

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor
His Excellency, Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland



Notes from Fr. Nick

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Finally, after months of delays, we will confirm our young people as adult members of the Christian Church on Sunday afternoon. The celebration will be unusual for two reasons: First, I will minister the sacrament. Normally this is reserved to the bishop in all cases but emergencies, and for those entering the Church as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Bishop Barber delegated me because the continuing Covid-19 crisis makes it difficult for him to visit each parish. Second, the liturgy will take place outdoors. The normal place to celebrate Confirmation is in the church, as it is for all the sacraments. Because there is less danger of catching the virus in the open air, our *Confirmandi* will receive the sacrament in the Dominican Garden.

In the ancient Church, the anointing of Confirmation was a part of Baptism. The anointing represented a sealing and strengthening by the Holy Spirit. During the Middle Ages, the Western Church separated this anointing from the baptismal liturgy for reasons that are not entirely clear. (In the Eastern church, to this day, babies are confirmed and receive Eucharist at the same liturgy.) Gradually, bishops took over the Confirmation anointing—now with the laying on of hands—from the local priests. In 1910 Pope Pius X moved the age for receiving Holy Communion from the age of twelve to seven, to encourage more frequent reception. This caused a split in the Western Church: most English-speaking countries left Confirmation to be received at twelve years of age, while some other countries moved it to infancy.

The change in age for receiving Confirmation caused the theology of the sacrament to differ from one place to another. When I received the sacrament at age twelve, I was taught it was to strengthen me so I could defend my faith. As we received the anointing and laying on of hands, the bishop gave each of us a ritual slap on the cheek to remind us we might have to suffer for our faith. (This ‘slap’ was removed from the ritual after Vatican II.) Needless to say, it is impossible to teach this meaning to those receiving the sacrament as infants.

More recently, we have learned that Confirmation makes us ‘adults in the Church’. This meaning goes back to our earliest days, when adults received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist) together, and were thus seen as mature members of the community. Since we don’t have a sacrament designated for adulthood, I think this makes sense, but we should bear in mind that this sacrament’s meaning has varied over the Church’s life.

Congratulations to our *Confirmandi*! You are completing the Sacraments of Initiation. You may now take your seat alongside the adult Christians in our parish and diocese. I hope you will take this role seriously. I hope you’ll consider serving on the Parish Council or as a liturgical minister, or that you’ll work in Christian formation or volunteer to help the poor. May you share the grace given you with the world around you!

Public Vigil Mass This Saturday!
 It’s now official: we will celebrate one public Mass per week, outdoors in the Dominican Garden. Services will begin **this Saturday, September 19th**, at 5:30 pm, and the readings will be those for Sunday. If you would like to help set up for the service, please let Norah know of your availability.
 The Livestream Mass will continue to be broadcast Sunday mornings on Facebook.

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
 Saturday 4:00 pm
 (and by appointment)

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The Kids' Bulletin

*What did the king in today's parable do to the servant who owed him much but asked for forgiveness?
 Use the numbers to sort the letters and find out!*

thekidsbulletin.com

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12

Word-find: The Holy Cross

September 14th, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

H S C F A T H E R T
 I C A R R Y A I S H
 L R L N A D A M A R
 L O V E D P L A C E
 J S A V I O U R R E
 E S R E V E R Y I T
 S K Y H E A V Y F W
 U H H E A V E N I O
 S K U L L I F E C O
 I F E L L E D I E D
 N L E T O R T U R E
 S O F F E R E D N N



This Tuesday we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Try to find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

After ADAM and EVE sinned, the world needed a SAVIOUR who would free us from the punishment we deserved in HELL. JESUS, Who was the Son of God, LOVED us so much that He OFFERED His LIFE to God the FATHER as a SACRIFICE for our SINS.

When the time came for Jesus to die, the HEAVY WOODEN cross was placed on His shoulders. He was forced to CARRY it to the top of the HILL. EVERY step was TORTURE. He FELL several times, and met His holy mother MARY along the way.

Finally He came to CALVARY, also called the PLACE of the SKULL. The soldiers nailed Him to the CROSS and lifted it up. The SKY became dark as Jesus hung there for THREE hours. Finally He DIED. His soul went to God and He opened the gates of HEAVEN.

