



Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

I'm sure you've already marked your calendars for April 15. **Our pasta dinner is less than a month away!** I know that so many of you are excited to welcome back this Saint Alexander tradition after a long hiatus! You'll be able to purchase tickets today after Mass or after Mass next Sunday.

I'm very grateful to all those who have helped organize the event, and to all those who have pledged their assistance with set-up, cooking and cleaning. **If you are willing to volunteer in any capacity to help make the upcoming dinner a success, please reach out to Pat Duggan at pdugan12(at)gmail(dot)com.**

As a traditionally Italian parish, the feast of Saint Joseph, which is transferred this year to Monday, March 20, gives us an opportunity not only to celebrate Italian heritage and culture but also to place ourselves under the patronage of the foster-father of Jesus. Did you know that there are no recorded words of Joseph in any of the gospels? In fact, he appears in only two of the gospels, Matthew and Luke. Even though he seems to say nothing, the gospels pay him a high compliment. **They tell us that Joseph was a "just man."** The just man was hailed in the Jewish scriptures as the one who lived the law with integrity, enjoying a balanced and harmonious relationship with God and with his community.

But I think Joseph's silence is instructive, too. We can imagine the absence of words as indicative of a holy reverence in the face of mystery. Joseph clearly didn't always understand God's plan. I can't imagine that he would have ever expected the kind of life God had prepared for him: marriage to the only human being ever conceived without original sin and fostering the Savior of the world! But Joseph humbly and reverently fulfilled the vocation for which God had created him. He chose silent awe in the face of mystery rather than insistence on understanding.

As a historically Italian-American parish, we honor and salute Saint Joseph this week, but as members of the Church Universal, **we acknowledge his patronage of the entire family of God.** May he watch over us and keep us safe, just as he did Mary and Jesus in Nazareth.

Until next week,

Fr. Joe

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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.
*Administrator, Saint Alexander
Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay*



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:15am
Saint Alexander
Saturday Vigil at 4pm
(Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)
Saint Mary of the Bay
Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm
Saint Mary of the Bay
Monday-Friday 8am
Saint Mary of the Bay
Holy Days as Announced



TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee
John Saviano, Trustee
Patricia Dugan, Auditor
John Flynn, Auditor

Lent 2023

Calendar of Activities

Stations of the Cross

Tuesday Mornings following the 8am Mass, SMB

Parish-Wide Faith Formation Event

Learn about Holy Week and make your own Resurrection Garden for home. All members of

SMB and STA are welcome!

Wednesday, March 22, OR

Thursday, March 23, 7pm, SMB Church Hall

Encounter: Adoration with

Praise & Worship Music

Wednesday, March 29, 7pm, SMB

(Visiting priests will be available for Confession.)

Finding God through Beauty:

A Special Women's Event

Thursday, March 30, 6:30pm, SMB Church Hall

Soul Food

Join us for a Blount's soup luncheon

with palm-cross demo

Palm Sunday, April 2,

following the 10:30am Mass, SMB Church Hall

The Sacred Triduum

April 6, 2023—Maundy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, SMB

April 7, 2023—Good Friday

3pm Stations of the Cross, Saint Alexander

7pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion, SMB

April 8, 2023—Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, SMB

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

March 19, 2023

9:15am: Judith Metcalf

Requested by David & Betty Hoague

March 26, 2023

9:15am: Herschel Price

∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/

Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

From today's First Reading:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Consider: **Much to Samuel's surprise, the Lord instructed him to anoint the youngest of Jesse's sons, David, to be the next king of Israel. When have you been surprised by God?**

From today's Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Consider: **Paul urges the Ephesians: "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." What do you think pleases the Lord?**

From today's Gospel:

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent — So he went and washed, and came back able to see. (Jn 9:6-7)

Consider: **Jesus' healing of the blind man created confusion, anger, and fear among some of the people witnessing this event. In a real sense, Jesus' healing exposed the blindness of others. How do we prevent ourselves from being blind to God's presence in this season of Lent?**