**Pastor’s Corner**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As much as we believe and rejoice in the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ, we are celebrating Easter tidings in unprecedented and challenging times. Our Lenten journey this year was marked by unexpected and unwelcome penances that we did not sign up for, and these penances have continued through Easter and beyond. We always trust in Jesus and His promise to be with us, and we remember his reassuring words: “Do not be afraid”.

The pandemic has had many effects. It has, first, taken from us some of our loved ones. Many of us have felt ourselves or been touched by the suffering of so many elderly and sick people. At the same time, we have seen the courage, strength, and resilience of many of our first responders, doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel, and so many more who are considered essential workers. This has moved us to feel and express a gratitude which was perhaps overdue and which we should remember to continue to express in the future. So, we mourn our beloved dead, we continue to pray for the sick among us, and we thank those who help bravely.

Our spiritual life, too, has changed. Our parish church and many others have had to close the doors to our parishioners. How painful this is to all of us, who feel that the Church is a “second home” in so many ways, and the place where we receive the sacraments. I’m happy to say that, with respect to the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, we did come up with creative ways to make them available to our parishioners. Last weekend, we had “Drive-up Eucharist,” something that I never thought would happen in my wildest dreams! This would not have been possible without our committed Staff and Ministers.

Please allow me to reflect on that for a moment. The sacraments are indeed the way that Christ chose to remain in our lives and the way that we continue to experience His presence and work among us. Nothing can replace that for us. It is most especially true for the Eucharist, where Jesus is truly and substantially present to us so that we experience Him in a unique and irreplaceable way.

The closing of our churches has been unavoidable because of the Shelter-in-Place Order. Though there are some who doubt and even publicly speak out against the decisions made to close churches and maintain social distancing, please know that decisions like these have not been taken lightly.

Continued on back page
May 17, 2020

St. John Vianney Intentional Giving

Jesus’ commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself—my skills and talents, my time and resources—will best demonstrate my love for God’s people?

Collection as of May 10, 2020

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Pray, Always Pray.

May is the month of Mary, a Marian Month and Pope Francis notes that it is a tradition to pray the Rosary at home with the family during this month. 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
Pastoral Associate for Administration:
Debbie Mellin (Ext. 103) dmellin@sjvianney.org
Pastoral Associate for Parish Faith Formation:
Liz Rogers (Ext. 125) lrogers@sjvianney.org
Pastoral Associate for Family Based Faith Formation:
Shannon Rogers (Ext. 109) srogers@sjvianney.org
Director of Youth Ministry:
Marlene Lee (Ext. 108) mlee@sjvianney.org
Director of Sacred Music:
Charlene Abellana (Ext. 107) charlene@sjvianney.org
Faith Formation Secretary:
Jennifer DiSalvo (Ext 124) jdisalvo@sjvianney.org
Parish Secretary:
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 Altmare, Bob Ambrose, Gloria Armstrong, Larry Balbierz, Brad Bates, Helen Barnes, Marilyn Benson, Lilliam Bojorge, Jay & Diane Caldis, Bill Calicura, Jack & Kay Calloway, 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 Despins, Margaret Earnest, Joyce Fellows, Judy Finch, Theresa Flora, Angela Harfouche, Melissa Heitkamp, George Heuga, Tom Hickey, Jerry Hicks, Carolyn Hiland, Sara Hovorka, Kevin Huang, Norm & Mark Jekerst, Cynthia King, Ramon Llenado, Lauren Loftin, Jack & Barbara Malan, Pasquale Martirani, Bob Mason, Kevin Matthews, Emma Mendelsson, Nancy Mitchell, John Mulane, Sarah Murtagh, Ray Nann, Ann Narloch, Nancy O’Keefe, Jennifer Dugan Ottow, 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, Terry Tanner, Virginia Taylor, Mariae Tumelty, Kellee Turner, Shara Vohs, Bob Volpi, Richard Walsh, 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.


Eucharistic Adoration on YouTube

Eucharistic Adoration & Worship each Friday evening at 7pm on our YouTube channel. Join us in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Gather together as a family to pray for healing in the world, and in our hearts. You can visit our website for a link or use this https://bit.ly/2y5hsOl to get to the St. John Vianney YouTube channel.
Weekly Meeting Schedule

Given the Shelter in Place mandate from the Bay Area County Officials, all meetings, Masses and gatherings are suspended for the time being.

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. Thank you.

Mass Schedule

Sun. May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter;
Public Masses Suspended, Mass will be taped or live streamed
Sunday Masses: Suspended
Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 / 1pt 3:15-18 / Jn 14:15-21
Sunday Mass Intentions: Mariani & Anneke Go; Lloyd Tanner and Ronaldo Visperas

Mon. May 18, 2020 †St. John I, Pope, Martyr
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
Readings: Acts 16:11-15 / Jn 16:5-11
8:30am In Memory of Inocentes Seraspe

Tues. May 19, 2020 †St. Bernardine of Siena
†Daily Mass Public Mass Suspended
Readings: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 / Jn 16:12-15
8:30am In Memory of Philomena Loeper

Thurs. May 21, 2020 †St. Christopher Magallanesm, Priest and Companions, Martyrs
†Daily Mass Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Maria & Salvatore Durante

Fri. May 22, 2020 †St. Rita of Cascia
†Daily Mass Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Albina & Joseph Caimotto

Sat. May 23, 2020
†Daily Mass: Public Mass Suspended
8:30am In Memory of Elisa Guimera Sorbito
†Sunday Vigil Liturgy: 5:00pm Saturday, Mass Suspended
5:00 In Memory of Yolanda Jubina
Vigil Mass Intention will be included with Sunday intentions

Sun. May 24, 2020 The Ascension of the Lord;
Public Masses Suspended, Mass will be taped or live streamed
Sunday Masses: Suspended
Sunday Mass Intentions: Daniel Cruz, Mary Baker O’Keefe and Christina Moser

Per the Shelter in Place Mandate Public Masses are suspended. Fr. William will be saying Mass daily and remembering your loved ones in his intentions, You can watch the Mass through our website or on YouTube.

