

# Saint Therese Parish

November 1, 2020

## All Saints Day

St. Therese is a Spiritual Home where together we  
Worship with Joy • Work for Justice • Grow in God's Love

### Parish Office

3416 East Marion Street, Seattle, WA 98122  
[www.st-therese.cc](http://www.st-therese.cc) ..... 206-325-2711

### **Priest Administrator**

Fr. Maurice Mamba 206-720-7275  
[frmaurice@st-therese.cc](mailto:frmaurice@st-therese.cc)

### **Pastoral Assistant, Administration & Facilities**

Diane Figaro 206-720-7270  
[paa@st-therese.cc](mailto:paa@st-therese.cc)

### **Pastoral Assistant, Faith Formation & Liturgy**

Nicole St. Hilaire 206-720-7277  
[nicoles@st-therese.cc](mailto:nicoles@st-therese.cc)

**Bookkeeper**..Lauren Schulz...206-720-7272  
[bookkeeper@st-therese.cc](mailto:bookkeeper@st-therese.cc)

### **Music Director "Spirit" Choir 8:30 AM**

Diane Figaro 206-271-5117  
[diane.cornell.figaro@gmail.com](mailto:diane.cornell.figaro@gmail.com)

### **Music Director "Shades of Praise" and "Jubilation" Choirs**

Kent Stevenson ..... 206-675-8000  
[zzstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:zzstevenson@hotmail.com)

**Office Volunteers** ..... 206-325-2711  
General Volunteer email.....[office@st-therese.cc](mailto:office@st-therese.cc)

**Calendar** (Deborah Tinsley) text 206-909-1727  
.....[calendar@st-therese.cc](mailto:calendar@st-therese.cc)

**Bulletin**....(Nancy Buckland) 206-325-2711x210  
.....[bulletin@st-therese.cc](mailto:bulletin@st-therese.cc)

### **St. Therese Catholic Academy**

900 35th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122  
[www.stcaseattle.org](http://www.stcaseattle.org) ..... 206-324-0460

### **Principal - Admissions, Fundraising, & Operations:**

Matt DeBoer ..... 206-995-8100  
[mdeboer@stcaseattle.org](mailto:mdeboer@stcaseattle.org)

### **Vice Principal - Academics & School Culture:**

Teresa Day ..... 206-995-8104  
[tday@stcaseattle.org](mailto:tday@stcaseattle.org)

Find us on 

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

Emergency Financial Help ... 206-767-6449



### **Parish Leadership**

#### **Pastoral Council:**

Chair: Trisha Tinsley ..... [citizencoach@gmail.com](mailto:citizencoach@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Rose Hesselbrock  
...[rose.hesselbrock@gmail.com](mailto:rose.hesselbrock@gmail.com)

Secretary: BJ Montoya.....[bjmontoya@mac.com](mailto:bjmontoya@mac.com)

Anthony Barr-Jeffrey	<a href="mailto:aebjeffrey@spu.edu">aebjeffrey@spu.edu</a>
Yvonne Brandon	<a href="mailto:ycbrando2@comcast.net">ycbrando2@comcast.net</a>
Susan Koenigs	<a href="mailto:sckoenigs@gmail.com">sckoenigs@gmail.com</a>
Mercy Lazo	<a href="mailto:msmuffetm@hotmail.com">msmuffetm@hotmail.com</a>
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Bob Penhale	<a href="mailto:robtpenhale@gmail.com">robtpenhale@gmail.com</a>

**Finance Council:** Steve Dunphy.....206-550-2979

#### **Stewardship Commission:**

John Russell ..... [jvrussell85@gmail.com](mailto:jvrussell85@gmail.com)

#### **Faith Formation & Evangelization**

Victoria Ries ..... [victoria.ries@comcast.net](mailto:victoria.ries@comcast.net)

#### **Liturgy Commission:**

Chauncey Boyle, S.P.....206-290-3942

#### **Social Justice Commission:**

Open (Contact [citizencoach@gmail.com](mailto:citizencoach@gmail.com))

#### **School Commission:**

BJ Montoya ..... [bjmontoya@mac.com](mailto:bjmontoya@mac.com)

