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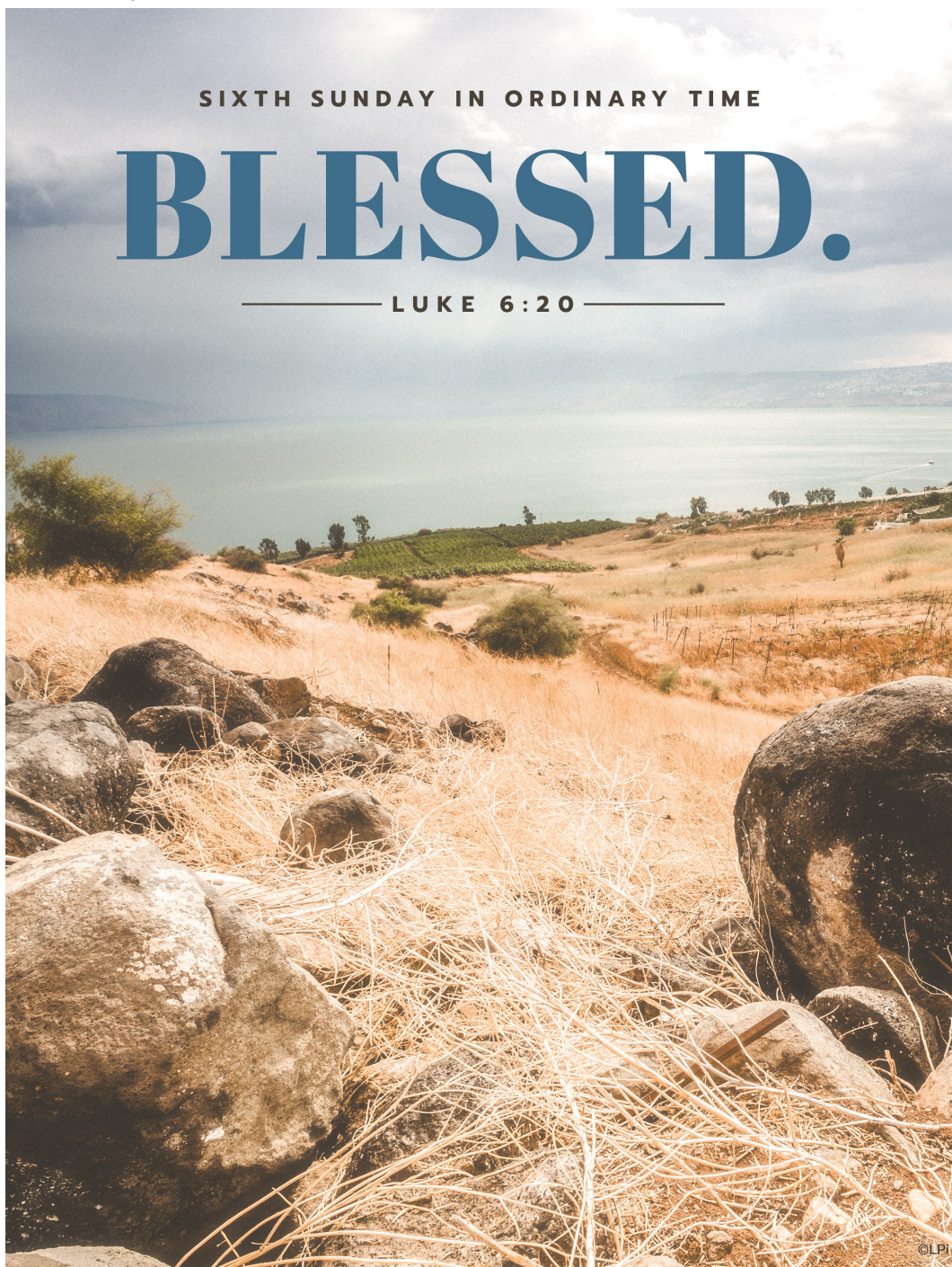
Clare

PARISH COMMUNITY
Santa Clara, California

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time*

February 16, 2025

*Sexto Domingo en Tiempo
Ordinario*



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From Monsignor Fran Cilia

The Beatitudes, as narrated in the Gospel of Luke, while similar to those in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, are strikingly different.

