



# 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



## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 3, 2021

From the beginning of creation,  
God made them male and female.  
For this reason a man shall leave  
his father and mother and  
be joined to his wife,  
and the two shall  
become one flesh.

MARK 10:6-8





### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The man said, “This one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called ‘woman’ ” (Genesis 2:18-24).

**Psalm** — May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives (Psalm 128).

**Second Reading** — He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin (Hebrews 2:9-11).

**Gospel** — Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it (Mark 10:2-16 [2-12]).

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.




### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 10/4	8:00am	Deacon Tony Patronite
Tuesday 10/5	8:00am	Kathleen Hoying
Wednesday 10/6	8:00am	†Antonio Leon
Thursday 10/7	8:00am	Abbey Rose Cruz
Friday 10/8	8:00am	Heather Bogdanor
Saturday 10/9	8:00am	Linda Hughes †Souls in Purgatory Benedict and Teri Walsh Patric and Joanne Frowein Gabriel and Elizabeth Kim †Monette Cabrera
Saturday 10/9	6:00pm	Robert & Cathy Ward & Family
Sunday 10/10	8:00am	Pro Populo
	10:00am	Mernie Empalmado
	10:00am	†Domingo Empalmado
	10:00am	†Percival Cabrera
	12:00pm	Victor Leon
	5:00pm	Lisa Busch



*Congratulations to*  
**Rev. Eugene J. Lee**  
*who is being installed this weekend*  
*as pastor of*  
*St. Thomas More Catholic Church*



**October 3, 2021**  
**5:00 pm Mass**  
*Bishop Kevin Vann, presiding*  
*Reception on patio to follow*

**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.**

**BLESSING OF PETS**

**Monday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 PM**



by the statue of St. Francis.

Bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier.

People without pets are welcome too!

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Thomas More Parish,

**Today's theme on the readings: THE BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE US**

We live in a society that has many technological avenues for stimulation and entertainment, one in which the urban population exceeds the non-urban. It is curious that loneliness is a prevalent malady. It is easy to reach out and touch someone, we are told. But—in truth—it is not all that easy, and statistics from the mental health field will reinforce that opinion. Today's readings are about the ways in which we can authentically reach out: God touches Adam to create a mate and end his solitude; God-in-Jesus takes on human flesh and death in order that we might come to glory; Jesus reaches out to the children whom the disciples had tried to keep away, showing us the manner in which we must approach the loving embrace that awaits us in heaven. Until that day, however, we must remember that ours is a sacramental church, a church of signs of the love of God. And so we are called to reach out continually to ease the loneliness and the barriers that separate us from one another and, therefore, from the love of Christ.

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Sincerely In Christ,  
Father Eugene

**Collections and Expenses**

9-20-2021 to 9-26-21

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$13,598	\$7,711	\$21,309
Believe & Grow	\$498	\$929	\$1,427
BGT- Phase 2	\$200	\$906	\$1,106
Building Fund	\$121	\$635	\$756
Other income	\$200	\$1,389	\$1,589

Regular Expenses \$29,722

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!**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37  
**Tuesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42  
**Wednesday:** Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4  
**Thursday:** Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13  
**Friday:** Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9;  
 Lk 11:15-26  
**Saturday:** Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;  
 Lk 11:27-28  
**Sunday:** Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13;  
 Mk 10:17-30 [17-27]

**Deacon Ordination**

On October 23rd, Mr. Bernie Ocampo will be ordained as a permanent deacon. The ordination ceremony will be live-streamed at: <https://christcathedralcalifornia.org/>.  
**Join us to celebrate his Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday, October 24th at St. Thomas More!**



**Rest in the Love of Christ**

Jim Botti  
Rosemary Mungia



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

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

LIFE TEEN

Now

### Welcome To Our New Life Teen Core Members

Welcome to the newest Life Teen Core Members!

- Ricky Cruz
- Maddy Bass

LIFE TEEN

Thu 7:00 PM

### Life Teen Fall Kick Off

Life Teen's annual Fall kick off is Sunday, October 10th after the 5pm Mass. We can not wait to start this new year of Youth Ministry with our STM Family.

