



**Mauro & Maria Gonzalez 1905**

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**Jesse on his father's lap**

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**Jesse and Betty's Wedding**

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## **Jesse Gonzalez**

As St. James Catholic Church commemorates its 125th year, we want to acknowledge the Gonzalez family for their contribution to our Parish community.

Jesse Gonzalez served as an Altar Boy at St. James, and attended St. James Catholic School and Redondo Union High School.

At 102 years young, Jesse recalls growing up when much of Redondo Beach was covered by strawberry fields, there was a roller coaster on the Pier, locals swam at the "Plunge," and "The Red Car" travelled to Santa Monica.

Jesse's parents, Mauro and Maria Gonzalez first arrived in Redondo Beach in 1905 from Penjamo, Guanajuato, Mexico and have the distinction of being the first Hispanic family registered in Redondo Beach ([Mexican Americans in Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach California](#) by Alex Moreno Areyan circa 4/24/07).

Jesse met his beloved Betty at a high school dance, and on August 10, 1935 they were married at St. James Catholic Church.

Jesse started as a casual Longshoreman and rose through the ranks to retire as a Foreman. During his vacation time and weekends, Jesse, along with his father, built one of the first homes on the Avenues.

True to their life-long marriage commitment, Jesse and Betty had eight children, and celebrated 65 years together, before Betty's passing.

Jesse enjoys traveling, rooting for the Los Angeles Dodgers, attending Senior club lunches, and family backyard barbecues.

When asked what his secret for a long life is, he chuckles and answers, "apple cider vinegar." My best guess for Jesse's longevity is his love of family, having a fulfilled life and his Faith.



**Jesse Gonzalez 102 yrs young**

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