



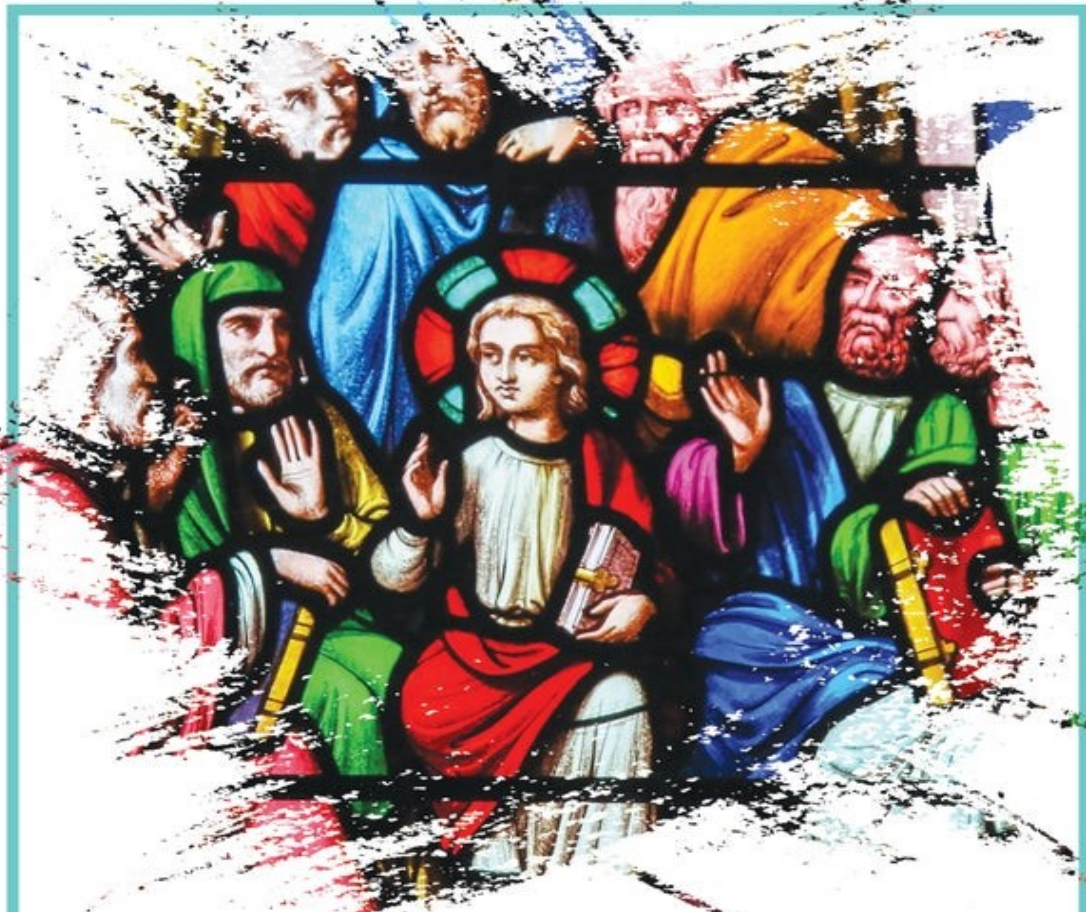
PARISH COMMUNITY

Santa Clara, California

**Twenty-Third Sunday  
of Ordinary Time**

**September 10, 2023**

**Vigésimo Tercer Domingo  
de Tiempo Ordinario**



**"IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU, GO AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT BETWEEN YOU AND HIM ALONE. IF HE LISTENS TO YOU, YOU HAVE WON OVER YOUR BROTHER." —MT 18:15**

23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**"SI TU HERMANO COMETE UN PECADO, VE Y AMONÉSTALO A SOLAS. SI TE ESCUCHA, HABRÁS SALVADO A TU HERMANO". —MT 18, 15**

23<sup>ER</sup> DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

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PARISH COMMUNITY

## **Parish Mission Statement**

*Founded in 1777,  
Saint Clare Parish is  
an ethnically diverse  
Catholic community  
of faith, united in  
worship, discipleship  
and service.  
In welcoming  
immigrants,  
newcomers and  
strangers, we strive to  
live the virtues of  
justice and love, so as  
to be the face of  
Christ in the world,  
becoming in Him a  
sign of unity and an  
instrument of God's  
peace.*

## **From Monsignor Fran Cilia**

In terms we might use today, Jesus is advising subsidiarity... Resolve issues at the most basic level, between the two individuals who are at odds with each other. If that does not work, then bring in others and, only as a last resort, should the two go to a larger group (the Church or the Courts).

