



Men and Women I'm currently deep into a new novel published by Ignatius Press, Tom Cook's *Miss Sally's Son*. I'm an older man of the cloth, an aging celibate who has never gone through the agony and the ecstasy of nuptial love, and yet human

love fascinates me like it does everyone else. John Paul II, as a young priest, "fell in love with love," captivated by how the *sacramentality* of human love can lead the beloved to divine love. As a young Pope, he spent five years reflecting on the God-given attraction between men and women. At every Wednesday audience, from 1979 to 1984, the pope taught about the nuptial meaning of the body, how the self-giving of a man to his wife and a wife to her husband leads us to the love of God. In God's plan, we come into this world through the union of our father and our mother, and we return to God through a loving family, rooted in the nuptial love of our parents. God made us male and female so we could love and be loved, so that individuals would be able to give themselves to another, and so learn how to give themselves to God, who first gives Himself to us. This natural and unending attraction between men and women is designed to lead us to God, who is the supreme goodness, love, and beauty. The novel I'm reading has many subplots but all I want to know is whether Jack will get the girl. If he gets the girl, he will get God, because the girl will lead him to God. That is God's plan for us: our way to Him runs through marriage and the family. I courted a young woman for two years in college, and when I told her that she was a window into God for me, she replied that "I need you to be a doorway to God for me."

"A Better Plan"(!) The history of our race began with one man and one woman, in love with each other. "This one," Adam cried out, "is flesh of my flesh." Remember that love at first sight, the first time you saw your heart's deepest longing in another person's eyes? One day in the seminary I saw a seminarian friend received a visit from his sister, and I can still see her deep brown eyes, pools into which I

saw my own meaning and identity. That was a chance encounter, but I had seen those depths before, in a childhood sweetheart named Kelly, in a high school girl-friend, in the young women I courted in college. All was well with Adam and Eve until a snake in the grass suggested something else to our First Mother. "Did God really tell you....?" the snake told her. "Might I suggest a *better plan* for you?" Within a few minutes Eve repeated those words to her husband: "We know God's plan for us, but **I've got a better plan....**" Since then, we've come up with all sorts of "improvements" on God's plan for man and women, each more dysfunctional than the last. Christ founded the Church to bring us back to His Father's plan, refusing to deviate from His laws governing the natural attraction between the sexes, marriage, and family life.

Educational Guidance in Human Love (1983) The snake, and his followers, have made impressive progress in distorting love, particularly in the last 60 years. We began watching *Love, American Style* in



This Year's Easter Vigil, and Jonathon's baptism

1969, then *Three's Company* in 1977, then *L.A. Law* in 1986, and finally *Sex and the City* in 1998 (just so you know, I've never watched any of these TV series, but I've heard about them). Sexual attraction was degraded to mere recreation, then to an addiction, and finally into today's "porn supremacy." What kind of a father would not protect his children from this totalitarian pornocracy? In 1983 Holy Mother Church published a document to help parents and teachers teach the fundamental rules of true love to their children, *Educational Guidance in Human Love*. Following this document and others, Fr. Javier and I will outline the Church's teaching, that is, the laws of God, on human sexuality, over the next few weeks in this column. Of course, this is dangerous territory, fraught with guilt, emotion and misunderstanding, but we must fear God more than men, and He commands us to teach. We teach also for love for you, our children, begging your patience with our imperfections. Fr. Joseph

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M-TH 8:30am-5pm
Friday 8:30am-12pm,

CLERGY
Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor
Fr. Mike Konopik, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Javier Ravasi, Parochial Vicar
Fr. James Liebner, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Albert Nimri, Parish Manager

STAFF
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Thelma Queri, Bookkeeper
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Juan Carlos Lopez, Sacristan

Dennis Ow, Maintenance

Santiago Ron, Front desk

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360 9th Ave.
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John Monaco
Principal/Headmaster

