

Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
1730 Wilshire Blvd.  
Santa Monica, California 90403



**Called by the Holy Spirit,  
we are an intergenerational community of  
worship and service  
that invites the people  
of Santa Monica and beyond  
to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ  
through Word and Sacraments.**

**“Pilgrim’s Progress”**

**March 2024**



Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
(310) 829-4113  
[www.pilgrims.org](http://www.pilgrims.org)  
[amenmail@aol.com](mailto:amenmail@aol.com)



## March Calendar at a Glance

### Sunday Worship Service Schedule in March

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D teaches the Bible Class.

**NOTE: As of February 18, 2024, Bible Class began meeting at 8:30 a.m.** This time change will give us more time to interact with each other in the Narthex prior to the 10 a.m. Divine Service.

**9:30 a.m.** Arrangements can be made to have a short Sunday School Lesson at 9:30 a.m.

**10:00 a.m.** Divine Service Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.

**(Worship Services are in person and on FB and our website.)**

**March 3** † Third Sunday in Lent, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**March 6** Lenten Devotional 6 pm on-line only

**March 10** † Forth Sunday in Lent, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**March 13** Lenten Devotional 6 pm on-line only

**March 17** † Fifth Sunday in Lent, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**March 19** First Day of Spring

**March 20** Lenten Devotional 6 pm on-line only

**March 24** † Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**March 28** † Maundy Thursday Divine Service at 6 pm/ Holy Communion

**March 29** † Good Friday Service at 12 Noon in person and on-line.

**March 31** † Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 24th Divine Service at 10 a.m. Indoor Worship & Online**

This day marks the beginning of Holy Week, when Jesus entered into Jerusalem to shouts of, "Hosanna in the Highest, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord." Don't miss this beautiful service and remember to invite a friend.

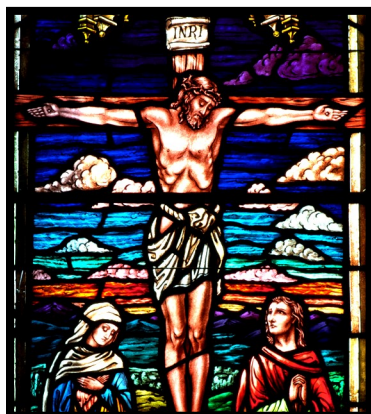


### **Maundy Thursday, Divine Service March 28th at 6 p.m. In-person and Online**

Traditionally, Maundy Thursday is the day we observe the night Jesus washed His Disciples' feet and instituted the Lord's Supper of Holy Communion. Another tradition is the enacting the "Stripping of the Altar" at the end of Worship as we remove the signs of Glory in preparation for our Lord's Death. This is the sacred night when Jesus gave His mandates (Latin: Mandatum) to serve one another as represented in Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, and to, "Do this in remembrance of Me," referring to the institution of the Lord's Supper, remembering the final evening before Jesus died.

### **Good Friday, March 29th at 12 Noon. In person Worship & Online**

This most Holy day of the Church year and recalls the day Jesus died and the sky turned black. As we read His seven final Words from the cross we will extinguish the Candle Stand, candle by candle, until all candles have been extinguished. This is a somber, reflective day that reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for us. Please join us in-person in the Sanctuary, or on Facebook or Pilgrim's website for the "Service of Darkness."



## Sunday Gospel Readings for March 2024

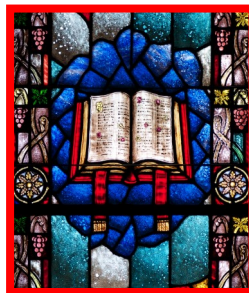
March 3, 2024 John 2:13-22

March 10, 2024 John 3:14-21

March 17, 2024 John 12:20-33

March 24, 2024 Mark 14:1-15:47

March 31, 2024 Mark 16:1-8



## STRATEGIC PILLARS For PILGRIM

1. Connected Meaningfully in Worship
2. Connected in Spiritual Formation through Intergenerational Christian Education
3. Connected Sustainably to our Future through our Gifts and Resources
4. Connected in Witness and Service to our Neighborhood (including digital connection)
5. Connected in Partnership with Pacifica Christian High School
6. Connected in Care with One Another

### Upcoming Events

Please join us for our Maundy Thursday Divine service on March 28th at 6 pm and On line at 6 pm. Our Good Friday service will be held in person and on-line at 12 Noon.

**Comedy in the Courtyard**, Saturday, March 23 from 2-4 p.m. Hosted by Matthew and Chloe, featuring Lizzie Boeck and Jared Kassebaum You are invited to join us and present your comedy / jokes. This will be a time for fun and laughter for all. Please invite your family and friends!

### Pilgrim's 2024 "Budget Hearing / Review "

Thank you to all who participated in the 2024 Budget information meetings We want our congregation to be well informed on how we use the Lord's gifts from our Pilgrim family and friends. The 2024 Budget was approved by the congregation Sunday, February 25th.

### Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Do not forget to set your clocks ahead one hour, Saturday night, March 9th.



