger family
5:30 pm	For the People of the Parish
Mon, Mar 16	Lenten Weekday
8:00 am	† William Russell
Tues, Mar 17	Saint Patrick, Bishop
8:00 am	† Joan Maucere
Wed, Mar 18	Lenten Weekday
8:00 am	† Rose Marie Green
Thurs, Mar 19	SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
8:00 am	† Jose C. Cruz & † Jose Q. Cruz
11:00 am	† Jerome Hennek (Funeral Mass)
Fri, Mar 20	Lenten Weekday
8:00 am	† Robert & † Marie Louise Garen
Sat, Mar 21	Lenten Weekday
8:00 am	† Dorothy Tex
Sun, Mar 22	FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT
5:30 pm	For the People of the Parish
8:00 am	† Elizabeth Ann Dietz
11:00 am	† Margaret Campbell
5:30 pm	† Tim Hilgeman

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE PARISH CENTER

All are welcome after morning Masses.

- Mar 15 Wheelchair Sunday**
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
 Complimentary coffee and donuts.
 Donations provide free wheelchairs for children in need in Mexico.
- Mar 22 St. Joseph's Table**
Sponsored by the members of the International Catholic Families (ICF)
 A meatless meal of pasta and marinara will be served along with an assortment of Italian sweets and other goodies. Sorry, no donuts.
- Mar 29 Bread Sunday**
Sponsored by the Catholic Women's Club
 Enjoy freshly-baked breads: quinoa, Irish Soda, yeast and scones. Bagels and lox; coffee, juice and donuts also being served. For quick pick-up after Mass, use the pink pre-order forms available on the publications table in the main entrance of the church.

SACRAMENT of PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Mondays 6:00 pm; Thursdays 8:30 am; Saturdays 4:00 pm

Note: No Confessions on **April 9** (Holy Thursday) and **April 11** (Holy Saturday)

Lenten Evening Prayer with the Sacrament of Penance

Tue, Mar 24 at 7:00 pm

Please see page six for Lenten Penance Services at neighboring parishes.

Welcome to OUR LADY of GRACE!

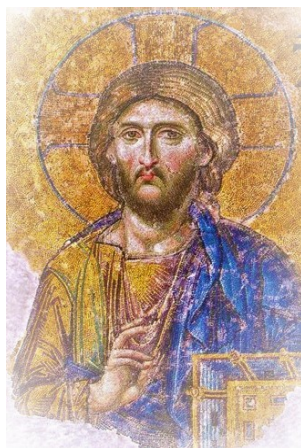
Welcome to all who are joining us for the celebration of the Eucharist. There are many ways and parish organizations to participate in our life in Christ. See the directory on page 7.

We invite all who attend OLG to become registered members of our parish. Registration forms are available on the table in the main entry of the church or the parish office. Registration allows us to communicate and effectively provide for your needs. It is necessary for baptism, marriage, and godparent or sponsor certification.

Mindfulness of Others—Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during the liturgy. The parish has a Children's Chapel located in the northwest corner of the church. Parents with restless children are welcome to make use of this chapel at any time during Mass should it be necessary. We ask that this chapel, like the church itself, remain free of food and drink.

Allergies—The first morning Mass of the Sunday or holy day will always be incense-free. The Sunday 11:00 am Mass will always include the use of incense.

Our Lady of Grace Parish welcomes all who seek to enrich their faith life and explore the possibility of becoming a Catholic Christian. Our community shares and celebrates this journey with them through a process called "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." If you



are curious about what Catholics believe and may be interested in learning more about joining the Catholic faith—or perhaps you are an adult Catholic looking to be fully initiated—you are cordially invited to enter the R.C.I.A. process and experience a new and enriched meaning to your life through renewed faith and love. Please contact Deacon John Sawaya at (858) 869-5079 or use the "Contact us" link on the parish webpage.

