

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



Notes from Fr. Nick

Jack-O'-Lanterns & Ignis Fatuus

Fr. Chris Renz, O.P., is my spiritual director. Recently he suggested that I read *Metaphors We Live By*, by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson. The book was published about 20 years ago and has become a standard reading for epistemologists—those who study the nature of truth. It is so well thought of that it was recently republished with a new afterward by the authors.

This is not a book for casual reading; it is 'industrial strength' linguistic analysis. The authors address how our very speech and thought is symbolic. For a religious person, their premise is good news, for in terms respected by the academic community, Lakoff and Johnson make a case that not everything can be quantified and defined. At its most basic level, our perception and ability to have certainty can be very much seen as spiritual.

At this point, you may think that I'm about to launch into some kind of theological treatise or attack on atheism. Actually, I'm headed in the opposite direction. Near the end of the book the authors make mention of *ignis fatuus*, or "foolish fire." Although I could translate this basic Latin, I had never come across the term before. Basically, *ignis fatuus* is something that grabs our attention so that we are misled down the wrong path.

The English term for it is *will-o-the-wisp*, and I have actually seen a phenomenon that may be the basis for *ignis fatuus*—swamp gas. Once when I was child in Florida, our family was driving through a swamp on a dark night. Suddenly the mist near us began to glow. Rather than being scared, my family and I were enchanted by it. We didn't see it as an omen that would lead us astray to die in the swamp!



Depending on the tradition you read, jack-o'-lanterns are either symbols of danger or they ward off the *ignis fatuus*. I prefer the latter tradition. To that end, we have engaged young people from our parish to carve jack-o'-lanterns and record their efforts via their smartphones. From their handiwork we're compiling a video that will be published on our website and Facebook page.

In past years, I've discussed the place of Halloween in the Church's calendar; associated as it is with All Saints' and All Souls' Days. This year I'm happy to give another spin on a custom for this time of year that comes to us with some very deep roots, and results in some fun with our families and our community.

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and we care for others."*

PUBLIC MASS

Saturday 5:30 pm - Dominican Garden

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WEBSITE

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm

(and by appointment)

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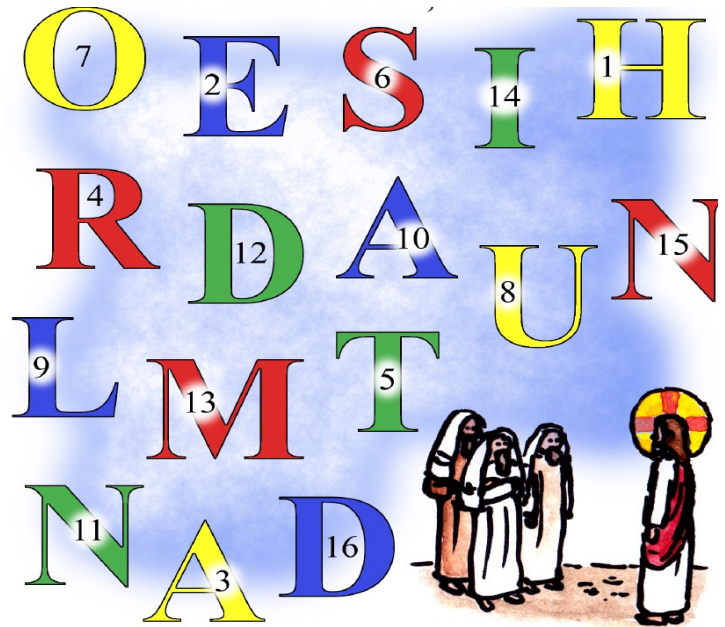
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The Kids' Bulletin



How did Jesus say we should love God?
 Put the letters in order by their numbers
 to fill in the spaces and find out!

With all our _____
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Unscramble The Gospel

Unscramble the words to fill in the blanks in today's Gospel reading,
 and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the ⁷ _____?" He said to him, "You

shall love the ⁴ _____, your God, with all
 your ⁶ _____, with all your ⁸ _____,
 and with all your ⁹ _____. This is the greatest
 and _____ ¹ commandment. The second is
 like it: You shall _____ ⁵ your neighbour as
 _____ ² _____. The _____ ³ _____

law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.

