

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,
Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples,
who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19

Eighteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 2, 2020

LONGING FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

The word of God serves up a tremendous feast for us today. Isaiah beckons all who hunger and thirst to come to the Lord for satisfaction. The psalmist cries out, “The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.” Saint Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Finally, in the Gospel, we hear the story of the miraculous feeding of over five thousand people from a mere five loaves and two fish. Most of us have our material needs met on a day-to-day basis. These scriptures, nevertheless, have much to say to the contemporary believer. We must ask ourselves, “Where are my deepest hungers? Where are my thirsts?” After material needs are satisfied and, in some cases, over-satisfied, many people still experience a deep longing for spiritual balance and well-being. As the loaves and fish are multiplied in today’s Gospel, perhaps our prayer can be a longing for the satisfaction of the deepest needs that only God can fill.

ADMITTING OUR HELPLESSNESS

Jesus’ disciples, after a long day of preaching and healing, find themselves confronted with thousands of hungry people who need to be fed. They themselves were no doubt hungry and thirsty. In desperation, they turn to the Lord and ask him to tell the people to go to the towns and villages to buy food. Jesus tells them to give the people food themselves. They admit that they can come up with only five loaves and two fish, hardly enough to feed even themselves. It was only after the disciples admitted their total helplessness in the situation that the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish occurred. Where is the lesson for us? It is in admitting our helplessness in life’s most difficult moments that a miracle may perhaps be waiting for us.

MIRACLES OF MULTIPLICATION

Many believers admit that when faced with life-threatening illness, all that can be done in many instances is to throw one’s hands up in total helplessness and, in desperation, call upon God. The miracle that can occur is often not a cure of the illness. The miracle may be the strength and courage given by God to move through the pain and grief with hearts of faith. Remember what Saint Paul tells us today. “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life ... nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” When we know deep hunger for meaning and direction, when we are at our lowest, let us heed the words of the prophet Isaiah, and come to the Lord, that we may have life. If five loaves and two fish can be multiplied miraculously to feed thousands, then surely the compassion and love of Christ Jesus can be multiplied again and again for those whose hearts hunger and thirst for healing and wholeness.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 55:1–3
Psalm 145:8–9, 15–18
Romans 8:35, 37–39
Matthew 14:13–21

Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, undated
Attributed to Pedro Menay Medrano (Spanish, 1628–1688)
after Jacopo Robusti, called Tintoretto (Italian, 1519–1594)
Chicago Institute of Art (CICA)

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Jesús tomó los cinco panes y los dos pescados,
y mirando al cielo,
pronunció una bendición, partió los panes
y se los dio a los discípulos
para que los distribuyeron a la gente.

Mateo 14:19

Decimoctavo

Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

2 de agosto de 2020

ANHELO DE BIENESTAR ESPIRITUAL

La palabra de Dios nos sirve una gran fiesta hoy. Isaías hace señas a todos los que tienen hambre y sed de venir al Señor para obtener satisfacción. El salmista grita: “Abres, Señor, tus manos generosas y cuantos viven quedan satisfechos”. San Pablo nos dice que nada puede separarnos del amor de Dios. Finalmente, en el Evangelio, escuchamos la historia de la alimentación milagrosa de más de cinco mil personas de apenas cinco panes y dos peces. La mayoría de nosotros tenemos nuestras necesidades materiales satisfechas en el día a día. Sin embargo, estas Escrituras tienen mucho que decir al creyente contemporáneo. Debemos preguntarnos: “¿Dónde están mis más profundas hambres? ¿Dónde están mis sed?” Después de satisfacer las necesidades materiales y, en algunos casos, estar demasiado satisfechos, muchas personas todavía experimentan un profundo anhelo de equilibrio espiritual y bienestar. A medida que los panes y los peces se multiplican en el Evangelio de hoy, tal vez nuestra oración pueda ser un anhelo de satisfacción de las necesidades más profundas que sólo Dios puede llenar.

