Pastor’s Corner

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, a special opportunity to reflect on Christ’s selfless love for us, the sheep of his flock.

In the gospel according to St. John chapter 10, Christ paints a vivid picture of a good shepherd. The shepherd leads the sheep out to distant pastures and stays there with them for days. He lives with them and shares their lives with them. A good shepherd is one who is present to his sheep; he is with them always.

Using the crude stones of the field, the shepherd puts together a temporary corral, a pen, to keep the sheep in when they are not grazing. At night he lays his body down in the entrance of this corral, making himself the gate. No sheep could wander away at night unless they stepped over the sleeping shepherd, and no wolf could come in to do harm without waking the shepherd. The Good Shepherd is the gate. Because he lives with the sheep day and night, because he protects them, they know him, recognize his voice, the sound of his footsteps, and they follow him. A good shepherd puts himself in harm’s way to protect his sheep and never runs away from danger, thereby making his sheep safe.

This wonderful portrait of a shepherd caring for his sheep is what the gospel of St. John tells us about Jesus. He loved being among the people—no wonder, then, that a truly good shepherd “smells like his sheep” (thank you for that insight, Pope Francis!). Whenever he saw people coming towards him, Christ’s heart was filled with compassion. It is this that made him heal wounds and warm hearts; he did this by his teaching and preaching, by his miracles and signs.

More than anything else, the goal of the shepherd is to protect the sheep. This is how you know a good shepherd from a bad one. Does the Shepherd—the leader—have the best interests of his flock—the people—at heart? Does he care for all his sheep and tend to those who are weak? Christ would say, “I came that you may have life and have it in abundance,” and again he would say, “I came not to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many”. Christ identifies himself as our Good Shepherd by “becoming the Lamb of God” for us. He would literally put himself in harm’s way and die that we might live.

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We can take comfort in being the flock of Christ, the Good Shepherd. We can look up to Him, we can be confident that He is looking out for our best interests, and we know that He will never disappoint us. May we be tended to and protected by Him, and in our own turn, may we continue his work by growing to be good shepherds ourselves.

Grateful to be with you as your pastor,

Fr. William Rosario

Pray, Always Pray.

May is a Marian Month and Pope Francis notes that it is a tradition to pray the Rosary at home with the family during this month. This year, he continues, “the restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this ‘family’ aspect”. Please join Fr. William (via YouTube or link from our website) each morning in praying the Rosary before the daily Mass (also via YouTube or our website link).

Parish Office & Staff Contact Information

Parish Office: Monday– Friday. 8:30am - 4:30pm
Closed 12:00pm -1:00pm
Phone: (925) 939-7911   Fax: (925) 939-0450

Pastor:
Rev. William Rosario (Ext. 105) frwilliam@sjvianney.org
Deacon:
Herb Casey (Ext. 0) staff@sjvianney.org
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Liz Rogers (Ext. 125) lrogers@sjvianney.org
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Shannon Rogers (Ext. 109) srogers@sjvianney.org
Director of Youth Ministry
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Director of Sacred Music:
Charlene Abellana (Ext. 107) charlene@sjvianney.org
Faith Formation Secretary
Jennifer DiSalvo (Ext 124) jdisalvo@sjvianney.org
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Maryanne Richards (Ext 0) mrichards@sjvianney.org
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Indira Pethebridge (Ext 120) indira@sjvianney.org
       staff@sjvianney.org to reach:
Debbie, Jennifer, Maryanne & Indira as a group

Pray for the Sick

May those who are in need of our prayers, place their trust and faith in the comforting presence of the Lord

