



# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 MARKETPLACE IRVINE, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG



Saint Thomas More Welcomes All

*Welcoming all, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.*

**Pastor**

Parochial Vicar  
Pastor Emeritus  
Parochial Vicar Emeritus  
Weekend Assistants

Deacons

**Rev. Eugene J. Lee**

Rev. Kiet Ta  
Rev. John E. Janze  
Rev. William Krekelberg  
Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem  
Rev. Joseph Justice  
Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite  
Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen  
Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun

**Office Information:**

Office: 949-551-8601  
After hours emergency: 949-228-2127  
Fax: 949-551-5879  
Religious Education: 949-551-8029  
Youth Ministry: 949-551-8602

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm



OCTOBER  
**17**  
2021

The Son of Man  
did not come  
to be served  
but to serve  
and to give his life  
as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time



*Ordination to the Diaconate*

Please pray for soon-to-be Deacon, Mr. Bernie Ocampo, his wife, Pam, and their children, Michael, Sidney and Megan, as he will be ordained at 10am on October 23rd at Christ Cathedral.

The ordination ceremony will be live-streamed at:  
<https://christcathedralcalifornia.org/>



*Join us to celebrate his Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday, Oct 24th at 10am at St. Thomas More!*

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — My servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear (Isaiah 53:10-11).  
**Psalm** — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).  
**Second Reading** — Let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help (Hebrews 4:14-16).  
**Gospel** — Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all (Mark 10:35-45 [42-45]).  
The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Daily Mass:**  
**Monday – Saturday: 8:00 AM**


**Vigil Mass Times**  
 4:00 PM Vietnamese/English  
 6:00 PM English

**Sunday Mass Times**  
 8:00 AM English  
 10:00 AM English  
 12:00 PM Spanish/English  
 5:00 PM English

**Morning Prayer:** Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am  
**Adoration:** Every Friday 6:00pm to 7:00pm  
**Saturday Confessions:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm

**Mass will be available online for the sick and homebound on Sundays at 10:00am and Monday-Saturday at 8:00am**  
**For spiritual advisement, please contact the priest to schedule an appointment.**

*Welcome to God's Family*



Noah Nguyen  
Vinh Tran



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
Monday 10/18	8:00am	†Mr. Lynn Chatelain
Tuesday 10/19	8:00am	†Manny Rede
Wednesday 10/20	8:00am	†Caden Wenner
Thursday 10/21	8:00am	†Jaime Moreno Andal
Friday 10/22	8:00am	The Majkoski-Nguyen Family
Saturday 10/23	8:00am	
		†Robert Feagans      Jose Ceballos
		†Joseph Welch      Dcn. Bernie & Mrs. Pam Ocampo
		Miguel A. Gonzaelez      Lumen Christi Class
		†Alfonso Villavert      Joseph Gonzales
		†Donald Chisholm      Robert Shake
Saturday 10/23	4:00pm	Ron Mostero
	6:00pm	†Jim O'Donnell
Sunday 10/24	8:00am	Bernie & Pam Ocampo
	10:00am	†Jean Harriet Liddi
	12:00pm	Pro Populo
	5:00pm	†Linda Risolia Cimino




**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9  
**Tuesday:** Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38  
**Wednesday:** Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48  
**Thursday:** Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53  
**Friday:** Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59  
**Saturday:** Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-4ab, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9  
**Sunday:** Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Thomas More Parish,

**Today's theme on the readings: THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

All three readings today support—each in its own way, of course—a reflection on the humanity of Jesus Christ and how that humanity played a key role in the drama of our salvation. Although not chosen specifically to coordinate with the other two readings, today's second reading does in fact carry forward the theme of Christ's humanity in a remarkable way. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews highlights the solidarity that exists between Jesus and us, precisely because in his human nature Jesus has known the same sufferings and testing that are our own experience. Because he can "sympathize with our weaknesses," we can "approach the throne of grace to receive mercy." For the author of Hebrews, the humanity of Jesus was an essential requirement for his redemptive death, as well as an invitation to us to find in Jesus someone with whom we can identify in our daily struggles.

