



PADRE
SERRA
PARISH

Encounter Jesus, Be Disciples

DECEMBER 24, 2023 · FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Fr. Patrick, and all the ministers,
staff and volunteers of Padre Serra Parish,
wish you a very blessed and merry Christmas.*

See page 2

<p>Readings</p>	<p>Join</p>	<p>Donate</p>	<p>Directory</p>	<p>Map</p>
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Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24
4th Sunday of Advent Mass
10:00 am

Christmas Eve Masses
4:00, 6:30, and 10:00 pm, in the church
4:15 pm, in the Serra Center

Monday, December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
10:00 am, in the church

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!
Bring your family, your friends,
and neighbors. All are welcome!




GATHERING

Lead Us To Your Light

Carol E. Browning

Refrain

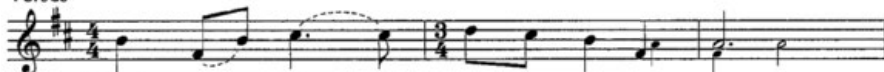


Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Verses



1. Lord, we a - wait your com - ing to our world;
2. Lord, you are hope and heal - ing for our world;
3. Come, O come, O come, Em - man - u - el.
4. Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slum - ber,
5. Child of the light and love be - yond all tell - ing,



D.C.

bring us the gift of sal - va - tion.
 come, now, and bring us your good news.
 Come with us on earth here to dwell.
 ban - ish the dark - ness of night.
 fill our hearts with won - der and praise.

Text: Carol E. Browning, b.1956
 Tune: Carol E. Browning, b.1956
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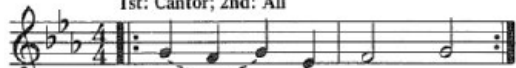


PENITENTIAL RITE

Advent Wreath Service

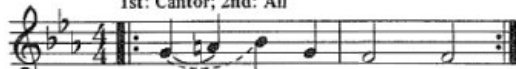
John Schiavone

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All



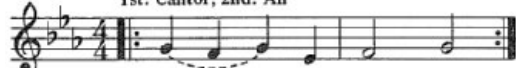
(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All



(petition) Chri - ste e - lei - son.
 (Christ, _____ have mer - cy.)

1st: Cantor; 2nd: All



(petition) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.)

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Reading 1

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading 2

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Come, Emmanuel!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM


Psalm 89: For Ever I Will Sing

Marty Haugen

Refrain



For ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the



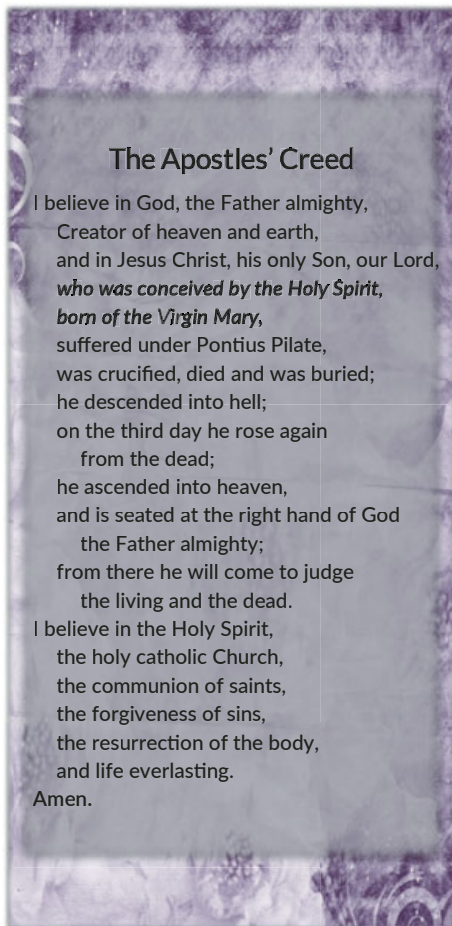
Lord, the good - ness of the Lord.

1. I have found David my servant, with my holy oil I have anointed him, that my hand may ever be with him and my arm make him strong.
2. My faithfulness and love shall be with you, in my Name your name will be exalted.
3. He shall cry to me, "My God, my rock of salvation, my salvation."

