

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service***

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**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 11, 2016**

**The most scandalous Gesture!**

Without doubt, JESUS' gesture that most provokes and scandalizes was his way of welcoming sinners with special affection – those who had been excluded by religious leaders and socially stigmatized by their conduct outside of the Law.

What was most irritating was his custom of eating meals with them as a friend.

Usually we forget that JESUS created a situation that was unsettling for the society of that time. Sinners didn't run away from him. Rather, they felt themselves attracted to his person and to his message.

Luke tells us that "tax collectors and sinners were all crowding round to listen to him, it seems that they find in him a welcome and an understanding that they find nowhere else. Meanwhile, the Pharisees and the doctors of the Law, the men of highest moral and religious ranking in society, only know how to criticize JESUS' scandalous conduct: "This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them."

How can a man of God eat at the same table with those sinners and undesirables? JESUS never paid any attention to their criticism. He knew that God isn't the severe and rigorous Judge that those teachers talked about as smugly as they sat in the front seats of the synagogue.

He knows well his Father's heart. God understands sinners, offers forgiveness to them all, doesn't exclude anybody, and forgives everything.

No one needs to hide or dissemble God's deep and free forgiveness, that's why JESUS offers them his understanding and his friendship.

Those prostitutes and tax collectors need to feel themselves welcomed by God.

That's first. No one should be afraid. They can sit down at his table, can drink wine and sing songs right next to JESUS.

Their acceptance is curative for them deep down.

He frees them of shame and humiliation. He gives them back the joy of being alive.

JESUS accepts them as they are, without expecting anything of them ahead of time.

His peace and his confidence in God begin to touch them without his being sure that they'll respond by changing their conduct.

He does it trusting totally in the mercy of a God who is already waiting for them with arms wide open, as a good father who runs out to meet a lost son.

The first job of a Church that is faithful to JESUS is to not condemn sinners, but rather understand them and welcome them as friends.

In Rome a few months back, you could ascertain that whenever Pope Francis insisted that God forgives always, forgives everything, forgives everyone... people applauded enthusiastically.

What is certain is that this is what many people of little faith and wavering faith need to hear clearly from the Church today.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**

Call the office for an appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call for an appointment

**For Pregnancy Support:**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Prayer Group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 am. All Women and All Men.

**MASS INTENTIONS September 10 - 16**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. Herb & Chris Curran**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen**

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Paul Devlin Sr.

Thursday 8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Friday 8:00 a.m. + Marc Demers

**REPORT SUNDAY Collections**

August 20 & 21 TOTAL PLATE ..... \$1,556.00

August 27 & 28 TOTAL PLATE ..... \$1,434.00

Sept. 3 & 4 TOTAL PLATE ..... \$1,615.00

Second Collection Maintenance for the Parish

August 27 & 28 was \$435.00

**Thank you!**

**God bless you and reward you!**

**Wonderful Women's weekend!!!**

The Saint Claire Retreat Center is putting on a special silent retreat, coming on **September 23 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The guest speaker will be **Father Serge Propst O.P.** The retreat starts on Friday and ends with Sunday lunch. The cost for the three day retreat is \$150 for a single room and \$140 shared.

**For reservation and/or questions, please contact Jeanette Roberts 408 353-1880.**

**A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE**

**Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in the marriage. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **September 23 – 25, 2016** Call 831-479-1260 or email:

[Monterey@RetroCA.com](mailto:Monterey@RetroCA.com) or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

**Religion Education Program**

**Time for Registration for all children for the Sacrament of First Communion and grades after First Communion.!!!**

**Christ Child Men's Club**

Meeting Wednesday September 14th starting at 6:30 pm. Dinner is served around 7 pm.

All men Welcome!

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 7 – 8:30 pm. **September 28<sup>th</sup> - our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.**

**Please contact Ruth McCormick**

[ruthmcc@flash.net](mailto:ruthmcc@flash.net)

**Save December 10 for Greenfield!**

Sign up for a family after church Nov 5 – 20

**Questions?** Contact Karen @ 408 375-0984

Thanks, Karen

**Pastoral Council Meeting**

**This Monday September 12 at 7:00 pm.**  
**Religion Education Center in the Parish,**  
**members and every one welcome!**

**What a great gift the Lord has given us in teaching us to forgive and in this way to touch the Father mercy. Pope Francis**