CONFIRMATION

WED 6:00 PM

### Confirmation Class Schedule

C1 Dates: Sept 29, Oct 13, Oct 27, Nov 10, Dec 1, & Dec 8

C2 Dates: Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 3, Nov 17, Dec 1, & Dec 15

# R.E.P. CORNER



## BLESSING OF THE PETS

Please join our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade REP students in celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi THIS Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in front of the statue of St. Francis.

*Don't forget to bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier!*



## GREAT START TO THE YEAR!!

We had an amazing start to our REP classes these past week! It has been a true blessing to see our students and their families in person! Many thanks go to our

fantastic volunteers! We have over 250 students currently enrolled! Registration is still open and will continue through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please get your child registered right away! .



Since we have over 250 students, we still need some help at all grade levels.

For questions, or to volunteer in this rewarding ministry, please contact the REP office at (949) 551-8029.



## The Library Corner

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The St Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Parish Library will be open today.

The Catholic Church in the USA celebrates Respect Life Month each October and today is observed as 'Respect Life Sunday'. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life, in the womb, to our ending of life, at death. In continuing with this topic, I would like to recommend an excellent book titled, 'Why Pro-Life', authored by Randy Alcorn. Randy gives us a clear presentation of the supported facts on why the pro-life position is right and true and how we all need to value every human life.

# 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



### VOCATIONS 101

The Cultural Center at Christ Cathedral will be hosting a three-part evening series for young adults 18 and older seeking guidance on their vocation. The Office of Vocations team will go through resources and have discussions to give participants the tools to best discern their lives through God's purpose!

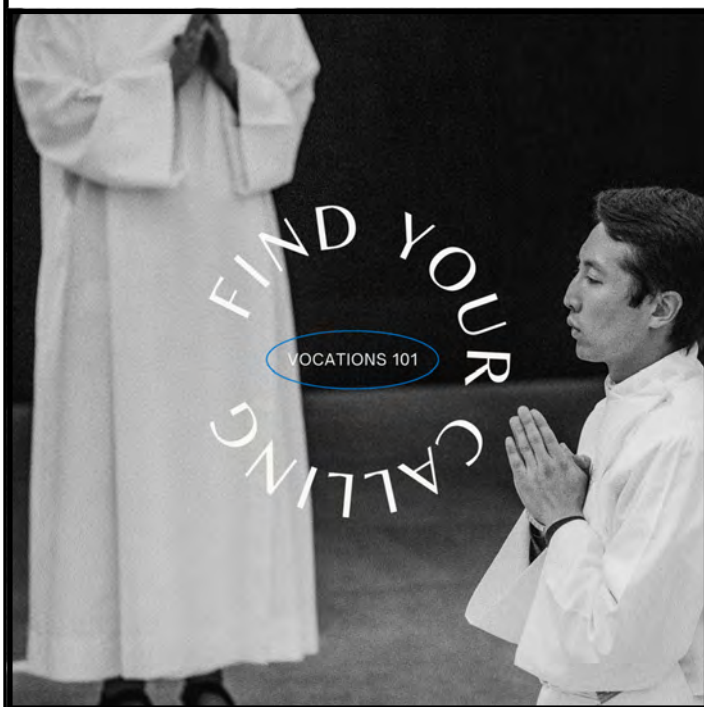
The series will be on **Oct. 5, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14**  
from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To register, email the Office of Vocations at  
[ocvocations@rcbo.org](mailto:ocvocations@rcbo.org)

### Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz

Last Tuesday, the Filipino Ministry hosted a Mass and reception to celebrate the Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, who is the first Filipino martyr and saint. He was canonized in 1987 by Pope John Paul II.