Text: Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27-29, © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; alt. verses 21-22, 25, 27, Marty Haugen, © 1988, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL
 Music: Marty Haugen, © 1988, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Behold.
I am the handmade
of *the Lord.*
May it be done to
me according to
your word.

Luke 1:38



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Alleluia

Michael Joncas, Gather #411

Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia,
hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, ICEL.
Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

INTERCESSION RESPONSE

"Mass of the Father's Love"

Divinum Mysterium, arr. Carol Browning

Hear us Lord, O hear our prayer.

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*May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of His name,
for our good and the good of all His holy Church.*

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

"Mass of the Incarnate Word"

Bob Hurd

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Blessed is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Memorial Acclamation

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your
 Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

Amen

A-men, a-men, a-men.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
 world, have mer-cy on us.
 world, grant us peace.

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COMMUNION SONGS

Bread of Life

Bernadette Farrell

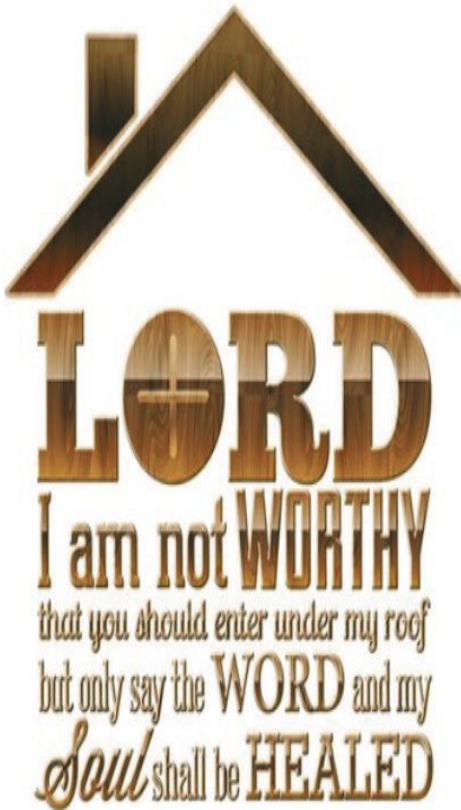
Refrain
 Bread of life, hope of the world, Je-sus Christ, our broth-er:
 feed us now, give us life, lead us to one an-oth-er.

Alternate Verses: for Advent/Christmas

Adv. 1. Be with your peo-ple, Lord, send us your sav-ing Word: Je-sus
 Adv. 2. Bring to our world of fear the truth we long to hear: Je-sus
 Chr. 1. A child is born for us, a son is giv'n to us, In our
 Chr. 2. With our own eyes we see, with our own ears we hear The sal-
 Chr. 3. You are the hope of all, our prom-ise and our call, Ra-diant

to Refrain
 1. Christ, light of glad-ness, come a-mong us now.
 2. Christ, hope of a-ges, come to save us now.
 1. midst, Christ, our Lord and God comes as one who serves.
 2. va-tion of all the world, God's in-car-nate Word.
 3. light in our dark-ness, truth to set us free.

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O Come, O Come, EMMANUEL

SENDING FORTH

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high And
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In



1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our



1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. ty and awe.
 4. o'er the grave.
 5. mis - er - y.
 6. put to flight.
 7. Prince of Peace.



el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

Christmas Innocence

Do you remember your childhood enthusiasm for Christmas? I hope so.

Yes, of course, there may well have been a healthy interest in presents and hoped-for toys, and lists for Santa Claus.

How could children resist wrapped presents under the Christmas tree with *their* names on it? Who could blame you at the time? I certainly hope you don't blame yourself for childhood materialism. You were a child, after all.

Still, didn't the magic of the Christmas tree itself, the lights and bulbs, catch your attention? Maybe there were homemade ornaments, perhaps even made by you, and brought out each year, even though, maybe, they weren't the most beautiful items. They were still beloved because of the effort and memories.

