



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

MAY / JUNE 2020
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PENTECOST SUNDAY



Happy birthday to the Catholic Church! Happy birthday to you, who are the body of the Church! Because you are part of the body of the Church, Pentecost is the Church's birthday, and yours as well. And like any birthday, it's a cause for celebration.

The word Pentecost is Greek and it means "50th day." Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers, and the beginning of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations.

At Pentecost, the Apostles and their followers were gathered in a room. Jews from all over the world were gathered with Peter, the leader of the Apostles and the Eleven. At this time, a great wind blew and a flame appeared as a tongue of fire, which split itself into many individual flames above the heads of all those present. The Holy Spirit came upon these people and each began to speak in tongues. Despite the fact many had no common language, they were perfectly able to understand one another.

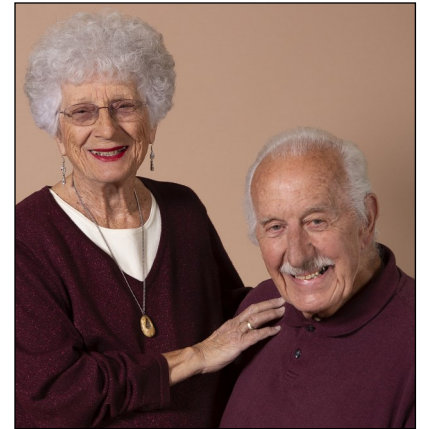
Others who were not so blessed accused those speaking in tongues of being drunk, but Peter arose and addressed the crowd, explaining that it was only 9 o'clock, and that this phenomenon was not intoxication, but rather this was the work of the Holy Spirit, prophesied in the scripture.

Peter then called all those present to be baptized and about three thousand people were baptized that day. These people were among the first Catholics, and Peter is the first pope of the Catholic Church.

The symbols of Pentecost are the flame, wind, and the dove, which represents the Holy Spirit. The color of Pentecost is red and the priest wears red vestments on this day. Parishioners are also invited to wear red on this day. Red decorations as well as celebrations are appropriate, similar to any other birthday. Special prayers are often said just for Pentecost.

Pentecost Sunday falls on May 31 this year.

KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS ... AGAIN!



Tony and Joan Alimonti

Tony and Joan Alimonti are familiar faces at Our Lady of the Pines, but they will soon be leaving us and moving closer to their grandson **Tim King** and his family near Sparks, Nevada. Since it is unknown how the current stay-at-home order may affect a farewell gathering for our friends, we thought we'd honor them with a repeat *Know Your Parishioners* column. For roughly 30 years, the Alimontis have been among the most active parishioners at Our Lady of the Pines, always willing to help organize, decorate, cook, paint, setup and cleanup the hall, and pray. Leadership has come easy to Joan, and her willingness to take on new projects and tasks, whether socially (social chair) or liturgically (head sacristan), has set a prime example for those who follow in her footsteps. Steadfast Tony has always been by her side to help with whatever she needed, and his physical strength belies his years. They've both been faithful workers at the annual rummage sale, their specialties being the knickknack table and outdoor sales.

Joan was born and raised in Chicago, where she attended a large Catholic all-girl high school. When she was 19, she and her parents moved to southern California, in suburban Downey. In the mid-1950's, Joan worked at North American Aviation on the SM-64 Navaho cruise missile. (**Ray Waugh** worked at the same factory, from '62 to '66, on the Apollo Project. Joan and Ray are the only local

PAINT & SIP Connie Wright

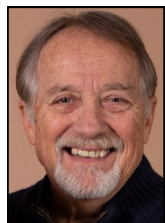


On February 29th, the parish hosted a 'Paint & Sip' night. The goal of the evening was to raise funds for future parish events, but it turned out to be a **fun**-raiser, as well, with painting supplies provided, wine, and appetizers. The evening sold out to about forty artists and aspiring artists, who each painted an image of an abstract cross in less than three hours. We were guided by Sutter Creek artist Priscilla Carpenter, who has

her workshop teaching methods down to a creative science. At least ten of us were from the upcountry area, and the consensus was that we'd definitely do this again!

OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

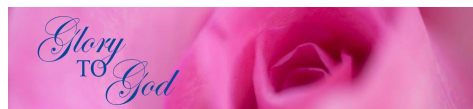
Ron Burns, President



RON BURNS
President

The cancellation of our St. Patrick's Dinner was a real disappointment. The Hall looked amazing, the corned beef was cooked to perfection and the raffle items were displayed beautifully. It never ceases to amaze me how our parishioners can transform Haran Hall into such a festive and inviting venue for this fund raiser. For all of you who were responsible, thank you from the bottom of my heart. There are still many baskets at the Hall. If any of you who donated them would like them back, please let me know so we can arrange for them to be picked up. At this time, we are not sure if there will be a rummage sale or not this year. Board members have decided to wait and see if the shelter-in-place order will be lifted in time. You will, in all probability, hear about the status of the sale by way of the weekly Parish updates. Until that time be safe and know that we will be worshipping together again when this virus has passed.

God bless all of you,
Ron



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.



YMI:

**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*. Brother Ted Novelli is this year's Council President.

The coronavirus and self-quarantine means that the OLOP YMI Council #137's plans are all tentative at best.

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 coronavirus may make the following information moot. Any changes will be announced to the membership or placed in the parish bulletin.

We would like to thank all the students who submitted an essay for the *Father George Thomas Scholarship*. Our Scholarship Committee is reviewing the submissions and will announce the scholarship recipient in a few weeks. The \$1,600 will be presented at a future YMI meeting.



As in past years, the Brothers of OLOP Council #137 will have the honor on May 25, Memorial Day, of helping to place and take down the large 5x8

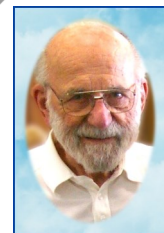
American flags that line the long driveway at Pioneer Cemetery. Come join us at 7 AM if you would like to help.

The main purpose of the 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.

MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

Nothing to report for this issue – the church and hall are closed. I hope that all of you are staying safe.



In Memory
Paul Jackson
1928 - 2020
✠
*Rest in the
Peace of Christ*



SUNSHINE MINISTRY

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



FROM PAGE 1

ALIMONTI

people who remember the "No-Go Navaho," as cynical North American employees called it after several failures).

Joan's cooking skills have led to authoring two cookbooks and writing a recipe column for the *Pine Times* since 2008. She was a lecturer for Weight Watchers for 23 years, and it was through that organization that Joan met **Tony**.

Tony was born in Albany, California. He served in the U. S. Merchant Marine and the U. S. Navy before, during, and after the Korean War. His nautical skills led the two of them to live on a houseboat in the Delta for six-and-a-half years.

Travel to Europe has been one of their great loves, having organized and led numerous tours to Germany, Bavaria, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Spain, and Croatia. These seasoned travelers have also RV-ed across America, racking up the miles, the sights, and the adventures.

Their home in Amador Pines was custom built to Joan's design, and leaving this dream house and their church family will be a pretty big adjustment. They are downsizing to a large fifth wheel, permanently parked in an RV park in Sparks. They will move in May, and we will miss them! Go with God, dear friends.

A SPRING OF HOPE

Joan Nikolai

"It was the best of times..." People stepped up to the challenge.

Teachers developed new strategies. Parents became teachers. Health care personnel became family. First responders never hesitated. People looked out for one another. We stayed home and practiced physical distancing.

"It was the worst of times..." As of now, more than 24,000 people in the U.S. have died.

"It was the age of wisdom..." The best minds in medicine put aside ego to work collectively for ways to combat the virus. Manufacturers re-tooled to produce much needed equipment. Legislators worked together.

"It was the age of foolishness..." There were individuals who ignored the restrictions putting the "me" before the "we," needlessly endangering others.

It is with the exercise of the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity that we have come this far. As we face the days ahead these are the virtues that will help us stay strong. When the path of our journey is in the shadows, *Faith* will help us to stand in support of one another as God's people. *Hope* will give us the courage to depend on God when our path takes unexpected twists and turns. *Charity* will help us face the challenge of self-sacrifice to move from a "me" attitude to an "us" attitude.

Two thousand years ago the Risen Christ walked with two confused and frightened disciples on the road to Emmaus. It wasn't until the breaking of the bread that they recognized Jesus. Today, as we move from the "season of darkness" to the "spring of hope," the same Risen Christ walks with us and invites us to become all that God has created us to be. As we move through the next weeks and months will we be bread, broken for others? Will we be the presence of Christ?



CÉN SCÉAL?

(Irish for What's the News?)

