



Pine Times

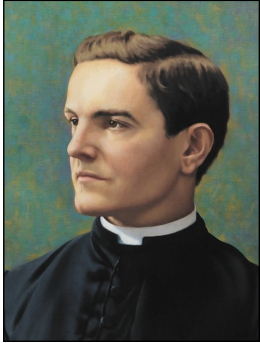


OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

JULY / AUGUST 2020
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A NEW AMERICAN SAINT?

Michael J. McGivney, the American priest who founded the Knights of Columbus, the Roman Catholic fraternal organization, moved a step closer to sainthood when Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to him, the Vatican announced.



According to the Knights of Columbus, the miracle involved a mother whose pregnancy was threatened by a medical condition in 2015. The family prayed to the Rev. Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus said, and the condition was healed. Pope Francis has now attributed this to Father McGivney, who died in 1890 at age 38.

The step clears the way for Father McGivney to be beatified, or declared “blessed,” by the pope — the second-to-last step before a figure is canonized as a saint

in the Roman Catholic Church. An additional miracle must be accredited to Father McGivney before he is declared a saint.

The child of Irish immigrants, Father McGivney was ordained in Baltimore in 1877 and was serving as a priest in Connecticut when he died of pneumonia in 1890 at the end of the so-called Russian flu pandemic. (New research suggests that global pandemic, which started in 1889 and lasted two years, was caused by a coronavirus not unlike the one responsible for the current pandemic.)

Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, named in honor of Christopher Columbus, in 1882 to provide support and financial resources to Catholic men and families who were coping with the loss of their sole provider.

The cause for Father McGivney’s sainthood was started by the Archdiocese of Hartford in Connecticut in 1997.

Eleven years later, in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared Father McGivney a Venerable Servant of God. That designation meant that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican had found after a long investigation that Father McGivney lived “a life of extraordinary and heroic virtue” and was worthy of imitation by the faithful.

If Father McGivney were to be canonized, he would become the first man born in the United States ever to be elevated to sainthood. Three women born in the country have been canonized: Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton in 1975, Katharine Drexel in 2000 and Kateri Tekakwitha in 2012.

Over the decades, the Knights of Columbus have left their mark on the United States. A campaign that the order started in 1951 persuaded President Dwight D. Eisenhower to sign a law that added the phrase “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. Currently, the order is working to secure housing, food, and health care for displaced Christians in the Middle East.

The saints were saints because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient, silent when they wanted to speak, and agreeable when they felt an urge to scream. They pushed forward when they wanted to stand still.

— Fr. Lawrence Lovasik, ‘Saints 365’

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CAILEY STRAZZO?

Many of you may remember me, my name is **Cailey Strazzo-Dante**. I am the oldest daughter of **Bob and Gillette Strazzo**, the third of the six children they have. I was raised in Pine Grove and was an active participant in the Our Lady of the Pines community up until going off to college. I recently have moved back to the county and reside in Sutter Creek with my husband, son, and grandmother. I have been away from the county for about 10 years and during that time I learned a lot in faith, life, and school, attaining my bachelor’s degree at California State University, Chico, in Kinesiology. Last year, I began school at UC Davis for their Physician Assistant Program. This is an accomplishment I am very proud of and I couldn’t be more blessed to be attending school at UC Davis while remaining close to home.

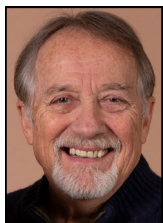
While away from home I continued to go to church, but I never was able to find the bond to the community like I had growing up within OLOP. Since returning to our wonderful Catholic community, I often catch myself saying “I remember when you were this small” (while hand-gesturing to near my knees) to our younger parishioners. Which causes me to smile, as this is something I remember many parishioners saying to me as I grew up here.

I am married to **Shane Dante** and we have a son **Broderick (Brody)**, whom we both adore with our whole being. Many of you may have had the pleasure of meeting him or seeing his beaming smile across church. He is 17 months and just recently learned the word “no,” and he loves to use it, so that has been fun!

As I had said I am currently attending school at UC Davis for their PA program and just recently finished my first year (on to the next!) and will be expected to graduate next September 2021. This is a very short and brief summary of what I have been up to over the time of being away from OLOP, but I look forward to hopefully being able to see many of you soon!

OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, President



RON BURNS
President

At the time of this writing, the start-up month for the OLOP meetings is still up in the air. I seriously doubt that the July 1st meeting will take place. Hopefully, August will be the first, dependent on the status of the coronavirus. This has undoubtedly been a trying time for us all; hopefully, we will get through it unscathed. On a sad note, **Sherry O'Brien**, sister of our secretary **Terri Darr**, lost her battle with cancer on May 11th. I am told that Sherry worked at her regular job up until two weeks before she passed peacefully into eternal life with her family at her side. Please pray for the repose of her immortal soul and for Terri as well. Prayers are also requested for **Jaime Garcia** as he undergoes several weeks of intense radiation to eliminate his cancer. I would also add a prayer request for **Will Pearce** as he struggles with his own health issues.

On another matter, our Sunshine Lady of many years, **Joanne Fitzpatrick**, has had to step down with vision problems. It is not certain who will take her place, but a little bird told me that **Tom Stapleton** may be a candidate. In addition, the proposed board for 2020-2021 is as follows: President – **Kevin Darr**; First Vice President – **Ron Burns**; Second Vice President – **Barbara Garcia**; Secretary – **Terri Darr**; and Treasurer – **Gary Sims**. Thanks go out to all for their support of our society. The proposed officers will be presented at the first meeting we have. There is still a possibility that we might have a rummage sale in early October. This will have to be discussed further.

[Edited] You will notice that there are fewer trees around the church and hall. Several trees were taken down and removed in early May. See the photos on page 3.

In conclusion, I am sure we all look forward to having Mass at our Church again in the near future. I, for one, really miss you all.

Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.

— St Anthony of Padua

OUR STORY

Joan Nikolai

Almost every one has a “someday” project. During the weeks of the stay-at-home directive, I tackled one of mine, typing up family stories. All families have stories — happy, sad, uplifting, tragic. Stories help us tell who we are, know our ancestors, see our place in history. Family stories grow out of our relationships, not just the blood relationship to our ancestors, but more importantly out of the personal bond between the family members. Our faith story as told in scripture is based on that kind of personal relationship or bond between God and God’s people.

The story of the Hebrew people, our ancestors in faith, is formally recorded in the Old Testament. For nearly 1000 years these stories were passed from family to family through oral tradition. Told at meals, around fires, at small and large gatherings. Stories passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. Not until the time of the monarchy about 1000 BC, a relatively stable period, did the scribes begin to write of their covenant relationship with Yahweh. It took almost 1000 years to complete.

How can stories written over 2000 years ago be relevant today? Remember these are not newspaper accounts, they are faith stories. For example, in the story of Noah, is it important whether it actually rained 40 days and 40 nights, or if the flood covered the earth, or if Noah actually took two of every animal? It is the faith truths that the epic reveals that are important. What does the Noah story tell us about God? God recognizes the goodness in humanity. God calls people through circumstances of their lives to be faithful to him. God is compassionate but also just. God is present in even the darkest experiences of life. The truth of that revelation is just as valid in 2020 AD as it was in 1000 BC when the story was recorded. *(To be continued)*

MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

Michael Shoda and I are still maintaining the church on a regular basis. Recently we trimmed all the hedges, weed-whacked all the weeds, cleaned the sidewalks and parking lot, and picked up all the litter. We do that on a regular basis even though church is still closed. The yard still grows and the debris piles up.



THE SUN CONTINUES TO SHINE

Connie Wright

Our Lady of the Pines “Sunshine Lady” of many years, **Joanne Fitzpatrick**, has



reluctantly resigned from this ministry. Joanne became our Sunshine Lady when **Dee Schmitz**, our previous Sunshine Lady, passed away in 2007. Joanne has handled the ministry

lovingly and masterfully all these years. Her thoughtfulness and kindness were evident in the cheer cards she sent and the phone calls she made. She kept lists of all whom she wrote and called, and for whom she requested Mass intentions. She dutifully reported the information at the monthly Our Lady of the Pines Society meetings, keeping us informed about the members of our church family who needed a little sunshine in their lives. Sometimes Joanne would hand-make a greeting card – if you ever received one of these, you were doubly blessed! The OLOP Society expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to Joanne for her many years of ‘super sunshine’!

