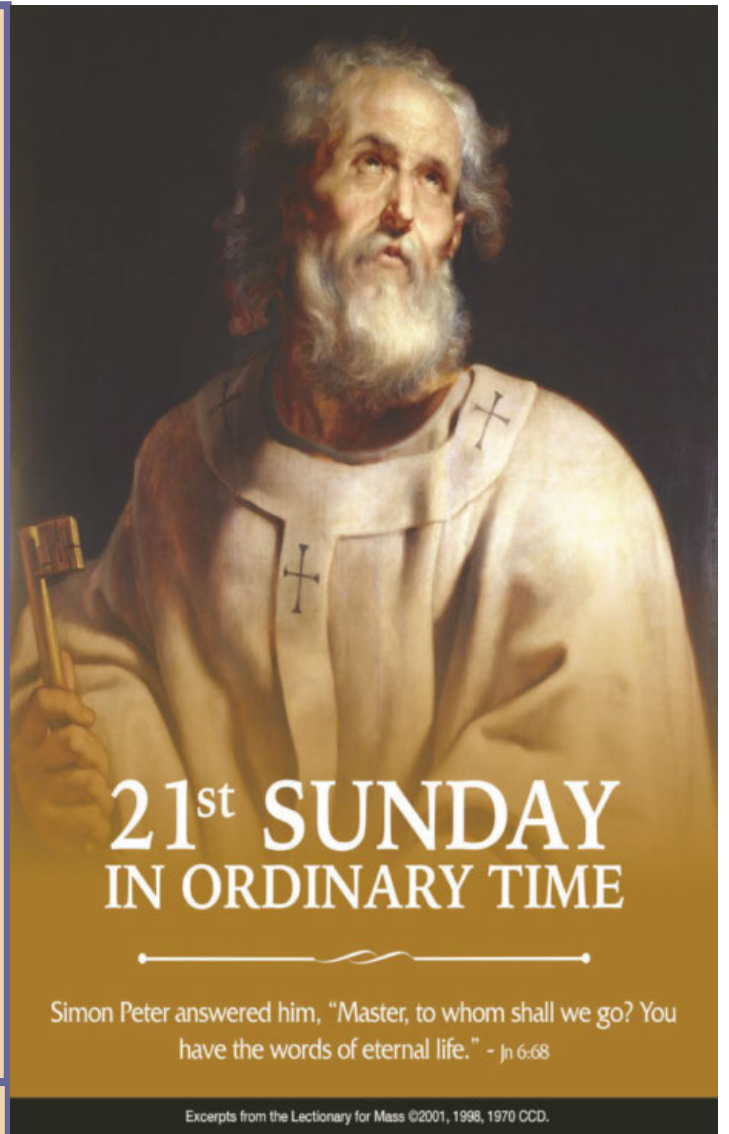


Welcome to St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church  
August 25, 2024

- ◆ Next Faith Formation Registration days:  
August 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
August 27, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
August 29, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Pastoral Commissioning Mass of Rev. Timothy Do; September 4, 2024  
Mass at 4 p.m. Reception after Mass in DiLeo Hall. See page 4 and 5 for more information.
- ◆ First Friday Adoration: September 6, 2024, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass and until 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ Women's Guild "Mad Hatter Tea Party" on September 19 at 11 a.m. in Di Leo Hall



**ADDRESS: 41875 "C" Street, Temecula, California 92592**

**WEBSITE:**  
**stcatherineofalexandria.net**  
**Contact the Parish Office**  
**951 676 4403 or email:**  
**[scatemecula@sbdiocese.org](mailto:scatemecula@sbdiocese.org)**

**FRONT OFFICE HOURS**  
**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**  
**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.**  
**Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 PM**

**CONFESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY**  
**AT 2:30 P.M.**

Mission Statement

*By promoting the teachings of Jesus, St. Catherine of Alexandria welcomes all people to share in our blessed sacraments to strengthen and inspire our faith, to bring all closer in relationship to Jesus and creating friendship and unity in ethnic groups and committees as we walk in His footsteps daily.*

**What do you want us to pray for?**  
**Que necesitas? que nosotros oremos por**

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La declaración de la misión

*Al promover las enseñanzas de Jesús, Santa Catalina de Alejandría da la bienvenida a todas las personas a compartir nuestros santos sacramentos para fortalecer e inspirar nuestra fe, para acercar a todos a Jesús y crear una amistad y unidad en grupos étnicos y comités mientras caminamos en sus pasos todos los días.*

