



ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

3955 ORANGE AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90807 | 562-424-8595 | STBARNABASLB.ORG

REV. ANTONY GASPAR | REV. BERNARD SANTIAGO

Pastor

Associate Pastor

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY!

Good News!

October 11, 2020

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

ON THIS MOUNTAIN THE LORD OF HOSTS
WILL PROVIDE FOR ALL PEOPLES
A FEAST OF RICH FOOD AND CHOICE WINES,
JUICY, RICH FOOD AND PURE, CHOICE WINES.
— ISAIAH 25:6



When people think of heaven, they often imagine a place up in the sky. Episodes of Star Trek should challenge that notion. The Bible usually speaks of heaven as an experience. According to our first reading, it is like a banquet, “a feast of rich food and choice wines” (Isaiah 25:6). Such a meal is an extraordinary event for hardworking people who seldom get to enjoy such luxury. According to today’s Gospel account, the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet, a feast of “calves and fattened cattle” (Matthew 22:4), a celebration of love and new life.

Some people might prefer an image that thrills the ear rather than the palette, like a Handel concerto or a Beethoven symphony. Whatever image is favored, heaven is an incomparable phenomenon that cannot be described. It is an experience that will thrill us to the core of our being.

To be invited to such an astounding experience might well be the event of a lifetime. This is, after all, an invitation from the king. Who would possibly turn it down? And yet, some do. As the Gospel recounts, some are too busy with work. Others would rather watch “the game.” Still others who might accept the invitation minimize it by refusing to dress appropriately. How can people be so foolish? Yet, you and I often are.

God’s invitation to the heavenly feast simply asks that we realize the magnitude of the honor extended to us, that we accept it graciously, and that we enjoy the experience. —Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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MISSION STATEMENT

“We, the Catholic Community of St. Barnabas Parish, are a people formed by Christ, called in Baptism and united in the Eucharist; we continue the mission of the Church in the world through Prayer, Apostolic Works, Evangelization, and Christian Stewardship.”

PARISH OFFICE:
OFFICE # 562-424-8595

OFFICE E-MAIL:
church@stbarnabaslb.org

OFFICE HOURS (calls only):
Mon-Fri: 9:00am-4:00pm
Sat: 8:00am-12:00pm
Sun: 8:00am-12:00pm

Business Manager: Sam Christi
Office Manager: Olivia Baylen

THE PARISH OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED, BUT YOU CAN CERTAINLY DROP-OFF ENVELOPES OR IN OUR MAIL SLOT. E-MAIL OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR OTHER INQUIRIES.

**CONFESSIONS BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

CHURCH DOORS, OFFICE & FACILITIES ARE ALL CLOSED AT THIS TIME. NO BOOKINGS OR EVENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

OUTDOOR MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday	7:00 am	Parking Lot Mass
SUNDAY Parking Lot	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:00 am	“Early Bird” Mass Mass Mass

LIVE-STREAM MASS/ONLINE ZOOM

Monday - Saturday Wednesday	8:00 am 8:30 am	Facebook & YouTube Perpetual Help Novena
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Facebook & YouTube
Thursday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Online Bible Study via online Zoom
1st Tuesday of the month	7:00pm-8:00pm	Reflection Talk Via online Zoom

NEW MASS SCHEDULE until further notice



PARKING LOT MASS

OUTDOORS
Mon-Sat: 7am
Sun: 6am / 7am / 8am

Live-Stream

Facebook & YouTube
Mon-Sat: 8am
Sun: 9am

No indoor activities
allowed at this time.
100 max occupancy.
Stay home if sick.

Mandatory Masks
Temperature Checks
Hand Sanitizing
Social Distancing

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

10/4
Collection:

\$ 2,721.00

Faith-Direct
Bi-Weekly
Contribution:

\$ 7,456.31

Period: 9/1 – 9/15

Thanks for your prayerful giving. Your donation supports the operations of our Parish Community.

ALTAR FLOWERS SPONSOR:

Sponsor: Biscocho Family
**Happy 29th Wedding
Anniversary to Bernard &
Lynette Biscocho**
October 12 - 18

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ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL

Office: (562) 424-7476

Fax (562) 981-3351

3980 Marron Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

Principal: Jennifer Kellam
jkellam@stbarnabas.school
www.school.stbarnabaslb.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & CONFIRMATION

Office: (562) 988-6855

1130 Marshall Place
Long Beach, CA 90807
(Office located upstairs of Parish Center)

Rel Ed Coordinator: **Juan Rodriguez Jr.**
213-840-8600 cell/text
religiouseducation@stbarnabaslb.org

Confirmation Coordinator:
Emmanuel Magallanes
213-948-7762 cell/text
confirmation@stbarnabaslb.org



On October 17-18, 2020, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which unites us and Catholics around the world more closely with the Holy Father in two ways: it supports the structures of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Church as well as his charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others most in need. Please be generous. For more information, visit <http://www.peterspence.va/en.html>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

10/13: SBS 1st Reconciliation/8am
 10/17: SBS 1st Holy Communion/9am (*new time)
 10/17-10/18: Peter's Pence Collection
 10/24: St. Barnabas Got Talent!/7pm via Zoom
 10/27: Infant Baptisms/by appointment only

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 11th

Lourdes & Regina; All Souls; +Roque Abatay;
 +Cesar D. Alfonso; +Horacio Tadique Sr.;
 +Bonifacio & +Hermenia Avancena; +Mam Van
 Tran; +Tlatoani Salazar; +Genoveva Aguinaga

Monday, October 12th

Bernard & Lynette Biscocho; Cayo & Carmelita
 Javier; Carnino C. Javier; Huy Nguyen, +Roque
 Abatay

Tuesday, October 13th

Gloria Dorsey; Huy, Thuan & Thau Families

Wednesday, October 14th

OLPH Devotees, St. Barnabas School; Juan & Laura
 Leon; Sister MariChu; Lorena Jimenez; +Annie
 Pallivathukal; +Eduardo Samia Sr.

Thursday, October 15th

St. Barnabas Parishioners; Reynolds-Cannata
 Families; Hung & Mai Families; +Annie
 Pallivathukal

Friday, October 16th

+Adelaida Bautista; +Phaolo; +Gioana; +Maria;
 +Daminh; +Vincente; +Giusem; +Thomas

Saturday, October 17th

Tuklasan CANA Marriage Renewal Ministry; Gen
 Legaspi; Reynolds-Cannata Families; +Bernardo &
 +Florentina Abad; +Augusto Pasamonte; +Ignacio
 Binarao; +Genoveva Binarao; +Columba Binarao

Sunday, October 18th

Fred & Letty Montoya; Pasamonte & Ponce
 Families; +Rudy Espeleta; +Lloyd Hamel; +Horacio
 Tadique Sr.

MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE MENTIONED AT ALL MASS TIMES.

Book your Mass Intentions via E-mail or by phone. (+ indicates deceased)

PRAY & REMEMBER WHO HAVE DIED

Lloyd Hamel 7/8 (long-time faithful member of 74 years)
 Roque Abatay 9/2
 Annie Pallivathukal 9/5
 Stanley Golanty

Michael Townsend
 Linda F. Skinner 9/25

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — On this mountain the LORD will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines (Isaiah 25:6-10a).

Psalm — I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — God will supply whatever you need (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20).

Gospel — I have prepared my banquet, and everything is ready. Come to the feast! (Matthew 22:1-14 [1-10]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 — 5:1;
 Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7; Lk 11:29-32
 Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48;
 Lk 11:37-41
 Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:42-46
 Thursday: Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1-6; Lk 11:47-54
 Friday: Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13;
 Lk 12:1-7
 Saturday: Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-7; Lk 12:8-12
 Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10;
 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

NEW PRAYERS FOR HEALING...

Ken Augustine, Connie Edwards, Mary Pearson, Betty Chrysler, Delores Spak, Elizabeth N. Gabrillo, Florencio "Junn" Gabrillo Jr., Cesar Giron, Romeo Giron, Arthur Giron, Marichu Cabriga, Marissa Garcia, Roseann Vetter, Myke Bommer, Elizabeth Cannata, Carolyn Espinoza, Ana Maria Onuna, Gene Henslee, Rosalin Martinez, Herminia Villalpando, Judy Desolo, Richard Hoover, Juanita Hernandez, Valentine Rodriguez, Cynthia Tan, Paul Hutton, Beryl Weekes, Len Tanguay, Laura & Francisco Dominguez, Rose L, Joel Nicart, Erickson Capitulo, Nathaniel Capitulo, Hector Gustilo, Mateo Leyva, Milagro E. Salazar, Kathy Wachter, Sue Ann E. Tumakay, Fr. Owen de Souza, Gloria Goul, Wilson Panickaveetil, William Dorsey, John Matthew Dobberpuhl, Michael Carrasco, Gerry Johnston, Mary Sabate, Virginia Barch, Joseph Smith, Anna Pineda, Sol Reyes, Patty Demuth, Lorna E. Declines, Dolores Medina, Mario Visperas, Jesse Damian, Maria & Miguel Mejia, Michelle Angeles, Josh & Pam Batovsky, Robert Carambelas, Madeline Burgess, Deborah Miller, Martin Boyd, Kenneth Cheong; Bill & Gloria O'Connor, Ana Marie Sacro, Lois Lohrke, Sherrie & Heather Wren, Connie Torres, Lauro & Andy Tecson, Augusto David, Gloria Dorsey, Marge Smith, Marcella Tezeno, Gregorio Dones, Romeo Valderrama, John Lucero, Eric & Sid Peralta, Peter Miotto

PARISH & MINISTRY NEWS

BOARDING UP THE FRONT MAIN DOORS

For the safety of our Parishioners, Neighbors, Priests and to protect our Church, we had to take precautions by boarding up the main doors of the Church facing Orange Avenue. Thanks for your understanding and patience. Let us pray for the safety of our Priests and the homeless who are mentally ill. **SAFETY COMES FIRST FOR OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN, PARISHIONERS, OUR PARISH PRIESTS, CHURCH AND NEIGHBORHOOD.**

MOTHER MARY GROTTO



My Dear Parishioners,
Blessings to you! You may have noticed that an iron fence has been installed in front of the Marian Grotto between the Church and the Rectory/Parish Office. This was needed due to the recent desecration of the Marian statue and the persistent safety problem we encountered in recent times. While we pray for the well-being of the unfortunate brothers and sisters who cause these problems for us, we needed to secure this sacred place and provide a safe environment for our parishioners, neighbors and countless others who visit our grotto day and night every day. I am so inspired to witness the faith of the people who come here trusting in the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother. Please continue to visit our grotto and avail the intercession of our Mother Mary for your personal and family spiritual enrichment.

We have placed two wooden boxes. One is for placing flowers, and the other is for placing candles. In case you wanted to offer intentions and donations, please walk up to the Parish Office entrance door and drop it off at the mail slot to the left of the railing. Our Office Staff will take care of your intentions.

With Blessings,
— Fr. Antony Gaspar (Pastor)

>>> ONLINE FAITH DIRECT <<<

St. Barnabas needs your support more than ever!

Due to the pandemic, we depend the most on online giving to continue our ministry.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/CA794, or text the word 'Enroll' to: 562-330-1646.

Visit: membership.faithdirect.net/CA794, call 1-866-507-8757 or visit www.faithdirect.net. You can download the free Faith Direct App today! Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

—Antony Gaspar, Pastor

FEAST DAY: SAN LORENZO RUIZ

To celebrate the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, September 28, our devotees did a 9-Day Novena from September 20 - 28, 2020.

Through the intercession of San Lorenzo Ruiz, we pray for peace, love, protection and healing of the world. May he strengthen us to have patience in our sufferings and consolation in our hardships. Amen.



ST. BARNABAS GOT TALENT!

