Saint Jerome Catholic Church
308 Carmel Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-525-0876
saintjeromechurch@comcast.net
www.stjeromeec.org

Reconciliation:
Every Saturday:
4:00pm or by appointment

Infant Baptism:
Parents should call the office to schedule a Baptism

Marriage:
Couples should call the office for an appointment with a priest six months prior to the wedding

Mass Schedule
M, T, W, F, S—8:30AM
Thursdays—Communion Service: 8:30AM
Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM
Sunday—7:30, 9:00 and 11:00AM

Parish Church Opens
(The priests are celebrating the mandated private Masses and fulfilling mass intentions)
Monday-Friday: 9AM-4PM Saturday: 10AM-6PM Sunday: 10AM-1PM

Parish: A Sunday 9AM Mass will be live-streamed via YouTube
www.tinyurl.com/stjromemass

Thanks to all who continue to support St. Jerome Parish!!

A few Parishioners report having trouble logging onto the above site for the livestream Mass. You may also go to our parish website www.stjeromeec.org and scroll down to “Blog” and click on the link to the streaming Mass.

Parishioner Team
Rev. Fernando J. Cortez, Pastor
Elizabeth Oishi, Director of Children’s Catechesis
Ms. Carol DuPont, Confirmation Coordinator
Ms. Joanne Gabel, Liturgical Musician

Barbara Cortese, Adult Faith Formation
Ms. Mary Davidson, Office Manager
Leadership Councils
Mr. Charles Cardall, Parish Finance Council
Rotating Chair—Parish Pastoral Council
REFLECTIONS
This week's readings begin with the great exhortation to repeat and believe in Jesus Christ. Peter's bold proclamation of the KERYGMA (the essence of the Good News) has a dramatic effect on the assembled – “about three thousand people were baptized and added that day”. It was the Feast of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit bears fruit at the birth of the Church! All the doubts of Easter Sunday, and the days that follow, have vanished. The one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the One true Shepherd, the sheepfold gate. He alone is the provider of green pastures and leads us out and back home. All others are thieves and robbers.

Our hearts and souls yearn to be fully human, fully alive (in Christ). “By his wounds have we been healed” and returning to Jesus we encounter “the shepherd and guardian of ... souls” (I Peter).

This is not some strange unknown God. He is the God-man who is familiar with our trials, temptations and like us has suffered. He has come “SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.” (John 10:10)

COVID-19 PANDEMIC
These days are trying but something of a routine has emerged. Fr. Lawrence and I share the daily “private” Masses, offering the intentions as scheduled or re-scheduled. We do our best on Sundays through YouTube to offer a live-streaming Mass. It’s not perfect, but a blessing that Fr. Lawrence has provided through his talents. His arrival was a God-send to Saint Jerome! Fr. Lawrence is able to focus on his doctoral written presentation. I have time to catch up with office chores. I offer some daily Masses for the Carmelite Nuns and go to St. Joseph Center and Cemetery to preside at funerals. I am most grateful for the moral and spiritual support of parishioners!

THE 2020 BISHOP’S APPEAL
This is an on-going appeal based on your generous pledge and support to the bishop’s mission as head of the Church of Oakland. Based on 2019, a check for $1,819 was refunded to the parish as we surpassed our goal once again!

SUPPORT FOR SAINT JEROME (REPEAT)
The generous consideration of all parishioners is humbly implored. We continue to meet all obligations in accordance with the Bishop’s decree, bills and payroll. You are our only source of income during these days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who in absence have been so considerate to bring in or mail offerings are gratefully acknowledge and blessed. The diocese now offers a site on its website to donate directly to any parish.

