

What is the St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer Library Project (SJGR)?

It is the efforts of volunteers at St. Margaret Mary to organize a collection of books, CDs, and DVDs into a lending library for the parish and TORCH members.

What is TORCH?

TORCH stands for Traditions of Roman Catholic Homes, and is a support network for Catholic home schooling families in the East Bay Area. Many are parishioners of St. Margaret Mary.

St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, is the patron saint of our homeschool support group and then became the name of the library as well.

Where will the library be?

The library will operate from the stage in Fr. Kozina Hall.

What kind of materials will it have?

All the reading materials, CDs and DVDs will be of interest to Catholics, and will be loyal to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. Our aim is to help & support parishioners grow in their love for Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, within the loving arms of the Roman Catholic Church.

The library will also have a modest collection of materials of interest to parents to support them in the family adventure of educating their children at home, either full time or part time.

We will have a few classics that might not be readily available in public libraries.

Who will be able to borrow materials?

Any registered parishioner or member of TORCH will be able to borrow materials.

When will it open?

God willing, in 2017.

How did we get so many books?

The collection of books started as the TORCH Library- a modest collection of books of interest to homeschooling parents. It was then kept at the home of the group's librarian, and brought to events for parents to use.

We also got many books from parishioners and friends of St. Margaret Mary who heard of our project.

A little History...

Before he was made pastor of SMM, Father Zak was one of the priests that would say First Friday Mass for our group. One of the TORCH members would make arrangements with a centrally located parish in our diocese to allow us to have Holy Mass on First Friday mornings. This wasn't always easy as the motives of home school families weren't always understood.

When Fr. Zak became pastor of St. Margaret Mary, he welcomed the TORCH families to this parish. Since 2005, the TORCH community has had a Holy Mass said on First Friday of the month at St. Margaret Mary Church. After Mass we've gathered in Fr. Kozina Hall for lunch. At this time, we began to store the TORCH library in the hall.

The collection grew through donations from parishioners and friends who wanted to give their beloved Catholic books a good home.

Another parishioner donated solid bookcases and Fr. Zak had them installed on the stage area of the hall, and that's where they are today.

Why do we have book sales?

We receive books of all types from donations. We cannot keep all the books that people generously give us. The money raised from these book sales is used to purchase supplies, and new materials for the library.

These sales take time and effort too!

What is the status of the Library project?

The books are in the process of being sorted, categorized and labeled.

Want to help?

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the many tasks before us. Please contact Lily Mullen if you would like to help in any way or if you have any questions; (925) 827-1946 or lily.mullen@gmail.com