**Blessed be God**

who chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.

Ephesians 1:3, 4

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**SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

Daily Masses:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am

Saturday Masses:
8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses:
7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm

**CONFESSIONS**:
Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Parish Office: 925-682-2486

**Sunday, 7/12**
- ICF Mtg, Parish Hall, 2pm

**Monday, 7/13**
- Rosary & Perpetual Help, Church 7pm

**Tuesday, 7/14**
- Spanish Prayer, Church, 7:30pm

**Wednesday 7/15**
- St. V DePaul, Min. Ctr 7 pm
- High Sch BBQ, Youth House 6pm

**Thursday, 7/16**
- Centering Prayer, Min Ctr 10:00 am
- Immigration Wkshop, Parish hall 7:30

**Friday, 7/17**
- Summer Film, Parish Hall 7pm

**Saturday, 7/18**
- Men’s Fellowship, Chapel 7:30am

**Sunday, 7/19**
- Taize Prayer, Church 7:30 pm

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To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
I came across this article on Yahoo News. “Ever wonder what might happen if a python ate a porcupine? Well, wonder no more. One of these giant snakes — which kill prey by suffocating it and then consuming it whole — recently dined on a porcupine and didn't live to brag about it,” states Elizabeth Palermo, who writes for “Live Science.” The following is an abridged version of the story published by Elizabeth.

On June 14, a cyclist riding along one of the mountain bike trails at the Lake Eland Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, spotted a very engorged snake. The cyclist snapped a few photos of the gluttonous python and posted them to social media, where they quickly attracted the attention of locals who wanted to see the python themselves. Lots of people came to the park in the following days just to view the swollen snake, according to Jennifer Fuller, general manager at the game reserve. The park rangers decided to cut it open and have a look inside. What they found was one heck of a snack: a 30-pound porcupine.

It isn’t unusual for pythons to eat porcupines, Fuller told Live Science in an email. In the 2003 study, entitled “Prickly food: snakes preying upon porcupines,” researchers found that when a snake eats a porcupine, the animal’s quills are left undigested and are easily detectable in the snake’s gut. Sometimes, the quills will even pierce all the way through the snake’s body, according to the study. But there’s no word yet on whether this particular snake died because it was pierced by quills or because it fell off a ledge (or because it was pierced by quills as a result of falling off the ledge), Fuller told the Australian news website News.com.

Today’s scripture readings are about being sent. Not only that, they tell the story of how the Lord has placed an absolutely amazing amount of trust in us! We know that the trust of God in us is great because we have been sent into a difficult world. I found the snake story quite interesting because in life we have to deal with situations that we often find it hard to understand and digest. And when we take on these issues unprepared, we find ourselves consumed by these very complex matters.

How does a missionary or a disciple of Jesus or you and me take on contemporary issues that cover a lot of territory: modern medical technology and life, issues that arise through crises and catastrophes, social trends or public policy debates such as marriage or climate change, and contemporary theological issues? I have to confess that it is not easy to be a preacher of the Word in these challenging times.

Winston Churchill was one of the great leaders of this century. Churchill said leadership means not to be completely in harmony with everyone else. Actually that is a Christian insight into leadership. After all, Jesus says He wants a people who are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. People who walk to the beat of a different drummer. That means you and me, if we are going to lead, must be a bit out of step. Of course, there are risks associated with this. That’s the rub. Churchill also said, “Politics are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war, you can only be killed once, but in politics many times.” He might well have said that about the pastors. I know pastors who are the walking dead. They have been riddled with bullets, often from their own people, not the world. (Michael Ladra, Temptations of a virtuous pastor)

Ministry depends to a great deal on our credibility and trustworthiness. If you don’t have that kind of trust, the chances of your making a significant impact are diminished. The issue may be important, but you may not be the right spokesman, or this might not be the best time. Grant Lovejoy states, “If a congregation perceives your message is rooted in the Bible, they are more willing to give you a hearing, but if the sermon resembles the editorial page with the Bible tacked on, then they may treat it as only your opinion.” I would like to leave you with this question. What does Jesus mean when he says, “I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves?” I would love to hear your reflections.
Monument Crisis Center annual “Back 2 School” backpack drive!
School is out, but we are already prepa-ring for the new school year with our annual backpack drive. This year, we are committed to “No Student Left Behind”, especially in our local community. Our goal is 1,200 new backpacks filled with school supplies. Please look at our lists on pg. 2 of this bulletin. There is a list for middle/high school and a list for K-5th grade. If you have any questions, please email us at monumentspecificaevents@gmail.com. We will gracefully begin accepting donations on July 20th until August 6th.
A heartfelt “thank you” in advance, for your generosity and support.

