



# Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES  
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021  
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

## WHAT IS SEPTEMBERFEST?

Connie Wright



By now you probably keep hearing the term *'Septemberfest.'* But what, exactly, is Septemberfest?

The short answer is that it's the OLOP Society's name for our first (and maybe annual) International Food Fair. And yes, it's in September! **September 18<sup>th</sup>**, to be exact.

As of this writing, we have over 25 different food samplings from around the world, homemade by some of the best cooks in the parish. Think Italy,

France, Germany, Greece, China, Japan, the Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Portugal, Israel, Mexico, Colombia, and even good old America. We'll also offer some imported beers and wines to add a little snap to your tasting and a raffle/silent auction of some very special items.

Do join us on **Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 PM**, at OLOP's Haran Hall. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 12 and under. Beer and wine will be sold separately. Just think, that ends up being less than a dollar per food sampling. Remember to come hungry! Tickets are limited and are on sale after Mass or by calling **Shirley Coombs** at 209-295-5175.

## OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Harmony Waugh Trassare



The Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion, and the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated each year on October 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the best ways to celebrate this month is, of course, to daily pray the Rosary.

When we were living in Naples, Italy, from 2016 to 2019, we had the opportunity to pray the Rosary during the month of the Holy Rosary (October) at and with the Parishioners of the Pontifical Shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary in Pompei. The Shrine was restored by Blessed Bartolo Longo in the main square of Pompei from 1873 to 1883. Blessed Bartolo raised funds for the restoration of the church in part

by asking the local residents for the equivalent of one penny apiece and by spreading Rosary devotions and holding Rosary festivals.

On the high altar of the Shrine, there is a venerated painting depicting the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus presenting Rosaries to Saint Dominic and Saint Catherine of

SEE ROSARY, PAGE 2

## OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Kevin Darr, President



KEVIN DARR  
President

I want to thank everyone who helped celebrate our Appreciation BBQ. A special thanks to our Social Ministry **Shirleys** and those who set up and provided dishes as well as clean-up. Thanks also to **Robert Mena** his friend **Gino** for helping to cook the burgers and hot dogs.

Keeping with the theme of volunteerism, our 2021 scholarship winner **Mia Huss** and her parents, **Karen** and **Mike** joined us. They serve as Sacristans, Lectors and Ushers at SKD. We also recognized **Sue Perrine** for her continuing support throughout the years. Support of OLOP and our various ministry needs has and continues to be one of our cornerstones.

Now that the temporary dispensation for Mass has been lifted and only Wednesday Mass will be celebrated at OLOP, several folks have voiced concerns about the ability to attend weekend Masses at SKD. The goal is to create lists of folks that need help to make it to Jackson and also to make sure those who should be on the Homebound list are getting communion. More information coming.

Blessings,  
Kevin

*If we wish to serve God and  
love our neighbor well, we  
must manifest our joy in  
the service we render to  
Him and them. Let us open  
wide our hearts. It is joy  
which invites us. Press for-  
ward and fear nothing.*

— St. Katharine Drexel





**YMI NEWS**  
Phil Fondale

## **\*\* RAFFLE \*\***

The "Golden Ticket" raffle is here!!! It's Our Lady of the Pines YMI Council #137's biggest fund raiser for this year.

More than five gift baskets worth a minimum of \$100 each are the main prizes with one basket containing an additional "Golden Ticket" worth another \$100. No one will know which basket will contain the "Golden Ticket." In addition, a Merit Fitness 715T Plus Treadmill and an afternoon or evening with the "Music of Jack Magee" and his "Traveling Tunes" are offered as prizes as well.

Raffle tickets at \$10 each or three for \$20 are available before the Our Lady of the Pines Wednesday Mass and the morning Sunday Masses at SKD.

The drawing will be held on October 9, 2021, at the Our Lady of the Pines "Talent and Variety Show". **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.** Get your



tickets and maybe you can win a prize and possibly the "Golden Ticket" as well. Call **Jack Magee** at 209-295-2057 for additional details.

