



“The Beautiful Virtue” and the Freedom of the Children of God
“My messenger,” Don Bosco recounted in one of his dreams, “took me by the hand to lead me into the cavern. Hardly had I set foot on the threshold when I

found myself transported into a magnificent hall with crystal doors. Upon these, and at regular intervals, long veils were hanging, covering as many compartments that communicated with the cavern. The guide pointed to one of those veils, upon which was written: ‘Sixth Commandment,’ and exclaimed:—The transgression of this is the cause of the ruin of many young people.—But have they not confessed? asked Don Bosco. —Yes, they have confessed, but the sins against the ‘beautiful virtue’ (the virtue of purity) they confessed badly or concealed completely. For example, one who had committed four or five of these sins confessed only two or three. There are some who committed only one in childhood and were always ashamed to confess it, or confessed it badly and did not say everything. They had neither sorrow nor purpose of amendment. More still: some, instead of examining their conscience, studied how to deceive the confessor. I lifted the veil and saw a group of boys whom I knew, condemned because of this sin. Among them were some who, outwardly, appeared well-behaved. —At least now, you will let me write down their names so I may warn them privately.—There is no need, he replied. —What must I tell them?

“Preach constantly against impurity.” This text of Saint John Bosco has often made us realize that, in a world so dominated by passions and hedonism, we must address this subject. He called it *the beautiful virtue*: the angelic virtue, holy purity—a treasure of such value that those who possess it shall be like the angels of heaven. *Erunt sicut angeli Dei* (Mt 22:30), says Our Lord. For it is the virtue that makes us free; free from the filth of disordered passions. That is why it is so envied by the enemy of souls: the devil. Therefore, we must always educate our habits. But let us see what counsels the holy patron of youth gave to his young people in order to attain or preserve the “beautiful virtue”:

1) A withdrawn life: “Purity is a diamond of great value,” he said. If we place a treasure in plain sight of thieves, we cannot later complain of the theft. For, as Sacred Scripture says: “*He that loveth danger*

shall perish in it” (Ecclesiasticus 3:26-27). Therefore: the fewer the occasions of sin, the fewer the temptations; the farther from the fire, the easier to avoid the blaze.



This is a real photo of Saint John Bosco. When a photographer asked to take his picture, Bosco agreed but said “Ok, you can photograph me, but while you are taking a photo, I will be confessing my boys!”

2) Frequent confession and Communion: We must confess our sin as soon as possible and receive Holy Communion while we are in the grace of God. And we must confess not “on autopilot,” but truly, with real sorrow for our sins and firm purposes for the future. If later, unfortunately, we fall again through weakness, we shall go on our knees to implore the forgiveness of God, who is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4).

3) Fasting and prayer: Impurity (among decent people) seeks never to be seen. It becomes mute, not recounting its falls; and it becomes deaf, not wishing to hear advice. Like the possessed youth in the Gospel, whom the disciples could not help. “Why could we not cast him out?” (Mk 9:29), the disciples asked Our Lord. “Because this kind of demon is conquered only by prayer and fasting,” He replied. That is to say, by the mortification of the senses: making physical sacrifices, restraining the eyes, fleeing gluttony, avoiding idleness. There is no saint who did not live a mortified life, even in the body. For it is of no use to pray a thousand Rosaries if afterward I live a worldly life. The horse, they say in the countryside, if too well fed, will not obey the rider. A cold shower has not killed anyone yet. Fasting, sacrifice, and sobriety are entirely Christian things.

