

MAY 31, 2015



ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Stepping Forward:
Renewing Ourselves
Inspiring Others*

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

5801 Kanan Rd, Westlake Village, CA 91362

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PARISH INFORMATION

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WWW.STMAXCHURCH.ORG KOLBE@STMAXCHURCH.ORG

After Hours Emergencies Only:
818-991-3915 ext 9

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–12:30 PM & 1:30 PM–5:30 PM

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
 7:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45–4:30 PM

SICK CALLS

Call the Parish Office at any time.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Ray and Stephanie Donckels, 805-495-9383

FUNERALS:

Sarah Ruffing x102

BAPTISMS

1ST & 3RD Sundays of every month by appointment only.
 Pre-Baptismal classes required,
 held the second Sunday of every other month at 12:15 PM.
 Please call office.

WEDDINGS: Polly Toohey x110

Minimum six months advance notice required.

WHO DO YOU CALL?

PARISH CALENDAR WEBSITE WEDDINGS SPOKEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be in two weeks prior to date.

Polly Toohey: 818-991-3915 x 110

POLLY@STMAXCHURCH.ORG

BULLETIN

Articles must be in two weeks prior to publication.

Merrick McMahon: 818-991-3915 x 115

MERRICK@STMAXCHURCH.ORG

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS



*A June Routine***Thank God this summer***Woodeene Koenig-Bricker***Confession time: I'm not really good at maintaining routines.**

I know all about the benefit of a good routine—how it gives boundary to your life, eliminates stress by putting certain activities on autopilot, organizes your time. In fact, I'm really good at making up routines; I'm just not so great at keeping them up.

Which is why I've surprised myself with one spiritual routine that I've actually maintained for several months now. It has made a great enough impact in my life that I feel qualified to share it with you. It is, however, so deceptively simple I'm almost embarrassed to talk about it:

Every morning, as soon as I am aware that I am awake, I think of five things that I am grateful for. Every night, just before I shut off my brain, I think of five more things that I am grateful for.

That's it. I just say: I'm grateful for—and list them. I don't dwell on them. I don't try to create some mass feeling of enormous delight. I simply list the things I'm grateful for right that moment.

Sometimes they are major, like finding the leak in the water main before the house was flooded; but often they are rather mundane, like having cream for my coffee when I go downstairs. The size of the object or event doesn't matter. Gratitude is gratitude.

What I've discovered about this routine is that it bookends my day—I begin and end in gratitude. As cliché as that might sound, it really has made a big difference in my life.

That's why I'm suggesting you begin something similar this month. June, the beginning of summer, is a great time to start this exercise because we have such bounty in nature to be grateful for. (It's

much easier to feel grateful when golden sun is streaming through the bedroom window and birds are chirping than it is when rain pelts the pane and a howling wind chills the soul.)

If your experience is like mine, you probably will feel a little silly at first—especially if you are listing things like, "I'm thankful I'm alive" and "I'm grateful I have a roof over my head." And, depending on what's happening in your life, you might even be hard pressed to find five things you are genuinely grateful about.



But here's the key. We are told to be thankful in all things; not for all things. We don't have to pretend we are tickled pink to have a broken bone, but we can be grateful that the accident wasn't worse. We aren't expected to cavort for joy when the car breaks down and needs an engine replacement, but we can give thanks that our teen wasn't driving

it when it happened. In everything that happens to us, we can find evidence of God's grace and mercy if we make a genuine attempt to shift into a place of looking for the blessing.

What's really cool about this is that gradually, as you focus every morning and every night on the abundance God has brought into your life, that abundance will begin to grow. To be honest, I'm not sure if I actually have more things to be grateful for or if I'm simply growing more aware of all the blessings I've already had, but some days I can list 10 or 20 or even 30 things I'm genuinely and profoundly grateful for.

But don't take my word for it. I challenge you to give it a try this month as our parish work loads begin to wind down a bit and we enter into the soft rhythm of "Ordinary Time."



LAMP SoCal

In its first year, LAMP So Cal (LITURGICAL ARTS MINISTRY PROJECT) is a residential summer camp for high school teens, taking place June 29 – July 3, 2015 at Mt. St. Mary's University in Los Angeles. The camp is designed to form and mentor young people with an interest in liturgical ministry in their parish or school.

