

Welcome to St. Barnabas and St. Joseph Basilica Parishes

We, the family of St. Joseph Basilica and St. Barnabas, invite all people into our spiritual home to encounter Jesus Christ through an authentically Catholic experience of worship, learning, gathering, and service.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: September 21, 2025



Installation of the new St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus took place during the 9:30 am Mass last Sunday.

St. Barnabas

1427 Sixth Street, Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510.522.8933

email: sbparishoffice@comcast.net

Website: sbarnabas.weebly.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/barnabasinalameda/>

Office Hours: Wednesday through Friday

9 am - 4 pm (closed for lunch 12 - 1 pm)

Available remotely through email & voicemail

Church Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 12:10 pm

Saturday: 4:30 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9 am & 11 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:30 - 4 pm

St. Joseph Basilica

1109 Chestnut Street, Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510.522.0181

email: parish@sjbalameda.org

Website: sjbalameda.org

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjbalameda/>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

9 am - 4 pm (closed for lunch 1 - 2 pm)

Basilica Hours: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 8 am / First Friday: 7:00 pm

Saturday: 8 am & 5 pm (Vigil)

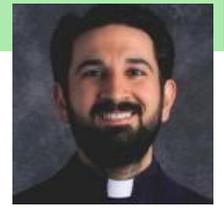
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 12 pm & 7 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Friday: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Saturday: Following Morning Mass, ending at 9 am,
and 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Clergy Corner



Dear Family,

After one of the Masses on Sunday, a good-intentioned woman came up to me in the Gathering Space at St. Joseph and asked me why we did not mention Charlie Kirk by name in the prayers. "He was a godly man," she said, holding back tears. A fair question, since I had mentioned his name in my homily, but only as one example among many recent violent events, which also included the shooting at Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis and the killing of the young Ukrainian woman, Iryna Zarutka, on a train in Charlotte. Now, I want to elaborate on why I made that decision over the weekend and in the daily Masses in between, and to be honest, I am still discerning if this has been the right one.

There are two main reasons I have avoided mentioning Kirk more explicitly at Mass. Before mentioning those reasons, I want to say that it is not because I disagree with his political beliefs - that I think he is not deserving of prayer. I have been praying for him and his family, because truthfully, it is an incredibly sad situation, for his family and for our country. I want to encourage you to pray for his eternal rest too.

The first point of why I have not mentioned him more explicitly is because it sets a precedent. If I mention one person now, but fail to mention another person later, people will misinterpret this. Instead of mentioning specific individuals, which sets up a potentially convoluted criteria for who gets mentioned, we instead offer up general intercessions after the homily. To some, this may seem entirely unsatisfactory, and I hear you, but this is why priests are encouraged to not offer personalized homilies for the deceased at a funeral, but to focus on the Paschal Mystery. This leads to the second point.

Although Protestant theologian Karl Barth once said that preachers should have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, pointing to the need to offer commentary on current events through the lens of faith, priority should always go to God in a homily. The liturgy is about worshipping God. Too often, however, we can become the focal point of the liturgy; what we're going through and what we're going to do about it, when we should be focusing on what God has done and continues to do for us through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, which is represented for us in the Eucharist. God is the focus. I tried to make that the focal point of last week's celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross when I said, **"Don't despair when you see evil in the world, or in you. God doesn't expect us to save the world or ourselves. He expects us to allow him to save us."** I hope this clarifies why I have not mentioned Charlie Kirk as much as some of you may have been hoping for, and why we may not mention others in the future.

With that being said, I wanted to conclude by sharing what I have been witnessing in recent years, something that Kirk also acknowledged in one of his interviews: the return of young people to Catholicism. I believe that Charlie, an evangelical Protestant, was on the verge of becoming a Catholic, as he was married to one and was purported to have been praying the Rosary. In fact, in one of his podcasts, he mentioned how Protestants should reverence the Blessed Mother more. Kirk saw this trend of young people flocking to the Catholic Church because of its deep rootedness in tradition, something young people are missing in an ever-changing world. In social media this past week, I saw many people report that Kirk's death had inspired them to attend church. For some, this was the first time in years.

