

The kingdom of heaven

is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells
all he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



July 26, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEEKING WISDOM

If God were to speak to us and tell us to ask for anything we want, what would we say? A financially secure life? Health for ourselves and our families? Safety from all the dangers of the world? To how many of us would it occur to ask for wisdom? We just don't think about it much. We think we know how to run our families, our work, our politics, but how many mistaken ideas do we really have, and how do those work out? Do we treat others, even those we dislike, with kindness and understanding? Solomon asked God for the wisdom to know right from wrong and how to govern God's vast people. God was pleased with this request, and granted it to Solomon in abundance. Can we ask for the same in our lives? Would our lives be happier if we were wiser? "We know that all things work for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE . . .

Parables and more parables. What have we to learn about the reign of God from so many parables? The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea. These parables are not hard to understand, for they all point to something valuable being searched for: a treasure, a pearl, good fish. Those who search for these things give up what they have to acquire these precious things. Those who search are praised for their wisdom in valuing what they find more than what they already have. Even the fishermen can distinguish what is good from what is useless and to be discarded.

The kingdom of heaven is something precious to be sought, even above the good things we have in this world. It is more important than anything we already have and treasure. Jesus says that at the end of the age when the good shall be separated from the bad, the good will enjoy the happiness of the kingdom of heaven.

THE NEW AND THE OLD

It is holy wisdom that allows us to realize how valuable the kingdom is. One more parable ends this reading: "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It is like the Church, which knows what to keep from the traditions of the past and what to cherish in the present time. Tradition is something passed down from generation to generation, but not necessarily unchanged. For example, we always have cake to celebrate birthdays. And yet, perhaps in the past that always meant a white or yellow cake with vanilla frosting. Today, it can mean a chocolate cake, an ice cream cake, or even a fruit pie! It can have the number of candles of the birthday person's age, or a candle for each decade and one for each subsequent year, or one big candle. It can even have, as once seen in a catalogue, Roman numeral candles to spell out the years! Traditions can change and still convey the truths they represent. So it is with the Tradition of the Church. The wise leaders bring forth both the new and the old, and seek in the kingdom what is good.

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]

El Reino de los cielos

se parece a un tesoro escondido en un campo.
El que lo encuentra lo vuelve a esconder y,
lleno de alegría, va y vende cuanto
tiene y compra aquel campo.

Mateo 13:44



BUSCANDO SABIDURÍA

Si Dios hablara con nosotros y nos dijera que pidamos lo que queramos, ¿qué diríamos? ¿Una vida financieramente segura? ¿Salud para nosotros y nuestras familias? ¿Seguridad de todos los peligros del mundo? ¿Cuántos de nosotros pensaríamos en pedir sabiduría? No pensamos mucho en eso. Creemos que sabemos cómo dirigir nuestras familias, nuestro trabajo, nuestra política, pero ¿cuántas ideas equivocadas tenemos realmente, y cómo funcionan? ¿Tratamos a los demás, incluso a aquellos que no nos gustan, con bondad y comprensión? Salomón le pidió a Dios la sabiduría para distinguir el bien del mal y cómo gobernar al vasto pueblo de Dios. Dios estaba complacido con esta petición, y se la concedió a Salomón en abundancia. ¿Podemos pedir lo mismo en nuestras vidas? ¿Nuestras vidas serían más felices si fuéramos más sabios? “Sabemos que todas las cosas funcionan para bien para los que aman a Dios” (Romanos 8:28).

EL REINO DE DIOS ES COMO. . .

Parábolas y más parábolas. ¿Qué es lo que tenemos que saber acerca del Reino de Dios de varias parábolas? El reino de los Cielos es como un tesoro enterrado en un campo. El reino de los Cielos es como un vendedor de perlas finas. El reino de los Cielos es como una red arrojada al mar. Estas parábolas no son difíciles de entender, pues se enfocan en algo valioso que se tiene que buscar: un tesoro, una perla, una buena pesca. Aquellos que buscan estas cosas renuncian a lo que tienen para conseguir lo que buscan. Aquellos que se atreven a buscar se les reconoce su sabiduría al valorar más lo que están buscando que lo que ya tienen. Aun el pescador puede distinguir lo que es bueno de lo que es inútil y lo desecha.

El reino de los Cielos es algo precioso que se tiene que buscar, aún por encima de las buenas cosas que tenemos en este mundo. Es más importante que cualquier cosa que tenemos y atesoramos. Jesús dice que al final de los tiempos cuando se separe lo bueno de lo malo, la buena voluntad disfrutará la felicidad del reino de los Cielos.

