



## ***Padre's Ponderings***

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, we have begun the process of pursuing a formal canonical merger of the parishes of Saint Mary of the Bay and Saint Alexander. At open parish meetings, we have candidly discussed our options as a community and the joint decision was made to pursue this path.

Several weeks ago, the parish trustees of both Saint Alexander and Saint Mary of the Bay joined me in signing a letter to the Most Reverend Bishop seeking his permission to formally begin that process.

The next step is a meeting with representatives from the diocese who will be available to explain what this process entails and to answer any questions or address any concerns that you have. All parishioners of Saint Alexander and Saint Mary of the Bay are welcome to this meeting, which will be held in the lower hall of Saint Alexander Church on Wednesday, May 10, at 6:30pm.

Should the bishop grant our request to formally merge our communities, much will remain the same in practice. We will still gather for Mass every Sunday at 9:15am at Saint Alexander. We will continue to make Saint Alexander Church available for other ceremonies like baptisms, weddings and funerals. We will continue to maintain Saint Alexander Rectory. We will continue to share adult and youth programming with Saint Mary of the Bay. Both communities will continue to be served by a single priest.

What will change? Should the Bishop grant our request, all assets and liabilities of Saint Alexander Church (including the Cemetery) will be transferred to Saint Mary of the Bay. We will have a single offertory envelope company and donation collection process. We will have a single finance council for both parishes, a single bulletin, a unified process for bookkeeping and other administrative services. In short, the combination of our resources and the streamlining of the administration of both parishes will result in a stronger community.

After the meeting on May 10, I will have to present our request to the Priests' Council for consultation. The Bishop will then make a final decision. I will do my very best to keep everyone informed as this process unfolds. Thank you in advance for your understanding, your patience and your good-will.

Until next week,

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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.  
*Administrator, Saint Alexander*  
*Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay*



### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Sunday at 9:15am  
*Saint Alexander*

Saturday Vigil at 4pm  
(Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*

Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*

Monday-Friday 8am  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*

Holy Days as Announced



### **TRUSTEES & AUDITORS**

Nancy Urban, Trustee  
John Saviano, Trustee  
Patricia Dugan, Auditor  
John Flynn, Auditor

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

April 23, 2023

9:15am: Peggy Trabulsi  
*Requested by Stephen & Mary Accrino*

April 30, 2023

9:15am: Arthur Richter

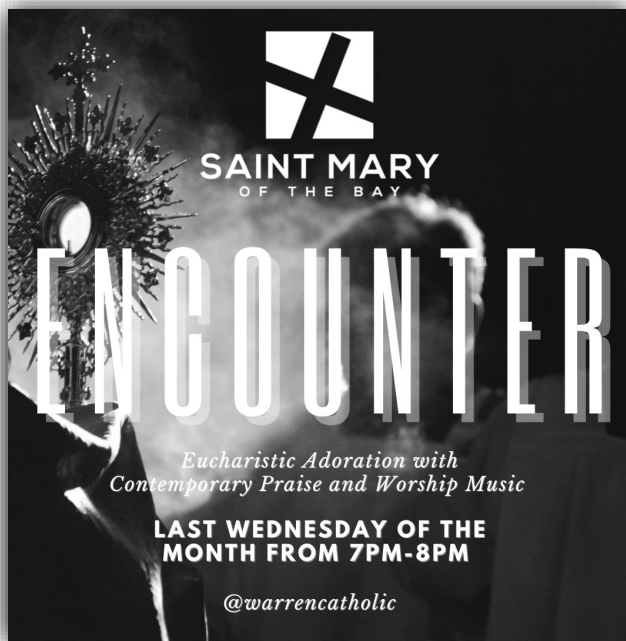
∞ STEWARDSHIP REPORT: MARCH ∞

Offertory: \$3,468.00

Outreach: \$30.00    Votive Offerings: \$113.00

Easter Flowers: \$350.00

*Many thanks for your generosity!*



∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/  
1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

From today's First Reading:

*"This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it." (Acts 2:23-24)*

Consider: **Peter's first public speech in Jerusalem focuses on Jesus' connection to King David. In other words, Peter spoke of God's fidelity to Israel in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. What would you like to know about Jesus' Jewish roots?**

From today's Second Reading:

*Conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. (1 Pt 1:17-19)*

Consider: **Peter encourages his community to "conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning" (life on earth). How might you show respect to others this week?**

From today's Gospel:

*And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. (Lk 24:30-31)*

Consider: **We hear how the two disciples on the road to Emmaus finally recognized the risen Jesus in the blessing and breaking of the bread. What helps you recognize the presence of Jesus in your life?**