Subsidiarity implies that most differences can be resolved privately. Not all things need to be referred to a central governing authority. This should be true in our homes, in our Church and in civil society. The urge to litigate disputes of every kind can rob individuals of their own ability to make peace by way of mutual understanding and even compromise.

As if to magnify the “power of two,” Jesus promises that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Through His Spirit, Jesus is the bond that unites us and empowers us in the ways of reconciliation and peace.

## **New Pastoral Council**

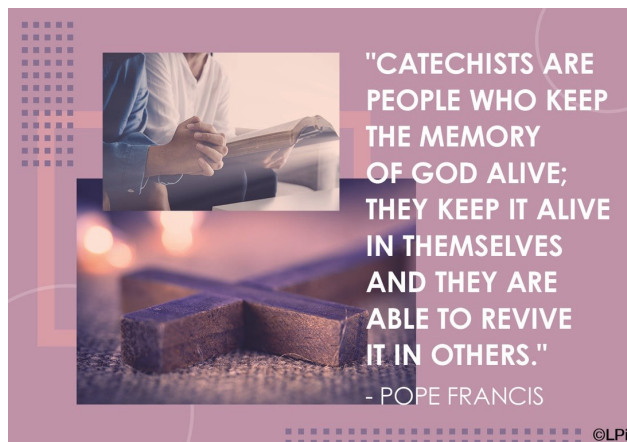
Our new Pastoral Council will meet this coming Tuesday, to get acquainted and to begin the work of serving the parish. Please keep the members in your prayers.

## **Confirmation Retreat**

Please keep in your prayers, also, our parish’s candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the leaders who will be with them on retreat this weekend, in preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament on Saturday, September 30.

## **Catechetical Sunday**

Next Sunday is “Catechetical Sunday,” an opportunity for the parish to acknowledge, thank and commission all who serve in any catechetical capacity in the parish and school. We will do this at the 10:30 Mass next Sunday. We hope that all our catechists will be present at that liturgy.



## Open Enrollment for Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

It's that time of the year! Open enrollment for our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation for 2023 –2024 is now open, for Grades 1 through 7. This year we are including PreK and K (ages 3-5). Sandra Quintanilla will be at the Grotto area taking applications after the 10:30 and Noon Mass. Please visit our Saint Clare Website and look for **Faith Formation 2023-2024** for updates and information

<https://www.stclareparish.org/>



## RCIA – The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults & Preparation of the Sacraments of First Communion (Eucharist) and Confirmation for Adults

RCIA is a process through which a person who wishes to celebrate the sacraments and be received in the Catholic Church will be instructed in the Catholic faith. Catechumens are baptized during the Easter Vigil.

Also adults over 18 *who have been baptized* but wish to celebrate the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation meet weekly and sessions begin in September. Please contact us to sign up!

If you want to be Catholic or are a Catholic who would like to celebrate the *Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation*, or if you know someone who would like to be, please contact Diane Madruga for more information by email at [camponeses6@gmail.com](mailto:camponeses6@gmail.com)

**Main Office Number**  
(408) 248-7786

**Pastor/Párroco**  
Monsignor Francis V. Cilia  
[cilia@dsj.org](mailto:cilia@dsj.org)  
(669) 270-2700

**Parochial Vicar/Vicario Parroquial**  
Father Victor Trinidad  
[victor.trinidad@dsj.org](mailto:victor.trinidad@dsj.org)  
(669) 270-2701

**Saint Clare School Principal**  
Mrs. Catherine Kogura  
[www.stclare.school](http://www.stclare.school)  
(408) 246-6797

**Catechetical Coordinator**  
Sandra Quintanilla  
[Sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org](mailto:Sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org)  
(669) 270-2702

**Youth Minister**  
**Director of Confirmation**  
Ryan Bao  
[Ryan.bao@dsj.org](mailto:Ryan.bao@dsj.org)  
(669) 270-2708

**Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**  
Diane Madruga  
[camponeses6@gmail.com](mailto:camponeses6@gmail.com)

**Music Ministry**  
Christopher Wemp  
[cmwemp@gmail.com](mailto:cmwemp@gmail.com)

**Administrative Staff**  
Linda Ortiz Brisuela  
[linda.brisuela@dsj.org](mailto:linda.brisuela@dsj.org)

Anai Torres  
[anai.g.torres@dsj.org](mailto:anai.g.torres@dsj.org)