Mollie Albrezzi, Jim Altomare, Bob Ambrose, Gloria Armstrong, Larry Balbierz, Brad Bates, Helen Barnes, Marilyn Benson, Lilliam Bojorge, Jay & Diane Caldis, Bill Calicura, Jack Kay Caloway, Bill Carley, Priscilo Castro, Pam Chamblin, Jack Cherian, Mel Chew, Robert Clark, Rosemary Click, Stephen Coghlan, Roger Colton, CeCe Coulter, Barbara Quevedo Davis, Frank Delia, Alexa Despens, Margaret Earnest, Joyce Fellows, Judy Finch, Theresa Flora, Angela Harfouche, Melissa Heitkamp, George Heuga, Tom Hickey, Carolyn Hiland, Sara Hovorka, Kevin Huang, Laura Johnson, Norm Mark Jokerst, Cynthia King, Ramon Llenado, Lauren Loftin, Jack & Barbara Malan, Pasquale Martirani, Bob Mason, Kevin Matthews, Emma Mendelsohn, Nancy Mitchell, John Mulane, Sarah Murtagh, Ray Nann, Ann Narloch, Nancy O’Keefe, Pete & Daisy Pedersen, Sofia Pella, Fran Perry, Pete Plastow, Mike Pollard, John Quintanilla, Bill Peggy Ragsdale, Shannon Reilly, Marsha Rocha, Randy Rudd, Joanne Rupert, Albert Sarkis, Ihab Samaha, Pat Schneider, Agnes Rowan Scholl, Pat Scott, Dona Smith, Janette Starke, Guy Stokes, Kelsie Surface, Terry Tanner, Virginia Taylor, Mariae Tumelty, Kellee Turner, Sharla Vohs, Bob Volpi, Phyllis Williams, Stephanie Ziesel

Pray for the Deceased

Let us remember those from our parish family who have died recently and returned to the Lord. We give thanks for their lives and offer comfort to their families.

Andrew Belasco, Eleanor Cook, Stacey Cortez, Suzanne Davidovac, Geraldine Krenzelok

St. John Vianney Intentional Giving

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, “leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf.”

Collection as of April 26, 2020

Plate Collections including mailed checks $ 6,190.00
Online Donations $ 2,833.00
Total Collections $ 9,023.00
Weekly Goal $19,115.00
Shortfall $(10,092.00)
Year to date shortfall $(20,571.60)
Easter (to date) $31,371.50
Weekly Meeting Schedule

Given the Shelter in Place mandate from the Bay Area County Officials, all meetings, Masses and gatherings are suspended. The order has been extended to at least May 3.
Once we have more information and are able to gather we will post the Weekly Meeting Schedule.

Special Notice from Bishop Barber

In collaboration with local Bay Area officials and in service to the common good of our communities and our country, the Diocese of Oakland is immediately putting into effect the following actions:
All public Masses are suspended
Information on online daily Masses can be found at https://www.oakdiocese.org/response-to-coronavirus-pandemic
All other events at parishes and schools are postponed, rescheduled or canceled until further notice.
In issuing these new guidelines Bishop Michael Barber stated, “Our Lady, Health of the Sick, has always come to the aid of the Church in times of plague, pestilence and danger. Let us pray to her to intercede for us with her Son.”

St. John Vianney Church

Contra Costa County issued a New Shelter Order that requires specific Social Distancing Protocols for facilities to remain open. As a result, we regret to inform you that we are unable to keep the Church open for visitation and prayer. We want to insure that we comply with the County’s efforts to keep everyone healthy during this Shelter at Home period to limit the spread of the Coronavirus
St. John Vianney Parish Community remains committed to connecting with our parishioners as we all stay at home to protect and safeguard ourselves, our families and those in our community. We are grateful to our doctors, nurses and emergency first-responders in our neighborhood as we do our part to reduce their burden

Printed Copies of the Bulletin

Do you know someone who would like to read a printed copy of the bulletin? Perhaps they don’t have online access or find it difficult to read on a computer screen. Please send an email, including name and address to staff@sjvianney.org and we will be happy to drop off or mail a copy to them.

Mass Schedule

Sun. May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter;
Public Masses Suspended, Mass will be taped or live streamed
Sunday Masses: Suspended
Sunday Mass Intentions: Mike McLaughlin, Regina Sandor and William Lilla

Mon. May 4, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Josefina Lingao

Tues. May 5, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Angelo Dimech

Wed. May 6, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Marc Sievers

Thurs. May 7, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Alfonso Santos Sr.