LO NUEVO Y LO ANTIGUO

Es la sabiduría divina que nos permite darnos cuenta lo valioso que el reino es. Una parábola termina esta lectura: “todo escriba instruido en las cosas del reino de los Cielos es semejante al padre de familia, que va sacando de su tesoro cosas nuevas y cosas antiguas” (Mateo 13:52). Es como la Iglesia, que sabe qué conservar de las tradiciones del pasado y qué apreciar del tiempo presente. La tradición es algo que se pasa de generación en generación, aunque no necesariamente sin cambio. Por ejemplo, siempre tenemos pastel para celebrar un cumpleaños. Y, sin embargo, quizá eso en el pasado era tener pasteles con decoración blanca o amarilla y de sabor vainilla. Hoy, puede ser un pastel de chocolate, un pastel con helado, o un choco flan. Puede tener tantas velitas que representen la edad de la persona del cumpleaños, o una vela por cada decena de años y una por el cada año subsecuente, o una velita más grande. Puede tener, lo vi una vez en un catálogo, números romanos para deletrear los años. Las tradiciones pueden cambiar y aun así transmitir la verdad de aquello que representan. Lo mismo pasa con la Tradición de la Iglesia. Los líderes sabios aportan lo nuevo y lo antiguo, y buscan en el Reino de Dios lo que es bueno.

LECTURAS DE HOY

1 Reyes 3:5, 7-12
Salmo 119 (118):57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
Romanos 8:28-30
Mateo 13:44-52 [44-46]

26 de julio de 2020
Decimoséptimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 7-19-2020:

Envelopes/checks:	\$ 8,362.00
Plate:	432.00
Online Giving 7-19-2020:	\$ 7665.00
Total for 7-19-2020:	\$ 16,459.00
JPII Debt Envelopes/checks:	\$ 1,222.00
JPII Debt online:	\$ 688.00
Total JPII 7-19-2020:	\$ 1,910.00
Total Misc. Income:	\$ 2,850.00

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

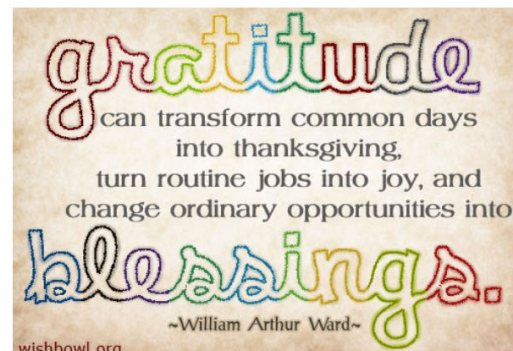
Balance on Debt: \$199,228.72



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: \$125,742.00
Gifts Received: \$87,192.00
Donors: 426
Percent of Goal: 87.21 %
As of: Jul 19, 2020 9:21PM

Catholic Spirituality | Mass Schedule & Intentions



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

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers



The 4th Sunday in July is Parents Day. No parent is perfect but I bet you keep trying to be a good parent. Ask your child what they think is the hardest part of being a parent? Maybe they could draw a cartoon showing you in typical parent mode.

Heaven on Earth ... Sign up for Eucharistic



The reason I keep up the Holy Hour is to grow more and more into his likeness. As Paul puts it: "We are transfigured into his likeness, from splendor to splendor." We become like that which we gaze upon. Looking into a sunset, the face takes on a golden glow. Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way as the face of Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain. Something happens to us similar to that which happened to the disciples at Emmaus. On Easter Sunday afternoon when the Lord met them, he asked why they were so gloomy. After spending some time in his presence, and hearing again the secret of spirituality – "The Son of Man must suffer to enter into his Glory" – their time with him ended and their "hearts were on fire" ...

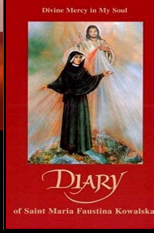

Saturday, July 18	4:00 PM	†Antonio Orue †Russell Drew
Sunday, July 19	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	People of the Parish †Royal Lee Swanberg †Maria Rana †Michael Patrick Balog †Jose Francisco Rojas †Timothy Barragan
Monday, July 20	7:30 AM	†Florenda Elvana †Daniel M. Richter
Tuesday, July 21	7:30 AM	Henry Alexander
Wednesday, July 22	7:30 AM	†Antonia Figueroa Fuentes †Lisandro Robles
Thursday, July 23	7:30 AM	
Friday, July 24	7:30 AM	Indira Riveros
Saturday, July 25	4:00 PM	†Joan Burri †Joanne Bordonaro
Sunday, July 26	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	†Therese Ann Holz People of the Parish †Vincenza Mancinelli †Mario Mallozzi †Michael Gigliotti David & Linda Hahn

A Treasure that Treasures
Matthew 13:44-46
Tagalog

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

Today's holy inspiration...

“Act in such a way that all those who come in contact with you will go away joyful. Sow happiness about you because you have received much from God; give, then, generously to others. They should take leave of you with their hearts filled with joy.”

