

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

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**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 6, 2020**

**First reading Ezekiel 33: 7-9**

**The Watchman and His Message**

There are many ways to think of prophets. But probably the most helpful way is to think of them as agents of life. God sends prophets with a view to protecting the people from influences that lead them away from the path of life. In this reading this life-sustaining task of the prophet is captured in the image of the watchman.

**Ezekiel sets the stage by reminding us that we are our brother and sister's keeper.**

This does not mean that we are to be busybodies or that we are to sit in judgment of others' behavior. What it does mean is that when we see moral danger, we are to speak up.

This responsibility to speak up varies, according to our profession or social role. Perhaps most importantly from a practical point of view, parents have a serious and sacred obligation to teach and to model the moral values and teachings of our faith. Every parent knows that behavior speaks more clearly to children than do words, but

explaining the moral teaching verbally is still essential.

Every Christian has the duty to take responsibility for our society through voting, defending moral behavior, challenging immoral behavior and positively influencing the people with whom we work and recreate.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!**

**Second reading Romans 13: 8-10**

**Paul gives us the motive for both living a moral life and the reason for our being accountable to one another-love.**

Love is so much a part of Christian life that Paul refers to it as a debt we owe one another.

Paul sums up his thoughts by saying: "Love never does any wrong to the neighbor..."

The greatest moral force in the world is not the law but love. Love for God and others empowers people to do what they cannot accomplish in the flesh-fulfill the law.

**The Gospel Matthew 18: 15-20**

**Dealing with a Sinning Brother**

Jesus offered a handbook for conflict resolution in today gospel. Believers should follow these steps and take a subsequent step only if the previous attempt at resolution fails.

In a private conference, humbly confront the person who has offended. If this works, it prevents the conflict from spreading and avoids embarrassment for the offending party.

If the first step fails, the offended party should take along one or two witnesses and confront the person again, not to overwhelm the person but to encourage resolution.

If that step fails, the offended party should bring the conflict before the whole church.

The leadership of the church can sometimes

successfully mediate or resolve the conflict and bring the offending party to repentance. If the offender is still unrepentant, the church should reject that person's company and exclude him or her from church fellowship. This may help the individual see the seriousness of the offense; it also keeps the conflict from spreading through the church and protects people from further hurt.

Let's close with a prayer that summarizes what we have been saying:

**Lord, helps us speak out against evil. Give us the wisdom to say what is right and to say it in the right way.**

**Give us the courage to realize that what we say may not bear fruit until years after we say it.**

**Finally, Lord, when we are tempted to remain silent and not speak out against evil, remind us of your promise that whoever acknowledges you before others you will acknowledge before your Father in heaven.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or 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

**Pray the Rosary**

We pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 4:30 pm. Please come to pray...

**MASS INTENTIONS September 5 - 11**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Calvin Andrew Stafford  
+ Constantino Silva**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Leslie R. Olsen**

**Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Rugulito Evangelista Sr.  
+ Constantino Silva**

**Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Joy Farmer & Tracy Pope**

**Friday 9:00 a.m. + Jon Kelly**

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from **1 to 2:30 PM. September 23<sup>rd</sup>.**  
Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**August 29 & 30, 2020**

**Plate Collection Total \$1,519.00**

**Second Collection Maintenance \$ 257.00**

**Thank you and God bless you!**

**Prayer Ministry for Parishioners and Their  
Loved Ones**

**Prayer requests:** can be email to  
[christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com)

**For the Birthright event**

**VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER BIRTHRIGHT**

Birthright of San Jose, in lieu of a theater event this year, is doing our 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Event!

You have 3 ways to participate:

- 1) Join the Virtual Movie Night to see Unplanned Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. - suggested donation - \$50 deadline 9/9
- 2) Buy raffle tickets for 8 beautiful baskets - \$5 each or 6 for \$25 (deadline 9/16) need not be present to win.
- 3) Join us online after the movie at 8:30 p.m. for a live auction of a 4 night stay in beautiful 4bdrm home in South Lake Tahoe

For full details and registration go online to  
[birthrightsanjose.org/events](http://birthrightsanjose.org/events)

**Questions? 408 241-8444 or call  
Norma or Dave Hammons at  
408 353-3326**