*"I am a Catholic and I will remain a Catholic even to the point of death. Only to God will I offer my life. Even if I had a thousand lives, I will still offer them to Him."*





## MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL

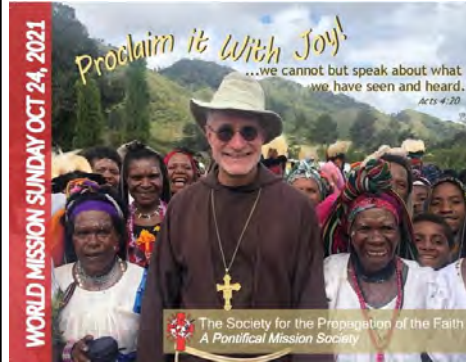
On October 9 and 10, 2021 we will have Fr. Rudy Alumam representing his

home diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana in this year's Missionary Cooperative Appeal.

Fr. Rudy will be sharing about the mission of the diocese to provide education for many children in underserved communities in northern Ghana.

Your kindness is very much appreciated for the mission of Fr. Rudy's diocese. Thank you.

## World Mission Sunday Second Collection Oct 23 and 24, 2021



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



To view all dates, times and locations, visit [OrangeCatholicFoundation.org/estate-planning](https://OrangeCatholicFoundation.org/estate-planning)



## FEAST OF FAITH The Sign of Peace

“Greet one another with a holy kiss,” wrote Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:20), and he said the same thing to other communities as well. The holy kiss, the sign of peace, has been a hallmark of Christians from the very beginning. In giving and receiving the sign of peace, we are not giving something of our own, but something that Christ has given to us. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you,” Jesus told his disciples (John 14:27). Jesus comes to us when we gather together in community. We celebrate the Eucharist not just to receive spiritual nourishment to help us on our solitary way to salvation, but to be transformed into one body, the Body of Christ in the world. As we receive the Eucharist, we are not only united to Christ; we are united to each other. It is never easy to live in community, and we hurt each other on the way. So we need to turn to each other in a sign of reconciliation and forgiveness, to look into each other’s eyes, and give and receive the peace that is not ours, but Christ’s.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WHEN WOMEN PRAY  
11TH ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
OCTOBER 16, 2021 | 8AM-1PM  
ST THOMAS MORE PARISH  
IRVINE, CA



SARA VUOSO  
Featured Speaker



REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN!

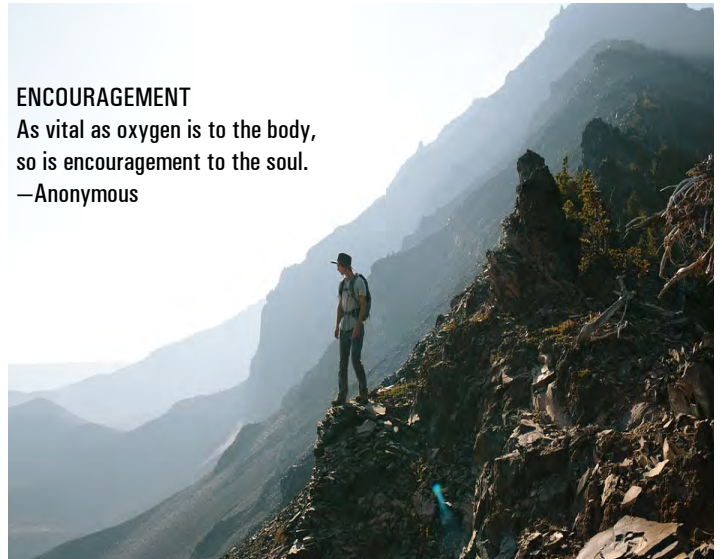
Join us for an inspiring morning of prayer, food, and fellowship!

