



SAINT PIUS X  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" - which translated means Teacher - "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see."

-Jn 1:38-39a

El se volvió hacia ellos y viendo que lo seguían les preguntó: "¿Que buscan?" Ellos le contestaron: "¿Dónde vives, Rabi?" (Rabi significa "maestro"). El les dijo: "Vengan a ver."

-Jn 1, 38-39

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

"What are you looking for?" Jesus asked, which he follows with an invitation to "come and see," in response to the disciples' question about where he is staying. Of course, Jesus knew what they were seeking; is it not what we all seek - peace, hope, salvation? Jesus calls them, and indeed us as well, to accept his invitation to find those things, and so much more, in him.

Regardless of where Jesus resides physically, we know from his teaching later in John's Gospel, what he longs to show us is where he abides. In *John 15:4-16*, Jesus shares the blessing of abiding with him; there, we can bear much fruit in our faith, receive what we need, and most importantly, know the Father's glory.

Jesus' invitations present an opportunity for us to contemplate what we are looking for and to take stock of our current situation. Do you know what it is you seek in this world? Are you open to truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Can you leave behind your expectations, trusting the goodness of Jesus' invitation, and follow God's perfect will for your life?

Without waiting for the early disciples to respond, knowing their hearts and that the Kingdom of Heaven holds everything they seek, he invites them to come and see. Some of Jesus' disciples came and stayed with him because they had heard him preach. Moved by the promise, hope, mercy, and life he offered, they directly accepted the invitation from him. However, like Peter, others came to follow Jesus after someone else extended an invitation to "come and see" themselves.

Peter's brother Andrew's willingness to evangelize brought Peter to become a disciple of the Lord. Andrew's love for Peter moved him to share the truth and joy he had found. How blessed to have someone care enough to step out in faith and share the life found only in Jesus - no matter how uncomfortable they may feel or how their testimony may be received.

Those who believe inspire others to believe. John's Gospel also introduces us to the Samaritan woman Jesus meets at the well. Her encounter with Christ spurs a conversion so dramatic, she cannot keep it to herself. Transformed by his love, mercy, and hope of a life where she no longer has to thirst for acceptance and redemption, she leaves her past behind and becomes an unlikely evangelist. Moved by her transformation from accepting Jesus' invitation to come and see - she goes out immediately to share the Good News - causing a ripple effect of discipleship.

The lives of the people she encounters and invites, are never the same once they accept the invitation to follow and abide in the truth and love offered by Jesus. One of the most powerful moments in John's Gospel (4:41-42) occurs when we learn many more have come to believe. And those she has testified to come back saying, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world."

The power and beauty of evangelization manifests in the conversion of hearts when an invitation leads to a personal encounter with Christ and the choice to remain and abide with him. We may recognize our journey within these many roads to discipleship; which of these paths is yours? Will we pay forward what we have received? Do we have the courage and strength to follow Jesus' example and invite others to come and see? When we, like Andrew and the woman at the well, tell others about finding the Messiah, we become part of the hope of discipleship present in John's Gospel. We become conduits for others to encounter the truth and grace found only in Jesus Christ.

-Allison Gingras

© LPi

JANUARY 17, 2021 | THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS



Requests may be made by contacting the Parish Office.

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES	INTENTIONS	READINGS
<b>Saturday, January 16</b> <i>St. Priscilla, Roman Matron</i>	8am John VanWanroij+ 4pm Mary Anne Odle+	<i>Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17</i>
<b>Sunday, January 17</b> <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8am Leonore Perrin+ 10am Vicky Deocampo 12pm The People of SPX Roberto Berumen+	<i>1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42</i>
<b>Monday, January 18</b> <i>St. Prisca</i>	7:30am Michelle Escoto+	<i>Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 19</b> <i>St. John, Bishop</i>	7:30am Kathy Espinoza+	<i>Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 20</b> <i>St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr, St. Sebastian, Martyr</i>	7:30am Darwin & Karen Alfafara	<i>Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6</i>
<b>Thursday, January 21</b> <i>St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr</i>	7:30am Jessica Roehr	<i>Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12</i>
<b>Friday, January 22</b> <i>St. Day of Legal Protection of Unborn Children</i>	7:30am Kris Fox	<i>Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19</i>
<b>Saturday, January 23</b> <i>St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr, St. Marianne Cope</i>	8am Mario Diaz 4pm Maria Contreras Camacho+	<i>Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21</i>



**MANDATORY MASS SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Please follow the instructions of our Ministers of Hospitality and comply with all posted signs and markers.

