



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



“THIS IS  
MY BELOVED SON;  
LISTEN TO HIM.”

MARK 9:7



2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 295-4141

[www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org](http://www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org) — [parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org)

**Mass Intentions**

**Sat., Feb. 27 - Second Sunday of Lent - Vigil**  
5:15 Salvador Mariscal, SI

**Sun., Feb. 28 - Second Sunday of Lent**  
8:30 -People of Immaculate Conception  
10:00 - †Kristan & Richard Wagner  
11:30 - †Dr. Bob Andrews

**Mon., March 1 - Lenten Weekday**  
Msgr. Robert Ecker, SI

**Tues., March 2 - Lenten Weekday**  
†Alice Corrigan

**Wed., March 3 - Lenten Weekday**  
†Elsie Josephine Barone

**Thurs., March 4 - Lenten Weekday**  
The Spera Family, SI

**Fri., March 5 - Lenten Weekday**  
Priest's Intentions

**Sat., March 6 - Lenten Weekday**  
8:00 Brenda Buso, SI

If you wish to request a Mass intention for family member or friend, contact the parish office.

**Daily Readings**

Monday: DN 9:4b-10, LK 6:36-38

Tuesday: IS 1:10, 16-20, MT 23, 1-12

Wednesday: JER 18:18-20, MT 20, 17-28

Thursday: JER 17:5-10, LK 16:19-31

Friday: GN 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; MT 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: MI 7:14-15, 18-20; LK 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: EX 20:1-17, 1 COR 1:22-25, JN 2:13-25

**Pray for Our Sick**

Joane Anderson, Rev. James Boyd, Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi, Dominic Castagnola, Reginald Custodio, Joanne Daleo, Michael Denny, Dawn Desimone, Adela Diaz, Adele Dunne, Arline Fisch, Julie Fish, Ardell Haskins, Ditas Ibarra, Shirley Ilog, Donna Cruz Jones, Ricardo Hernandez, Olivia Ingram, Ardith Moore, Grace Mulvanity, Stephanie Ng, Ann Orwig, Peter Salmon, Anyssa Sanchez, Tom Sapien, Crystal Spera, Nancy Stodgell, Rita Tarango, Linda Thompson, Marie Whitman, Barbara Wingle.

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM\*, 10:00 AM (outdoors), 11:30 AM

\*live-streamed & open to attendees

Holy Day Masses: To be announced.

Reconciliation: After weekday morning Mass and by appointment.

Baptisms: By appointment only. Please contact Deacon Robert Fitzmorris to make arrangements.

Weddings: By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Please contact the parish office.

Funerals: For arrangements, please call the parish.  
Parish Office: 619-295-4141

**RECONCILIATION**

Confessions may be heard on Sundays between 9:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. See one of the ushers who will escort you to the priest. One can also ask the priest for confession after the weekday morning Mass.

Deacon Robert Fitzmorris, Parish Administrator  
rfitzmorris@sandiegodeacon.com  
619-997-9063

Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM, Liaison to the Parish  
Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM, in residence  
Fr. Vincent Mesi, OFM  
Parish email:  
parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org



Serra Gifts...

STORE HOURS

Thursday & Friday 1:30-4:30 pm  
 Saturday 11 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sunday 11 am - 5:00 pm



**New items for Lent are now available in the gift shop.**

**LIVE STREAM MASS**

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is providing live stream and recordings of the live streams in two ways.

- 1) On the [Franciscan School of Theology on the YouTube Channel called FST EDU1](#). During this Covid-19 Shelter in Place period please visit the YouTube Channel to see all opportunities for viewing.
- 2) On the parish website [www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org](http://www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org). Simply click on the photo (shown above).

Updated equipment has been installed and the live stream has high quality picture and sound.

Other Franciscan lectures are available on the YouTube Channel called FST EDU1.



**2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**  
**PARISH GOAL: \$10,000.00**  
**Pledges Paid: \$3,550.00**  
**as of February 18**

Letters with donation form have been mailed to parishioners. Please consider participating in the appeal. Your contribution, no matter how small, helps our diocese support Catholic schools, faith formation programs, Catholic Charities, and priestly formation.

Please make your check payable to **Diocese of San Diego**. If you plan on using a credit card for your donation, please visit [giving.sdcatholic.org](http://giving.sdcatholic.org).

You may drop off your donation form and check/cash in the collection box after Mass or visit the parish office (Monday thru Friday).