Luke calls consoles “you who are poor” and “you who are now hungry,” a far cry from the more pious words in Matthew: the poor in spirit and “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” In this gospel, the Beatitudes (also called macarisms) are linked with a set of woes, or warnings. These serve to counterbalance the present sufferings of some with a desolate future for those people who seem to have everything this world has to offer.

A major emphasis of the Gospel of Luke, from which we hear most Sundays this year until the end of November, is God’s care for the vulnerable and marginalized. The gospel pays particular attention to the outcast and those considered socially or religiously unacceptable or unclean.

Since the beginning of Pope Francis’ ministry as pope, he has taught us the essential nature of this kind of outreach as part of what it is to be a follower of Jesus. God knows that there are many people in our very midst who suffer tremendously. We are called not only to pray for their well-being, but also to act on their behalf. One way we do this is the generous support we give to the work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and other such efforts here in our parish and around the world.

Thank you for your outreach to the victims of the Southern California wildfires. As you can see in the weekly collection report we collected more than \$4300. Again, thank you!



President’s Day Holiday

Mass on Monday, President’s Day, will be at 9:00 am. The parish office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Annual Diocesan Appeal: Report #2

Thanks to all who are making this another successful year for our parish efforts at the ADA. Currently, we have received \$72,069 from a total of 108 pledges and gifts. If you have not yet been able to participate in this year’s Appeal, we still have a long way to go toward our \$200,000 goal.



Planning Ahead. . .*On the Fridays of Lent*, beginning on March 7, we will be hosting a “Soup Supper” at 6:30 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:30 pm. More details will follow. If you can mark your calendars now, we hope you will be able to join us for this additional way to enhance our Lenten observance.

Letter of Pope Francis to the U.S. Bishops on Immigration

The Holy Father Pope Francis sent the letter on page 7 to Bishops in the United States of America on the nation's new immigration policy on February 11, 2025.



Saint Clare School

Saint Clare School 8th grade students served as lectors at last week's Family Mass. They all did a wonderful job, demonstrating their commitment to their faith and to the parish. We value the partnerships building and growing between the parish and the school. It was good to see so many school families in attendance at both the Family and Spanish Masses.

The conversations and connections that occur as families munch their donuts following Mass is part of what makes Saint Clare Parish so special. A parent commented that it feels like family when she and her daughter are there; something she said she doesn't feel at other parishes. I completely agree with her!

We are grateful to our proactive parents and the City of Santa Clara Department of Traffic Engineering for the new traffic calming signs at the crosswalk in front of the school. Red paint along the crosswalk and 20 feet beyond will happen soon.



Have you considered a career in Catholic education? It might be a first career, a second, or even a third. Our diocesan schools are always looking for strong teachers who live their Catholic faith. Consider joining us on March 22nd at Saint Martin of Tours for the annual Department of Catholic schools career fair. Talk to administrators and teachers from virtually all the elementary and high schools in the diocese. It's an informative way to spend the morning.

Finally, Saint Clare School would love to have you join us for a delicious pizza or two tomorrow afternoon and evening. It is an easy way to support our school and solve the lunch or dinner menu quandary at the same time. Use the order code on the flyer. And THANK YOU!

**Saint Clare School invites you to
come support our fundraiser**

**30% of your purchase will be
donated to our group**



If you plan to order online please use code: 0212SCS.