- Face covering is required on campus at all times.
- Remain 6 feet apart from individuals unless you're from the same household.
- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer.

**Safety is everyone's responsibility!**

CLERGY



**REV. JAY BANANAL**  
*Pastor*  
fatherjay@saintpiusx.org



**REV. DOMINIC OBOUR**  
*Hospital Chaplain*  
fatherdominic@saintpiusx.org



**PETER JOHNSON**  
*Permanent Deacon*  
deaconpete@saintpiusx.org



**PATRICK WRIGHT**  
*Permanent Deacon*  
deaconpat@saintpiusx.org



**JOSÉ MACIAS**  
*Permanent Deacon*  
deaconjose@saintpiusx.org

PARISH OFFICE

1120 CUYAMACA AVENUE  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91911

PH: 619-420-9193 | FX: 619-420-9353  
parishoffice@saintpiusx.org  
www.saintpiusx.org

WEEKEND HOURS

*Parish Hall Welcome Center*  
Saturday & Sunday  
**CLOSED until further notice**

WEEKDAY HOURS

Monday *Closed*  
Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm  
and  
1:00pm-4:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
*Plaza*

**BY APPOINTMENT**

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

**Saturday** 4:00pm *Vigil*  
**Sunday** 8:00am, 10:00am  
12:00pm *Spanish*

DAILY

**Monday-Friday** 7:30am  
**Saturday** 8:00am

*Masses will be celebrated outdoors in the Plaza.*

Tips and Recommendations:

- Bring Your Own Chair (BYOC)
- Use Sun Protection: sunscreen, hat, and/or umbrella held low in consideration of others
- Dress appropriately for colder weather.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**St. Jude Adoration Chapel**  
CLOSED until further notice

Jesus is present in the tabernacle for veneration in the Plaza.

**TMİY SPRING SEMESTER 2021**

**Starting on January 16, 6:00am-7:45am**

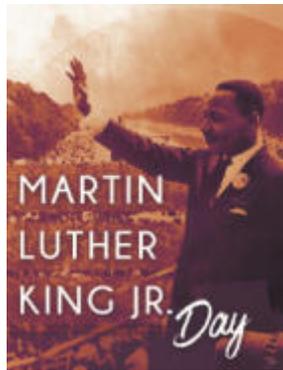


That Man is You (TMİY) will soon be gathering for the Spring Season. Come for authentic male leadership training; leave with an in-depth understanding of the issues at large today and how to faithfully navigate your family through them as you live out your vocation as a husband and father.

Register online at [saintpiusx.org/that-man-](http://saintpiusx.org/that-man-)

Questions?

Julio Hernandez: 619-540-6844 | [SPX.CV.TMIY@gmail.com](mailto:SPX.CV.TMIY@gmail.com)  
John Hernandez: 619-371-1674 | [john.p.hernandez1@gmail.com](mailto:john.p.hernandez1@gmail.com)



**SPECIAL MASS TO COMMEMORATE DR. KING**

**January 17, 10:00am-11:00am**

The San Diego Diocese commemorates the life and witness of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a special outdoor Mass at St. Rita's Catholic Church, celebrated by Bishop Robert McElroy, accompanied by Auxiliary Bishops John Dolan and Ramón Bejarano.

Rev. King's challenge to the nation to build a "Beloved Community" is more urgent than ever. He called on men and women to answer the call to service, helping to build a community based on justice, equal opportunity and love of one another.

**BASIC CATECHIST FORMATION COURSE**

**Starting January 26, 2021 Online**

This is a 12-Week Course for the formation of new catechists. All parish ministers and every baptized Catholic will benefit from this course which prepares them for their call to proclaim the Good News. Offered by The Diocese of San Diego Master Catechist Tammy Mansir. Class size is limited.

Registration deadline is 1/22/21. Cost is \$75 per person.

