



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

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Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, occurs on March 2 this year.

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter (April 17). During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."

A LETTER FROM JESUS

Joan Nikolai

E-mail, texting, Facebook — each a unique communication tool of the 21st century. Extremely convenient and efficient, they can be very useful. However, as the new technology increases it's been noted that there is a decline in handwritten notes, letters and cards that for years have been a part of our lives. Finding a handwritten note in the mailbox always brings me a smile.

Experience has shown me that these handwritten missives not only convey the news, but often give me a glimpse into the writer's personality. A commemorative stamp, colored or decorative paper indicates time for choices. A yellow legal pad or pages torn from a notebook, erasure marks, crossed-out words, less than perfect grammar might indicate a busy life. A card with a particular focus and a few extra words picked with you in mind suggests an underlying friendship. All these bits and pieces not only bring you the writer's message but have the potential to give you a small insight into the person. And their life.

My sister's letters were one sentence long. That one sentence covered three pages broken by a few commas to separate family news items.

In her book *Fresh Bread*, Joyce Rupp challenges us to see ourselves as **a Letter from Jesus**. Our lives are the stationery upon which our letter is written. Each letter is as unique as we are. If our letter is to be authentic and true, it must come from our personal relationship with



LIBRARY NEWS

Jacqueline Henss



The Glories of Mary, by St. Alphonsus de Liguori (1750), has recently been donated to our library. The Saint treats of Mary's compassion and her powerful intercession – her power and mercy – as set forth in the prayer *Salve Regina*, the Latin name for the prayer Hail, Holy Queen.

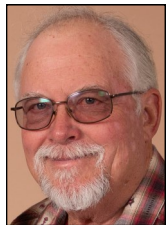
I loved perusing this volume. Its all pervading joy fills one's very soul with the same! My soul felt as though it were being caressed by Jesus and Mary who obviously inspired this work to come into being. Filled with such love and joy, I was constantly weeping tears of happiness in the reading!

You will find the book shelved on the top shelf of the bookcase, for now, where the sections include the Church and Jesus. After all, St. Liguori is a Doctor of the Church.

SEE JESUS, PAGE 2

OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Kevin Darr, President



KEVIN DARR
President

Fellow Society members:

Terri and I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

I wish to thank those who made the Holy sacrifice of the Mass so special on Christmas Eve including Fr. Colin and our choir, Sacristan, ushers and those preparing the building. I hope you were able to attend. It was special to hear voices once again in our mission church.

What a way to start the New Year!!!! We have lived here in Amador County for 10 winters and this is by far the craziest snow storm we have encountered during that time. Between blocked roads, fallen trees and lost power for many of us for days on end, this will be a very mixed welcome to 2022. We were gone from January 5th to the 12th. Upon returning we learned of some of the issues that our neighbors faced during this trying time. I want to thank **Connie Wright** for keeping myself, the board and **Joann Drake** of our Sunshine ministry updated on those needing a cheery note as a "pick-me-up". I would also like to thank **Ted Novelli** for his unselfish help with gaining accommodations for one of our own whose house was damaged during the storm. I'm sure there are many acts of kindness that have gone unheralded in our community. Thankfully, PG&E cleaned our parking lot, allowing Mass to begin much sooner than expected. This also required our January meeting to be postponed until January 26th creating a scheduled January/February meeting.

As I write this letter, we are in the surge of the latest COVID variant (OMICRON). Please stay safe.

Blessings,

Kevin

LATE-BREAKING NEWS

Recently decided upon at the last OLOP meeting were the following:

- *March OLOP Society meeting* moved to Wednesday, March 9.
- *Super Bowl Snack Sale* canceled this year.
- *St. Patrick's Day Dinner* canceled this year.
- *Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Soup Suppers* every Friday, March 4 - April 8, 4:30 PM.
- *Rummage Sale* Thursday-Saturday, June 2-3-4.
- *A couple of fun 'food events'* this summer and fall. Stay tuned!