### Easter Sunday Divine Service March 31st at 10 a.m. Indoor Worship and Online

Easter Sunday is The Day of Days and the reason the Christian Church Worships on a Sunday, as a remembrance of when Jesus rose from the dead and changed everything! Special music and Alleluias will bless you on this day. Be sure to invite a friend. "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!"

For all of you who would like to help Pilgrim successfully meet our 6th Strategic Priority—CONNECTED IN CARE WITH ONE ANOTHER, we invite you to join a new group we are calling “THE CARE CREW.” Your task would be to keep our members who are homebound or dealing with health issues in our hearts and minds. Please contact Carolyn B. or Bonnie if you are interested in joining CARE CREW. We recently started this and our Care Crew has been reaching out to those who cannot attend Pilgrim in person and to those who need extra help.

From Barbara:

Stewardship.....a Way of LIFE!

Cherish what God has given you!

We at Pilgrim examined our “Gift Baskets” and made commitments last November as we concluded our Stewardship program for 2023. The results of increased participation, attendance, and increased giving have been amazing. **Thank you, Pilgrim**, for your generosity and faithfulness! This is a blessing from God; a blessing that you have brought forth in your willingness to respond to God’s providence.

MONTHLY REMINDER: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

Looking for volunteers on our Stewardship Committee. Not a big commitment...I need your ideas and prayers! Barbara Phinizy, Stewardship Chair, [barbara.phinizy@pilgrims.org](mailto:barbara.phinizy@pilgrims.org)

*Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,<sup>[1]</sup> with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8*

**The Lutheran Hour** was first broadcast Oct. 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world’s oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. To listen: go to LHM podcasts: <https://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> For 24/7, go to: <https://www.lhm.org/>. **Pilgrim’s Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D, can be heard on the Lutheran Hour. His remaining 2024 schedule is: May 5, 2024 and July 21, 2024.** BIO: John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D., a Lutheran pastor since 1991, currently serves at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, California. In 2022, he was appointed a Senior Fellow for the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy. Previously, he has served as the president of Concordia College-New York and the President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief. Born in Montego Jamaica, raised in Canada, John has lived in the U.S. since 1981. His diverse experience ranges from holding an endowed professorate at Valparaiso University to leading inner-city ministries in Dallas, Texas and Detroit, Michigan. John is a graduate of Concordia University, Ann Arbor MI (BA), Concordia Seminary, St Catharines, ON, Canada (M.Div), and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (ThM and PhD). He also has three honorary doctorates. John is married to Monique Nunes, a graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor (BA) and Webster University, St Louis (MA). She currently serves as the Associate Dean for Student Engagement at Concordia University Irvine, California. They have six children and thirteen grandchildren, and together lead the consulting group Nunes and Associates.

**Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries**  
**Birthdays in March**

Carolyn E.	March 2
Isabella S.	March 4
Beverlee G.	March 7
Sandra W.	March 9
Dietmar K.	March 13
Nicholas K.	March 16
Kathy H.	March 30



**Let the church office know when your Birthday or Anniversary is!**

**“News from Pastor Nunes”**

BE YOUR NEW SELF!

Recently, I was asked to prepare a Bible Study based on a song titled “Old Man New Man,” by the hip hop artist, Flame. Thanks, Mat Mulligan, for your assist in this. I was captivated by one of the lyrics, a bracing line, that describes the spiritual struggle that Christians face. He called it a “civil war inside of me.”

Our old selves are drowned in the waters of baptism, but they’re really good swimmers, and sin creeps back into our lives daily. Being born again in baptism means we are dead to sin and being renewed from the inside out, regenerated! The work of salvation was been completed on Calvary’s cross when Jesus said, “It is finished.” In this life, however, we’ve only just begun to realize that gift and for most believers, including St Paul, this is a fight: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do” (Romans 6:19).

Lent is a good time to take inventory and to repent. 1) Identify your particular struggle against sin. Gossip? Gluttony? Greediness? Grouchiness? 2) Name it specifically. 3) Isolate what prompts you not “to do the good you want.” 4) Claim the name of Jesus given to you in baptism and pray directly against that trait. 5) Practice resisting temptation and the devil will flee from you.

The Holy Spirit will thwart sin, but not against your will. Victory for your and my spiritual civil war is available. Be the **new self** God has created you to be.