Our youth will be tomorrow's (and in many cases today's) musicians, artists, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans and more, and now is the time to help educate, foster and cultivate that growth. With LAMP So Cal, young people will be formed for liturgy and their intercultural competency to understand the worship needs of the multicultural communities will be built.

We're offering partial scholarships on an as-needed basis. Registration is now open at: www.LAMPSoCAL.ORG

The talented line-up of liturgical ministers include:

- ✦ **Mr. John Flaherty**
Associate Director of Campus Ministry at Loyola Marymount University
- ✦ **Mr. Ed Archer**
Director of Liturgy and Music for Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- ✦ **Miss Katie Zeigler**
Youth Ministry Consultant for the Archdiocese Office of Religious Education
- ✦ **Miss Laura Gomez**
Associate Director of Campus Ministry at Mt. St. Mary's University
- ✦ **Dr. Dale Sieverding**
Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Monica Catholic Church and Vice-Chair of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Liturgical Commission

DALE@STMONICA.NET



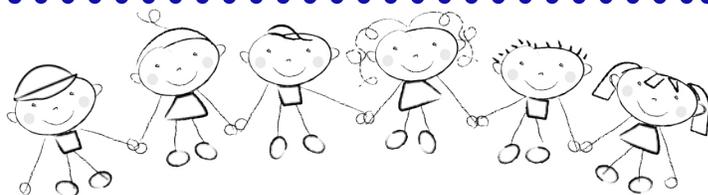
To the Parents of Our Young Children

A Few Suggestions...

- ☞ Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome.
- ☞ Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of other's heads.
- ☞ Quietly explain the parts of the Mass and actions of the priest, altar servers, choir, Eucharistic ministers, and others.
- ☞ Sing the hymns—pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- ☞ If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- ☞ Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To Our Parishioners

- ☞ The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a big smile of encouragement to their parents.



REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

It is not always easy to be family. Good parents, the old saying goes, give their children roots and wings, a sense of security and freedom to live their lives. But achieving such a balance is often accomplished only after years of working at it. Sometimes children feel smothered by their parents, that they are trying to control their lives; at other times, children feel neglected, that they are not important, even not loved.

The readings today remind us that God wishes us to know that we can find our roots in the divine love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that we can also find our freedom there. Paul's words to the Romans pick up first on the purpose of the gift of the Spirit that we celebrated last Sunday. The Spirit has been given us to lead us more deeply into the mystery of God, into the love of God, so that we recognize that we are God's beloved children.

This same message is found in Moses' words to the people as they are about to enter into the Promised Land. Has anyone ever had a God like our God? Moses marvels. Has any God ever shown a people how dear they are by such signs and wonders as our God has shown us? Moses is moving them to know who they are as God's beloved family and to "fix in your heart, that the Lord is God . . . and that there is no other" (Deuteronomy 4:39).

But we are not to stay all curled up in the divine embrace. We have been sent forth to proclaim to others this good news, to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We do this when we allow the Spirit to lead us, to guide us in witnessing to God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is my prayer formal and formulaic only, or personal and intimate as Jesus with his Abba? How might I recover or deepen the warmth of a prayerful relationship with God?

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

Exodus 24:3–8

Hebrews 9:11–15

Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	Jun 1	7:00 AM	Bill Keane† Michael Taylor†
Tue	Jun 2	7:00 AM	Jean Claude Rettier†
Wed	Jun 3	7:00 AM	Karon Maloney†
Fri	Jun 5	7:00 AM	Georgia Peltola†
Sat	Jun 6	5:00 PM	Valenti Family† Michael Taylor†
Sun	Jun 7	7:30 AM	Ron Mencarelli†
		9:00 AM	Florence & Joan Rubeck†
		11:00 AM	Margaret Blakelock†



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NEW HOURS

Effective June 1, 2015

St. Maximilian Kolbe

PASTORAL CENTER Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–5:30 PM

CLOSED FROM 12:30 PM–1:30 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

The St Max Men's Club is excited to present:

FATHER DAVE HENEY
Monday, June 1, 6:30 PM

Fr Dave is the author of *Don't Tell Me What to Do*, a book on modern moral issues, local priest on sabbatical, founder of the University Series and leader of an annual Holy Land Tour. Please join the Men's Club in giving

Fr Dave a warm St Max welcome.

