

CHURCH OF SAINT MARK

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2016

Fr. Paul Spellman, Pastor Fr. Michael Tang, In Residence
Deacon Joseph Girard

940 Coeur d'Alene Ave., Venice, CA 90291 Phone: (310) 821-5058
E-mail: info@st-mark.net · website: www.st-mark.net



Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm
Closed 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Sunday Masses: Saturday: (Vigil) 5:30pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
12 noon (Spanish) & 5:30pm

Daily Masses: Monday - Saturday 8:00am

Holy Day Masses: 8:00am, 12:15pm and
7:00pm (Bilingual)

Eucharistic Adoration : First Monday of each month
8:30am to 8:30pm

Confessions: Saturday 4:30 - 5:15pm

Baptism: 3rd weekend of each month.
Please contact the rectory office.

Marriage: 6 months notice is required.
Please contact the rectory office.

Anointing of The Sick: Sacrament for the sick is celebrated
upon request. Please contact the
rectory office.

Holy Eucharist for the Sick: Communion is given upon request.
Please contact the rectory office.

Parish Staff

Maintenance	Antonio Rodriguez821-5058
Rectory Care	Sandra Perez821-5058
Church Care	Catalina Blasi821-5058
Secretary	Gabriela Bravo821-5058
Secretary	Blanca Meza821-5058
Bookkeeper	Joe Stockemer821-5058

Liturgy

Altar Servers	Joan Horne463-9017
Altar Society	Chris Putziger396-3265

Eucharistic Ministry:

In Church	MaryAnn Long717-2645
To the Sick (Eng)	Fr. Paul Spellman821-5058
In Church	Romeo Santos720-0084
To the Sick (Sp)	Ofelia Gonzalez306-8768

Ministry of the Word

English	Brittany Git821-5058
Spanish	Erick Yela463-9080
Wedding Coord.	Gabriela Bravo821-5058
Quinceañera Coord.	Gabriela Bravo821-5058

Music

Music Director	Maeve Cummings902-0109
Adult Choir	Valerie Vinnard ... 323-804-7720
Spanish Choir	Alex Venegas 213-675-0564
Organist/Pianist	Mark Balling390-3646
	Steve Gunning (Eng) ..306-9035

Ushers

Parish School

Principal	Mary Ann McQueen821-6612
Secretary	Mary Ann Welchance 821-6612
Secretary	Maria Donaldson821-6612

Religious Education

Director	Judy Girard822-1201 ext 249
Office Secretary	Maria Acosta...822-1201 ext 250
Confirmation	Edwin Ambrosio 822-1201 ext 248
R.C.I.A.	Susan Lewis...822-1201 ext 247

Parish Organization

Bereavement Ministry	Fritz Hirt827-1585
Guadalupanas	Isaias Flores391-5085
Knights of Columbus	Steve Gunning306-9035
Power House of Prayer	Barbara Kennedy823-9387
Prayer Group (Esp)	Javier Hernandez702-7929
Legion of Mary	Lorene Ross306-2796
Pastoral Council	Tom Suchy821-5058
Young Adult	SaintMarkYAM@gmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul424-272-1629

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry (Eng)822-1201
Youth Ministry (Sp)	Fernando Guzman702-7701

FROM OUR PASTOR

Pastor's Corner

When he inaugurated the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said, "We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord's words, *Merciful like the Father*" (*Misericordiae Vultus* #13). In Luke's Gospel Jesus made a similar plea: "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." Throughout the rest of his Gospel, the writer challenged all would be disciples to put it into practice.

Today's Gospel from Luke is unique with its narrative of three lost things: a sheep, a coin, and a son. With each lost and found experience, the parable draws us in until we realize that we are the lost son, and that loving merciful Father (God) eagerly awaits our return.

We all lose things and we all know the sense of joy and relief that comes from finding them. However, it is one thing to lose a coin or sheep, but quite another to lose a son, daughter or even two sons as the parable suggests. Not only did the younger son abandon his father, but the older son appears to want to leave as well.

We are not told the rest of the story. Nevertheless, we might find ourselves hoping that the older son followed the younger son's example and reconciled with his father.

Throughout the parable are references to the fact that all in heaven celebrate when sinners who were lost are found. In other words, those who were dead to sin, come to life again through the mercy of God. Initially the reactions of the shepherd and the woman who lost the coin seem exaggerated. However, Jesuit author Brendan Byrne helps us to understand that the "over the top" reactions of the shepherd, the woman, and the forgiving father are to assure sinners that God is "crazy in love" with each of us and rejoices exuberantly when those who are lost are found.

The elder brother in the parable, in his disdain to his father's joy and his resentment to his prodigal brother's return might have evoked sympathy from the Scribes and Pharisees in the crowd. Their argument after all is reasonable; why should an errant son who squandered his birthright be welcomed home and celebrated as a beloved son? Why? Because our God, who is crazy in love with us, is extravagantly merciful and irrationally forgiving. Can you accept this God? Or will you refuse such love and find yourself on the outside looking in while forgiven sinners revel in God's mercy?

It's something to reflect upon this week. Is there someone in your life that you can show mercy to and forgive and welcome home?

Have a blessed week!

Father Michael Tang

La Esquina del Párroco

Cuando se inauguró el Año de la Misericordia, el Papa Francisco dijo, "queremos vivir este Año de Jubileo a la luz de la palabra del Señor, Misericordioso como el Padre" (*Misericordiae Vultus* #13). En el Evangelio de Lucas Jesús hizo una declaración similar: "Sed misericordiosos como vuestro padre es misericordioso". En el resto de su Evangelio el escritor desafió a todos los que fueran discípulos a ponerlo en práctica.

El Evangelio de hoy de Lucas es único con su narrativa de tres cosas perdidas: una oveja, una moneda y un hijo. Con cada experiencia perdida y encontrada, la parábola nos atrae hasta que nos damos cuenta que somos el hijo perdido, y ese padre misericordioso amoroso (Dios) espera nuestro retorno.

Perdemos cosas y todos sabemos el sentido de alegría y alivio que viene al encontrarlas. Sin embargo, una cosa es perder una moneda o una oveja, pero absolutamente otra es perder un hijo, hija o hijos incluso dos como lo sugiere la parábola. No sólo lo hizo el hijo más joven al abandonar a su padre, pero el hijo mayor parece querer hacer lo mismo.

No nos dice el resto de la historia. Sin embargo, nos podemos encontrar nosotros mismos con la esperanza de que el hijo mayor siguiera el ejemplo del hijo más joven y sea reconciliado con su padre.

A lo largo de la parábola hay referencias al hecho de que todos en el cielo celebran cuando se encuentran los pecadores que se perdieron. En otras palabras, aquellos que fueron muertos al pecado, vienen a la vida otra vez a través de la misericordia de Dios. Inicialmente las reacciones del pastor y la mujer que perdieron la moneda parecen exagerado. Sin embargo, el autor jesuita Brendan Byrne nos ayuda a comprender que las reacciones de del pastor, la mujer y el padre que perdona aseguran que los pecadores que Dios está "loco de amor" con cada uno de nosotros y se regocija, exuberantemente, cuando se encuentran aquellos que están perdidos.

El hermano mayor en la parábola, en su desdén a la alegría de su padre y su resentimiento a la vuelta de su hermano pródigo puede han suscitado la simpatía de los escribas y fariseos en la multitud. Después de todo su argumento es razonable; ¿por qué le dio la bienvenida a casa y celebró como un amado hijo un hijo errante, a quien derrochó su primogenitura? ¿Por qué? Porque nuestro Dios, que nos ama con locura, es extravagante misericordioso y perdona irracionalmente. ¿Se puede aceptar a este Dios? ¿O niegan tal amor y se encuentran afuera mirando mientras que los pecadores perdonados se deleitan en la misericordia de Dios?

Es algo para reflexionar esta semana. ¿Hay alguien en tu vida a quien puedes mostrar misericordia, perdonar y darle la bienvenida a casa?

¡Tengan una semana bendecida!

Padre Michael Tang

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

Thank you to all who attended the **Protecting God's Children** training for adults this weekend. This session helps all of us to prevent wrongdoing and to promote "rightdoing" within our community. The program helps us to better control risk and to improve the lives of all those who interact with us here at St. Mark. If you missed this important training please keep a look out for future offerings.

SAINT MARK YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Saint Mark Young Adult Ministry works to meet the pastoral needs of singles and couples in their 20's and 30's in our parish. We are an inclusive community and welcome LGBT, divorced, non-Catholics and those struggling with faith. The next monthly gathering is this Sunday, September 11th at 6:30pm in the school's faculty room. Monthly meetings include food, fellowship, prayer and faith sharing. For more information about upcoming social, service and spiritual events, follow @saintmarkyam on Twitter, visit facebook.com/saintmarkyam, or email saintmarkyam@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is honored to facilitate the St. Mark Parish Annual Picnic on Sunday, October 9th at Chevron Park in El Segundo from 12 - 4pm. Come and celebrate with the entire Saint Mark Community and bring your favorite dish or dessert to share! The Knights of Columbus will provide plenty of hamburgers, hotdogs and soft drinks.