**HELP WANTED!**

Now that we are moving toward normalcy, we are in need of volunteers to serve as:

**Greeters, Ushers, or Lectors**

**Greeters** welcome parishioners and visitors, may direct them to the main entrance, and take the temperature of individuals above the age of two.

**Ushers** ensure attendees are wearing face masks before entering the church, guide them to the line for Holy Communion, ensure bulletins are available, and maintain security of the collection box.

**Lectors** read the welcome and announcements before Mass begins and read the prayers of the faithful during Mass.

Please contact the parish office if you are able to serve for one or more Sundays each month.

Call 619-295-4141 if interested or if you have questions.

**Growing our hearts this Lent**

By: Lindsey Weishar  
 Date: February 21, 2021  
 Catholic News Service

I don't know about you, but I often mentally brace myself for Lent. The season feels so long, so winter-ridden, and in this time of lingering pandemic, especially isolating. Yet, the Online Etymology Dictionary reminds me that Lent comes from an Old English word meaning "lengthening of the day," "spring."

Perhaps we're called to approach Lent not as a marathon of tasks meant to break our will but as a blossoming born of accompanying Christ through the desert, an opportunity to grow in our relationship with him along the way.

As we begin Lent, it may be useful to make a spiritual "game plan," for cultivating this relationship. It's important to remember that though we take on Lenten practices, the practices are primarily meant to orient us toward relationship with Christ and others. In the process, we grow our hearts.

If you're looking to meaningfully deepen your relationship with Christ, below are a few ways to nourish you on what may feel like a long road to Easter. As the reality of COVID-19 has continued to make some traditional forms of gathering difficult this year, these ideas may be incorporated into family and individual life at home.

**PRAYER**

— Listen to sacred music. If you enjoy praying with music, be sure to check out the work of Harpa Dei, a choir whose mission is evangelization. The four siblings who make up Harpa Dei sing from a variety of Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish traditions and in multiple languages.

Listening to their music is a peaceful experience that connects listeners to a rich treasury of music from around the world. You can find Harpa Dei on YouTube, and their music is a wonderful accompaniment to personal or family prayer time.

— Honor St. Joseph. Pope Francis has declared this year the Year of St. Joseph and shared a beautiful apostolic letter titled "Patris Corde." Consider reading "Patris Corde" with family or friends and reflecting on the fatherhood of St. Joseph. One of the letter's themes that has personally inspired me is, "Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us."

You might especially honor this tender father in March and on Wednesdays (both are dedicated to St. Joseph) by praying the Litany of St. Joseph, reading about him in Scripture or engaging in the many prayers or spiritual works that will allow you to receive a plenary indulgence this year (see [yearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofstjoseph.org)). Also consider celebrating the solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th, for which there are many traditions.

**FASTING**

— Fast from negativity. One Lent during my college years, my Newman Center challenged students to fast from negativity, giving us a small practice to do each day, like sitting next to someone we didn't know during a meal or staying off social media for a day. With family or friends, consider creating your own personalized fast with small, doable, daily practices.

— Fast from self. Add extra beauty to your Holy Week by engaging in traditional practices that promote emptying of self. Tenebrae services might not be happening in your parish or diocese this year, but it's possible to find the readings and psalms for this beautiful service online and to read them with family or friends. On Good Friday, consider making hot cross buns, the traditional food eaten on this day to remember Jesus' death and provide needed sustenance.

Another way to fast from self is to engage in prayerful reflection on the experiences of biblical figures (like Mary Magdalene, Simon of Cyrene and Mary, the mother of Jesus) during the passion and death of Christ by reading Scripture or praying through the Stations of the Cross. If stations are not offered inside your church this year, pray the stations as you walk through your neighborhood or near your church. Some churches may have outdoor stations.

