

The Catholic Church of the
Immaculate Conception

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110 619 295-4141 FAX 619 295-4142
e-mail: parish@ic-sandiego.org Website: www.ic-sandiego.org

November 22, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 11

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
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Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts
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Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 10

Marsha Long, Music
pictures@marshalong.com

Parish Office Hours
Monday: Noon to 4:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday at 8:00 am
First Friday Mass & Devotion: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 P.M.
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00AM, 11:30 AM. 5:15 P.M.

Holy Day Masses: 8 A.M., 7:00 P.M.

Penance: For daily Mass goes 7:30 AM, For Parish on Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 P.M., and by appointment

Baptisms & RCIA: *By appointment only.* Please email Deacon Fitzmorris at rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org.

Weddings: By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least **one year** in advance. Please contact the office

Funerals: *For arrangements, please call the parish office.*



History of Immaculate Conception Parish

It was here in Old Town that Saint Junípero Serra celebrated his First Holy Mass in California on July 2, 1769, near the site of the present Immaculate Conception Church, and it was on the hill overlooking Old Town that he planted the cross which marked the site of the Mission and the Presidio.

In 1849, the first parish church was established in Old Town with the name of Immaculate Conception and was dedicated in 1858. It still stands and is known as the Old Adobe Chapel on Conde Street. The cornerstone to the present Immaculate Conception Church was laid in 1868 under the direction of Father Antonio Ubach. With the population swing toward the south, it was not until July 6, 1919, that the church was dedicated by Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles.

WE PRAY — Pray for the Faithful Departed —

MASS INTENTIONS

23	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Elizabeth Nagy	RP
24	8 AM	<i>St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions</i> †Edna Moore	RE
25	8 AM	<i>St. Catherine of Alexandria</i> †Elizabeth Nagy	RP
26	9 AM	<i>Weekday, Thanksgiving Day</i> †Edna Moore	RP
27	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Basilio Tanjuan	RP
28	8 AM	<i>Weekday, BVM</i> †Elizabeth Nagy	RP
	5:15 PM	†Laurence Hunt	RP
29	8:30 AM	†Joe Daleo	RP
	10:00 AM	†Elizabeth Nagy	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	Rhodelia Jamias, SI	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

November: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

1st	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
4th	David Exner North American College Rome,
4th	Brian Frice Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Oscar Lopez, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
3rd	Nathan McWeeney Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Raymond Napuli, Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Michael O'Connor Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Eric Tamayo North American College Rome
4th	Corey Tufford North American College Rome,
4th	Derek Twilliger Mt. Angel Seminary OR
3rd	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS


23	Rev. Justin Langille
24	Rev. Bernardo Lara
25	Rev. Steven Larion
26	Rev. Martin Latiff, MC
27	Rev. Msgr. Roger Lechner
28	Rev. David Leon
29	Rev. Arturo Lopez, OFM

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday:	Dn 1:1-20; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45 (Ps) Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-28; (Ps) Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28; (Ps) Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14; (Ps) Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27; (Ps) Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36

PRAY FOR HEALING

Jesus, we ask you to bring your peace and healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen

Esther Fitch, Lydia Castillo Herrera Margaret Kelly, Patricia Kennedy, Dorothy Kleint, Deena Marchiano, Dena Mendoza, Jean Miller, Patricia O'Grady, Mary Jane Tiernan, Marguerite Vorst, Marie Whitman, Martha Zamudio, Carlos Amaya, Fred Levine, Mike Rodriguez, Lisa Becerra, Maguire Fitzpatrick, Tony Jenkins, Peter Nalwalker, Bob Witt, Frank Garay, Frances Garcia, Socorro Pacheco,		Linda Lee, Amparo Valenzuela, Robby Witt, Phyllis Altomare, Alicia Ambrose, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas. Inez Cerda Bull Rose McBrien Cosmo Busalacchi Maria Casanova, Steve Stone, Laura Castillo, Maria Esperanza Kramer Joan Busalacchi Georgiana Ottenheimer, Mark Brandon. Jeanne Pontius, Esther Salazar, Joane Anderson, Janet Meyers, Yolanda Garcia Maria Diaz Susan Rykowski
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PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

Jesus, protect all who serve our country.