READINGS FOR MAR 15 - 22

Sun:	Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Mon:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30
Tue:	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wed:	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thu:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Fri:	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Sat:	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Sun:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

GUEST COLUMNIST

ALICE CAMILLE

God Are You Here?

The Israelites grumbling in the desert asked the right question, the only one that matters when you come right down to it: *Is the Lord in our midst or not?* If not, we might as well get what we can in this world and Commandments be damned. If God is not present, the various reasons why God is absent are each worse than the last. Perhaps we have offended the Almighty and have been deserted as a result. Perhaps God doesn't care what happens to us in the same way we don't care what happens to insects or amoebas. Or maybe there is no God, period. The absence of God would be a dreadful situation under any circumstances. For the Israelites who asked the question, it would mean they had been ousted from slavery in Egypt only to be abandoned in the wilderness.

If the Lord is in our midst, of course, our reality takes a whole new shape. The presence of God implies some kind of relationship. Is God our keeper, our oppressor, our judge, our savior, our lover, our friend—or any combination of these? With God in close proximity—in our midst—then uncovering the dimensions of the relationship becomes paramount. Who is God for us, and who is God with us? The question continues, naturally: Who are we for and with God?

The Samaritan woman

Religious people throughout history have asked questions about God's existence, involvement, and demands on the human race. If God is in our midst, then it is reasonable and even practical to learn what God is doing here and what is expected of us. Is God with one people more than another? Does God play favorites, and if so, how do we get on God's good side? The woman who comes to the well in today's gospel is a pretty smart lady. She believes that God is with her people, the Samaritans, because that is what she has been taught. Samaritans encounter the presence of God on their holy mountain, and that is where this woman would go to find God. Finding God is not the problem, for many people. It's what to do with God once found that is the issue. Do we worship, submit, beg forgiveness, fall in love?

This Samaritan woman has not had a problem, it would seem, with falling in love. But she does suffer from the social problems involved with falling in love too much, one might guess. But of course, we really don't get much information about why she has had five husbands and more. All we know is that her living situation has caused her enough social abrasion that she is forced to come to the well at midday, the most unpopular time to face the desert sun. The other women come

hours earlier. This woman is not welcome in their midst. If God has favorites, we might imagine, this woman is not considered one of them.

The encounter at the well

The Samaritan woman knows that the Jewish people see God differently than her people do. For one thing, the place of their divine encounter is in the city, in Jerusalem, and not on the mountaintop. She also knows that the Jews imagine they are God's people, but that *her* people are not so lucky. She knows she is despised by Jews, even as she has learned to despise them. What's more, she has learned a lot about men. If Jews are trouble for her people, men have been trouble for her personally. This encounter with Jesus, therefore, is not at all welcome on her end.

What is the first thing to pass between them? The stranger asks for something: "Give me a drink." Is she surprised? That a man makes a command of her? That's not unusual. But for a Jew to even speak to a Samaritan, well, that's a little more unexpected. She plays the race card, to remind him of their separateness. He then speaks of God, and she imagines this as a further divide between them. Religious differences have traditionally kept her people from his. If both Jews and Samaritans have God in their midst, it is certainly not the same God.

(Continued on page 4)



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
CHURCH**
Founded 1954

CLERGY**PASTOR***Very Rev. Peter McGuine***AUXILIARY PRIEST***Rev. Gino Correa, OFM***PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE***Rev. Jerome Molokie,
O Praem.**Rev. Curtiss Dwyer,
LT, CHC, USN***DEACON***Dcn. John Sawaya***SCHEDULE of MASSES****SUNDAY VIGIL***(Saturday) 5:30 pm***SUNDAY**

8:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

MONDAY–SATURDAY

8:00 am

*Holy days and holidays
listed separately in bulletin.***SACRAMENTS****INFANT BAPTISM**

Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 12:30 pm. Preparation packet is available in the parish office.

