



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

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HOLY PEOPLE

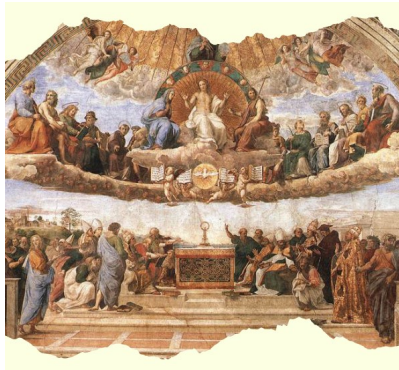
Joan Nikolai

On November 1st we celebrated All Saints Day. Each year we honor the holy women and men who have been canonized and stand as role models for us.

How do we live holy lives like these saintly people? Is holiness only possible for those chosen by God? Is holiness achieved only in quiet moments with God in an empty church? Is holiness dependent on always being perfect? Is holiness found in removing ourselves from the life around us? Is holiness found only in a unique spiritual state of being?

"God created man in his image; . . . male and female he created them." (Gen 1:27)

Each of us has been chosen by God. Holiness is possible for each of us. Quiet moments with God in prayer can occur anywhere. Prayer is an essential part of our journey to holiness. Perfection is not a requisite for holiness. Seeing our weaknesses and doing our best to change is the challenge. Holiness does not require us to escape the world. In fact holiness is grounded in choosing to be fully engaged in life. Holiness arises from the deliberate and conscious effort to be God's loving presence in our family, our workplace, our neighborhood, our community.



Like the Saints we honor, we live on holy ground because God is present; and where God is, it is holy. We spend time in prayer. We strive to be all God created us to be. We live holy lives when we say yes to God's call not in spectacular, headline making ways, but in the ordinary events of our everyday lives. We are called to be holy people.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES CHOIR NEEDS SINGERS

Members of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir are not superhuman. They are ordinary people with ordinary frailties. But therein lies the power of their example.

— Russell M. Nelson

Our OLOP choir needs singers. Can you lift your voice to adore God? See Anne Pearce after Mass to volunteer.

KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS



BOB & SHARON REED

(pictured with daughter and her family)

Both Bob and Sharon are from the Bay Area. Bob was born in Albany and Sharon was born and raised in Martinez, California. Bob's family moved to Martinez and Bob attended Martinez Jr. High there.

They met while they both were attending high school at Alhambra High. Yes, they were high school sweethearts. They were married at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Martinez, California, six years later. They have been married for 53 years.

They have two daughters and five grandchildren. They enjoy their family and friends whom they have met through their years together. They like to travel, bowl, go camping, fishing, and Sharon enjoys sewing. Bob enjoys genealogy.

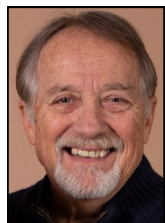
Bob retired from PG&E (mechanical engineer) gas department in San Francisco and Sharon from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (Instructional Media Assistant) in Concord, California. Their children attended school and graduated from the Concord and Pleasant Hill area.

They moved to Pioneer in 1997. Bob's brother and wife lived in Pioneer and they would visit with them often and decided that Pioneer was the place they would like to spend their retirement days. Best decision they ever made. They feel truly blessed.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, President



RON BURNS
President

Well, Fall is upon us and among other more important things that means that PG&E, in all of its infinite wisdom, will be shutting off our power, whether we need it or not, at the onset of the slightest breeze. Now that I've let off a little steam, and on a brighter note, I would like to thank **Shirley Blancett**, **Shirley Coombs**, the cooks **Ted Novelli**, **Michael Shoda** and their crews for the outstanding job they did on the BBQ following our Ministry Faire on September 15th. Thanks also go out to **Gary Sims**, **John Pettinichio** and their helpers for setting up the Hall for the Ministry Faire. The event was a success in that there were several signups for various ministries at OLOP, not to mention the camaraderie that was had by all in attendance.

Moving on, we can look forward to **Joan Alimonti's** Variety Show scheduled for November 9th. And an Advent dinner scheduled for December 4th (there will be more information on these events in the weekly bulletins). Please hold these dates open for food, fun and fellowship as we prepare for the coming Winter and Christmas Season.



If you have misplaced an item and think you may have lost it at Our Lady of the Pines, please check with the Sacristan before or after Sunday Mass. We have a few items that have gone unclaimed for quite awhile. A magnifying glass, an earring, and a hair clip are among the items. Please be prepared to describe your lost item.



YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale

Catholic Student Writers Still Wanted

If you know a Catholic student in Grades 7-12 in any school or home school, please encourage them to enter the Young Men's Institute's *Forty-Sixth Annual Essay Contest*. There are separate topics for Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12. Each division will have twelve winners with prize money ranging from \$100 to \$1500.

