

St. Jerome Church

5550 Thornburn Street Los Angeles, CA 90045
www.stjeromelax.org 310-348-8212

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

Next Saturday Night

ST. JEROME CHURCH PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY



8th Annual Parish Christmas Caroling Party **Saturday, December 8, 2018**

5:30pm Vigil Mass

DINNER 6:30pm

SINGING 7:15pm- 8:15pm

You and your family are invited to the Parish Hall for food, caroling and even a little comedy! Come and experience the JOY of the Christmas season. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners.

Come join the FUN!

Our mission is to SHARE God's message with all people, to OFFER support to those in need, to PROMOTE Christian values and commitment to the family, to FOSTER a loving and welcoming environment enriched by culture and age diversity, and to DEEPEN spiritual growth through sacraments, prayer and service.

From Fr. Bill

She was deeply disappointed with the recent synod's document on Youth and Pope Francis' request to the US Bishops to postpone their decisions on the response to the Pennsylvania Report and other abuse allegations. I must admit that my first reaction shares her disappointment... but prayer, study and reflection have modified my opinion.

I need to give you a little background on my personal experience to understand the shift in my perspective. First, I was involved with formation of young men to the priesthood and religious life for several years. I was also involved in promoting vocations to religious life and at one point was Vocation Director for the Salesians of Don Bosco in the western United States. These different responsibilities required that I attend international gatherings and study internationally developed documents regarding vocations and the formation of men to Salesian Religious Life and priesthood. These experiences I will now apply to her areas of disappointment.

What is "youth?" Please realize that Salesians (my background) are trained as a youth and young adult specialists. It is a part of the Salesians gift to the church to be signs and bearers of God's love for the young.

Asking what "youth" is, may seem dumb, but please know that the American definition of youth is at variance with the international definition. Americans think youth are kids (mostly teens). The rest of the non-Anglo world considers "youth" to be young men and women of the age of consent, usually already working and getting ready for married life. At World Youth Day the world is surprised we send children (who need protection and supervision) when from our perspective they are sending "Young Adults." When the universal church gathers to discuss youth, they are focused on young people 18 to 35 years of age.

The US bishops' attempt to address "child abuse" in the document was resisted by the world's bishops and youth as from their understanding they we gathered to focus on "Youth" NOT "children." This is why the subject of abuse was broadened and not specifically highlighting children: power, economic, conscience and sexual were the types of abuse which were condemned. They praised those who bring these evils to light and work to confront and change them. The majority participating felt this was not the right forum to discuss the abuse of children.

What is "sexual child abuse?" I remember being stunned to discover in discussion groups with people from other nations that when we Americans were speaking of "abuse of children," they were understanding and translating it as homosexuality. Please realize that the United States is viewed as a promoter of homosexuality. Know that I have been in

discussions with educated adults who testify that their nations (e.g. Mexico) have no homosexuals or that the number is so small as to be not worth mentioning. Practicing homosexuality is still considered a crime in many nations and in Muslim nations can result in the death penalty. The section of the Youth Synod Document which addresses homosexuality was a part of the world's response to the abuse situation which they view as an Anglo-Saxon (US, Canada, Ireland, England, Australia) "cultural" problem. We can claim they live in denial, but they claim it is the fruit of our promiscuous culture. Both probably have some truth.

What is the "age of consent?" Please realize that in a very few nations, girls as young as 8 years of age can and do enter into marriage. Please know that the church recognizes that a 14-year-old can take vows of Religious Life or enter into marriage (I do know women who were married at 14.), but asks the local church to follow their country's standards. Given the varied understanding on the age of consent and the United States' categorizing of sex by an adult (over 18) with minor (those under 18) as child abuse has resulted in 18 year olds (who had had what they thought was consensual sex with a fellow high school student) being classified as registered child abusers. Our American standards result in ephebophiles (those attracted to post-pubescent teens, usually 15 to 19) and pedophiles (those attracted to pre-pubescent children) being grouped together... when the majority of the world considers pedophilia to be the behavior considered aberrant and worthy of condemnation. Therefore, what we often describe as child abuse (under 18) much of the world may consider consensual (over 13). By the way, the reason much of the Catholic world requires fasting to begin at 14 years of age, but in the church of the United States begins at 18 is directly related to what is considered the age of consent.

Pope Francis actually did the American Catholic Church a favor by asking they postpone their decisions until after the February meetings with the Vatican. I am sorry to say that some of our US Bishops, in my opinion, are not thinking clearly. I have spoken in favor of bringing to light our history and the probable abuse allegations so that we end the seemingly unending gradual releases of 20th century cases. Evidentially, some US bishops are unwilling to commit to this. Maybe they are afraid of admitting responsibility or opening themselves to lawsuits, but regardless, Pope Francis realized that the American Church was not ready yet to speak with one voice on this point and asked them to discuss, reflect, pray and postpone til after the February meetings their final resolutions. Pray for our bishops as they need to get on the same page for our response.