**RITE of CHRISTIAN
INITIATION of ADULTS**

Contact Deacon Sawaya
(858) 869-5079.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriage preparation begins nine months in advance.

Please contact
Fr. Peter McGuine or
Deacon Sawaya.

**PENANCE AND
RECONCILIATION**

Monday 6:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm

ANointing of the Sick

Call the parish office
(619) 469-0133.

Food Pantry Collection Weekend

Food Collection takes place This weekend **Mar 14-15!** If you forgot to bring non-perishable food to drop off before Mass, monetary gifts are welcome and gratefully accepted. Visit "donate" at olg-church.org or use the special pantry envelopes in the pews.

Thank you!



Annual Lenten Collection

Next weekend, **Mar 21-22** has been designated for the special collection which supports the works of Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa and the Church in Latin America. Special envelopes will be available next week. Please prepare to respond generously to this worthwhile collection.

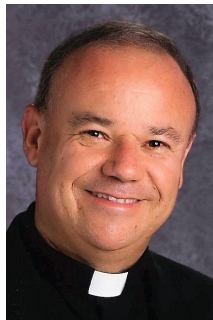
Pope Francis Names New Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego

Pope Francis has appointed a new Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego, the Rev. Ramon Bejarano.

Father Bejarano is a priest of the Diocese of Stockton and currently serves as Pastor of the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton, CA. In 1989, he entered formation for the Diocese of Stockton. Bishop-elect Bejarano attended and received his Master of Philosophy from *Seminario Diocesano de Tijuana* (1989-1992) and his Master of Divinity from Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon (1992-1998). He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Stockton on August 15, 1998.

Bishop-Elect Bejarano has served as chaplain to the Migrant Ministry in the Stockton diocese, where he celebrated Mass with and for the families and workers in the migrant camps along with providing the sacraments and counseling. He has been the spiritual director for the Spanish Catholic Radio in the area. He also served in leadership positions at the Stockton Diocese as a member of the Presbyteral (Priest) Council, the Diaconate Board, the Preparatory Commission for the Diocesan Synod of 2005, and the College of Consultors. He is fluent in both English and Spanish.

He will be consecrated a bishop on Tue, **Apr 21**, at 2:00 pm at the Church of the Resurrection in Escondido.



Rose Shindler Holocaust Survivor & Educator Tue, Mar 31 ~ 7:00 pm in the church

Follow the lives of Rose and Max as they are thrust into the incomprehensible, volatile and unpredictable world of a concentration camp. Hear of their survival, liberation, and their journey to coming together to form what each tragically lost: A FAMILY.

Best suited for persons age 12 and up. Sponsored by the Women of the CWC.

(Continued from page 3)

This stranger and she do not typically share the same cup, the same well, the same worship space, or the same God. They do not even share a conversation under normal circumstances. By the end of this conversation, however, they will be standing on holy ground together. This woman does not even suspect that the Lord is in her midst like never before. Standing with this Jew at the well has brought her as close to God as she will ever be.

It's not where you stand

Was this woman taught anything in her life that would lead her to seek the presence of God in an encounter with a man, and a Jewish one at that? Or to find God in a humble moment doing unpleasant household chores like fetching water? Probably not. But people of faith will seek and find God anywhere, everywhere—the more unlikely, the better. God is most often found in the stranger, the enemy,

the unholy hour, and the unseemly place. What we *do* with God once we *find* the Holy is the crux of the matter, of course. This woman dropped her bucket and ran home to spread the news. That was a good response. It may be the best one.

What's as important is that this woman—who knew herself to be a sinner in the eyes of her community, not one of God's favorites by any means—discovered herself to be in the presence of the Holy in the unlikely place and person and time and *knew it*. She recognized where she was and who she was with, even though according to the rules she was the wrong woman, he was the wrong man, and the well was not where God was supposed to arrive. Funny—someone must have forgotten to tell God how inappropriate the whole arrangement was. And God remains blissfully unaware that sinners are the wrong kind of people to be seen with. Thank God for that.

