

September 25, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

By Julie Mussché

From the Book of Psalms

*Light shines on the godly,
And joy on those who do right.
May all who are godly be happy in the Lord.*

PSALM 97:11-12

Reflection

The other day while walking around St. Joseph Center garden during a reflection time, my eyes caught a splash of red at the edge of my view. I turned toward the color and was surprised to see a pomegranate tree laden with fruit. Ah, my ponderings went to *Rosh HaShanah*, the pomegranate featuring broadly and spiritually as a symbol of the season. The New Year celebration started the evening of September 15 and began a sacred time of self-assessment, repentance and community that culminated last evening and

today with *Yom Kippur*. This time features prominently in my spiritual practice.

There is a period of preparation and repentance preceding the New Year during the month of *Elul*. This year the weekly reflections I received were particularly stirring, with the focus on making time for reflection, remembering, prayer, community, and taking account. A comparable context with an Ignatian perspective -- consider a month-long Examen.

Last night's service, *Kol Nidre*, is always compelling and beautiful and the liturgy is emotionally riveting with a call to be humble in the presence of the Divine. The experience is like a great leveling; the assembly of the sinful and imperfect holding onto the promise of mercy and forgiveness with the return to godly ways. The service also invites introspection toward the existential realities of life and death with the tensions of such juxtaposed. What an amazing time -- blessings of the season be with you.



St. Joseph Center - Orange, CA
Photo by Julie Musch é

For Prayer

“As we bless the source of life so may we be blessed.”

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