YMI Council #137 meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm in Haran Hall. We are the men's club for Our Lady of the Pines.

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS**

Kevin Darr

To coincide with the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, the national *Walk for the Poor* will be held locally at the SKD campus on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 till noon. Please contact **Kevin Darr** at 296-2221 for more information on this morning of friendship and a light walk to help those in need in our community.

*walk a mile in my shoes*

FROM PAGE 1

## **ROSARY**

Siena (see photo). This painting arrived to Pompei on its back in a wagon of manure, having been brought all the way from a convent in Naples (approximately 25 km – which is a long trip by foot or horseback), and required much loving restoration.

The halls of the narthex and museum within the Shrine are covered with photographs, cards, and letters of thanksgiving for miracles of health, fertility, and recovery attributed to Our Lady of the Rosary and Rosary Novenas. Perhaps the most famous of the many verified miracles at the Shrine is that of Fortuna Agrelli, a young girl whose health was fully restored from three incurable diseases after she and her family prayed three Rosary Novenas in petition, followed by three Rosary Novenas in thanksgiving. And this is from whence originated the 54-day Rosary Novena! You may learn more about the 54-day Rosary Novena and its history at: [www.54daynovena.com](http://www.54daynovena.com)

## **YOU ARE INVITED**

Joan Nikolai

To what? By whom? Where? When?

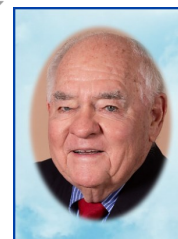
The invitation comes from our loving creator God. A God who fashioned each of us in the divine image. God who scripture tells us knows us intimately. A God who invites us into a relationship. A God who meets us where we are. What an amazing invitation. How do we RSVP?

It is through prayer that we respond to God's invitation. Our prayer arises from our life. Prayer is essential to becoming who we are called to be.

Mary models for us a dynamic prayer relationship with God. With total trust Mary says "Yes" to God's invitation. Grounded in prayer Mary faces her unexpected pregnancy, a journey to Bethlehem and the joy of Jesus' birth. In fear and uncertainty she and Joseph flee to Egypt. Anxiety and confusion over the loss of Jesus in the Temple begins the time called "the hidden years." As Mary watches her son mature and begins to understand his mission is she uneasy, reluctant, hesitant? With elation she witnesses his miracles. As her understanding deepens is she distressed at people's response to Jesus? She experiences the pain and sorrow of the cross,

**SEE INVITED, PAGE 3**

-2-



In Memory  
**Mike Madden**  
1932 - 2021  
✠  
*Rest in the  
Peace of Christ*

## **REMEMBERING MIKE MADDEN**

Less than two years ago, we lost parishioner **Betty Madden**. Following all too soon, her husband **Mike Madden** went home to the Lord in June of this year. Mike had moved to the Bay Area to be near family, and his final months were spent at *The Kensington* senior living community in Walnut Creek.

Mike was born in 1932 in Ironton, Ohio. Small but mighty, he was a standout football player at St. Joseph High School in Ironton before being drafted into the Army in 1953. He was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska. After his military service, Mike returned to Ironton where he met his soon-to-be wife, Betty Jo Waugh. After marrying in 1955, the Maddens were blessed with two sons, Terence and Michael. The family moved to California in 1962, eventually settling in Contra Costa County.

Most of Mike's career was spent as a life insurance agent for Northwestern Mutual, a profession at which he excelled. He earned his pilot's license and flew often with family and friends, enjoying this hobby throughout his life. He was a long-time member of both the Elks Club and the Lions Club. Upon the Maddens' retirement to Pioneer in 1998, they led an active life, enjoying RV travel around the country. Two of Mike's passions were fly-fishing and making wine from his estate grapes. Mike and Betty were stalwart parishioners at Our Lady of the Pines, drawing smiles and conversation from this faith community.

Mike leaves behind a sister, his two sons, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Rest in peace, Mike. We shall miss you.