# All Saints Day

## Reading 1 RV 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, “Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: “Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, “Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.” He said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”

## Reading 2 1 JN 3:1-3

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

## Gospel MT 5:1-12A

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

## Live Streaming of 11:30 Mass

**Sun Nov 1**



Every Sunday the church is open to all from 10am - 11:30 am for private prayer. **Mass** with Fr. Mamba and the Spirit Choir **11:30am** Reserved seating only. To attend, you must register ahead of time using your smart phone at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549A9AE29A0FA7-sttherese>, or click on Register now. Sign up also available on Parish website [st-therese.cc](http://st-therese.cc). Please arrive 10 - 15 minutes early on Sunday. Ushers will seat you. Details below.

Mass link <https://www.facebook.com/StThereseParishSeattle/>

During the month of November, we celebrate our loved ones who have gone before us in death. While we all cannot fill out leaves to put on the walls of the church as we usually do, please email the names of your family and friends to [nicoles@st-therese.cc](mailto:nicoles@st-therese.cc) and Nicole will make them for you.

### What You Need to Do & Changes at Mass to Keep Each Other Safe:

You must register ahead of time - BUT stay home if you are sick (temp over 100.4° F, diarrhea, vomiting, runny nose/congestion, or fatigue)

Wear a mask - Wear gloves

Check in at entrance on the west side of church

Seating by ushers

No kiss of peace

No group singing - Cantor wears a mask

No processions and no passed baskets

No incense or holy water

No cup

6-ft. physical distancing at all times  
& 12-ft. from priest while he celebrates Mass

Communion in the hand during the Mass

Dismissal from back to front.

**Donations to Life Stream enhanced system** may be made on the Parish Web site. <https://pushpay.com/g/ and select the fund Livestreamenhanced systemsaintthereschurchseattle?>

### **DROP OFF TIME FOR SVdP FOOD DONATIONS**

The pickup of nonperishable food every Sunday now is 12:30pm for food donations left outside the church after 8:30am that morning. This allows those attending Mass at 11:30am to bring food with them. All food should be left at the south entrance of the church to support St. Mary's Food Bank along with donations from Leschi Market.

Thank you!

### **Upcoming Parish Events**

Sat Oct 31 **Parish Halloween Party 7pm**

**Sun Nov 1** **All Saints Day**

Tue Nov 3 No Spirit Choir Rehearsal

**Sun Nov 8** **32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Tue Nov 10 Spirit Choir Rehearsal **7pm**

Thu Nov 12 **Adult Religious Education Series**  
Learning to Be Anti-Racist:  
Strategies & Actions **7-8:30pm**

**Note: All Events except Masses are virtual**

### **REST IN PEACE**

Please keep in your prayers Gail Thomas, who died early Wednesday morning, and her family. Funeral plans to be announced.

**A little background about St. Therese Large Event Committee:** We are a new group created for the purpose of putting on fun events for the Parish to enjoy while also raising funds for special or urgent parish needs. Father Maurice requested that donations raised during the Halloween Party go towards the purchase of improved **video streaming equipment**. This will enable our Sunday Masses, liturgies, and celebrations to be easily recorded and shared! If you would like to donate (completely optional), we'll tell you how during the Halloween Party.

**Put on your costume, gather your witches brew, and support improved outreach to our entire parish family!**

*More information and Zoom link on page 10.*

**Beloved:****See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.**      **First Letter of John 3:1**

Today is the Feast of All Saints! Let us be grateful for God's love, which has bestowed on us Jesus Christ, God With Us, all the angels and all who we know and have known who walked in truth and love. Amen!

We are in the midst of our annual Stewardship drive. A couple of weeks ago you received in the mail a list of ministries through which you can help build the Kingdom. Some of these ministries just require you to show up and do a task (remember, Laudato Si' second Saturdays, 9:30!) Or getting out a mailing. Some require volunteer coordination, others, such as Social Justice, are very process-oriented. Almost all the commissions need someone to take minutes. Some need people to keep track of money. If you're really not sure how you might fit in, take the Strength Finders assessment on the website. The commitment form is on [st-therese.cc](http://st-therese.cc) on the right sidebar on a computer or near the bottom of the scroll on a phone.