ADMITIR NUESTRA INCAPACIDAD

Los discípulos de Jesús, después de predicar y curar todo el día, se encuentran frente a miles de personas hambrientas que necesitan alimento. Ellos mismos sin duda estaban hambrientos y sedientos. En su desesperación se vuelven al Señor y le piden que envíe a la multitud a los pueblos cercanos a comprar alimento. Jesús les dice a sus discípulos que ellos les den de comer. Los discípulos admiten que sólo han conseguido cinco panes y dos peces, ni siquiera lo suficiente para alimentarse ellos. Solamente después de que los discípulos admiten su total incapacidad, ocurre el milagro de la multiplicación de los panes y los peces. ¿Dónde está la lección para nosotros? En que si admitimos nuestra incapacidad en los momentos más difíciles de nuestra vida, un milagro puede estar esperándonos.

MILAGROS DE MULTIPLICACIÓN

Muchos creyentes admiten que cuando se enfrentan serias enfermedades, lo único que se puede hacer en muchos casos es levantar los brazos y en total desesperación acudir a Dios. El milagro que puede ocurrir con frecuencia no es la curación de la enfermedad. El milagro puede ser la fortaleza y el valor que Dios nos da para aceptar el sufrimiento y el dolor con fe. Recordemos lo que San Pablo nos dice hoy: “Estoy seguro de que ni la muerte, ni la vida . . . ni criatura alguna, podrán apartarnos del amor de Dios que encontramos en Cristo Jesús nuestro Señor”. Cuando tengamos hambre de comprensión y dirección, cuando sintamos la más profunda tristeza, prestemos atención a las palabras del profeta Isaías, acerquémonos al Señor y tendremos vida. Si cinco panes y dos peces pueden multiplicarse milagrosamente para alimentar a miles, sin duda la compasión y el amor de Cristo Jesús puede multiplicarse una y otra vez en los corazones hambrientos y sedientos de sanación y santificación.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Isaías 55:1–3
Salmo 145 (144):8–9, 15–18
Romanos 8:35, 37–39
Mateo 14:13–21

El milagro de los panes y los peces, desfechado
atribuido Pedro Meina y Medrano (español, 1628–1688)
después Jacopo Robusti, llamado Tintoretto (italiano, 1519–1594)
Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

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Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 7-26-2020:

Envelopes/checks:	\$ 10,047.00
Plate:	613.00
Online Giving 7-26-2020:	\$ 6,388.00
Total for 7-26-2020:	\$ 17,048.00
JPII Debt Envelopes/checks:	\$ 824.00
JPII Debt online:	\$ 643.13
Total JPII 7-26-2020:	\$ 1,467.13
Total Misc. Income:	\$ 292.00

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry

JPII

Parish Debt Elimination Campaign

July payment: \$15,000.00

Balance on Debt: \$199,228.72



Prayer to Saint Joseph for intercession in Financial Difficulty

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon those parish families in their anxiety over their present inability to support their families.

Please help them to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from their hearts and that they are soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to their care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.



Diocesan Development Fund Campaign Progress

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00

Pledges Made: \$126,442.00


Gifts Received: \$88,007.00

Donors: 427

Percent of Goal: 88.03 %


As of: Jul 26, 2020 4:55PM

Catholic Spirituality | Mass Schedule & Intentions



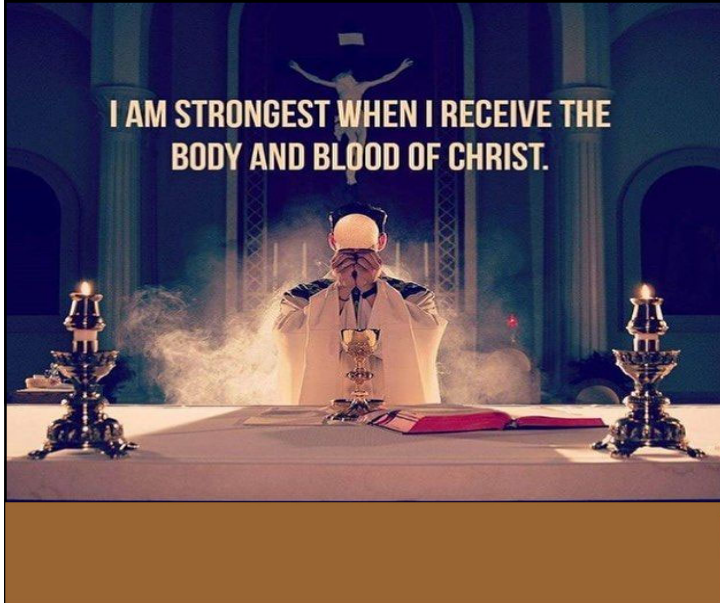
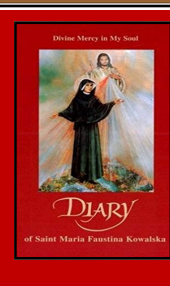
Susan Vogt—Author, Speaker, Coach
Helping couples & families foster their deepest beliefs.