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday**

**Vigil 4:00 PM (English)**

**6:30 PM (Spanish)**

**Sunday**

**8:00 AM (English)**

**10:00 AM (English)**

**12:00 PM (English)**

**2:00 PM (Spanish)**

**5:00 PM (English)**

**5:00 PM (Korean Mass on**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays-Di Leo Hall)**

**Weekday Mass Times**

**Monday through Friday**

**7:30 AM (English)**

**Thursday 6:30 PM (Spanish) & Adoration**

**Priests**

Pastor	Rev. Timothy Do
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Emmanuel Azudiugwu
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Alexander Ospina
Priest in Residence	Rev. Anthony Dao

**Deacons**

Deacon Eduardo Baltodano	951 676-4403
Deacon John Gabriele	951 440-2068
Deacon Francisco Meza	760 535 6350
Deacon Efen Ramirez	951 676 4403 (Retired Deacon)
Deacon Armando Servin	951 676 4403(Retired Deacon)

**Parish Directory**

Pastoral Care Coordinator	Ryan Kleinvachter ryankleinvachter@sbdiocese.org	
Director Of Liturgy	Yolanda Ortiz y.ortiz@sbdiocese.org	695-6657
Parish Accountant	Jeckie Alcaraz jalcaraz@sbdiocese.org	695-6658
Bulletin Editor/and Office Administrator	Mary Hitzeman mhitzeman@sbdiocese.org	676-8136

**Parish Councils**

Pastoral Council	Renee' Micallef	676-4403
Finance Council	Ernie Cruz	676-4403
Ministry Council	John Bryant, Interim Ivan Vela	676-4403

**Ministerios En Espanol**

Coordinadora de Ministerios Hispanos	Aida Baltazar abaltazar@sbdiocce.org	225-6203
Eucaristia	Maria Altamirano	676-5747
Bautizos	Aida Baltazar	225-6203
Lectores	Amado Garcia	(760) 579-3220
Movimiento Familiar	Wilfredo and Lourdes Martinez	216-0157 239-8907
Caritas Asesoramiento Uncion De Los Enfermos		909-763-4970 #449
Grupo De Oracion de Renovacion Carismatica		526-7521

Ujieres	Aida Baltazar	225-6203
Clases Pre-matrimoniales	Todos diacones	
Consejeria Matrimonial	Todos diacones	
	Anulamiento	Todos diacones

**TO REPORT THE  
SEXUAL ABUSE OF A  
CHILD**

by a priest, deacon,  
employee, or volunteer, call  
the toll free *Sexual  
Misconduct Hotline*  
1-888-206-9090

**PARA REPORT EL ABUSO SEXUAL  
DE UN MENOR**

por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, emplea-  
do o voluntario,  
llame a la *Linea Directa de Conducta  
Sexual Inapropiada*  
al 1-888-206-9090

**Faith Formation/Catechetical Ministry**

Director	Sharla Ortiz sortiz@sbdiocese.org	676-2894
Coordinator	Aida Baltazar abaltazar@sbdiocese.org	225-6203
RCIA and RCIC	Aida Baltazar abaltazar@sbdiocese.org	226-6203

**Liturgical / Worship Ministries**

Altar Servers	Aida Baltazar	225-6203
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Sipkoi	949-533-5515
Readers	Ivan Vela/Ernie Cruz	676-4403
Art & Env. Banners	John & Laura Johnson	303-1859
And Decorations	Jill Gonzales	471-2692
M3	Nick Ventrone	775-3739
Master of Ceremonies	Ryan Kleinvachter	551-4814
Hospitality/Greeters & Ushers	Dennis Sabers	719-0929
Linen Ministry	Imelda Cruz	972-4336

**Music**

Music Director	Nancy Marshall nmarshall@sbdiocese.org	693-2144
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**Sacramental Life Ministries**

Infant Baptism	Jeckie & Mark Alcaraz	695-6658
Holy Communion/Sick	Yolanda Ortiz y.ortiz@sbdiocese.org	695-6657
Wedding/Convalidation	Sharla Ortiz (assisted By Nancy Marshall)	676-2894
Funerals	Yolanda Ortiz (assisted By Nancy Marshall)	695-6657
Marriage Encounter	John & Raquel Anthony	699-6750
Family Healing (Service to the Divorced and Couples with Impediments to Receive Sacraments)		676-4403