Next show is Saturday, October 24th from 6pm to 7:30pm. E-mail the Parish Office (church@stbarnabaslb.org) if you are interested in performing. Participation sign-up form is also on our website and Facebook page.

Join Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165816100>

Meeting ID: 871 6581 6100

Passcode: 3955



MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Visit: www.stbarnabaslb.org and click on 'Prayer Intentions' Tab to fill out your Mass Intention Requests. Please request at least 2 weeks in advance.

PARISH OFFICE IS STILL CLOSED

The Parish Office remains CLOSED to the public. Office hours to receive phone calls are Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-4:00pm, and Sunday: 8:00am-12:00pm. You may certainly drop drop-off envelopes or notes in our mail slot to the left of our Office door railing. Call 562-424-8595 or e-mail us at: church@stbarnabaslb.org.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

THE ANGELUS

**V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with Thee: blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

**V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary...

**V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary...

**V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R. That we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was known by the message of an angel, so by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.**

As our Church Bell rings, pray this at 12 noon and 6pm, Monday-Saturday, at the same time!

OCT. MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The month of October is specially dedicated to praying the Rosary. May I encourage all of you to make an attempt to pray to Rosary as an individual or as a family. I would like to share with you an article written by Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg and published in Northwest Catholic website enlightening us why/how the month of October was conceived as the month of Rosary and the importance of praying the Rosary. — *Fr. Antony*

PRAYER FOR CORONAVIRUS

By: Most Reverend José H. Gomez-Archbishop of Los Angeles



**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.**

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

**We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.**

**Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,**

that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

**For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.**

**Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.**

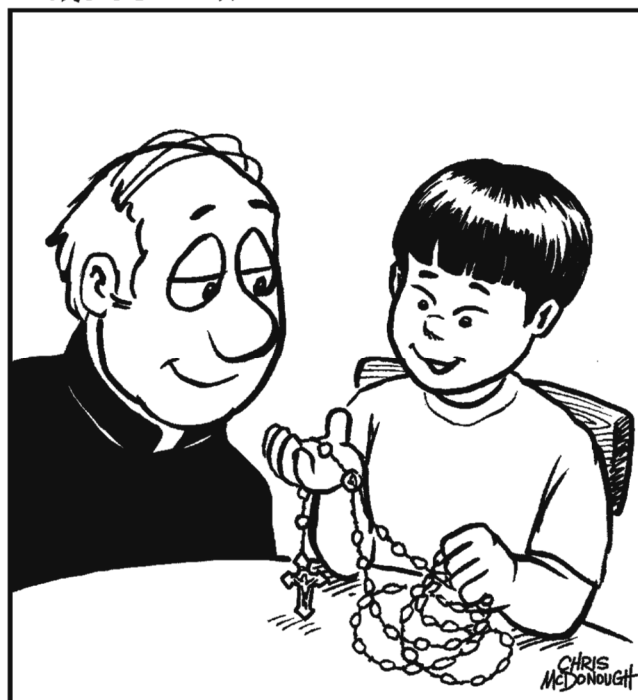
**In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.**

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

**We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.**

**Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,**

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Al™

"At first I wasn't much interested in the rosary until I saw that it's really a portable prayer calculator."

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SAINTS OF THE WEEK

SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (1515-1582) October 15

Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you. Gifted with a passionate spirit, young Teresa dreamed of converting Muslims and becoming a martyr. *All things are passing; God never changes.* But her mother's death when Teresa was fourteen inspired lifelong devotion to Our Lady, and Teresa entered the Carmelites, Mary's order, despite her father's objections and her own fragile health. *Patience gains everything.* Initially, she enjoyed her lax convent's sociability and "busyness," but mystical prayer and John of the Cross's collaboration inspired her to reform the Carmelites. *Whoever has God, lacks nothing.* When her ideals encountered resistance and brought suffering, she maintained her peace—and humor. Discovered devouring leftovers, she told her mildly scandalized nuns, "When I fast, I fast! When I eat, I eat!" To nuns demanding less work and more prayer in the convent schedule, she retorted: "What we really need around here are fewer starry eyes and more strong arms!" *God alone is enough!* The italicized sentences here are her "Breviary Bookmark," the simple, profound prayer of Teresa, the first woman Doctor of the Church.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.