Drive thru Communion will be distributed in front of the Church on Saturday evenings 6 to 7pm and Sunday Mornings from 10:00 to 10:45am. Please drive up from the Marchbanks entrance. We ask that everyone in the car wear a mask. Eucharist will be distributed in the hand. Thank you.
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.

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.

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.

Food for the Hungry

May 20th, Noon-2pm

The Youth groups will be hosting a drive by food drop for Loaves and Fishes May 20th from noon-2pm in the lower parking lot. (where the Faith Formation Building is located) The next time you make a trip to the grocery store please pick up some non-perishable items to donate to the food drive. If you prefer not to shop and would like to make a financial contribution please copy this link to your browser: https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E345720&id=20

Items needed the most (Please no expired items).

- Peanut Butter
- Pasta and Pasta sauce
- Rice and beans
- Mac and Cheese for the kids
- Any boxed foods
- Snack bars and snacks
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Snack cups, fruit or pudding
- Any other non-perishable canned foods such as canned tuna, chicken, hearty soups

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
College age meets Wednesdays at 7pm
High school meets Mondays from 8pm-9pm.

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

**Common Sense Media** is a resource for creative Apps for children, Find them at https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/apps-for-making-art

**Hello Wonderful** has lots of categories to explore: A few that I found were Create - Set up an outdoor movie night and make pebble rock art. Eat - Spring Flower pancakes (using cut up fruit). Play - balloon tennis game and Minute to win it games. Find Hello Wonderful at https://www.hellowonderful.co/

Learn something new. 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/

Unable to attend your usual Yoga studio for classes? Check out https://www.doyogawithme.com/yoga-classes-alphabetical

They have an entire range of practices for free and you can choose your class length and focus.

**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.

**Assistant Resources**

If you know someone in need of food assistance due to loss of income or illness there are several resources in our area.

Food Bank of Contra Costa (925) 676-7543
Monument Crisis Center (925) 825-7751
CalFresh online applications https://www.foodbankccs.org/get-help/califresh.html

There is also a Contra Costa food mapping tool to locate food banks/distribution sites and it is accessible from any mobile device https://cocogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fea1f3021a50455495b7e7e11325ecd4

**Family and 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 all things Catholic. Come to the app daily for daily mass readings and common prayers. The app also features a digital bead counting Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. 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.

**Catechism 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

**Vencuentro** https://vencuentro.org/resources-for-ministry-during-covid-19-outbreak/ Comprehensive resource with inspiration, activities, enrichment and prayers with something for everyone.

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

**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
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Thank You
Celebrate & Welcome

We joyfully welcome into our Church family

Simone Kensington Narbaitz daughter of Jamison & Claire

who was baptized this weekend, May 17

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.

May the Lord, who is Mercy Itself, lead us out of this difficult time and into a time of good health and new life.

The month of May is dedicated to honoring our Blessed Mother. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked us to pray the Rosary most fervently this month for an end to this pandemic. We place our trust in the intercession of Mother Mary and our patron, St. John Vianney. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us! St. John Vianney, pray for us!

United with you in prayer,
Fr. William Rosario

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the faithful on 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.

Join us Sunday mornings to watch the Children's Liturgy of the Word on our YouTube channel. Share this experience of prayer with your family as we reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading.

We have had to resort to these desperate measures to prevent the spread of disease and the further loss of life. Life is God’s great gift and we must protect it.

That is why our church, like other churches in our Diocese, will remain closed until it is safe to reopen them, a decision that will be made by the Diocese in conjunction with public health and civil authorities. When our churches do reopen, unfortunately, we will not be able to resume church life as we enjoyed it before. There will be changes to keep everyone healthy and safe, as the Covid-19 virus remains a threat. We will respond as always, as faithful People of God, to the challenges placed before us. I ask that we all strive to understand, to adapt, and to rise up to these challenges.

As we work on our plans to reopen our church for worship, the Pastoral Leadership of clergy and laity would like to hear from you about issues you would like us to consider. In particular, what will make you and your families feel safe and secure as you return to participate in the liturgical worship? We’re aware that you may be in touch with family and friends across the country or the globe from whom you may have heard about good practices that they may have been using while reopening their churches. Kindly email your thoughts and suggestions to staff@sjvianney.org

I want to thank our staff, who have quickly learned new ways to minister to you, such as the streamed masses, Flocknotes, homilies, talks, and various other engaging events online that all help us remain close as the parish families we are and keep our spirits lifted as joy-filled Christians.

We continue to pray for our beloved dead, may they rest in peace. And we pray for the sick that they will experience the presence of Christ the Healer. We also pray for our government leaders, for our dedicated first responders, doctors, nurses, medical personnel, funeral directors, and essential workers, and for the clergy and religious of our Diocese, and for us all. May the Lord, who is Mercy Itself, lead us out of this difficult time and into a time of good health and new life.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Join us Sunday mornings to watch the Children’s Liturgy of the Word on our YouTube channel. Share this experience of prayer with your family as we reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading.