

APRIL NEWSLETTER

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13)

We pray that this Lenten season has brought you closer to Christ. In two weeks, our Alameda Deanery is offering a Lenten retreat for the whole family. Stations of the Cross, soup nights, and fish fries are still being held weekly as well, and Holy Week is filled with opportunities for worship, reflection, and prayer. Check your parish bulletin for more information.

Easter is upon us this month, and our Young Families Ministry is excited to be hosting the St Joseph Parish Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th at 10am. We hope to see you there!

Here are more details and more events happening this month:

Lenten Retreat at St Joseph Basilica

Friday, April 12th 6:30-8pm *Stations of the Cross, Penance Service, and Confession*

Saturday, April 13th, 8am-4:30pm *Mass, Prayer, Speakers, and more; Youth Session in the evening*

"In this holy season of Lent, we are journeying with Jesus from the desert to the Cross, from the wilderness to the Promised Land! As we walk with Jesus and as we immerse ourselves deeper in this journey of faith, our deanery parishes – St. Barnabas, St. Philip Neri-St. Albert and St. Joseph Basilica – will have a Deanery Lenten Retreat on April 12-13 at St. Joseph Basilica.

The Lenten Retreat offers a blessed opportunity for us to take a step back from the busyness of life, to reflect prayerfully on the current state of our relationships with God, with the people around us and with the world.

We begin the Retreat on **Friday, April 12th at 6:30pm** with the Stations of the Cross. This is followed by the Communal Penance Service with Father Dana presiding and Individual Confessions. (Please note that there will be no Penance Service on Holy Monday).

On **Saturday, April 13th at 8am**, we will celebrate a special Mass of Healing (Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick) with Father Robert presiding. We invite our sick and elderly members of the deanery parishes, their families and caregivers to experience the healing power and mercy of God. After Mass, Father Matthew Murray, Father Brandon Macadaeg and Mr. Jacob Perry will speak on specific themes to guide us in praying and reflecting on what it means to journey into the wilderness, in the desert places in our own lives to the Promised Land. For the evening session, we especially invite all teenagers, students, young adults and young families to join us in a night of real encounter with Jesus through Praise and Worship.

The Blessed Sacrament will also remain exposed the entire retreat. Please plan to spend time in silent adoration and private prayer especially between sessions.

See the full schedule here:

<http://sjbalameda.org/uploads/events/lentenretreat2019.pdf>

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt for the whole family. Be sure to bring your baskets, and your cameras for photos with the Easter Bunny!



Service: Warming Shelter Dinner

Thursday, April 11th, 6-7:30pm
Christ Episcopal Church
1700 Santa Clara Avenue

Join us for this last service opportunity at the Warming Shelter. It's been a blessing for us to be able to share our time, our food, and our love with our neighbors. Email us to sign up to make a dish and/or serve 6-7:30pm at the shelter. Children are welcome, so bring the whole family!

Moms Bible Studies

Monday evenings, 7:30-9pm & Tuesday mornings,
10-11:30am
Parish Center - 1119 Lafayette St.

Spend an hour and a half of your week with other moms in a small group setting where we pray together, learn together, and grow closer Christ and our Blessed Mother Mary alongside one another. No need to commit every week; drop-ins are welcome and children are too! Wives and mothers of all ages and generations are invited, so please invite anyone you know who may be interested! All materials are provided and no preparation is required.



Unplanned

If you haven't yet seen Unplanned, go!

"The movie tells the powerful story of conversion of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director, now pro-life activist. As you may know, California does not have waiting periods, mandated parental involvement or limitations on publicly funded abortions. Our young people are constantly exposed to this dehumanizing practice of what Pope Francis calls a "throwaway society."

Please consider viewing this important movie. It has been rated "R" in recognition of the violent nature of an abortion; read Abby Johnson's open letter to parents explaining more about the content in this movie [here](#).

If someone you know is suffering from the aftermath of abortion, please let them know help is available. Learn more [here](#)."

Date Night

April 13th, 6:30-8:30pm

Information here: <http://sjbalameda.org/page/col/>

God wants you to have a great marriage. He wants your love to flourish! And, He has a plan.

Come, have some fun, meet other couples while spending quality, one-on-one time with the one you love. With the goal of enriching each of our marriages, we watch a relevant video or listen to a speaker followed by group discussions and as a couple. Choose to do something that will make your marriage all that you and God want it to be!

Catholic Women's Retreat

May 4th, 9am-3:30pm

Star of the Sea Church, San Francisco

Information here: <https://www.sfarch.org/endow>

"THE NATURE OF WOMEN"

led by [Endow](#) (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women)



"The world doesn't need what women have. It needs what women are." - St. Edith Stein

We've updated our Facebook Page and Email

Visit us on Facebook at "Young Families Ministry of Alameda."

Contact us at alamedaYFM@gmail.com.

Have ideas? Interested in helping to plan events?

Let us know if there is something you'd like to see in our ministry or a special topic or speaker you'd like to hear at one of our brunches. If you'd like to be more involved, join our ministry team to help organize and host events, and help our ministry continue to grow. Contact us with any questions or ideas.