saint snippets

Cling to God, and
leave all the rest to him:
he will not let you perish.
Your soul is very dear to
him, he wishes to save it.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
17th-century French nun who received visions
of Jesus and Mary and promoted devotion to
the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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October 16



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: Columbus Day; Canadian Thanksgiving Day
 Wednesday: St. Callistus I
 Thursday: St. Teresa of Jesus
 Friday: St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque;
 National Boss's Day
 Saturday: St. Ignatius of Antioch

FR BERNARD'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT: 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Join Fr. Bernard's Online Bible Study through your computer by visiting this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99174147604>

Meeting ID: 991 7414 7604 Password: 3955

For more info, visit our webpage:

<https://stbarnabaslb.org/bible-study/>

Join our Bible Study Group's Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/groups/biblestudy1b](https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblestudy1b)

RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION

For Registration, please visit our website at stbarnabaslb.org for important registration forms.

Religious Ed. 1st -8th Grade, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for Youth:
 Religious Education Coordinator: Juan Rodriguez Jr.
 Email: religiouseducation@stbarnabaslb.org
 562-341-7772 Cell/Text

1st & 2nd Year Confirmation:
 Confirmation Coordinator: Emmanuel Magallanes
 Email: confirmation@stbarnabaslb.org
 213-948-7762 Cell/Text

(R.C.I.A.) Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:
 Coordinator: Andrea Marquez & Susana Marquez
 Email: stbarnabasrcia@gmail.com
 562-335-4429

Acts 29 Youth Ministry:
 Coordinator: Rose Lucero
 Email: youthministry@stbarnabaslb.org
 213-949-9507 Cell/Text

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet
 for all peoples on this mountain;
 A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,
 And refined, aged wine. Is 25:6

Scripture from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.lockman.org

**OCTOBER IS THE
 MONTH OF THE
 ROSARY! PRAY!**



PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Please visit: www.youtube.com/c/stbarnabaschurchlongbeach

PROJECT ACHIEVE

TOPIC: PROJECT ACHIEVE - FIRST FALL MEETING
TIME: OCTOBER 12, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

Greeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We haven't talked since the summer, and so we thought we would set up some time to:

- See how meals have been going the past 5 months
 - Check in with everyone to see how they are doing
 - Pray together
 - Talk about the fall/upcoming holidays for the shelter
 - Just touch base
- (low stress meeting, just want to see /hear everyone)

Michelle Gustilo-Smithson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85301676192>

Meeting ID: 853 0167 6192

Password: No password needed

If you would rather call into the meeting (no video)

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,85301676192# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY
2020-2021

SCHOOL STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The school, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students regardless of race, color, national origin, and/or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, medical condition, sex, or national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and practices, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, although certain athletic leagues and other programs may limit participation and some archdiocesan schools operate as single-sex schools.

While the school does not discriminate against students with special needs, a full range of services may not always be available to them. Decisions concerning the admission and continued enrollment of a student in the school are based upon the student's emotional, academic, and physical abilities and the resources available to the school in meeting the student's needs.

This Catholic Elementary School publishes the above policy in the staff and parent/student handbooks, public relations/recruitment brochures and in other publications such as the parish bulletin and school newspaper. The school also publishes applicable grievance procedures in the staff and parent/student handbooks.

FAREWELL GERRY! THANK YOU FOR 22+ YEARS AT ST. BARNABAS!!!

We would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to GERRY JOHNSTON for your holy service to St. Barnabas Parish for 22+ years. She has been active on many Ministries throughout the years, especially leading our Sacristans Ministry. We learned a lot from you. We all continue to pray for you, as you navigate your new life in Colorado with your Family! You will be missed greatly! If you would like to keep in touch with Gerry, you can e-mail her anytime at: jetngerry@msn.com. Thanks again, Gerry, for all that you have done for us at St. Barnabas! Here's some photos of her last night with us!