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350 9th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94118
www.nativityhs.org
(415) 322-9229
hello@nativityhs.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 24/7 - LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS:
Daily Mass: M-F, 7am Latin, 12noon, 6pm. Saturday 8:30am, 12noon Latin. Sat. Vigil Mass 4:30pm. Sunday, 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am Latin, 7:30pm. Holy Day Mass, 7am Latin, 12noon, 6pm Sung Latin Mass. Confessions: 15 min. before Mass, (7am after Mass), Sat. 3:15-4:15pm. Lauds, Mon-Fri 6:45am. Ves-

Holy Face Devotion, Tuesdays (chapel 6pm). Sacred Heart of Jesus First Fridays 12 & 6pm (Latin). Divine Mercy, Saturday 3pm. Lady of Perpetual Help, Wednesday 12noon. Lady of Fatima First Saturdays, 8:30am. Communal Rosary prayer after all daily Masses & Sunday 11am (Latin). Sundays: 2:30pm Rosary Walk at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Sunday Scripture

Emmaus (Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35) Two disciples had given up. They had turned their backs on Jerusalem, the Holy City, and were going home. Jesus was not the Messiah after all. So disappointing. Then he meets them on the way. He talks with them, setting their hearts on fire. And he breaks bread for them. So he does for us, at every Mass.



Eucharistic Adoration On April 21st, we celebrate St. Anselm of Canterbury, a theologian who became a Doctor of the Church. He was also a Benedictine monk, and archbishop. He had a great love for the Eucharist, and is quoted, "I adore and venerate you as much as ever I can... Thank you for the good gift of this your holy Body and Blood."

A HUGE thanks to you who have filled some Holy Hour vacancies. Here's what's left! Mondays: 12, 1, 2, & 3 am, 8 am, Tuesdays: 1 pm. Sign up for a weekly Holy Hour at www.adorationpro.org/star.

We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly". St. Louis de Montfort "



STAR of the SEA
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 Join us for a guided tour and deepen your devotion.
 To book: (415) 751-0450
mariella@starparish.com
www.starparish.com

FORMED WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS
<http://watch.formed.org>. Free to all parishioners!



The Feast of St. Mark - April 25 | Catholic Saints
 Who was St. Mark? Discover his life, Gospel, and mission in a short video with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Tim Gray.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 04/18	7:00am	† Wilfred Chow
	12noon	† Lidia Quintana - Diaz
	4:30pm	Int. of Esthe and John Menjivar Family
Sunday 04/19	8:00am	† Francis and Jenny Chow
	9:30am	† Mario and Maria Bruno
	11:30am	† Dorothy Kaushik (bday)
	7:30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 04/20	7:00am	† Oscar Tagle
	12noon	Int. of Joan Spaargaren
		Int. of Raul and Thelma Queri
		Int. of Donncha and Marisela O'Coilain
		† William Tobin
	† Paloma de Leon	
† Aloucuis Peloquir		
† Louis N. Petropoulos		
6:00pm	Int. of Lisa Hirai	
	Int. of Tina Chow	
	† Souls in Purgatory	
	† Stephen I. Berry (anniv)	
Tuesday 04/21	7:00am	Int. of Juana Maria Zavaleta
	12noon	Int. of Matthew Schnur
	6:00pm	Int. of Maria - Victor Sanchez Family
Wednesday 04/22	7:00am	Inr. of Anne Robbeloth
	12noon	Int. of Engracio Guinto, Jr. (bday)
	6:00pm	Int. of Sarah Orozco
Thursday 04/23	7:00am	† Lorraine B. Mann
	12:noon	† Jaime Llanillo Ines (anniv)
	6:00pm	Int. of Eva Olga Svobodova
Friday 04/24	7:00am	† Francisco Maturano Gomez
	12noon	† Armando Samonte
	6:00pm	Int. of Katherine Nguyen
Saturday 04/25	8:30am	† All Souls
	12noon	† Marta Luna (anniv)
	4:30pm	Int. of Purificacion Abesamis

