

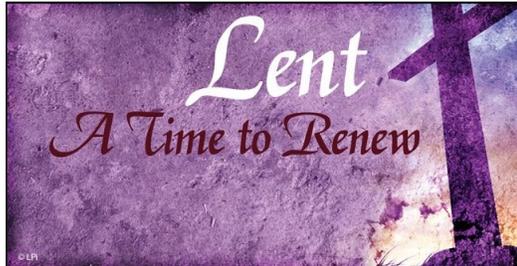


# Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES  
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019  
VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1



## REFLECTIONS ON LENT

*Ash Wednesday* is on March 6 this year, the beginning of the season of Lent.

Few times in the Christian year call us to reflect on transformational change like Lent leading toward Easter. Springtime is lush with rebirth, new beginnings, and new growth. Too often, however, we want to race to the Easter Resurrection without fully embracing the Lenten process that leads there. Lent reflects the forty days that Jesus wandered in the wilderness—tempted by Satan—in readiness for a ministry destined to end in tragedy. Few of us can relate to the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. The wilderness—the desert days of Lent—is the true path toward spiritual transformation.

## SACRAMENTALS FOR YOU

### Rosaries and Holy Water

Connie Wright



Sacramentals can be blessings bestowed upon deacons, priests, and bishops. They are also *blessed* objects of devotion, such as holy water, rosaries, crucifixes, medals, candles, ashes, and palms. At Our Lady of the Pines, two sacramentals are available to parishioners to take any time, as available:

One sacramental every Catholic should have is a set of **rosary beads**. Many of us have multiple rosaries, received as gifts or in appreciation of donations made, or acquired from religious sites around the world. Do you have one?

There are two hooks on the wall of the OLOP vestibule, below the bulletin boards. The little sign above the hooks says *Leave One Take One*. If you need a rosary, please take one – free of charge. If you have an extra one that you'd like to share, hang it on one of the hooks. The honor system!

To keep a steady supply of rosaries available, a few parishioners from OLOP are now hand-making them. Right now, we are making them with blue beads—symbolic of our Blessed Mother (and Our Lady of the Pines). So if you happen to pick one that is blue, it is most likely one of our handmade creations.

*Here's the catch:* Please *use* the rosary beads! Pray the Holy Rosary. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Pray a novena. The power of prayer is immense. And there's a satisfying, calming sense when you pray the repetitive prayers. Unsure

SEE SACRAMENTALS, PAGE 4

## KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS



MIKE and SHIRLEY COOMBS

We are **Shirley** and **Mike Coombs**. We moved to Amador County from the East Bay in 2005, and have since been parishioners at Our Lady of the Pines.

Mike was born in San Francisco and grew up in Pacifica. Shirley was born in San Francisco also, and lived in Daly City. We met through a mutual friend in 1968 and were married in 1969. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 1 of this year. We were married at Holy Angels Church in Colma, California.

A few years after we were married, we moved to Concord and lived there for 29 years.

We raised four children there, three girls and a boy. All of them graduated from Clayton Valley High. Once the kids were grown, we decided to relocate somewhere and here we are. We are very blessed that three out of our four children moved their families to this area too. Our son lives in San Francisco which is still close. We now have been blessed with six grandchildren and they are all very close to us.

Mike was an electrician in San Francisco for 35 years. Shirley worked in Walnut Creek as an optometric assistant and continued in that field here in Amador County at Sierra Eyecare before retiring, too.

Mike enjoys gardening and loves trains and boating. He even flew an airplane by himself when he was learning to fly. He is a member of Sons in Retirement and was just made Little Sir.

SEE COOMBS, PAGE 2

## OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Not much to report in this article. Preparations are ongoing for the OLOP / YMI Dinner on April 27<sup>th</sup>. That evening will include a catered BBQ chicken dinner, a raffle for great prizes, and Bingo. This will be our only theme dinner for the year and our only fund raiser other than the Rummage Sale in June. Tickets will be \$25 per person with a discounted price (not yet determined) for kids. The OLOP appreciation dinner, held on December 5<sup>th</sup> was great fun, the hall was beautifully decorated, the Advent and Christmas wreaths which were made by several volunteers to be used as door prizes were outstanding; and the food was excellent. The only negative was that it was not well attended even with sign-ups—oh well, live and learn. There are many positions open in our dwindling group including that of Secretary, Parishioner Assistance chair, our Mercy Ministry chair, and possibly the President of OLOP. Please give serious consideration to becoming more involved in your Society. The new board will begin their duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I would love to hear from you volunteers out there.



### CHANGING OF THE GUARD FOR DONUT SUNDAY

For more than 20 years, **Steve** and **Viki Routh** have been running Donut Sunday, fetching the donuts and serving them (and coffee and juice). They both greeted each of us with a smile and a word. They were devoted to their ministry and did it well, for which all of us are grateful. Thank you, Steve and Viki!!!

The new guard consists of **Art Wright** (fetching) and **Phil** and **Cindy Fondale** (serving). **Ed** and **Dorothy Reno** subbed for the Fondales last Donut Sunday.

