



# saint euphrasia

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM  
Monday: 8:30 AM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM  
Thursday (Communion Service): 8:30 AM  
Friday: 8:30 AM

First Saturday of the Month: 8:30 AM

Second Sunday of the Month  
Filipino Mass: 12:30 PM

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

## *Gospel Meditation*

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? **"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep."** Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster

wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir

LPi



## PARISH OFFICE

11779 Shoshone Ave.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
(818) 360 - 4611  
[www.StEuphrasia.org](http://www.StEuphrasia.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm  
Lunch 12:30pm-1:15pm  
(Saturday & Sunday Closed)



JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Alden J. Sison, Pastor  
Deacon Sargon & Jeannie Younan

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### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

17637 Mayerling St., Granada Hills  
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www.steuphrasiaschool.org

Principal:

Mrs. Jean Ornelaz  
jornelaz@stemail.org

## SACRAMENTS

### INFANT BAPTISMS

Please call the Rectory  
office at (818) 360 - 4611  
ext. 110 for information  
and scheduling.

### MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory at  
least six months before  
the desired wedding day  
to begin marriage  
preparation.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory  
office at (818) 360 - 4611

## PARISH MINISTRIES

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### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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thepaintedgarden@sbcglobal.net



# Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**December 7 (Thursday)**  
7:00pm Vigil Mass

**December 8 (Friday)**  
8:30am Mass  
7:00pm Mass

Dear Parish Community,

In recent weeks, we have spoken about our God's Love Unites Us Program. Our parish has so much to offer to those in the Granada Hills community. We are a beacon of hope for those in need, for those suffering, and for those who are searching and in need of our prayers and assistance. We also accompany our parish family through the administration of the sacraments, the celebration of Mass, and our ministries. We are so blessed to be able to serve so many in our parish and community!

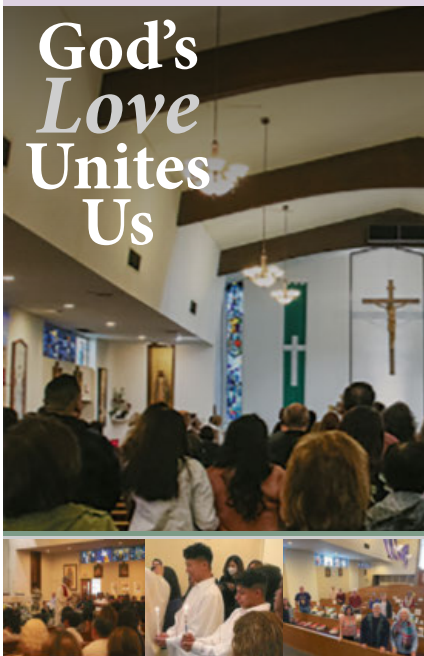
We are called by God to advance the mission of the Church and to build up God's Kingdom here in Granada Hills. There are so many more people who need our assistance. There is so much more work to be done. The reality is that we will always need resources to do God's work. Until the needy are clothed, the hungry are fed, and the Gospel is spread to the ends of the earth, we will need resources.

Many of you have already submitted your Commitment Card to the parish and have committed your offertory support to continue to advance our parish mission. Thank you! At the same time, many of you have not yet submitted your Commitment Card. Our goal through this initiative is 100% participation from our parish community. Please turn in your Commitment Card this week, if you have not already done so. I invite you to pray for our parish and become involved in the life of our parish by joining a ministry to serve those in need.

Saint Euphrasia Church is a wonderful parish because of YOU and what each one of you make of it!

I thank you for your generosity, and I am humbled by your sacrifice. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

May the Lord continue to bless us and the work we are doing!