Blessed Lent,

Pastor John



## In Our Prayers. . . .

### Prayers of Intercession

Verna— pneumonia  
Jan—knee surgery  
Mothers & Babies  
Brad, Enteritis  
Mark F. seriously ill  
Goldie, for peace  
For those with Dystonia  
For James, Speech Apraxia  
For Randy—breathing issues  
Mark C.—Lungs  
Roger H. —Hepatitis C  
Medical personnel, first responders  
Hilda's mother Berjik, Health  
Tiffany's mother and family  
Social Justice, End of Racism  
Kathy, heart and shoulder  
Grace, Dystonia  
Edith A. shoulder  
Pearl R. Stroke recovery  
Jim K, myasthenia gravis & cancer  
Corine, health  
Julia A. fibromyalgia, arthritis  
Cyndy for heart issues  
Mary's mother  
Pastor G. health and eyesight  
Frank, ALS  
Annie, Cystic Fibrosis  
Greater Evangelism  
Marriage difficulties  
Unemployment  
Lamar, needs housing  
Natalie-Restoration  
Alex B. for recovery  
Mary Ann's health  
Kathy H's sister Alice—MS  
For Missionaries  
Laurie's mother  
Abused children  
Steve G. tumors  
Linda with Alzheimer's  
Peace on Earth toward all people!

### Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Corby, cancer  
Valerie—cancer  
Jackson, lymphoma, friend of Kimshelley & Joe  
Valerie in Chicago  
Bob's cousin Doug, pancreatic cancer.  
Ramona's niece Harriett and Harriett's' husband Dan, both fighting cancer  
JoAnna, breast cancer  
Russel-pancreatic cancer  
Myrna, Bob's stepmom  
Susan M.  
Rudolph A.  
George D. Bladder cancer  
Cezanne, intestinal cancer  
Carole, stomach  
Cindy C.  
Monique Y.  
Steve H.  
Susan S.  
Ken B.  
Hilda's husband Jim  
Ivan P.  
Dana A.  
Kay T.  
Kim  
Zack  
Charles (prostate)  
Rich Z.  
Greg W.  
Paul  
Jill  
Paul  
Arminda, kidney cancer  
**Continued Prayers**  
Protection for Police Officers & Firefighters  
Protection for our troops  
Jews for Jesus Ministry  
The ill and lonely  
Persecuted Christians  
Andrew S. in military

### Prayers of Praise & Thanks

For the Resurrection of Jesus!  
For our Wonderful Country!  
For Pilgrim's Wonderful Volunteers!

### Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you hear and honor our prayers, as we pray for healing for those who are sick, for comfort for those who are dying and for happiness for those who have been healed and are living successful lives. We know you hear our prayers, and you are in control, not us. We thank you for your beautiful planet, your beautiful trees, flowers, oceans, rivers, mountains and animals. We thank you for your wonderful diverse planet of many countries, many cultures, and many variations in their climate. We thank you for our wonderful USA and we ask that you bless and protect us, guide us and lead us. For those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, we ask that through your work here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, via our Pastor Nunes and our volunteers, we may bring unbelievers to Jesus Christ. For those who are already believers, we ask that they continue to support Pilgrim and Pastor Nunes and increase in-person participation here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA.

In Jesus Name, Amen





**We held an amazing Outdoor Imposition of Ashes, Ash Wednesday event, February 14, 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> St and Wilshire Blvd.** Thank you to all participated We desired to reach out to the community. We plan to hold this outdoor Holy event every Ash Wednesday. The event was a huge success and Pastor Nunes applied ashes to 131 people, most of them approached us as strangers walking down Wilshire. They were very appreciative. We stood on the corner for five hours and afterwards, Pastor Nunes held an in-person Divine Worship Service at 6 p.m.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> was a special Sunday at Pilgrim! Huge success! Pilgrim and Pacifica were honored to have Dr Anthony Bradley, author, speaker, scholar, appear Friday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 18 at Bible Study 8:30 a.m.** We plan to hold additional Pacifica/Pilgrim events. Dr. Bradley's newest book, *Heroic Masculinity: How Fraternities Can Save Colleges and America (2023)*, seeks to rescue fraternities from a bad reputation caused by the outrages of a few and promote them instead as Tocquevillian communities that are uniquely suited to address soaring rates of substance abuse, anger, and despair by providing men with the support, friendship, and role models.



**February 18<sup>th</sup> New Members were received.** We want to welcome Katie, Lizzie, Verna, Dominic Rivkin, Cassie, and Marianne to our Pilgrim family. On **February 25<sup>th</sup>** John, Ian, and Mary were received into our Pilgrim Family. May the Lord richly bless you and keep you!

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** Synod's Office of National Mission also attended Pilgrim on February 18<sup>th</sup>! They were able to join us and receive information on how we are proceeding at Pilgrim., PSD President Michael Gibson, was also present on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Pilgrim Santa Monica is a critical part of our LCMS Pacific Southwest District.

Retreat at St Andrews Abby Feb 2-4, 2024



Photos taken from the wonderful Pacifica-Pilgrim event we held February 16-18th. Anthony Bradley PhD was the featured speaker. Wonderful food was served and an inspiring message was given to all. This event was very well attended. Our Pacifica-Pilgrim partnership is well established. Full face photo is of Pastor at Concordia University, Texas.



Thank you to all who made my birthday so special. Thank you Jane and Sara, for all you prepared. I have been unable to hand write Thank You notes because I fell the next day and fractured two bones on my right wrist and am wearing a large cast. Thank you for your prayers. This entire March newsletter has been typed with my left hand. Blessings to my Pilgrim family, Kathy