**Come Share a
Pizza Your Heart!**

Wednesday, February 12th
12-6pm

Pizza My Heart
700 Bellomy Street
(408) 241-0000

It's good on Dine In, Take Out or *Delivery
*Does not include DoorDash or other 3rd party orders

ONLINE ORDER CODE:
0212SCS

www.pizzamyheart.com



PARISH COMMUNITY

Mass Schedule

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

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*
12:00 p.m. (Español)

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Parish Staff

- **Pastor/Párroco**
Monsignor Francis V. Cilia
cilia@dsj.org
(669) 270-2700
- **Parochial Vicar/Vicario Parroquial**
Father Victor Trinidad
victor.trinidad@dsj.org
(669) 270-2701
- **Saint Clare School Principal**
Mrs. Catherine Kogura
www.stclare.school
(408) 246-6797
- **Director of Catechetical Ministry/
Rito de Inicicion para Adultos**
Sandra Quintanilla
Sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org
(669) 270-2702
- **Youth Minister/
Director of Confirmation**
Ryan Bao
Ryan.bao@dsj.org
(669) 270-2708
- **Order of Christian
Initiation of Adults (OCIA)**
Diane Madruga
camponeses6@gmail.com
- **Music Ministry**
Christopher Wemp
cmwemp@gmail.com
- **Administrative Staff**
Linda Ortiz Brisuela
linda.brisuela@dsj.org
- **In Residence**
Father Martin Ezeador
martin.ezeador@dsj.org

Office Hours

9am - 5pm
Monday - Thursday

Address:

725 Washington Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050
www.stclareparish.org

E-mail:

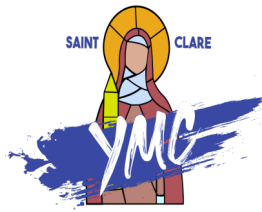
stclareparish@dsj.org

Main Office Number

(408) 248-7786

Emergencies (for sick & dying):

408-248-7786 Follow the prompt,
then press 9



**Bible study is
every week on
Tuesday at**

8:00pm in the youth center basement.
Check the image for dates.

Join us for our youth ministry Sundays
next Sunday on **February 23rd in the
hall at 1:30pm**. All youth 8th-12th
grade are welcome!

Save the Date, June 9-13, for DYR
2025!

Youth Ministry News



Tuesdays at 8:00pm

— January 7
— January 14
January 21
— January 28
— February 4
February 11
February 18

Journeying with Jesus through the Gospel

→ For all youth 8th-12th grade
→ In Youth Center (Church Basement)



Day of Renewal for Grieving Moms & Grandmoms: Matters of the Heart

Hosted by Rita Morton and Fr. John Author

Experience how Perfect Love overcomes fear and deepens peace. Journey with grieving mothers through this gentle day of light, renewal and restoration. Our full-day program will include a light breakfast reception, intentionally designed initial session, reflective time in nature, connection with other grieving mothers, a full lunch, and experiential breakout sessions. We will end the day with a Memorial Mass in honor of our deceased children.



February 22, 2025, 9:30am-3:30 pm

Jesuit Retreat Center (El Retiro)
300 Manresa Way, Los Altos, CA 94022

\$120 includes light breakfast, lunch and retreat materials

Questions? Email rita@sacredsorrows.com

Boletim Paroquial Português
16 de Fevereiro de 2025, Domingo VI do Tempo Comum -C
Reflexão Por: João Pereira Arruda

A Liturgia de hoje fala-nos de felecidade total; fala-nos de uma felecidade que começa e acaba em Deus e isto só ode ser assim porque não há no homem felecidade sem Deus. **“Feliz de quem confia no Senhor e põe no Senhor toda a sua confiança”** Assim o diz o Profeta Jeremias na Primeira Leitura. E assim confirma o refrão do do salmo de hoje. “ Feliz o homem que não segue o conselho dos ímpios nem entra pelo caminho dos pecadores, porque só se pode ter a felecidade total quando esta vem de Jesus Cristo.. No Evangelho é o próprio Jesus Cristo que diz” **Felizes de vós, os pobres,, porque é vosso o Reino do Céu.”** Quer isso dizer que temos que ser pobres para sermos felizes e entrar-mos no Reino dos Ceus? De modo nenhum o acesso a Jesus Cristo não está nos meios da carne mas nos do Espírito de Deus. Jesus Cristo quando desceu do monte e começou a ensinar aos discípulos e aos Apóstolos: Felizes os pobres, felizes os que têm fome, porque sereis saciados, felizes os que agora chorais, porque depois haveis de rir, felizes sereis vós quando os homens vos odiarem, quando vos expulsarem e insultara,, e regeitarem o vosso nome como infame por causa do Filho do Homem. Alegrai-vos e exultai nesse dia, pois é grande no Céu a vossa recompensa. Estes ensinamentos de Jesus veio nos ensinar e confirmar que a lógica de Deus é muito diferente da humana a que costumamos seguir e estamos mais familiarizados. As Bem-aventuranças, “Carta Magna^ da nova Humanidade, nascida da Morte e Ressurreição de Cristo, são a expressão mais profunda de que o cristão põe a sua confiança em Deus e não na carne.