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Friday Lenten Fish Dinners in the Parish Center Mar 20, 27 & Apr 3 ~ 5:00-7:00 pm

A day of fast and abstinence

Combo meals include vegetables, rice, Hawaiian Roll, coleslaw, tarter sauce, one dessert ticket, plus choice of non-alcoholic beverage! Beer and wine are available for a donation. All prices include sales tax.

ITEM	PRICE
Lenten Fish Combo	\$12.00
Fish Taco Combo Meal	\$12.00
Shrimp Cocktail Combo Meal	\$12.00
Cheese Nachos	\$ 5.00
Clam Chowder	\$ 4.00



STATIONS of THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent, Mar 20, 27 & Apr 3

7:00 pm in the Church

NEW LIFE—HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GRADES 9-12

New Life Youth Group

New Life youth gather **Sunday evenings**, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Lauerman Hall Youth Room.

●For questions about High School youth ministry visit the New Life page at olg-church.org or contact Doris at (619) 466-5451 or dhertzig@olg-church.org.

FOR ALL JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Social Justice Service Night

The East County Deanery is hosting a youth ministry opportunity on Sat, **Mar 21**, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Guardian Angels Church, 9310 Dalehurst Dr, Santee, 92071. Please bring the following items for Blessing Bags according to your last name:

A-H Small packaged snacks or little water bottles

I-Q Toiletries or First Aid or **R-Z** Socks or Beanies

RSVP to Doris at dhertzig@olg-church.org. This is a great way to earn OLG Confirmation Prep service hours! A Permission Form is required if not with a parent. Visit olg-church.org ESCAPE or New Life youth pages.

Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Dinner and Silent Auction Sat, Apr 25

6:30-8:30 pm ~ Parish Center

Adult: \$10.00

Children: \$5.00

Find the ticket order form on the "Upcoming Events" page of our parish website olg-church.org.

Thank you for supporting OLG Youth Ministry!



EAST COUNTY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

(RE)TURN

Gather with other young adults for five remaining sessions to deepen your faith, have meaningful discussions and connect with community. Grab a friend and bring them, too!

Thursdays of Lent 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Mar 19 - St. John of the Cross

Mar 26 - Guardian Angels

Apr 2 - St. Therese

Apr 18 - Closing social at Bolt Brewing, La Mesa

ESCAPE—MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

An evening of fun will happen at Uptown Jungle, 8711 N Magnolia Ave #300, Santee 92071, on Fri, **Apr 3**, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.



●More details and the permission form are available on the ESCAPE page of the parish website: olg-church.org.



Q. Where was Solomon's Temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

FUNERAL LITURGY AT OUR LADY of GRACE

JEROME HENNEK

Thu, **Mar 19** at 11:00 am

Burial in Texas at a later time.

May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who have requested prayer and for the special intentions written in the Book of Intentions in the Baptistry of our church.

Patricia Adams	Paula Kahan
Heberto Albanez	Lenora Kneeshaw
Grizelda Albanez	Greg Kolesar
Gabriela Alvarenga	Rebecca Leyden
Marvin Alvarenga	José A. Lopez
Tess Alison	Norma Lorenzo
Kathleen Purcell	Natalie Mascari
Angie Arrayan	Vivianna Mullins
Angie Biner	David Nelson
Anita Branch	Phyllis O'Neal
Pat Burke	Apollonia Peklar
Mary Lou Calderon	Dr. Edward Pezanoski
Brian Cashman	Kathleen Purcell
Tim Clasemen	Ann Renzi
Pattie Sloan-Deacon	Anthony Renzi
Vincy Discenza	Carter Santos
Mark Habina	Clayton Schenkelberg
Brenda Hilgeman	Marilyn Silva
Hannah Hilgeman	Hibe Thornton
Susan Hori	Andy Tong
Adam Kahan	Woody Topping
Leonard Kahan	Marilyn Winger

Names remain listed for four weeks and can be renewed by contacting Marie Pospichal at mpospichal@olg-church.org.