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Sincerely In Christ,  
Father Eugene

**Collections and Expenses**

10-4-2021 to 10-10-21

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$21,809	\$14,962	\$36,771
Believe & Grow	\$1,618	\$841	\$2,459
BGT- Phase 2	\$6,235	\$3,290	\$9,525
Building Fund	\$905	\$224	\$1,129
Other income	\$9,435	\$2,134	\$11,569

Regular Expenses \$42,258

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Building Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property. *Thank you for your generosity!*

**Rest in the Love of Christ**

Don Paraan  
Samuel and Soledad Serrato



**PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING**

- |                          |                     |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sally Acosta             | Alice Green         | Benjamin Nicanor          |
| Stacey Allen             | Tina Halberg        | Karen Norton              |
| Richy Altuna             | Baby Johanna Harris | Nam Van Nguyen            |
| Mike Anderson            | Mike Harvey         | Thuy-Lieu Nguyen          |
| Renee Andrade            | Shirley Hecker      | Quy Nguyen                |
| Judy Anselmo             | John Heffernan      | Kyle Osbourne             |
| Alicia Arrellano         | Robert Henry        | Agnes Pamintuan           |
| Sam Baniqued             | Annette Hills       | Benny Parades             |
| Zicky Baniqued           | Margaret Hills      | Regina Park               |
| Jesus Barragan           | Clara Honea         | Norma Jeanne Parrish      |
| Gary Belz                | Dominador Hontucan  | Den Tony & Mary Patronite |
| Blanca Bermudez          | Sue House           | Gabby Paz                 |
| Maria Botello            | Linda Hughes        | Charlie Perrea            |
| Michele Bradley          | Angela Jack         | Ngocle Phung              |
| Bill Burk                | Elsa Jatwani        | Jerry and Evie Pilkington |
| Mary & Joe Bush          | Theresa Johnston    | Zachary Quick             |
| Baby Zane Cabazon        | Sharon Jones        | Norma Quyang              |
| Linda Carter             | Doris Jordan        | Fr. Jim Reis              |
| Sandy Catiller           | Quinn Kelly         | Paula Reno                |
| Ellen Chang              | Jim Kendall         | Lorraine Reyes            |
| Cyrus Charna             | Houman Khaghani     | Ponciano Reyes            |
| Marietta Charbonneau     | Jett Knight         | Robert Arnold Rull        |
| Hui-Mei Chen             | Ty Vivian Knisely   | Sheila Russo              |
| Clara Connor             | Elizabeth Kulas     | Terry Rute                |
| Alexandra Conti          | Richard Kulas       | Anita Ruwaldt             |
| Petra Cordova            | Deborah Kurilchyk   | Debashish Sarkar          |
| Francisco Cortez         | Larry Lathrum       | Jackson & Gerri           |
| Jim Danaher              | Glenn Leckie        | Scharff                   |
| Mark Daniel              | Todd Leeds          | Stuart Schnieder          |
| Rick Denham              | Jack Light          | Michelle Suh              |
| Diana & Liberato DeVeyra | Minerva Lopez       | Tara Summers              |
| Larry Doan               | Aida Lopez-Tan      | Liz Thomas                |
| Beata Durdovic           | Alicia Lowe         | Gail Tierney              |
| Chela Echenique          | Gloria MacCormack   | Xuan Tran                 |
| Linda Emanuel            | Humberto Mackay     | Denise Trujillo           |
| Thomas Erhard            | Myrna Malazarte     | Jack Troung               |
| Richard Erhard           | Kristin Mann        | Kimberly Truong           |
| Jacob Espinoza           | Mercedes Mantilla   | Baby Catherine Tseng      |
| Guadalupe Figueroa       | Cherry Marinas      | David Valentine           |
| Lena Fisher              | Cavan McGaffney     | Daniel Villareal          |
| Cynthia Fox              | Kathleen McKinley   | Jim Vessey                |
| Howard Frankel, MD       | Connie Mellott      | Hanh Vu                   |
| Ken Freund               | Durvalina Menezes   | Alicia Walters            |
| John Frisch              | Alexia Michaels     | Shayne Walters            |
| Claudia Fuentes          | Stephanie Mispagel  | John Weber                |
| Mike Garibay             | Elena Monico        | Donna Westlund            |
| Lillian Gibson           | Linda Moore         | Michele Wills             |
| Jose Gonzales, Jr.       | Agnes Motley        | Marcie Willson            |
| Marisela Gonzalez        | Marie Moya          | Mike Winchester           |
| Lois Gorman              | Susan Navarrete     | Jim Wood                  |
| Marnie Gray              | Ramon Navarro, Jr.  | Linda Yipp                |
|                          | Exy Ner             |                           |