An entry form is posted on the bulletin board in the OLOP vestibule, and contest information and forms have been sent to **Paul Padilla**, the parish high school and middle school Youth Minister. If a student is in one of his programs, they can ask for a form. Contest information and entry forms can also be seen and downloaded by going to www.ymiusa.org and going to "Essay Contest." On the form under "Sponsor" write the name of the YMI member who gave you the form or just put "Council #137." If you can't obtain a form, just call **Phil Fondale** at 295-1618 and soon the student will be "off and writing." All forms and essays need to be mailed in by January 15, 2020.

Two years ago, one of Council #137's sponsored students won \$100. It can easily happen again.

On October 31 the Council helped serve a dinner at St. Patrick's as part of our parish's outreach program.

On Veterans Day, November 11, the Brothers will again be placing and retrieving the large United States flags that line the long driveway at Pioneer Cemetery.

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.

**YOUNG MEN'S
INSTITUTE**



EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

Carne Caliente con Arroz

PREPARE:

- 1 recipe "Basic Italian Tomato Sauce" (see recipe below)
- 2 cups cooked rice (if rice finishes before meat is ready, set aside and keep warm)

In a large nonstick skillet sprayed with nonstick cooking spray:

- 1-½ pounds ground turkey

Stir over medium-high heat until browned.

ADD:

- 1-½ cups onion, chopped
- 1 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons canned, diced jalapeño peppers
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

Stirring, cook until onion is tender.

ADD:

- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves (flat-leaf Chinese parsley), minced
- Basic Italian Tomato Sauce (recipe below)
- 1/8 teaspoon each ground cumin, red pepper flakes, cayenne and chili powder

Reduce heat to simmer. Continue to cook, stirring, 3-5 minutes.

Serve over rice (½ cup per serving). Garnish with chopped onion and cheddar cheese (½ ounce per serving).

Basic Italian Tomato Sauce

In a large saucepan:

- 1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup tomato paste
- 1-½ cups water
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon SugarTwin brown sugar substitute
- ¼ cup Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder

Bring to a boil and then simmer slowly for 1 hour or more until as thick as you like. Freeze until needed.

Option: Add mushrooms

SUNSHINE MINISTRY

Joanne Fitzpatrick

We are all reminded to call **Joanne** (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.





In Memory
Betty Madden
1933 - 2019
✠
*Rest in the
Peace of Christ*

REMEMBERING BETTY MADDEN

Sweet, petite, and a treasure to meet. That's probably how most of us at Our Lady of the Pines remember **Betty Madden**, who recently passed from this life. She leaves behind a hole in the hearts of many, especially her husband **Mike** and her loving family. Betty and Mike have been members of our faith community since 1998, but theirs has been a quiet presence, always punctuated with ready smiles and friendly words.

Betty Jo Waugh (no relation to our Ray and Marcia Waugh) was originally from North Kenova, Ohio. She was graced with many talents, with music being a favorite – she sang beautifully and also played the accordion and piano. As a young woman, she bowled in a league in Ironton, Ohio. It was there that future husband Mike met her and was smitten, causing Betty's bowling average to drop significantly whenever she knew he was watching. They married in 1955 and were soon blessed with two sons, Terence and Michael. They moved to California in 1962, where they raised their family in Contra Costa County. Camping and travel were favorite pastimes. Betty also had a professional career, enjoying employment at a plastics company (where she befriended Bing Crosby) and later Usenix Association (Unix).

At Betty's funeral Mass on October 12, granddaughter Marissa Madden remembered her with deeply heartfelt love and affection. *"The piano was a hobby she enjoyed throughout her life, and playing with her are some of my fondest memories that my siblings, Nicole and Patrick, and I have . . . My grandma always made the best of our camping trips by making delicious s'mores and telling the greatest campfire stories . . . One thing that was certain about my grandma was her love for my papa. It's the kind of unconditional love we all aspire to have with a partner. Her love for papa was undeniable and the two were inseparable . . . My grandma always had more energy and interest in life than*

anyone I've ever known, and the reason she touched so many lives and affected so many people was due to her dynamic sense of being . . . She always lit up a room with her smile and was always the first to laugh with that happy, contagious laugh of hers that always made you feel so funny. She managed to remember everything about everyone and would always ask how you or your friends/family are doing, making everyone feel loved and noticed . . . Betty Jo was a strong-willed woman who always stood up for what she believed in."

Our loss is Heaven's gain. Rest in peace, Betty.



MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

Please remember, Everyone, that winter is closing in on us. Be careful in our parking lot. Watch your footing. Use the sidewalk to the hall. Dress warmly. Thank you all.