Last week we heard Sam Lawrence give witness to why, after spending the last twelve years in his home state of Mississippi, he and his wife Terri came back to St. Therese when they returned to Seattle. Sam first attended St. Therese in his early 20s at the invitation of a Jesuit volunteer friend, who invited him to Easter Vigil. Talk about jumping into the deep end! Needless to say, it was an impactful experience. Sam grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, in what he characterizes as "the most liberal square mile of Mississippi." [Only liberal square mile of Mississippi?] His parents, much to their credit, sent him to public schools, where he got to experience life as a minority. St. Therese, with our openness and multi-racial community, was a church like nothing he'd seen before. He converted last month. Welcome home, Sam!

It is out of this kind of gratitude that I would like you to consider your giving to St. Therese. Please take a look at your budget as a spiritual exercise. Consider your commitments and your gratitude and make some decisions. I would ask you to put your generosity first in your budget and then squeeze the rest in. There are a lot of demands on your generosity: food banks are facing record demands, St. Vincent de Paul is struggling to keep many in southeast Seattle in their homes, and St. Therese needs your support.

St. Therese has budgeted a 4.1% increase in giving but that leaves a \$23,000 deficit. Closing that deficit would require a 10% increase in giving. I know that for many of you, that is not possible but for those who can, it would help make your parish sustainable. For those who can't, please give what you can from your resources.

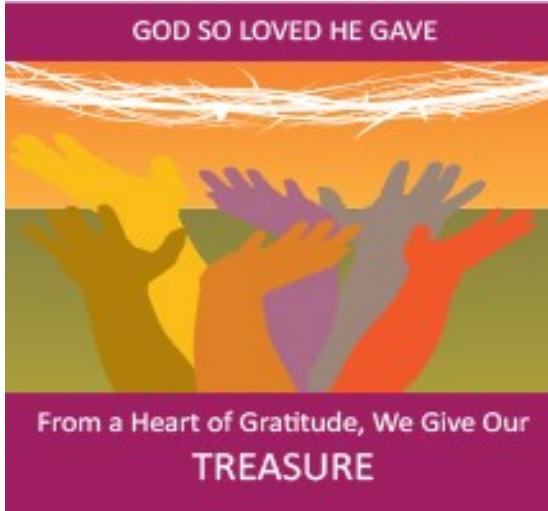
The Adult Religious Education program is presenting a virtual series: *The Sin and Tragedy of Racism. The first and second sessions are available as a video on our website.* The last session will be Nov. 12 at 7:00 p.m. See page 7 for more details.

Let us be generous with our financial resources:

- Give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society by going to our website at [st-therese.cc](http://st-therese.cc). Scroll down to the St. Vincent de Paul button near the bottom of the home page. If you prefer to write checks, please send them to Sr. Kathleen - SVdP, 3514 E. Marion St., Seattle, WA 98122. *The St. Therese conference has been overwhelmed by requests in the St. Edward's area, which our conference is now serving. When the ban on evictions is lifted, the amount of accumulated delinquent rent will be crippling to many families. Please be generous!*
- You can make a gift to the parish online at [st-therese.cc](http://st-therese.cc) and clicking on the "Donate Now" button or use the Push-Pay app on your phone.

Collections Fiscal Year - July 1, 2020, through October 29, 2020.	\$99,824
Previous Fiscal Year - July 1 - October 28, 2019.	\$103,957

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE RENEWAL PLEDGES FOR 2021



How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me?" (Psalm 116:12). The answer to that question is rooted in the way we respond to the gifts with which we have all been blessed. It starts with recognizing that "everything is indeed a gift from God" and then using these God-given gifts in service of others to further the mission of Jesus Christ here on earth. Your financial pledge to St. Therese Parish is one of the ways we can participate in and further this mission.

Every year, we ask our parishioners to make a pledge to our parish. Would you like to participate in discipleship and fill out a pledge form online at <https://www.st-therese.cc/stewardship-commitment-form>? Or you may mail in the pledge card you will receive in the mail or bring it with you to Mass. Please prayerfully reflect on your many blessings with a heart full of gratitude. If you pledged last year, please prayerfully consider making a small increase in your pledge. Could you increase your current pledge by 5% or 10%?