Prayers of the Sick

Mariana Mendieta, Margaret & Mark Sellai, Shawn Mickle, Justin Chin, Andrew Abdo, Julie Johnson, Brian Galloway, Maria Avedano, Denis Von Kaeppler, Oliva Setiawaty, Bryson Soncuya, O Lai Sau King, John Brennan, Benjamin Tan, Leslie Low, Laura Tarbox, Brian Ahrens, Christopher Dunham, Elena Cereghino, Luis Acosta, Lourdes Washington, Jerr Dewey and all sick parishioners.



Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
 Do you wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Contact: Greg Moeck, (310) 694-6380 | gmoeck@gmail.com

Programs & Apostolates

GENERAL INFORMATION Parish office, 415-751-0450 www.starparish.com	BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ALL SACRAMENTS 415-751-0450
Adoration Committee Laurie Murdock 415-244-8186 staradorationsf@gmail.com	Parish Finance Council Ryan Sebers ryan@starparish.com
Altar Servers Bryan Calmeyer bryancalmeyer@me.com	OCIA Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Gregory Moeck 310-694-6380 gmoeck@gmail.com
Filipino American Association (FAASTAR) Estrelle Chan 415-336-9193	Star of the Sea Preschool Stella Maris Academy 628-977-4836 www.stellamarissf.org
Foundation of Prayers for Priests Carmen Duran Register: foundationforpriests.org	Our Lady of Fatima, Star Pro-Life Apostolate Thursdays 6-7pm & Sat. 10-11am. 1522 Bush St. star.flocknote.com/Star-Pro-life
Young Adults Nathan Chan nathanjchan2@gmail.com Thursdays 7:15pm, Gym star.flocknote.com/StarYoungAdults	Sacred Music Program Karolina Zapolska karolina@starparish.com
Lectors Deacon Albert Nimri 415-683-4295 animri@starparish.com	Star Outreach to the Poor Ed Katz 415-740-3939 Saori Okawa okawasaori@gmail.com
Legion of Mary Paul Palencia 415-858-3073 leopoldmpal@gmail.com	Ushers and Greeters Mariella Zevallos mariella@starparish.com
Marriage & Family Apostolate Christina Sullivan starmarriageandfamily@gmail.com	Knights of Columbus Mike Dumlao m_n_dumlao@yahoo.com
Tuesday Bible Study 3-4:30pm at Parish Rectory. Bill McCarty 415-876-8551	Holy Name Society (Divine Mercy Devotion) Thelma Queri 415-751-0450
Bulletin Announcements We welcome your Ad submissions! Due: Tuesdays, 3pm. Contact bulletin editor: mariella@starparish.com	Volunteer Opportunities Looking for a way to serve and connect at our parish? We'd love to welcome you! Call: Mariella 415-751-0450



Keep Our Parish Prosperous

Your generous financial gifts ensure that Star of the Sea Catholic Church will continue thriving to provide a peaceful sanctuary for prayer, worship and evangelization in the Richmond District. Our doors are open 7 days a week!

WAYS OF SUPPORTING STAR OF THE THE SEA:

Offertory gifts online: www.starparish.com/give

Offertory envelopes: Cash or check written to Star of the Sea (use offertory envelopes). Place in the collection basket, or drop envelope in the parish office mailbox: Star of the Sea 4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA. 94118

Matching Contribution:

Double your gift to Star of the Sea with an equal contribution from your employer! As 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we qualify to receive matches from companies all over the Bay Area. If your company offers this program, ask for a form to submit a matching request. Contact: mariella@starparish.com



venmo



STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
Use Venmo for: Sunday offertory, lighting candles, church kiosk purchases.
(Please add what the payment is for. Thank you!)