SUNSHINE MINISTRY

Joann Drake
209-295-4243

This is a job that is very rewarding and an opportunity to know our parishioners. The main duties consist of sending get well; sympathy; special thought; birthday and anniversary cards to parishioners. Also calling people who are homebound, ill, having surgery plus much more is another way to send a little bit of sunshine. I love making my own cards and what better way to have people enjoy them. Of course that is just me, but store-bought cards are just as appreciative to anyone who needs a bit of cheer.

MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

We are looking for volunteers to help clean up church parking lot area. Call me (209-295-1302) if you have any questions.

Please be careful of ice and snow around church and hall area. Thank you.

Editor's Note: Other improvements around the church are the long-awaited new ceiling lights in the church and hall, new windows in the church (coming), and fresh paint in the hall restrooms (coming).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Kevin Darr



The Christmas/Advent season was a very busy time for our local Conference. As we have been blessed with donations from individuals and organizations, the goal was to spread that generosity with your neighbors in need and hopefully make their Christmas a little brighter.

Between Christmas gift cards to Walmart and helping with food, rent, propane and electricity among other requests, we supported the community with almost \$25,000 in funding helping over 70 families and individuals consisting of over 200 people.

We are looking for anyone interested in joining our conference in this spiritually enlightening ministry. Please call 209-223-5865 and leave a message or call me, **Kevin Darr**, at 209-296-2221.

RUMMAGE SALE PLANTS

Jacqueline Henss

In order to determine if plants will be offered at the rummage sale, we need to have an idea what may be available. Anyone who is thinking of donating house or garden plants in June please make contact with **Jacqueline** after Mass or at 209-419-0815 as soon as possible.

FROM PAGE 1

JESUS

Jesus. That relationship comes through prayer. Christ was a compassionate and forgiving risk taker. Confident in God's love, he struggled to do the Father's will. As we continue our Lenten journey, may our prayer, fasting and almsgiving truly reflect the presence of Christ in our life.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you: Colossians 3:5-17.



COME TO ME

Jacqueline Henss

Ash Wednesday, March 2, marks the Lenten preparation of our hearts and souls for the celebration of our Redemption on Easter. Our Blessed Lord, desiring that we trust completely in His Merciful Love so intrinsically connected with His passion, death and resurrection, asked for the establishment of a Feast of His Divine Mercy. "It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter" (St. Faustina's Diary 49). "On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls

... **The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment**" (699).

The Image with the signature, *Jesus, I trust in You*, to be displayed and venerated at the Sunday Feast was instituted by Our Lord as a "vessel with which (people) are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy" (327).

Jesus commanded St. Faustina to "Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy; let them profit from the Blood and Water which gushed forth for them" (848). "On the cross, the fountain of My mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls - no one have I excluded!" (1182).

Following St. Faustina's canonization in 2000, Pope St. John Paul II established the universal Feast as Jesus requested. (Mother Church also offers a plenary indulgence, with the usual conditions.)

This year, the Feast of Mercy is April 24, the Octave day of Easter. Anyone desiring a fuller understanding of our Savior's graces for living His Divine Mercy, please, leave your phone number at 209-419-0815. Copies of the *Diary*, His Image and a large array of booklets are available for a donation to our parish.



YMI NEWS

Ted Novelli

The Young Men's Institute #137 conducted an important meeting on January 26th. Please contact YMI President Ted Novelli for more information about the meeting.

FLOWER MINISTRY

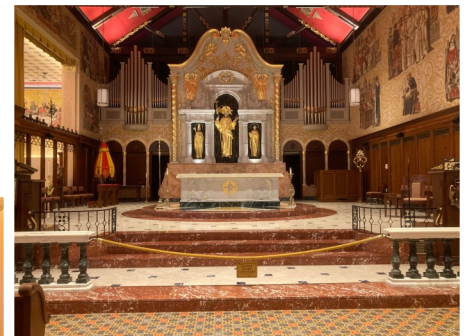
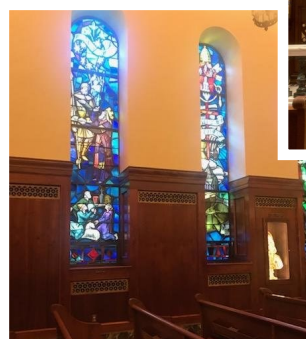
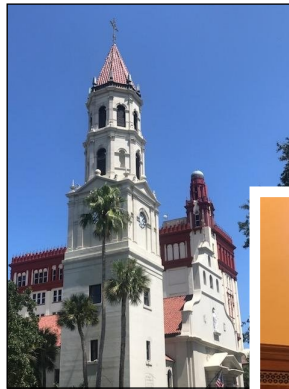
Jacqueline Henss