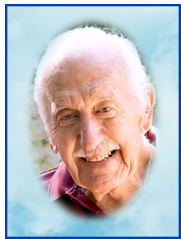
## **MAINTENANCE**

Ted Novelli

Maintenance needs volunteers to help with cleaning the grounds on a weekly basis. Please contact Ted at 209-295-1302.







In Memory  
**Tony Alimonti**  
 1929 - 2021  
 ✠  
*Rest in the  
 Peace of Christ*

## REMEMBERING TONY ALIMONTI

**Tony Alimonti** was born in Albany, California, of parents that immigrated from the Abruzzo Region of Italy. He was born with a love of adventure and at the age of 16, he left school and joined the Merchant Marines and sailed on Standard Oil tankers with ports in Alaska, Hawaii and South America. Getting his draft notice at 18, he joined the Navy in 1947 and for nine years, he sailed the seven seas to five continents and during the Korea conflict his ship operated off the coast of Korea.

Tony had three boys from a previous marriage. After the Navy, he had various jobs until his career was the finance business, managing several offices in the Bay Area. Over the years, he also had several boats in the California Delta.

Tony met **Joan** and they married in 1974, moved to the Delta, where they lived for 11 years, 7 of those on their 43 foot house cruiser. Buying property in Amador Pines they became very involved in the newly built Our Lady of the Pines, considering it still to be their church. Adventure was always calling and in retirement they traveled the U.S. in their RV and Europe 20 times.

Tony leaves behind his wife, two sons, three grandchildren and four great-granddaughters.

FROM PAGE 2

## INVITED

the rejoicing and hope at the resurrection, the enthusiasm and courage at Pentecost. Throughout her life Mary lived day to day in a personal relationship with God. Mary did not use prayer to escape life; rather, with trust she accepted all that life brought.

This intimate prayer relationship is what God invites us to share. From day-to-day living to challenges we may feel incapable of facing, God is with us. God enfolds us in love and together we face whatever life brings.

How will you RSVP to God's invitation? Who are you called to be?

## COME TO ME

Jacqueline Henss

Recently I was reading over the comments made by past participants of Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of the Pines from many years before. Filled with joy, I was moved to share with you a small portion of these for your own joy! Each of the comments was submitted by a different parishioner.

*"Where else can you sit before God and close the door on all the worries, fears and disappointments of the material world. What is essential is to simply be quiet (for once) and LISTEN."*

*"Believing in His presence in the Eucharist has strengthened my faith journey. My hour with our Lord has kept me grounded, given me peace, and makes me feel closer to Him."*

*"I felt so lighthearted having the Lord to myself. I could hardly wait for the next week to come. I have found peace with many concerns that weighed on my shoulders."*

*"... just He and I – a constant companion with whom to share my joys, failures, disappointments and successes helps me to sort out the events and experiences of every-day life."*

*"I found consolation, comfort and peace in that hour each week. The Lord has shown me so much about myself that has made a positive difference in my spiritual life and my relationships with others."*

*"Without Eucharistic Adoration, my spiritual life would substantially diminish. I do try to meditate at home, but there are so many distractions that I am seldom successful at achieving the level of devotion that I desire."*

*"I have finally been able to feel the love and forgiveness the Lord has for me, which has been life-changing."*

*"I consider it a privilege to spend one hour in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament... it is most certainly a very meager offering to a very generous God."*

*"Unable to commit to a weekly hour, I offered to substitute. In that quiet hour, free from the noise so prevalent everywhere, I feel the presence of our blessed Lord so close."*



## OLOP VARIETY SHOW SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

Jack & Paulette Magee

JESUS CALLING . . . *"You are the light of the world . . . No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may . . . give glory to God your Father in heaven."*

**Yes, I'm talking to you.**

For over a year we were prevented from sharing our talents with others. It's time to brush off the cobwebs and share our God given talents. This is not a contest, but a time to give thanks for all we have been blessed with. **If you can sing, dance, tell/read a story, do magic or comedy (or both) give Jack Magee a call (295-2057). All ages welcome – no auditions.**



For those of you looking for a couple of hours of fun-filled entertainment away from the TV, come join us on Saturday, October 9th at 7 PM at OLOP Haran Hall. There is no admission charge (but donations gratefully accepted), and all present will be 'awarded' with cookies!