**ALMSGIVING**

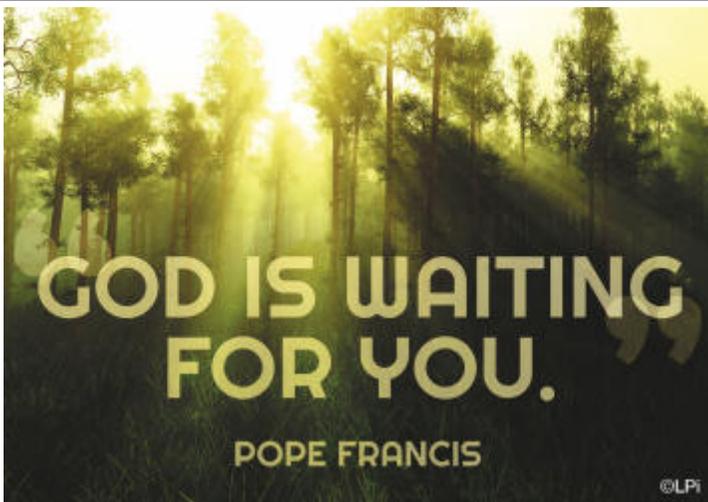
— Give materially. With family or friends, consider choosing an organization, community service or religious group to financially support this Lent. Though many organizations are not open to volunteers at this time, financial help allows them to continue serving others.

You might decide to collect not only spare change but more information about the organization's mission, charism and goals. How might you or your family creatively live out the spirit of this organization or community in your own lives? Don't forget to pray for this organization; send a card or spiritual bouquet with your financial gift to give your offering a personal touch.

— Give time or talent. Though many of our usual ministries may not be fully up and running, you can still make your time and gifts available to others this Lent. This might be in the form of tutoring a student via video call, virtually gathering friends for a Bible study (check out Father Mike Schmitz's Bible in a Year study) or calling homebound parishioners to check on their needs.

If you stumble along the way this Lent, remember that our Lord delights in our offerings that like the widow's coins may be small. We don't walk the road alone; he is traveling beside us and is a gracious companion. May our spiritual practices lead us to better knowing him.

Lindsey Weishar is a poet and freelance writer from the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois.



**VIRTUAL Marriage Enrichment**



This year give your marriage the gift of a Marriage Encounter Experience in the comfort of your own home. Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrates the love you have for your spouse and helps you to build, expand, and deepen that relationship. Our next virtual Experience is April 9-11th. Sign up today at [www.wwme-sandiego.org](http://www.wwme-sandiego.org)

“During the Season of Lent, the Holy Spirit drives us too, like Jesus, into the desert. (Mk 1:12-15). It is not a physical place, but rather an existential dimension in which we can be silent and listen to the word of God, so that a true conversion might be effected in us.”

Pope Francis

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Maruca , husband of Patricia Maruca. His funeral will be held in Imperial Valley. Please keep Joseph and his family in your prayers.

**HELP US CONNECT WITH YOU**

Please send an email to the parish to ensure you are able to receive emails with notices such as cancelled Masses, special events, etc. Your info is not shared.

Also be sure we have your phone number in our database. Recently, we have been unable to reach some of you regarding changes to the Mass schedule because we have no email or phone number for you.

**Annual Catholic Appeal: Care of Retired Priests**

When a diocesan priest is ordained, he makes a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the faithful in our diocese, typically serving 40 to 45 years in ministry. In return, the diocese makes a commitment to the priest to provide for his basic well- being during his lifetime, including retirement.

Everyone is aware of the need to appropriately provide for the spiritual, material, and medical needs during their senior years. Priests have the same concerns.

They want to have a certain level of confidence that someone will attend to the nurturing of their faith, helping them find an appropriate physical environment, and assist them when their bodies or minds decline with the passage of time. We play an important part in adding to their sense of security about their senior years.

The normal retirement age for a priest in our diocese is at age 75. Retirement costs including insurance, healthcare, prescription drugs, skilled nursing care, and housing and sustenance continue to escalate. At present, one-third of our diocesan priests are retired.

Our retired priests have a profound trust in the Lord and His Holy Mother; they have a profound trust in the gratitude and generosity of the people of the diocese. Our 1 retired bishop and retired priests rely on the Lord and His people to sustain them in their senior years. As age and physical ability permit, they continue to witness the love of God. They continue to live a life of prayer and sacramental participation.

The Annual Catholic Appeal supports care of retired priests so that they can live in dignity, and free of anxiety about their means of support. This includes providing health and auto insurance, nursing care at Nazareth House San Diego if needed, supplementing their pension when necessary, and covering expenses for them to attend the annual convocation of priests.

**Our Response as Stewards**

**REFLECT** — On the many gifts you have received from God, including your financial blessings.

**PRAY** — About how God wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

**RESPOND** — By supporting the mission. You can give at your parish or online at [giving.sdatholic.org](http://giving.sdatholic.org).