**Outreach Programs**

Birth Choice	Crisis Pregnancy	296-3441
Rachel's Vineyard (Post Abortion Healing)	Dolores Dunphy	325-7702
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Charities	Help/Food Pantry	951 587-6752 909 388 1239

**Christian Life Ministries**

Filipino Ministry	Larry Vazquez	972-4843
Korean Ministry	Young Lucia Balsaer	951-764-9516 415-260-6024
Knights of Columbus	Steve Gossett	951 595 3496
Bereavement Ministry	Bea Galindo Ortiz bea.galindo@yahoo.com	
Women's Guild	Margaret Sommers magues@sbcglobal.net	818 917 8597
Consecration to Mary	Celina Benon	310-801-8643
Bible Study	Mark Perry	760-8943
Social Ministry	Lisa Allen	909-319-7113
Divine Mercy	Jocelyn Ybarra	676-5237
Rosary	Vicky Felizardo	676 4403
Our Lady of Hope Ministry for the Homebound	Bea Galindo Ortiz bea.galindo@yahoo.com	676-4403
Rosary Makers	Julie Arias	676-4403
Pro Life	Paul Watkins	676-4403
Road to Emmaus-Adult Faith Enrichment	Patrick Wolff	676 4403
St. Peter's Prayer Group	Frank Arias	676-4403
Bible Study	Mark Perry	951-760-8943



STATIONS



FACEBOOK



ONLINE GIVING



BULLETIN

Prayer Requests for the Repose of Souls  
 Peticiones de oración por el descanso de las almas  
*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let  
 perpetual light shine upon them.*  
*Concédeles, oh Señor, el descanso eterno, y brille  
 para ellos la luz perpetua*

<b>Rev. John Wagner</b>	<b>Ofelia Rivera</b>
<b>Maria Del Refugio Garcia</b>	<b>Refugio Cruz</b>
<b>Joanne Panikowski</b>	<b>Gerry Lopez</b>
<b>Amado Olalia</b>	<b>Jesus Terrazas</b>
<b>Olivia Rivera Fuentes</b>	<b>Ed Chris</b>
<b>Candelario Lopez</b>	<b>Leocadia Lopez</b>
<b>Lafayette Magbanua</b>	<b>Kia Streeter</b>
<b>Carlos Antonio Castro Castro</b>	
<b>Msr. Raymond Kirk</b>	<b>Skip Little</b>

Once our prayer request lists become full, we remove all the names and start a new list. If you or a loved one were on the previous list and still wish to be included on this list, please let Mary in the front office know. The number is 951 676 8136 or [mhitzeman@sbdiocese.org](mailto:mhitzeman@sbdiocese.org)

Una vez que nuestras listas de peticiones de oración se llenan, eliminamos todos los nombres y comenzamos una nueva lista. Si usted o un ser querido estaba en la lista anterior y aún desea ser incluido en esta lista, infórmele a Mary en la oficina principal. El número es 951 676 8136 o [mhitzeman@sbdiocese.org](mailto:mhitzeman@sbdiocese.org)

Prayer Requests for Healing  
 Peticiones de oración por sanación  
*For those who are sick, may Christ's divine mercy  
 bring them strength and comfort.*  
*Para los enfermos, que la divina misericordia de  
 Cristo les traiga fuerza y consuelo*

<b>Ernesto Flores</b>	<b>Vivian Luna</b>
<b>Tom Borchard</b>	<b>Natalie Bennett</b>
<b>Steven Bell</b>	<b>Irene Bell</b>
<b>Christina Lim</b>	<b>Benjamin Lim</b>
<b>Antomito Exequiel</b>	<b>Bianca Lim</b>
<b>Steve Haflich</b>	<b>Bruno Nanci</b>
<b>Joseph Middlesworth</b>	<b>Patricia Ahrens</b>
<b>Francisco Campos</b>	<b>Milagros Tibayan</b>
<b>Eddie Tibayan</b>	<b>Rosaria Rabbani</b>
<b>Rita Hernandez</b>	<b>Christina Lim</b>
<b>Kathleen</b>	<b>Joanne Mercier</b>
<b>Jaclyn Guerrero</b>	<b>Roy Murillo</b>
<b>Lori Valentine</b>	<b>Doren R. Ozen</b>
<b>Michelle Jacob</b>	<b>Darna Ozen</b>