The Knight's of Columbus is also sponsoring a Pala Casino bus trip fund raiser on Saturday, October 22nd. The event costs \$25 and includes \$5 in gambling money, drinks and food, and the bus. The bus will leave St Mark at 9:30 am and will return around 7:00 pm. Reservations are required. Contact Terry Ballentine at 310-351-9743 for more information.

Steve Gunning, Grand Knight
310-306-9035

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Saint Mark Church is in need of altar servers! Any young person, grade 5 and higher, interested in becoming an altar server for St. Mark Church, please contact Joan Horne. venicejoanie@hotmail.com

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

The Marina Hospital is in need of part time Eucharistic Ministers who are available to take communion to the sick and help cover the Monday through Friday Ministers when needed. If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Carolyn Griswold at 310-821-9862.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Mark Parish has a Saint Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conference. This Conference formed in the last year and you generously support their activity through your "blue" envelope donations to the parish. The Conference sends teams of two to meet personally with Friends in Need in our parish area. The Conference goal is to show the face of Christ to our Friends and empower the Friends to make systemic changes in their lives to address their struggles. The members of the SVdP grow in Christ because of this interaction. The Conference needs and welcomes more volunteers and they will have a table outside of mass this weekend so please stop by and learn about their activities.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday:	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday:	Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Thursday:	1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 7:36-50
Friday:	1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday:	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday:	Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes:	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Sal 40 (39):7-10, 17; Lc 7:1-10
Martes:	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Sal 100 (99):1-5; Lc 7:11-17
Miércoles:	Nm 21:4b-9; Sal 78 (77):1bc-2, 34-38; Fil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Jueves:	1 Cor 15:1-11; Sal 118 (117):1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Jn 19:25-27 o Lc 7:36-50
Viernes:	1 Cor 15:12-20; Sal 17 (16):1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lc 8:1-3
Sábado:	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Sal 56 (55):10c-14; Lc 8:4-15
Domingo:	Am 8:4-7; Sal 113 (112):1-2, 4-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lc 16:1-13 [10-13]

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Confirmation for Teens

The first session for second year Confirmation candidates begins this Sunday Sept 11 at 2:45pm. Confirmation 1 begins next Sunday Sept. 18 at 2:45pm. Both sessions will be held in the Parish Hall. **Registration is required.** Call for information/registration/orientation at 310-822-1201.

Religious Education

Grades 1-6 are now meeting each Saturday for Faith Formation at St. Mark. New this year on Saturdays is a special class for 4-5year olds and those now in kindergarten. Meeting time is from 9am to 10:30am. Call the Religious Education Office for information and registration.

RCIA Inquiry

Are you, or someone you know, considering membership in the Catholic Church and the Sacraments of Initiation? Now is the time to begin the first step – Inquiry. These RCIA sessions meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Religious Education Office in the school. Please call the Religious Education Office 310-822-1201 or email stmarkre@aol.com for more information or to let us know you are coming.

Catechetical Sunday

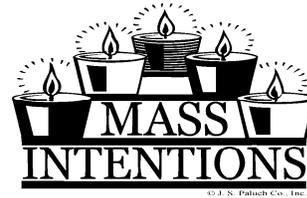
St. Mark will celebrate Catechetical Sunday next Sunday Sept. 18 at the 9am mass. The theme for this year is "The Faith Prayed." During the mass all who serve as catechists in Religious Education and School will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

This Week at St. Mark's Sept 12 - Sept 18, 2016

Mon.	8:00am Mass - Church Meditation Group 6:30pm - School Bible Study 7:00pm - School Spanish Leaders 7:00pm - School Baptism Prep Class 7:00pm - School
Tues.	8:00am Mass - Church
Wed.	8:00am Mass - Church RCIA 6:30pm - School Legion of Mary 6:30pm - School Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - Church
Thurs.	8:00am Mass - Church Spanish Prayer Group 7:00pm - Church Spanish Youth Group 7:00pm - School
Fri.	8:00am School Mass - Church
Sat.	8:00am Mass - Church RE Grades 1-6 9:00am - School Baptisms 10-12pm - Church Fingerprinting 10am-5:30pm - Hall Confessions 4:30pm - 5:15pm - Church
Sun.	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Catechetical Sunday Mass Times: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm (Spanish) 5:30pm - Church

Mass Schedule

Sat.	Sept 17	5:30pm Msgr. John Morales
Sun.	Sept 18	7:30am Fr. Edward Siebert, S.J. 9:00am Fr. Roderic Guerrini 10:30am Msgr. John Morales 12:00pm Fr. Michael Tang 5:30pm Fr. Tom King



Sat.	Sept 10	5:30pm Ron Carpintero †
Sun.	Sept 11	7:30am Madeline Rappaport † 9:00am Janet Maurer † 10:30am Dora Vindas † 12:00pm Luisa Esparza † 5:30pm Chad Echevarria †
Mon.	Sept 12	8:00am Thomas Cronin †
Tues.	Sept 13	8:00am Maurice DuBois †
Wed.	Sept 14	8:00am Clydelyn Strozer †
Thurs.	Sept 15	8:00am Jose Denis
Fri.	Sept 16	8:00am Students of St. Mark School
Sat.	Sept 17	8:00am Clydelyn Strozer †

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Because Moses interceded, the LORD relented and did not punish the people (Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14).