With big shoes to fill, **Tom Stapleton** has graciously agreed to assume the ministry. Thank you, Tom, for becoming our new “Sunshine Guy”!



SUNSHINE MINISTRY

Tom Stapleton

We are all reminded to contact **Tom Stapleton** (tistapleton7@gmail.com) when and if we wish to have a card sent to someone who needs a touch of sunshine in his or her life. He will also request a Mass intention for those who pass away. He prefers if you contact him by email to ensure he receives your information accurately. You can also reach Tom by phone at 209-296-1772. Please note that he shares a telephone and answering machine with his kids.

YMI NEWS

Our Lady of the Pines' Catholic Men's Club

Come and Join the Brotherhood

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*.



Last Memorial Day our members assisted in placing and taking down the large 5x8 American flags that line the long drive at Pioneer Cemetery. We have been doing this every Memorial Day and Veterans Day for a number of years. It is our way of honoring all those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

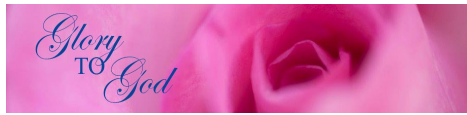
The \$1,600 *Father George Thomas Scholarship* was awarded to **Cade Clinkenbeard**. Congratulations Cade!! The Council would like to thank all the students who applied for our scholarship.

This year we were unable to award a \$100 stipend for a resident of the Pine Grove Youth Camp. **Brother Deacon Jaime** spearheads this effort. As many of you know, the Camp is on the chopping block in this year's state budget. It would be a disservice to the wards if the Pine Grove Camp were to close. Many of those young men have turned their life around due to the purpose and programs of the camp. Just as important, they have also found or renewed their faith in God due to the efforts of men like Brother Deacon Jaime. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

Hopefully, we will meet again on July 22. 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 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 our fellow Catholic men and future brothers at our next meeting.

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.



FLOWERS

Jacqueline Henss

There are still a few Sundays that are available for your donations of flowers. Though it is uncertain as to when we will once again gather for Mass, the following months have Sundays that are still without scheduled flower donors: June, August, September, October and November.

Since March 8, I have been caring for my grandchildren in San Ramon, so that their parents, who are health care providers, can continue to work. Please leave your phone number on my voice mail (209-419-0815) if you do not reach me, and I will call you back.

As one of Our Lady of the Pines sheep, I so miss being with the flock. May we stay united through prayer until we are together once again.

Editor's Note: Jacqueline has returned from San Ramon for at least a few months and can be reached at the phone number above.

NAVY NEWS

Sam Trassare, son-in-law of **Marcia** and **Ray Waugh**, is presently serving at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. He has just been informed that he has been selected for promotion to the rank of Commander (O5, equivalent to lieutenant colonel in the Army.) Congratulations to Sam!



EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

SUPER SALMON SALAD

Serves 4

In a large bowl:

- 12 ounces cooked red potatoes, cubed, or 2 cups cooked pasta (rotelle)
- 1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeds removed, diced fine
- 1 cup carrots, shredded
- ½ cup celery, diced
- ½ cup green onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- 12 ounces canned salmon, drained and flaked

In a small bowl, combine:

- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons reduced calorie mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon plain lowfat yogurt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
- dash dillweed
- salt and pepper to taste

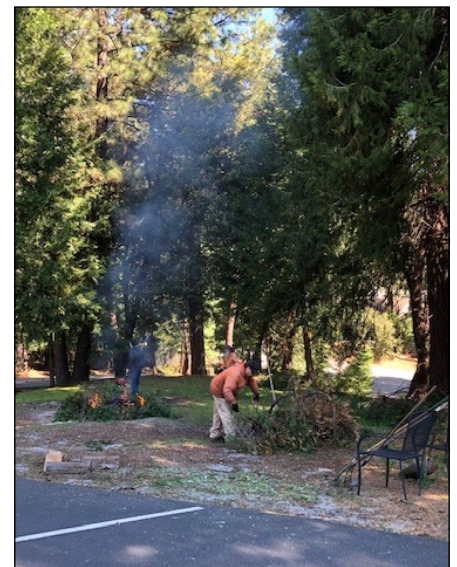
Mix well. Add to salmon mixture and blend. Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving. Serve on lettuce leaves.