There are two extremes into which one may fall on these matters: on the one hand, puritanism, which says sex is evil; on the other, hedonism, which teaches that passions must be followed. But the Church teaches with Aristotle that virtue is found in the mean. The use of sex is not evil in itself, just as the use of water is not evil. But just as too much water may drown me if I throw myself from the Golden Gate Bridge, so too the use of our sexuality, outside its proper setting—which is Catholic marriage between man and woman—may lead us not only to act against the Law of God (the Sixth and Ninth Commandments), but thereby to lose freedom: the true freedom of the children of God (Jn 8:36), which we all seek in order to be happy. Fr. Ravasi

Star of the Sea Church
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www.starparish.com
Gym 345 8th Ave.
Office Hours
M-TH 8:30am-5pm
Friday 8:30am-12pm,
1pm-5pm

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Fr. Mike Konopik,
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Javier Ravasi,
Parochial Vicar
Fr. James Liebner,
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John Monaco
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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, Vespers, Mon-Fri 5:45pm. 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

"I am the way and the truth and the life." (Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Pt 2: 4-9; 2 John 14: 1-12) In times when many voices claim to offer truth and salvation, Christ's words cut through all confusion with divine clarity: "I am the way and the truth and the life." Not one way among many, not a truth relative to opinions, but the only path that leads to the Father. The modern world insists on multiplying paths, diluting truth, and reducing religion to a matter of preference. Yet the Gospel admits no such ambiguity. No one comes to the Father except through Christ. To reject Him—or to reduce Him to a mere teacher—is to remain in darkness, however sincere one may feel. Philip asks to see the Father, and the answer is definitive: whoever has seen Christ has seen the Father. There is no other revelation to await, no alternative route to construct. God has spoken fully and definitively in His Son. Therefore, faith is not one option among many; it is the response owed to Truth Himself. On this Sunday, let us renew our adherence to Christ without compromise, knowing that only in Him do we find salvation, and only in His Church the fullness of that truth which sets us free.



Eucharistic Adoration We celebrate St. Pius V, 4/30 & 5/5 (Trad). He wore his white Dominican habit, when pope- thus, the custom of the pope wearing white. He wrote the Roman Missal (known as the Tridentine Mass). He also established the feast of Our Lady of Victory (now Our Lady of the Rosary) after he called all to pray the rosary during the Battle of

Lepanto. He is quoted, that in all situations, "you must recognize the Divine will. Adore and bless it...." especially when it's hard! So! Sign up for a weekly Holy Hour at www.adorationpro.org/star



STAR of the SEA

Walk with Our Lady through 16 Apparition Shrines.

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(415) 751-0450 | mariella@starparish.com
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FORMED WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Finding Fatima: A compelling docu-drama on the crucial details about the appearances and messages of Our Lady in Fatima in 1917, a message of prayer, penance, and conversion that is desperately needed in our modern world.



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

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 05/02	7:00am	† William Gong (anniv)
	12noon	Int. of Corinna Gamez
	4:30pm	Int. of Elizabeth Ing
Sunday 05/03	8:00am	Int. of Judy Massey
	9:30am	Int. of Raul Queri
	11:30am	Int. of Ryan Aguirre (bday)
	7:30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 05/04	7:00am	† Msgr. Floro Arcamo
	12noon	Int. of Leslie Low Int. of Feliz, Lucy and The Tai Family
		† Souls in Purgatory † Mary Ann Young † Alberta Santa Maria Vargas
	6:00pm	Int. of The Guerzon Family In Thanksgiving of Lisa Hirai † Louanne Acleta † Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday 05/05	7:00am	In Thanksgiving of Daisy Reyes
	12noon	Int. of Challiss Mosher (bday)
	6:00pm	† Mario and Maria Bruno
Wednesday 05/06	7:00am	Int. of Elizabeth Schnur
	12noon	Int. of Perla Donovan
	6:00pm	Int. of Estela - Esmeralda Family
Thursday 05/07	7:00am	Int. of Marco Martin (bday)
	12:noon	Int. of Eileen Ing (bday)
	6:00pm	† Rurhie Idencio
Friday 05/08	7:00am	† Msgr. John Pernia
	12noon	Int. of Dana Nunez and Family
	6:00pm	Int. of Katherine nguyen
Saturday 05/09	8:30am	In Thanksgiving of Tuyet Tran and Family
	12noon	Int. for Unborn children in danger of losing their lives
	4:30pm	Int. of Leslie Low

Prayers for the Sick

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

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Laura Tarbox.

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 staradorations@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! 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.