As you are well aware, 2020 was a most difficult and challenging year for our parishioners, our parish, and our community due to the pandemic. In keeping with our message of practicing good stewardship, which encourages us to look at how God has blessed us so abundantly, we hope those who are more fortunate or who have not experienced economic hardship will pledge more generously.

### **Where does the Stewardship of Treasure go?**

- the activities of St. Therese live and online
- children's faith formation
- junior high and high school faith formation
- adult faith formation programs, workshops
- music ministry, Shades and Spirit Choirs
- liturgy and Mass celebrations
- general operations, utilities, maintenance, supplies, postage, IT
- livestreaming, website, and online communication tools like Zoom, sound system
- parish salaries and benefits
- shelter funds for the future and social justice activities
- taxes and insurance

## Sunday, October 25, Reflection on Stewardship by Sam Lawrence

Good Morning Church. I have been asked to share with you how Terri and I approach our stewardship to the church, including our time, talents, and contributions. But first I would like to share a little bit of our story, how we came to St. Therese. Our story with St. Therese actually starts with me, before Terri and I met. I was invited to the Easter service in 1988 by a friend of mine who was serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. I was 23 years old at the time and, frankly, not attending church very often. There were multiple reasons for this, but I think it was mainly because I hadn't found a church community that truly spoke to me. That is, until that Easter day. What I experienced then was truly a revelation.

I grew up in Jackson, MS, and I had been raised in the Episcopal Church, which of course has many similarities and a strong historical tie to the Catholic church. My church was a good church, with a strong community. But it was definitely all white, and mostly well-to-do economically. It was not very diverse, to say the least. Given that I attended fully integrated public schools, I felt, at least from my perspective, the place I worshipped did not represent the real world. Nor did I feel it represented a faith community truly consistent with the teachings of Christ. I understood this was probably not unique to my church and it was probably true across most every church in America. But that disconnect always lingered, and left me feeling on some level disconnected from my faith and the message of Christ.

Then, my friend brought me here. I remember that day still. Of course, there was the choir and the mighty, joyful noise that it brought. But beyond that, there was the warmth; the long, extended exchange of peace with everyone walking around, hugging and smiling, and laughing. This just isn't something you experience in an Episcopal Church. And of course, there was the congregation; beautiful, multi-hued and diverse in so many different ways. They were worshipping and singing and rejoicing with one voice, lifted up to heaven in a way that I just knew God heard. I imagined He was probably clapping and singing and swaying right along with us.

I knew right then that I had found my church home. I continued to come here as a young man until I moved away for a while for graduate school. After returning to Seattle and marrying my amazing wife, Terri, I introduced her and our kids to St. Therese and we came to Mass here until we moved away for a number of years. But once St. Therese gets ahold of you, it won't let go. Thus, when Terri and I moved back to Seattle last year, we knew where home was and we came running back.

What we found was that the spirit of St. Therese was still strong, even if the body was somewhat diminished in size. Which brings me back to how we decide as a family where to invest our time, talents and contributions. For us, it is clear because this church has given our family so much over the years. But it is bigger than that, because it has also served as a beacon for what our entire society, when it has finally travelled the full arc of justice and progress, can and should look like.

Given all of this, it is an easy decision for Terri and me to know how to prioritize our contributions; we put St. Therese at the top of our list. This year, we will ask ourselves how we can do a little bit more with our time, talents, and contributions, even in this time of great uncertainty.

*Continued on next page*

And of course, we all must acknowledge the reality of the pandemic and the strains that has placed on us emotionally, physically, and financially. It is a hard and scary time that has altered many families' realities on multiple fronts. We also have to acknowledge that so many of you have been incredibly generous for such a long time, and offer thanks for what you have already contributed individually and collectively to make this church a reality. In fact, in past years when the congregation was larger and our finances healthier, this may have been where I ended with a Thank You and encouragement to carry on as before.

