

St. Cornelius Church

5500 Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808

(562) 421-8966

www.stcorneliuslb.org

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 | TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Humbly
welcome the
word that has
been planted
in you and is
able to save
your souls.*

~ James 1:21b

LABOR DAY



Monday, September 3 is Labor Day.

Our Mass Schedule is: 9:00 AM

There will be no 5:00 PM Mass



22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Religion

By: Fr. Mike Gleeson, Pastor

A 70-year-old priest made a retreat. In the course of it he was struck deeply by three things that he'd always been aware of but had never really taken to heart.

First, there are millions of people in the world who are hungry and homeless. Second, he had spent his entire priestly life living in a comfortable rectory and preaching comfortable sermons to comfortable people. Third, he had bent over backward to avoid disturbing or alienating his people.

The priest suddenly found himself reminded/ of a new pastor assigned to a church in Kentucky, not far from Churchill Downs, the famous racetrack.

The first Sunday, the pastor preached on the evils of gambling and how this bad habit had caused so much pain and suffering! in so many families.

After his sermon the president of the parish council called him and reminded him that many parishioners who generously supported the church made their living off horse racing and gambling.

The second Sunday, the pastor preached on the evils of smoking and how this bad habit had caused so much pain and suffering from lung cancer and premature death.

Again, the president of the parish council called and reminded him that many parishioners who generously supported the church made their living by growing tobacco, for which Kentucky was famous.

The third Sunday, the pastor preached on the evils of alcohol and how this bad habit had caused so much pain and suffering from drunk driving and broken homes.

Again, the president of the parish council called to remind him that many parishioners who supported the church made their living by working in distilleries, for which Kentucky was even more famous.

Well, what can I preach on?" said the new pastor in desperation. "Preach against war mongers and crooked politicians," said the president. "We don't have any of them in the parish."

In other words, the 70-year-old priest found himself to be much like the priest played by Jack

Lemmon in the film *Mass Appeal*. He preached only about those things that didn't disturb his parishioners and made them feel good.

And now, like the priest in *Mass Appeal*, the old priest suddenly realized that he had been more worried about pleasing his people than about preaching the Gospel. He had been more worried about rocking the boat than about challenging his parishioners to look into their hearts to see they were satisfied with what they saw there.

The week following his eye-opening retreat, the old priest looked up the Scripture reading's to prepare his Sunday homily. They were the readings for this week.

As he read the Gospel, these words of Jesus leaped right off the page "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

The old priest resolved, then and there, that he was going to share his soul-searching with his parishioners. So he began his homily by saying:

"My homily this morning will be exactly 30 seconds long. That's the shortest homily I've ever preached in my life, but it's also the most important homily I've ever preached."

With that attention-grabbing introduction, the old priest gave his 30-second homily. He said: *"I want to make just three points. First, millions of people in the world are hungry and homeless. Second, most people in the world don't give a damn about that. Third, many of you are more disturbed by the fact that I just said damn in the pulpit than by the fact that I said that there are millions of hungry and homeless people in the world."*

With that, the old priest made the sign of the cross and sat down.

That homily did three things that many homilies don't do. First, it caught the attention of the people. Second, it caught the spirit of Jesus' words in today's gospel. Third, it made the people look into their hearts.

The story of the old priest and the gospel reading make the same point.

Religion is not something we do on Sunday. It's not, primarily, observing certain laws, saying certain prayers, and performing certain rituals.

That's what many people in Jesus' time had

turned religion into. To observe these rituals was to please God. Not to observe them was to sin. In short, observing rituals became identified with being religious.

To illustrate the hypocrisy of such legalism, William Barclay tells this story - probably apocryphal - about a Muslim pursuing an enemy to kill him.

In the midst of the chase, the *Azan*, or public call to prayer, sounded. Instantly the Muslim got off his horse, unrolled his prayer mat, knelt down, and prayed the required prayers as fast as he could. Then he leaped back on his horse to pursue his enemy in order to kill him.

It was precisely this kind of legalism that Jesus opposed so vigorously in his time.

Jesus made it clear that religion isn't something you do at certain times on certain days. It's not saying certain prayers or performing certain rituals. It's a thing of the heart. It's a thing of the heart called love - love of God and love of neighbor.

Today's Scripture readings invite us to look into our hearts and to ask ourselves to what extent the words of Jesus in today's gospel reading apply to us: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

They invite us to look into our own heart and ask ourselves to what extent the words of James in today's second reading apply to us: "Act on [God's] word. If all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves."

Let's close by prayerfully rereading Paul's famous words on love in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong.... I may have all the faith needed to move mountains- but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have ... but if I have no love, this does me no good.... It is love, then, that you should strive for."