**VISITNG STM SOON: Mr. PLUCKY!**



**Mr. Plucky (& Plucky Jr.) will join us on**  
**Saturday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Oct, 31<sup>st</sup>.**

They look forward to you again greeting them and helping stuff their tummies with cash and checks. In 2020 your contributions helped provide holiday meals to many hundreds of families and, in 2021, the need is even greater!

*Thank you and may God Bless you!*  
*Fr. Eugene & Fr. Kiet*

**Please call Kathy or Terry @ 949/856-2727**  
**if you have any questions or wish to help!**

*Please call the office when it is time to remove a name.*

LIFE TEEN

Now

### Life Night Schedule

Life Nights are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We meet from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the church.

LIFE TEEN

Thu 7:00 PM

### Dia De Los Muertos Life Night

Join us on October 24th as we look at the Catholic Tradition of praying for those who have passed away. We invite all our high school teens to bring a photo of thier loved ones who have passed away.

CONFIRMATION

WED 6:00 PM

### Confirmation Class Schedule

C1 Dates: Oct 13, Oct 27, Nov 10, Dec 1, & Dec 8

C2 Dates: Oct 20, Nov 3, Nov 17, Dec 1, & Dec 15

## REP CORNER



### Volunteers Still Needed for 2021/2022

We are still in need of a couple of volunteer teachers for our new REP year, especially on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM for First Year First Communion class. For more info on sharing the love of our faith with the young people of our parish, please contact the REP office at (949) 551-8029.



### First Communion Parent Meetings:

Please mark your calendars for the MANDATORY meetings coming up in October in the Parish Hall:

First Year (Communion in Spring, 2023) —

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Second Year (Communion in Spring, 2022) —

Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM



### REP FALL OFFICE HOURS

Mondays—9 AM-3 PM

Tuesdays-Thursdays—10 AM-6 PM



### The Library Corner

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The St Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Parish Library will be open today.

The Catholic Church on October 22 will celebrate the feast day of Pope John Paul II. Therefore, I would like to offer you a book that addresses the pressing spiritual issues of our day from; the miracle and dignity of each human life, the need for a community that nurtures humanity, the necessity of cultivating the inner spiritual life and the power of Christ to transform our present & future realities. This book is titled, 'The Way to Christ', and authored by Pope John Paul II. These deeply spiritual topics offer rich insight & solid guidance for Catholics living in today's world.



# October

## MONTH OF THE ROSARY & RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Join Fr. Eugene Lee and Fr. Kiet Ta  
Pray the Rosary every night on October 1st at 8PM

### VIRTUAL



### ROSARY

[WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG/ROSARY](http://WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG/ROSARY)



## STM Usher Ministry



*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

The STM Usher Ministry is hosting an usher training for new and seasoned ushers on

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM**

Questions? Contact Co-Coordinators of the Usher Ministry:  
Joe Martin Cell: 408-823-5344  
Frank Ornelas Cell: 949-857-9044

*Masses on Monday, November 1st*

8:00 am

5:00 pm

7:00pm (multi-lingual)

# All Saints



## Fall Family Fun Fair & Ministry Fair

October 31st

11:00am to 3:00pm

- Enjoy delicious food
- Games and treats for kids
- Meet new friends at the ministry tables

Hosted by: Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Timothy J Doyle

Council # 13111

# All Souls Novena

Mass Times:

Tuesday, November 2nd

8:00am and

7:00pm (multi-lingual)

Intention envelopes are available on the tables after Mass or in the parish lobby

ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE

BUILD COMMUNICATION

*inspire*  
TOGETHERNESS

@STM  
Nov 6 & 7

Sign up at:  
OCWWME.ORG

worldwide  
marriage  
encounter




Let us throw ourselves into  
the ocean of God's goodness,  
where every failing will be cancelled  
and anxiety turned into love.