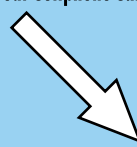
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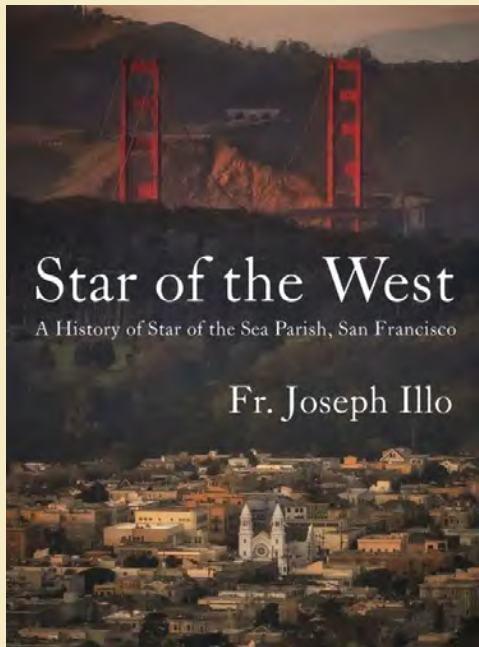


New in the parish? Please register!
Nuevo en la Parroquia? Regístrate!
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New Books by Our Parish Priests

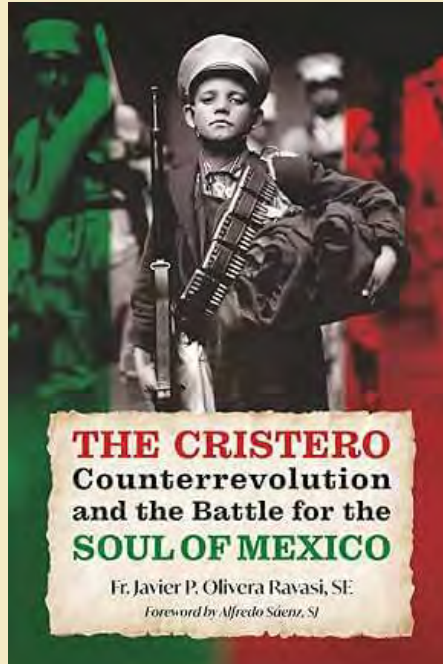


Fr. Joseph Illo
This is our pastor's history of our parish, as well as the beginnings of Catholicism in San Francisco. On March 28, 1776, the Anza Expedition priests offered the first Catholic Mass in San Francisco, three months before the first Mass at the Mission from which the city would take its name. In that same year, across the

continent, a new nation was born on July 4th. This is the 250th anniversary of both our city and our nation. Fr. Joseph's new history captures the highpoints of our parish history, from 1776 to 2026, with 36 historic and contemporary photographs.

Get Your Copy

at the **Parish Office** or **Church Book Kiosk** for **\$25**
or online at itascabooks.com for **\$30**



Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

This powerful work and –previously released in several Spanish editions and now available in English for the 2026 centennial—recounts the dramatic story of the Cristero counterrevolution through the firsthand experiences of those who lived it. Fr. Ravasi vividly portrays a time marked by profound injustice, corruption,

and violence, met with extraordinary faith, courage, and sacrifice by the Catholic faithful.

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Mother's Day



Mother's Day Bouquet cards and envelopes are now available at all our church entrances. Please fill out your envelope and place it, along with your donation, in the box located in front of Our Lady of Grace near the communion rail.



Join Star of the Sea Parish on a Sacred Pilgrimage to Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, & Florence (14 days in Italy!). November 9–23, 2026

Under the Spiritual Direction of Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi.

For more information:

mariella@starparish.com or (415) 751-0450



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STEWARDS STATS

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

Time: +15 people joined the Divine Mercy devotional prayers last Saturday.

Talent: 6 Altar servers attended the 9:30am Sunday Mass last week

Treasure: Sunday Offering \$8,906
Second Collection Catholic Home Mission \$1,913

To give online: www.starparish.com/give