In my own family, my sister received confirmation of this "revival" that is taking place around the world in someone close to us, who messaged her saying, **"Hi, sorry for never getting back to you. I've been dealing with some difficult health issues and in that time I have allowed myself to become pretty disconnected. I think things are starting to get better now. I don't know how into social media you are or if the Charlie Kirk stuff made its way to you. The whole situation has been a real wake up call for me and while I used to watch his stuff and really only hear the objective political arguments, I now hear and feel the spiritual undertones. I'm really starting to see the world and the faith the way you do. Thank you for always showing so much love and care for a Christless heathen like me ;-)** [that's a smiley face winking], **even when I wouldn't respond. I've never forgotten how wonderful you were to me growing up and I hope I can reflect some of that love back as we grow older."**

I'll admit, I did not follow Kirk before he died, but it's hard to miss his videos on social media now. He had many intense debates with people, and I know some of you reading this would not agree with many of his positions, but what becomes more and more apparent in his conversations and speeches the more you watch them is his love for his family and his faith, and his encouragement of young people to pursue these things. No matter what side of the political aisle you are on, it's hard to deny the growing importance of these traditions to young people who are feeling increasingly dissatisfied with the modern world. It's sad to see some people celebrating his death.

The question is, where does that leave our faith community? The note to my sister is a perfect example that you don't have to do much; offer a kind word of encouragement, of welcome, of compassion, even to one who thinks differently from you. I am so proud of this community of St. Barnabas and St. Joseph. Although we don't always get it perfect, we do our best to welcome our visitors. This is the first step, and arguably the most important one. Although we are in a heightened state of awareness when it comes to strangers, our Lord challenges us to stay open and available to the newcomer, the lost, the one who strayed, even the unbeliever. Love them. Love each other. Share your faith in Jesus. People are hungry for this. Take up your Cross and follow Him. Jesus wants to do great things through you in the lives of these people, and in your life too!

With much love,
Father Mario

Upcoming Events

Catechetical Sunday, September 21

“Always be ready to give an explanation...

For a reason for your hope.” (1 Peter 3:15)

The 2025 theme encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope he provides. In the same manner Saint Peter encouraged the believers of his time, the Scripture reminds us, the sharing should be done with gentleness and respect.

What is Catechetical Sunday?

The Church established Catechetical Sunday, which is always celebrated on the third Sunday in September, to recognize and celebrate the gift that catechists give to their parish community by volunteering their time for the faith formation of children. We come together as a church community to acknowledge the dedication of those who serve as catechists in our parish family.

The day also reminds all Catholics to consider ways we are witnesses for Jesus Christ. All Catholics have the opportunity to rededicate themselves to the mission of passing on the faith, and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith.

A Prayer for Catechists

Loving God, Creator of all things, you call us to be in relationship with you and others.

*Thank you for calling me to be a catechist,
for the opportunity to share with others
what you have given to me.*

*May all those with whom I share the gift of faith
discover how you are present in all things.*

*May they come to know you, the one true God, and
Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

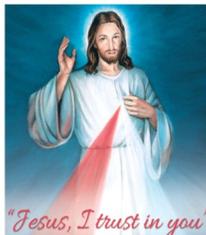
*May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips,
so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you.*

*May I be a witness to the Gospel and
a minister of your truth.*

*May all my words and actions reflect your love.
Amen.*

This Week at St. Joseph & St. Barnabas

- **September 22:** Men's Power Hour, Rosary at 6:00 pm/6:30 pm Lectio, Basilica
- **September 25:** Thursday Scripture Reflection, 10:30 - 11:30 am, weekly online reflection and sharing on upcoming Sunday's readings through Dialpad Meetings (<https://meetings.dialpad.com/room/stjosephbasilica/4b84nr6g6y>)
- **September 25:** Thursday Women's Rosary, 6:00 pm, Basilica
- **September 26:** Taize in the Basilica, 8:00 - 9:00 pm
- *For a complete listing of Basilica schedule of events, please visit Parish website: <https://sjbalameda.org/events-1>*