~St. Paul of the Cross

**World Mission Sunday  
Special Collection  
Oct 23 and 24, 2021**



*Proclaim it With Joy!*  
...we cannot but speak about what  
we have seen and heard.  
*Acts 4:20*

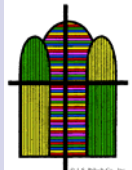

**We will have a  
second  
collection which  
supports  
missions all  
over the world.  
Thank you for  
your  
generosity!**

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY OCT 24, 2021

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
A Pontifical Mission Society

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: St. Luke  
Tuesday: Ss. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues,  
and Companions  
Wednesday: St. Paul of the Cross  
Friday: St. John Paul II  
Saturday: St. John of Capistrano;  
Blessed Virgin Mary

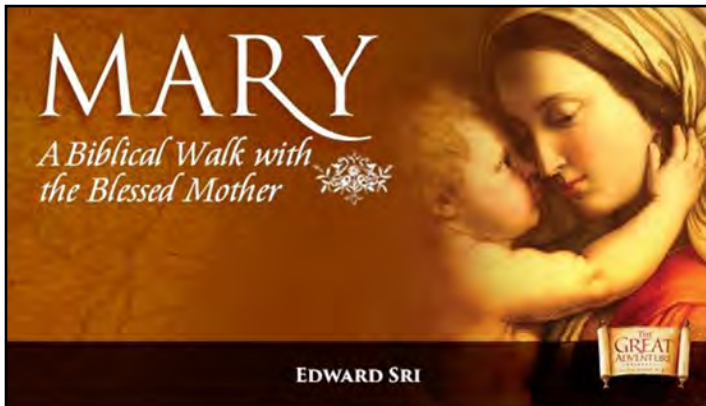
**FEAST OF FAITH  
Only Say the Word**

The bread is broken, the banquet is prepared, and now we are invited to the feast. Once more the priest holds the host, now broken, for us to see, and invites us to behold the one "who takes away the sins of the world." Truly blessed and happy are those invited to this meal, which is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, the supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:19). We respond to this invitation with a prayer to the Lord: we acknowledge that we are not worthy, but at the same time we are confident that the One who comes to us can heal us, body and soul. This prayer echoes the story of the centurion in Luke's Gospel. The centurion, a Gentile, asks healing for his servant, but does not consider himself worthy to have Jesus come under his roof—he believes that Jesus can heal his servant with a word, without even seeing him. Jesus is amazed at his faith. It is the same for us. We believe that Jesus speaks to us, comes to us, dwells with us, even though we neither hear his voice nor see his face.  
—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Confession Schedule**

**Saturdays**  
**1:00pm—3:00pm**  
**Inside the Parish Office**  
**Enter through side**  
**by staff entrance**

Confessions are also available by appointment  
by calling the priest directly  
to schedule an in-person meeting



EDWARD SRI

**NEW BIBLE STUDY!**

*A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother*

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. She will become a part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

Join us for *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* our brand new Saturday Bible Study starting on **October 9th**. Participants will view a video during the week and meet via Zoom every Saturday morning at 9AM for a lively group discussion and fellowship. To register, contact: *Deacon Tony* at [deacontony@stmirvine.org](mailto:deacontony@stmirvine.org)

September 22 - October 31

**HELP SAVE LIVES IN ORANGE COUNTY!**

[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

Join others across the nation, uniting our prayers, fasting and physical presence outside of abortion mills for the Precious Unborn baby boys and girls inside the mother's wombs. These Precious Babies are in our neighborhoods, where we prayerfully witness for them. :

- **Pray at Vigil location:** The sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood 700 S Tustin St. Orange.
- **Vigil hours:** 6 am to 6 pm daily from September 22<sup>nd</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Click or copy/paste the link below to sign up to pray for a one time or a weekly one-hour time slot.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/orange>