I hope that as a child you had a chance to bake and eat Christmas treats! Angel cookies! Nut squares! Fudge! Chocolate mints! Well, anything chocolate! Perhaps you managed to ruin a meal or two with your childhood indulgence?

And, I bet all the figures in the nativity scene charmed you: animals and angels, shepherds and kings, a mom and a dad with a baby. Perhaps you arranged them, setting the sheep to chat with the donkey, the shepherds to converse with kneeling wise men? That's what my younger siblings did.

There was so much room for Christmas enthusiasm as a child, when we were innocent.

If you're like me, though, looking back over decades of Christmases, you might not want any more "stuff." Presents may have lost their charm. And you may have to be the one putting up the tree, aware that only weeks from now you'll be taking it down again, too. And if your doctor is as fiercely determined to save you from yourself as mine is to keep me healthy, then a lot of the treats are temptations best kept at a distance.

And then, there is the world around us, with fierce politics coming our way in a looming election year, and our own need to make choices, budget, keep informed and engaged. The press will provide us a relentless stream of struggle, pain and violence. It's how they sell what they have. Do we know too much, doubt and grieve too much?

Is innocence even available to us anymore?

I hope so.

God still breaks into the world to love us, and tell us that our lives have purpose and meaning. We need never be alone – He'll always be with us, teaching us the way to share our lives with one another, nourishing our human longing. There *can* be peace for those on whom God's favor rests.

So, I encourage you. Sneak a piece of fudge when your doctor's not looking, and go play with the figures in the nativity scene. The donkey still has interesting things to share with the sheep. And there's a baby, whose arms are wide open, hoping you'll pick Him up, make a place for Him in your heart, and find some real joy.

I wish you and yours the best, most innocent and hopeful Christmas of your lives!

Fr. Patrick

Fr. Patrick
Pastor



Children

Age 3 to Grade 8.

Stay and Play ~ January 7, 14, 21, 28

12 - 36 months. Sundays during the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Mass. The Stay and Play team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will resume on January 7. Mrs. Soraya and helpers lovingly care for your little one (12 - 36 months) while you attend Mass. No-cost service in the Carmel rooms. For more information, contact soraya@padreserra.org



Cherubs Music Program

For kids in Preschool through Grade 2. Did you know that the most critical age for a child's music development is from birth to age 9? Preregistration is required. Please email Lisa at cherubs@padreserra.org for more information. Visit www.padreserra.org/cherubs

Little Church ~ January 7, 14, 21, 28

Age 3 through Kindergarten. Mrs. Soraya and the Little Church team wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will resume on January 7. Sunday preschool during the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Mass. Children must be registered to attend; visit www.padreserra.org/registration. For more information, contact soraya@padreserra.org

Children's Liturgy of the Word ~ January 7, 14, 21, 28

Grades 1 - 5. Offered during 11:00 am Mass. The Children's Liturgy of the Word wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We resume on January 7. Children are invited to listen to the readings and Gospel, read and explained at their level. No preregistration is required. **Leaders Needed!** No Experience Necessary; contact tere@padreserra.org for more information.

Spark! ~ January 8 and 10

Grades 1 - 5. The Children's Faith Formation Team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We resume sessions on January 8 and 10. For more information, contact jennifer@padreserra.org or christine@padreserra.org

Children's & Middle School Choir

All children grades 3 to 8 are invited! No experience is necessary. Weekly rehearsals, every Wednesday, 5:00 pm. For more info, visit www.padreserra.org/cmcs

Three-Sixteen

Middle school ministry ~ Grades 6, 7, and 8. For more information, please get in touch with tere@padreserra.org

High School

Everyone from 14 to 18 is welcome!