Sgt. Ahmed John Alexander, Natalie Augustine, Major Jerry Bloomquist, Col. Mike Bodkin, Danny Carpenter, USMC, LTJG Joseph Colangelo, USN, Cpl. Samuel James Comer, Daniel Dinglebeck, USN, PFC, David Eley, USMC, Micah Emery, Sgt. Christopher Escalona, Capt. Pedro Esquivel, 1Lt. Cortez Fabia, Juan Carlos Galazza, SSGT. Vincent Charles Lucario,	Robert Clinton Long, MC2, Sgt. Adriana Matizel, Wendell Miculob, LTJG Joe F. Moralez, USN; LCPL Matthew A. Pena, Sgt. Richard Pierce, Sgt. William Paul Powers and Cinco, CPL Wilson Santiago; Alfred Tello, Ricky Thibeault, Tony Tulloss, PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, USN
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†PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED†

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

William Kennedy, Joan Schmittin, Robert McMahan, David Diaz, Patrick Piggot, Rodney Serrano, Concepción Garza, Richard Solís Moreno, Alvin Weaver, William Bethel, Lillian Sinclair, Olga Hritz, Imelda Hoeckelmann, Angelina Olivarez, Joseph Moreno, Louie Serrano,	Gustavo Sosa, Floyd Watson, Iola Torre, Emilie Graham, Angela Cordova, Ramiro Moreno, Alexander Toczko Jeannette Toczko José Teofilo Solorio Ray & Betty Jackson Denise Cooney Joanne Mangiameli Edna Moore Paul Ramirez Isabella Asaro Helen Peña
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BATTLING THE DEMONIC

—By Peter LaFave

FROM THE PASTOR

They've witnessed the stuff of Hollywood-horror variety, including levitation. They've trained under a master exorcist in Rome, and have counseled hundreds of individuals suffering demonic influence. They're humble, they acknowledge personified evil, but are never afraid, because Christ's sacrifice has already conquered evil.

While recent popes have reemphasized the importance of exorcism, it is often misunderstood both within the Church and in the secular world. To provide insight into this vital ministry, I've recently had the opportunity to speak with two of America's most experienced exorcists:

Fr. Vince Lampert is the exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He has ten years of experience in dealing with the demonic, and has lectured extensively on the topic, drawing from his expertise and experience.

Fr. Gary Thomas is the exorcist for the Diocese of San Jose, California. His 2005 apprenticeship in Rome was the basis for the 2011 thriller, *The Rite*, starring Anthony Hopkins.

Peter LaFave: How did you enter the ministry of exorcism?

Fr. Lampert: This was not something that I sought out. In 2005, I was appointed to this ministry by my bishop because he wanted a priest who believed in the reality of evil, but would not rush to assume that everyone who came to him was actually possessed. An exorcist in many ways is trained to be a skeptic first. I was fortunate to train under an experienced exorcist in Rome during a three month period in 2006 and was able to sit in on 40 exorcisms.

Fr. Thomas: In no way did I ever seek out this position, rather It simply "came" to me. My bishop initially asked my closest friend to become exorcist in February 2005. He was a terrific candidate and would have made a tremendous exorcist because of his academic qualifications and pastoral skills.

However, after discernment, he chose to decline the offer and informed me. I simply said, "I could be the exorcist" and the rest is history. He informed the bishop with my permission and I was sent to Rome, where I took the course on exorcism at the Regina Apostolorum Seminary. During that time, I apprenticed under an Italian exorcist for 3.5 months, during which I had time to pray, study, and learn this ministry.

There are many in the United States today (even Hierarchy in the Catholic Church) who are skeptical about the existence of demons and the ministry of exorcism. As highly trained and experienced exorcists, what do you say to this?

Fr. Lampert: Many people within and outside of the Church view the practice of exorcism as outdated. Yet Scripture contains many accounts of a clash between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The name "Jesus" means "God saves." If we deny the reality of evil then we deny the need for Christ to be our Savior.

Fr. Thomas: Read the Gospels: Christ performed exorcisms and the demonic recognized Him.

Have attitudes in the Church shifted in recent years?

Fr. Thomas: There are many Catholics who do not believe in personified evil, i.e. Satan and the demonic realm. In the post-Vatican II Church, the definition of sin became obtuse and the concept of personified evil became vague in many areas of the Church, including Seminaries, where eschatology or its related subjects were no longer emphasized.

However, I do believe that there has been a shift in recent years, of more priests believing in personified evil. Since 2011, the U.S. Catholic Church has quintupled the number of known exorcists, largely because bishops are receiving so many requests for investigations into demonic activity.

Is demonic activity on the rise?