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, August 24

**4:00 PM** John Bryant  
 Ana Kieu My Duyen  
 Lourdes S. Acfalle  
 Michael Herrera

**6:30 PM** Aurora A. Datoc  
 Por ninos no nacidos  
 Raul Serrato Perez

### SUNDAY, August 25

**8:00 AM** Dr. Martin Campion  
 Jim Raffetto  
 Austin Wampler  
 Linda Sardina

**10:00 AM** Clara Curby  
 Shirley Witz  
 Ladislao and Simplicia  
 Ceferino and Lolita Manuel

**12:00 PM** Antonio Vidal Manlangit  
 Gerry Lopez  
 Dich Quach  
 Souls in Purgatory

**2:00 PM** Luis and Marina Silva  
 Intenciones de los feligreses

**5:00 PM** Duc Nguyen and Family  
 Lynn Kapryn  
 Romeo and Darren Jay Olaes

### MONDAY, August 26

**7:30 AM** Eddie Parsons  
 Rosemary and Vincent Cshetta

### TUESDAY, August 27

**7:30 AM** Rick La Caze  
 Ana Kieu My Duyen

### WEDNESDAY, August 28

**7:30 AM** Neurina Bowles  
 Ana Kieu My Duyen

### THURSDAY, August 29

**7:30 AM** Duc Nguyen and family  
 Bladimier Gonzalez  
**6:30 PM** Intenciones de los feligreses

### FRIDAY, August 30

**7:30 AM** Bladimier Gonzalez  
 Luisa Angelica Molina  
 Duc Nguyen and family

You Are Invited To The  
Pastoral Commissioning Mass Of  
*Rev. Timothy Do*



Please plan to come celebrate  
this historical event of our parish  
and pray for our pastor.

September 7, 2024  
Multilingual Mass at 4:00pm  
Presider: Bishop Alberto Rojas  
Followed By A Reception  
In Di Leo Hall  
St. Catherine of Alexandria  
41875 C. St. Temecula, CA 92592

Note: We will not have a 6:30 pm mass on 9/7

Estan invitados a la  
Misa de Comisión Pastoral de  
*Rev. Timothy Do*



Por favor planee venir a  
celebrar este evento historico  
de nuestra parroquia y orar  
por nuestro pastor.

Septiembre 7, 2024  
Misa multilingüe a las 4:00pm  
Preside: Bishop Alberto Rojas  
Seguido de una recepción  
En el Salón Di Leo  
Santa Catalina de Alejandría  
41875 C. St. Temecula, CA 92592

Nota: No tendremos misa a las 6:30 pm el 7 de septiembre.

# AVAILABLE NOW!

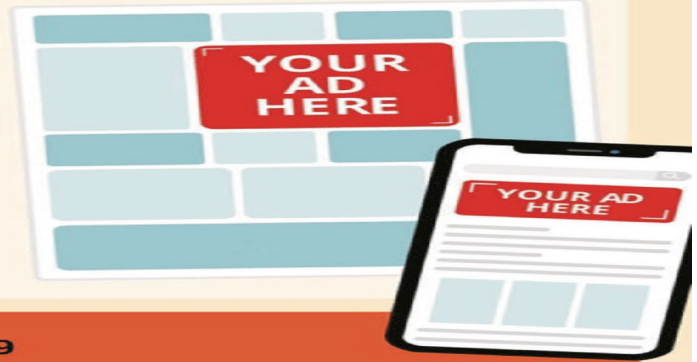
## PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

### The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated

**Cynthia Duran** from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

**Church bulletin advertising** is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

**Digital advertising** allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on [ParishesOnline.com](http://ParishesOnline.com) — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!



**Cynthia Duran**  
 (800) 950-9952 x2119  
 CDuran@4lpi.com



### Women's Guild We have gone "MAD!"

As in: You are welcome to join us as we host our Welcome Back Tea. This Year's theme is "Mad Hatter Tea Party!"

We invite all the Women of our Parish to come and join us as we begin a New Year full of prayer, social, and philanthropic works.

**When:** September 19th, 2024

**Where:** DiLeo Hall

**Time:** 11:00 A.M.

**Serving:** Finger Sandwiches, Dessert, and Tea, of course!

**Please:**

Bring Your Own Tea Cup.