**COURTYARD BRICKS**

Customized Brick and Bench tops are available by order at the Parish Office or on the parish website. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Immaculate Conception Building Maintenance Fund.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs,"

received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

©LPi



**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA**

Feast Day – February 22  
1247-1297

This Italian penitent was the daughter of Tuscan peasants and, for nine years, the mistress of a young nobleman near Montepulciano. After her lover died violently, Margaret and her illegitimate child were given a home by the Franciscans in Cortona. She became a Franciscan tertiary and practiced severe self-denial. Until her son grew up, she earned their living and performed works of charity. In one vision, Christ told her she was "the third light" of the order, after Francis and Clare. Her prayers and counsel prompted many conversions, and she was considered a living saint.

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**ON HALLOWING OUR DIMINISHMENTS****RON ROLHEISER, OMI**

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Thirty years ago, John Jungblut wrote a short pamphlet entitled, *On Hallowing Our Diminishments*. It's a treatise suggesting ways we might frame the humiliations and diminishments that beset us through circumstance, age, and accidents so that, despite the humiliation they bring, we can place them under a certain canopy so as to take away their shame and restore to us some lost dignity.

And we all suffer diminishments. Certain things are dealt to us by genetics, history, circumstance, the society we live in, or by the ravages of aging or accidents that, seen from almost every angle, are not only bitterly unfair but can also seemingly strip us of our dignity and leave us humiliated. For example, how does one deal with a bodily defect that society deems unsightly? How does one deal with being discriminated against? How does one deal with an accident that leaves one partially or wholly paralyzed? How does one deal with the debilitations that come with old age? How does one deal with a loved one who was violated or killed simply because of the color of his or her skin? How does one deal with the suicide of a loved one? How do we set these things under some canopy of dignity and meaning so that what is an awful unfairness is not a permanent source of indignity and shame? How does someone hallow his or her diminishments?

Soren Kierkegaard offers this advice. He, who was sometimes publicly ridiculed during his lifetime, including newspaper cartoons that made sport of his physical appearance (his "spindly legs"), offers this counsel: In the face of something like this, he says, it's not a question of denying it, covering it up, or trying various distractions and tonics to deaden it or keep its sharpness at bay. Rather we must make ourselves genuinely aware of it, "by bringing it to complete clarity." By doing this, we hallow it. We bring it out of the realm of shame and give it a certain dignity. How is this done?

Imagine this as a paradigmatic example: A young woman is walking alone along a deserted road and is forcibly picked up by a group of drunken men who rape and kill her and leave her body in a ditch. Her shocked and horrified family and community do as Kierkegaard counsels. They don't try to deny what happened, cover it up, or try various distractions and tonics to deaden their pain. Instead, they bring it to "complete clarity". How?

They pick up her body, wash it, clothe her in her best clothing, and then have a three-day wake that culminates in a huge funeral attended by hundreds of persons. And their ritual honoring of her doesn't stop there. After the funeral they gather in a park near where she lived and after some hours of testimony that honors who she was, they rename the park after her.

What they do, of course, does not bring her back to life, does not erase in any way the horrible unfairness of her death, does not bring her killers to justice, and it does not fundamentally change the societal conditions that helped cause her violent death. But it does, in an important way, restore to her some of the dignity that was so horribly ripped away from her. Both she and her death are hallowed. Her name and her life now will forever speak of something beyond the unfairness and tragedy of her death.

We see examples of this on the macro level in way the world has handled the deaths of people like Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, Malcolm X, Jamal Khashoggi, and others who were killed by hatred. We have found ways to hallow them so that their lives and their persons are now remembered in ways that eclipse the manner of their deaths. And we see this too in how some communities handle the deaths of loved ones who have been senselessly shot by gang members or by police, where their manner of death belies everything that's good. The same is true for how some families handle the diminishments of their loved ones who die by drug overdose, suicide, or dementia. The indignity of their death is eclipsed by proper clarity around the very diminishments that brought about their death. Their memory is redeemed. In short, that's the function of any proper wake and any proper funeral. In bringing to clarity the very indignity that befalls someone we restore her dignity.

This is true not only for those who die unfairly or in ways that leave those they left behind grasping for ways to give them back some dignity. It's also true for every kind of humiliation and indignity we, ourselves, suffer in life, from the wounds of our childhood which can forever haunt us, to the many humiliations we suffer in adulthood. We cannot change what has happened to us, but we can hallow it by "bringing it to clarity" so that the indignity is eclipsed.

*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. He can be contacted through his website, [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com). Follow on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser](http://www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser).*



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