We also wanted to acknowledge the "passing down the reigns" to Sahlee Balajadia and Armando Pablo, who will be co-leading our Sacristans Ministry. Thank you for taking over. You have big shoes to fill! We are so blessed to have you both active at St. Barnabas Parish!



Together In Mission 2020



"Our Story Is Alive"

OurMissionLA.org/give

WHY IS OCTOBER THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY?

- September 25, 2018
- Written by [Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg](#)
- Published in [Ask Father/Bishop](#)



Photo: Shutterstock

Q: Why is October referred to as the Month of the Rosary?

A: The answer to your question is relatively simple but needs a historical context in order to be fully appreciated. The short answer is this: October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7.

To understand this feast, we need to go back in time. In the 16th century, the Islamic Ottoman Empire presented a serious military threat to western Europe and sent a fleet of ships to attack Christian defenses in southern Europe. Pope Pius V recognized the grave danger and organized a fleet called the Holy League to confront the navy of the Ottoman Turks.

On October 7, 1571, the two navies engaged in a pivotal battle that would determine who controlled maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean seas. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships (it was the largest naval battle in Western history for centuries).

Pius V knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed

Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented.

The next year, Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honor of the Blessed Mother, originally called Our Lady of Victory. After a few centuries, the name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary to more clearly recognize that prayer was the greatest power at work that day on the seas.

In 1571, the rosary was still a relatively new prayer form for the universal church. Pope Pius V had issued a decree formally establishing devotion to the rosary in the papal bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices* just two years before the Battle of Lepanto. The Holy Father's universal promulgation recognized the growing devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout Europe, as well as the increased prayer of the rosary in various locations. Devotion to the rosary was especially promoted in the 13th century by St. Dominic and in the 16th century by St. Peter Canisius (who, according to tradition, added the final verse to the Hail Mary, in which we pray, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death" — printed officially in the Catechism of the Council of Trent in 1566; the first two verses of the Hail Mary are adapted from Luke 1:28 and 1:42).

The origins of the rosary are complex. The use of knotted ropes to count prayers or scriptural verses (including the Lord's Prayer and the Jesus Prayer) is an ancient practice and is even found in non-Christian cultures. Most probably, the Christian recitation of 150 such prayers was intended to mirror the monastic prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours in which monks prayed all 150 psalms each day.

The structure of the rosary as we know it today developed significantly from the 12th to the 14th centuries as the larger collection of 150 prayers was further divided into groups of 50 and separated by biblical verses or themes (now referred to as mysteries). It is these mysteries, like a grouping of common roses in a garden, that gave the name *rosary* to this prayer form.

The rosary is a living prayer form and continues to develop even in recent times. An invocation known as the Fatima Prayer was commonly added in the early 20th century. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added a new set of five reflections called the Luminous Mysteries which encourage additional meditations on the life of Jesus.

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. For this reason, it has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces for the saints. Remember, every time you pray the rosary you are given the privilege and honor of pronouncing the holy name of Jesus more than 50 times.

The wealth of spiritual graces offered through the rosary comes not from the multiplication of prayers (see Matthew 6:7) but from the imitation of Christ through obedience to the Father's will, according to the example of the Blessed Mother.

Maybe October would be a good month to turn off the radio or podcast as you commute to work or school and pray the rosary instead. See what graces the Lord wants to pour into your life from the rose garden of this daily meditation.

Northwest Catholic - October 2018



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & MORTUARIES

EVERLASTING FAITH. EVERLASTING LIFE.

*A ministry of the Church
serving the faithful.*

Learn about our 11 locations in
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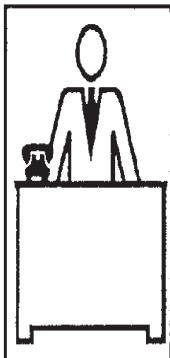
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