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers



Recreation refreshes our bodies and souls. During these Covid-19 days, however, vacations, sports, and parties have to be rethought. Jim and I have enjoyed cribbage and gin (rummy that is). Brainstorm new ways to have fun at home as a couple.

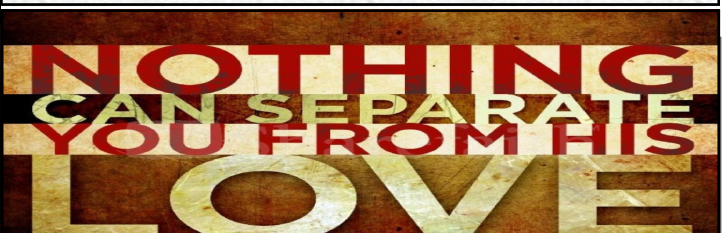
Heaven on Earth ... Sign up for Eucharistic Adoration: Friday's from 7 pm to 8 pm

Divine Mercy in My Soul
from the Diary of
Saint Faustina Kowalska

“All grace flows from mercy, and the last hour abounds with mercy for us. Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person’s sins were as dark as night, God’s mercy is stronger than our misery. One thing alone is necessary; that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God’s merciful grace, and then God will do the rest.” (No. 1507)

Saturday, July 25	4:00 PM	†Joan Burri †Joanne Bordonaro
Sunday, July 26	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	†Therese Ann Holz People of the Parish †Vincenza Mancinelli †Mario Mallozzi
	5:00 PM	†Michael Gigliotti David & Linda Hahn
Monday, July 27	7:30 AM	†Dr. Fabio R. Morales
Tuesday, July 28	7:30 AM	
Wednesday, July 29	7:30 AM	†Lisa Caballero
Thursday, July 30	7:30 AM	All missing & Exploited Children
Friday, July 31	7:30 AM	†Alicia Villa
Saturday, August 1	7:30 AM	Heart of Mary Ministry Christine Patterson
	4:00 PM	†Ann Prather †Mario & Geri Iglese
Sunday, August 2	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM 5:00 PM	†Carmelita Fontanilla People of the Parish Enrique Ibarra †Glenda Macaluso



Romans 8:35, 37-39 **Tagalog**

Sino ang makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa pag-ibig ni Cristo? Ang kaguluhan kaya, ang kapighatian, pag-uusig, pagkagutom, kahirapan, panganib, o kamatayan? Hindi! Sa lahat ng mga ito, tayo'y lalong higit pang magtatagumpay sa pamamagitan niya na nagmamahal sa atin. Sapagkat natitiyak kong walang makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa kanyang pag-ibig. Kahit ang kamatayan o ang buhay, ang mga anghel o ang mga pamunuan at ang mga kapangyarihan, ang kasalukuyan o ang hinaharap, ang kataasan o ang kalaliman, o alinmang nilalang ay hindi makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa pag-ibig ng Diyos na ipinagkaloob sa atin sa pamamagitan ni Cristo Jesus na ating Panginoon.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please visit my blog www.priestmbp.com
 To stay connected with you, the People of God.
 May God help you to find whichever is lost in your life.
 I just found some words and sentences instead of that missing back pack.

THE PRIEST OF THE MISSING BACK PACK

"I DID NOT FIND MY BACK PACK, BUT I FOUND MANY REASONS TO WRITE ABOUT THE LORD..."