**In Residence**  
Father Alberto Olivera  
[aolivera@dsj.org](mailto:aolivera@dsj.org)

Father Martin Ezeador  
[martin.ezeador@dsj.org](mailto:martin.ezeador@dsj.org)

### Creation Care Tips

*“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”  
- Romans 13:10*

Out of sight, out of mind. It can be so easy to trash something or pour something down the drain that will hurt someone or something else “downstream” because we forget that everyone downstream is a neighbor too. What items do you use or improperly dispose of that cause harm after they’ve left your sight? This week, look up your local hazardous waste organization to determine how to safely dispose of paint, batteries, e-waste, motor oil, medicines, etc.

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### Weekly Justice Challenge

Sunday's first reading from Ezekiel has the prophet challenging us to confront those who do wrong. Jesus follows in the Gospel with a similar message. Often when we hear or see racism, greed, or other actions which deny people their human dignity, we remain silent. We don't want to rock the boat or draw attention to ourselves. Your challenge this week is to be prophetic. When you hear someone putting down a person, a cultural or ethnic community, or whomever, speak the Gospel truth and challenge the offender to remember Jesus' example of treating everyone with dignity because we are all created in God's own image and likeness.

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# Mass Schedule

## Weekend Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil  
(Livestreamed)  
5:00 p.m. (English)

Sunday  
7:30 a.m. (English)  
9:00 a.m. (Portuguesa)  
10:30 a.m. (English)  
12:00 p.m. (Español)  
*Livestreamed*

**Liturgy of the Word for Children**  
During 10:30 a.m. Mass  
(English)

**Liturgia de la Palabra para Niños**  
Durante Misa de 12:00pm  
(Español)

## Weekday Masses

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.  
Holidays - 9:00 am

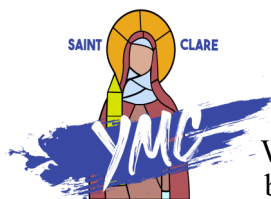
**Confessions**  
Saturdays 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(In the church)

**Office Hours**  
9am - 5pm  
Monday - Friday

**Address:**  
725 Washington Street  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
[www.stclareparish.org](http://www.stclareparish.org)

**E-mail:**  
[stclareparish@dsj.org](mailto:stclareparish@dsj.org)

**Emergencies**  
**(for the sick and dying):**  
408-248-7786  
Follow the prompt,  
then press 9



## Youth Ministry

We are in the works of creating a youth space in the church basement. The vision is to give young people a space to hang out, do their homework, and host youth meetings. If you have any furniture that you are willing to donate to this project, please contact Ryan ([ryan.bao@dsj.org](mailto:ryan.bao@dsj.org)). We are looking for couches, lounge chairs, rugs, bookcases, and anything else you think would go well in a youth space!

## Saint Clare School

Saint Clare School is celebrating Cultural Diversity at its annual Multicultural event on Friday, September 22, 2023, starting at 6:00 PM.

Join us for a fabulous evening of music, dance and food from 15 different Countries. Food ticket sale available at the entrance of Saint Clare's Elementary School (Washington Street).

**ST. CLARE SCHOOL**  
**ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION**

**MENU**  
Foods from over 15 cultures will be sold in small 'tapas' style portions.  
All dishes prepared by our own St. Clare's School and Parish Families.

Live entertainment! Silent Auction and more...  
**September 22nd, 2023**  
**5:30PM - 8:30PM**

Elementary Side Tickets Available at the door!

**SCS**  
SAINT CLARE SCHOOL

## NOW ENROLLING TK-8TH GRADE FOR 2023-2024

Saint Clare School prepares students to become ethical and moral servant leaders who graduate ready for the challenges of our Catholic high schools as well as our many excellent public and charter high schools. The faculty and staff support each student as they find their voice and the gifts they will take into the world.

Visit <https://www.stclare.school/admissions-2> to learn more. Support our robust tuition assistance program by making a donation: <https://www.stclare.school/supportus> Call Cherell Rizzo, Recruitment, Retention, and Marketing Manager, at 408-246-6797 or email [cherell.rizzo@dsj.org](mailto:cherell.rizzo@dsj.org) Schedule a tour: <https://www.stclare.school/schedule-a-tour>.