## MASS INTENTIONS

**December 2**  
8:30am David Bienlein (D)  
5:00pm George Edgington (D)

**December 3**  
8:30am Joseph Tamusaitis (D)  
10:30am *Misa pro populo*  
Gloria Renteria (D)  
Anniversary of Passing  
Louisa Guzman (D)  
  
5:00pm

**December 4**  
8:30am David Bienlein (D)

**December 5**  
8:30am Nayoka Madina  
Clavecillas-Person (D)  
Grace Marie Miranda-  
Marcelino (D)

**December 6**  
8:30am Melquiades Escolano (D)  
Anniversary of Passing

**December 7**  
8:30am Souls in Purgatory (D)  
7:00pm Horst Burchard (D)

**December 8**  
8:30am Salim, Victoria &  
Harry Awdish (D)  
7:00pm Agnes Salandra (D)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Anton Holzmann  
Bishop Alex Aclan  
Brian Barnes  
David Capretto  
Derrick Rosal  
Joe Radich

Jose Renderos  
Lily Sheridan  
Nicole Welde  
Sherry Kimmel  
Tim Welde  
Werner Kessling

*...and all those in our  
Parish Book of Prayers*

## School News

Find out more about what is happening at our school by visiting [www.steuphrasiaschool.org/weekly-newsletter/](http://www.steuphrasiaschool.org/weekly-newsletter/) or scanning the QR code below.



# Giving Tree

Advent has arrived, and with it, our annual Giving Tree!

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord, we reach out with support to the mothers and their children at the Good Shepherd Shelter. Our Giving Tree is filled with ornaments and envelopes, each labeled with one item (letter to a family, item, gift card, cash, check) to ensure that the residents of the Shelter have a special Christmas and New Year's. Please help support this worthy mission by picking up one or more of the ornaments/envelopes. You are welcome to take as many ornaments as you would like.

Please return all gift items, unwrapped, to the large box at the base of the Giving Tree by the end of December 17, the Third Sunday in Advent. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket at all Masses, in the locked Parish Office mailbox next to the Shoshone stairway gate, or they may be hand-delivered to the Parish Office.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, call Debbie Borquez (818-625-8377) or Beth Illig (818-512-9692).



**Join us for hospitality this December 3<sup>rd</sup> after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses. Delicious Mexican food will be served for a donation to pay for the mariachi on December 12th**

# Christian Initiation

## SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

**Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation or Communion? Or do you know someone who is? Contact Sister Joanna Strouse, SDSH adultfaith@stemail.org \* 818-368-4367**

Please pray in gratitude for our new Catholics **Tom, Stewart and MacKenzie** who last weekend made their Profession of Faith and were received into full Communion in the Catholic Church and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist - the fullness of Christian Initiation.

### Preparation of Adults for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Sessions will be Sundays 4-5:30 pm on ZOOM and Mondays 7-9 pm IN PERSON beginning in January. Spread the word to anyone you know who is over 18 and has not been Confirmed. **Anyone who has already been Confirmed is also welcome to join and deepen in their faith.** To register or for more information: **contact Sister Joanna adultfaith@stemail.org \* 818-368-4367**



**Christmas, Christ, Mass are bound together. From eternity, the coming of Christ and the Mass are one and the same thing. When we are preparing for Christmas, the best preparation is through the Mass: Christ-mass.**

Servant of God Sister Ida Peterfy, SDSH | sacredheartsisters.com



## Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
St. Euphrasia Church

## Catholic Life Explained

### QUESTION :

Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

### ANSWER :

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups,

to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood the Lord. ©LPi



# Holy Moment Challenge

Week #29: Is your heart hardening?

Isaiah 63: 17 - Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?

This week's first reading refers to us wandering from God's ways and a harden heart. Take a moment to read the poem, "The Cold Within". It is parable about the things that separate us and how the coldness in men's hearts is a kind of death. Can you see similarities with this parable and those who cannot see or are unwilling to acknowledge the sins of racism?

### The Cold Within

Six humans trapped by happenstance  
In bleak and bitter cold.  
Each one possessed a stick of wood  
Or so the story's told.

The rich man just sat back and thought  
Of the wealth he had in store  
And how to keep what he had earned  
From the lazy shiftless poor.

Their dying fire in need of logs  
The first man held his back  
For of the faces round the fire  
He noticed one was black.

The black man's face bespoke revenge  
As the fire passed from his sight.  
For all he saw in his stick of wood  
Was a chance to spite the white.

The next man looking 'cross the way  
Saw one not of his church  
And couldn't bring himself to give  
The fire his stick of birch.

The last man of this forlorn group  
Did nought except for gain.  
Giving only to those who gave  
Was how he played the game.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.  
He gave his coat a hitch.  
Why should his log be put to use  
To warm the idle rich?