PLANNED GIVING

ONE CHARITABLE GIFT, A LEGACY OF FAITH

Consider listing Star of the Sea as beneficiary in your Will (advisable to have one). It preserves the mission and values of the church in its ministry.

GET STARTED WITH A PLANNED GIFT

Call for information: Mariella Zevallos,
(415) 751-0450 mariella@starparish.com

Receive news & updates from Fr. Joseph Illo, sign up to Flocknote.com/star. Get access to the best selection of catholic educational materials, sign up for formed.org (information below). Use Venmo to pay for candles, kiosk items, offertory, etc. Use your cellphone camera to scan the QR codes.



Formed.org/Sign up as parishioner/Create new account: find your parish (zip code 94118)/ Select Star of the Sea/next/Create a new account:Your name and email/sign up!



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STAR OF THE SEA & STELLA MARIS ACADEMY

5TH ANNUAL MARIAN ART EXHIBITION



Featuring Sacred Art by students and Guest Artists

**MAY 1, 1-7pm | MAY 2, 9am-6pm
MAY 3, 9am-3pm (auditorium)**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

May 1, 1pm, Talk by Fr. Joseph Illo
"Mother of the Light" (church)

May 3, 1:30pm, BXVI Institute presents:
"A Very Guadalupean Afternoon for Artists and Art Lovers" (auditorium)

Information: 415-751-0450 | mariella@starparish.com



A 1.5-mile walking pilgrimage starting at 11am from Star of the Sea (4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco), to the Carmelite Chapel and Monastery of Cristo Rey (721 Parker Ave, San Francisco). 12Noon, Latin Mass at the Monastery celebrated by Fr. Joseph Illo.

No registration needed. Meet at the school yard. All are welcome!

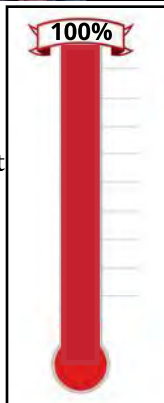


Saturday, May 2, 2026



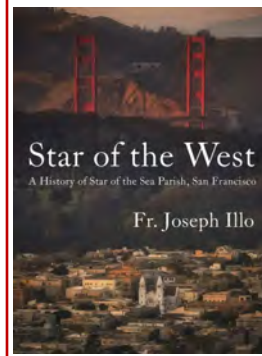
Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

A Message from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone: As Catholics, we are called to use our gifts to serve others and bring Christ to the world. Through the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, we strengthen our shared mission by supporting essential ministries that care for our youth, accompany families, serve those most in need, and support our priests. I invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of so many throughout our Archdiocese.— Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco.



Thanks to your generosity, we have surpassed our fundraising goal: \$122,501. If you have not given your contribution to the AAA yet, we invite you to give what you can! Any amount exceeding our goal will go to our parish funds. **GIVE:**

Join the 1% Club \$1,180
The 1% Donors Dinner with the Pastor will be held on June 13.



Two Book Signings

Fr. Joseph will sign copies of his new book on the history of Star of the Sea Parish, which will be available for \$25 each, at two times on Friday, May 1: 2pm, after his talk on Our Lady in the auditorium, and 7pm, after his 6pm sung Mass for St. Joseph in the church.

Audio Technician Our church audio system is a little complex and needs occasional adjustments. Fr. Illo is looking for someone in the community who has some professional experience in audio systems that can help keep our sound system at optimal performance. Please call the office if you have those qualifications and can volunteer your talent from time to time.

Seeking Apartment Two of our former schoolteachers, Christina Mamaril and Azalie Wood, are now working at Ignatius Press and looking for a two bedroom apartment for rent near our parish. If anyone has such an apartment available for around \$2600 a month, please contact the parish office.



STEWARDS STATS

Colossians 3:23 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

Time: 17 people joined the Holy Face Devotion on Tuesday.

Talent: 16 lectors served at the daily and Sunday Masses.

Treasure: Sunday Offering \$9,242

To give online: www.starparish.com/give