WE NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER

Do you have skills with a camera? If so, please contact **Ray Waugh** at ray_waugh@juno.com or 295-1217.



Tree felling, brush removal, and debris burning at Our Lady of the Pines in May



CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

We continue with our feature series of extraordinary European churches that we visited during our many trips to Bavaria and Southern Germany, Italy, Austria, France, Switzerland, Spain and Croatia.

June 6, 1944: The invasion of Allied Forces on the beaches of Normandy, France. **Sainte-Mère-Église** was the first town to be liberated on June 6, 1944. St. Mary's church showcases two stained glass windows in memory of the fighting that took place during the Battle of Normandy.

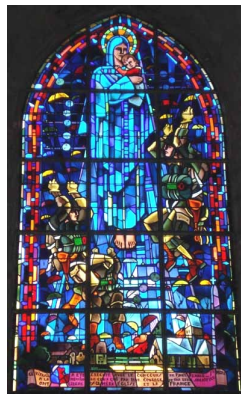
A well-known incident involved paratrooper John Steele of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, whose parachute caught on the spire of the town church, and could only observe the fighting going on below. He hung there limply for two hours, pretending to be dead. The incident was portrayed in the movie **The Longest Day** by actor Red Buttons.

Every year on June 6th, there is a celebration in Sainte-Mère-Église and in all the villages and towns from miles around to memorialize the invasion that changed the course of history. U.S. flags flying **higher** than any others and coastal skies are dotted with warplanes and parachutes reenacting the jumping of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions on that late-night air assault of 1944.

The people of this village were eternally grateful and all the generations since. Nowhere in Europe have we found the love for us Americans like we encountered in St. Mère Église.



St. Michael the Archangel, with insignia of various Allied military units that fought in or near the village.



Madonna and Child with paratroopers coming down on each side.

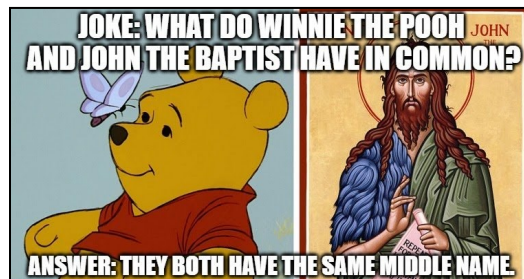


In the Provincia di Umbria, **Orvieto** is considered Umbria's grandest hill town. It sits majestically at 1000 feet above the valley floor on a big chunk of tufa. Orvieto was a regional power in the Middle Ages and may have been a kind of Etruscan Mecca. The Cathedral is best seen in the afternoon when the facade basks in golden light and is compared to a medieval altarpiece.

The cathedral has a famous blood-stained cloth, kept in a silver-gilt reliquary in the Chapel of the Corporal. In 1263, a priest, Peter of Prague, described as being a pious priest, but one who found it difficult to believe the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. During Mass, as he held the host aloft and blessed it, the bread began to bleed, running down his arms and dripping onto the corporal on the altar. The bloody cloth was brought to Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV was visiting. The Pope listened to the priest's account and absolved him. He then sent emissaries for an immediate investigation. After a thorough fact-finding investigation, the Pope declared that the miraculous host and the corporal, stained with blood, to be a mystery great and inexhaustible and ordered that it be placed in the Orvieto Cathedral in a special chapel.



One year after the miracle Pope Urban IV proclaimed a new holiday, **Corpus Christi** (Body of Christ), and was celebrated this year on June 14th.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has begun to ramp up their efforts following the shelter-in-place period. Many parishioners have not physically returned to attending Mass, so funding remains a challenge on Beggar's Sunday. 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:	Ron Burns
1st Vice President:	Kevin Darr
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 (currently not meeting due to the pandemic). A potluck dinner begins at 5 PM and the meeting starts at 6 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.

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