Their logs held tight in death's still hands  
Was proof of human sin.  
They didn't die from the cold without  
They died from the cold within.

Poem written by James Patrick Kinney

### Keep in mind a Holy moment is:

1. A single moment in which you open yourself to God.
2. You make yourself available to him.
3. You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment, you do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do.

An excerpt from the book Holy Moments by Matthew Kelly.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this week's reflection, please feel free to share with them with us at [PeaceAndUnity@stemail.org](mailto:PeaceAndUnity@stemail.org).

### DID YOU KNOW?

## Garden of healing for victim-survivors of sexual abuse

With the continuing support of Archbishop José H. Gomez, the third garden of healing in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles dedicated to victim-survivors of sexual abuse was recently dedicated at Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Sherman Oaks. These gardens are a manifestation of our ongoing care for and support of those impacted by sexual abuse in all its forms. The other two gardens are located at St. Camillus Center for Spiritual Care in Los Angeles. (San Gabriel Pastoral Region) and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Ventura (Santa Barbara Pastoral Region). The Archdiocese encourages anyone with information regarding sexual abuse to please make a report to law enforcement and/or the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry at (800) 355-2545 or [protect@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:protect@la-archdiocese.org). For more information on the abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, please visit <https://lacatholics.org/protect/>. For more information about the Gardens of Healing, please visit [lacatholics.org/healing-gardens](https://lacatholics.org/healing-gardens).

## Online Giving?

### A Secure & Convenient Way to Contribute to Your Parish

You can now make your offertory & all other contributions and donations online using all major credit cards or debit cards from your checking or savings accounts.

**If you need help or have any questions please email [OnLineGivingStE@gmail.com](mailto:OnLineGivingStE@gmail.com).**

*If you are giving online and would like an Offertory card that states that you give on line and you would like to drop into the collection basket, the cards are located in the vestibule.*



## Called to Renew

**Parish Goal:** \$855,00  
**Total Pledged:** \$580,964.64  
**Number of Gifts:** 128  
**Average Gift:** \$4,565  
**Percentage of Goal:** 68%  
**Total Paid:** \$114,057.03  
**Funds Available for St. Euphrasia:** \$57,028.59

(As of 10/31/2023)

Called to Renew is a historic, five-year campaign to strengthen parishes, families, and communities through unity and action; together we commit to renewing what is important so we can pass it on to those who we love.

**Please e-mail [zvictor@stemail.org](mailto:zvictor@stemail.org) should you have any questions.**  
[www.calledtorenew.org/parishes/st-euphrasia/](http://www.calledtorenew.org/parishes/st-euphrasia/)

## Second Collection

### You can help.

Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## "OUTSTRETCHED ARMS" Cancer Support Ministry

### January 6, 10:00 a.m. - Parish Hall

Welcome Back - Joseph Cruz  
(Discussion on His Transitional  
Diaconate Year 2024) Journey to  
Priesthood  
(6<sup>th</sup> Year)

### Feb. 3, 10:00 a.m. - Parish Hall

Welcome Dr. John Glaspy  
(Friend and Miracle Oncologist  
Supporting Our Ministry)

For more information, please contact:  
Lisa Barona - lbaloha@gmail.com

*We give Thanks to God for Our Cancer  
Support Ministry. "Everything in God's Time  
and Everything in God's Way", Amen. FJ*

## Feed My Sheep

### MINISTRY TO THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED

ANY and ALL non-perishables are appreciated, but there is special need for:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly (small jars)
- Pasta
- Marinara/Spaghetti Sauce
- Evaporated Milk
- Toilet Paper
- Soap- individually wrapped

Collection receptacles are located in the church vestibule and in the porch alcove by the side church door entrance on Shoshone Ave.

## Examples of our Faith

### SERVANT OF GOD WALTER CISZEK

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was born on November 4, 1904, in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, to parents who were Polish immigrants and devout Catholics. Ciszek attended Jesuit-run schools throughout his childhood and decided to enter the Society of Jesus in 1928. He went on to earn a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a priest in 1937 in the Byzantine Rite, taking on the name of Vladimir. In Rome he was trained to become a missionary in the Soviet Union but started his missionary work in Poland right before the outbreak of WWII.

