



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2018
VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

DAILY MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE PINES

By popular request, Father Colin Wen has brought back Daily Mass to Our Lady of the Pines. With his demanding schedule throughout the parish, we are blessed to have him preside at Mass on the **4th Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon**. Mass is followed by a period of confessions and Eucharistic Adoration, so our blessings are tripled with this additional sacrament and devotion. If you are able, please take advantage of this special day each month. Note that the



4th Tuesday Mass is subject to change, depending on Father Colin's schedule. The Mass could be precluded by funerals or other commitments, as well as inclement weather and winter road conditions.

Thanks, Father, for being sensitive to our needs!

Reminder: There is also Upcountry Mass and Adoration at St. Bernard Church on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. Confessions precede the Mass.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER



Connie Wright

The annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is quickly approaching! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 17** (the actual St. Patrick's Day) and join us for this traditional Irish feast. It's always a fun evening of good eats, great fellowship, and a lively raffle. All proceeds benefit the maintenance and charitable works of the Our Lady of the Pines Society, as well as our annual scholarship program and the parish youth ministry. Tickets go on sale soon - watch for announcements in the bulletin. The dinner always sells out, so buy your tickets early and get your green on!

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Joe Bertao

This will be my final article for the *Pine Times*. Our plan is to move to Jackson for health reasons. I've enjoyed my 10+ years of maintenance at OLOP, and all the help I've received. The grounds and the clean-up day, building of the storage sheds, and installing of the wood floor on the altar to name a few. I trust the next maintenance person gets as much help and support as I have been blessed with. Many of the projects I've completed have been paid for with funds from the OLOP Society, for which it was created. I'll be around for advice for a short while. Thank you for the opportunity in allowing me to be of service.

And speaking of the Bertaos...

*The Our Lady of the Pines Society extends its most heartfelt thanks to **Joe Bertao** for his years of dedicated and cheerful service to our church. He has been a skilled craftsman, a reliable and hard worker, and a good and steady man. **Susan Bertao** has been an influential leader in the Respect for Life movement, who has never wavered in her faith. The Bertaos have always been generous in sharing their time and talent whenever help was needed. God bless you, Joe and Susan! We will miss you both.*



KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS



TOM & IRENE STAPLETON

Tom was born in Stanford University Hospital during the tail end of the 1960's. It was said that his mother ran into folk singer Joan Baez in the hallway a few days after his delivery. Apparently, Mrs. Baez's son was born a few days before Tom just a few doors down. Tom grew up in the town of Sonoma throughout the 70's & 80's. He graduated from Sonoma Valley High in 1989 and then took some JC classes in Napa the following years. In the 90's Tom started a career in the transportation industry as a bus driver for Sonoma County Transit. By 1998 he initiated another career change and started working as Utility Forester for a PG&E contract. Soon after Tom was hired directly by PG&E and now works as a Hydro Electric Power Plant Operator at Tiger Creek Powerhouse in Pioneer.

Irene was born in a small village in central Mexico called Ojo Caliente in the 1970's. She grew up in a household with 10 other siblings. After graduating high school, she migrated to the US in the early 90's and worked in Lake County's agricultural industry canning pears. By the late 90's Irene took a job in the food preparation business as a deli cook preparing Mexican food. Today her hard work in this area has led to many smiling faces during the fall tamale drive for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Tom & Irene met in 1999 in Kelseyville at the deli where Irene worked. Soon after they started dating and married in 2000. They lived in Kelseyville until 2011 where Tom took a job transfer here to Amador County. Irene and Tom have been blessed with four

SEE STAPLETON, PAGE 2

OUR LADY of the PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, President



Happy New Year to one and all! It's a new year with new adventures as well as new challenges. First and foremost on the challenge list is the Mass attendance at Our Lady of the Pines (OLOP). From my vantage point with the choir on most Sundays, the attendance at our 11:30 Mass is bleak to say the least, with only about one half of our former parishioners still in regular attendance. It is very sad to think that many of our parishioners have abandoned us to other church locations due to the mid-day Mass time. Don't get me wrong, I don't care for the change either, but my wife and I have decided not to stop going to OLOP just because the Mass time is inconvenient.

In the 12 years we have been permanent residents in Pioneer, we have come to be very proud of our church family here and have made many good friends. The dedication to our Society by our faithful core group has never ceased to amaze me, and the results we have obtained from our social and fundraising activities have been amazing. I can't thank you enough for your sacrifices and hard work in achieving these results. To reiterate our by-laws, our fundraising activities were designed to maintain some aspects of our church and hall, to provide a scholarship every year to a Catholic youth and to support local charities as deemed appropriate by our Pastor. That being said, I must also say that many of our activities are in jeopardy of being discontinued due to the dwindling number of able-bodied helpers.