Parishioners are also invited to pray for two new candidates preparing for Confirmation on **May 20** at Our Lady of Grace Church:

Stephen Butcher and William Negroni

Gratitude in Action



2020 Annual Catholic Appeal supports Catholic Schools, Clergy & Seminarian Support, Faith Formation and Catholic Charities.

Visit olg-church.org to give or pledge!

LENT 2020 PENANCE SERVICES

Please use the schedule of *El Cajon Deanery* penance services to plan for confession.

Parish	Day	Date	Time
St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa	Mon	3/16	7:00 pm
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lakeside/Barona	Tue	3/17	7:00 pm
Santa Sophia, Spring Valley	Wed	3/18	7:00 pm
St. Luke, El Cajon	Thu	3/19	7:00 pm
Holy Trinity, El Cajon	Mon	3/23	7:00 pm
OUR LADY OF GRACE, EL CAJON	Tue	3/24	7:00 pm
St. Pius, Jamul	Thu	3/26	7:00 pm
Guardian Angels, Santee	Tue	3/31	7:00 pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	Mon	4/6	9:00 am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	Mon	4/6	7:00 pm

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Kindergarten, Elementary & Junior High
Now Enrolling for Fall 2020

SCHOOL VISITS MAY BE SCHEDULED DAILY,
CONTACT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!



WWW.OLG.ORG

619.466.0055 | INFO@OLG.ORG

Beginning Experience

This weekend retreat, **May 1-3**, is for widowed, divorced and separated persons. Held at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, it focuses on healing. Call Rose at (619) 504-4410 for more info.

EVENTS HAPPENING NEARBY**Lenten Taize Prayer**

A Taize prayer service will be led by Brother Emil from the ecumenical monastic community of Taize on **Thu, Mar 19**, at All Souls Episcopal Church, 1745 Catalina Blvd, SD, 92107. A teaching program will be held at 6:00 pm and the prayer service begins at 7:00 pm followed by a reception. A freewill collection will be taken. Presented by the Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue of San Diego.

Angelus 2020

Annual Lenten Concert celebrating Bach's 335th Birthday! Featuring cantatas 38, 150 and 97. **Sat, Mar 21** at 7:00 pm in the USD's Founders Chapel, 5998 Alcala Park, SD, 92110. Get ticket by visiting "Upcoming Events" at olg-church.org.

Ecological Spiritual Retreat

Inspired by *Laudato Si* this retreat on **Sat, Mar 28**, will address the topics of Spiritually Responsible Consumption, Ecological Education and The Gospel of Creation. The retreat will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr, SD, 92117 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm and the cost is \$10.00. Sign up and pay at sdcatholic.org/event/lenen-spiritual-retreat.

White Mass Planned

A White Mass will be celebrated on **Sun, Mar 29**, at 10:30 am, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 4077 Ibis St, SD, 92103. A reception will follow honoring doctors, nurses, medical technicians and all who provide compassionate care and service for human life. To RSVP visit sdcatholic.org/event/white-coat-mass.

Request for Palms: We are in need of palm leaflets for Palm Sunday, **Apr 5**. If you have a palm at home that you can trim and donate the leaflets please call Rosa at (619) 469-0133.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT**Mar 3-9, 2020****\$22,790.98**

Plate	\$ 1,498.47
Envelopes	\$ 17,722.51
Online Giving	\$ 3,570.00

Breakdown of gifts received

\$0.01 - \$5.00	53
\$5.01 - \$10.00	54
\$10.01 - \$25.00	132
\$25.01 - \$50.00	71
\$50.01 - \$100.00	27
\$100.01 - \$150.00	9
\$150.01 - \$500.00	13
\$500.01 - Over	3

Total Contributing Households**362****Additional Gifts**

Building Fund	\$567.00
Faith Formation & Youth Ministry	\$622.00
Easter	\$100.00
Food Pantry	\$186.00
School Support—Greatest Need	\$135.00

Secure Parish Online Giving

**Give a one-time gift
or set up recurring gifts.**

Visit olg-church.org and click on the "Online Giving" link in the upper right corner of the webpage (or use the QR code with your smart phone app!).



amazonsmile

Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3860489 and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Our Lady of Grace!