4:12 ~ Youth Group Gatherings

Join Brett and peer leaders for fun and fellowship on Wednesdays

from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in San Juan Capistrano rooms. Follow us on Instagram [@pspyouth](https://www.instagram.com/pspyouth) for more information, or contact brett@padreserra.org

Confirmation Y1 - January 7

The Youth Ministry wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; we resume on January 7. For more information, contact youth@padreserra.org

Confirmation Y2 ~ Weekly Ministry

If you have not yet gotten started or have any questions regarding sessions, please get in touch with youth@padreserra.org or tere@padreserra.org

Adults

Bible Study ~ January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Dr. Ford leads a weekly study of the upcoming Sunday readings, which helps us better understand scripture, the Gospel message, and how it applies to our lives. Resource books are available for purchase, or bring your Bible or smart device. 8:30 - 9:30 am, Serra Center. Contact Paul Ford paulfford@stjohnsem.edu

Conversational Spanish ~ January 2, 16

We gather to share faith, fun, and Spanish. Come learn and practice Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and conversation to help you gain confidence and feel more comfortable in everyday situations. All levels are welcome. First and third Tuesday, 9:45 - 10:45 am, San Fernando room. Patricia Guzmán spanish@padreserra.org

Healing from Divorce ~ January 2, 16

A support group for those dealing with divorce, whether in the earliest stages of grief, the initial stages of coping with severe changes, or through the worst of it and now looking to move forward, grow, and serve. First and third Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Zoom. Cynthia cynthia@padreserra.org. Visit www.padreserra.org/divorce

Bereavement Support Groups ~ January 4, 18

Grief can be overwhelming and difficult to understand and navigate, but you don't have to do it alone. Our bereavement support groups offer mutual support to those who have lost a loved one through death. Morning session at 10:00 and afternoon session at 2:00. San Fernando room. Betty Bright Martinez (805) 407-3000, bettybright41@gmail.com, visit www.padreserra.org/bereavement

First Friday Adoration ~ January 5

We can show our adoration to God in many ways, but in Eucharistic Adoration, we spend time — even just 10, 20, or 30 minutes — adoring the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Come rest in silent prayer with our good and gracious God. 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Or commit to a holy hour: adoration@padreserra.org, visit www.padreserra.org/adoration

Bible Faith Share ~ January 8, 22, 29

Faith sharing on Sunday's readings, Mondays 8:45 - 9:45 am, San Juan Capistrano room. Sherry Reynolds sherryr2256@gmail.com. Visit www.padreserra.org/faith-sharing

Chronic Pain Support Group ~ January 8

Living (or suffering) with chronic pain is a challenge that can strain both spirits and relationships, but that journey can be lightened by those who understand. Join us as we share our stories, resources, and other life tips. We offer one another comfort, hope, and support, journeying toward God's loving peace. Second Monday, 10:30 am. Marcia mjgalles@gmail.com or Dave dave.mccormick.mba@gmail.com. Visit www.padreserra.org/chronic-pain

St. Vincent de Paul ~ January 9, 23

Looking for a way to give back? Want to make a difference in someone's life? Consider St. Vincent de Paul, our parish's outreach ministry to the poor, hungry, homeless, and needy in our midst. Visit their meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm Carmel room. svdp@padreserra.org

Cancer Support Group ~ January 11

We provide hope, empowerment, love, and prayer in a comforting atmosphere of encouragement. It is a safe environment for people touched by cancer to connect with others in a productive and spiritual way. Second Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, San Fernando room. Contact teresa@padeserra.org. Visit www.padreserra.org/cancer

Caregivers Support Group ~ Returns January 30

Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know possible (Tia Walker). It can also be tiresome and lonely. Don't do it alone. Our *Caritas* group supports those caring for an aging parent, spouse, or relative. No December meeting. 7:00 pm, San Fernando room. Contact Patricia sentclan@gmail.com. Visit www.padreserra.org/caritas

Becoming Catholic

Various Paths to Becoming Catholic

Call or email Mary Huebner today for more information: (805) 482-6417 x321 or becomingcatholic@padreserra.org. Visit www.padreserra.org/becoming-catholic

In the Community

Diaconate Information Day ~ January 14

The Lord called, and Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Is the Lord calling you to the diaconate? The archdiocese is offering a virtual information session from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Any men between the ages of 30 and 55 who feel a possible call to the ministry of deacon are encouraged to contact Fr. Patrick frpatrick@padreserra.org

Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorced Parents

Life-Giving Wounds is offering a retreat March 1 - 3 to help adult children (18+) of divorced or separated parents move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' relationship to their deepest origin and identity as God's beloved, capable of great love. Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside. Scholarships are available upon request for participants from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; contact Julie jmonell@la-archdiocese.org. Details/registration: <https://rcbo.org/acod>

Faith Sharing Question

Reflection questions for every gathering around any table

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Blessed are you among women!