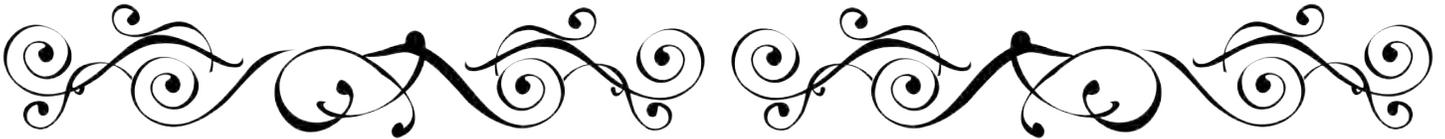
Refreshments and dinner will be served starting at 6:30 PM in O'Reilly Hall.

This is an open meeting:
all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hope to see you there!

A-Men
we are here for you

For questions or more information regarding the Men's Club at St Max, please contact:
Rick Bianchi
661-644-4063
RICK.BIANCHI@ROADRUNNER.COM



Come be in the presence of Christ!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will take place this Friday, June 5, following morning mass until Noon.



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN DID YOU KNOW?

SAFETY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF SUMMER FUN

Summer is almost here. School is almost out, and many new opportunities for recreation and relaxation await.

Maybe you are sending your children to a music or sports camp? Or maybe they have been invited by their friends to go camping in the mountains or at the beach?

Whatever the situation, it is important to remember that parents have the responsibility of controlling access that new people will have to their children. If your child will attend a summer camp, insist that counselors or anyone else who might have access to your children have undergone an application process that includes a criminal background check and reference checks.

Learn more here: [HTTP://WWW.ACACAMPS.ORG/CHILD-HEALTH-SAFETY/CHILD-ABUSE/STANDARDS](http://www.acacamps.org/CHILD-HEALTH-SAFETY/CHILD-ABUSE/STANDARDS)

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS
Any adult who works with children in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles must be fingerprinted and attend a Virtus® child abuse awareness class. Information on child safety is located in the breezeway.
Parents: for your children's safety, please accompany them to the restrooms during Mass.

PROMISE TO
PROTECT

PLEDGE TO
HEAL



A Thoughtful Reflection prepared by The Archdiocesan Office of Life, Justice and Peace

Pope Francis has talked a lot about the fact that we live in a “throw-away culture.”

In a throw-away culture, the Pope tells us, we throw things away—we get rid of them—if they aren’t immediately useful or if they have no value to us. That includes people. Especially people who are a burden or an inconvenience—like the sick and the elderly and the disabled.

This mentality of the “throw-away” culture is one of the roots of “euthanasia” and “physician assisted suicide.” With euthanasia and assisted suicide, our society would basically be saying that some peoples’ lives simply are not worth living and they would be better off dead.

Right now, the California Legislature is considering a bill, Senate Bill 128 that will allow patients who are terminally ill and depressed; to kill themselves with a doctor’s assistance.

This bill is poor public policy and it is opposed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the bishops of California, and a number of leading organizations for doctors and nurses in the state.

As Catholics we have a long tradition of helping people—the poor, the old, the sick. And as Catholics, we need to be people of compassion and people of mercy.

Pope Francis tells us: “Human life is always sacred, valuable and inviolable. As such it must be loved, defended and cared for.”

That is our duty as Catholics and as neighbors and family members. We need to treat every life as sacred and important and valuable. We need to love people—especially those who are poor and sick and who cannot take care of themselves. We need to love these people, defend their dignity and take care of them.

So we have to reject assisted suicide—which tells us that some lives are not important and not worthy of being cared for. We have to reject assisted suicide—which says we should kill the patient rather than comfort them and ease their suffering and pain.

We all know that people in chronic pain and people with terminal illness often feel lonely, depressed and feel as though they are a burden to their loved ones and friends.

Our reaction cannot be to kill them. And we must never call that “compassion.” No, instead, we have to walk with them, accompany them.

There are good medical and pastoral solutions available for both chronic pain and depression. Our duty as neighbors and as Catholics is to promote these solutions and to help people to find them. We have to help them get the treatment, the palliative care they need for their pain.