A sociedade Americana, tem por este ms de Fevereiro como o mês dos “Valentinos”. Assim o é porque no dia 14 deste mês o comércio deste país vende quantidades exorbitantes de flores, chocolates, joalheria, jantaras em restaurantes. Tudo o que seja exagerado não dá muito bom resultado, e embora tudo isso serve para justificar o amor que os conjuges têm uns pelos outros a nossa igreja dá-nos uma alternativa encorajando os casais a que celebrem o seu amoum pelo outro em igreja e com grande relevância celebrando o Sacramento do Matrimónio. Por quarenta anos que os conselhos paroquias portugueses o fazem no segundo Domingo desse mês de Fevereiro; excepto este ano que pela celebração do Ano Novo chinês essa data foi alterada para hoje. Deste modo e aós a missa de hoje vamos ter o convívio do café que já é uma tradição e uma actividade que o nosso Conselho poe muito empenho a honrar todos os casais da nossa comunidade bem assim os viúvos/as que enquanto vivos foram tão parte desta celebração. Neste ano jubilar não se poderia passar este ano sem dar um espaço mais feliz e alegre a este Sacramento do Matrimónio que com Jesus Cristo no centro do relacionamento do casal continua a vitalizar e a nutrir o amor e a felecidade no meio do casal. Também pensemos nos primeiros casais que há quarenta e três anos fizeram os seus fins de semana em inglês para depois fazerem equipas e darem fins de semana em português e deste modo fazer um movimento que beneficiou os casais portugueses por toda a Califórnia. Familiares e amigos tomavam conta das crianças dos casais que davam as palestras mas nao havia maior felecidade do que ver os casais que tinham pela primeira vez o fim de semana do Encontro Matrimonial em Português. Na última sexta feira foi o dia de S. Valentim mas em comunidade o celebramos hoje bem assim o Sacramento que nos dá Cristo a alimentar o nosso relacionamento de casal, a nossa felecidade de sermos único no amor de Cristo
“ Há algures um mundo novo a Terra Prometida e um dia lá estaremos se tu me deres a mão; faça eu o que fizer necessito-te a meu lado pois jamais encontrarei um outro TU!

Feliz Domingo para todos! Feliz Dia dos Namorados!!



PARISH COMMUNITY

Parish Organizations
Organizaciones Parroquiales

Parish Pastoral Council

Cyndi Banaag- *Chairperson*
stclareparishcouncil@gmail.com
(669) 270-2705

Parish Finance Council

Jerome Alabado- *Chairperson*
stclareparishfinance@gmail.com

Social Justice Committee

Anne McMahon
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
(408) 568-3115

Eduina Faria
(650) 420-9908

Serra Club of Santa Clara

Cathleen Lencioni
(408) 248-6728

Young Ladies Institute (YLI)

Mary Reiland
maryreiland@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Michael Adams
mjadams99nd@sbcglobal.net

San José Chinese Catholic Mission

Mandarin Community
Father Alberto Olivera, Pastor
aolivera@dsj.org

Cantonese Community

Andrew Lin
linlin2002@gmail.com

Stewardship Report

Collection:
February 8th and 9th

Goal: \$10,100.00
Actual: \$8,307.00

Second Collection: Fires in Southern California

\$4,338.00

Thank you

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Scan one of the QR codes for direct and safe way to donate.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Daily Mass Readings



Sunday:

Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20;
Luke 6:17, 20-26

Monday:

Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday:

Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday:

Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Mark 8:22-26

Thursday:

Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33

Friday:

Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34—9:1

Saturday:

1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Next Sunday:

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38



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.