OUR LADY of GRACE PARISH AND SCHOOL DIRECTORY

2766 NAVAJO ROAD, EL CAJON, CA 92020



PARISH OFFICE
 PHONE: (619) 469-0133
 FAX: (619) 469-0575
 WEB: OLG-CHURCH.ORG
 HOURS: WEEKDAYS 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Pastor **FR. PETER MCGUINE** | Ext. 17
 Deacon **DCN. JOHN SAWAYA**
 Business Manager **PATRICIA KANE** | Ext. 12
 Bookkeeper **RACHEL TEIXEIRA** | Ext. 16
 Office Manager **MARIE POSPICHAL** | Ext. 10
 Office Assistant **VACANT** | Ext. 10
 Publicity & Communications **GEORGENE KRUZEL** | Ext. 33

Housekeeping **MARIA ARIAS**
 Maintenance & Facilities **DAN BRESLIN, MATTHEW HILGEMAN & PATRICK ROGERS**

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgy Coordinator **ROSA HILGEMAN** | Ext. 14
 Director of Liturgical Music **PAUL MAY** | Ext. 26
Cantate Kids and Gaudete Choir (11:00 am Sun)
 Director **ROBERT FILLEY**
Laudate Ensemble (5:30 pm Sun)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

PHONE: (619) 466-5656

Director of Catechetical Ministry **LISSA HUTCHESON**
 Program Coordinator **GEORGENE KRUZEL**
 Youth Ministry Coord. **DORIS HERTZIG** | (619) 466-5451
Jr. High, High School
 Young Adults (18-39 yrs) **BERNADETTE ROSE HILGEMAN**



For answers to almost every question about Our Lady of Grace liturgies, ministries and parish activities please visit our website at: olg-church.org

And Like Us on Facebook! 

Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish or Catholic school employee or volunteer can be made by calling (858) 490-8353 or writing misconduct@sdccatholic.org.

Please submit bulletin articles to media@olg-church.org at least 10 days before your requested publication date. Articles are considered on a space available basis.



PARISH SCHOOL
 PHONE: (619) 466-0055
 FAX: (619) 466-8994
 WEB: OLG.ORG
 HOURS: WEEKDAYS 7:15 AM–3:30 PM
 (DURING SCHOOL YEAR)

Principal **ERIN MARES** | Ext. 11
 emares@olg.org
 Vice-Principal **RACHEL SATO** | Ext. 27
 rsato@olg.org
 Development & Admissions **KELLI BALISTRERI** | Ext. 16
 kbalistreri@olg.org
 Secretary **LINDA PETERS** | Ext. 10
 lpeters@olg.org

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

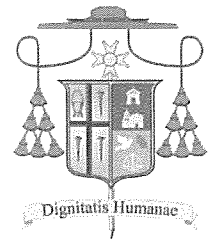
To email members of the parish staff or the ministry leaders listed below please visit our website at:

olg-church.org - click on the "Contact Us" link in the upper right corner of the browser window.

For a ministry leader phone number please call the Parish Office at (619) 469-0133.