But this isn't our situation right now. We are smaller and we face ongoing budgetary challenges, and have been for some time. The reality is that St. Therese needs your help more than ever before and we want to encourage you all to continue to stretch your own individual vision of the role you can play here with your contributions during the next year. Everything helps, no contribution is too small or insignificant, nor is any too big. So please join us as we challenge ourselves to give with a generous and grateful spirit in the coming year, with a full faith in Christ despite the looming uncertainties, to make sure this place, this institution, this church continues to serve our community through the Lord in a mighty way.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

**Adult Religious Education Series 2020-2021 Theme: THE SIN & TRAGEDY OF RACISM: RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT FOR JUSTICE & ACTION**  
**SESSION 3: "LEARNING TO BE ANTI-RACIST: STRATEGIES & ACTIONS"**

**Thursday, November 12, 7:00pm – 8:30pm (via Zoom)**

**Presenter: Marlon Brown (Racial Equity Consultants, facilitator and "change agent")**

**Included topics/themes:**

- The hidden forms of racism: micro-aggression, insensitivity, indifference
- Anti-racism: not just a concern or movement, but a new way of life
- Finding our voices: how can we be prophets of hope?!

**All sessions will be held via Zoom, details and meeting instructions to follow.**

**JOIN US!!**

**...as we seek the personal healing and renewal  
that can transform us and our nation!**

Marlon Brown is a Black man, husband, brother, uncle, godfather, business owner and warrior. As busy as many of us are, Marlon works as a Racial Equity Consultant. He works with businesses and organizations who want to become anti-racist. He is on several boards including Board Member of Black Lives Matter Seattle King County Chapter for the past two years. Marlon is the host of "Church with Mr. B.," a Gospel radio show on Hollow Earth Radio located in the Central District of Seattle, WA. He wears a lot of hats and enjoys spending time with his spouse, friends and traveling when possible.

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL

OUR KING COUNTY CONFERENCES WILL DISTRIBUTE \$8 MILLION OF THE CARES ACT FUNDS



Our St. Therese SVdP Conference is working with the SVdP Central Office and other area conferences on administering the disbursement of over \$8 million that is part of the King County Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Program (EPRAP). Thank you St. Therese SVdP member Kevin Fitzpatrick for being our lead person on this program. It is funded by the Federal CARES ACT (i.e. your tax dollars at work!). It is an awesome potential benefit for both tenants and landlords as we near the termination of the moratoriums on evictions. If you or a relative or friend would like to find out about making an application for the program, please call our King County call center at 206-767-6449.

Our feel good story of the week: Joy is an elderly person using a walker. She was unable to continue rental payments at her north end motel. We were able to provide her with three additional days' rent that enabled her to get by until other funds were available. She needed food also. We called the north end Safeway store and spoke with Matt. We told him we were going to send up \$50. No, Matt said, I will cover it myself. So when Joy got there, she received \$50 of food and some shoppers' discounts. Thanks Matt, you made a difference, and Joy and St. V appreciate your kindness.

If you would like to assist us, you can donate by sending your gift to Sr. Kathleen - SVdP, 3514 E. Marion St., Seattle, WA 98122 or donating online by accessing the parish website [www.st-therese.cc](http://www.st-therese.cc) where you will find specific information about donating to the conference.

Our Sunday collections for the Food Bank at St. Mary's continue as noted on page 3. Thank you parish, for the good donations.

God Bless. Thanks for Being There with us.

Robert Mackin [rmackinatty@yahoo.com](mailto:rmackinatty@yahoo.com)

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**Our school is competing in America Recycles Day challenge to collect gently used clothes & shoes. We need your help to win the first prize - \$2,500!**

**Let's get started...**

1. Bag your surplus clothes & shoes.
2. Deposit bags in the green & white bin in our school parking lot.
3. Spread the word! Tell your family, friends and neighbors.

**What's more! One tree is planted every time we fill the bin!**



# GOD SO LOVED HE GAVE



Give, and it will be given to you.  
They will pour into your lap a good  
measure – pressed down, shaken  
together, and running over. For by  
your standard of measure it will be  
measured to you in return.

– Luke 6:38



## FROM A HEART OF GRATITUDE WE GIVE OUR TREASURE

If you haven't already decided on your parish stewardship commitment, please prayerfully consider God's promises and make your pledge. You may return it in the collection basket, to the parish office, or through the mail.