Mass Intentions

February 15-22, 2025

Sat	5:00 pm	Patricia Diani
Sun	7:30 am	Saint Clare Parishioners
	9:00 am	Manuel and Cristina Jeronimo †
		Joao Silva †
		Jose and Vidalia Gaspar Rocha †
		Manuel Sardinha †
		Ernesto Gonsalves †
		Maria Silva †
		Jose Placido †
		Jose Mendonça †
		Alberto Cardoso Avila– Health
		In Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes
		Louis Joseph Madruga– Birthday
	10:30 am	Elise Marsalli †
	12:00 pm	Ida López– Salud
		Mónica Castillo– Cumpleaños
		Aniceto Botero †
		María Luisa Botero †
Mon	8:00 am	Gary Crampton †
Tues	8:00 am	The Brady Family
Wed	8:00 am	Anne Ross
Thu	8:00 am	Angelita Bañug and Alma Cerdeña †
Fri	8:00 am	The Peters Family
Sat	8:00 am	Ellen and Phil Pochay



Dear Brothers in the Episcopate,

I am writing today to address a few words to you in these delicate moments that you are living as Pastors of the People of God who walk together in the United States of America.

1. The journey from slavery to freedom that the People of Israel traveled, as narrated in the Book of Exodus, invites us to look at the reality of our time, so clearly marked by the phenomenon of migration, as a decisive moment in history to reaffirm not only our faith in a God who is always close, incarnate, migrant and refugee, but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person.^[1]

2. These words with which I begin are not an artificial construct. Even a cursory examination of the Church's social doctrine emphatically shows that Jesus Christ is the true Emmanuel (cf. *Mt*1:23); he did not live apart from the difficult experience of being expelled from his own land because of an imminent risk to his life, and from the experience of having to take refuge in a society and a culture foreign to his own. The Son of God, in becoming man, also chose to live the drama of immigration. I like to recall, among other things, the words with which Pope Pius XII began his Apostolic Constitution on the Care of Migrants, which is considered the "Magna Carta" of the Church's thinking on migration:

"The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants in Egypt and refugees there to escape the wrath of an ungodly king, are the model, the example and the consolation of emigrants and pilgrims of every age and country, of all refugees of every condition who, beset by persecution or necessity, are forced to leave their homeland, beloved family and dear friends for foreign lands."^[2]

3. Likewise, Jesus Christ, loving everyone with a universal love, educates us in the permanent recognition of the dignity of every human being, without exception. In fact, when we speak of "infinite and transcendent dignity," we wish to emphasize that the most decisive value possessed by the human person surpasses and sustains every other juridical consideration that can be made to regulate life in society. Thus, all the Christian faithful and people of good will are called upon to consider the legitimacy of norms and public policies in the light of the dignity of the person and his or her fundamental rights, not vice versa.

4. I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.

5. This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all — as I have affirmed on numerous occasions — welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly.

6. Christians know very well that it is only by affirming the infinite dignity of all that our own identity as persons and as communities reaches its maturity. Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups. In other words: the human person is not a mere individual, relatively expansive, with some philanthropic feelings! The human person is a subject with dignity who, through the constitutive relationship with all, especially with the poorest, can gradually mature in his identity and vocation. The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (cf. *Lk*10:25-37), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception^[3]

7. But worrying about personal, community or national identity, apart from these considerations, easily introduces an ideological criterion that distorts social life and imposes the will of the strongest as the criterion of truth.

8. I recognize your valuable efforts, dear brother bishops of the United States, as you work closely with migrants and refugees, proclaiming Jesus Christ and promoting fundamental human rights. God will richly reward all that you do for the protection and defense of those who are considered less valuable, less important or less human!

9. I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.

10. Let us ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to protect individuals and families who live in fear or pain due to migration and/or deportation. May the "*Virgen morena*", who knew how to reconcile peoples when they were at enmity, grant us all to meet again as brothers and sisters, within her embrace, and thus take a step forward in the construction of a society that is more fraternal, inclusive and respectful of the dignity of all.