Bring and invite a non-member to join us!

Wear your pastel dress.

Wear your "Mad Hat" or "Fascinador."

**RSVP to Ana Galarraga, 203-231-8157  
 no later than September 15.**



### Gremio de mujeres Nos hemos vuelto "¡LOCOS!"

Como en: Le invitamos a unirse a nosotros mientras organizamos nuestro té de bienvenida.

El tema de este año es "¡Fiesta del té del Sombrero Loco!"

Invitamos a todas las Mujeres de nuestra Parroquia a venir y unirse a nosotros. al comenzar un Año Nuevo lleno de oración, obras sociales y filantrópicas.

**Cuándo:** 19 de septiembre de 2024

**Dónde:** Salón DiLeo

**Hora:** 11:00 a.m.

**Servicio:** sándwiches, postre y té, ¡por supuesto!

Por favor:

Traiga su propia taza de té.

¡Traiga e invite a alguien que no sea miembro a unirse a nosotros!

Usa tu vestido color pastel.

Use su "Sombrero Loco" o "Tocado".

Confirme su asistencia a Ana Galarraga, 203-231-8157 a más tardar el 15 de septiembre

August 25, 2024

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing.” In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus’ teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, “**This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?**” (John 6:60). We shouldn’t imagine we’d do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, “**Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him**” (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus’ disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God’s love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— *Father John Muir*

25 de agosto de 2024

21<sup>er</sup> Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Algunos de los seguidores de Jesús no pudieron creer lo que les dijo. Era demasiado para ellos: “*Mi carne es verdadera comida y mi sangre es verdadera bebida*” (Juan 6:55). A pesar de que Jesús lo explicaba de muchas maneras, algunos decidieron abandonarlo. Él no hizo nada por detenerlos, los dejó libres respetando su decisión. Después de esos acontecimientos de abandono, Jesús pregunta directamente a los doce: “*¿Quieren marcharse también ustedes? Pedro le contestó: Señor, ¿a quién iríamos? Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna. Nosotros creemos y sabemos que tú eres el Santo de Dios*” (Juan 6:67-69). Ahora, en la realidad que vivimos tan llena de ruido y modernidad, ¿sabemos a dónde vamos, a quién dirigirnos? Pedro, lo supo y el deseo de la Iglesia es que sepamos que solo Jesús tiene palabras de vida eterna. Y que su Pan de Vida se nos da gratuitamente en la Eucaristía.

“*La Eucaristía y la cruz son piedras de tropiezo. Es el mismo misterio, y no cesa de ser ocasión de división. ¿Quieren marcharse también ustedes? (Juan 6:67): esta pregunta del Señor resuena a través de las edades, como invitación de su amor a descubrir que sólo Él tiene palabras de vida eterna (Juan 6:68), y que acoger en la fe el don de su Eucaristía es acogerlo a Él mismo*”. (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, numeral 1335). Hagamos la prueba y veremos qué bueno es el Señor, como nos dice el Salmo de la liturgia de este domingo.

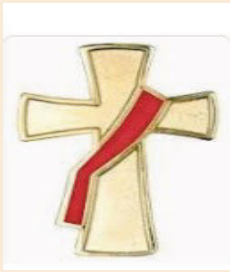
©LPi

Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/  
Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69  
Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/  
Mt 23:13-22  
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26  
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32  
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29  
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13  
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30  
Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/  
Jas 2:1- 5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Las lecturas de la semana del 25 de agosto de 2024

Domingo: Jos 24, 1-2. 15-17. 18/Sal 33, 2-3. 16-17. 18-19. 20-21. 22-23 (9)/  
Ef 5, 21-32 o 5, 2. 25-32/Jn 6, 60-69  
Lunes: 2 Tes 1, 1-5. 11-12/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 4-5/Mt 23, 13-22  
Martes: 2 Tes 2, 1-3. 14-17/Sal 95, 10. 11-12. 13/Mt 23, 23-26  
Miércoles: 2 Tes 3, 6-10. 16-18/Sal 127, 1-2. 4-5/Mt 23, 27-32  
Jueves: 1 Cor 1, 1-9/Sal 144, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7/Mc 6, 17-29  
Viernes: 1 Cor 1, 17-25/Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 10-11/Mt 25, 1-13  
Sábado: 1 Cor 1, 26-31/Sal 32, 12-13. 18-19. 20-21/Mt 25, 14-30  
Domingo siguiente: Dt 4, 1-2. 6-8/Sal 14, 2-3. 3-4. 4-5 1/Sant 2, 1-5/Sant 1, 17-18. 21-22. 27/Mc 7, 1-8. 14-15. 21-23



*Congratulations on your  
Ordination  
Deacon Fernando*

May God's blessings be upon you as you begin your diaconate ministry. May He grant you peace and joy always.