Faustina

“Ang kaharian ng langit ay katulad ng kayamanang naka-baon sa isang bukid. Nahukay ito ng isang tao ngunit agad itong tinabunan. Tuwang-tuwa siyang umalis at ibinenta ang lahat ng kanyang ari-arian upang bilhin ang bukid na iyon.” “Ang kaharian ng langit ay katulad din ng isang negosyante na naghahanap ng mga mamahaling perlas. Nang makakita siya ng isang perlas na napakahalaga, umuwi siya't ipinagbili ang lahat ng kanyang ari-arian at binili ang perlas na iyon.”

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”

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, sandsky8@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

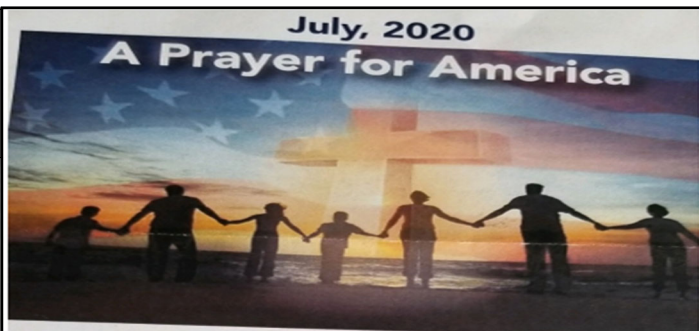
"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46



The flowers on the altar were donated
 In loving memory of

Cicenza Mancinelli and Mario Mallozzi



**Father in heaven,
 We, the people, in the land of the free
 and home of the brave,
 desperately need You.
 Oh that we would leave
 our ways of seeking to be blessed
 and instead seek to bless others.**

**We beg for your guidance
 and wisdom for our leaders.
 We ask you to protect our land from enemies,
 both within and without.
 And we praise you for the freedom
 we have through the blood of Your Son.
 May Your plan be the desire of our nation.**

Amen.



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 | (PFC) Christian Lopez |
| (AMN) Jacob Beckham | (SSG) Kamrin Pavlos |
| (MC) Hadji Cabangcalan | (PO) Matthew Peralta |
| (MSG) Carlos Carrasco | (MSG) Victor Sanz |
| (LTC) Jeffrey Combalecer | (SSG) Jordan Stone |
| (PFC) Candace Cordero | (Specialist) Nathan Taylor |
| (SGT) Christian Cortez | (Sgt) Riley Villapando |
| (SGT) Kurt Rehnburg | (SR) Nicole Woodall |
| (SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran | (USMC) Joseph Luzzini |
| (E3) Alexander Jimenez | Daniel Duarte III |
| (PFC) Jacob Rivas | |

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

July

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Stuebenville Online!

Join us for an online retreat for all high school students July 17-18
Contact Maggie for more information.

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.

For more information please contact Daniel



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.

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

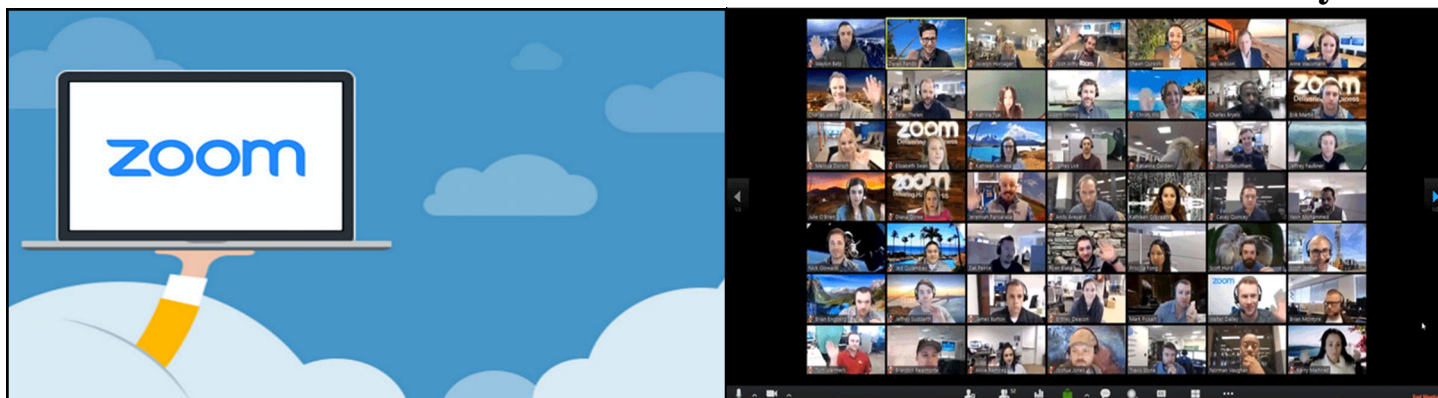
Father Juan Sandoval - Youth Office Supervisor ext. 304
Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301
Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300
Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