Fri. May 8, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Eve Clayton

Sat. May 9, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Claudia Siasat
†Sunday Vigil Liturgy: 5:00pm Saturday, Mass Suspended
5:00 In Memory Nancy Otchy
Vigil Mass Intention will be included with Sunday intentions

Sun. May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter;
Public Masses Suspended, Mass will be taped or live streamed
Sunday Masses: Suspended
Sunday Mass Intentions: Geraldine Pugh, Burt Hite and John Blake

Per the Shelter in Place Mandate Public Masses are suspended. Fr. William will be saying private Mass daily and remembering your loved ones in his intentions

After God, we should have a great confidence in the Blessed Mother of Jesus, who is so good...

St. John Vianney
Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
My Jesus, come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

We hope you will use this prayer for Spiritual Communion when you are watching a Mass on TV or a taped Mass.

Grief Workshops

The Grief Workshops will be moving online during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order.

If you would like to attend, and you are not currently on the email distribution list, please email or phone Jerry Mellin at jerryfmellin@gmail.com or 925-787-8865. Jerry will then provide the latest information about how to connect (we are not posting the information in the bulletin as it may change). Please also be aware that the time may vary slightly to accommodate heavy network traffic. Ideally, you would get yourself on the distribution list so you can receive up-to-date information.

Grief Workshops are on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:15pm (May 11 & 25). The Loss of a Child Workshop is on the second Saturday of each month at 10:15am (May 9).

For more information please call Jerry (925) 787-8865

All are welcome.

Are You Struggling?

These are most unusual times that call upon us to reach out in ways we may not have needed or thought of before. Despite strong faith, many of us struggle with loneliness, isolation, loss of social contact, difficulty deciding how to fill our time, among other struggles that may have arisen during this pandemic.

Our SJV Community has parishioners who are also clinicians who can assist on an informal, strictly confidential basis during our time of crisis. Anyone desiring to check in with one of us, please give the office a call at (925) 939-7911 and select option 0. There is no cost to parishioners.

Alpha Youth Zoom Meetings

Do you have questions about life that keep surfacing? Questions like; what is my purpose? Why am I here? Have you ever taken time to talk with your peers about these questions?

The Alpha film series provides that opportunity. Although we can't meet in person, we can get together online via Zoom and talk about these questions and other topics as well.

Join with several other like minded seekers and believers. Invite your friends to come on a journey of faith, fun and adventure. Meet new friends and connect with current ones.

These are peer led Alpha’s - peers just like you are waiting for you to participate.

Middle School meets Thursdays at 4:00pm starting April 23rd
College age meets Wednesdays at 7pm Starting April 29th
High school is coming soon - email to register, see below.

We can't wait to meet you!
Email mlee@sjvianney.org for the link to join

Subscribe to St. John Vianney YouTube

In order for St. John Vianney to livestream (in real time), our YouTube Channel has to reach 1,000 YouTube Subscribers. This way, when Fr. William goes live on the church, you will be able to follow along as opposed to seeing a pre-recorded video.

You will be notified any time Fr. William and St. John Vianney Church goes live. No more waiting for a Flocknote email and missing your chance to follow along.

Step 1: Search for St. John Vianney Catholic Church in YouTube or follow the below link. https://bit.ly/2y5hsOl
Step 2: Click on the Red Subscribe Button
Step 3: That’s it. It’s as easy as that! The subscribe button will turn grey to confirm that you have subscribed to the channel.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 3

The message from Pope Francis on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

“The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.”
Suggestions for Combatting Boredom

While we are under the shelter in place notice we want to provide you with a list of activities and resources to enrich your mind as well as your soul. Please feel free to send us an email if you have other suggestions to share staff@sjvianney.org

Art at Home https://artfulparent.com/top-10-art-activities-for-kids/. Art projects for the kids using things you probably already have at home. The DIY Marbled Paper tutorial and directions looks so cool. How fun would this be to make and then write notes to family and friends. A quick search on YouTube may also yield some fun projects.