Psalm — I will rise and go to my father (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Paul expresses his gratitude for being appointed to the ministry (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

Gospel — There is great rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:1-32 [1-10]).

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Porque Moisés intercedió, el Señor se ablandó y no castigó al pueblo por su maldad (Exodo 32:7-11, 13-14).

Salmo — Me levantaré y volveré a mi padre (Salmo 51 [50]).

Segunda lectura — Pablo expresa su gratitud por haber sido nombrado al ministerio de Cristo (1 Timoteo 1:12-17).

Evangelio — Hay gran regocijo en el cielo cuando un pecador se arrepiente (Lucas 15:1-32 [1-10]).

SAFE GUARD THE CHILDREN

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Teach kids how to identify bullying

Bullying is an unfortunate problem in schools across the country, and no matter how nice or friendly your children are, they are going to run across bullies. Whether your children are victimized by a bully or not, they should be aware of the classic signs of bullying—teasing, pushing, shoving, violence or threats of any kind, and more. While bullying does not always escalate to physical touching or violence, your children should be able to identify touches that they are uncomfortable with, and should know where to go to report issues. For more information, visit: <https://www.faithandsafety.org/bullying>.

For particular help you may call Suzanne Healy, director of Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650 or Helene Hickey at 310-821-6612.

PROTEGIENDO A LOS NIÑOS

Enseña a los niños cómo identificar el acoso o “bullying”

El acoso o “bullying” es un problema desafortunado en escuelas en todo el país, y no importa qué tan amable o amistosos sean sus hijos, ellos van a cruzarse con acosadores. Ya sea que sus hijos sean las víctimas de un acosador o no, ellos deben estar al tanto de las señales clásicas del acoso: provocación, dar empujones, violencia o amenazas de cualquier tipo, y más. Mientras el acoso no siempre escala al contacto físico o a la violencia, sus hijos deben ser capaces de identificar el contacto físico que los pone incómodos y deben saber con quién y dónde ir para reportar problemas. Para más información, visite a <https://www.faithandsafety.org/bullying>.

Para obtener ayuda puede llamar a Suzanne Healy, directora del Ministerio de Ayuda al (213) 637-7650 o llame a Helene Hickey 310-821-6612.

9/11 REMEMBERED

Fifteen years ago, the continuing TV coverage of the imploding twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York was unbearable for me, as were accounts of the crashes and destruction in Washington and the hills of Pennsylvania. The immense devastation of human life was incomprehensible. Visiting the site in New York some five years later reopened searing wounds, and overwhelmed me with immense sadness. An incursion on our soil, carefully planned and executed by foreign elements, had shattered my cherished sense of security, and provoked a frightening sense of God’s absence.

How could my Catholic faith tradition enable me to endure this tragedy? I knew that neither vengeance nor sweeping animosity was an option for me.

*You have left us crushed . . . covered us with darkness.
We are bowed down to the ground (Psalm 44:20, 26).
O LORD of hosts, restore us;
Let your face shine upon us (Psalm 80:4).*

The Psalmist cries a lament, expressing the mourning of the Israelite people, the chosen of God, who had regarded themselves as untouchable and above reproach, now hurled into misery. The lament expresses a nation’s agony, dares to complain against their divine protector, may even own some complicity in the misery, and finally pleads with God for deliverance.

In the midst of lamenting, the faith of Israel endured, as must ours. We are as vulnerable as they were to the violence and hatred that seem to encircle us. Our demand for a divine explanation goes unheeded. Yet we have learned of the self-sacrificing heroism of many, witnessing to the finest character of our nation and of our Christian heritage. Dying for one’s friends is a sacred theme in our story, epitomized in Jesus, our Savior, and extended through centuries in the grandest and noblest acts of men and women in all circumstances.

In 2001 we came together as one nation under God, sharing the grief, the disillusionment, and the promise to rebuild. As today we lament our honored dead and wounded, shall we translate such agonizing emotion into a persistent pursuit of worldwide reconciliation and peace?



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