What is the right amount to give? When you are at peace about the size of your gift – when you do not find yourself making excuses for its size (either too big or too small) and you know in your heart that you have been completely honest with yourself and God – then your gift is the proper size.

Please return your parish stewardship commitment card today.



## St. Therese Parish Large Event Committee Halloween 2020

Please join us!!

for a Virtual



All Parishioners Welcome!

Bring your own beverages and snacks!

Prize for best costume!!

Support enhanced video streaming system!

**THIS Saturday, October 31, 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

To Join the Zoom, please click on the link below  
and enter the meeting ID and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89700664813?pwd=bW50MUE0KzFHajIBcDFPbIBzdTA4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 897 0066 4813  
Passcode: 767427

Reflection from October 23, 2020

***We are faith-filled servant-leaders who recognize and respect that God is in all things and people.***

Greetings, St. Therese Family!

What a week we have had here at St. Therese! We are approaching the quarter-mark of our 93rd school year and hosted our annual Jog-a-Thon last week, and what a success it was! Thank you to the generosity of our community members and networks, we have raised 108% of our initial goal, totaling over \$47,500 (it keeps rising so I've resorted to estimating at this point!)! Thank you for your efforts and for modeling that *excellence happens on purpose and for helping remind us all that God is good!*

In a week in which the weather reminded us that the change in seasons is a very REAL thing and in which the last Presidential debate for the upcoming election took place, we were focusing in on our call to be faith-filled servant-leaders who recognize and respect that God is in all people and things. This very Ignatian belief invites, challenges, and reminds us that God is present in all that we encounter. It may be difficult to accept this, especially in this 2020 year like no other before it, but it is a spiritual truth that - when accepted - can transform our hearts, minds, and worldview.

The day after my 27th birthday, I was on a bike ride home from a New Testament class from Loyola University in New Orleans when I was challenged to enact my understanding of this belief. While I often biked at night, I had never felt unsafe or at risk in the city I called home - despite the crime statistics. However, on October 9, 2012, 3 young men ran out of a front yard and violently forced me from my bike and knocked me into a yard across the street. While I was disoriented, bloodied and bruised, and shocked, I was spiritually grounded and somehow mentally transformed to nonviolently de-escalate the situation by speaking forcefully, respectfully, and emphatically communicating that I would not be handing over my money and that these gentlemen who made this decision to confront me and harm me were better than that. After they left, I came back to reality (I'm pretty sure the Holy Spirit took over for a while) and cried, regathered my bike and possessions that flew all over, and shakily biked home - relatively unscathed. I'll never know what became of these young men, but I pray they were transformed that day as I was. God was and is in all of us. The attacker, the victim - the oppressor, the oppressed - the powerful, the weak - God is in us all. When we can hold up the mirror of the Divine to one another, and truly see God in each other, what is possible? Luke 1:41 tells us that "nothing is impossible for God."

We have no shortage of moments to see God in those we love. This week, I have seen God in my daughter's joy and zeal for her new princess dresses that she got for her birthday. I have seen God in Kindergarten student Christian who knelt before a half-completed ofrenda we are building in preparation for Dia de los Muertos. I saw God checking families in for photos on campus when 2nd Grader Georgia humbly informed me that she had something for me. She pulled out an envelope with a handwritten note that said, Donation to STCA :). Inside was nothing more than a \$20 bill. I asked her if this was a donation she received for the Jog-a-Thon, and she simply stated, no, I just wanted to donate some of my money to help our school. After my heart melted, I gave her the biggest socially-distanced eye hug that I could! **Truly, God is in all of us (and perhaps a bit more visibly in our children!).**

Our challenge, particularly at this historical moment, is not so much to love our families and friends and to see God in them, but, rather, to see God in the "Pharisees and Sadducees" of our time. How do we see God in those with whom we disagree? How do we see God in those who have harmed us and our loved ones? As we approach our national elections, **I pray that all of us may see with the eyes of God, and hold up that beautiful Divine mirror to all that we encounter.**

Have a blessed week,

Mr. Matt DeBoer, Principal