



Of Birdsong and Backhoes

This is my last Sunday bulletin column from the Emerald Isle. By the time you read this I'll be back from my little Irish farmhouse in West Cork, in which I spent 30 days reading and writing. Each morning,

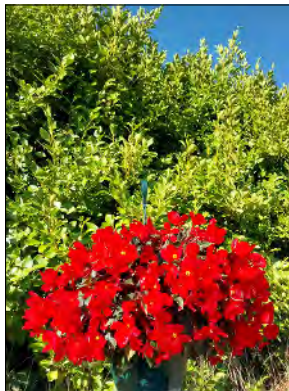
before Mass, I would do my morning prayers outside as the sun rose over lush and verdant fields. At that time of day, the birds are quite excited, swooping to and fro over the green, chirping and calling out eagerly to one another. Like their birds cousins, flowers too get excited about the new day, opening their sunny faces happily to its fresh light and warmth. As the day wore on, however, backhoes and power drills, growling diesel motors and annoying back-up beeps, would compete with the sounds of nature, even here in rural Ireland. You may have noticed the construction chaos that has engulfed our parish neighborhood over the last 15 months, as San Francisco replaces aging water, power, and sewer lines along the Geary corridor. While they are at it (right under by rectory room windows!), they are laying down fiber optic cable to keep everyone "connected" at warp speed. Because there are four different lines to be laid under our streets, the same stretch of road might be dug up and filled in three or four times.

High Speed Internet I left the Big City a month ago to get some peace and quiet, only to find that rural Ireland is also digging up its country roads for the same lightning-fast internet cable. It's certainly not as noisy here up Long Hill Road, at Knockaghaduff in the townland of Gortnascarty, but it is a bit

annoying. Fiber optic cable from San Francisco to Knockaghaduff is an impressive globalist ambition, but is it worth the money and the noise (not to mention its carbon footprint)? Real flowers and birdsong are free, and much more satisfying, than a flickering image of flowers and birds on a little screen. I'm trying not to be a luddite, and I confess that I rarely go outside without a phone in my pocket. But we do have to be careful about how much time we spend looking at that shiny black mirror with a symbol of original sin on it, lest we miss the flowers and the birds.

Flower and Song

In his 1980 book, *Flor y Canto*, Fr. Jose Luis Guerrero describes how the pre-Christian peoples of Mesoamerica treasured flowers and birdsong as a foretaste of heaven. Fr. Guerrero goes on to show how the Aztec dream of a "Flower World Paradise" was fulfilled at Tepeyac in 1531. A more recent book, *Guadalupe and the Flower World Prophecy*, paints an even brighter and more



My flowerpot on a fine Irish morning, the local parish cemetery, and helping out with the hay.

compelling portrait of the *Mexica* people's ardent desire for a heaven filled with birds and flowers. Here in the fields of rural Ireland, where the sun plays games with the rain, producing double rainbows, the flowers bloom and the birds sing with special energy. Every morning, my heart too burns as I see flowers open and hear birds singing with joy. How innocent they are! I want to be like them! Unlike the dour-faced men digging internet trenches down the road, the birds soar far above a global economy. Consider, then, the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. See how God provides for them, and do not doubt that He provides for us, too.

Fr. Joseph Illo

Star of the Sea Church

4420 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 751-0450
www.starparish.com
Office Hours
M-TH 8:30am-5pm
Friday 8:30am-12pm,
1pm-5pm
Parish Gymnasium
345 8th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118

CLERGY

Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor
Fr. Mike Konopik,
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Javier Ravasi,
In Residence
Deacon Albert Nimri,
Parish Manager

STAFF

Mariella Zevallos,
Director of Commu-
nications & Parish Life
Thelma Queri,
Bookkeeper
Karolina Zapolska,
Director of Sacred
Music Program
Lynn Kraehling,
Parish Organizer
Juan Carlos Lopez,
Sacristan
Dennis Ow,
Maintenance
Front Desk
Lydia Gandasubroto