This doesn't eliminate my disappointment but helps me better understand the synod and the pope's decisions.



Save the Date:

December 20th– 6pm in the church

School and Religious Education Christmas Program.

All are welcome to come and enjoy!

Now is the time to become alert! We watch. We wait. We ask God to show his face as we recall the birth of Jesus.

St. Jerome's School Collection

Today the second collection basket will help support our school. Each month please remember to use the yellow "School Support" envelopes to help our catholic families and their children have access to a great education which should be their right..not just for the privileged few. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. Our children are our future.



Coffee and Donuts
Youth Ministry will be hosting coffee and donuts after all the Sunday morning masses. Come join us! the hall!

December 8th, is the Solemnity of **the Immaculate Conception**, a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. We celebrate Mary's preservation from original sin from the moment of her conception.



Masses will be on Friday, December 7th at 7pm, and Saturday, December 8th at 8am and Noon.

St. Jerome Church Christmas Bag-It Up 2018

Bags were distributed with a suggested menu in the bags. If it's inconvenient to fill a bag, donations to the Food Pantry, LAX will help with this effort.



Please return filled bags to the parish hall on the weekend of December 15th & 16th.

If you would like to earn service hours we need volunteers. For more information, please call Johnnie Albano at 310 641-8871. Thank you for your support!

Jacket & Toys for Mother Of Sorrows



Jackets are needed for the students at Mother of Sorrows School. The estimated cost for each jacket is \$40. Envelopes are on the church tables for these monetary donations. Please make checks payable to St. Jerome Church with a notation on your check "**MOS jackets/toys**".

Thank you for your generosity . For more information, please contact Arnold Tena at (310) 649 6129.



St. Jerome Tuesday Night Bible Study

Last Tuesday we began a brief, four-week bible study focused on the scripture readings for each Sunday in Advent. This study intends to prepare us for the celebration of Christmas. All meetings are on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00pm in the St. Jerome Religious Education Center. Cost is \$15 for the Work book. For more information, consult the St. Jerome Parish website bible study page (stjeromelax.org, Ministries link) or Steve Picard, at sjpicard526@att.net.


Senior Center

Mon., Dec. 03: 12-4pm, Rosary, cards and social.

Wed., Dec. 05: 12-4pm, cards and social.

Wed., Dec. 19: 12 noon Communal Anointing

Ho Ho Ho, time to mark your calendars for the

 Senior Christmas Luncheon on Wed. **Dec. 12th.**

Join us for delicious food and fun! **Call Allene at 310 216-7354.**

Mass Intentions (Revision for 2019)

Arranging to have Mass offered for someone sick or for a special intention, or for a departed loved one in your family, is a long-standing tradition for Catholics. In order to accommodate all our families who wish to have mass offered for a special intention at St. Jerome, we will be using the following guidelines regarding Mass intentions:

- On Monday, December 3, 2018 (office is closed on December 1st) the mass book for 2019 will be available to accept mass intentions for the entire year. (The six month booking restriction is eliminated.)
- Not more than two masses per month will be said for each registered parishioner. Also, the two masses should not be on the same Sunday. Restricting requests allows for other parish families to have the opportunity to schedule masses when situations arise.
- If you already have a Mass intention booked and would like to add another person or group to that date, (provided it's done prior to the bulletin printing) only the initial requester has the option to place additional names to that date. It would not be counted as a new request. We will accept up to (3) names or groups for one Mass.
- A Bereavement Mass for those who recently passed will be reserved on the second Saturday of each month at 8A.M. If you wish to have the deceased person included in this Group Mass of remembrance, please contact the rectory to give them the name and required stipend. This will not be counted as a monthly limit request. We can include this deceased person for at least 12 months with a stipend for each month.
- During the month of May, we arrange for a Novena of Masses for Mothers' Day; and during June, a Novena of Masses for Fathers' Day. During the month of November, the Rectory Office arranges Mass each day for the All Souls remembrance. Families present names of their loved ones and an All Souls offering in the special envelope provided.
- One Mass each weekend (Saturday: 5:30pm, Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11am, 5:30pm) is reserved for the intentions of all St. Jerome parishioners.
- It is customary to offer a Mass stipend or donation for each Mass arranged.
 - The suggested stipend for a weekday Mass is \$10 and \$20 for a weekend Mass (Saturday: 5:30pm, Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11am, 5:30pm.)
- To arrange a Mass intention:
 - You can go to the Rectory Office during business hours or the hall on the monthly Parish Staff Sunday.
 - Mail the request for a Mass intention along with the stipend to the Rectory office.
 - Phone request will be taken only during business hours with the parish secretary or volunteer.
 - Email your request to Roxanne Shaw, the parish secretary at: rshaw@stjeromewestchester.org (payment for phone or email requests will be discussed with you by the secretary or volunteer.)