The latest development was a diocesan mandated and sanctioned reduction in our labor force. Furloughs have been issued in this interim period of COVID-19. The Rectory Office remains staffed by Ms. Mary Davidson, although mostly by telecommuting. This permits Mary “shelter-in-place” work hours. The diocese and parish are committed to the well-being of those who remain on staff during this difficult time. We are much blessed with good volunteers and generous parishioners. Thank you and Blessings. Fernando J. Cortez, Pastor

(UPDATED 04/20/2020)

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-19
Here are a few simple precautions and directives to summarize the current pandemic:

We do not have or use holy water. Communion cannot be offered, except for the Sick, under strict protocols. IT’S A MATTER OF AVOIDING CONTAGION.

Shelter in place if this order, civil and ecclesial, continues. Follow Health Officials’ Directions! THESE ARE PRACTICAL PRECAUTIONS AND FLATTENS THE INFECTION CURVE.

If you are 65 or over, Governor Newsom requires that you self-isolate. IT’S A STATE DECREE.

►The Bishop of Oakland issued a decree dispensing all Catholics from attending Mass. MASS IS NOT PUBLICLY CELEBRATED. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS ARE OFFERED.

►Priests 60 years of age and older may not minister the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick in homes or hospitals. Call (510) 593-0870 to reach Fr. Cortez for referrals. BISHOP’S DECREE

Our Lady, Refuge of the Sick, pray for us!
San Roque, our refuge in Pandemics, pray for us!
GOOD NEWS AT ST. JEROME
You'll be happy to know that many ministries at our parish are active during the pandemic. Our St. Vincent de Paul chapter is distributing bags of groceries to the needy on Wednesdays as usual. St. Jerome soup kitchen volunteers are preparing bag lunches monthly for the GRIP Souper Center in Richmond. A number of the women in the Crafters Group are busy sewing hundreds of face masks for medical and charitable organizations that need them. The Renew Group is studying scripture online using Zoom meetings, and the Prayer Tree volunteers can meet requests for prayers without going out. The pandemic has provided many opportunities for us to live out our Gospel values!

In an effort to make it easier for parishioners to make donations to their parishes, an on-line donation site has been implemented. You may go to the Oakland Diocese website (https://oakdiocese.org/) and click on the Parish Support box. You will be asked to input your name, address, credit card information, and the amount you wish to donate. Be sure you indicate the parish you wish to receive the donation (St. Jerome!) Please note you may continue to drop off your donations in the parish mail slot or use the old fashion regular postal mail services. Thank You!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS
You are invited to join our parish community. We have many activities and ministries that you are welcome to explore. Come to our Coffee & Donuts fellowship in Rohan Hall following the 9:00am Mass on Sundays. Please visit our website for current activities at http://stjeromeec.org/
To register, please fill out the information below. You may drop it in the collection basket or the parish office mail slot.

NAME:______________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:___________________________________________________________________________________
PHONE:____________________________________EMAIL:________________________________________

Week of May 4, 2020
Wed. May 6  10:30am  SVDP Food Pantry Rohan Hall

All other events at the parish are to be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled until further notice.

The church will be open daily individual prayer. Please remember to practice the CDC guidelines on social distancing.

The Parish Office is closed. If you need to contact us, please use the church email as Mary will be monitoring the email and will be able to respond in a timely manner. saintjeromechurch@comcast.net

Sign up individually to receive your bulletin electronically by following this link: eBulletin https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com/#/

MASS INTENTIONS
Sat. May 2  8:30am  James Davidson, Jr. †
   5:00pm  Maria Addiego †
Sun. May 3  7:30am
   9:00am  Int. of St. Jerome Parishioners
   11:00am  Dec. Members of the Bonanni Family †
Mon. May 4  8:30am
Tues. May 5  8:30am  Maria Addiego †
Wed. May 6  8:30am
Thurs. May 7  8:30am
Fri. May 8  8:30am
Sat. May 9  8:30am
   5:00pm  For all Mothers
Sun. May 10  7:30am  For all Mothers
   9:00am  For all Mothers
   11:00am  For all Mothers

The priests are celebrating the mandated private Masses and fulfilling mass intentions. We ask that you keep those scheduled above in your prayers as well. Thank You!
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