Sunday Night Youth Mass - Join us at our new 6:00 pm mass time.
If you haven’t already attended our Sunday night youth mass, maybe now is the time to start! The mass is led and inspired by the young people of our community. All are welcome and you have a bonus of sleeping in Sunday mornings!

Taize prayer, Sunday, July 19th at 7:30 pm, after our youth mass. Join us here at Christ the King, for Taize prayer around the Cross. Each month 5 churches of Pleasant Hill sponsor an hour of devotional prayer in the spirit of Taize (the ecumenical community in Southern France). This month the Taize prayer will be held at Christ the King on Sunday, July 19th at 7:30 pm.

Next week we have a second collection for Mission Cooperative Plan. Missionaries from throughout the world come to our diocese to share the story of their missions and invite us to participate with our prayer and our financial support. Next week, The Sisters of Social Service will join us. Thank you for your support.

Immigration Initiative: Helping Our Neighbor: Catholic Charities of the East Bay provides immigration relief to thousands of our sisters and brothers. Want to learn if you can help? Join us for our Immigration Workshop on July 16, at 7:30 pm here in our parish hall. Together we can work for comprehensive immigration reform that respects borders and the rights of families to stay together. For more information contact Stephen Mullin at 510-768-3165.

Summer Movies: Join us this Friday for a screening of “Undefeated”. The movie will start at 7pm in the parish hall. Popcorn and snacks will be provided and a discussion will follow. Friday, Jul 24 will be family movie night, with “Cars”. We will have a family BBQ at 6pm followed by the movie at 7pm.

The Feast of St. Mary Magdalene. Two opportunities to celebrate! The Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, an annual collaboration of St. Perpetua and Christ the King Parishes. All are welcome on Monday, July 13th at 7PM at St. Perpetua Church. Evening Presentation, Prayer & Song. “St. Mary Magdalene and the Divine Feminine” Dr. Ron Olowin, explores the archetypal role of the Divine Feminine in Eastern and Western spirituality and helps to clarify the cosmic position of St. Mary Magdalene today. July 22, the Feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, join us at 8am at Christ the King Church: Morning Eucharist, “Light of Truth”. Please join us.

Reminder: Beginning July 1, the parish offices will be closed nightly at 5:00 pm. The office will still be open Saturdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please remember to check out any keys, questions, etc. before 5:00 pm!

Church Support 7/5/15 $18,810; Bldg. fund $995. Online Giving $11,195; Ca Ed:$4690.00

Invitation to be a Catechist (teacher): Are you willing to share your time and gift of faith with our parish children? Want to meet dedicated, generous and enthusiastic catechists? We have an opening in grades 1-3 (afternoons) and grade 7/8 (evenings). We provide in-service, curriculum and support for all in our ministry. Learn more about our Religious Education program. Call Sr. Maureen and arrange for an appointment, 686-1174 or mvi- anietkre@gmail.com. Come, share, decide - no strings attached.

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:
Jessica Reid Sliwerski, Bianca Klapperich, Dolores Collins, Salome Romana, Noel Valenciano, Fred Eyers, Julie Barnard , Jim Pitlick, Trevor Smits. God of love, ever caring, ever strong, stand by your children in their time of need. Look after them and grant them Your healing and Your peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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On behalf of the adults and teens who attended the youth ministry service trip to New Orleans, I'd like to say thank you to our parishioners for your generous support. Without you, this trip would not have been possible. Our teens worked tirelessly during the week building a home through Habitat for Humanity.

Blessings,     Rick Lejano, Youth Minister