Mrs. Catherine Kogura, Principal  
[catherine.kogura@dsj.org](mailto:catherine.kogura@dsj.org) | 408-246-6797 | [www.stclare.school](http://www.stclare.school)

## Observances for the week of September 10, 2023

**Sunday:** 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day  
**Monday:** Patriot Day  
**Tuesday:** The Most Holy Name of Mary  
**Wednesday:** Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
**Thursday:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
**Friday:** Our Lady of Sorrows  
**Saturday:** Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs  
**Next Sunday:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

**Mass Intentions**  
**September 9 - September 16, 2023**



PARISH COMMUNITY

<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 pm	Saint Clare Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	7:30 am	Carol Aviles †
	9:00 am	Ernesto Gonsalves † Manuel & Cristina Jeronimo † Jose Manuel Correia † Vidalia Gaspar Rocha † Maria Simas Mello † Rosalinda Da Silva † Jose Mendoca † Manuel Santos † Fatima Oliveira † David Sousa Jr. † Julio Matos - Health Souls in Purgatory
	10:30 am	Bill Kelly †
	12:00 pm	Alicia Suárez - Health Ida López - Health
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 am	Carolina Rumohr Lyons † Birthday
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 am	Marie Dunn †
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 am	Marie Dunn †
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 am	Amado Toribio - 80th Birthday
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 am	Patrick McAllister †
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 am	The Peters Family



**Daily Readings**

**Monday:**  
 Colossians 1:24-2:3  
 Psalms 62:6-7, 9  
 Luke 6:6-11

**Tuesday:**  
 Colossians 2:6-15  
 Psalms 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11  
 Luke 6:12-19

**Wednesday:**  
 Colossians 3:1-11  
 Psalms 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab  
 Luke 6:20-26

**Thursday:**  
 Numbers 21:4b-9  
 Psalms 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38  
 Philippians 2:6-11  
 John 3:13-17

**Friday:**  
 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14  
 Psalms 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11  
 John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

**Saturday:**  
 1 Timothy 1:15-17  
 Psalms 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a & 6-7  
 Luke 6:43-49

**Sunday:**  
 Sirach 27:30-28:7  
 Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)  
 Romans 14:7-9  
 Matthew 18:21-35

*“Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*

— Mt 18:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2001, 1998, 1970 CCD).



**Parish Organizations**  
*Organizaciones Parroquiales*

**Parish Pastoral Council**

**Parish Finance Council**  
Jerome Alabado  
[Jerome.alabado@gmail.com](mailto:Jerome.alabado@gmail.com)

**Social Justice Committee**  
Anne McMahon  
[mcmahonam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcmahonam@sbcglobal.net)

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
Mick Gonzales  
(408) 645-0506

**Hispanic Council**  
Elania Tablada  
(408) 482-8234

**Portuguese Council**  
Claudia Madruga  
[cmadruga38@yahoo.com](mailto:cmadruga38@yahoo.com)  
(408) 568-3115

Eduina Faria  
(650) 420-9908

**San José Chinese Catholic Mission**  
*Mandarin Community*  
Father Alberto Olivera, Pastor  
[aolivera@dsj.org](mailto:aolivera@dsj.org)

**Cantonese Community**  
Andrew Lin  
[linlin2002@gmail.com](mailto:linlin2002@gmail.com)

**Serra Club of Santa Clara**  
Cathleen Lencioni  
(408) 248-6728

**Young Ladies Institute (YLI)**  
Dolores Wriglesworth  
[doloreswrigs@yahoo.com](mailto:doloreswrigs@yahoo.com)

**Knights of Columbus**  
Ruben Santos  
[portugeek75@yahoo.com](mailto:portugeek75@yahoo.com)

**Boletim Paroquial Português**  
**10 de Setembro de 2023, Domingo XXIII do Tempo Comum – A**  
**Reflexão por João Pereira Arruda**