Connie Wright

Imagine our surprise when we answered the telephone one day and heard the gentle Irish brogue of one of our Catholic community's favorite visiting priests, **Father Harry Slowey!**

Some of you may remember our letter-writing campaign to Father last year. While we aren't sure that he read through all our letters, his cheerful conversation indicated that he misses his many friends in Amador County. Father is fully retired now and living in a home for retired priests in Ireland. He spent quite a few weeks in the hospital with diabetes-related problems but seems to have made a good recovery. Sadly, his golfing days are behind him, but that hasn't tempered his gentle humor and wit nor his ability to charm the birds out of the trees. If you wish to drop him a line, his address is:

Fr. Harry Slowey
Vincentian Community Sybil Hill
Raheny, Dublin 5
Republic of Ireland



EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

Eggs Florentine

serves 4

A great Mother's Day Brunch Dish

3 - 10 oz pkgs frozen spinach, cooked in a little water until thawed. Squeeze dry.

Mix with **1 - 8 oz tub Chive/Onion Cream Cheese**

Spread in a 9x13 baking dish, sprayed with oil.

Peel and cut in half lengthwise, **8 hard boiled eggs**.

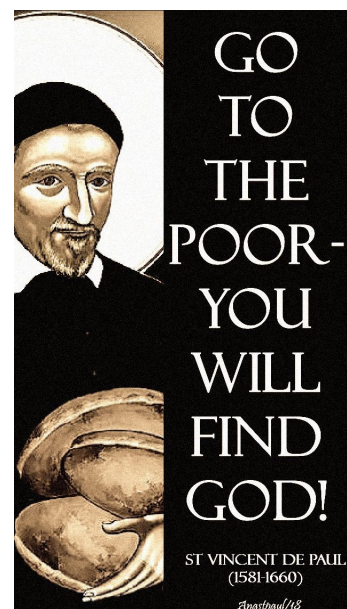
Arrange on top of spinach mixture.

Salt/pepper to taste.

Cover with **1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese**.

Bake at 350 for 20 min.

Serve on ½ toasted English muffin.



REMEMBERING BEGGAR'S SUNDAY



The Covid-19 coronavirus has touched everyone's life in some way. For those in need, the basic necessities have become even more scarce or out-of-reach than ever. Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to assist the needy but, without our public Masses, the bi-monthly Beggar's Sunday collections are not at the forefront of our minds. The shortage of adequate funds has limited the Society's ability to respond to requested needs, and they are asking for your support in their vital mission to help the poor.

If you haven't considered giving electronically, now is the perfect time. You may be pleasantly surprised at its convenience. The parish offers both an Electronic Giving program, where you can set up your giving specifically to SVdP on a regular or one-time basis, and a Text2Give program where you can give simply by texting an amount from your smartphone anytime.

Learn about both of these programs at www.stkatharinedrexel.com and navigate to *Giving*. Thank you!



WE NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER

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

WHAT ARE WE DOING? Staying Home, Staying Busy

Connie Wright

The Covid-19 coronavirus has impacted the entire world. The shelter-in-place order has created a common bond among us, as we all find ways to keep ourselves busy without getting cabin fever. An unofficial survey among our upcountry parishioners reveals many activities to occupy our time. You may find them familiar, interesting, helpful, inspirational, or at the least, amusing.

The no-brainer: **Disinfecting!**

Among the most popular activities are **cooking/baking/creative cooking**. Of course, not all new recipes are successful, but this is the time to experiment. I'm looking forward to some new and delicious potluck meals at our OLOP Society meetings! **Quilting/knitting/sewing** (facemasks and more) have also been productive endeavors, as are home organizing tasks such as **cleaning closets, cabinets, and drawers, boxing up donations, cleaning the garage, and dumping old computer files**. Now I'm really getting motivated!

Staying in contact with family and friends and reaching out to fellow parishioners has been a worthy effort. Whether it's by landline, cell phone, email, text, FaceTime, or other tech-ish means, communicating with others has got to be one of the most rewarding opportunities. One parishioner has made it a point to call at least three people a day – wow, he's a popular guy to have so many friends!

With the grace of God, maintaining and growing our faith is alive and well. Many of us continue our prayer life and meditation, read scripture and other religious works, and keep up with Father's video updates. One parishioner noted that his unique videos nourish our spirit and tickle our funny bones. Watching the Mass online has become a regular part of our lives, and eagerly awaiting a return to public Masses is on the minds of many. A physical extension of nurturing our spirituality for some has been creating an Easter shrine and

making holiday wreaths. And simple things like counting our blessings and praising God are BIG little things!

Keeping the body physically active is important too, and many try to walk each day, spend time gardening, maintain property (tree felling, clearing and burning debris, keeping OLOP grounds spiffy), take care of pets, exercise, practice yoga, dance, and keep up with small grandchildren – that last one will keep you young! Especially if 'keeping up' with them includes helping them with distance learning and religious education.

