

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020

Dear friends and brothers and sisters: I am preparing these bulletins for all of you, in the time of the pandemic. I do it for you by your baptismal priesthood; you are able to make the Word of God alive for you and your living. Make your own reflection and your own homilies.

I believe in you for your priesthood, please make it live and let these simple ideas help you. I love and miss you! Fr. Eugenio

1st reading, Acts 6: 1-7 Seven Chosen to Serve!

In his record of the expansion of the early Church Luke includes critical incidents which could have shattered the Church's unity, e.g., the Baptism of Gentiles and the controversy regarding circumcision. But as each crisis arises, the Holy Spirit leads the Church to a solution. This reading presents yet another crisis-the neglect of certain widows in the daily distribution of food.

The apostles' plan – advising the people to select **seven** godly **men** to handle administrative affairs – would permanently impact the church through the coming centuries. The training and experience of these deacons led to the discovery of two great preachers; Stephen was an eloquent defender of Jesus and Philip became the church's first evangelist. That the apostles gave themselves to **prayer** and the **ministry of the**

word represents a powerful statement of the values of the early church's leaders. Judging by the names of the men chosen, they were all Greeks or Grecian Jews. Because the Greeks were the ones who had felt slighted, the majority in the church chose seven from the Greek minority to correct the problem, evidencing great humility and unity.

The church's job is not only to create converts but to make **disciples who teach each other and share their faith**. God honors His Word, and it produces His result.

2nd reading, 1 Peter 2: 4-9 The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People!

Humans built the OT temple out of stones to house the presence of God. Now that the Holy Spirit dwells within believers, God has united them as **living stones** into the **spiritual house** God is building. The Christian faith and the entire church are built on Jesus, the **cornerstone**.

Under the Old Covenant, the priests offered God physical sacrifices – animals, food, and drink- on behalf of the people. Under the New Covenant, believers are called to offer **spiritual sacrifices** to God directly. They are to offer their bodies to do His work, their money to spread the gospel, their praises to glorify Him, and their good works and generosity to represent Him to a needy world.

Christians are living stones. They are also “**a chosen race,**” “**a royal priesthood,**” “**a holy nation,**” “**a people he claims for his own.**”

Peter also stresses the unity that Christ raised from the death creates among those who believe in Him.

The Gospel John 14: 1-12 The way, the Truth, and the Life!

“How do we know the way?” Jesus' first words in today's Gospel, if lived, would solve the problem: “**Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.**” Jesus is himself the way.

As Jesus promised he would, and the way to the Father is present in their midst. The way is faith in the risen Christ.

Just as the leaders in the Acts will not neglect the needs of community members, **so Jesus assures the disciples that he will not abandon them**. He listens with patience to their concerns, e.g., to the somewhat obtuse questions of Thomas and Philip. He promises that in the Father's house there is a dwelling place for everyone; everyone who follows Him belongs. No one will be left out. His example of preparing the place, taking time to ensure that there is an appropriate dwelling for everyone, is an example to all who minister.

Being faithful to JESUS involves a unity of effort in meeting community needs. Even to this day Jesus is faithful to his word. He has not abandoned us. He is with us now in the Eucharist. This is why we miss the Mass!!!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment.

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS May 9 - 15

Saturday + Calvin Andrew Stafford Jr.

Sunday + Cecily Olsen

Monday Brian & Julie Stacey

Tuesday Gail Hanley

Wednesday + Jovita Martin de Cabrera

Thursday + Vicki Banuelos

Friday The Oliver Family

Please pray the Rosary together in your home and make your home the domestic church!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Can be emailed christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

For all mothers and women: that through the intercession of the Mother of God, the Lord will bless them and reward them for their sacrifice and love.

Happy Mothers' Day!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When health restrictions are eased and we are able to start gathering together again, it is important for all of us to understand that **things probably won't immediately go back to the way they used to be**.

Diocesan guidelines for our parishes and diocesan activities will continue to be responsive to what health experts and government officials indicate. These guidelines will also be responsive to the collective wisdom of representatives from our Presbyterate, California Catholic Conference and Bishops of California...

Specifics of when public Mass and others sacraments will resume and how they will be celebrated are being presently examined. We will be communicating these changes in more detail to you, as time approaches, but you can anticipate that: Attendance may be limited at any given Mass or Service. A general dispensation from the Sunday obligation may probably continue for all (but especially for those in the most vulnerable groups, as in the elderly, compromised immune systems, etc.). Social distancing will probably continue (e.g. omission of Holy Communion from the Chalice, only Holy Communion to be offered on the hand). These changes will continue to evolve over time.

We will keep you informed: please know we are sincerely thankful for your patience and understanding as we prepare for this next phase. The well-being of you and your families continues to be our top priority. You remain in my prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

+Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey