

Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

SAINT PATRICK PARISH
MARCH/APRIL 2010



WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?



Most of us remember the Sunday after Easter as *Low Sunday*. However, it is now known as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. It is dedicated to the devotion to the Divine Mercy promoted by St. Faustina, and is based upon an entry in St. Faustina's diary stating that anyone who participates in the Mass and receives the sacraments of confession and Eucharist on this day is assured by Jesus of full remission of sins.

According to the notebooks of Saint Faustina, Jesus made the following statements about this day: "*On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain*

complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 699)

The devotion was celebrated unofficially in many places for some years. On April 30, 2000 (Divine Mercy Sunday of that year), Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday in the General Roman Calendar, with effect from the following year. He also decreed a plenary indulgence associated with this devotion. Pope John Paul II died during the vigil of the Divine Mercy Sunday 2005.

YOUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Jim Birmingham, President

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St. Patrick's Chapter) provides financial services and help to the needy within Amador County. Our help varies depending on the particular requirements of any given person or family but often translates to financial assistance for rent, transient lodging, utilities, food, medical drugs, and automobile expenses. Very often, this time of year, we also purchase firewood to bring warmth into households that would otherwise be forgotten and cold. How is this made possible? This charitable ministry can only be carried on through the generous donations of our parishioners who truly never let the needy be forgotten. Your donations provide wide-ranging support to many and our sincere hope is that this also plants a seed within them which will grow into faith and trust in a living and merciful God who knows and remembers us all.

For your information, our society conducts Beggar's Sundays – our collection days – on the fourth Sunday of every other month. Collections in CY 2010 will be made in January, March, May...and so on. Also, we will pass out Save Mart Share Cards to parishioners at the same time. These cards are free and, with one swipe, provide a 3% return on sales to St. Vincent de Paul by Save Mart. This program provides us with several hundred dollars of additional income annually and we appreciate your continued support of it if you happen to shop at that store. Again, the St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks everyone for generously supporting the many who are so needy within our area.

KNOW YOUR PARISHIONERS



Paul and Judy Christopoulos have been parishioners of OLOP since retiring to this area over two years ago. Paul was born and raised in Oakland, CA, where he graduated from Oakland High School. He then went on to San Jose State where he received his BS in accounting and later attended the University of Santa Clara obtaining an MBA.

Judy was born in South Bend, IN. Her family moved to California and eventually settled in Santa Clara where she graduated from Buchser High School and attended De Anza College.

Paul and Judy meet each other in San Jose while working at UCP, where **Paul** was the Cost Accounting Manager and **Judy** was a Planner; they have been married for thirteen years. They are the parents of three children and have four grandsons.

They are both involved in the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Break Bread With Friends and volunteer to clean the church once a month.

Paul serves as the Treasurer of the OLOP Society and is a member of YMI. **Judy** is the President of Sierra Highland Homeowner Association, was a hostess at last year's Respect Life Tea, was a co-chairperson for last year's rummage sale and has volunteered to co-chair this year's rummage sale. She also has a part time job as a bookkeeper.

They enjoy road trips to anywhere, antiquing and wine tasting along the way. They also enjoy hiking and walks on the beach, fishing, playing tennis and spending time with their grandsons. **Judy's** hobbies are collecting Depression Glass, swimming, reading and cooking. **Paul** enjoys reading, investing and playing a little golf.

LITURGY TIDBITS

Joan Nikolai

Do you remember the question I left with you in the last issue? How did we move from the early Christian gatherings where bread and wine were blessed and shared in the context of a meal to receiving Holy Communion on the tongue kneeling at the altar rail? Very briefly this is how the practice developed.

The spread of Christianity, emphasis on the Divinity of Christ, and in appropriate actions of people receiving communion all had an impact on the development of the Mass and how Eucharist was received.

As the Church grew, the gatherings became more structured, prayers were written and a ritual pattern emerged. When Emperor Constantine ended the persecution of Christians, and made Christianity the official religion of the state there was an influx of new Christians. Basilicas were built to accommodate the growing community. These huge buildings lent themselves to a more formal kind of gathering. Processions were introduced. An ornate altar was placed in the sanctuary, and the celebrant dressed in more elaborate robes now stood with his back to the people. The simple plates and cups were replaced by ornate chalices and patens. Latin remained the language of the Mass even though it was declining as the common language. A separation began to develop between the celebrant and the people. The people's role slowly changed from participants to passive onlookers. With an emphasis on the divinity of Christ came a growing sense of the unworthiness of ordinary people. For many the Eucharistic Bread took on a superstitious quality and on receiving would not be consumed but taken home as a good luck charm or an object for healing. All these influences contributed to placing the Host on the tongue.

As I knelt at the altar railing in 1952 to receive my First Communion, I had no idea what a privilege Vatican II would bestow on us, but each time I receive the Body of Christ in my hand I am thankful.

It's Our Book — It's a #1 Best Seller Have you read it?

Join us for the next session of "Echoes of Faith" - Introduction to Scripture.

Saturday, March 13 at 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Hall in Jackson.

Registration in necessary.

Call **Joan Nikolai** at 295.5528

"EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE"

Joan Alimonti

A quick and wonderful entrée – ready to eat 30 minutes after you return from Stations.

Salmon Potato Surprise

In a blender jar:

2/3 cup low fat cottage cheese

1 cup skim milk

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Blend on high 'til smooth. Pour into a bowl.

Add:

4 ounces canned salmon, drained

¼ cup green onion, sliced

½ cup frozen peas, thawed

Mix well. Distribute evenly over two 4 to 5 ounce baked potatoes, hot from the oven.

Serves two.

YMI NEWS

Ron Burns

The Young Men's Institute (YMI), Council #137, is off to a flying start this year with many activities and programs planned. Our 2nd pancake breakfast was enjoyed by many and Lenten soup suppers, following Stations of the Cross, are rapidly approaching. Council 137 also has a Scholarship committee in place chaired by Br. **Tim Durkin**, with the first ever "Father George Thomas Scholarship" to be awarded later on in the year. The annual Red and White Mass was celebrated in San Leandro on March 6th and the Grand Council Session for 2010 will be at John Ascuaga's Nugget (Sparks) in June. Our Council is growing in leaps and bounds but we still have room for more members from the OLOP Catholic Community. For a membership application contact one of the following council officers : Br. **Ron Burns** (President), Br. **Tim Durkin** (VP), Br. **Phil Fondale** (Secretary), Br. **Joe Bertao** (Treasurer) and Br. **Art Wright** (Past President).



YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE COUNCIL 137 SCHOLARSHIP

Tim Durkin

The YMI is pleased to announce a \$600 **Father George Thomas** scholarship, available to new and returning college students who are members of the Amador Catholic Community. The school may be vocational, two year or four year. The format is essay and the deadline to submit the essay is May 1, 2010. Essay topic along with specific instructions may be obtained by contacting Tim Durkin via email (tedrch@gmail), mail (PO Box 795, Pine Grove, CA, 95665) or in person (13828 Goldmine Road, Suite 6, Pine Grove). *Pro Deo Pro Patria, For God and For Country!*

YOUR MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Bertao

Winter months have been quiet without many projects. One reminder, in the past we have installed hand rails along the sidewalks on the side of the church leading down to Haran Hall. When icy conditions exist we strongly recommend that you use these sidewalks, rather than the parking lot, to access the Hall, ie for Hospitality Sunday and other events after Mass. *Safety first.* We will soon be scheduling our annual cleanup day, so watch the bulletin for the date and time. A good time is had by all, a lunch is provided and our grounds will look good and be fire safe for the summer. Remember, many hands make light work.

WELCOMING NEW PARISHIONERS

Blanche Rueda

Two families have registered with St. Patrick Parish, **Patrick Joy** of Pioneer and **Sinead & Dan Klement** of Jackson. The following are reasons to register with the parish:

- Receive envelopes in the mail (optional)
- Essential to be enrolled in RCIA, Faith Formation
- Receive mailed schedules for Easter & Christmas
- Receive a card or phone call when ill or home bound
- Receive the Holy Eucharist at home while ill
- A real sense of belonging!

Contact **Blanche Rueda**, New Parishioner Ministry, for additional information at 295-4025.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO DOUG NELSON?



I am probably remembered best for being an altar server for many years in the mid 90's thru the beginning of the millennium. However, once

I graduated from Amador High in

2004, I haven't been around Our Lady of the Pines as much as I would have liked. I went to University of the Pacific in Stockton right after graduating from Amador High and was pursuing a Doctorate in Pharmacy. After a year and a half of taking classes, and working in a pharmacy, I decided that I really didn't want to be a pharmacist. Having no real idea what to do, I looked at what my younger brother Nick was majoring in at University of the Pacific. He had chosen Civil Engineering, and, not wanting to go the exact same path, I decided to change my major to Mechanical Engineering. I just graduated with my Bachelors of Science degree this past December and am happy to be done. I am currently working on applying to become an Officer in the United States Navy and hope to begin serving by this summer.

While my trips to Upcountry may not be as often as I would like them to be, I still come up to visit my family as often as possible. It is hard to not want to do your best and succeed at everything you do when you have people rooting for you like **Wilma Zekan** and **Dennis, Elizabeth, and Allison Nelson**. I am grateful for everything they have provided through the years and am always happy to spend time with them. It wasn't hard getting through college when you have their support and with **Nick** at UOP as well. Thank you guys and OLOP for all your support over the years, it really means a lot to me.

“THE PREZ SAYS”

The time is fast approaching for the annual OLOP Golf Tournament and we could use a little more help. We have a few volunteers to help, but a few more are needed.

We could use men and/or women to help with prizes, assist in chairing the event and other help like kitchen and Bar B Qing. Remember, help isn't confined to just men, ladies are encouraged to help in any area, chairing or prizes to name a few. For more info, call: **Jim Perrine** 295.4753 or **Paul Christopolus** at 295.1942.