Fraternally,
Francis

From the Vatican, 10 February 2025

Santa Clara Women's League presents

SHOWTIME

an old fashioned melodrama entitled

**“The Saga of the
Sarsaparilla Saloon”
or “Tale of the Tainted Tonic”**

Saturday, March 1, 7pm
(doors open 5:30pm)

Sunday, March 2, 2pm
(doors open 12:30pm)

Tickets

\$10 Adult • \$5 Child
Family Pack \$25
(2 adults & 2 children)

Community Recreation Center
969 Kiely Blvd, Santa Clara

**A fundraiser for Santa Clara
Senior Center Programs**

**Delectable Food and
Chances to Win Prizes Galore**

Purchase tickets at
santaclarawomensleague.org
or at the door





DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE

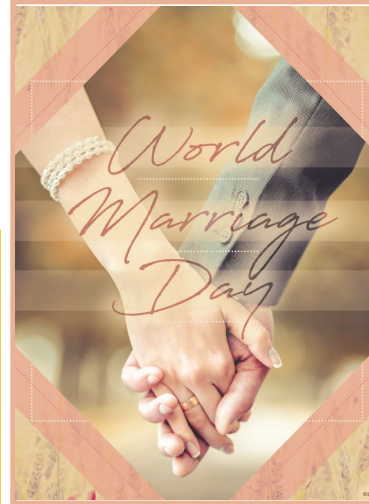
CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

MARCH 22ND FROM 10AM-12PM
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL GYM

Thinking about a career change?
Consider teaching in Catholic schools!

Catholic elementary and high schools are hiring new teachers and teacher aides - and actively recruiting parishioners, parents of Catholic school students, and/or second-career folks to fill those positions.

<http://bit.ly/cscf2025>



Congratulations to all married couples!

“Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord⁺ is not easily broken”

Ecclesiastes 4:12



St. Clare's Portuguese Council Fundraiser

Dinner: Cod Fish dish w/side dishes & dessert

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

Place: St. Clare's Church hall (next to church)

Time: 6:30 pm

Take out/Pick up: 4:00-5:30pm

Music DJ: Deodato Constantino

Donation: \$45.00

More information: 650-420-9908 or 408-568-0165



Find out if God is calling you!

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREATS AGES 18-35

Retreats to discern a vocation to the Priesthood or Consecrated Life

MEN'S RETREAT - ENGLISH

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025

St. Patrick's Seminary
- Menlo Park

WOMEN'S RETREAT ENGLISH & SPANISH

March 7-9, 2025

Poor Clare Colettines of
Immaculate Heart
Monastery - Los Altos Hills

MEN'S RETREAT - SPANISH

March 21-23, 2025

St. Patrick's Seminary
- Menlo Park



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De Monseñor Fran Cilia

Las Bienaventuranzas, tal como se narran en el Evangelio de Lucas, aunque son similares a las del quinto capítulo del Evangelio de Mateo, son notablemente diferentes.

Lucas llama consuelos a “vosotros que son pobres” y “vosotros que ahora tienen hambre”, muy lejos de las palabras más piadosas de Mateo: los pobres de espíritu y “los que tienen hambre y sed de justicia”. En este evangelio, las Bienaventuranzas (también llamadas macarismos) están vinculadas con una serie de aflicciones o advertencias. Estas sirven para contrarrestar los sufrimientos actuales de algunos y un futuro desolador para aquellas personas que parecen tener todo lo que este mundo tiene para ofrecer.

Un énfasis importante del Evangelio de Lucas, del que escuchamos la mayoría de los domingos de este año hasta finales de noviembre, es el cuidado de Dios por los vulnerables y marginados. El evangelio presta especial atención a los marginados y a los considerados social o religiosamente inaceptables o impuros.

Desde el comienzo de su ministerio como Papa, el Papa Francisco nos ha enseñado la naturaleza esencial de este tipo de ayuda como parte de lo que significa ser un seguidor de Jesús. Dios sabe que hay muchas personas en nuestro medio que sufren tremendamente. Estamos llamados no solo a orar por su bienestar, sino también a actuar en su nombre. Una forma de hacerlo es el generoso apoyo que brindamos al trabajo de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl y otros esfuerzos similares aquí en nuestra parroquia y en todo el mundo.