Additionally, the YMI Gold Ticket Raffle prizes will be drawn that evening. **Winners in attendance have first choice at the prizes.** Winners not in attendance will be called. Tickets are being sold after the 11:30 Mass at OLOP, between the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses at SKD, by calling Jack Magee, and by contacting any YMI member.

A huge THANK YOU to all who have already accepted this invitation to bring a moment of joy into our lives.

## A NOTE OF SINCERE THANKS

To my dear church family at Our Lady of the Pines:

The number of cards, letters, emails, phone calls, visits, prayers and Mass offerings for my beloved Tony has been staggering. I've been overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and caring from you all, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for remembering him. As I look back at our life together, I am humbled at how good God was to us, blessing us with 47 years of marriage – years that were filled with love, adventure, and admiration of the wonder of God's love for His children and the beauty of his earth. There is a hole in my heart right now, but the sharing of your love has begun its healing powers. -- *With heartfelt thanks, Joan Alimonti*

## CHURCHES OF EUROPE

### Part 3

Joan Alimonti

We saw these churches for the first time as we journeyed through the beautiful French valley of Loire noted for its chateaux, with granddaughter-in-law Corry and great-granddaughter, Korissa, in tow in July 2021.



The charming old town of **Chartres** is crowned by the UNESCO-listed **Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Chartres**, an important pilgrimage destination during the Middle Ages. This awe-inspiring French Gothic church stands in an elevated position, with its soaring spires visible from

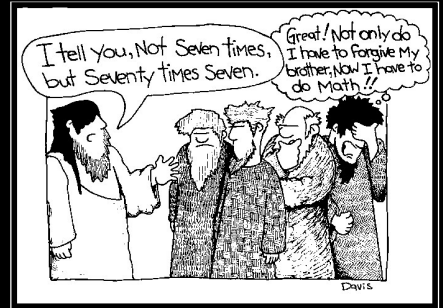
a distance. Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, Chartres Cathedral is one of the finest and best-preserved medieval churches in France as well as an important landmark of Christian art and architecture.

**Bourges.** The town's top attraction, the UNESCO-listed **Cathédrale Saint-Etienne** ranks among the most splendid of French cathedrals built in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.



The ornate west front, flanked by massive towers, has five doorways with rich sculptural decoration and an exquisite 14<sup>th</sup>-century rose window. The cathedral is entered through the Romanesque south doorway, over which is a figure of Christ in Majesty, surrounded by the symbols of the four Evangelists. The interior stuns visitors with its gorgeous sanctuary illuminated by 13<sup>th</sup>-century stained-glass windows.

**Orléans — Basilique Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d'Orléans.** The Cathedral was originally built from 1278 to 1329. It was partially destroyed in 1568 by the Huguenots during the French Wars of Religion, but was rebuilt between 1601 and 1829. The edifice is in the Gothic architectural style. During the Siege of Orléans, the cathedral was visited frequently by Joan of Arc. The cathedral's stained glass windows now depict the story of Joan's actions that contributed to the lifting of the siege. The largest town in the Loire Valley after Tours, Orléans is inseparably bound with the history of Joan of Arc. The city owes its survival to the 17-year-old "Maid of Orléans," who helped lead the French to victory against the English when Orléans was besieged in 1429.



### FORGIVE

Because it's easier than math. Math is hard.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to fulfill its mission of helping the poor, even through the pandemic. Your Beggar's Sunday donations are most appreciated! 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:	Kevin Darr
1st Vice President:	Ron Burns
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, following the 11:30 AM Mass. 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 the meetings!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement placed in the parish bulletin or a name placed on the parish prayer list, please contact the Bulletin Editor at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or [bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com](mailto:bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com). Deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend's bulletin.

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