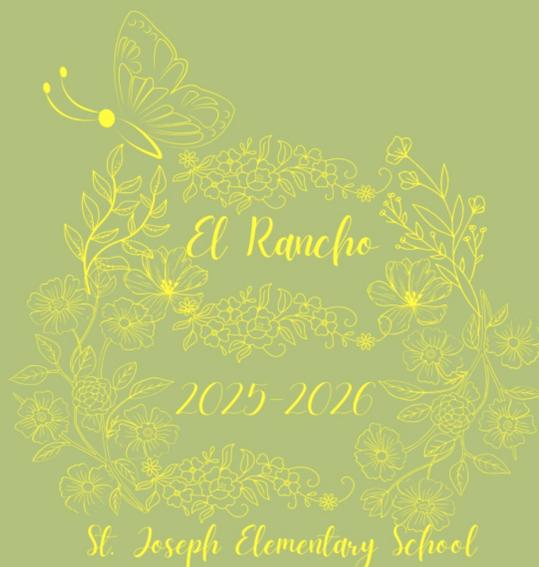
Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Friday, September 26
3:00 pm, Basilica

On the last Friday of each month, the Community is invited to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm during the Eucharistic Adoration. Please join us.

Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz Sunday, September 28

In celebration of the rich diversity of our parish, the St. Joseph Simbang Gabi Ministry joyfully invites you to honor the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, the first Filipino saint, this upcoming Sunday. Our special celebration will begin with a bilingual Noon Mass, followed by a vibrant reception in the lower parking lot. Let us come together in faith and community!



SAT. OCTOBER 4TH, 11AM - 5PM

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Praying Together

Devotions

Daily Rosary: St. Joseph, Monday - Saturday, 7:30 am

Men's Power Hour: St. Joseph, Mondays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
(Note: Rosary at 6:00 pm & Lectio at 6:30 pm)

First Monday Eucharistic Adoration in Vietnamese
St. Joseph, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wednesdays
St. Joseph, following the 8:00 am Mass
St. Barnabas, following the 12:10 pm Mass

Women's Rosary: St. Joseph, Thursdays, 6:00 - 6:30 pm

First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:
St. Barnabas, 11:30 am

Eucharistic Adoration: St. Joseph, Fridays, 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayer: St. Joseph, last Friday of the month, 3:00 - 3:45 pm

Recent Passing: Norma de la Cruz, long time parishioner and pillar of St. Barnabas Community. Services pending.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

The Basilica Sanctuary Lamp for the week of September 21 is sponsored in loving memory of Nick & Isabel Santos for their wedding anniversary.

Please Pray For The Sick & The Suffering In Our Communities

Sandy Anderson, Romelita Bautista, Kwame Cunningham, Shirley Benesh, Mary Butler, PJ Deschenes, Calito Franco, David Hardbarger, Heidi R. Lien, Lorrie Proctor, Nory Antonette Reyes, Erica Rivard, Maureen Thomas, Ramon Normandy Tirona, Rina Tobis, Femy Visperas and Cristina Villa.

The List is refreshed monthly. If you would like a name to be added or removed from the Sick List, please email: secretary@sjbalameda.org.

Mass Intentions: St. Joseph

	<u>Saturday, September 20</u>
8:00 am	+Phu Nguyen
5:00 pm	1) +Elvie Mendoza 2) +Betty Tiam & Warlita Garcia
	<u>Sunday, September 21</u>
7:30 am	Remelym Laguicao - Birthday
9:30 am	+David McGaffey - Birthday Remembrance
12:00 pm	1) +Juana B. Torio - Death Anniversary 2) +Catherine Cavanaugh
7:00 pm	People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
	<u>Monday, September 22</u>
8:00 am	Mark Embree
	<u>Tuesday, September 23</u>
8:00 am	+Joseph Lap Nguyen Birthday Remembrance
	<u>Wednesday, September 24</u>
8:00 am	Rino+ and Erlinda Gacad 53rd Wedding Anniversary
	<u>Thursday, September 25</u>
8:00 am	1) Priscillo Posadas - Birthday Thanksgiving 2) James Clark
	<u>Friday, September 26</u>
8:00 am	Uchora Udoji - Birthday
	<u>Saturday, September 27</u>
8:00 am	+Trinidad Chavez Belgica
5:00 pm	People of the Parish - Living & Deceased
	<u>Sunday, September 28</u>
7:30 am	1) +Marian Schobert - Birthday Remembrance 2) Dan+ and Jacquie Lydon - 63rd Wedding Anniversary
9:30 am	+Gavina Espinosa - Death Anniversary
12:00 pm	Dan+ and Jacquie Lydon - Wedding Anniversary
7:00 pm	+Marian Schobert

Need Anointing of the Sick?

If a member of your family is ill or if you learn that a parishioner is sick or hospitalized and in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, or a pastoral visit from a priest or Communion Minister, please contact any of our Deanery Parish offices to notify them:

- St. Barnabas: 510.995.9401
- St Joseph: 510.522.0181
- St. Philip Neri-St. Albert the Great: 510.373.5215

Mass Intentions: St. Barnabas

	<u>Saturday, September 13</u>
4:30 pm	+Arthur, +Roberta, and +Stephen Macy
	<u>Sunday, September 14</u>
9:00 am	+Bienvenido Carlos
11:00 am	People of the Parish
	<u>Monday, September 15</u>
12:10 pm	+Cristina Awayan
	<u>Tuesday, September 16</u>
12:10 pm	+Rodolfo Ibeas
	<u>Wednesday, September 17</u>
12:10 pm	+Oscar Eileen Ivan
	<u>Thursday, September 18</u>
12:10 pm	+Rosalie Hale
	<u>Friday, September 19</u>
12:10 pm	+Sofia J. Perez
	<u>Saturday, September 20</u>
4:30 pm	+Felicito Petilos
	<u>Sunday, September 21</u>
9:00 am	People of the Parish
11:00 am	+Macaria Ciceron

Other News

Join us for...

"A Celebration of Angels"

A Community Gathering for the Feast of the Archangels

Join us for an uplifting, inter-spiritual evening honoring the angels who support and guide us. People of all faith traditions - or none - are warmly welcomed.

Monday, September 29th | 7 - 8:30 PM

St. Joseph Basilica
1109 Chestnut St, Alameda, CA

Free & Open to All

Evening will include:

- Sharing of personal experiences with angels
- Brief history of angels
- Music & guided meditation
- Communal prayer for personal and global healing and peace

Get Involved!

We'd love to involve you, so please reach out if you'd like to:

- Sing or play instrument with our small choir
- Read a story or prayer during the event
- Share angel stories - please email Jen if you have a story to share

Contact:
Jen Bradford of Birthing Spirit
jen@birthingspirit.com | (510) 239-7403 | birthingspirit.com

Parish Information

Clergy Contacts:

Rev. Mario Rizzo, Parochial Administrator
Phone: 510.995.9421 / email: fmario@sjbalameda.org

Rev. Kenneth Nobrega, Parochial Vicar
Phone: 510.995.9406 / email:
fatherkennethnobrega@icloud.com

Staff Contacts

St. Joseph:

Jimmy Jimenez-Garcia - Pastoral Associate,
510.994.0599 / email: jjimenez@sjbalameda.org

Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation,
510.995.9409 / email: afourre@sjbalameda.org

Stan Schonberg - Business Manager, 510.995.9411 /
email: business@sjbalameda.org

Sherley Lim - Parish Secretary, 510.995.9420 / email:
secretary@sjbalameda.org

Dr. Cyril Deaconoff - Music Director, 510.995.9403 / email:
cdeaconoff@sjbalameda.org

Michael Chinnavaso - 7:00pm Music Coordinator,
mchinnavaso@sjbalameda.org

St. Barnabas

Gloria Maldonado - Parish Secretary, 510.995.9401 /
email: gmaldonado@sjbalameda.org

Agatha Leong - Faith Formation, 510.748.9537 / email:
stbarnabasfaithformation@gmail.com

Bernadette Baria - Music Director, 510.522.8933

SVDP ST. BARNABAS Conference - Donation of food items

Please help us continue to help our Neighbor's in need. The following food items are needed:

- Mac & Cheese, Jelly Or Jam, Crackers, Stuffing & Gravy, Canned Cranberries
 - Mashed Potatoes, Ramen, Ragu Spaghetti Sauce (Jar)

Drop donations into bins labelled "Food" found at the back of St. Barnabas Church.

Thanks for all your generous Support!

St. Vincent de Paul Hotlines: St. Barnabas: 510.995.9475 / St. Joseph: 510.995.9471

Devotions, Explained! The Jesus Prayer

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy."

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