St. Vincent de Paul's Corner

National SVDP has asked that our helpline be closed
 For the safety of everyone
 due to the pandemic

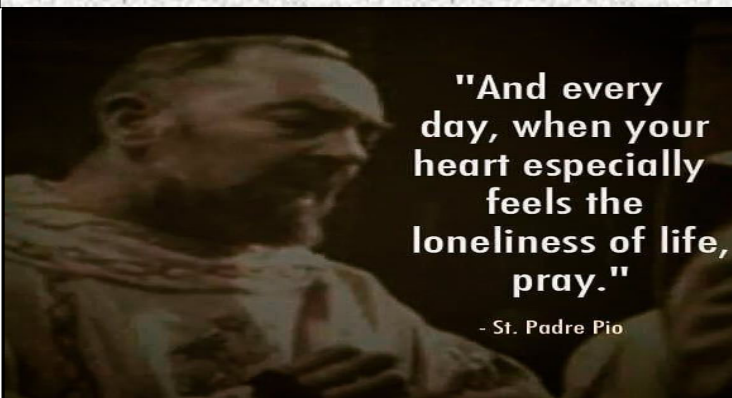
For immediate assistance, dial 211 or
 Catholic Charities (909) 880-3625
 Questions about SVDP? Contact:

Scott, sandnsky8@gmail.com or Fred, Firetruckfreddy@earthlink.net

Food donations for those in need in our community can be placed at any time in the container in front of the office. A portion will be distributed to the food pantry at His Hands at St. Joseph's church in Upland. Questions about food donations? Sherry B. Busiabaer@outlook.com

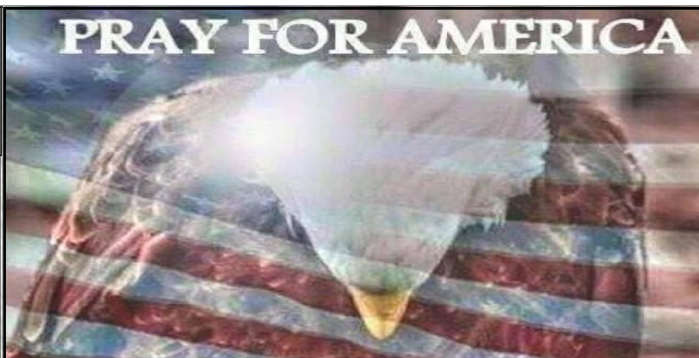
"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46



"And every day, when your heart especially feels the loneliness of life, pray."

- St. Padre Pio



**Dear Heavenly Father,
 We bow before You. Hallowed be Your Name. Let YOUR Kingdom come, let Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 We specifically ask You, Dear Father, to heal and restore the USA.
 We look to YOU, Almighty God.**



The Military Ministry at St Peter St Paul is currently seeking parishioners with family members serving in the military.



Military Ministry Request

The Military Ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul is seeking anyone interested in being part of our team, which will be made up of parishioners who have family members actively serving in the military. As well as, those who have a love for our military and are dedicated to keeping those who have served in our prayers. Activities of this ministry will consist of mailing care packages to military family members of our parishioners, support for families that have a loved one serving in active duty, coordinating with past and present military families for parish events, organizing special Masses and events for the Military holidays and celebrations. you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact: Jonathan & Lynde Peralta (Jonathan @ 951-285-0270, Lynde @909-938-3243)

Military Prayer List Please pray for those serving our country

(PFC) Jacob Beaty
 (AMN) Jacob Beckham
 (MC) Hadji Cabangcalan
 (MSG) Carlos Carrasco
 (LTC) Jeffrey Combalecer
 (PFC) Candace Cordero
 (SGT) Christian Cortez
 (SGT) Kurt Rehnburg
 (SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran
 (E3) Alexander Jimenez
 (PFC) Jacob Rivas

(PFC) Christian Lopez
 (SSG) Kamrin Pavlos
 (PO) Matthew Peralta
 (MSG) Victor Sanz
 (SSG) Jordan Stone
 (Specialist) Nathan Taylor
 (Sgt) Riley Villapando
 (SR) Nicole Woodall
 (USMC) Joseph Luzzini
 Daniel Duarte III

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ■ WHERE FAITH MEETS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

JULY CALENDAR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY—WEDNESDAY | 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
6-10: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED



Do you need a Gift Card for a Birthday, Anniversary, Clothing, Gas, Food or Everyday items?

We sell Scrip gift cards for many retailers like Target, Arco, Walmart, Panera Bread, Arco, Starbuck's, etc. Stop by our school office from 8:30-9:30 am Mondays. The gift card rebates (% varies per gift card purchase) support our school. **Not a school family? No problem!** You may still buy gift cards to help our general fund or support a school family with their Tuition Support Obligation. See the Office for details.



ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Burt—Principal
 Joann Losciale—Preschool Director
 Laura Onopa—Business Manager
 Maria Trujillo—Administrative Assistant

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! #SPSPSAINTS

Thank You for Supporting our 31st Saints Gala Online Auction

All proceeds will directly benefit our academic & athletic programs.

♥ In Smaller Classes Students...
 Are Part of a Close-Knit Community ♦ Process More & Participate Frequently ♦ Speak Up & Are Higher Achievers
 Have More One-to-One Time w/Teachers ♦ Are More Likely to Excel in H.S. & Beyond ♦ Help Your Child Succeed in Life.

ENROLL NOW!



† FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! †

**Now Enrolling for SY 2020-21
 Preschool - 8th Grade**



"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE" - POPE FRANCIS

Smaller Class Sizes

- Preschool Classes = 12
- Average Grade School Classes = 16:1

Co-curricular Subjects:

- Computers, Music, Art, Spanish, and Sparks®
- Physical Education
- School Library & RC Book Mobile

- WCEA/WASC Accredited
- Diocesan & CA Common Core Standards
- Credentialed Teachers
- Weekly School Mass

- Accelerated Reader & Math
- ICSL Sports Program
- Before & after school 7 a.m.—6 p.m.
- Catered hot lunch program

- Renovated classrooms
- New S.T.E.A.M. Lab
- 100 Mile Club®
- AHA Kids Heart Challenge
- Community Service and Outreach



**9135 BANYAN STREET
 ALTA LOMA, CA 91737**

WWW.STPETERSTPAULSCHOOL.COM
SUMMER HOURS: MON-WED | 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

**TEL: (909) 987-7908
 FAX: (909) 987-6779**

August

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Sign up now for all ministries!
Forms available online at stpeterstpaul.com

Ministries offered by the Youth Office:

Youth Groups:

EDGE

Middle School

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community.

LIFE TEEN

High School

Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

For more information please contact Maggie

Catechism:

Sacramental Prep.

Sacramental Preparation is available for all high school and middle school teens who are seeking to receive their First Communion.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open for all teens ready to take a step forward in their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your teen must be 14 at the time of enrollment.

For more information please contact Daniel

Young Adults:

RENEWED

Renewed is a young adult group for anyone in their early stage of adulthood.

For more information please contact Maggie

Staff/Hours

Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301
Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300
Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

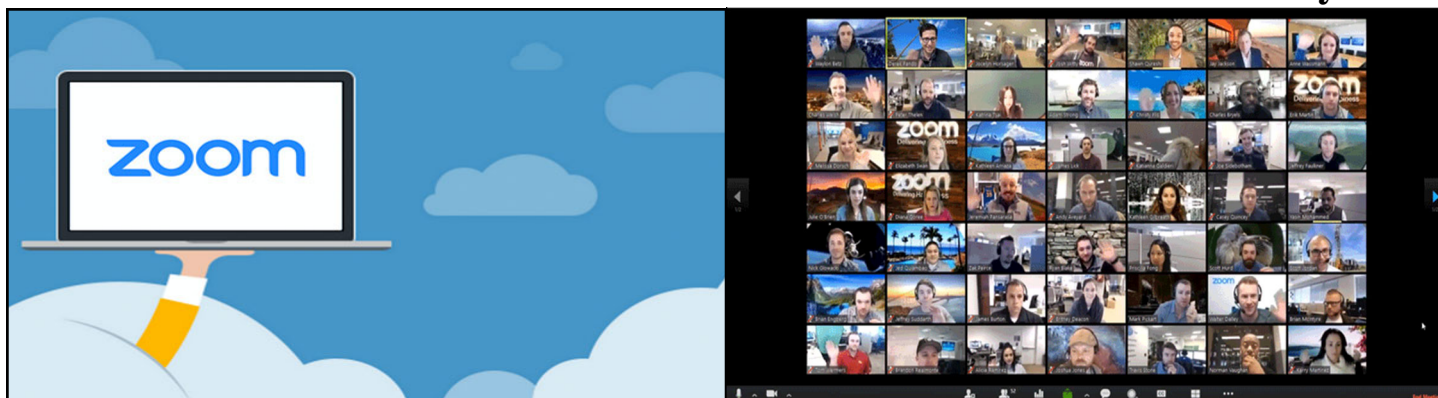
(909) 987-9312

Office Hours:

Mon & Tues: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Wed & Thurs: Through phone only, use ext. 301 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fri-Sun: CLOSED



Ministry ZOOM Meeting Contacts

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers

Saturday @ 7:30-9:00 am

Contact: Chuck Denise. cfdinise@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm

Contact: Jenny Campbell. jcampbell@stpeterstpaul.com

Boy Scout Troop

Monday @ 6:55 pm

Contact: Marc Cobb. Marccobb@verizon.net

*Note: Knights of Columbus meetings are for members only Contact Marc Cobb

Catholic Daughters- Our Lady of Fatima Court #1387

3rd Monday @ 7 pm with rosary at 6:30 pm

Contact: Yvette Weilacker. yweilacker@gmail.com

Hispanic Community

Daily rosary in Spanish

Friday June 5 at 7pm

Contact: Mercedes Aschenbrenner. mercedesasch@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Member Meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Scott Schwartz. sandnsky8@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday @ 10:30-12:00

Contact: Mary Jo Kunkel. mjkunke155@gmail.com

ACTS

Women - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Men - 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Tiffany Wulkopf. tiffanywulkopf@gmail.com or 909-565-3348

Virtual pre-baptism classes

Once a month beginning June

Contact: Aileen Gamalinda for more information. agamalinda@stpeterstpaul.com

**REV. HENRY SSERIISO
PASTOR**

**REV. JUAN SANDOVAL
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**DEACON
JOHN BARNA**

**DEACON
ROBERT BEIDLE**

Our Pastoral Clergy / Staff 987-9312

Fr. Henry Sseriiso Ext. 223
hsseriiso@stpeterstpaul.com

Fr. Juan Sandoval Ext. 304
jsandoval@stpeterstpaul.com

Deacon John Barna
john.w.barna1969@gmail.com
Deacon Bob Beidle
bob.beidle@gmail.com

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church
9135 Banyan Street, Alta Loma, Ca 91737
909-987-9312 FAX 909-980-9404

Faith Formation for Children (Grades 1-5)
Baptism (909) 980-9423

School (Preschool - Grade 8)
(909) 987-7908

During hours the office is closed, call
909-477-3362 for Emergencies.

<http://www.stpeterstpaul.com>
<https://app.flocknote.com/spspaltaloma>
www.facebook.com/spspaltaloma

Regular Parish Office Hours (909) 987-9312

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday Closed

Children's Faith Formation & Baptism (909) 980-9423

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Or by appointment
CLOSED Fridays

Youth Ministry

Sun: Closed/Mon: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm/ Tues. 1:30 pm 4:30 pm /
Wed: Closed / Thurs: 1:30 pm -
4:30 pm/ Fri: By Appointment / Sat: Closed

Our Parish Office Staff 987-9312

Business Manager	Karen Hein	Ext. 230
IT (Support Specialist)	Jason Cary	
	jcary@stpeterstpaul.com	
Liturgy Administrative Assistant	Carolina Menendez	Ext. 303
Life Teen Music Coordinator	Melissa Acosta	Ext. 227
Matrimonial Sacraments	Aileen Gamalinda	Ext. 231
Music Director	Audrey Donaldson	Ext. 227
Pastoral Care	Debby Leonardo	Ext. 302
	Gloria Rivera	Ext. 222
Parish Admin. Assistant /Bulletin	Alex Zarate	Ext. 242
Parish Office Secretary	Ann Hogan	Ext. 221

Kindness is the Language

Which

THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE

Parish School / Preschool through – 8th grade: 987-7908

Principal – Preschool Director	Kelly Burt	Ext. 235
Business Manager	Laura Onopa	Ext. 245
Administrative Assistant	Maria Trujillo	Ext. 234

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, as members of the Roman Catholic Church, are a sacramental, worshipping community on a journey towards the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom. We strive to provide a spiritual haven for all people without distinction. We are equally committed to the challenges of the gospel message. We accept its call to ongoing conversion, the use of our gifts for the benefit of our community, and loving service to one another.