If we permit assisted suicide to become law we are sending the wrong signal—not just to the dying and the chronically ill. If we allow assisted suicide, we are telling anyone who is weak, dependent, vulnerable or poor that they are a burden and that it would be better if they just went away. We are saying that death is better than compassion to those who cannot defend themselves.

Doctors often report that the “decisions” made by dying patients are not actually their own idea. Often patients are influenced or manipulated by family members, no matter how well meaning.

In Oregon, where assisted suicide is legal, there was a case of a doctor who refused to give suicide pills to a patient. The doctor felt the patient was suffering from Alzheimer’s and was being pressured into the suicide by an aggressive daughter who was tired of taking care of her mother. So this doctor refused. But the daughter just took her mother to another doctor. And he wrote the prescription for the suicide pills. The mother suffering from Alzheimer’s took the pills and was killed.

There are also financial and economic pressures driving assisted suicide.

In another story from Oregon, about a cancer patient named Barbara Wagner. Her insurance company told her it would not pay for the drugs she needed to treat her cancer—but instead offered to pay for the pills she needed for assisted suicide.

This is what it means to legalize assisted suicide. This is not what we want for our families and our elderly here in California.

So two things: First, we have to work against this legislation. Contact your legislators by going to the Archdiocesan Website—WWW.AHARDPILL.ORG—and click on the icon that says, “Legislators.”

And second, we have to build a culture of compassion. We have to be more patient, more caring with those who are sick and frail and elderly. Just because people stop being healthy doesn’t mean they lose their dignity or their rights to be helped.

As Catholics, we always have to be witnesses to the God of life and the God of creation. We have to love life and take care of life—especially those lives that need special care and attention.

As Pope Francis reminds us: “A society truly welcomes life when it recognizes that it is also precious in old age, in disability, in serious illness and even when it is fading; when it teaches that the call to human fulfillment does not exclude suffering; indeed, when it teaches its members to see in the sick and suffering a gift for the entire community, a presence that summons them to solidarity and responsibility. This is the Gospel of life which ... you are called to spread.”



Fr. Joel with the 'regulars' at daily Mass as they wish him a fond farewell on his new assignments as Director of Continuing Education for Priests in the Los Angeles Archdiocese and pastoral service at the Transfiguration Parish in Los Angeles.

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LOOSEN THE BONDS JESUS GIVES US LIFE AND FREES US FROM OUR SINS

Father Robert J. Hater

As Marci took her seat on the plane, she immediately began to speak to me. I was surprised, since having a conversation with a total stranger on a plane is not common in this generation that rarely turns off cell phones or iPads. Her nervous voice told me that all was not right. It didn't take long before I found out that it was only the second time she flew, the first one being twenty-five years ago.

Marci was headed to Philadelphia for her sister's funeral. The grief over her death, worries about a sick daughter, and fear of flying held her in bonds. As the plane landed in Chicago, she didn't know where to go in the terminal or how to find her next flight. Having time before my next flight, I showed her the way. As we reached her gate, she said "goodbye" and expressed her gratitude. Marci's story reminds us that traumatic events, fears, and anxieties can hold us in bondage.

Frequently, it's difficult to free ourselves from them, and we need others to release us from our bonds.

The story of Jesus freeing Lazarus can help us. Jesus called him forth from the tomb and said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). At the same time, Jesus told those around him to unbind Lazarus from the burial cloths that kept him in bondage. Like Lazarus, we need Jesus to give us life and free us from our sins, but we also need others to help us overcome our insecurities, fears, and doubts - bonds that sometimes hold us fast.

We can do this in the simplest ways, like I did for Marci on the plane. I listened to her and helped her find her way to the next plane. We can help free people every day, if we reach out to them when they are in emotional, physical, or spiritual bondage.



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Living God's Word



We can pray that we continue to live in the freedom of the children of God, to be led by God's Spirit, to go forth to draw others into this family of God by showing the joy of being disciples.

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WHERE DID OUR STATUES GO?