"Any Country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor"  
 – Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops place  
 'Preeminent Priority' on Stopping Abortion!**



Other Locations to join in prayers:  
 Mission Viejo – [40daysforlife.com/MissionViejo](http://40daysforlife.com/MissionViejo) | Costa Mesa – [40daysforlife.com/CostaMesa](http://40daysforlife.com/CostaMesa)

*Remembering all souls.*

*We will be placing pictures of our dearly departed onto our parish hall walls throughout the month of November.*

If you are interested in including your loved one's photo, please visit the welcome table outside or office lobby for additional details and easy instructions on how to submit your pictures.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

**24 Hour Adoration**

**on the 22nd of the Month**

**Contact Deacon Tony to sign up for a Holy Hour with Jesus**


[deacontony@stmirvine.org](mailto:deacontony@stmirvine.org)

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW CLOSER TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, BY SPENDING ONE HOUR A MONTH IN A VERY INTIMATE AND UNDISTRACTED CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

MAKE A COMMITMENT TODAY AND SIGN UP TO MAKE A VISIT ON THE 22ND OF EACH MONTH. YOU WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER EACH MONTH VIA E-MAIL.

GOD IS BLESSING US,  
 Deacon Tony [deacontony@stmirvine.org](mailto:deacontony@stmirvine.org)

**Ways to Give to STM:**

- **Secure e-giving on our website:** [www.stmirvine.org](http://www.stmirvine.org)
- **In basket at Mass** 
- **Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby**
- **Use your smartphone via GivePlus app (Vanco)**
- **Donate stock, life insurance or retirement plans**
- **Employer Matching Gifts**
- **Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchases to STM!**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

# ST. THOMAS MORE MINISTRIES

## Liturgy Support

Altar Servers	Tina Le	(7) 356-7607
Eucharist to the Homebound	Fran Necikowski	(7) 505-4816
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Donaldson	(9) 552-5485
Lectors	Tara Reynaud	(7) 925-9992
Music Director, Including Wedding Music	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Ushers	Frank Ornelas	(9) 857-9044

## Sacraments

Baptism Coordinator	Windy Lozano	(9) 551-8601
Confirmation	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
First Communion	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
First Reconciliation	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)	Michael Michalek	(9) 551-2304
Marriage Case Support	Michael Michalek	(9) 551-2304
	Mary Patronite	(9) 551-8601
Marriage Encounter	Jim & Cheryl Skudlarski	(9) 551-9156
Marriage In The Lord	Meredith & Keith Rattay	(9) 559-6464
Wedding Coordinator		

## Service

Bereavement	Rosie Muñoz	(9) 551-8601
Children's Homeless Lunch Ministry	Kim Le	(9) 551-8601
Chinese Community	Deacon Leonard Sun	(7) 932-1689
Corazon	Norma Jean Womack	(9) 559-5639
Filipino Community	Charlie Torres	(9) 551-8601
Grief Share Ministry	K.C. Riley	(7) 875-8126
Hispanic Ministry	Frank Ornelas (9) 857-9044	Patty Trujillo (7) 270-5073
Homeless Lunch Ministry	Margaret Cunningham	(7) 552-8711
Knights of Columbus Council #13111	Ed Francis	(858) 229-2490
Respect Life	Chris Gonzales	(9) 551-8601
STM Veterans	Sgt. Bob Kohler	(9) 552-1895
St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Chacon	(9) 331-1020
Vietnamese Ministry	Huan Le	(7) 261-9893
Young Ladies Institute	Mary O'Leary	(9) 305-6810

## Parish

Believe and Grow Together Campaign	Lisa VanDorpe	(7) 357-3080
Bulletin Editor	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Building Committee	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tony Patronite, Tin Nguyen & Leonard Sun	(9) 551-8601
Parish Business Manager	Stephanie Miller	(9) 551-8601
Parish Office Manager	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Welcoming Committee	Vince Salico	(7) 389-7726

## Spiritual Development

Adult Faith Formation / Bible Study	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Life Teen – High School & Young Adults	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
Religious Education	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Christ Renews His Parish	Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Cursillo and When Women Pray	Susan Navarrete	(9) 345-9130
Legion of Mary	Linda Hughes	(9) 559-1124
Library	Sam & Diana Adams	(7) 321-2405
Spanish Bible Study	Teresa LeMire	(7) 832-1770

**If you are feeling called to serve in one or more of our ministries, please send an email with your contact information to: [serve@stmirvine.org](mailto:serve@stmirvine.org)**

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**SEVEN GABLES**  
REAL ESTATE

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For further information, please call the Parish Office.