MASS INTENTIONS AND CELEBRANTS

Sat. 12/01—5:30pm FB **Eustaquio Wagas & Consolacion Wagas (M)**
 Sun. 12/02—7:30am SJ **Anthony Weibirch & Jeannette Fernandes (M)**
 9:00am FB **Violeta Talag (M)**
 11:00am FV **Eileen La Casse (SI)**
 5:30pm FP **St. Jerome Parishioners (SI)**

WEEK DAY MASSES

Mon. 12/03—8am FV **Leonito Smod-ong & Marciana Cabassan (M)**
 Tues. 12/04—8am FB **Janet Santos (SI)**
 Wed. 12/05—8am FB **Ted Witkowski (M)**
 Thurs. 12/06—8am FV **Violeta Talag (M)**
 Fri. 12/07—8am FV **Charles A. Mercier Sr. (M)**

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Fri. 12/07—7pm FB **Barbara Smith (M)**
 Sat. 12/08—8am FV **Violeta Talag (M)**
 12/08—noon FB **Barbara Smith (M)**

CELEBRANTS SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Vigil 5:30pm FV, 7:30am SJ, 9am FV, 11am FB, 5:30pm FB
 Fr. Bill (FB) Fr. Valentine (FV) Jesuit Priest (SJ) Guest (FG)
 Memorial (M) Special Intention (SI) Thanksgiving (T)

Prayers For The Sick



Mary Alcuran	Rebecca Bank	James Bennett
Vincent Butt	Robert Buchanan	Dionne Delahoussaye
Rorrie de la Vega	Valarie Dudley	Elizabeth Ezeana
Chris Ezeokoli	Lordes Flores	Mary Gibson
G. Johnson Family	Frances Lalan	Eileen La Casse
Benjamin Lopez	Robert Mallillin	Thomas Mc Donough
Bob Migneault	Eurydice Mundy	Jerry Neubauer
Guillermo Ortega	Angela Parks	Dorothy Polk
Sam Quatto	Carlos Rodriguez	George Rodriguez
Larry Smith	Kondra Tapia	Sandra Walker

Deceased

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of

Maria Gonzalez

[mother of Tony Gonzalez]

May she rest in peace.



Knights of Columbus Council #3744

Christmas Breakfast!

Sunday, December 16th, 10:30am– 12noon

Food, Festivity, Feliz Navidad

Come to the K of C Hall

8049 Manchester Ave, Playa del Rey

Santa will be there!



Liturgical Ministries

Altar Server:	Rectory Office	310-348-8212
Eucharistic Min.:	Tina Gustavson	310-649-1474
Hospitality:	Joyce Holt	310-649-5586
Lectors:	Cathy Fitzpatrick	310-337-6929
Music:	Jim Drollinger	310-617-2465
Ushers:	Tina Gustavson	310-649-1474

Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Please help support our school by purchasing a Christmas tree. Your purchase will help raise money for new equipment, uniforms and travel expenses.

We have **Douglas** and **Noble Fir Trees**: 5 to 7 feet tall.

For information and details contact

Rocio Zepeda at 310-670-1678

rzepeda@stjeromewestchester.org

- **Product pick up date:** Dec. 8th & 9th
(During breakfast with Santa)
- Home delivery can be arranged
- Trees are satisfaction guaranteed
- **Location:** St. Jerome School Parking lot
- **Hours of operation:** 8:00am-2:00pm



Parish Christmas Party

You and your family are invited to the Parish Hall for food, caroling and even a little comedy on **December 8th.** You might attend the **5:30pm Mass**

and join us afterward for dinner fun!

Come and experience the Joy of the Christmas season with us. Come join the FUN!



St. Jerome's 2nd Annual Tamale and Marie Callendar Pies School Fundraiser

Place your tasty tamale and delicious Marie Callendar pie orders for Christmas. All proceeds will go back to St. Jerome School students. Orders are **due by Dec. 9th** during Breakfast with Santa. You may also drop off your order at the school office.

Price: Tamales - \$20 per dozen, Pies - \$14 each

For more info contact:

Marcie Alvarez marcie.alvarez@yahoo.com or Judy Ross at (310)590-5203

The Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver St. Jerome Court 402

Will be hosting a Christmas Breakfast for a group of foster children in our community through Foster All, on Saturday, morning December 22, in the parish hall. Activities, food, and presents will be provided. **Monetary donations appreciated. Checks may be made to St. Jerome Church with "Foster Breakfast" in the memo.** Questions please contact **Bonnie Hall at 323 541-5139.**



CELEBRATE WITH US!

Make your plans now to join your St. Jerome Friends on **New Year's Eve** for an incredible evening with a gumbo dinner, live music and lots of fun! Then end your evening with Mass at 11pm, featuring the incredible mass choir from the African American Pastoral Center.

Tickets for the dinner will be sold starting on Dec. 9th. for \$20 which includes desert. Ticket will be \$25 at the door. You may choose Creole gumbo or vegetarian. There will be beautiful gift baskets raffled that evening!