



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 24, 2025



Holy Mass:

Mon.—Sat. 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil:

5:30 p.m. (Sunday Obligation)

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation:

Mon.-Sat. 7:15 a.m.-7:55 a.m.

Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Baptisms: 2nd Saturday of the Month

10:30 am

Baptism Prep.: By appointment

Funerals: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Marriages: 6 months in advance

Communion for the Sick: Please call the office.

Adoration: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.

Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. James Phan, OFM Conv., x101E: friarjimphan@stpaulspismo beach.com

Chaplain (Prison Ministry): Rev. John Farao, OFM Conv., x109

Business Manager: Christopher Garza, x102 E: admin@stpaulspismo beach.com

Music Director: Susan Davies

Grounds & Maintenance: Abel Ruelas
Cook & Housekeeping: Jenny Lomeli

Parish gift shop: Open after Saturday Vigil & Sunday Masses and office hours.

Daily Rosary: 7:15 a.m. lead by the members of the Altar & Rosary Society.

Divine Mercy Chaplet : The chaplet is prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass every day.

St. Anthony Devotion: Every Tuesday after Mass.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Devotion: Every Wednesday after Mass.

Mother of Perpetual Help Group: Meets every first Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m. in the Church with Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Cenacle of Marian Movement of Priests: Meets every first Thursday after Mass. They for our Priests through the powerful help of Our Blessed Mother.

St. Paul's Bible Study: Every Thursday after 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Library.

First Friday & Saturdays Every First Friday and First Saturday of the month we have Adoration, prayer and Benediction after morning Mass.

Second Friday—Divine Mercy Mass: Every Second Friday we have a Divine Mercy Mass at 8:00 am, followed with Adoration, prayer and Benediction.

St. Paul's MI Mary's Village: Meets the 2nd Saturday of the Month from 9-10am in the Pezo Library in Mathias Hall.

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1-2/Heb 12:5-7,11-13/
Lk 13:22-30
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5,8-10/Ps 149:1-6,9/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3,4-6/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5,12-14,17/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1,2,5-6,10-12
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1,7-9/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29/Ps 68:4-7,10-11/
Heb 12:18-19,22-24/Lk 14:1,7-14

From the Pastor's Desk

Peace and all God's blessings.

What's Jesus talking about? To some extent it's about the need for self-discipline if we want to be saved. But what does being saved consist of? Saved from what? To me, being saved means being saved from everything that inhibits my capacity for deep happiness; and I do believe that true happiness results from being loved, believing it and being freed up to love myself.

What is it that stops my loving? That stops my believing I'm loved? It's not others. It's not others' fault: "If only they were different!" (God help me if that's the case!) But it's not. The problem is me. I'm full of myself. The only way for me to be saved is to empty myself, to quieten down my infinite wants. We learn our wants our desires, from each other. And, unless we do something, we easily envy each other, and it is so easy to move on from that to feel hostile towards others. When we begin to know ourselves, we begin to recognize the gently simmering hostility that we feel so often towards so many.

How do we get thinner? How do we get through the *narrow door*? I think it begins by recognizing our desires for what they are and learning to sift out the "wants" from the "needs". Then, we need to self-discipline, to say "no" to the spontaneous desires, to say "no" to our own raw self-interest. If we can quieten that down, we can begin to look at each other differently. Some of the spontaneous, so often unrecognized, hostility drains away. Loving others becomes more possible; happiness seems to elude our reach less often.

We need to bring our desires under control. That is the task of our Ego. But that's only the start, because, as the self-discipline improves, the Ego starts to inflate. We're pleased with ourselves. We're proud of ourselves. But an inflated Ego will also stop us getting through that *narrow door*. And that is harder to deal with. Perhaps this is the case of what Jesus said in relation to the rich young man who turned up in the Gospel on Monday the 18th and Tuesday the 19th of the 20th week in ordinary time: *For men this is impossible, but for God, all things are possible.*

How does God do it? By loving us. The catch is: we have to **believe** it. We have to let God love us unconditionally without in any way deserving it or trying to win God's love. That is the last thing the Ego wants to do:

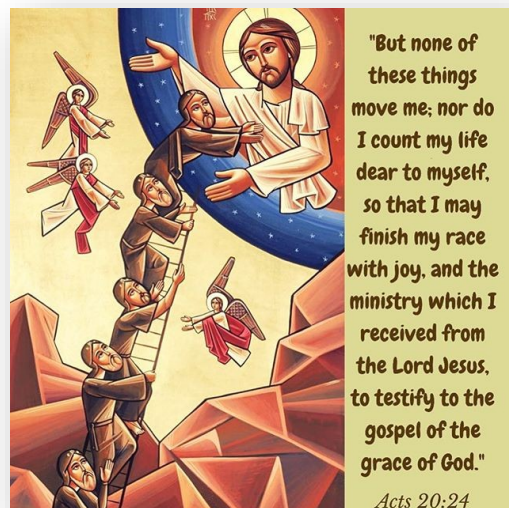
surrender the idea that somehow I can win God's love. I can't, and I don't need to. But surrendering that feeling of somehow being able to control it is scary. It doesn't feel right. But there's no other way.