In 1940, Ciszek entered the Soviet Union along with other Jesuit missionaries disguised as an unskilled logger. Working among the people there, he began his missionary work in Soviet Russia by discreetly performing his priestly duties and engaging in ministry.

In 1941, he was captured by the Soviet Army and accused of being a spy. Father Ciszek was then tortured into a false confession and imprisoned for the next 23 years. He was sent to a series of labor camps and prisons, where he endured harsh living conditions and brutal treatment from his captors. Despite the awful circumstances, Father Ciszek maintained his faith and worked to bring hope and comfort to his fellow prisoners. He would celebrate Mass for them in secret and provided spiritual guidance to those in need.

In 1963, as part of a prisoner exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union, Father Ciszek was finally released from captivity. He returned to the United States and wrote a memoir about his experiences, entitled *With God in Russia*, which became a bestseller and inspired Catholics around the

globe. Father Ciszek's experiences also highlighted the importance of religious freedom and the need to protect it in all parts of the world.

Following his return to the USA, Fr. Ciszek worked at the John XXIII Center at Fordham University. He gave lectures and provided spiritual counseling to those who visited him.

After years of declining health, he passed away at the age of 80 in 1984. His legacy has continued to inspire Catholics around the world. In 1990, the cause for his beatification and canonization was opened and he was declared a Servant of God. Many Catholics view Ciszek as a model of holiness and courage, and his life serves as a testament to the power of faith and the resilience of the human spirit.

### PRAYER

We adore You, Most Holy Trinity, and we thank You for the exemplary life of Your Servant, Father Walter Ciszek. We pray that his strong faith in Your loving providence, his great love for You, and his kindness to all people be recognized by the Church. If it be Your will, may he be given to us as a saintly model of these virtues so that we too may be better motivated to dedicate our lives to Your greater honor and glory. We commend our petition through the prayers of the holy Mother of God. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.  
Amen.

©LPi



Scan QR code for more information



# Eucharistic Miracle of O'CEBREIRO

SPAIN, 1300



In the Eucharistic Miracle of O'ebreiro, during the Mass, the Host that changed to Flesh and the wine to Blood was expelled from the chalice and stained corporal. The Lord performed this prodigy in order to sustain the little faith of the priest that did not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. To this day, the sacred relics of the miracle are guarded near the church where this prodigy took place and numerous pilgrims go there annually to give them praise.



Shrine of the chalice, paten and Holy Blood of the miracle



Mountain where Juan Santin used to retreat and pray



Sanctuary of O'ebreiro



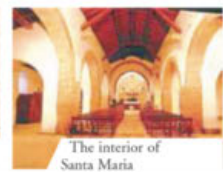
Altar where the miracle took place



The Madonna of the Prodigy



Chapel where the relics of the miracle used to be housed



The interior of Santa Maria



Panoramic view of O'ebreiro



**O**ne icy winter in 1300 a Benedictine priest was celebrating the sacred Mass in a chapel beside the church of the convent of O'ebreiro. On that miserable day of unceasing snow and unbearably freezing wind, he thought that no one would dare show up for Mass. He was wrong. A farmer from Barxamaior, by the name of Juan Santin, left the convent to attend Mass. The priest saying Mass, who did not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the most holy sacrament, despised in his heart the farmer's sacrifice of good will. He began in this way to celebrate the Mass and immediately after having professed the words of the consecration, the Host changed to Flesh and the wine to Blood was expelled from the chalice and stained the corporal. At that very moment, it seemed that even the head of the wooden statue of the Madonna was

leaning in adoration. The people today call her the "Madonna of the Sacred Miracle". The Lord had wanted to open the eyes of the incredulous priest who had doubted and compensate the farmer for his great devotion. For almost two hundred years the Host changed to Flesh was left on the paten until Queen Isabella learned about the miracle when she passed through O'ebreiro while doing a pilgrimage in Santiago de Compostela.

*The queen immediately had a precious crystal shrine custom made to hold the miraculous Host, the chalice and the paten, which to this day, can be praised in this church. Every year on the feast days of Corpus Christi, August 15th and September 8th, the relics are taken in procession along with the Madonna.*

Among the most documented testimonials of the miracle are the bull of Pope Innocent the 8th of 1487 and that of Pope Alexander the 7th of 1496 and an account by Father Yepes.

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