I Corinthians 13:1-3, 14:1

***Siempre Adelante,
Fr. Mike***

MASS INTENTIONS

† = Indicates Deceased

Sunday, September 02

- 8:00 a.m. †John G. Weisenborn
†Richard Flanagan
Dr. Deborah Pauer
- 10:00 a.m. Hassett Family
†Brian Tempel
†Jack McAluney
- 12:00 Noon †Mercedes Gonzales & Family
Kathleen Davaney
†Kainoa Kahai
- 5:00 p.m. †Robin Bell
Keith Bell & Family

Monday, September 03

- 9:00 a.m. †Patricio Racoma
Maria Lim & Lester Lim (40th Anniversary)

Tuesday, September 04

- 8:00 a.m. Kathleen Devaney
†Georgios Kyriacos Panajiotou
Julio Salas Ramirez
- 5:00 p.m. Sr. Mary Grace Leung
Brad Davis
Tomas Valencia

Wednesday, September 05

- 8:00 a.m. Kathleen Devaney
†Thomas McCormick
Jesse Valencia
- 5:00 p.m. Brad Davis
Tomas Valencia

Thursday, September 06

- 8:00 a.m. Kathleen Devaney
Patricia McCormick
Jesse Valencia
- 5:00 p.m. Arsenia Runas
Brad Davis
Tomas Valencia

Friday, September 07

- 8:15 a.m. Regina Julienne Aoga (Birthday)
Christopher Hogan
- 5:00 p.m. Brad Davis
Tomas Valencia

Saturday, September 08

- 8:00 a.m. †Rantith Wijetunga
Lisa Nguyen
- 5:00 p.m. †Lilian Keogh
Elizabeth Cannata
Rita Lilla

Sunday, September 09

- 8:00 a.m. †Arthur Bucksner
Rubi Nunez
- 10:00 a.m. †Brian Tempel
†Judy Klenk
- 12:00 Noon Christopher Hogan
Lester Lim
Elizabeth Esquivias Reyes
- 5:00 p.m. Kainoa Kahai
Loretta Fleming

WEEKEND MASSES**Saturday, September 08**

5:00 p.m. Fr. George Reynolds
Lector: Fritzi Osenbrunner

Sunday, September 09

8:00 a.m. Fr. Bill McLean
Lector: Ted Brodeur
10:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Gleeson
Lector: Josie Marchena
12:00 Noon Fr. George Reynolds
Lector Doreen LaPorte
5:00 p.m. Fr. Mike Gleeson
Lector Marco Lopez



**TOGETHER IN
MISSION**

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

TOGETHER IN MISSION

2018 PARISH GOAL of \$79,000.00

Amount Pledged: \$73,182.00

Amount Paid So Far: \$65,955.90

If you haven't had the opportunity to make your pledge for Together in Mission, we ask that you complete a pledge card found at the doors of the church. Every gift, regardless of the size, matters. Envelopes can be dropped off in the Rectory Mailbox or in the collection baskets.

*Thank you for supporting
Together in Mission.*

RCIA

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This ministry welcomes and prepares adults for full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Classes meet on Tuesday evenings, 7 –9 pm in the small hall beginning September 18, 2018 and continues weekly through mid-May with the purpose of initiation and conversion. For information or to register please contact Audrey Hamamoto (562) 572-3427 or email AudreyH.StCornelius@gmail.com.

FAITH AND FICTION**St. Cornelius Book Discussion Group**

The next meeting of the book club will be held on September 17 at 7:30pm, in the school library. The book we will be discussing is "Once We Were Brothers" by Robert Balson. You are welcome to join us. For more info, call Katy Ellis at 607-1100.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT**BIBLE STUDY**

We will be starting our study on Wednesday, September 12th at 7 pm in the Holy Family room. The focus of this study will be the upcoming Sunday readings. We will also incorporate the liturgical seasons, feast days and the saints being celebrated that week. As always we include scripture study, reflection, discussion and prayer. You are invited to join us on Wednesdays (September through May), from 7-8:45 pm in the Holy Family Room. For more information or to sign up please contact Erick or Barbara Fischer at (562) 425-5542 or e-mail ebefischer@earthlink.net

The Rectory Office will be closed Monday, September 03 in observance of Labor Day. We will re-open Tuesday, September 04 at 8:00 a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Office hours for the Religious Education office are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Registration Events

Stop by the office or plan to attend one of the registration events listed below. We will welcome returning students as well as NEW students at these meetings. Registration forms for NEW* students are available in our office or online at stcorneliuslb.org. Early bird registration ends September 16th, register now to save!

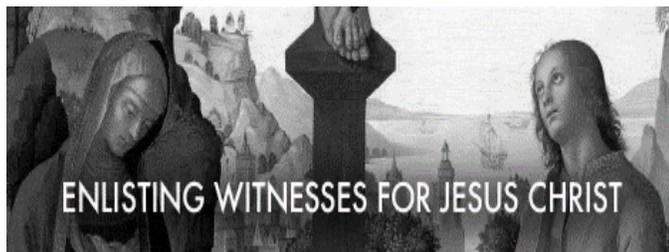
Religious Education Registration Events Dates:

Sunday, September 9, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Sunday, September 16, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Sunday, September 23, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

All, Sunday, registration meeting dates will be held in the Convent garden area, please follow the signs.