Today's gospel highlights Mary's special role in God's plan of salvation as she humbly accepts God's will. Angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us — he loves us just as we are. Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life? What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

Prayer Life

Pray for Our Sick

Mary Ahearn, Blanca Alegria de Rivera, Ronald Anthony, Nicole Barrera, Myra Beltran, Mary Butler, Chris Cartaino, Fermin Cortes, Rita DaCorsi, Ben Fisco, Bobby Floyd Jr., Bobby Floyd III, Joanie Forte, Helen Galang, Jose Galvan, Tim Graf, Wendy Grasso, Jasna Haller, Lisa Hiatt, Barbara Humphrey, Kate Johnson, Eric Johnson, Michael Johnson, Amber Lewing, Matthew Lewing, Sheila Lewing-Floyd, Mary Ellen Massman, Dave McDonnell, Bob McNally, Mandor Medrovich, Thomas Mingay, Ron Mongeau, Ed Morera, Mary Mullen, Flower Nguyen, Ruben Nieva, Maria Luisa Orelan, Daniel Orr, Angela Ortiz, Dave Proett, Mike Robles, Matthew Savage, Laurie Schulze, Irene Siddons, Dorothy Simmons, Bill Stevens, Andrew Tamayo, Silvia Venegas, Terri Vosper, Rita Wronkiewicz, Amanda Yeager and Jerry Zins Sr. (*Names are refreshed monthly.*)

Remember Our Dead

Prayers for family and friends of those who have died recently:

Joseph Doan, RIP
Peter Hill, RIP
Carolyn McGrath, RIP
Jerry Pohl, RIP
Monica Tolosa Bravo, RIP

Beloved mother of Marjorie Corpuz

Mark Vanvakaris, RIP

May they enjoy peace in their life with Christ Jesus.

Funerals

- Dr. Alicia Bryant ~ January 9, 10:00 am

For more information, visit www.padreserra.org/funerals

Giving

Together In Mission 'Shine His Light'

Goal: \$143,830

Year to Date: \$70,039 donated by 170 households

Gap: \$73,791 to reach our goal

Our parishes and schools desire to be the center of community life, reaching out to those in our midst to create moments for evangelization, to encounter Christ, and to encounter hope. However, some struggle to keep their doors open. Prayerfully, we ask for your support to share Christ's light, love, and hope with everyone. For questions, please get in touch with pam@padreserra.org. Envelopes are in the church lobby, or visit www.padreserra.org/tim

Mary Gregoryk | Dan McAllister

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Illuman

**Wednesday, December 27
7:00 pm, San Miguel room**

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Contact Dave McCormick,
dave.mccormick.mba@gmail.com

For more information
visit www.padreserra.org/men



New Year Masses

The Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am

Monday, January 1
10:00 am

Begin the New Year celebrating Mass. It is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the World Day of Peace, and the first day of New Year's resolutions. Visit

www.padreserra.org/new-year



Toastmasters

**Open House
Monday, January 8,
7:00 - 8:30 pm
San Juan Bautista room**

Learn more about the benefits gained in Toastmasters:

- Practice public speaking skills
- Polish leadership skills
- Building soft skills
- Lead effective and efficient meetings
- Learn in a safe and supportive environment

For more information, visit
www.padreserra.org/toastmasters



**Faith and the Journey
of Chronic Pain
and Illness**



**Maureen Pratt
Tuesday, January 23
7:00 pm, Serra Center**

Where is God when we suffer? Did I do something wrong to become so ill? Why doesn't God cure me?

Navigating life with chronic pain or illness can be very difficult and weigh down the body, mind, and spirit.

Maureen will offer scriptural, pastoral, and prayerful reflections on some of the most profound questions of suffering.

Free. RSVP appreciated, visit
www.padreserra.org/aff

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