Artistically, **playing, singing, and listening to music** is a pleasant way to while away the hours, and we have numerous gifted musicians and music lovers who partake of these pursuits. As a form of self-enrichment, one young parishioner took it upon herself to procrastinate no longer and try her hand at **watercolor painting**. This medium is not for the faint of heart.

Entertainment. The extra time at home has allowed some to enjoy, all over again, old movies such as *Les Miserables* or favorite past TV series such as the sci-fi show *Fire Fly*. A few of the quieter activities have been rereading the literary classic *Jane Eyre* and the *Chief Inspector Gamache* mystery series by Louise Penny. Daniel Silva's *Gabriel Allon* espionage series and David Baldacci's *Memory Man* crime novel series have also been popular reads. Audiophiles, videophiles, and bibliophiles, take note!

Many have been working jigsaw puzzles. Must be something about this activity that is peaceful but challenging, allowing the mind to contemplate the heavens or piece together the parts of their lives. Ever see the 2018 movie *Puzzle*? A famous line from one of the main characters is, "When you complete a puzzle, you know you have made all the right choices. At the very end, everything makes a perfect picture. What other pursuits can give you that kind of perfection?"

From low-tech to high-tech: Opposite the spectrum of working jigsaw puzzles have

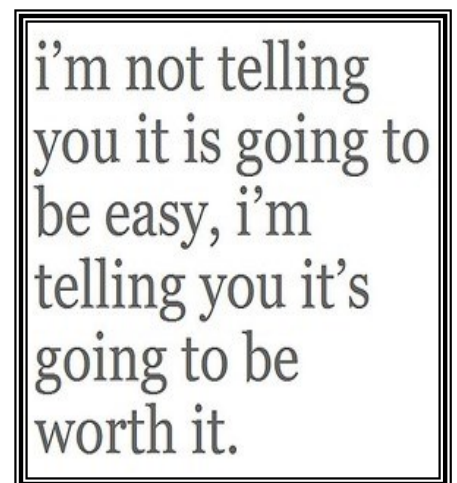
been **learning to use video conferencing apps such as WebEx and Zoom**. Healthcare professionals are getting heavily into these programs for video appointments with their patients. Are you ready?

Despite sheltering in, sometimes just getting out of the house can provide a good mental health day. **Taking an old-fashioned car ride in the country** does that for some, while others spend time doing practical vehicle care (and dreaming of that country drive?).

Some **simple self-care** daily activities are things we often overlook or don't think about too much. One parishioner remembers to smile, get dressed (presumably out of those daytime pajamas!), practice mindfulness, be grateful, be anonymous, and limit the TV watching.

Journal writing can be meaningful to self as well as descendants. But my all-time favorite submission was a related task, and this time in history is the ideal opportunity to **write down family stories** that may currently exist only in hand-written notes or in our memories. Your children and grandchildren will thank you!

And I thank all who sent in their favorite ways to keep busy and productive during this stay-at-home period. You have inspired me (and hopefully others) to change my good intentions to active pursuits!



THE DINNER THAT ALMOST WAS

One of the casualties of the fallout from Covid-19 coronavirus was the cancellation of the Our Lady of the Pines St. Patrick's Day Dinner. To the dismay of so many, the dinner had to be canceled the day before it was scheduled to occur, March 14. Many thanks to chefs **Steve Routt** and **Ted Novelli**, who cooked and sliced pounds and pounds of corned beef, and line cooks **Will Pearce** and **Ron Burns**, who prepped vegetables. Volunteers **Laura Hankins**, **Kevin and Terri Darr**, **Shirley Coombs**, **Barbara Garcia**, **Cindy Harvey**, **Maureen Malone**, **Shirley Blancett**, **John and Cathy Pettinichio**, **Gary Sims**, **Mike and Margaret Shoda**, and **Ron Burns** were responsible for beautifully decorating the hall and setting up tables and the bar. **Carole Sooy** and **Donna Temple** had amassed twenty raffle baskets and prizes from generous donors. **Bob Strazzo** had arranged for serving and cleanup help by our parish youth. **Connie Wright** produced the tickets and flyers. It would have been a memorable evening of tasty food and cheerful camaraderie. In these photos, you can feel the excitement of the dinner that almost was.