**You may have noticed that our
St Maximilian Kolbe and St Francis
statues are missing!**

Not to worry, they have been transported to a restoration studio for care and maintenance. They have suffered accelerated degradation due to our proximity to the coast. This major restoration involves deep-cleaning, sand-blasting and re-patina by some of the same artisans that care for the bronze sculptures at prominent Southern California museums. Combined with an annual maintenance schedule, we can look forward to enjoying these beautiful fixtures for decades to come. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Adults, what are you looking for to grow your own faith?

Your St. Max Faith Formation Ministry would like to serve YOU by offering opportunities to grow in your faith. We want to hear from you—please take a minute to complete this survey, tear it from the bulletin and place it in the Adult Faith Formation Survey basket in the Narthex of the church. You can also find the survey on the parish website STMAXCHURCH.ORG. If you have any questions please contact:

Laura Diaz,
Director of Faith Formation
LDIAZ@STMAXCHURCH.ORG

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SURVEY

Please indicate if you are interested in attending Adult Faith Formation sessions in any of the following areas:

- Sacraments
- Bible
- Jesus
- Living your spirituality
- Liturgy
- Church
- Justice & Service
- Prayer

Please indicate three other areas that you might like to investigate more fully:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please indicate the day that best works with your schedule:

- Weeknights
- Saturday morning
- Saturday afternoon
- Sunday afternoon

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upon leaving the church.

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Faith Formation

Elementary Faith Formation

Vacation Bible Camp at St. Max is the week of August 3–7, 2015! Don't miss out experiencing "Everest" and having fun growing in faith this summer! Register your children today after Mass at the Faith Formation Fair. "Everest" Vacation Bible Camp will fill up quickly—don't miss this opportunity to register!

Service Project Opportunities High School Youth Saturday, June 6, 6–10 PM O'Reilly Hall

Parent's Date Night Out

We will be providing child care with crafts and games so our parents can enjoy an night out. Sign up with Laura Diaz at LDIAZ@STMAXCHURCH.ORG ASAP to help provide a fun night for the children!

Sunday, June 7, 10–11:15 AM Cerebral Palsy Home Eucharistic Prayer Service

We will be helping with singing, lecturing and by being a love-filled presence! No need to sign up, just come.
E-mail Laura Diaz for the address at LDIAZ@STMAXCHURCH.ORG.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Faith Formation

WORD OF THE YEAR: PRAY

"Prayer is the greatest of all forces, because it honors God and brings him into active aid."

E.M. Bounds

Simply pray the Sign of the Cross each day and open yourself to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit becoming active in your life in a profound way!

#SMKPrays #PraySMK

Parents, Save the Date!

Parents' Date Night Out

Saturday, June 6, 2015 6–10 PM

\$20 per child - \$5 per sibling

St. Max Youth Ministries will take care of your children for the evening in O'Reilly Hall while you enjoy a night out together!

The proceeds will support the summer mission trip.

YOUTH 2 THE MAX - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

High Schoolers, come to O'Reilly Hall from 7-8:30 p.m. for a Hot Topic night on pornography. You have nothing to do with pornography? Do you watch TV? It's there. Do you watch music videos? It's there. Do you look at posts on Instagram and Facebook? It's there. Let's learn about this issue that can hurt you and others without you realizing.

Max Pax ~ Junior High Youth Ministry

Incoming 7th & 8th Graders are invited to participate at Max Pax during the summer months. It will be every other Wednesday evening, so watch the bulletin for dates and topics! Junior Highers come join in the summertime fun!

Elementary, Junior High, High School & Adult Faith Formation is here at St. Max for you!

- ✠ Elementary Faith Formation
Vacation Bible School Aug. 3–7, 2015
- ✠ Elementary Faith Formation
Weekly: Sep 2015–May 2016
- ✠ Junior High Faith Formation
Weekly: Sep 2015–May 2016
- ✠ H.S. Confirming Disciples ~ July 2015–June 2016
- ✠ Adult Confirmation ~ Jan–Apr 2016
- ✠ R.C.I.A. (Adult Initiation) ~ Sep 2015–Apr 2016
- ✠ R.C.I.C. (Children's Initiation)
Weekly: Sep 2015–May 2016
- ✠ The University Series ~ Feb–Mar 2016

Stop by the Faith Formation Fair after the Masses on May 30 and May 31 for information and to register!