I ask you now to prayerfully consider coming back to OLOP for Mass and to get more actively involved in your Society. We need you in order that OLOP can continue to serve Catholic families in the upcountry area.

HAPPINESS IN A BAG

Joan Nikolai

Celebrating a birthday seems like an ordinary part of everyone's year. A cake, candles, birthday plates and napkins all help to mark the day as special. For toddlers, teens or seniors a birthday celebration brings a smile.

For families who rely on the Amador County Food Bank for assistance, a birthday celebration may not be so simple. How to provide families in need with the "ingredients" for a birthday celebration? The answer is a *Birthday Bag*. For many years the families in Faith Formation here at Our Lady of the Pines decorated and filled bags with 'ingredients' for a birthday celebration. Volunteers at the Food Bank reported that the Birthday Bags brought smiles, thanks, and often tears to the families who received them. We no longer have Faith Formation classes here at Our Lady of the Pines, but I hope this does not mean we abandon this outreach project.



As Lent approaches we are encouraged to embrace the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving. With the support of Our Lady of the Pines Society, I suggest that as part of our Alms Giving we once again take up the Birthday Bag Project. Cake mixes, frostings, a tube of gel for writing, birthday napkins and plates are the basics.

Watch the bulletin for details of where to deposit your contributions.

Thank you for your participation. The generosity that is a hallmark of this community will make this a success.



SUNSHINE MINISTRY

We are all reminded to contact **Joanne Fitzpatrick** when and if we wish to have a card sent to someone who needs a touch of sunshine in his or her life. You can reach Joanne at 209-295-7387 or larandjo@volcano.net.

Joanne would also like to know of any 'milestone' birthdays or anniversaries so that those people may also be remembered.

Many thanks to our sunshine lady who brings such cheer and comfort to the folks in our upcountry community!

EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

SPLIT PEA SOUP

1 - 16-oz. package dried, split green peas (DO NOT FOLLOW PACKAGE DIRECTIONS)



Soak in dutch-oven size pan with 8 cups water overnight. Sort out any bad ones and drain water.

Add:

- 3 cups cubed ham (or turkey ham) and a ham bone if you have it
- 8 cups fresh water

Bring to boil; lower heat and cook until peas are completely mush (no individual peas left), stirring **very** often. If it is getting too thick, add 1 cup of water at a time. Consistency should be like a thick milkshake. When like mush, then:

Add:

- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 2 cups sliced celery
- 1 cup diced onion
- Salt and pepper

Bring back to boil. Lower heat and continue to cook until carrots are tender (about 15-20 minutes). Very important to keep stirring.

FROM PAGE 1

STAPLETON

children. They have two teenage daughters and two sons who are in elementary school.

One of Tom's hobbies is the research and propagation of rare albino redwood trees. These are trees that have a mutation that produce white foliage and are known as chimeras. To date he has patented two of these trees and hopes to sell the white foliage to the floral industry in a few years. More on his research can be seen at his website: chimeraredwoods.com. Tom is also a member of the International Society of Arboriculture and the American Conifer Society.

Irene is active within the parish where she serves on the pastoral council and is a member of the church's Hispanic group known as the *Guadalupanos*. She also assists with the weekly cleaning and maintenance of Haran Hall and St. Katharine Drexel Parish Center. Some of Irene's hobbies are baking and spending time with her children.



In Memory
Larry Trahey
 1926 - 2018
 †
*Rest in the
 Peace of Christ*

FAREWELL TO LARRY TRAHEY

Lawrence 'Larry' Trahey passed away at Sutter Amador Hospital on January 22 at the age of 91 years, one month and one day. He was born on December 21, 1926, in Los Angeles. He grew up in Oakland, California, and was educated by the Sisters of the Holy Names. He married **Margaret (Peggy) Green** on February 7, 1948, in Berkley, California. They had four daughters, **Susanne, Margaret (Midge), Catherine** and **Shirley**, all of whom were raised in Pittsburg, California. They had eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Larry was an iron worker and 'can-do' man. He and Peggy bought property in Pioneer in 1964 and they built their own home. They moved here in 1987. Larry was active at OLOP, helping to build and furnish Haran Hall. He was a charter member of the OLOP choir when the doors were first opened in 1982. Peggy passed away on April 10, 2005.

PARISHIONER ASSISTANCE

Blanche Rueda

Our Lady of the Pines is reactivating the Parishioner Assistance Ministry. This ministry serves to find out how the ill partner is doing and also be a comfort to the other partner. It seems that all the attention is on the ill partner while the other partner is carrying the whole load. I will ask if there is anything we can do. Sometimes just talking to the person is comforting. We do care how the family is doing and are happy to help as needed.

Please call me, **Blanche Rueda**, at **295-4025** if you know of a parishioner who is ill. I will then call the family.

If there are too many calls to follow up on, I will need another person to help me. Please call if you would like to serve in this rewarding ministry.



YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE



YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale

The Our Lady of the Pines Men's Club, YMI Council #137, continues to be active in living up to its motto of *Pro Deo, Pro Patria*. **Brother Ted Novelli** is this year's Council President.

Our meeting night is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM. All men of the parish are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship of our monthly dinner and short business meeting.

The Father George Thomas Scholarship will be given again this year. All graduating Catholic students in Amador County will be encouraged to participate. **Brothers Ted Novelli and Ray Mutter** will be heading up this year's scholarship committee. Look for instructions and information in the parish bulletin and at Amador County high schools in the near future.

Currently we are working on finding a way to greatly improve the 'Catholic Church' direction sign that is located on the corner of Highway 88 and Tiger Creek Road. Numerous hoops must be jumped through before this can happen. It's not as simple as it would seem.

Finally, since the last *Pine Times* the Brothers of YMI Council #137 made a sizable donation to the YMI Brothers of Santa Rosa Council #40 for fire relief. Many of our Santa Rosa Brothers lost their homes in the recent fires. All of us who live in Amador's Upcountry can relate to fire danger.

The main purpose of our council is to give the Catholic men of OLOP and the surrounding area the opportunity to get together, strengthen their faith, have fellowship, and help our parish and community.

The Young Men's Institute was founded in 1883, and Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 is proud to be a part of this national organization.

***Pro Deo, Pro Patria
 For God, For Country***



CONGRATULATIONS LOU & DEL RAE!

On Sunday, January 14, 2018, **Lou and Del Rae Svarc** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. This milestone event was celebrated after Mass with the *Blessing of a Married Couple* given by **Fr. Colin Wen**. Many members of the Svarc family were in attendance, and friends from Our Lady of the Pines also stayed to bear witness to the occasion.



After the blessing, we extended the celebrating in Haran Hall with cake and many good wishes, as well as Hospitality donuts! Heartiest congratulations, Svarcs! May God continue to shower you with his abundant graces for years to come.



WHERE IS ROSINA???

We all remember **Rosina LeVasseur**, our always-smiling Energizer Bunny who never missed weekday Mass. Her daughter, **Denise Tober**, informs us of Rosina's contact information:

P. O. Box 202
 Amador City, CA 95601
 209-283-4353

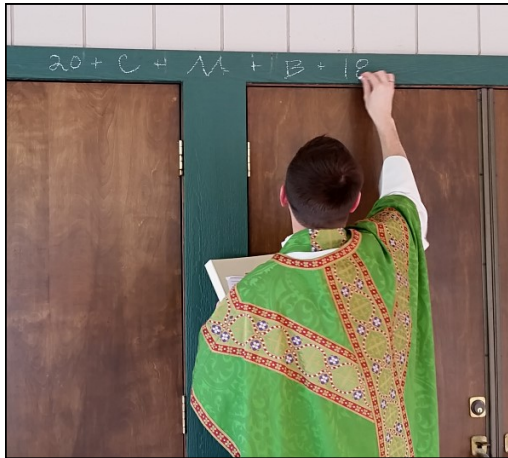
Drop her a line or give her a jingle. She would love to hear from her old friends from Our Lady of the Pines!



Easter falls on April 1 this year. It is the highest of all the Christian high holy days. Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays, and Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. Easter is the celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: **Alleluia!** All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday.

The word 'Easter' comes from Old English, meaning simply the 'East.' The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations.



EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING
Connie Wright

Have you noticed the chalk writing on the lintel of our church doors? On the morning of January 14, 2018, before Mass, Fr. Colin wrote a traditional blessing on the lintel with chalk that he blessed. The numbers and letters of this 'holy formula' are 20 + C + M + B + 18. The first and last sets of numerals represent the current year, 2018. The letters are the first letters of the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the invocation *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (Christ bless this house). Parishioners were provided with a piece of blessed chalk and instructions so they could bless their own homes. Have you blessed your home this year?



ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Members of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society beg for money after Mass from time to time. The money collected goes to support the needy. Please bring a bit of extra cash with you on Beggar's Sunday, which will be announced at Mass the week before, when volunteers beg for donations.

OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ron Burns
1st Vice President: Will Pearce
2nd Vice President: Barbara Garcia
Secretary: Connie Wright
Treasurer: Dan Sooy

OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month. A potluck dinner begins at 6 PM and the meeting starts at 7 PM. All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society. There are no dues. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing some new faces at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement made from the altar, please contact the office at St. Katharine Drexel Parish Center at 223-2970. If you need an announcement placed in the church bulletin, please contact the Bulletin Editor, also at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com.

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
Heather Engstrom, Photographer
hengstrom@volcano.net or 209-295-6729
Submit comments, compliments, questions, or articles to Ray Waugh, Publisher. Material submitted via email is very much appreciated.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stkatharinedrexel.com
webmaster@stkatharinedrexel.com