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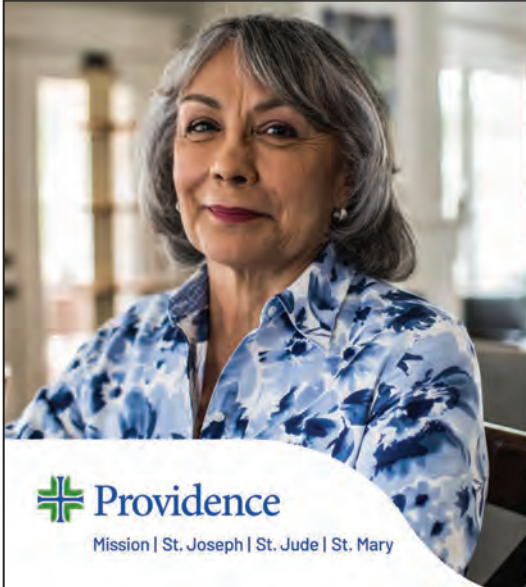
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**The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve  
and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

MARK 10:45

Detail, Anonymous, *Christ Washing the Apostles' Feet*, Paris, c. 1250-1260

## CONTINUALLY LEARNING FROM JESUS

Today's Old Testament selection, from Isaiah's "Fourth Song of the Suffering Servant of God," describes God's Servant as one who "gives his life as an offering for sin" (Isaiah 53:10) and celebrates the mighty power of that self-offering: "through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear" (53:11). As always during Ordinary Time, this Old Testament reading prepares us for today's longer form Gospel. Jesus incarnates the redemptive suffering that Isaiah foresaw in the offering of God's Servant, as well as the covenantal restoration that the Servant's sacrifice achieved. The reading from Hebrews confirms our finding peace in continually learning from Jesus, whatever our deepest flaws and trials: for Jesus, our "great high priest" (Hebrews 4:14) is not "unable to sympathize with our weaknesses," for Jesus was "tested in every way" that we are (4:15).

## MISUNDERSTANDING JESUS

Throughout this part of Ordinary Time, Mark's Gospel tracks the disciples' progressive misunderstanding about Jesus' mission and the nature of discipleship. We heard Jesus make two predictions about his Passion on Sundays in September, and just before today's Gospel episode, Jesus informed the Twelve: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise" (Mark 10:33-34). Despite Jesus' three predictions and his definition of "glory" and "power" as serving others in humility, James and John still imagine Jesus as bound for a glorious earthly messiahship. How moving that Jesus, rather than scolding James and John as he had previously rebuked Peter, instead begins teaching them patiently, "You do not know what you are asking" (10:38).

## SELF-EXAMINATION

Knowing that Jesus' throne of glory is also a "throne of grace," from which Jesus bestows "mercy and grace for timely help" (Hebrews 4:16), today's Gospel suggests sincere self-examination: How do we approach Jesus and make our requests? What do we ask for: what Jesus wants us to do or, like James and John today, do we demand "whatever we want" from Jesus? Does the world in which we live and work focus our hearts on glory to the right and power on the left? Or does "the cup we drink," "the baptism" we've received inspire us to gladly become servants of all, like the Jesus who has made us his disciples? Do we also avoid imitating the "indignant ten" other Apostles who rebuked James and John? Or are we also quick to see the errors of others and rash in passing judgment on them? How do we live in response to Jesus who gave his life "as a ransom for many"?

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 53:10-11  
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
Mark 10:35-45 [42-45]

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OCTOBER 17, 2021**

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