To do that, first the Egoism needs to bring our desires under control, to prune them, to shed weight, to establish some self-control. But then, the SELF needs to do this somehow, and it can't do that itself. Self-control doesn't work. What's needed is to **surrender control, to surrender control to God, to let God love us totally, unconditionally and sacrificially.** To the extent that we do that, we're on the other side of the *door*, and our own love expands, and with it our happiness. Do we think that allowing God to love us is indeed presented as a source of perfect joy within the Catholic faith?

What do we think about the task of self-sacrifice because of love for God who possess ultimate authority and power to change us, both in our circumstances

and inner selves? **Shall we focus on spiritual growth and deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist??? To get into the narrow gate, one must make a strong commitment to both the parish and engaging in spiritual exercise. Go to the Church!!! Jesus Christ is waiting for us in the Church... Jesus Christ invites us to become his friends. He will lead us to true life through the narrow gate!!!**

In Christ,
Fr. James Phan, OFM Conv.



Announcement

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For all those interested in becoming Catholic or completing the reception of the Sacraments. The **2025-2026 OCIA Class** begins **August 6th Wednesday, 7:00 pm.** Questions? Please call 805-773-2219, ext. 102 or email: admin@stpaulspismobeach.com.



Saturday, August 23rd

8:00 am Epi Banez (Louie & Rosie Nunes)
5:30 pm †Lawrence J. Goulart (Mary Goulart)

Sunday, August 24th

8:00 am †Joe Silva (Altar & Rosary Society)
10:30 am Special intentions of Jason & Breanna Walsh on their Wedding Anniversary (Mom & Dad)
5:30 pm Living & deceased members of St. Paul's

Monday, August 25th

8:00 am Comfort and blessings for Diane Bagwell (Rose & Florito Ignacio)

Tuesday, August 26th

8:00 am †Dr. Ken Bagwell (Connie Williams)

Wednesday, August 27th

8:00 am Special intentions of Corrie Taylor (John and Catherine Ferdolage)

Thursday, August 28th

8:00 am †Joe Silva (Diane Bagwell)

Friday, August 29th

8:00 am †Dr. Ken Bagwell (Steve, Lynne Lawrence & Family)

Saturday, August 30th

8:00 am †Pope Francis (Louie and Rosie Nunes)
5:30 pm †Bel & Gilda Martin (Family)

Sunday, August 31st

8:00 am †Evelyn Fuentez (Louie and Rosie Nunes)
10:30 am †Richard "Dick" Firman (Firman Family)
5:30 pm Living & deceased members of St. Paul's

Prayer List

MILITARY: Lieutenant Colonel Chris Valine USAF, Lieutenant Ashley Valine, USCG, MSgt. Robert James Gassman, II 101st US Army, Capt. Chris Mount USMC, Maj. Grace Anderson USAF, CPO Nicholas M. Cabansag USN, LT. Jason Walsh USN, AA. (SN) Nicholas Garza, USN
SICK: Annie Delgado, Frank Spane, Pauline Leon Moreno, Beverly Lloyd, Cynthia Toscas, Dorothy Avila, Richard Como, Judy Hughes, Dr. Joseph Castro, Paul Mahlmann & Family, Vincent Deparini & Family, Leo Shiffar, Nona Henn, Harold Crawford, Marie Ellen Ragusa, Joshua Vincent Ray, Olivia Catherine Ray, Kevin Wayne Outram, Rosemary Olmedo,

Prayer List (continued)

SICK: John Byers, Magdalena Corona, Sue Regusci, Eileen Wagner, Luis Ramirez, Joseph Henschel, Alexia Sandoval & Family, Abraham Nicholas Noriega, Bert Heredia, Manuel Garza, Emma Glifonea, Joseph Arranaga, Susan Pino

Announcements



*St. Paul's
Altar & Rosary
Society*

The next meeting of the **Altar and Rosary Society** will take place on **Tuesday, September 16th**. All are welcome to join us for Mass at 10:30 am followed by a self-catered lunch and meeting to follow. We are looking forward to our Fall Bake Sale, the weekend before Thanksgiving and our Christmas Luncheon Fundraiser (*Fun Raiser*) at the Madonna Inn on December 9th. *May Jesus and the Blessed Mother bless our work!*

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS:

Parish Picnic BBQ: All are invited to our FREE Parish Picnic on **Sunday, August 31st** from **12 NOON 2 PM** at **Strother Park**, 1150 Huasna Rd, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.



Faith Formation

St. Paul's Faith Formation begins September 3rd!

St. Paul's Faith Formation Program is welcoming all children, grades 1—8, to the new school year! Our first meeting is **September 3rd, 4:00 pm—5:15 pm.**, in the Parish Hall. We will have registration on the first day; registration forms are posted on the parish website. If your child will be receiving First Communion this year, please bring a copy of their Baptismal Certificate on the first day. We are looking forward to sharing our faith with your children!

MILITIA IMMACULATA: St. Paul's "Mary's Village"

Welcome and Blessings to Kaye Riggs and Robert Kramb who completed their Rite of Total Consecration to the Immaculata in the Militia of the Immaculata on August 15!



O Immaculata, please intercede...
That young people may discover what God is calling them to and be able to prepare well for their mission. (August Intention)

St. Maximilian Kolbe Quote:

"Do not grieve on account of your listlessness or be discouraged because of your lapses. An act of love, an ejaculatory prayer, is enough to wipe out a whole mountain of guilt." (KW 834)



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Walk-ins welcome!



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