

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

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
August 30, 2020

**Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I cry to you
all the day long. O LORD, you are good and
forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.**

First reading Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Jeremiah's Unpopular Ministry

Jeremiah complains that God has deceived and over-powered him in calling him and subjecting him to such intense suffering and persecution. The Lord allows the righteous to bring their negative emotions to Him in prayer, and this type of accusatory language toward God appears in more than a third of the Psalms.

Jeremiah's calling instilled a compelling urgency to proclaim God's Word even when he wanted to retire from ministry.

Paul expressed this same urgency in the NT: "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel" (Acts 18:5; 1 Cor. 9:16).

**"My soul is thirsting for you, O LORD my
GOD!**

**Because Your loving kindness is better
than life, my lips shall praise you."**

Psalms 63: 3-4

Second reading Romans 12: 1-2

Living Sacrifices to God

Beseech. To call to exhort, or Urge is used 54 times in Paul's epistles, demonstrating his heart as a counselor and encourager to the infant church rather than a demanding authority over them. A related word is *parakletos*, or "the Paraclete," the descriptive name given of the Holy Spirit, who comes alongside the faithful to encourage and exhort them in their walk with Christ.

Conformed was sometimes used for a masquerade or an act. If people conform to the world's standards of behavior, they mask who they are in Christ. The Christian's life should be marked by transformation, seen through the **renewing of the mind**, ever seeking to grow in understanding to discern (or **prove**) God's will.

Metamorphosis comes from the Greek word for **transformed** and indicates change "from the inside out."

The term is used twice in reference to Christ's Transfiguration. Jesus' brightness was His inner person shining through, visible on the outside. His brightness should likewise shine through His followers.

To be a **living sacrifice** seems an oxymoron because sacrifices are usually dead. So how are Christians supposed to be living sacrifices? With sacrificial services, or worship, that is reasonable for someone who is genuinely grateful for what they have received from God. The goal of presenting oneself as a living sacrifice is services. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, prayed that "we... might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life." That is a beautiful model of what it means to live as a sacrifice to Christ.

The Gospel Matthew 16: 21-27

Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

Matthew records five occasions when Jesus told His disciples that He would die, yet not until after the Resurrection did they truly understand. Here He again said He would **suffer** in Jerusalem, **be killed**, and **be raised** from the grave – events that transpired about six months after He spoke these words. Even Christians who have recognized Jesus for who He is are sometimes quick to deny Him words, either by their words or actions. Peter's statement was arrogant, even if prompted by love for his Master. When believers focus on their own agendas or desire rather the **things of God**, they can expect the Lord to discipline or rebuke them. In these verses 24-27, Jesus gives perhaps the clearest presentation of discipleship found in the Bible. Its cost is exceeded only by its reward.

And so the message of today's readings comes down to these three points.

First, the cross will always be a part of life. Try as we may to avoid it, the shadow of the cross will touch all of us at some time in our life.

Second, when it comes to the cross, each of us has a choice. Either we can turn away from it and refuse to carry it, or we can pick it up and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Finally, Jesus promises us that if we pick up our cross and follow him, he will lead us to life – not only to everlasting life in the next world but also to fullness of life in this world.

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

MASS INTENTIONS August 29 – Sept. 4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Fr. Fabian Vela

David & Norma Hammons

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Brian Donnelly

Elva Avila Reyna

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Irene Ann Miller

Maria Gutierrez

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Ruth McCormick

George Sandoval

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Denise M. LePage

Bob Sandoval

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from

1 to 2:30 pm. September 23rd

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

*We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday
at 4:30 PM Please come to pray for the
families!*

PRAYER REQUEST Can be sent
christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

Christmas Connection in Greenfield, CA 2020

**Despite the pandemic and the fires in our
area, our Parish Community in these difficult
times, wants to give this coming Christmas
some Hope and above all the Love of Jesus
Christ to the people and families of
Greenfield, as is the Tradition of our
community.**

**For which we need your help and people to
help us carry out this project.
Please talk to me to find out and form a team.
Fr. Eugenio by phone or email!**

**TODAY Second Collection for the support the
property. Thank You!**