No perdão está a verdadeira forma de amar. No Evangelho de hoje Jesus nos apresenta três simples formas de perdoar e a arte da correção fraterna. Não basta dizer eu te perdoo...o perdoar também implica a coragem para intervir quando estamos diante do erro do outro. O primeiro passo para perdoar é quando temos o coração pronto para se aproximar do outro e falar com ele a sós. Se o coração não está preparado para esse passo é porque guardamos silêncio comentamos a falta com os outros alimentando a murmuração no meio dos irmãos. Jesus sugere a clareza de coração quando se nos aproximamos do irmão, não como tem a razão do seu lado mas com uma vontade verdadeira de compreender pondo-se na situação do outro. Num segundo cenário se entendemos que a forma de se comunicar a sós não dá resultado favorável, peçamos a dois ou três membros idóneos da comunidade para intervir no caso e estes terão o papel de se aproximarem e apresentarem formas de entendimento pelo qual consigam o objectivo de o perdão ter efeito. Que todos façam esforços para que o verdadeiro perdão aconteça no amor fraterno. Falhando essas duas sugestões que se faça uma terceira tentativa em reunião comunitária. Não é fácil chegar a este ponto porque envolve membros dos dois lados e conseqüentemente gera divisão, porém se o grupo tem por interesse restaurar a unidade e o amor fraterno na comunidade; estes farão esforços a sério para o bem comum de toda a comunidade. Quando há falhas entre irmãos a comunidade sofre com isso. Qualquer comunidade que os seus membros se estimam e se apoiam sofre imenso com a separação e divisão entre os irmãos. Nos nossos dias infelizmente vivemos um ambiente de divisão, de egocentrismo, do eu primeiro. Cada um tem o seu direito e a sua liberdade, atitudes de “eu é que estou certo e tu estás errado”. Deste modo as comunidades todas desta nação sofrem, porque deixarem-se conroper pela ganância, o poderio, a economia; etc. e neste ambiente corroido estragamos os esforços que a igreja e outras religiões fazem para haver paz e concórdia entre os povos; no meio dos irmãos e das comunidades. Peçamos a graça da coragem para falar uns com os outros. Aceitemos percorrer juntos, o caminho do amor, façamos dum modo discreto sem murmúrios nem escandolos como quem busca a salvação do outro. Ajudemo-nos a amar uns aos outros.

**Piquenique Da nossa Comunidade.** Marquem todos a data do Domingo dia 1 de Outubro próximo para celebrar e participar no evento anual da nossa comunidade promovido pelo Conselho Paroquial Português. Os bilhetes estão a ser vendidos pelos membros do Conselho e a ementa é a mesma dos últimos 20 anos. Carne no espeto á madeirense e ou galinha. Ao comprarem os bilhetes por favor diguem qual preferem. Vamos ter Bazar e Rifa, por assim ser os membros do Conselho aceitam ofertas bem assim monetárias para ajudar nos custos que acarreta esta promoção. Mais detalhes em próximos boletins.

**Companhia de Jesus:** A comunidade dos padres e irmãos Jesuitas em Portugal tem em plano construir uma enfermaria para cuidar dos seus membros doentes e de idade avançada. Em ordem de alcançar esse objectivo espera-se que o mesmo exija sacrifícios de todos que possam contribuir com donativos para que este plano se materialize e venha colmatar uma necessidade de os Jesuitas terem um lugar donde os fins das suas vidas sejam tratados e cuidados com os serviços básicos de saúde. O Superior Jesuita em Portugal colocou esse projecto aos ombros do padre Francisco Rodrigues SJ. A partir da agora faz-se um apelo á nossa comunidade para ajudar no que possam contribuir para a mesma. As pessoas que queirem mais informações sobre esta campanha de angariamento de fundos podem contactar com a Claudia Madruga logo a seguir á missa. Desde já se agradece qualquer donativo pelo qual os mesmos podem ser entregues á Claudia Madruga.

**Um Santo e Alegre Domingo para todos!!**

## De Monseñor Fran Cilia

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**E**n términos que podríamos usar hoy, Jesús aconseja la subsidiariedad... Resuelve problemas al nivel más básico, entre dos personas que están en desacuerdo. Si eso no funciona, entonces traiga a otros y, sólo como último recurso, los dos deben ir a un grupo más grande (la Iglesia o las Cortes).

La subsidiariedad implica que la mayoría de las diferencias se pueden resolver de forma privada. No es necesario remitir todas las cosas a una autoridad gubernamental central. Esto debería ser cierto en nuestros hogares, en nuestra Iglesia y en la sociedad civil. La necesidad de litigar disputas de todo tipo puede privar a los individuos de su propia capacidad para lograr la paz mediante el entendimiento mutuo e incluso el compromiso.

Como para magnificar el “poder de dos”, Jesús promete que “donde dos o tres están reunidos en mi nombre, allí estoy yo en medio de ellos”. A través de Su Espíritu, Jesús es el vínculo que nos une y nos fortalece en los caminos de la reconciliación y la paz.

## El Nuevo Consejo Pastoral

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Nuestro nuevo Consejo Pastoral se reunirá el próximo martes, para conocernos y comenzar la labor de servicio a la parroquia. Por favor mantengan a los miembros en sus oraciones.

## Retiro de Confirmación

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Tengan también en sus oraciones a los candidatos de nuestra parroquia para el Sacramento de la Confirmación y a los líderes que estarán con ellos en el retiro este fin de semana, en preparación para la celebración del Sacramento el sábado 30 de septiembre.

## Domingo Catequético

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El próximo domingo es el “Domingo Catequético”, una oportunidad para que la parroquia reconozca, agradezca y comisione a todos los que sirven en cualquier capacidad catequética en la parroquia y la escuela. Lo haremos en la Misa de las 10:30 am el próximo domingo. Esperamos que todos nuestros catequistas estén presentes en esa liturgia.

## Inscripción para Formación en la Fe y Preparación Sacramental.



¡Es esa época del año! La inscripción para nuestra Formación de Fe y Preparación Sacramental para 2023 – 2024 ya está abierta, para los grados 1 a 7. Este año incluimos PreK y K (de 3 a 5 años). Sandra Quintanilla estará en el área a fuera de la iglesia recibiendo solicitudes después de la misa de las 10:30 y del mediodía. Visite nuestro sitio web de Saint Clare y busque Formación en la fe 2023-2024 para obtener actualizaciones e información. <https://www.stclareparish.org/>

## RICA – Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos y preparación de los Sacramentos de la Eucaristía y la Confirmación para Adultos

RICA es un proceso por el cual una persona que desea celebrar los sacramentos, *Bautismo, Eucaristía y Confirmación* en la Iglesia Católica es instruida en la fe Católica y luego recibida como fiel de la Iglesia. Los cursos de RICA – comienzan en septiembre y se reúnen una vez por semana. Los catecúmenos son recibidos en la fe en la vigilia de Pascua.

También aquellos adultos mayores de 18 años *que ya han sido bautizados* pero desean celebrar la Sagrada Comunión y el sacramento de la Confirmación por favor contáctenos para registrarse. Candidatos comienzan en septiembre y se reúnen una vez por semana.

Si usted desea ser Católico y está interesado celebrar la *Sagrada Eucaristía y la Confirmación* o conoce alguna persona que tiene esa inquietud puede llamar al ministerio de formación religiosa de la parroquia, Sandra Quintanilla (669) 270-2702 o por correo electrónico: [Sandra.Quintanilla@dsj.org](mailto:Sandra.Quintanilla@dsj.org).



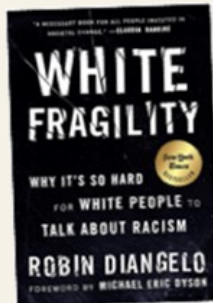
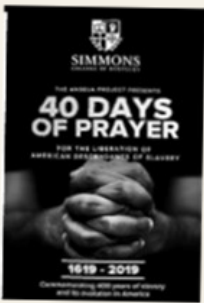
## Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege

“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” Jesus’ words from Matthew 25:35 are a countercultural call to embrace those who are marginalized as if greeting Jesus himself. You are invited to join us in an eight-session Just Faith Ministries program to explore how racial privilege manifests itself in our daily lives. Topics include race and socialization; affirmative action; the school-to-prison pipeline; and racial disparity within the criminal justice system.

**In-person Sessions - Hosted by St. Clare Parish**  
Sessions 1-8 on consecutive Mondays  
Oct. 16th - Dec. 11th 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Virtual Sessions - Hosted by TBD**  
Zoom Sessions 1-8 on consecutive Wednesdays  
Oct. 11th - Dec. 13th 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Both the Monday and Wednesday Sessions begin with an in-person retreat at St. Clare Parish (725 Washington St, Santa Clara, CA 95050) Saturday, September 30th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with an optional lunch together to follow.



Discussions within our small groups will draw on each of these books: *40 Days of Prayer*, compiled by Cheryl L. Mills, *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo, and *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown

To reserve a place, contact: Kathy Mattingly at [kat@kajon.com](mailto:kat@kajon.com) or (408) 378-2355  
Requested tax deductible donation: \$35, \$55, \$75 per person. Approximate cost for books is \$44, which are available through JustFaith Ministries and may be found at bookstores, libraries or on-line.  
Scholarships are available on request.



**What is God's Dream for YOU?**  
**Come & See!**  
**September 29-October 1, 2023**

*Stay with us \* Pray with us \**  
*Ask your questions \* Get to know us!*

**Join Our Retreat in Los Altos Hills, CA**  
**DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
*Find out more at [Daughters-Of-Charity.com/retreats/](http://Daughters-Of-Charity.com/retreats/)*  
**FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 18-40.**





## You're Invited

ST. CLARE PARISH - PORTUGUESE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY PICNIC

**SUN, OCTOBER 1, 2023**

WHERE: ST. CLARE PARKING LOT  
(ACROSS FOR THE CHURCH)

TIME: 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.

MENU: Shish Kebab or BBQ Chicken w/side dishes & dessert

DONATION: \$30 adult, \$15 children under 12  
For more information: 650-420-9908 or 408-406-8676

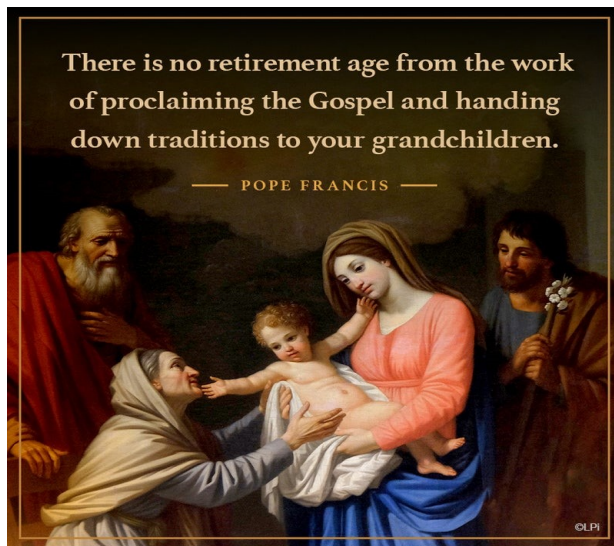


## Stewardship Report

*Sunday Collection:  
September 2nd & 3rd*

**Goal: \$9,000.00  
Actual: 10,768.50**

**Thank You!**



## 2023 Season of Creation Activities - Let Justice and Peace Flow!

**Ecology Fair & Speaker, September 16**, from 2pm to 6pm, St. Simon Parish is hosting a talk on The Ecological Vision of Laudato si' provided by Dr. Paul Schutz from Santa Clara University. There will also be an Ecological Fair and Mass celebrated at 5:00pm. St. Simon Parish is at 1860 Grant Rd, Los Altos. Please register.

**Saturday morning, September 23 - California Coastal Cleanup Day.** Register with the CA Coastal Commission and participate in the cleanup of a local waterway.

**Season of Creation Mass & Reception Saturday, September 23** from 9AM – 12PM. Learn how parishes and organizations in the diocese are working on the goals of the Laudato si' Action Platform. Please register.

**Living the Season of Creation Every Day: The Ecological Vision of Laudato si'** At 10AM **September 30** at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Explore the Catholic response to the ecological crisis that affects our earth and all life. Please register.

**October 4th, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - Blessing of the Animals**, at parishes and schools near you! Join together with your family, pets too, and pray for the protection of all living species and our biodiversity.

To register to one of these events or for more information please go to <https://www.dsj.org/evangelization/social-ministries/stewardship-of-our-common-home-2/>



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
— Amos 5: 24 —



SEASONOFCREATION.ORG



September 10, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9 | Rom 13:8-10 | Mt 18:15-20

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Years ago, I was asked to take in a hound dog and I was happy to do so, but it wasn't until I brought the dog home that I discovered how adamantly opposed my husband was to the idea. When asked, he had never said "no," but he thought I should just know he didn't want the dog. Obviously, we needed to work on our communication skills! Proper communication and what it means to love in relationship are what come to mind when I hear the start of today's Gospel. Jesus is instructing us on what to do when another angers, hurts, or offends us. Not surprisingly, it doesn't include calling our sister or best friend to vent, or posting about it on social media, regardless of how vaguely we word the situation. Instead we are to go to that person directly and "tell him his fault between you and him alone." If they listen, we have won them over. How many times have others hurt us but we never bother to tell them? How often do we simply assume the other person knows they have done us wrong? We owe it to one another to be honest and upfront – to give the other person a chance to apologize and us a chance to extend forgiveness. We also owe it to one another to be willing to receive *them* in charity, open-hearted, when they come to us to speak of *our* faults.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In the same way that the Gospel addresses speaking truth to another and "winning them over," the prophet Ezekiel recounts the Lord's instruction to him that he has a duty to "speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way." This, of course, was the role and mission of the prophets. To make known the word and law of God and call the people to respond. A prophet warned, counseled, taught, and encouraged. They called the people to obedience to God, denouncing idolatry, injustice, and empty rituals. Jesus himself came as priest, prophet, and king and by our baptism, "the whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them." (CCC 783) Through the centuries, people have tried to do this in various ways – from passing laws to standing on street corners with signs. But let's remember that even as we are meant to "speak out," we are also meant to listen. We too must be re-converted to the truth when we sin; we too must be dissuaded from our wicked ways. This is how we best fulfill our prophetic mission.

**PRAY** Witnessing to Christ in today's world sometimes feels overwhelming or hopeless. Spend some concerted time in prayer with the words from today's psalm: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."



# Season of Creation

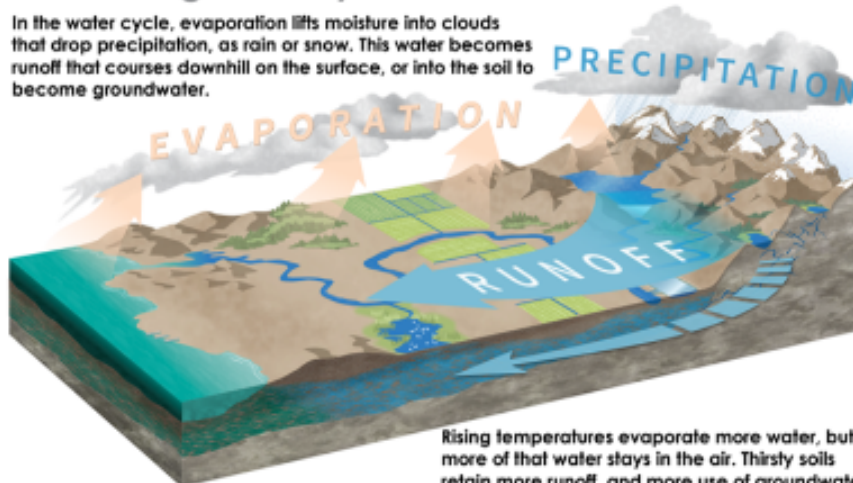
September 1 - October 4, 2023

## Feature: Water Availability

Water is essential for life, but 771 million people around the world do not have access to safe water. This crisis involves drought, illness, lack of sanitation, climate change, and poor water quality. For info about how the Global Water Crisis affects the vulnerable around the world, scan the QR code!

### The coming water cycle: the air claims more

In the water cycle, evaporation lifts moisture into clouds that drop precipitation, as rain or snow. This water becomes runoff that courses downhill on the surface, or into the soil to become groundwater.



Rising temperatures evaporate more water, but more of that water stays in the air. Thirsty soils retain more runoff, and more use of groundwater requires more water for recharging water tables.

## WE PRAY:

*Dear God, we recognize water as necessary for life. Help those who do not have access to safe water. May we appreciate the resources we have and use them well. Allow us to maintain water quality, which will be beneficial to all life. Amen.*

## Take Action!

- **Sunday:** Read Ch. 2 of *Laudato Si'*
- **Monday:** Enjoy a "meatless" Monday! See Sisters of Mercy recipes at <https://bit.ly/SOMMEATLESS>
- **Tuesday:** Time your shower and consider how much you might reduce
- **Wednesday:** Look at your water bill. How much water do you use? The average single-family home in the USA uses ~300 gallons/day
- **Thursday:** Google "Global Water Crisis" and learn how the poor and vulnerable are affected.
- **Friday:** Share your new knowledge about water with someone
- **Saturday:** Go for a stroll in nature!



# Week Two

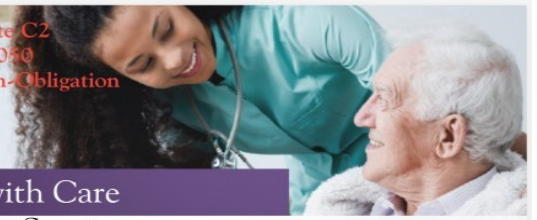
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*Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been renewing marriages for 50 years!*

*Take an opportunity this year to invest time for your marriage. Experiences in the Bay Area for the remainder of 2023 are on September 29 - October 1 and November 17 - 19.*

*Please register at [wwme.org/apply](http://wwme.org/apply) or for more information call: Ken and Claranne at 408-782-1413.*