**Pray for the dead
and
Fight to the end for the living**

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
FRANCIS
 FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 JANUARY 2014

FRATERNITY, THE FOUNDATION AND PATHWAY TO PEACE

1. In this, my first Message for the World Day of Peace, I wish to offer to everyone, individuals and peoples, my best wishes for a life filled with joy and hope. In the heart of every man and woman is the desire for a full life, including that irrepressible longing for fraternity which draws us to fellowship with others and enables us to see them not as enemies or rivals, but as brothers and sisters to be accepted and embraced. Fraternity is an essential human quality, for we are relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and to treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace. We should remember that fraternity is generally first learned in the family, thanks above all to the responsible and complementary roles of each of its members, particularly the father and the mother. The family is the wellspring of all fraternity, and as such it is the foundation and the first pathway to peace, since, by its vocation, it is meant to spread its love to the world around it.

The ever-increasing number of interconnections and communications in today's world makes us powerfully aware of the unity and common destiny of the nations. In the dynamics of history, and in the diversity of ethnic groups, societies and cultures, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another. But this vocation is still frequently denied and ignored in a world marked by a "globalization of indifference" which makes us slowly inured to the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves. In many parts of the world, there seems to be no end to grave offences against fundamental human rights, especially the right to life and the right to religious freedom. The tragic phenomenon of human trafficking, in which the unscrupulous prey on the lives and the desperation of others, is but one unsettling example of this. Alongside overt armed conflicts are the less visible but no less cruel wars fought in the economic and financial sectors with means which are equally destructive of lives, families and businesses.

Globalization, as **Benedict XVI** pointed out, makes us neighbors, but does not make us brothers.[1] The many situations of inequality, poverty and injustice, are signs not only of a profound lack of fraternity, but also of the absence of a culture of solidarity. New ideologies, characterized by rampant individualism, egocentrism and materialistic consumerism, weaken social bonds, fueling that "throw away" mentality which leads to contempt for, and the abandonment of, the weakest and those considered "useless". In this way human coexistence increasingly tends to resemble a mere *do ut des* which is both pragmatic and selfish. At the same time, it appears clear that contemporary ethical systems remain incapable of producing authentic bonds of fraternity, since a fraternity devoid of reference to a common Father as its ultimate foundation is unable to endure.[2] True brotherhood among people presupposes and demands a transcendent Fatherhood. Based on the recognition of this fatherhood, human fraternity is consolidated: each person becomes a "neighbor" who cares for others.

"Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9)

2. To understand more fully this human vocation to fraternity, to recognize more clearly the obstacles standing in the way of its realization and to identify ways of overcoming them, it is of primary importance to let oneself be led by knowledge of God's plan, which is presented in an eminent way in sacred Scripture. According to the biblical account of creation, all people are descended from common parents, Adam and Eve, the couple created by God in his image and likeness (cf. *Gen 1:26*), to whom Cain and Abel were born. In the story of this first family, we see the origins of society and the evolution of relations between individuals and peoples.

Abel is a shepherd, Cain is a farmer. Their profound identity and their vocation is to *be brothers*, albeit in the diversity of their activity and culture, their way of relating to God and to creation. Cain's murder of Abel bears tragic witness to his radical rejection of their vocation to be brothers. Their story (cf. *Gen 4:1-16*) brings out the difficult task to which all men and women are called, to live as one, each taking care of the other. Cain, incapable of accepting God's preference for Abel who had offered him the best of his flock – "The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering; but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (*Gen 4:4-5*) – killed Abel out of jealousy. In this way, he refused to regard Abel as a brother, to relate to him rightly, to live in the presence of God by assuming his responsibility to care for and to protect others. By asking him "Where is your brother?", God holds Cain accountable for what he has done. He answers: "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (*Gen 4:9*). Then, the Book of Genesis tells us, "Cain went away from the presence of the Lord" (*4:16*). We need to ask ourselves what were the real reasons which led Cain to disregard the bond of fraternity and, at the same time, the bond of reciprocity and fellowship which joined him to his brother Abel. God himself condemns and reproves Cain's collusion with evil: "sin is crouching at your door" (*Gen 4:7*). But Cain refuses to turn against evil and decides instead to raise his "hand against his brother Abel" (*Gen 4:8*), thus scorning God's plan. In this way, he thwarts his primordial calling to be a child of God and to live in fraternity. [Read full letter on: Vatican.va/ message of his holiness Francis for the celebration of the world of peace January 2014](http://Vatican.va/message-of-his-holiness-francis-for-the-celebration-of-the-world-of-peace-january-2014)