Everyday Catholicism

What Does the Sanctuary Lamp Tell Us?

Have you ever noticed the small lamp burning near the tabernacle in a Catholic church? We call it the sanctuary lamp, and that little flame tells us something extraordinary: the Blessed Sacrament is reserved there. Jesus Christ is present among his people.

The imagery of light in God's presence reaches deep into Scripture. As Israel journeyed through the wilderness, the Lord went before his people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). Later, in the sanctuary, God commanded that lamps be kept burning before him (Exodus 27:20–21). These were not the sanctuary lamp we know today, but they gave God's people a familiar language: light could remind them that the Lord was near.

As Christians came to reserve the Eucharist in churches, the practice developed of keeping a lamp near the place where the Blessed Sacrament was kept. Over time this became an established practice of the Church. Today a special lamp burns near the tabernacle to indicate and honor Christ's Eucharistic presence.

The lamp itself does not make Christ present. It points to the One who is present. At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ through the consecration. And Christ's Eucharistic presence does not end when Mass is over. When consecrated hosts remain, they are reserved in the tabernacle, especially so that Holy Communion may be brought to the sick and dying. This is why the Church continues to honor the reserved Eucharist with such reverence.

So, when you enter the church and see that little flame, let it interrupt you for just a moment. Before thinking about where to sit, whom you need to speak with, or what you need to do next, look toward the tabernacle. Genuflect if you are able, not toward the lamp, but toward Christ present in the Eucharist. Perhaps that can be our practice this week. Notice the lamp. Let that little flame turn your attention toward Jesus and make a simple act of faith: "My Lord and my God." The lamp is small. What it announces is not.

Catechism Connection: Exodus 13:21; 27:20–21; John 20:28; CCC 1374, 1378–1379.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The Stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone and it is wonderful in our eyes?"
— Matthew 21:33-43

Mass Intentions

Sat.	03	+Elizabeth & James Penne
Sun.	04	+Linda Pearson
Mon.	05	+Margaret J. Bono
Tues.	06	Editha Andres
Wed.	07	+Frances & Arthur Hessler
Thurs.	08	St. Joseph's Parishioners
Thurs.	08	(Spanish) Todos los fieles difuntos
Fri.	09	Gary & Bonnie Nelson
Sat.	10	+Jim & Frances Solum
Sun.	11	+Barbara Sharp

October 4, 2026

Most Rev. Ramón Bejarano
Bishop of Monterey

Rev. Martel Ramos
Pastor
Pastor@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
10:00 AM–4:30 PM
Friday — Closed

Parish Staff
Judy Ann Cross
Business Administrator
BusinessAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Mass Schedule
Monday–Friday — 9:00 AM
Thursday — 6:30 PM (Spanish)
Saturday Vigil — 5:00 PM
Sunday — 10:00 AM

Rosary
Weekdays — 8:30 AM

Confessions
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass
First Saturday — 4:00 PM

Adoration & Benediction
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass

Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary. During this month, we are invited to meditate on the life of Jesus with Mary and to deepen our relationship with Christ through this beautiful prayer. This Wednesday, October 7, we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

During the month of October, let us make a commitment to pray the Rosary daily, whether at home, with our families, or here in our church. Monday through Friday during the month of October, we pray the Rosary here in church at 8:30 AM, followed by Holy Mass at 9:00 AM. Please join us as we entrust our needs, our families, and our world to the intercession of our Blessed Mother and allow her to lead us always to her Son.

Supporting Our Parish

If you would like to make a special gift to Saint Joseph Parish, you may designate your donation to our Capital Campaign, which supports major parish projects such as the rectory, or to our Building and Maintenance Fund, which helps care for and maintain our church and parish facilities.

Thank you for your generosity and support of Saint Joseph. Online giving is available through the parish website at saintjosephcayucos.org, where you may choose from these and other giving categories.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for parishioners to serve at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass as Lectors, Altar Servers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are willing to serve, please contact the parish office.

Adoration and Benediction

Join us each Friday for Adoration immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass, followed by Benediction.

This quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament gives us an opportunity to remain with Jesus, bring Him our prayers, and rest in His presence. All are welcome.

Bible Sharing

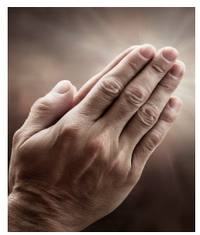
Please join us every Wednesday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for Bible Sharing. We reflect on the readings for the following Sunday and listen to how God's Word speaks to our lives. Come and share with us, or simply listen. Everyone is welcome.

Respect Life Month

Today, October 4, we join Catholics throughout the United States in observing Respect Life Sunday and beginning Respect Life Month. The Church invites us to renew our gratitude for the gift of human life and our commitment to protect and cherish every person, especially those who are most vulnerable. Every human life has God-given dignity, from conception to natural death. This includes the unborn and their mothers, the sick, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the poor, and all who are suffering or forgotten.

During this month, let us ask the Lord to help us recognize his image in every person and to make our parish a community where every human life is welcomed, protected, and loved.

If there is someone you would like us to remember at Mass during Respect Life Month, please contact the parish office and give us the person's name. No details are necessary. Together, let us entrust them to the loving care of God.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND INJURED

We are updating our parish prayer list. If you or a loved one is sick, injured, or in need of prayer, please contact the parish office so we may add the name to the list. To help us keep the list current, please also let us know when a name may be removed.

Steve Santi	Carlos Cortes	Eric Solum
Stan Piwaworski	Mary Moloney	Glen Bennett
Jim & Joanne Tobias	Mickey Bruno	Bonnie Bowman
Innette Starkenburg	Gary & Bonnie Nelson	Bill Mazzacane
Steve Buller	Butch Rambaud	Editha Andres
Michael Shields	Marina Taverner	William Baldwin
Camelia Cross	Keith Hart	Sandy Johnson