****Continuing students must register in the office or at a registration event. No phone registrations will be honored this year.***

Catechetical Sunday 2018



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16, 2018*. The 2018 theme will be "Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ." Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. *Teachers, Catechists and classroom volunteers will receive a blessing during the 10:00 AM Mass. Please join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship in the Payette Pavilion immediately following mass.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Registrations are still being accepted for both Year 1 and Year 2 programs. Cost is \$100 per student. Please make checks payable to St. Cornelius. Packets are available online at stcorneliuslb.org (under Sacraments) or you can pick up registration packet from the Church Rectory or Religious Ed Office during regular office hours.

Confirmation Year 1 Class:

1st Class begins Sunday
 September 9th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mandatory Parent meeting on this day.

Confirmation Year 2 Class:

1st Class begins Sunday
 September 16th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mandatory Parent meeting on this day.

Youth Group: Wednesday nights
 7:30 - 9:00p.m. in the large hall.

(please use Bellflower entrance into the large hall)

Open to all High School aged students wishing to learn more about their Catholic Faith and/or wanting to meet fellow Catholic teens.



This is our 2018-19 Confirmation Leadership Team. Please keep them in your prayers as they answer the call to serve their peers and bring them closer to God.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The gospel today hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday? Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law? Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self-giving for the sake of others.



As you give your gift to the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in your heart you also will find the good news of God's love.

WARNING

Not all churches that use the words "Catholic" or "Roman Catholic" in their title are in communion with the Holy Father or under the jurisdiction of the local Roman Catholic bishop. Though lawfully calling themselves "Catholic" under secular law, some of these churches have broken away from the Church because of disagreements over the teachings and reforms mandated by both the First and Second Vatican Councils. It is not lawful for Roman Catholics to receive sacraments in these Churches, and one does not fulfill one's obligations by attending their services. Furthermore, the sacraments received would, in most instances, be invalid.

Holy Trinity on Woodruff Ave. & St. Juan Diego on Market St.
falls within this category and are **NOT**
Roman Catholic Churches.

If you have reason to doubt the authenticity of any other church calling itself "Catholic" please contact the Archdiocesan Catholic Center at (213) 637-7000 for verification.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS & NOTES

OCTOBER EVENTS

Life Chain 2018

Located at St. Cornelius

<http://www.lifechain.net/>

October 7 @ 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It's a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life.

The Rosary and Mass for Life
@ St. Cornelius
will follow at 4:30PM



WALK, RUN OR BIKE FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018
9 AM TO 12PM

SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.SUPPORTHPC.ORG
OR CALL 714-987-7500

ENTRY FEE IS \$20.
INCLUDES A FREE T-SHIRT
HOT DOG LUNCH PROVIDED
BY RADIANT CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for Fiesta weekend, September 28th through the 30th. Friday Night we will have the Tri-Tip Dinner, Wine Tasting and Live Auction. Saturday is the Silent Auction and wonderful food booths. Sunday we will have the NFL Brunch that will be open from 9:00- 11:30 a.m. and The Craft Fair. It will be a fun time for all! All are welcome!

FIESTA SODA DRIVE

Calling all parishioners! Would you like to be a part of Fiesta and contribute to its success? Your chance is here. St. Cornelius holds its annual soda drive to collect donated soda that will be sold during Fiesta. Soft drinks are a major expense during Fiesta and through the generous donations of our parishioners, we can reduce this operating cost and increase the Fiesta's monetary support to the school. Soft drink donations of cans of **Coke, Pepsi, Sprite, 7-Up and other brands: Regular or Diet** can be dropped off after all masses at the Rectory garage door on the following Dates: **August 24-25 and Sept 1-2**. Parishioner support of this worthy fundraiser is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Soda Chairs Ryan and Maria Carbonara at [562 208-1679](tel:5622081679).

MAJOR PRIZE TICKETS

Our annual Major Prize Drawing will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 7pm at Fiesta! Tickets are only \$1.00 each and you have the chance to win: 1st Prize - \$2,000, 2nd Prize - \$1,000, 3rd & 4th Prize - \$500, and 5th thru 8th Prizes - \$250. Tickets will not be mailed but they will be available in the pews and entrances at the church, in the school office or at the Major Prize booth during Fiesta weekend. Thank you for your support. Go Fiesta! Go Major Prize!

HOURLY DRAWING BOOTH FIESTA 2018

In preparation for this year's upcoming Fiesta, we, at the Hourly Drawing Booth, kindly request your donations of Never Used Gift Cards (cards you've been holding on to but never used – check your purses and junk drawers) or gently used cash! We'll use the cash to purchase Scrip gift cards which benefit our school two-fold! You can send your donations of gift cards or cash for Scrip gift cards directly to the school office, or in a separate envelope marked "Hourly Drawing" deposited in the church basket. We thank you for your generosity in supporting our school and the children – the future of our parish! Please contact Rose ([562-755-0862](tel:5627550862)) with any questions.