Gracias por su ayuda a las víctimas de los incendios forestales del sur de California. Como puede ver en el informe de la colecta semanal, recaudamos más de \$4300. ¡Una vez más, gracias!



Día del Presidente

La misa del lunes, Día del Presidente, será a las 9:00 a. m. La oficina parroquial estará cerrada en conmemoración del día festivo.

Apelación Diocesana Anual: Informe #2

Gracias a todos los que están haciendo que este sea otro año exitoso para nuestros esfuerzos parroquiales en la ADA. Actualmente, hemos recibido \$72,069 de un total de 108 promesas y donaciones. Si aún no ha podido participar en la Apelación de este año, todavía tenemos un largo camino por recorrer para alcanzar nuestra meta de \$200,000.



Planeado con Anticipación... Los viernes de Cuaresma, a partir del 7 de marzo, organizaremos una "Cena de sopa" a las 6:30 p. m., seguida del Vía Crucis en la iglesia a las 7:30 p. m. Pronto les daremos más detalles. Si puede marcar su calendario ahora, esperamos que pueda unirse a nosotros para esta forma adicional de mejorar nuestra observancia de la Cuaresma.

Carta del Papa Francisco a los Obispos de Estados Unidos sobre Inmigración

El Santo Papa Francisco envió esta carta a los Obispos de los Estados Unidos de América sobre la nueva póliza de inmigración el 11 de febrero del 2025. La carta está en la página de alado.

Queridos hermanos en el episcopado:

Les dirijo unas palabras, en estos delicados momentos que viven como Pastores del Pueblo de Dios que camina en los Estados Unidos de América.

1.El itinerario de la esclavitud a la libertad que el Pueblo de Israel recorrió, tal y como lo narra el libro del Éxodo, nos invita a mirar la realidad de nuestro tiempo, tan claramente marcada por el fenómeno de la migración, como un momento decisivo de la Historia para reafirmar no sólo nuestra fe en un Dios siempre cercano, encarnado, migrante y refugiado, sino la dignidad infinita y trascendente de toda persona humana. [1]

2.Estas palabras con las que comienzo no están articuladas artificialmente. Incluso un examen somero de la Doctrina social de la Iglesia exhibe con gran fuerza que Jesucristo es el verdadero Emanuel (cf.Mt1,23), por lo que no ha vivido al margen de la experiencia difícil de ser expulsado de su propia tierra a causa de un inminente riesgo de vida, y de la experiencia de tener que refugiarse en una sociedad y en una cultura ajenas a las propias. El Hijo de Dios, al hacerse hombre, también eligió vivir el drama de la inmigración. Me gusta recordar, entre otras, las palabras con las que el Papa Pío XII iniciaba su Constitución apostólica sobre el cuidado de los migrantes, que se considera como la carta magna del pensamiento de la Iglesia sobre las migraciones:

«La familia de Nazaret en exilio, Jesús, María y José, emigrantes en Egipto y allí refugiados para sustraerse a la ira de un rey impío, son el modelo, el ejemplo y el consuelo de los emigrantes y peregrinos de cada época y país, de todos los prófugos de cualquier condición que, acuciados por las persecuciones o por la necesidad, se ven obligados a abandonar la patria, la amada familia y los amigos entrañables para dirigirse a tierras extranjeras».[2]

3.Asimismo, Jesucristo, amando a todos con un amor universal, nos educa en el reconocimiento permanente de la dignidad de cada ser humano, sin excepción. De hecho, cuando hablamos de “dignidad infinita y trascendente”, queremos subrayar que el valor más decisivo que posee la persona humana, rebasa y sostiene toda otra consideración de carácter jurídico que pueda hacerse para regular la vida en sociedad. Por lo tanto, todos los fieles cristianos y los hombres de buena voluntad, estamos llamados a mirar la legitimidad de las normas y de las políticas públicas a la luz de la dignidad de la persona y sus derechos fundamentales, no viceversa.