Who found Jesus' cross after it had been buried for 300 years? _____

September 13th, 2020 — 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Donations for the last two weeks will be reported next week.



Dear Parishioners, you know my love for Jesus—who cured me of asthma on Pentecost Day 35 years ago—and you know my love for the poor, for whom I have walked every year ever since the *Walk for the Poor* began. A regional Saint Vincent de Paul *Walk for the Poor* will not take place this year, but I shall walk alone anyway on September 27th. Because of Covid-19, our neighbors helped by Saint Vincent de Paul are suffering greatly. Therefore, dear parishioners, I am humbly asking you to be very generous. Please make out your checks to « *St. Vincent de Paul* ». Expect my call! Thank you ever so much. ~ *Monique Duax*

Virtual Blessing of the Animals

Yes, our pets can still be blessed this year! Please email an image of your cat, dog, rat, tropical fish or other beloved family member by *this Friday*; your pet will be featured in a collage to be blessed. Email: website@marymagdalen.org



Scripture Readings for the Week

- 13th 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sirach 27:30-28:7 / Romans 14:7-9 / Matthew 18:21-35
- 14th Feast [EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS]
Numbers 21:4-9 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17
- 15th Memorial [Our Lady of Sorrows]
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31 / Jn 19:25-27
- 16th Memorial [Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop]
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 / Luke 7:31-35
- 17th Weekday [St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor]
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Luke 7:36-50
- 18th Weekday
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Luke 8:1-3
- 19th Weekday [St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr; BVM]
1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49 / Luke 8:4-15

Mass Intentions

| | | |
|-----------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 5:30 | Intentions of Br. Xavier Marie Wu, OP |
| Sunday | 8:00 | Thelma and Claver Ramos RIP |
| | 9:30 | For the People of the Parish |
| Monday | 8:30 | Intentions of Elizabeth Silloway |
| | 5:30 | Intentions of Chet Grycz |
| Tuesday | 8:30 | Intentions of Anna Maria Lukban |
| | 5:30 | Sheila RIP |
| Wednesday | 8:30 | Val Gerard Fan |
| Thursday | 8:30 | Ben & Marjorie Mathias RIP |
| | 5:30 | Marciana Ghilardi RIP |
| Friday | 8:30 | Katherine Munter RIP |
| | 5:30 | Justine Hume RIP |
| Saturday | 8:30 | Intentions of Mary Ann Onglatco |

Peace & Justice Notes

The 2020 Census Ends This Month! First, please complete **your** census information if you haven't already done so. Then **encourage others** to complete the Census. The Census data determines funding for vital services, such as **fire departments, disaster response, health clinics, highways, and educational programs** such as **Head Start** and **tuition assistance**, as well as determining political representation.

Stay informed – visit 2020census.gov to learn more.

As of September 7th, the self-reported completion rate in Alameda County was **73.9%** and in Contra Costa County, **75.9%**. We can do better!

Federal Executions 2020: Keith Dwayne Nelson, the fifth federal inmate put to death by the Administration in 2020, was executed on August 28th. Two more executions are scheduled at the end of this month: William Emmett LeCroy, Jr. and Andre Vialva. These are the first federal executions since 2003.

How does our faith call us to respond? Do we risk becoming inured to capital punishment? **Resources:**

deathpenaltyinfo.org deathpenalty.org
catholicmobilizingnetwork.org

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals): Eligible candidates for DACA status were buoyed when the Supreme Court's ruled in July that DACA provisions must remain in place. But the Administration (through the Department of Homeland Security) immediately issued rule changes that: (1) prevent first-time applicants from applying, (2) limit renewal terms, and (3) impose other rules that have caused many of these childhood arrivals to live in fear of deportation. The Administration's changes ignore the spirit and the letter of the Supreme Court's ruling.

The Peace & Justice Committee reminds you that acts of charity can also contribute to social justice. Our local conference of St. Vincent de Paul is encouraging you to support your neighbors in Berkeley by donating to the **Walk for the Poor**. **When you receive a call from parishioner Monique Duax, please consider donating an amount from \$35 to \$50, if you are able, and please make out your check to St. Vincent de Paul.**



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