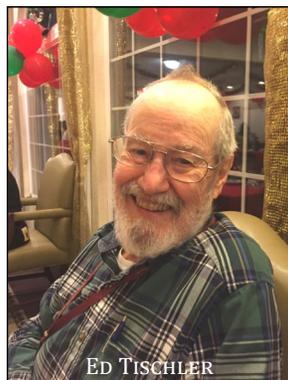


### MAINTENANCE REPORT

Ted Novelli

Winter is not over yet. Please be careful when walking on snow or ice in our parking lot. If you are wondering if Mass will be canceled due to weather conditions, call 295-4909 after 8:15 AM on Sunday morning.

In other church-related business, we need **USHERS!** Our ranks have thinned, and we are seeking men and women who would like to greet people, seat people as necessary, help with the collection, and distribute bulletins. If you are new to volunteering at Mass, this is an easy way to get your feet wet. See me after Mass or call 295-1302.



### HOW IS ED TISCHLER DOING?

Many of us miss **Ed Tischler** now that he has moved to the Bay Area. His younger daughter, Natalie, provides us with the following report:

*My dad is doing well, but I know he misses the OLOP community in which he was a part of for so long. He has settled well into the Villa Fontana community, but I do wish he would get out and do more of the exercise and social activities offered. That said, his feet and legs bother him, as they have for years, so I'm sure that's one reason he doesn't participate more. He does go to church most Sundays. Even so, he is in good health and his doctor is very happy with his health compared to when she first saw him almost 2 years ago. Attached is a photo taken last night at the Christmas dinner for residents and guests.*

You can write to Ed at 5555 Prospect Road, #123, San Jose, CA 95129.

### GIFTS

Joan Nikolai

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh tradition tells us these were the gifts of the Magi. Significant but unusual gifts for a child. Would Mary have wondered about their value and meaning, and how these unique offerings might be best used? Might that be one of the thoughts she pondered in her heart?

At Baptism we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These unique gifts are bestowed on us to be used in building up the Body of Christ. Can you name the 7 Gifts of the Spirit? If the names are elusive, here is a mini review.

*Wisdom* helps us to recognize God in all aspects of our life. *Understanding* helps us to be aware of what is happening around us in light of Jesus' teaching.

*Right Judgment* helps us to ask for and listen to good advice before making decisions. *Courage* helps us to face challenges to do what is right when it would be easier to give in or do nothing. *Knowledge* helps us to distinguish what is true from what is false. *Reverence* helps us develop a deep love for God and to live in right relationship with God and one another. *Wonder and Awe* is our overwhelming response in praise and thanks to our God who is all loving and merciful, a God who is more than we can ever imagine.

There are many definitions of the Gifts of the Spirit. You may find others more helpful. The value of the gifts comes from how well we use them. Carole Eipers, often a speaker at the LA Congress, says "The Spirit is . . . the voice that whispers the invitation to change our hearts and grow." It is by using the Gifts of the Spirit that we can become all that God created us to be.

This may be a thought to ponder in our hearts.

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### COOMBS

Shirley loves to cook. She also loves being with her family and friends. She belongs to a canasta group and loves it. She is also active at Our Lady of the Pines.

We love meeting new people, so if you see one or both of us when you are out and about, please don't hesitate to say hi, because we can never have too many friends.

## YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale

### YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE



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 the Council President.

Our meeting night is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM in Haran Hall. 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 probably be given again this year. All graduating Catholic students in Amador County will be encouraged to participate. Look for the scholarship announcement and details in an upcoming parish bulletin in the near future.

Our OLOP YMI Council in conjunction with the Our Lady of the Pines Society will have a "FUNraising" dinner/bingo night on Saturday, April 27, here at Our Lady of the Pines. Get your tickets early after they go on sale. This "Spring Fling" should be a sellout.

The new "Catholic Church" direction sign that is located on the corner of Highway 88 and Tiger Creek Road is finished. Have you noticed it? Numerous hoops had to be jumped through before it could happen. All of us owe a big thank-you to YMI Council #137 and Brother Mike Shoda and his committee for making the new sign happen.

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. We hope to see you soon.

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.

## SUNSHINE MINISTRY

We are all reminded to contact **Joanne Fitzpatrick** (209-295-7387) when and if we wish to have a card sent to someone who needs a touch of sunshine in his or her life. She would also like to know of any special birthday or anniversary.