STELLA MARIS ACADEMY (K-8)

360 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118
www.stellamarissf.org
(628) 977-4836
John Monaco
Principal/Headmaster

NATIVITY HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 24/7 - LITURGY & 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: Tuesday 6pm. Sacred Heart of Jesus First Friday: 12 & 6pm (Latin). Divine Mercy: Sat. 3pm. Lady of Perpetual Help: Wed. 12noon. Lady of Fatima First Saturday 8:30am. Communal Rosary prayer after all daily Masses & Sunday 11am (Latin). Sunday: 2:30pm Rosary Walk at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Sunday Scripture

Lord, Help Me! (Is 56: 1, 6-7; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:

21-28) The Canaanite woman in today's gospel makes the most essential prayer: Help Me, O God! And God helps her—he heals her daughter. We too are pagans, like the Canaanite woman, in that we too live in a pagan society. And yet, at any time, we can cry out, Lord, Help Me! Help those I love! The best place to do that is before the Blessed Sacrament, but you can make that prayer anywhere, any time.



Eucharistic Adoration The feast of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor of the Church is August 20th. He encouraged all to pray before the Blessed Sacrament- the source of true transformation. He is quoted, "The Eucharist is that love which surpasses all loves..."

Holy Hour Needs: Mondays 9 am, 10 am; Tuesdays 1 pm; Wednesdays 9 am, 11 am; Thursdays 9 am, 10 am, 1 pm; Fridays 9 am, 10am; Saturdays 11 am, 10 pm, 11 pm; Sundays 1 pm. Sign up for a weekly Holy Hour at www.adorationpro.org/star And! **Eucharistic Rosary Congress** is 10/7 - 10/15. If you would like to be a Rosary Lead please sign up at: SignUp.com.

FORMED WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS

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



Our Lady of Knock | The Faithful

In 1879, in the village of Knock, Ireland, a group of 15 people witnessed an amazing apparition of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist. This episode explains what a Marian apparition is and tells the story of Our Lady of Knock.

Parish Prayer Intentions

For the Sick Mariana Mendieta, Margaret & Mark Sellai, Shawn Mickle, Justin Chin, Andrew Abdo, Julie Johnson, Brian Galloway, Maria Avedano, Denis Von Kaeppler, Oliva Setiawaty, O Lai Sau King, John Brennan, Benjamin Tan, Christopher Dunham, Elena Cereghino, Lourdes Washington, Jerr Dewey, Pedro Mendoza, Sonia Lee, Frances Zinck, Deacon Albert Nimri, Virginia Rosillo, Zuleyka Sierra, Anne Lintner, Luca Celentano, William Fera Anderson and all sick parishioners.

In Loving Memory of James Murphy, Arthur Cortez, Catherine Tuttle, and Wayne Johnson.



Mass Intentions

Saturday 08/15	8:30am	Int. of Deacon Albert Nimri
	12noon	Int. of Elizabeth Reilly
	4:30pm	Int. of Noemi Ladwiniec
Sunday 08/16	8:00am	Int. of Fr. James Liebner
	9:30am	Int. of Maciej Gruszka and Family
	11:30am	† Aurelia Scholar
	7:30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 08/17	7:00am	Int. of Fr. David Nix
	12noon	Int. of Ronald Charles Kocka (bday) Int. of Deacon Albert Nimri for healing In Thanksgiving of Maria Corazon de Castro Saturnino † Arthur Cortez † Amanda Torres † Carmelita Estioko † Souls in Purgatory † Susan De Castro Dee
	6:00pm	Int. of Moises A. Hernandez (bday) Int. of Sis. Carol and Sanctuary Missionaries of Divine Mercy † Frances Zinck † Holy Souls in Purgatory † Benedictus and Susana Wang
Tuesday 08/18	7:00am	In Thanksgiving of Tuyet Tran & Family
	12noon	† Cheuk Man Cheng
	6:00pm	Int. of Abby Laporte and Family
Wednesday 08/19	7:00am	Int. of Gilda Kirk
	12noon	† Simeon E. So
	6:00pm	† Francis and Jenny Chow
Thursday 08/20	7:00am	Int. of Paul Wallace
	12noon	Int. of Giancarlo Zevallos (bday)
	6:00pm	† Louis N. Petropoulos
Friday 08/21	7:00am	† Phillip Norcia
	12noon	Int. of Celia Tabobo (bday)
	6:00pm	Int. of Edmund Ing (bday)
Saturday 08/22	8:30am	† Valerie Meehan
	12noon	Int. of Elizabeth Reilly
	4:30pm	Int. of Mariella Zevallos



