

St. Didacus Catholic Community

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Email us at: mainoffice@stdidacuschurch.org or go to our Church website: stdidacuschurch.org



Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Dichosos los que caminan en la voluntad del Señor.

COMMITMENT IS AN ACT NOT A WORD

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word “commitment” mean to you?

We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus’ teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else’s decision. But we can’t be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life’s journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

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The Parish Office will be
CLOSED
on Monday,
February 17th
in observance
of the
President’s Day holiday.

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Family of St. Didacus,

For more than ninety years the Parish of Saint Didacus has been supported by the generosity of the faithful. For this I am most grateful for every one of you who continually give from your heart regardless of the amount. Over and above your regular weekly contribution, I humbly ask you to participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) from the Diocese of San Diego. Our Parish assessment of \$20,000 for 2020 is our participation to the call of serving the church beyond our parish.

Bishop McElroy says in his letter, “Our Annual Appeal provides the foundation for enabling us to carry out these vital works of faith and service in your name, and for that reason I ask you to prayerfully consider participating generously in this year’s appeal, with the knowledge that in doing so, you enter more fully into the work of Christ and the mission of discipleship at this crucial moment in human history.”

The theme of this year’s appeal is “*Gratitude in Action*.” Our contribution for this year’s appeal is also our way of expressing our gratitude to God and for all of God’s blessings. Please find the “Gratitude in Action” brochure in the pews of the church or in the office and pledge your gift. We have also sent the same brochure and response card through the mail to registered parishioners. You can also go to the diocese website www.sdcatholic.org to make your donation.

Thank you for your generosity. Be always assured of my prayers for you and your family.

Fr. Rick



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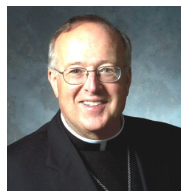
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On February 6th, Bishop McElroy gave a talk at the Harpst Center for Catholic Thought and Culture at the University of San Diego entitled “*Conscience, Candidates and Discipleship in Voting*.” It is important information for Catholics as we prepare to vote in March. You can read the speech on the Diocese of San Diego website, or visit our website for the link: stdidacuschurch.org.



PRAYER LIST

***And the special intentions
in our Book of Needs***



Mark your calendars to help us celebrate the 80th anniversary of St. Didacus Parish School! We will celebrate this monumental anniversary on Sunday, March 29th at the 10am Mass. We will continue the celebration at the school from 12:00pm-4:00pm. Plan to join us!



Mission Doctors Association will offer the **2020 Spring Retreat / Seminar on March 27-29, 2020** for Catholic Physicians, Dentists, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, and their spouses, considering Short-term mission service in Africa and Latin America. This will be held at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Information and Accreditation Statement (for the 11 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)) are available on the website: www.MissionDoctors.org or by calling the office for more information (213) 368-1872.

Diocese of San Diego's Annual Catholic Appeal

Last weekend we kicked off the Diocese of San Diego's 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. **Our parish goal this year is \$20,000.** We encourage everyone in the parish to participate in this appeal because by your gift, someone will meet Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to experience His loving grace, and to know His mercy and love.

Please make your pledge today! There are many ways to respond to the Annual Catholic Appeal:

- A monthly or quarterly pledge
- A one-time cash gift
- A credit card or electronic funds transfer, which may now be processed by the Diocese, or you may visit www.sdcatholic.org to make a pledge on-line
- A gift of stocks and bonds

If you didn't receive a pledge card in the mail you may pick one up in the Church. Our goal is 100% participation! All your pledges make a difference—no matter the amount.



CONFIRMATION II NEWS

Classes for Confirmation II students begin on Sunday, February 16th at 10am-11am at the school. **Parents are required to attend this first meeting to complete the retreat paperwork and to go over the details.**

The Confirmation II Retreat is Friday, February 21st-Sunday, February 23rd.

Date of Confirmation:

Wednesday, April 29th at 6pm
Rehearsal: Tuesday, April 28th @7pm.
Bring your sponsor.



One more week to bring your palms!

We are collecting palms from last year so that they may be burned for ashes for Ash Wednesday which is on February 26th. Please put them in the basket at the entrance of the Church by Sunday, February 23rd.

2019 Tax Statements are available upon request only. To request your tax statement, please call the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year!



Worldwide Marriage Encounter San Diego

You deserve a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience! You attend seminars to learn new skills to improve your career and work opportunities, right? Why not dedicate one weekend to enhance your most important relationship... with your spouse! One weekend can truly change your life! The next Weekend Experiences are March 20-22 or May 29-31, starting at 8:00 pm Friday and ending at 4:00 pm Sunday. Meals and lodging are provided. There is a \$125 application fee and a voluntary donation requested at the end of the weekend. To register go to: www.wwme-sandiego.org or www.wwme.org or call: 760-659-9102.

Readings for the week of February 16, 2020

Next Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets." The law that Jesus referred to is the Torah (*instruction*) which consists of the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). These books tell of God's search for an appropriate covenant partner. Jewish scholars combed these books to discover all the specific commands given by God and found 613. These became the foundation of their life in community. These laws, although difficult to keep in their entirety, were not considered a burden (as we so often think), but rather as a precious gift because the people knew what God wanted and no longer had to guess what to do in order to please God.



—Living with Christ

The Sign of Peace: The ancient roots of the greeting we make at Mass



The liturgical gesture is an ancient one, dating back to the early Church.