Please note: There are no refunds.

Contact Lupita Pérez at [Lperez@sdCatholic.org](mailto:Lperez@sdCatholic.org) to register.



**MY CHURCH, MY STORY**

**January 27, 6:30pm**

The virtual series of forums exploring racism in the Church and recommending ways to root it out continues in the new year!

January 27: The story of Asian Catholics.

February 10: The story of migrants and refugees.

Details about the upcoming forums, videos of past speakers, the initial report, and other resources are available at [sdCatholic.org/racism](http://sdCatholic.org/racism).



**BLESSING OUR FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Applications for *Blessing Our Future Scholarships* for the 2020/21 School Year are now available! The application period is 1/2/20-2/28/20.

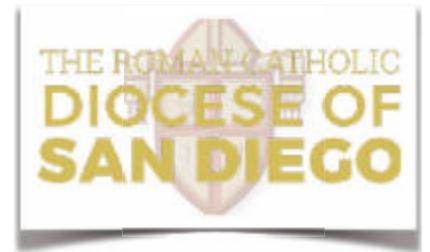
If you are interested in applying for a scholarship for your child entering grades K-12 in the 2020/21 School Year, you can do so by visiting: [fiatCatholicSchools.com](http://fiatCatholicSchools.com)

For more information:

[www.fiatschools.com](http://www.fiatschools.com) (619) 721-3309.

**Yes to God. Yes to Catholic Education.**

Thank you for your support!



**2021 Diocese of San Diego Office for Liturgy and Spirituality Workshops for Liturgical Ministers**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Zoom Workshop

*Part 1:* Monday, January 18

7:00pm-8:30pm

*Part 2:* Monday, January 25

7:00pm-8:30pm

**Ministers of the Word**

*Part 1:* Saturday, January 23

9am-11am and 1pm-3pm

Zoom Workshops

*Part 2:* Thursday, January 28

6:30pm-8:00pm practicum

\*At the Diocese of San Diego if health guidelines allow; Covid-19 precautions apply.

**Sacristan Training**

Zoom Workshop

*Part 1:* Wednesday, January 27

7pm-8:30pm

*Part 2:* Thursday, January 28

7pm-8:30pm

**TO REGISTER:**

[www.sdcatholic.org/workshops](http://www.sdcatholic.org/workshops)

**2021 Diócesis de San Diego Oficina de Liturgia y Espiritualidad Talleres Para Ministros Litúrgicos**

**Formación de Sacristanes**

taller de Zoom

*la primera parte:* el miércoles, 27 de enero

7pm-8:30pm

*la segunda parte:* el jueves, 28 de enero

7pm-8:30pm

**Ministros de la Palabra**

*la primera parte:* el sábado 23 de enero

9am-11am y 1pm-3pm

talleres de Zoom

*la segunda parte:* el martes 26 de enero

7pm-8:30pm práctica

\*\* A la diócesis de San Diego si las directrices de la salud pública permiten; Se aplican las restricciones de COVID-19.

**Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión**

taller de Zoom

*la primera parte:* el lunes 18 de enero

7pm-8:30pm

*la segunda parte:* el lunes 25 de enero

7pm-8:30pm

**PARA INSCRIBIRSE:**

[www.sdcatholic.org/talleres](http://www.sdcatholic.org/talleres)



# NOVENA for LIFE 2021

Join Us for 9 Days of Prayer  
January 21st to 29th

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

As Catholics we are called to uphold the dignity and value of every human being, from conception to natural death. We are called to care for each and every person at all stages of life as if they are an extension of ourselves. We are called to stand with them in solidarity. Our solidarity with others in respect for human life is truly an act of respect to the creator in whose image and likeness we are created.

As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or almsgiving. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides resources to help parishes, schools, families, ministries, and individual Catholics participate in this important day of prayer and penance.

Let us join together and stand in solidarity to pray and fast for an end to abortion and a greater social justice for all life.



DAY OF PRAYER  
FOR THE  
LEGAL  
PROTECTION  
OF UNBORN CHILDREN



**“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.”**

Evangelium Vitae, 100

The St. Pius X Knights of Columbus are inviting us to join the Knights of Columbus California State Council and thousands of others nationwide every day at 7:00 pm for *Nine Days of Prayer* from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Friday, Jan. 29. This specialized novena is dedicated to bringing about a Culture of Life – one that respects all human life and the institution of the family in our society. Sign-up for daily announcements, intentions and reflections and find links to event updates across California at <https://www.californiaknights.org/novena-for-life/>



**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

*Please pray for...*

**THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:**

- Shirley Bauer+
- Aquiles Alvarez Figueroa+
- Geraldine Cruz Smith+
- Jesus Perez Sanchez+
- Bill Smirniotis+
- Teresa Moreno+
- Mike Bailey+
- Noel Michael+
- Natividad Riegel+
- Paul E. Sellers+
- Genevieve Sellers+
- Carlos Favis+
- Remedios Favis+
- Maria Contreras Camacho+
- Otto Murillo+

**THE INTENTIONS OF:**

- Doug Semler
- Earl Semler
- Patrick Robert Combos
- Victor & Manuela Soltero
- Margarita Andrade Klingaman
- Emma Soto
- Sale Sison Cabrera
- Jesus Enjambre
- The Unborn
- The Sick
- The Elderly
- Healthcare Workers
- Clergy & Religious
- Youth & Young Adults
- Law Enforcement

**Prayer Requests**

Please make your requests by contacting the Parish Office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

**OUR TROOPS:**

- SSgt Kyle Goode, USAF
- MSgt James M. Gonzalez, USAF
- SSgt Trevor R. Moore, USAF
- LtCol Deric W. Prescott, JAG USAF
- Capt Eryn Nyre Raborn, USAF
- Capt Grant Raborn, USAF
- HM3 David Johnson, USN
- IT2 Samuel Hodge, USN
- E5 Allan M. Kerns, USN
- MT Tyler A Moore, USN
- P01 Diana Padilla, USN
- LT Ralph E. Roe III, USN
- Sgt Dominico Castillo, US Army
- PVT Eulogio N. Vazquez, US Army
- PFC Julian Whetton, US Army

**Prayers for Our Troops**

If you have loved ones who are currently deployed, please contact the Parish Office with their name, rank, and branch of the armed forces to have them added to our prayer list. The St. Pius Community takes pride in those that serve and the families that support them. With gratitude, we would like to acknowledge their heroic efforts and sacrificial love throughout the year.

**FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE**

<b>JAN. 10</b>			
<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>LIVING STONES CAMPAIGN</b>	
PLATE	<b>\$283.00</b>	ENVELOPE	<b>\$2,420.00</b>
ENVELOPE	<b>\$7,595.50</b>	ONLINE	<b>\$1,524.33</b>
ONLINE	<b>\$5,798.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,944.33</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,676.50</b>		
ROOF REPLACEMENT		<b>\$20.00</b>	

**ALTAR & ROSARY**

The purpose of the St. Pius X Altar and Rosary Society is to enrich the spiritual lives of its members and to be responsive to the spiritual and physical needs of the parish community. Throughout the centuries in the life of the Church, the core mission of the Altar & Rosary Society has remained: to provide and care for the vessels, linens, vestments, candles, décor, and any other needs for the altar of worship.

We are a service organization grounded in devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and dedicated to the care of the Lord's sacred altar. As Mary lovingly tended to the Holy Family's home in Nazareth, our members have a desire to serve and honor God by helping to maintain and beautify the Lord's house.

Meetings are every first Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We also pray a Rosary every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

The Altar and Rosary Society is open to all ladies 18 years and older who are registered at St. Pius X Parish.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like information on how to join, please email Mary Mattison at [mmattison@cox.net](mailto:mmattison@cox.net)



**BISHOP BOYEA'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE**

Join Bishop Earl Boyea from the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan in his year long Bible study.

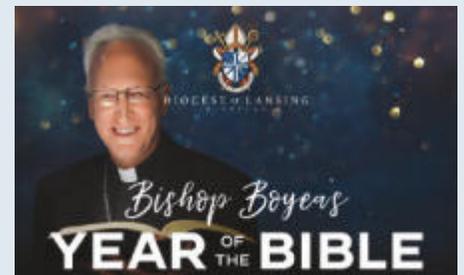
Why read the Holy Bible? As Saint Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". Jesus Christ is our reason to read the Holy Bible. It is in the pages of Sacred Scripture that we encounter him; that we get to know him and he gets to know us; that we fall in love with him, and, thus, we discover our deepest peace, happiness, and meaning.

Currently, Bishop is exploring St. Paul's letters. Between the Christmas Season and Lent we are in a period called "Ordinary Time." Paul was dealing with some very ordinary problems in Corinth which may help us deal with similar problems today.

The Bishop's videos are two-three minutes long and they accompany the reading chosen for that day.

To join Bishop's Bible study, text *BYOB* (Bishop's Year of the Bible) to 84576 to receive the readings and reflections to your phone.

For more information or if you would like to receive the reflections to your email, go to <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/byob>





- Light to Heavy-Duty Towing & Recovery
- Heavy Haul
- Tire Changes
- Jumpstart
- Fuel Delivery

**Dispatch 619-244-6009**

• TRADITIONAL FUNERALS • MEMORIAL SERVICES • CREMATION  
 • TRADITIONAL BURIAL • PRE-NEED • ONSITE CREMATORY  
 • SHIPOUT TO MEXICO AND INTERNATIONAL

Family Owned & Operated • Se Habla Español  
 FD2243

2169 1st Ave.  
 San Diego, CA 92101

www.cortezcremations.com  
 support@cortezcremations.com



Cortez Cremations & Funeral Services  
 619.240.7620

**SPREAD THE WORD**

A Thriving, Vibrant  
 Community Matters



**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

**Simon Tree Service**

Specializing in Palm Trimming  
 Tree Trimming Hillside  
 & Yard Cleaning  
 Stump Removal & More

Atanacio Gaeta  
 Lic# 084268

(619) 217-0622  
 Leave a message

(619) 862-3373  
 Cell Phone



Free Estimates

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Travis Lawmaster** to place an ad today!  
 tlawmaster@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2688

**LPi WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES**



- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT  
 careers@4LPi.com  
 www.4LPi.com/careers



**DISPONIBLE POR TIEMPO LIMITADO ANUNCIE SU NEGOCIO AQUÍ**

Llame a **Travis Lawmaster** hoy para su anuncio! tlawmaster@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2688

**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**



**Too Sick for Mass?**

**SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!**

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

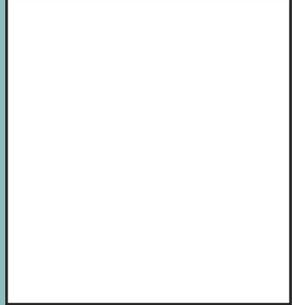
www.parishesonline.com



**PATTI & JEFF McKELVEY**  
 Top #1 Nationwide Realtors

Phone 619-271-8300  
 patti@mckelveyrealty.com  
 2300 Boswell Rd., Chula Vista, CA

Patti McKelvey will donate  
 20% to building funds

**Square Bottle Liquor & Grocery**

Family Owned & Operated Neighborhood Store

Lucky Retailer  
 2,500,000+ Winning

We Accept EBT &  
 All Major Credit Cards

Open 7 Days a Week at 8am  
 21 Naples St. (Behind 7-Eleven)



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

45th & Hilltop Dr., San Diego, CA 92102

*Pre-Needed Arrangement is an act of love*

*No Interest Budget Plan allows up to five years to pay.*

CALL **264-3127** • Se Habla Español

## SPREAD THE WORD

A Thriving, Vibrant  
Community Matters



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



# north Island credit union.

A Division  
of California  
Credit Union

With you. Wherever life takes you.®

Call Us  
**(800) 334-8788**

Visit Our Website  
**www.northisland.ccu.com**

Federally Insured by NCUA. ©2019 California Credit Union.

## ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection  
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



ADT Authorized  
Provider

SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

## PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

**\$29.95/MO**  
BILLED  
QUARTERLY

PLUS  
SPECIAL  
OFFER



CALL NOW!  
1.877.801.7772

WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

**FREE**  
AD DESIGN  
WITH PURCHASE  
OF THIS SPACE.

— 800-950-9952 —



## WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES



- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT  
careers@4LPi.com  
www.4LPi.com/careers

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.

LPi Buy a bulletin ad space today!

# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

*Your Community is Looking!*

Call LPi today for advertising info  
**(800) 950-9952**



## VICTORIA TAX & ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS "COUNT ON US"



- FAST RELIABLE  
TAX REFUNDS
- FASTER FUNDS  
THROUGH  
E-FILING
- PROFESSIONAL  
TAX PREPARERS

- SELF-EMPLOYED/ NO PROBLEM
- SMALL BUSINESS OF ANY KIND
- SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS
- TAX PLANNING - AUDIT REPRESENTATION
- DEBT COUNSELING
- CREDIT RESTORATION
- PAYROLL SERVICES
- NOTARY REPUBLIC

AMELIA VICTORIA  
☎ 619-971-7855  
✉ VICTORIATAXSRVC@GMAIL.COM

## NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin  
emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

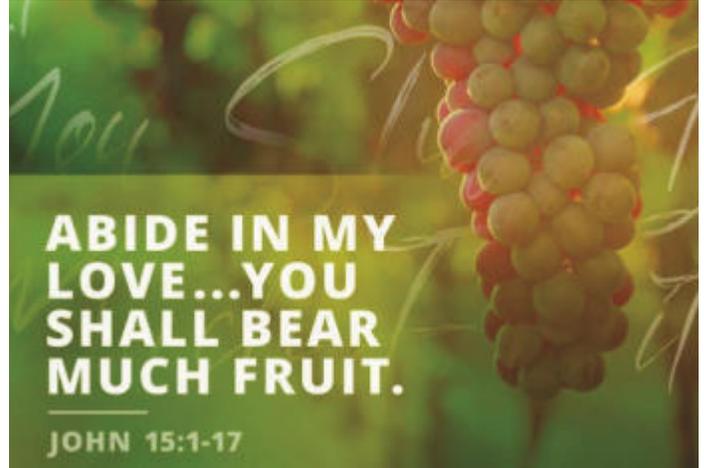


For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

St. Pius X Church, Chula Vista, CA

B 4C 05-1091

# WEEK OF PRAYER *for* CHRISTIAN UNITY



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity goes from January 18-25 this year and has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

The theme for 2021 was chosen by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp located near Lake Neuchatel in Switzerland.

The theme, "Abide in my love... You shall bear much fruit" from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, expresses the Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Here, Jesus reminds his disciples that he is the vine and we are the branches. If we abide in him, in Jesus and the Covenant made in his precious blood, we will be such a healthy branch as to bear much fruit, abundant grapes.

Jesus manifests this in his references to loving one another: "Abide in my love." This love of Christ figuratively speaking is akin to the healthy sap that nourishes the vine throughout all its branches. Jesus the man is lovingly begotten into human society by the love God has for all human beings, through the cooperation of a human woman, the Virgin Mary. In return, humanity is repeatedly raised from sin to justification by the love of Christ, the only Son of God, one with the Father and the Spirit through all the ages. This resource for abiding in his love is endless.

The image of branches helps believers understand that they are all diverse as individuals, but brought together in the one Vine, who is Christ alive in the Church. It can also point out, in these times of growing ecumenical witness, that the differing expressions of Christian faith are also branches which cannot live on their own and still authentically proclaim the Gospel to all creatures. We preach Christ crucified and risen to a needy world, that the world may have hope. Separately, that "sap" which keeps all the branches healthy, gets stuck in blocked veins of animosity, distrust, bigotry and ignorance. Only open veins will allow the sap to flow. Only then can all the branches bear much fruit.

Therefore, abiding in Christ's love, let us love one another.

*from the website of the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute*

Gracious Lord, we pray for all the members of your holy Church, that all may abide in you and you in them, that they may be one in your love and bear much fruit. We also pray for the world, that all may come to believe in your love for them by the fruit of our witness. We know that our divisions are a source of scandal to your world, and we know that in love we are called to unite as one in the vine and branches. The vine is our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. We are meant to be his branches. Help us we pray, to love, to forgive, to seek justice, and to be your prophetic voice in the world. May your grace effect growth of good fruit among us, that our world may realize peace.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, your Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