Request a Mass Intention

Consider offering a Mass for a loved one who has passed away, for someone who is sick, or in thanksgiving for a special blessing or anniversary.

Donation is \$10 per intention.

How to Request: Please visit the parish office or call (415) 751-0450 to schedule your Mass.

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 Andrea Waliszewski andrea@starparish.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 star.flocknote.com/StarYoungAdults	Sacred Music Program Karolina Zapolska karolina@starparish.com
Lectors Fr. Joseph Illo, pastor Parish office: 415-751-0450	Star Outreach to the Poor Ed Katz 415-740-3939 Adam Weimer 628-278-2184
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.

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. For more information contact: Mariella Zevallos, 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.



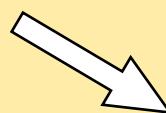
Formed.org/Sign up as parishioner/Create new account: find your parish (zip code 94118)/ Select Star of the Sea/next/Create a new account:Your name and email/sign up!



[youtube.com/starparish](https://www.youtube.com/starparish)



facebook.com/starparishsf



New in the parish? Please register!
Nuevo en la Parroquia? Regístrate!
flocknote.com/star



www.starparish.com



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

The program runs from Aug. 2026 to May 2027

Every other Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Star of the Sea Gym 345 8th Ave - San Francisco

Contact coordinator, Andrea Waliszewski:

andrea@starparish.com | Register: flocknote.com/star

SACRED VOICES CONCERT

Join the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption for a special concert, August 25 at 7pm featuring singers

from the Vatican and Rome choirs with the Cardinal Domenico Bartolucci Foundation.

The 'Sacred Voices' Choir showcases the great Roman polyphonic tradition of the Sistine Chapel Choir and its most famous composers. Buy your tickets!



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2026
**EUCHARISTIC
ROSARY CONGRESS**

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REV. FR. VINCENT WOO, J.C.D.
FR. MIKHAEL MIHIC, C.O.S.J.
WITH MORE GUEST PRIESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

★ **OCTOBER 7-15, 2026** ★
★ STAR OF THE SEA • SAN FRANCISCO ★

24-HOUR ADORATION • HOURLY ROSARY • HOLY MASS
PROCESSION • INSPIRING TALKS • FAITHFUL FELLOWSHIP

★ FULL PROGRAM COMING SOON ★



Annual Bilingual Family & Respect Life Gathering

Keynote Speaker George Delgado, MD – author and primary developer and champion of the "abortion pill reversal" (APR) protocol.

St. Anthony Parish - 505 E North St., Manteca

IT'S FREE

Saturday, August 29, 2026 - 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM



STAR of the SEA MAKE A MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

One of San Francisco's unique Marian shrines featuring 16 approved apparitions of our Lady from around the world. Church open daily for prayer.

**TO SCHEDULE A GROUP
GUIDED TOUR:**
(415) 751-0450
mariella@starparish.com



STEWARDS STATS

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

Time: 17 communal Rosaries were prayed after our daily Masses last week.

Talent: Two volunteers helped at the parish office last week.

Treasure: Sunday Offering \$10,288

Brothers of the Sacred Heart Mission \$2,877

To give online: www.starparish.com/give