Before the reception of Holy Communion the priest or deacon will say to the people, "*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*" It is then customary in the United States to say to one another "Peace" or "Peace be with you," and to shake the hand of those standing in close proximity. What's interesting is that this liturgical gesture has ancient roots and has been part of the Mass since the very beginning. The spiritual symbolism of the act is found in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus said, "If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). The current General Instruction of the Roman Missal confirms this symbolism and explains, "There follows the Rite of Peace, by which the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament" (GIRM 82).

What we call the "sign of peace" the early Church called the "kiss of peace." It was a custom in Mediterranean culture at the time (and still is today) to greet family and friends with a kiss. This gesture is found throughout the liturgical history of the Church and from the time of St. Gregory the Great was seen as a pre-requisite for the reception of Communion. The kiss of peace was typically given only to those standing next to each other and it was later developed that the kiss of peace descended from the sanctuary and was passed on to the people, symbolizing that peace comes from Christ. This was even further cemented when the priest would first kiss the altar and then pass on that kiss to his attendants.

The sign of peace is a highly symbolic act that is meant to point towards the disposition of heart required for receiving the Holy Eucharist. It reminds the faithful that in order to be in full communion with Christ, one must first "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength," and not forget to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31).

—Philip Kosloski, Aleteia.org, Aug. 17, 2017

"Why, then, did God gave them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having."

— C.S. Lewis,
The Case for Christianity

One of the greatest and most necessary gifts God gives us is free will. We always have the ability to choose. Life or death and good or evil are two of the core decisions every human being must make. We can choose to love and choose whether to pursue a relationship with God. True salvation comes when we make the choices that keep us focused on God and God's commandments. How we

view others reveals what choices we have made. People are not property, and they are not dispensable. We cannot exchange them at will or use them for our own self-serving ends. For this reason, God holds high the commitment of marriage and the integrity of all of our relationships. This is the basis of God's teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation, and the reason adultery is prohibited. ©LPi

"Being a Christian isn't just following the commandments, but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our lives and change them, transform them, free them from the darkness of evil and sin."

— Pope Francis

Ash Wednesday is February 26th

Distribution of ashes will be at the following times:

7:00AM —English Mass

8:30AM —Mass with the Parish School

12:00PM --English Liturgy of the Word w/ashes

6:00PM —English Mass

7:30PM —Spanish Mass

Note- There will be no Eucharistic Adoration this day.



Queridos hermanos y hermanas de la familia de San Didacus,

Durante más de noventa años, la parroquia de San Didacus ha sido apoyada por la generosidad de sus fieles. Por esto, estoy muy agradecido por cada uno de ustedes que continuamente dan de corazón, independientemente de la cantidad. Más allá de su contribución semanal regular, humildemente les pido que participe en la Campaña Católica Anual (ACA) de la Diócesis de San Diego. Nuestra evaluación parroquial es de \$ 20,000 para el 2020. Estamos llamados a servir a la iglesia más allá de nuestra parroquia.

El Obispo McElroy dice en su carta: "Nuestra Campaña Anual proporciona la base para permitirnos llevar a cabo las obras vitales de fe y servicio en su nombre, y por esa razón le pido que considere en oración participar generosamente en la apelación de este año, al hacerlo, coopera plenamente en la obra de Cristo y en la misión del discipulado en este momento crucial de la historia humana.

El tema de la apelación de este año es "La Gratitud en Acción". Nuestra contribución para la apelación de este año es nuestra forma de expresar nuestra gratitud a Dios por todas las bendiciones recibidas. Busque el folleto "Gratitud en acción" en las bancas de la iglesia o en la oficina y haga su donativo. También hemos enviado este mismo folleto y tarjeta de respuesta a la dirección postal de los feligreses registrados. Puede ir al sitio sdcatholic.org para su donación.

Gracias por tu generosidad. Esté siempre seguro de mis oraciones por usted y su familia.

P. Enrique Fuentes, Párroco

Clases de Quinceañeras y chambelanes

Tendremos una clase mandatoria para las jóvenes que harán sus quince años en esta parroquia en los meses de abril a diciembre del 2020.

La clase será **el viernes 21 de febrero**, de 5 a 8 PM en el salón parroquial, este año los chambelanes tienen que acompañarlas. Son \$20.00 por el libro.

Si su hija va hacer los 15 años en el 2020, tienen que apuntarse para esta clase.



La oficina parroquial estará CERRADA el lunes, 17 de febrero en observación del día festivo de los presidentes.

Las clases para los estudiantes de Confirmación 2 comienzan HOY, **domingo 16 de febrero de 10 - 11 AM en la escuela.**

Se requiere que los padres asistan a esta primera reunión para completar el papeleo para el retiro.

El Retiro de Confirmación 2 es el **viernes 21 de febrero al domingo 23 de febrero.**

La Confirmación: es el **miércoles 29 de abril a las 6 PM**

Ensayo: **martes 28 de abril**
Con padrino/madrina.

Miércoles de Ceniza es el 26 de febrero

Miércoles de Ceniza

La distribución de cenizas se realizará en los siguientes horarios:



7:00 AM — Misa en inglés
8:30 AM — Misa con la escuela parroquial
12:00 PM - Liturgia de la Palabra con cenizas, en inglés.
6:00 PM - Misa en inglés
7:30 PM - Misa español

Nota: No habrá adoración eucarística este día.



Estamos colectando palmas del año pasado para quemarla para el Miércoles de Ceniza, que será el 26 de febrero. Por favor, póngalas a la entrada de la Iglesia antes del domingo 23 de febrero.

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- Dr. Karl Menninger ♥

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