FRENCH CHURCH NOTICE

This notice can now be found in French churches:



Translation: It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him. If you would like to see Him, send Him a text while driving.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Gospels speak little of the life of the Holy Family in the years before Jesus' public ministry.

Matthew and Luke narrate the episodes from this period of Christ's life, namely his circumcision and later Presentation, the flight to Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the Finding in the Temple. Joseph and Mary were apparently observant Jews, as Luke narrates that they brought Jesus with them on the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem with other Jewish families.

The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. Since the 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar, the feast is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, that is, the Sunday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day (both exclusive), or if both Christmas Day and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, are Sundays, on December 30 (always a Friday in such years). It is a holy day of obligation only if it falls on a Sunday (as is any Sunday).

The feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 and set on the Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany; that is to say, on the Sunday between January 7 through January 13, all inclusive. The 1962 Roman Missal, whose use is still authorized, follows the General Roman Calendar of 1960, which has the celebration on that date.



PINE GROVE CAMP ESSAY WINNER

For the second consecutive year, members and organizations of our parish have helped sponsor an essay contest for the young men who are serving their sentence at the Pine Grove Conservation Camp. The essay contest is a faith project that benefits both the inmates as well as the Camp staff, who have expressed their appreciation for the community's interest in the youths' rehabilitation through spiritual awareness. The goal has been to encourage faith-based, prayerful thought among these young men. The Division of Juvenile Justice considers them low-risk, and CAL Fire provides firefighting training. Each week, **Deacon Jaime Garcia** visits the camp, providing spiritual guidance and assists with sacramental services to those who are Catholic or wish to become Catholic.

This year, sponsors of the essay contest were YMI #137 and members of the OLOP faith community. The youth were invited to expound on the topic *"Since coming to Pine Grove Camp, I believe that I have a clearer picture of who God wants me to be."*

Here is the essay of the \$100 first place winner, **Victor Gregorio**:

How many people can actually say 'I Made it'? Coming from nothing to Pine Grove Fire Camp has been a miracle. I know I have not been the best individual, or a Saint, but I have grown to know through God how beautiful life is, and we all have a greater purpose in this world. It took me losing my closest friends and family to gangs, bullets, and overdoses to recognize that I had chosen the wrong path that did not include my dreams. I learned the hard way who my family and real friends are in my life. Now I believe that I have a clearer picture of who God wants me to be. I truly understand that God has big plans ahead for me.

Many are too weak and blinded by lies to see the amazing things God puts in front of them. Every individual, who acts tough or like he doesn't care, is not paying attention to God's messages! No matter how aggressive or tough one thinks he is, the reality is, all he truly wants is to be loved and nurtured.

At this moment, I know that being in Pine Grove is God's blessing to me! Even though I am away from the people I LOVE the most, I know God brought me here for a special reason giving me opportunities, knowledge, and skills to choose the right path.

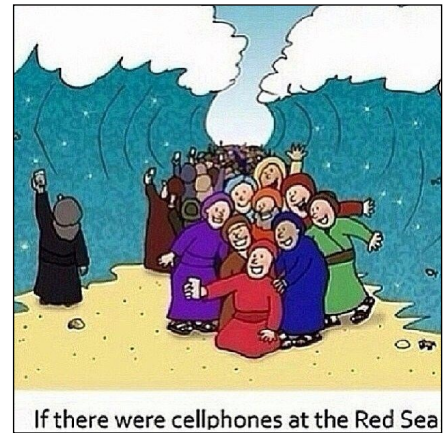
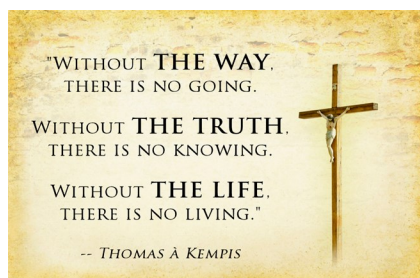
Through the lessons I have recently learned at Fire Camp, I am finding the courage to persevere and reach my ultimate dreams. By being on Fire Crew, I have learned positive communication skills, responsibility, gratitude, and compassion. These aren't personal characteristics that one learns from a book. They are personality traits deeply rooted in the heart and developed through family and life-experiences. I believe God wants me to understand and share these qualities with others.

Being in Fire Camp and crew has opened my eyes to believe that God does have a clearer picture of me as a trusted and respected father, son, brother, uncle, and member of my community. I trust God's picture for my future. I will continue to follow his word and direction. Truly, 'I made it.'

CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER YOU FACED TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.

— JAMES 1:2

EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn more about the Pine Grove Conservation Camp essay contest, contact parishioner Art Wright at 209-223-9525.



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: 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. 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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