4.He seguido con atención la importante crisis que está teniendo lugar en los Estados Unidos con motivo del inicio de un programa de deportaciones masivas. La conciencia rectamente formada no puede dejar de realizar un juicio crítico y expresar su desacuerdo con cualquier medida que identifique, de manera tácita o explícita, la condición ilegal de algunos migrantes con la criminalidad. Al mismo tiempo, se debe reconocer el derecho de una nación a defenderse y mantener a sus comunidades a salvo de aquellos que han cometido crímenes violentos o graves mientras están en el país o antes de llegar. Dicho esto, el acto de deportar personas que en muchos casos han dejado su propia tierra por motivos de pobreza extrema, de inseguridad, de explotación, de persecución o por el grave deterioro del medio ambiente, lastima la dignidad de muchos hombres y mujeres, de familias enteras, y los coloca en un estado de especial vulnerabilidad e indefensión.

5.Esta cuestión no es menor: un auténtico estado de derecho se verifica precisamente en el trato digno que merecen todas las personas, en especial, los más pobres y marginados. El verdadero bien común se promueve cuando la sociedad y el gobierno, con creatividad y respeto estricto al derecho de todos —como he afirmado en numerosas ocasiones—, acogen, protegen, promueven e integran a los más frágiles, desprotegidos y vulnerables. Esto no obsta para promover la maduración de una política que regule la migración ordenada y legal. Sin embargo, la mencionada “maduración” no puede construirse a través del privilegio de unos y el sacrificio de otros. Lo que se construye a base de fuerza, y no a partir de la verdad sobre la igual dignidad de todo ser humano, mal comienza y mal terminará.

6.Los cristianos sabemos muy bien que, sólo afirmando la dignidad infinita de todos, nuestra propia identidad como personas y como comunidades alcanza su madurez. El amor cristiano no es una expansión concéntrica de intereses que poco a poco se amplían a otras personas y grupos. Dicho de otro modo: ¡La persona humana no es un mero individuo, relativamente expansivo, con algunos sentimientos filantrópicos! La persona humana es un sujeto con dignidad que, a través de la relación constitutiva con todos, en especial con los más pobres, puede gradualmente madurar en su identidad y vocación. El verdadero amor es preciso promover, es el que descubrimos meditando constantemente en la parábola del “buen samaritano” (cf.Lc10,25-37), es decir, meditando en el amor que construye una fraternidad abierta a todos, sin excepción.[3]

7.Preocuparse por la identidad personal, comunitaria o nacional, al margen de estas consideraciones, fácilmente introduce un criterio ideológico que distorsiona la vida social e impone la voluntad del más fuerte como criterio de verdad.

8.Reconozco el valioso esfuerzo de ustedes, queridos obispos de Estados Unidos, cuando trabajan de manera cercana con los migrantes y refugiados, anunciando a Jesucristo y promoviendo los derechos humanos fundamentales. ¡Dios premiará abundantemente todo lo que hagan a favor de la protección y defensa de quienes son considerados menos valiosos, menos importantes o menos humanos!

9.Exhorto a todos los fieles de la Iglesia católica, y a todos los hombres y mujeres de buena voluntad, a no ceder ante las narrativas que discriminan y hacen sufrir innecesariamente a nuestros hermanos migrantes y refugiados. Con caridad y claridad todos estamos llamados a vivir en solidaridad y fraternidad, a construir puentes que nos acerquen cada vez más, a evitar muros de ignominia, y a aprender a dar la vida como Jesucristo la ofrendó, para la salvación de todos.

10.Pidamos a la Santísima Virgen María de Guadalupe que proteja a las personas y a las familias que viven con temor o con dolor la migración y/o la deportación. Que la “Virgen morena”, que supo reconciliar a los pueblos cuando estaban enemistados, nos conceda a todos reencontrarnos como hermanos, al interior de su abrazo, y dar así un paso adelante en la construcción de una sociedad más fraterna, incluyente y respetuosa de la dignidad de todos.

Fraternalmente,
Francisco



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