Fun at the App store - Waterlogue App allows you to change a photo into a Watercolor. Has anyone done this yet? No Apple devices in my home but we would love to see your designs. Please email us at staff@sjvianney.org

Check out some of the family obstacle courses on YouTube and recreate or create your own for a family competition.

Is there a driveway or sidewalk in front of your home? Create a chalk art work or chalk challenge course. Talk to your friends in the neighborhood (by phone, skype or zoom) and see if they can do one also. This way when you or others on your block are out for a walk you can have some fun.

Free things to do from home.

Learn a new skill. Don't put too much pressure on yourself to be productive but if there is something you have been putting off due to lack of time now might be a good chance.

Could it be learning a new language? Duolingo is a free site https://www.duolingo.com/

What about testing new recipes or teaching a family member to cook? Or calling a loved one for a favorite family recipe. Cooking something from our youth can evoke such wonderful memories. When my nephew was stationed overseas I created a scrapbook with all his favorite family recipes on removeable cards (made it easier to take to the store when shopping). It gave him a taste of home 8,000 miles away.

Plant Heroes is a spot for young gardeners & naturalists or teachers looking for online content about plants and nature. https://plantheheroes.org/ Choose student or teacher and get started.

Have children create a journal of life right now. Record day to day activities, fears, and feelings about life during the shelter in place. Include drawings, pictures and even video if that is their preferred media. Let them interview you and anyone else in the household. The children can also interview grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors (by telephone or video chat). Help them create a tangible primary source of their own history. When this is all over keep the journal for them so that one day they can share with their children and grandchildren about their own place in history.

Prayer Resources

As we turn to individual prayer, here are some resources with videos and readings so that you can experience prayers in your home.

Marlene Lee, our Director of Youth Ministry has Alpha for Youth beginning now. There are groups for Middle School, High School and College age students. Simply email Marlene at milee@sjvianney.org to get started.

Catholic Mega App this is an app that can be loaded onto your smart phone that has the Stations in prayer and video. You can download the app from the Apple App store.

Catholic.org: this site has materials and videos. The website is https://www.catholic.org/covid19/

Mycatholic.life: this website has many resources for prayer https://mycatholic.life/daily-reflections/ This will take you directly to their daily reflections page.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org). The website http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/index.cfm will take you directly to their prayer and worship page.

Loyola Press: https://www.loyolapress.com/ Loyola Press has 3-Minute Retreats and Sunday Connection. The Sunday Connection offers children’s activities by grade.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd https://www.cgsusa.org/ has parent resources and articles about children’s spirituality.

Catholic Icing https://www.catholicicing.com/ this website offers resources for parents and children


Just for Teens: https://lifeteen.com/ Resources and inspiration includes a link to a series of global Life Nights.

Family Resources

Catholic Mom: http://catholicmom.com/ This website offers Spiritual resources as well as family and fun activities. Such as Book Clubs, Tech Talks, Fitness. They also have a daily Gospel reflections, Sunday Gospel activities and a Sunday Facebook Live recitation of the Rosary.

Formed https://formed.org/ Access to more than 600 videos, movies and resources from more than 50 Catholic contributors.

Youcat.org https://www.youcat.org/daily#appLink Keep growing in the faith with a daily 5 minute dose of the Holy Gospel

The Vatican has put out a beautiful online prayer book. You can access the English version by copying this link to your browser. https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf
May 3, 2020

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the faithful last week (April 25) asking that we pray the Rosary every day during the month of May. A month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In his letter he also provided two prayers to Our Lady that we can recite at the end of the Rosary. The Pope will be joining us spiritually in praying the Rosary each day.

His letter states: Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

First Prayer after the Rosary

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer after the Rosary

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.