What is the most important thing for us to ever do?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



October 25th, 2020 — 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collection for the Week Ending October 18 th			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
10/18/2020	\$7,610.68	\$8,829.00	-\$1,218.32
Year-to-Date	\$346,649.04	\$381,989.00	-\$35,339.96

Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.
- Philippians 2:15,16

Submit Photos of your Loved Ones for our All Souls' Day Celebration

The parish is planning to honor our loved ones on All Souls' Day with a virtual ceremony to be aired on **Monday, November 2nd**. Please send photos of your loved ones — especially those who have died in the past couple of years — to website@marymagdalen.org.

Scripture Readings for the Week

25 th	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Exodus 22:20-26 / 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 / Matthew 22:34-40
26 th	Weekday Ephesians 4:32-5:8 / Luke 13:10-17
27 th	Weekday Ephesians 5:21-33 / Luke 13:18-21
28 th	Feast: <i>Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles</i> Ephesians 2:19-22 / Luke 6:12-16
29 th	Weekday Ephesians 6:10-20 / Luke 13:31-35
30 th	Weekday Philippians 1:1-11 / Luke 14:1-6
31 st	Weekday [<i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>] Philippians 1:18-26 / Luke 14:1, 7-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	8:00	Violeta Leyesa Segismundo RIP
	9:30	Roberto Gonzalez Bustamante RIP
	11:30	Intentions of Jessie Morland
Monday	8:30	Intentions of Br. Peter Augustine Hoang
	5:30	Intentions of Br. Peter Pius Chu
Tuesday	8:30	Intentions of Ana Luisa Jacob
	5:30	Intentions of the Gragano Family and George Tanner
Wednesday	8:30	Intentions of Fr. Anthony Rosevear, OP, and Dominican Novices
	5:30	Jorge Diaz RIP
Thursday	8:30	Alice Mazzucchi RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Rosa Reyes
Friday	8:30	Intentions of Garen Nielsen
	5:30	Maria Duque RIP
Saturday	8:30	Intentions of Carlos Reyes

Peace & Justice Notes

More Federal Executions: The U.S. Government will execute *Lisa Montgomery* by lethal injection on December 8th. She will become the first woman to be executed by the Federal Government since 1953. *Brandon Bernard* will be executed on December 10th. Attorney General William Barr is now responsible for nine executions since July. The individuals were convicted of heinous crimes, but *Catholic teaching reminds us that no capital punishment is tolerable*. Additionally, not all people are tried and sentenced similarly: studies show that jurors in Washington State are three times more likely to recommend a death sentence for a black defendant than for a white in a similar case. In Louisiana, the odds of a death sentence are 97% higher for those whose victims were white. (Currently 22 states prohibit the death penalty, plus three, including California, have a governor-imposed moratorium.)

Catholic Social Teaching for Our Times: In his 3rd encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis declares that social friendship is the way to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contributions of all people and institutions. All people of good will are invited to participate in an **online weekly study group** for *Fratelli Tutti* as we seek to understand and practice its ideals in our everyday relationships and social and political life. Join others (virtually) for 8 weeks of facilitated, prayerful reflection on this new Church teaching on **Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm**. The first session begins on November 2nd. To reserve your space, RSVP to Pax Christi by October 30th: info@paxchristinorcal.org

Prayers for the Hungry on World Food Day: Join your prayers with those across the world on any day this Fall to end the scourge of hunger. This year the **UN's World Food Program** was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its vital work in this area. So a little bit of 'us' can share the Nobel afterglow with our parish and individual efforts to end hunger. Please consider a monetary donation to our **local food banks**, **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**, **Catholic Relief Services**, or other groups you support that serve the hungry. Food insecurity is here in our community and also devastatingly present across the globe.

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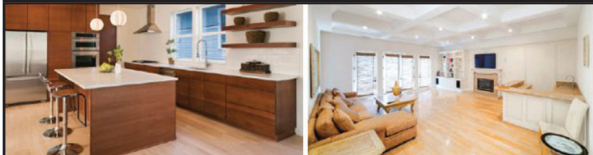
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