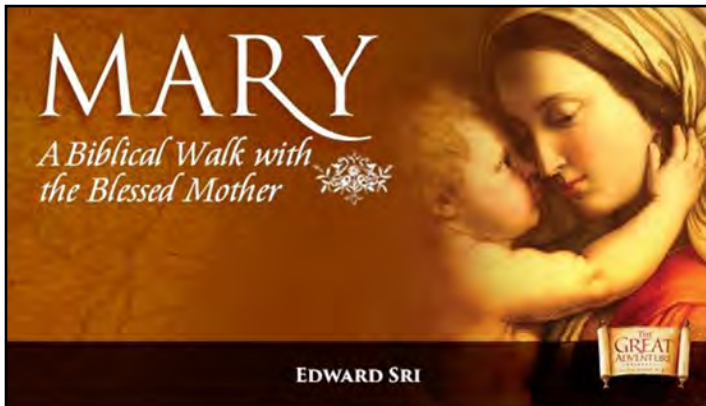
Space is limited so register now at:  
<https://whenwomenpraystm.org/wwwp-2021>

## ENCOURAGEMENT

As vital as oxygen is to the body,  
so is encouragement to the soul.

—Anonymous





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)

**DMC:2021 EVANGELIZATION NOW!**  
 — SET YOUR WORLD ON FIRE! —

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SPEAKERS:  
 CHRIS STEFANICK  
 LEYDEN ROVELO-KRULL  
 SR. THERESA MARIE CHAU VIET NGUYEN, OP

WE HAVE A STORY TO TELL – LEARN THE STORY – TELL THE STORY

**FREE EVENT | SAT. OCT 16, 2021**  
**8:30 AM-4:00 PM | [DMC2021.ORG](http://DMC2021.ORG)**

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday  
**Monday:** St. Francis of Assisi  
**Tuesday:** Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos  
**Wednesday:** St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher  
**Thursday:** Our Lady of the Rosary  
**Saturday:** St. Denis and Companions; St. John Leonardi; Blessed Virgin Mary

**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!**

**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)

# 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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# Let the children come to me;

do not prevent them,  
for the kingdom of God  
belongs to such as these.

Mark 10:14

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021

### GOD DOES NOT GIVE UP

Our readings today point to God's deep commitment to human relationships. Our passage from Genesis begins with the declaration that God created human persons to be social beings, who can only thrive when they live in deep connection with each other and with God. The author of Hebrews teaches that the coming of Jesus as one of us shows God's radical commitment to human life. Jesus' teaching about divorce, described in today's Gospel, shows God's deep investment in marriage and, implicitly, all human relationships. When our personal relationships with others are distant or broken, God seeks to heal them. When social structures serve to maintain oppression, or to keep groups in ongoing conflict, God is working to overthrow them. Even when we give up on each other, God does not give up. God will work ceaselessly, in us and through us, within all the pain and joy of the human situation.

### LIKE A CHILD

Today's passage from Mark's Gospel is in the context of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom, or reign, of God. A common understanding was that entering the kingdom was based on family origin, or achievement, or status in the community. Jesus pushes back on this, and presents a child as a model of receptivity and openness.

This is not to suggest that adults must somehow reject the wisdom gained through adult experience and return to childhood. Adult maturity also includes the difficult journey, usually later in life, of letting go of illusions that we have built up about our own virtue, skills, and autonomy. Jesus' teaching pushes back against our culture, which honors energy and vigor, expertise and achievement. These valuable gifts can fail us if we cannot accept our dependence on God who provides and cultivates these gifts. We can accept God's graciousness in our life when we open our hearts as a child does.

### PROUD TO BE HUMAN

This is the first of seven consecutive Sundays that we will share passages from the Letter to the Hebrews. The letter is an extended sermon by an unknown author directed to a Christian community where likely many were converts from Judaism. The author attempts to link Jesus to the story of the people of Israel, building toward an image of Christ as God's perfect high priest. Christ the High Priest is described as the central link between humanity and God.

When we reflect upon the life and death of Jesus, we can more deeply accept that through Jesus, God knows what we humans experience. Jesus the High Priest embraces his humanity. In today's passage, the author claims that Jesus is proud to be human, proud to be our brother in the family of God. The letter to the Hebrews is not only a celebration of Christ, it is an affirmation of the dignity of our own human life.

### TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6  
Hebrews 2:9-11  
Mark 10:2-16 [2-12]