Fr. Lampert: Yes, though the increase in demonic activity is not merely because the Devil has "upped his game," but also because more people are willing to play his game today, through activities that are opening up doorways to evil in their lives.

Demonic influence is grouped into two categories: ordinary and extraordinary. While ordinary influence can be described as regular temptation, extraordinary influence is divided into four chief categories: infestation, vexation, obsession, and possession. Can you briefly describe characteristics of each?

Fr. Lampert: Infestation describes the presence of evil associated with a specific location or object. Demons can torment humans by unexplained noises which include: footsteps, knocking on walls, clattering of chains, mysterious voices, shouts, and laughter. Infestation can also include displacement of objects, pictures falling off the walls, furniture moving, levitation of objects, and so on.

Vexation is the action by which the devil and demons attack and harass humans physically through cuts or burns, scrapes, stings, bites, blows that leave bruises, swelling and bleeding sores, and incisions of letters in the skin using words or signs that persist for some time or suddenly disappear.

Obsession refers to mental attacks whereby demons assault someone's external and internal senses. Demons affect the external senses through either horrifying or enticing visions, disturbing noises, chants that are both blasphemous and obscene, and by physical touch. On the internal senses, the imagination can be filled with thoughts or images that are both rationally absurd and terrifying. Because obsession ranges in degree, it is one of the most difficult to assess, more than that of vexation and even demonic possession.

During possession, the devil or evil spirit(s) takes control of a person's body, during which the person feels powerless to act. The demons can control the entire body; causing the individual to speak, walk, and do obscene gestures. Those who suffer from demonic possession may lose all or part of their consciousness of what is taking place.

Can Demons Read Our Thoughts

Fr. Lampert: Demons do not know what we are thinking. They are intelligent creatures who can use their reason to deduce what we might be thinking or how we might act. God alone knows a person's mind.

A skeptic might assert that someone undergoing obsession or possession is really suffering mental issues. How do you distinguish?

Fr. Thomas: An exorcist is trained to be a skeptic first. I consult with professionals to rule out the natural causes before moving toward the preternatural ones. I have a medical doctor, psychiatrist, and clinical psychologist with whom I consult with on a case-by-case basis. Everything depends on the circumstances. There are key indicators of demonic involvement: aversion to the sacred, inordinate physical strength, knowledge of hidden things, proficiency in foreign languages previously unknown to the person (including Latin and Greek), foaming at the mouth, and epileptic type body movements without any kind of stimulation.

Fr. Lampert: Before confirming demonic involvement, an exorcist will rely on experts in the mental and medical health fields to assess the individual. They look for every possible physical or mental cause to explain what is taking place. This is the protocol that is followed before an exorcism takes place:

- Obtaining a thorough physical examination by a qualified physician with appropriate specialists consulted as needed.
- Obtaining a thorough psychological examination by a qualified clinical psychologist or psychiatrist.
- Taking a "life history" of contact with demons, Satanism, the occult, witchcraft, or any eastern religious practice which cultivates relationships with "gods" and "goddesses".

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AROUND THE PARISH



Fr. Richard and the staff of Immaculate Conception wish all parishioners and visitors a blessed Thanksgiving.

On Thanksgiving Day, Mass is at 9:00 a.m.
Reminder: The parish office and Serra Gifts will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27.

29 NOV ... FAMILY CATECHESIS

Parents and children as well as all interested adults are welcome to attend Family Catechesis in the bride's room of the parish hall every other week. The program continues on Sunday, November 29, at 9:45, right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.

The **Prayer Chain Ministry** has been established in our parish. Our intention is to mobilize our parish community to pray for someone who has suddenly become ill, is going in for surgery, has a personal emergency or special needs they would like kept in prayer. Please contact Ruthe Jenkins if you are in need of prayers or if you are interested in being part of this powerful ministry on either the contact team or as part of the prayer chain. Email: rutheis@cox.net or phone 619-981-1424.



SAVE THE DATE!

PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT & DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Menu: Prime Rib, Chicken and all the fixings.

Concert -- 6 p.m.
Cocktails -- 7p.m.
Dinner -- 7:30p.m.

Concert features: Fr. Rich, Deacon Bob, Trinitarian Sisters and IC Choir

Tickets go on sale Nov. 22 after all Masses and in parish office.

Dinner sold out the last two years.

Cost: \$25, no host bar.

Tables reserved for parties of eight (8).