Irish Kitchen Prayer



Irish Curse



OUR LADY OF THE PINES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RAVEN LOFFLAND

Joanne Sims, 2020 Scholarship Chair

Each year the OLOP Society offers a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior and member of St. Katharine Drexel Parish. The scholarship award is based on a combination of parish participation, extracurricular activities, and a written essay. This year applicants were asked to respond to the following: *Each of us receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit in special ways at Confirmation; choose three of these gifts, and explain how you have used each gift in a positive way in your life.*

We are very pleased to announce that our 2020 scholarship winner is **Raven Loffland**, who will graduate from Amador High School this year! Raven, who is the daughter of **Chuck and Helen Loffland**, is especially well qualified for this award. She has served as an usher and a commentator for Sunday Masses at Our Lady of the Pines. She has participated in the youth group at SKD, volunteered to help at several parish fundraisers and events, and helped her sister **Skyla** prepare for Confirmation by acting as her sponsor. Raven has served in a leadership role at Amador High School since 2016 and is currently the ASB Secretary. She is also enrolled in several Advanced Placement classes and holds a part-time job at Acorn Hills Emergency Vet Clinic. Raven's essay is included below.

Raven will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall where she plans to major in Animal Science as part of a Pre-Veterinarian program. We wish her all the best. *Congratulations Raven!*



Gifts of The Holy Spirit

My name is Raven Loffland and I was confirmed in the Saint Katharine Drexel Parish of the Catholic Church in 2016. My confirmation was one of the most enlightening experiences of my life. When I was confirmed the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to many special gifts. Three of these gifts that hold a strong place in my faith are Understanding, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord. I would first like to address how the gift of understanding my faith has become so much stronger since my confirmation. I now feel that my understanding of our faith has become so much larger and I feel much more able to discuss and help others understand what we believe. Whenever my non-catholic friends ask me about my beliefs I can now describe what I believe and more importantly why I believe it. Fortitude is also a gift from the Holy Spirit that has been strengthened and truly changed my life. Having courage can be one of the hardest things to do. For me going to confession was one of the hardest things for me to do before confirmation. Ever since I was confirmed I can feel the Holy Spirit surrounding me and lifting me up and helping me be courageous. I now attend confession much more often because I feel the strength of the Holy Spirit guiding me. I also experienced an intense Fear of the Lord. When I was confirmed I was struck with awe and amazement at the power of our Lord and what he has done for us. The miracles he has performed and the way he has shaped my life ever since confirmation amazes me and strengthens my love for him in every way. My confirmation and the gifts I have received from it have truly shaped who I am today as a person and has deepened my love and understanding of our faith. Being Confirmed in the Catholic Church is one of the most enlightening and uplifting experiences that I have personally experienced and it has changed my life in so many positive ways.

CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

This will be a series of churches in Europe that I have found to be extraordinary. I will share them from the countries to which we have taken over 100 people: Bavaria and Southern Germany, Italy, Austria, France, Switzerland, Spain and Croatia. Besides the most famous, like Notre Dame and St. Peter's, I think you will find them very interesting with either the architecture and/or history. Let's first go to Bavaria.

Pilgrimage Church of Wies is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

It is said that, in 1738, tears were seen on a dilapidated wooden figure of the Scourged Saviour. This miracle resulted in a pilgrimage rush to see the sculpture. In 1740, a small chapel was built to house the statue but it was soon realized that the building would be too small for the



number of pilgrims it attracted, and so Steingaden Abbey decided to commission a separate shrine. Many who have prayed in front of the statue of Jesus on the altar have claimed that people have been miraculously cured of their diseases, which has made this church even more of a pilgrimage site. I urge you to go to this website to see the inside – you'll say, "Michelangelo did what?!"

<https://www.raoul-kieffer.net/Wieskirche#carousel>

The Holy Robe of Christ in the Cathedral of Trier

The Empress St. Helena is known for her pilgrimages to the Holy Land, bringing back holy relics. One she brought back was the Holy Robe of Christ from Jerusalem and entrusted it to the church in Trier, Germany, which was the northern capital of the Roman



Empire. St. Helena was the mother of Constantine, who was Emperor of the Roman Empire and who made Christianity legal in the 4th century, building the church in Trier in 326 as he was building St. Peter's in Rome. The Robe was first mentioned in written documents in the 12th century. In 1512, the high altar of Trier Cathedral was opened and the Robe was found inside, along with other important relics from the Holy Land. The Holy Robe was first displayed in 1512. It has been displayed only 16 times, drawing millions of pilgrims. The last in 1996 (our first time in Trier was 1997). It is in a specially-built chapel which can be viewed by stairs behind the altar.



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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