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

(909) 987-9312



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**

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS*Sunday, 14 June 2020*

“Remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you” (*Deut* 8:2). Today’s Scripture readings begin with this command of Moses: *Remember!* Shortly afterwards Moses reiterates: “Do not forget the Lord, your God” (v.14). Scripture has been given to us that we might overcome our forgetfulness of God. How important it is to remember this when we pray! As one of the Psalms teaches: “I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old” (77:11). But all those wonders too, that the Lord has worked in our own lives. It is vital to remember the good we have received. If we do not remember it, we become strangers to ourselves, “passers-by” of existence. Without memory, we uproot ourselves from the soil that nourishes us and allow ourselves to be carried away like leaves in the wind. If we do remember, however, we bind ourselves afresh to the strongest of ties; we feel part of a living history, the living experience of a people. Memory is not something private; it is the path that unites us to God and to others. This is why in the Bible the memory of the Lord must be passed on from generation to generation. Fathers are commanded to tell the story to their sons, as we read in a beautiful passage. “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord our God has commanded you?’, then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves... [think of the whole history of slavery!], and the Lord showed signs and wonders... before our eyes’” (*Deut* 6:20-22). You shall hand down this memory to your son.

But there is a problem: what if the chain of transmission of memories is interrupted? And how can we remember what we have only heard, unless we have also experienced it? God knows how difficult it is, he knows how weak our memory is, and he has done something remarkable: he left us a *memorial*. He did not just leave us words, for it is easy to forget what we hear. He did not just leave us the Scriptures, for it is easy to forget what we read. He did not just leave us signs, for we can forget even what we see. He gave us Food, for it is not easy to forget something we have actually tasted. He left us Bread in which he is truly present, alive and true, with all the flavor of his love. Receiving him we can say: “He is the Lord; he remembers me!” That is why Jesus told us: “Do this in remembrance of me” (*1 Cor* 11:24). *Do!* The Eucharist is not simply an act of remembrance; it is a *fact*: the Lord’s Passover is made present once again for us. In Mass the death and resurrection of Jesus are set before us. *Do this in remembrance of me*: come together and celebrate the Eucharist as a community, as a people, as a family, in order to remember me. We cannot do without the Eucharist, for it is God’s memorial. And it heals our wounded memory.

The Eucharist first heals our *orphaned memory*. We are living at a time of great orphanage. The Eucharist heals *orphaned memory*. So many people have memories marked by a lack of affection and bitter disappointments caused by those who should have given them love and instead orphaned their hearts. We would like to go back and change the past, but we cannot. God, however, can heal these wounds by placing within our memory a greater love: his own love. The Eucharist brings us the Father’s faithful love, which heals our sense of being orphans. It gives us Jesus’ love, which transformed a tomb from an end to a beginning, and in the same way can transform our lives. It fills our hearts with the consoling love of the Holy Spirit, who never leaves us alone and always heals our wounds.

Through the Eucharist, the Lord also heals our *negative memory*, that negativity which seeps so often into our hearts. The Lord heals this negative memory, which drags to the surface things that have gone wrong and leaves us with the sorry notion that we are useless, that we only make mistakes, that we are ourselves a mistake. Jesus comes to tell us that this is not so. He wants to be close to us. Every time we receive him, he reminds us that we are precious, that we are guests he has invited to his banquet, friends with whom he wants to dine. And not only because he is generous, but because he is truly in love with us. He sees and loves the beauty and goodness that we are. The Lord knows that evil and sins do not define us; they are diseases, infections. And he comes to heal them with the Eucharist, which contains the antibodies to our negative memory. With Jesus, we can *become immune to sadness*. We will always remember our failures, troubles, problems at home and at work, our unrealized dreams. But their weight will not crush us because Jesus is present even more deeply, encouraging us with his love. This is the strength of the Eucharist, which transforms us into *bringers of God*, bringers of joy, not negativity. We who go to Mass can ask: What is it that we bring to the world? Is it our sadness and bitterness, or the joy of the Lord? Do we receive Holy Communion and then carry on complaining, criticizing and feeling sorry for ourselves? This does not improve anything, whereas the joy of the Lord can change lives.

Finally, the Eucharist heals our *closed memory*. The wounds we keep inside create problems not only for us, but also for others. They make us fearful and suspicious. We start with being closed, and end up cynical and indifferent. Our wounds can lead us to react to others with detachment and arrogance, in the illusion that in this way we can control situations. Yet that is indeed an illusion, for only love can heal fear at its root and free us from the self-centeredness that imprisons us. And that is what Jesus does. He approaches us gently, in the disarming simplicity of the Host. He comes as Bread broken in order to break open the shells of our selfishness. He gives of himself in order to teach us that only by opening our hearts can we be set free from our interior barriers, from the paralysis of the heart.