55 PLUS CLUB—Mary Cloward
BLOOD DRIVE—Debbie Ipsen
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB—CWC
 CWC—Mary Cloward
 Book Club—Julie Hazelton
 Craft Fair—Kathy Porterfield
CENTERING PRAYER—Irma Eichinger or Beatrice Doblado
CUB SCOUTS—Pack 951—Crystal Carr
CURSILLO—Dcn. John Sawaya
EVENTS COMMITTEE—Nettie Aguinaldo
FOOD PANTRY—Since 1981 (619) 469-0061
 Bob Cosgrove M–F, 9:00–11:00 am
HOLIDAY ANGELS—Since 1988—Lesley Bradley
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILIES—ICF
 Carla Pedroncelli
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—Frances Cabrini Council 8879
 Kelly Missey, Grand Knight
LADIES OF GRACE—Rosemarie McLain
LEGION OF MARY—Since 1987—Dee Draper
MEN FOR CHRIST—Steve Faucher
MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND
 Rosa Hilgeman
PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY—Since 2006
 Nettie Aguinaldo
PRO-LIFE
 Mary Dixon
 Vicki Whitmire (40 Days for Life)
WALKING WITH PURPOSE—Women's Bible Study
 Rebecca Krawczak





Office of the Bishop

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In today's first reading from the Book of Exodus, we witness the people of Israel as they struggled with the challenges and the graces, the suffering and the triumphs, the moments of hope and of utter frustration that marked their arduous forty year journey through the desert and into the Promised Land.

For every Lent, this historic journey of the Israelites is the symbol of the People of God in our own day attempting to follow the pathway of the Lord amidst the uncertainty and obstacles that lie all around us in the modern world. But in this Lent, in this moment, our Lenten journey has taken on new dimensions as we confront a global pandemic that will, for a time, upend our normal way of life and call us to a deepened sense of sacrifice and faith. In these forty days we will bear Lenten penances not of our own choosing, the necessity of which we will not fully understand.

The great temptation of the Jewish people in the wilderness was that of fear and panic, a loss of confidence, community and trust. And in these days of spreading illness and economic losses, fear seems all around us — fear of becoming ill, fear for the health and safety of those whom we love, fear for economic security for ourselves and our families, and the fear that comes from the recognition that for some of the most vulnerable among us, this pandemic will claim their lives.

It is important for us all to distinguish between giving in to fear and the steps that we need to take in prudence to protect the health and the common good of the whole of our society. Each of us will have obligations in these days to protect ourselves, our families, and the entire community. It is out of this responsibility to protect the safety of all that the diocese will be suspending all public Masses after

this Sunday. I have asked every pastor to keep our churches open for additional time during this period to allow for individual visits to the Blessed Sacrament and prayer.

The strongest antidote to fear in this moment lies in our understanding that the core issue for us as people of faith lies in confronting the question that the Israelites posed in today's reading from Exodus: "Is the Lord in our midst or not?"

And thus our observance of Lent this year provides the most illuminating possible backdrop for the burdens that each one of us, individually, collectively and globally, will face in the coming weeks.

It is the experiences which upend our lives that most powerfully reveal our ultimate dependence on the God who created every blessing which we know in this life and who sustains us in a tender and personal love that knows no bounds.

It is our bond with the suffering Jesus Christ that consoles us with a special strength as we approach Good Friday amidst coming hardships that may weigh us down.

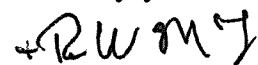
And it is the transformative recognition that Christ has risen from the dead that reveals the overwhelming power of hope for ourselves and for our world.

"Is the Lord in our midst?" Our emphatic yes to this question, revealed not merely in an intellectual assent, but in a living conviction that surrounds our personal response to the challenges that lie ahead, is the greatest Lenten observance that we can undertake in these days to reflect the core values of our faith and witness in the world.

It was the hardships and the faith of the Jewish people during their journey in the desert that formed them into a people. And in these days of challenge for our society and our world, we have the chance and the opportunity to ennoble both our nation and our world by testifying constantly to generosity over selfishness, compassion over callousness, idealism over cynicism, and hope over fear.

With all best wishes I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. McElroy" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Reverend W. McElroy
Diocese of San Diego

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