"Catholicism is the law of life, the life of the intelligence, the solution of all problems. Catholicism is the truth, and everything that departs from it one iota is disorder, deception, and error."
— Juan Donosco Cortes



Baptism Schedule

There are no baptisms in December. The 2016 baptism schedule is available on the parish website (ic-sandiego.org).

02 DEC ... St. Joseph Academy High School ...

...cordially invites you to attend an OPEN HOUSE on **Wednesday, Dec. 02, 2015**, from 6pm to 8pm. St. Joseph Academy High School offers a challenging college-prep curriculum, vibrant Catholic environment, CIF sports and dedicated faculty. SJA forms Catholic leaders championing the light of Christ in today's society while maintaining the most affordable private high school tuition in San Diego. Families and students of all ages are encouraged to visit our beautiful 4-acre campus nestled in the hills of San Marcos.

Visit us at www.SaintJosephAcademy.org.

03-05 Mar ... Catholic Answers Conference

Hotel Marina Harbor Island with Bishop Michael Wall of Gallup New Mexico. Theme: **"Restoring Marriage today."** To register, e-mail conference@catholic.com or call 619-387-7200. Registration fees increase in January.

Immaculate Conception **FOOD FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM**

The Quarters & Cans Committee, along with Fr. Richard Perozich, thank Immaculate Conception parishioners and friends for their generosity in providing Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



The holidays are quickly approaching and Immaculate Conception is organizing a TOY DRIVE. At this time of gift giving, let us remember those less fortunate.

We are asking families at Immaculate Conception to donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-17. Gift cards in increments of \$25.00 are also welcomed. Your donations can be dropped off in Serra Hall after Sunday morning Masses, no later than 12:00 noon. The last day to donate is December 13.

Toys will be delivered to Catholic Charities on December 13.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

With gratitude for the gifts we have received, parishioners and visitors made a joyful return to the Lord.

November 15, 2015

Total Collection: \$5,970.96
Envelopes: \$4,262.87 Plate: \$1,708.09
Total contributing households: 86

5:15 Sat	\$ 683.75
8:30 Sun	\$1144.36
10:00 Sun	\$1727.73
11:30 Sun	\$ 596.17
5:15 Sun	\$ 639.45
Mailed	\$1179.50

EXPENSES

November 09-13, 2015

Music	\$700.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$111.19
Ministry Supplies	\$281.11
Office Supplies	\$221.69
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3,127.96
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension (employee)	\$340.59
Telephone	\$259.92

Total: \$ 5,088.91

Building Fund: \$573.90

Collection for National Needs

Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to support The Catholic University of America, Catholic Communication Campaign, & Catholic Home Missions.

**WELCOME TO IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION!**

To register at the parish, please fill out the form below, and drop it in the basket or call the office at 295-4141.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Serra Gifts...

**Street Level of
Fr. Serra Hall
619-297-3426**



Open 7 days a week
 Monday - Friday 9:30 -4:00
 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00
 Sunday 9:30 to 3:00

Serra Gifts offers a beautiful assortment of religious items for your home, for your family and friends.

Missalettes

Living With Christ Missalettes for \$8.99 each & youth missalettes (with color illustrations) for \$16.99 each are now available in the gift shop.

Purchase your Advent candles and religious Christmas cards from Serra Gifts to support I.C. Visit the gift shop for holiday gift ideas.

See our online catalog at:
<http://www.ic-sandiego.org/gift-shop>

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:
DIGNITATIS HUMANAE**

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A sense of the dignity of the human person has been impressing itself more and more deeply on the consciousness of contemporary man, and the demand is increasingly made that men should act on their own judgment, enjoying and making use of a responsible freedom, not driven by coercion but motivated by a sense of duty. The demand is likewise made that constitutional limits should be set to the powers of government, in order that there may be no encroachment on the rightful freedom of the person and of associations. This demand for freedom in human society chiefly regards the quest for the values proper to the human spirit. It regards, in the first place, the free exercise of religion in society. This Vatican Council takes careful note of these desires in the minds of men. It proposes to declare them to be greatly in accord with truth and justice. To this end, it searches into the sacred tradition and doctrine of the Church-the treasury out of which the Church continually brings forth new things that are in harmony with the things that are old.