Some have expressed a desire to provide flowers for our Wednesday Divine Liturgy. Once the heavy snowstorms are no longer with us, cut flower arrangements or potted flowering plants will do well during the cool spring period. Sadly, the months of hotter weather are unsuitable for any live plant as the temperature in the church rises into the mid-eighties and beyond.

There are a couple of options for anyone bringing flowers during this sweltering period. They could be taken home rather than left at the church, or I can keep them where it is cool, and return them to the church the following Wednesday.

Give me a call if you have a special day in mind for donating flowers. If you are a new parishioner, and would like more information, give me a call and I will fill you in with the details. 209-419-0815.

Parishioner Travels



CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Cindy Harvey

My daughter and I visited another daughter in St. Augustine, Florida. St. Augustine claims to be the oldest city in the U.S.

While we were there we walked through the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. This Cathedral is beautiful and has amazing stained glass windows. The history is very interesting. It has Spanish roots, and the original churches burned down four times from 1586 to 1887 when it was rebuilt and expanded in the Spanish mission styling.

CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

Duomo Santa Maria Del Fiore (Florence, Italy)

Begun in 1296 in the Gothic style and completed in 1436, The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore is Florence's beautiful cathedral and symbol of the city and the fourth largest in Europe. It stands tall over the city with its magnificent Renaissance dome, remaining the largest brick dome ever constructed. The climb to the top (463 steps) is not for the faint of heart, but the view is superb.



Jakobskirche (St. Jakob's Church), Rothenburg ob der Tauber (Bavaria)

St. James, a Lutheran church in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Bavaria, is one of the churches on the pilgrimage route to St. James Church in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Built in the High-Gothic style, the church is famous for its high altar and religious artwork. St. James was built between 1311-1484 which means it probably



was a Catholic Church before the Reformation. The famous altar piece contains a relic: a drop of Christ's blood. In 1499, Rothenburg's town council ordered Tilman Riemenschneider, the famous sculptor and woodcarver from Würzburg, to build an altar to house this relic.

This central panel of the altar depicts the Last Supper. The central figure here, however, is Judas rather than Jesus.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to fulfill its mission of helping the poor, even through the pandemic. Your Beggar's Sunday donations are most appreciated! If you haven't already, consider donating via the parish's Electronic Giving or Text2Give programs. Visit our website for more information.

OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Kevin Darr
1st Vice President:	Ron Burns
2nd Vice President:	Barbara Garcia
Secretary:	Terri Darr
Treasurer:	Gary Sims

OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month, following the 11:30 AM Mass. **All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society.** There are no dues. Join us as we begin planning some fun events at Our Lady of the Pines. All are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement placed in the parish bulletin or a name placed on the parish prayer list, please contact the Bulletin Editor at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or bulletin@amadorcatholic.com. Deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend's bulletin.

PINE TIMES STAFF

Ray Waugh, Publisher
ray_waugh@juno.com or 209-295-1217
Connie Wright, Production Editor
cnwright@att.net or 209-223-9525
Cailey Strazzo-Dante, Photographer

Submit comments, compliments, questions, or articles to Ray Waugh, Publisher. Material submitted via email is very much appreciated.

PARISH WEBSITE

amadorcatholic.com
webmaster@amadorcatholic.com

I always love to begin a journey on Sundays because I shall have the prayers of the church to preserve all that travel by land, or water. — Jonathan Swift