*Sonia, we thank you for "yes", also.*

**Congratulations on this great milestone in your priesthood.  
We look forward to many years with you as our Pastor.**

**Congratulations  
Fr. Timothy**



**God bless you and be with you in all you do!**

We are starting something *NEW* and something **FUN!!!** Each week we will be putting a page of announcements—birthday greetings, wedding anniversaries, congratulations for graduations or a new baby, etc. (Like above)



If you would like to put in an announcement, we will ask for you to donate \$100. This money will help with repairs to our campus. As you may know, we are in the process of repairing and replacing air conditioners in the church and on the campus; we just spent \$5,000 to steam clean the floor of the church for the first time in 20 years; and the list continues.

This is a fun way to participate in helping with these repairs and costs. We will only have **four** announcements each week so it will be a "first come, first served" policy. Please call Mary, in the front office, or come in and see if there is space. Next, you will pay the \$100 which you can pay by cash, check or credit card. After it is okayed and paid, then send your photo and any information you wish to include (names, what you are announcing or celebrating, any other details) in a jpeg format to Mary Hitzeman at [mhitzeman@sbdioocese.org](mailto:mhitzeman@sbdioocese.org). Bulletins are sent to the publisher two weeks before they are printed so if you have a special date, please factor that in!!!





# Faith Formation

## Looking Ahead...

**Sept 3rd**- Parent Meeting for Confirmation at 6pm

**Sept. 4th**- Parent Meeting for Grades K-8 at 6pm

**Sept. 10th** - First day of High School formation (6:00-7:45pm)

**Sept. 11th** First day of Wednesday Grades K-8 formation (6:00-7:15pm)

**Sept. 12th** - First day of Thursday formation for Grades 2-8 (6:00-7:15pm)



**Save the Date!**  
**trunk or treat**  
**10/26/2024**

If you would like to decorate your trunk for this fun family parish event please contact us at 951 225-6203. Candy donations are needed. More information coming soon!

**other Family Events you won't want to miss**

12/14/2024- Christmas Family Festival

4/19/2025- Spring Family Festival

If you would like to join the committee for the planning of these events please let us know!

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

After the Introductory Rites during the mass, the priest will call the children to the front of the church for a blessing and dismissal. Volunteers then lead the children to Di Leo Hall, where we will offer a kid-friendly version of the Liturgy of the Word, homily, and prayers. The children are then brought back to Mass during the Offertory, so they can be with their families during the Eucharist.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO GET STARTED!**

- Masses we are looking to offer Children's Liturgy of the Word: 10am, 12pm, 2pm
- Grades of children: 1st grade-5th grades
- Please contact Sharla (sortiz@sbdiocese.org) for information and training to be a volunteer

Director of Catechetical, Youth and Young Adult Ministries: Sharla Ortiz -- 951 676-2894 -- sortiz@sbdiocese.org  
Coordinator of Catechetical, Youth and Young Adult Ministries: Aida Baltazar -- 951 225-6203 -- abaltazar@sbdiocese.org

## OFFERING – August 18, 2024

Sunday collection	\$	13,686
Dropped Off/Mailed to Office	\$	957
Online	\$	7,003
Total	\$	21,646

Whether you donate in person, at Mass, or the parish office, by mail or online, we would like to thank you all for your continued financial support and prayers. Our parish remains alive and vibrant because of your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

### Diocesan Development Fund Campaign Progress

2024 Diocesan Goal: \$114,300

DDF Gifts Received: \$108,098.65

Donors: 684

Once we meet our DDF goal, all funds received will go back to the parish.

**Please prayerfully consider including  
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Temecula in your Will or Trust.  
May God bless each and every one of you.**

### - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

#### To Whom Shall We Go?

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was *why* she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners. But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

*"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* — Joshua 24:15

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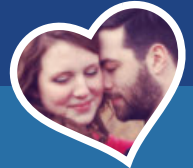
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