First, the council professes its belief that God Himself has made known to mankind the way in which men are to serve Him, and thus be saved in Christ and come to blessedness. We believe that this one true religion subsists in the Catholic and Apostolic Church, to which the Lord Jesus committed the duty of spreading it abroad among all men. Thus He spoke to the Apostles: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have enjoined upon you" (Matt. 28: 19-20). On their part, all men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church, and to embrace the truth they come to know, and to hold fast to it.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

<u>Parish Calendar</u>		
November		
22	National Needs Special Collection	
25	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
26	Thanksgiving Day Mass	9:00 AM
26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday Parish Office and Serra Gifts will be closed	
28	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
29	Family Catechesis	9:45 AM
December		
05	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
07	I.C. Seniors	11:00 AM
09	The Gospels	9:00 AM
	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
11	Christmas Concert & Dinner	6:00 PM

FROM MISERICORDIAE VULTUS - Pope Francis

**BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE OF MERCY**

*FRANCIS
BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF
GOD TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER GRACE,
MERCY, AND PEACE*

... 9. This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offenses becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph 4:26). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy as an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

**FAQ ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD
OR RELIGIOUS LIFE**

How does one join a religious community?

Contact: A person of high-school age or older who is interested in religious life but is still searching for the answer to the question, What does God want of me? Can I join a program of contact with a religious community? The formation program is usually very flexible. The person meets monthly with a priest, brother, or sister and shares in experiences of prayer and community life with the congregation in which he or she is interested.

Candidate: A more formal relationship with the community occurs when a person becomes a candidate. The candidate lives within the community while continuing his or her education or work experience. This period enables the candidate to observe and participate in religious life from the inside. It also gives the community an opportunity to see whether the candidate shows promise of living the life of the community. A person may be a candidate for one or two years.

Novice: The novitiate is the next stage of formation. This is a special one-to-two-year period that marks official entrance into the community. Novices spend time in study and prayer, learning more about themselves, the community, and their relationship with the Lord. At the end of the novitiate, novices prepare for temporary promises, or vows.

Vows: Promises of poverty, celibacy, and obedience may be taken for one, two, or three years, depending upon the decision of the individual. These promises are renewable for up to nine years. Final vows can be made after three years of temporary promises.

Additionally men studying for religious priesthood must also undergo seminary training, where he studies theology, the Bible, the teachings of the church, and the skills he will need to be a priest.

PASTOR'S PRIDE

10% of the attendees at Fr. Joseph Chinicci's Nov 10 talk on Fr. Serra at the Old Mission were parishioners from IC!

**26 NOV ... Father Joe's Villages
14th Annual Thanksgiving 5K Run/Walk**

Thanksgiving Day
Balboa Park
7:30am – 10am

For information or registration:
www.thanksgivingrun.org
Email: 5k@neighbor.org or call: (858) 268-1250

All proceeds support the programs at
Father Joe's Villages.

Support Group for Separated/Divorced

There is a support group for anyone suffering from the pain and loss associated with a separation or divorce. We meet Sundays at 10:15 AM at St. James Catholic Church – Ministry Center in Solana Beach. For more information contact Jan Nadler PhD at 760-814-8604 or Frank Grant 760-533-1520 or email fwgrant@gmail.com.

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- Normalizing the spiritual and sacramental life of the enigmata.
- Inventory of the extraordinary signs of possession from the Rite of Exorcism.
- Careful compliance with diocesan legal and canonical processes.
- Composition of a letter to the bishop regarding the need for a major exorcism.

Can you describe the process of an exorcism?

Father Lampert: I will first prepare myself by going to confession, celebrating Mass, and spending time in prayer. I will then determine the location of where the exorcism will take place. It is always in a sacred space of my choosing. These are the steps:

The rite begins with the sprinkling of holy water, followed by recitation of the Litany of Saints, Psalms, Gospels, apostles Creed and renewal of baptismal vows. After several prayers, the troubled individual is shown a crucifix, which represents Christ's victory over the Devil. Following additional exorcism prayers, the Devil, in the name of Christ, is directly commanded to withdraw from the troubled person.

What are some of the most extreme manifestations of possession that you've witnessed?

Fr. Lampert: I have witnessed such things as superhuman strength, eyes rolling back in the head, extreme laughter and roars, supernaturally loud or deep voices, foaming at the mouth, foul odors, dislocation of the jaw, and levitation.

Levitation?

Fr. Lampert: Yes, during an exorcism in Rome, the demon became very agitated during the deliverance prayers. The violent thrashing and obscenities continued until everything went calm and the possessed person began to levitate in her chair. This manifestation was done by the demon as an attempt to interrupt the prayer and cause fear to those in the room.