## NEWS UNDER THE PINES OLOP Children Grow Up

## SCHOLARS and ATHLETES



### CAMILLE STRAZZO: SOCCER

**Camille Strazzo** received the Scholar All American award in Chicago recently for the junior college level. She was nominated by coaches from competing teams and had to be an awarded player with a GPA above 3.5. She was also the defensive player of the year for the Big 8 Conference. She played for Sierra College, their record this year was 22-2-1 (1 tie). She was the key defender on a defense that only had 8 points scored against them in 25 games. Unfortunately they lost in the third round of the state championship tournament. She has offers to play from several four-year colleges, but she's not sure where she will transfer to. **Bob and Gillette** hope she will continue to play, but typical of Camille, she doesn't think she is very good. — *Bob Strazzo*



### GABE LOADER: CROSS COUNTRY

**Gabe Loader** and his fellow cross country teammates became cross country national champions when they won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championship. Representing Southern Oregon University in Ashland, the young team enjoyed an incredible season. In front of a hometown crowd in Sacramento, Gabe shaved 90 seconds off his personal record with a time of 25 minutes, 9 seconds for 8 kilometers. He has climbed from 15th fastest to 3rd fastest during his time as an *SOU Raider*. Currently a junior, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in history, a minor in philosophy, and hopes to attend law school after graduation.

— *excerpts from the Ledger-Dispatch*

## OLOP LADIES LUNCHEON



On the second Wednesday of every month, the OLOP Ladies Luncheon meets. This event is run by **DelRae Svarc**,

who has had major back surgery and is now back in her home and our OLOP community. She will resume organizing this event. Call her at 296-7365 for more information.

## EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

### GOLDEN SOUP "I YAM, I YAM"

6-8 servings—a great Lenten Soup

#### In a large pot:

1 large leek (white part only) and 3 cloves garlic, minced

Sauté, stirring (with small amounts of water to keep from burning) until translucent.

#### Add:

2 lbs of yams (red) peeled and chunked  
4 cups of water  
1 Tbl salt  
1 tsp pepper

Bring to boil, then reduce heat to medium.

Cook until yams are beyond tender.

Remove from heat and cool for 15 min.

Purée until all is smooth, adding small amounts of water until desired consistency.

#### Add:

1 cup of heavy cream—blend into soup

#### Enjoy!



## REMEMBERING MARIAN FITZPATRICK

*Marian's friends from the Kit Carson Ministry share these fond memories:*

Shortly after moving to Amador County and becoming a parishioner in St. Patrick Parish in 1989, **Marian** joined the *Legion of Mary*. As an active member she needed to do some spiritual works; that's when she started to go to Kit Carson convalescent home where there was a prayer service once a week for the Catholic residents. At that time a Deacon presided at the service, and once a month a priest would celebrate Mass. Thirty years later, after many priests and deacons, Marian was still participating at the weekly service – right until God called her home to Him.

Marian had the “gift of the gab.” She could draw people out to talk about themselves and their families, and she would remember it all. People warmed up to her as she embraced them all as if she had known them forever.

Marian loved desserts. She would say that we should eat dessert first before we got too full from the main course. After our weekly lunches in the park we would always indulge in chocolates. Yum!!

She was really up on the news, subscribing to two newspapers and picking up the *S. F. Chronicle* every day so she could read the obituaries to see if anyone she had known in the past had died.

Marian had a great devotion to Our Blessed Lady, and she loved Our Lady of the Pines church and community. We will always miss her however long we go to Kit Carson. It won't be the same without her. *Rest in peace, our dear friend.*

**Susan Bertao recalls:** We first met Marian and Mike 24 years ago. Our special-needs daughter **Stephanie** immediately fell in love with Marian. She sat with Marian in church when she came home to visit. After a few times we instructed Stephanie that she couldn't bother the FitzPatricks. This was just as we walked into Mass. Stephanie nodded yes, she understood. As we came into church Stephanie slipped into their pew, just as at home as can be! After church we talked with Marian and Mike and assured them Stephanie wouldn't bother them. They both assured us Stephanie was no bother and so a tradition was started. Stephanie and Marian had a love affair that lasted 24 years.

When I told Stephanie that Marian had left us she hugged me, just as Marian would have done, so Marian's spirit lives on.



### 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, the last weekend of every other month, 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: Gary Sims

#### 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](mailto:bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com).

#### PINE TIMES STAFF

**Ray Waugh, Publisher**  
[ray\\_waugh@juno.com](mailto:ray_waugh@juno.com) or 209-295-1217  
**Connie Wright, Production Editor**  
[cwright@att.net](mailto:cwright@att.net) or 209-223-9525  
**Heather Engstrom, Photographer**  
[hengstrom@volcano.net](mailto: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](http://www.stkatharinedrexel.com)  
[webmaster@stkatharinedrexel.com](mailto:webmaster@stkatharinedrexel.com)

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### SACRAMENTALS

of the words of the prayers? There are some resources in the vestibule, next to the crying room doors. Online, there is a plethora of information about using rosary beads and praying rosary-based prayers. Just google 'pray the rosary' to help you get started. And an interesting place to read about the different *types* of rosaries is at <https://tinyurl.com/y8zyvksn>

A second sacramental available to you is **holy water**. In the back corner of Our Lady of the Pines, in front of the crying room, there is a holy water vessel with a spigot. The water is blessed by our priest and is replenished regularly—it is from this vessel that we refill the holy water fonts in the church. If you have a small holy water container, you may refill it from our vessel. You may need to use the small pitcher that is on the shelf below the vessel.

May God pour His blessings upon you as you enjoy your sacramentals.