Fr. Thomas: I've had individuals exhibiting foreign languages previously unknown to them, violent attacks physically with restraints, snake-like movement, serpent-like facial appearance during deliverance prayers, and violent rejection of the Eucharist.

Do demons believe in the Eucharist?

Fr. Thomas: Absolutely, demons believe in the Real Presence and will often show a dramatic, violent aversion to it.

What brings about demonic involvement? What should be avoided?

Fr. Thomas: Ouija boards, dark magic, séances, violent video games, the Charley Challenge, tarot cards, any devices that can muster some kind of spirit in any way that circumvents God

Fr. Lampert: People may think these things are just fun and entertaining but the truth is they are dabbling with evil and can get themselves into trouble.

Fr. Thomas: Pornography and drugs can also be open doorways to the demonic, especially certain drugs such as meth and cocaine. In some cases, curses can be placed on these in order to make them even more addictive.

Curses, spells, satanic rituals, and black magic: do these occur today or are they merely old superstitions?

Fr. Thomas: Yes, there are people who know how to perform spells and magic of this kind.

Fr. Lampert: These things are all real. I believe they are only effective if we are weak in our commitment to God. We can't control what another person does even if they wish us ill will. We can render their actions meaningless by putting on the armor of God.

How long does a possession last? Does one exorcism get the job done?

Fr. Thomas: Possessions can last years or even entire lifetimes, depending on the individual's situation and lifestyle

condition. One exorcism rarely gets the "job done" because there are usually several demons in an organized hierarchy.

Lengthy exorcisms sound exhausting; how do you unwind after something like that?

Fr. Lampert: I'll find the nearest Dairy Queen!

You mentioned earlier that the decline in morality of society accompanies an increase in demonic activity. In today's society what are the key indicators of this? For instance, is there something diabolical about abortion?

Fr. Thomas: Abortion is a doorway to the demonic because it involves the destruction of an innocent human being. The new law in California which legalizes assisted suicide is also a doorway for the same reason. This decline in morality is growing rapidly and provides the opportunity for Satan to have a foothold in a family's life. I do not believe that most people who are believers in "choice" realize this. That is part of the seduction of Satan who will disguise his presence in these choices.

Fr. Lampert: Anything that attacks human life has to be viewed as evil, for the human person is created in the image and likeness of God. With that said one must always distinguish between evil as an action of our own free will and evil that is the result of demonic activity.

Can other inanimate objects become infested?

Fr. Thomas: Absolutely. A couple of years ago, an acquaintance of mine purchased a statue figurine of a fairy at a New Age book store. After experiencing several strange disturbances at her home, I advised the family to dispose of everything they had purchased as that specific store.

While throwing out this statue, it shattered, producing a miniature satanic charm of a headless priest with his hands glued to an altar. I had never seen something so creepy and grotesque. After the objects had been blessed and disposed of, the disturbances ceased.

Do you caution against Eastern meditation such as yoga?

Fr. Lampert: The benefit of yoga for purely exercising is not the issue. What is concerning is the calling upon of energies, spirits, or forces when doing these practices.

Fr. Thomas: When someone doing yoga acknowledges and calls upon spirits or energies attached to certain exercises, this creates serious problems. I know this for fact because I have had people who are fervent yoga users come to me with problems when they have given homage to the gods attached to the movements of the yoga.

Are you ever afraid?

Fr. Thomas: No, it must be a grace because I am never afraid. I am humble and very respectful of personified evil, because without Our Lord, I do not stand a chance but with Him, I have nothing to fear.

In closing, what is the best defense against the forces of evil?

Fr. Thomas: There are four ordinary means of protection against the Evil One: a prayer life, a faith life, a moral life, and a sacramental life. Do those and you will build up the armor of Faith against the forces of Hell.

Fr. Lampert: The best defense against evil is for us to devote ourselves to the things of God and to think about the positive aspects of life. "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things" [Philippians 4:8].

FR. PEROZICH: *Evil is real. The devil hates human beings. Through his envy death entered into the world (Wis 2:23). He tempts, deceives, lies, seduces, and accuses us of being other than who we are, children of God. Once he has planted temptations to which a man has yielded, the demon may need to do very little to keep a man turned away from God in one of the vices of pride, ire, greed, envy, sloth, gluttony, or lust. "The devil made me do it" (Flip Wilson's line as Geraldine) is not the excuse. Perverted desire brings sinful acts. JESUS is the remedy.*