RUMMAGE SALE 2010

By Jim Powell

Well, that certainly was a fast year! It is time already to begin to assess those items that you no longer use and could do without. The annual rummage sale to be held June 4, 5 & 6 is just the place for you to donate your gently used clothing, shoes, handbags, furniture, linens, books, music, movies, knickknacks, kitchen items, small appliances, electronics, artwork, craft projects, fabric, jewelry, children's items, tools, outdoor equipment, Christmas items, medical supply items, etc. Please note that there are certain items that are unacceptable for the sale, ie: hazardous materials, computers or computer components, mattresses, encyclopedias, sets of magazines such as National Geographics. Large appliances may be acceptable pending approval by the sale chair persons.

Start putting those items you have been meaning to donate to a good cause. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements about donation drop-offs and pickups. Should you have a condition arise requiring a pickup of drop-off prior to May 10, please contact either **Judy** or **Camille**.

This annual event is held at Haran Hall at Our Lady of the Pines and is sponsored by the parishioners of Our Lady of the Pines and St. Bernard and is the biggest fund raiser of the year. Proceeds are applied to church maintenance and charitable causes.

This year's event is co-chaired by **Judy Christopoulos** and **Camille Sereni** with assistance from **Jim Powell**. Lots of willing hands are needed to make this event successful. Please consider helping out. Watch for announcements on the volunteer sign ups. Contact **Judy** at 295-1942 or **Camille** at 295-5830 for more information or to volunteer.

RESPECT LIFE TEA SAVE THE DATE!

Carole Sooy



Come and join us for our eighth annual Respect Life Tea. Join our tea party Saturday, May 1, from 2 to 4 PM in Haran Hall. This year's beneficiary is the

Amador Pregnancy Help Center located in Jackson. Tickets go on sale in March. The cost remains the same - \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under.

If you are interested in hosting a table, call **Carole** at 257-1932.

MINISTRY FAIRE AT OLOP

Blanche Rueda

On Sunday, March 7th in conjunction with Hospitality Sunday there was a Ministry Faire in Haran Hall. Over 25 ministries were represented to inform parishioners of what the various ministries accomplish. Besides learning what each ministry was about, there is a real need in some ministries to sign-up people to help. Many of our parishioners have volunteered their time, talent and treasure through the years and new faces are always welcome. In order to maintain Haran Hall we need to have functions that produce funds to do the necessary maintenance. Other ministries need people to execute the tasks to run our OLOP such as Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Maintenance etc. Each parishioner is a member of the OLOP Society and we welcome you to our monthly potluck and meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. which last about one hour.

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Joan Nikolai

One of the goals of Faith Formation is to help the children connect what they learn in class on Sunday to how they live their life every day. Jesus told us to love one another as I have loved you. We do this as his Church the Body of Christ on earth. As a way to live this out, the children and their families and some of our parishioners are collecting cake mixes, frosting, candles and any other items that would help a family to celebrate a child's birthday. In January the children with help from moms and siblings decorated and filled 22 Birthday Bags with a cake mix, frosting and candles plus assorted items to make a family party, napkins, plates, decorations, streamers, party hats and balloons. The Birthday Bags were delivered to the Interfaith Food Bank for distribution. If you would like to contribute there is a collection box in Haran Hall. Another set will be delivered in April.

A fifth grade class was asked to watch TV commercials and see if they could use them for ideas about God.

*God is like
DIAL SOAP*

*Aren't you glad you have Him?
Don't you wish everybody did?*

‘PUTER PATTERN

Practical PDF's

Connie Wright

You see them everywhere on the Internet. You receive them in your email Inbox. The idea behind them is practical and almost practically perfect. So what is this techno-wonder that you can't live without? Why, PDF's of course! PDF stands for **portable document format**, which is not as meaningless as it first sounds. Most computers today have the ability to create and display this file format, regardless of operating system – this “go anywhere” capability makes PDF files truly *portable*.

As you work with different file formats in your computer tasks (.doc, .wpd, .xls, .pps, .pub, etc.) at some point you will want to share your creations with others. Maybe you prepared a word processing document, a spreadsheet, a slide presentation, or a newsletter. You want to send your masterpiece to a friend, but you know he or she doesn't have the program you used to create that fine work of art and would not be able to view it. What to do? Enter PDF's. When properly created, a PDF can be a “copy” of your work that almost anyone can view exactly as you intended it to look, even if they don't have Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, or whatever program **you** might have used. (Although I just mentioned all Microsoft products, PDF's can be made from documents created by a multitude of non-Microsoft programs.)

Most casual computer users can create perfectly acceptable PDF's using free software easily available on the Internet. Two such free programs are **PrimoPDF** (www.primopdf.com) and **doPDF** (www.dopdf.com). You begin by downloading and installing one of these programs, which becomes a *virtual printer driver* on your computer. When you are ready to create a PDF, you choose one of those programs as your “printer,” make a few choices about your final output, and the program will convert your document to a PDF file. No hard copy is generated at this point. You can then share that digital file with a hundred of your closest friends, if you like! Remember that you must have a PDF *viewing* program installed in order to *display* a PDF file. Two such **free** programs are Adobe Reader, available at get.adobe.com/reader/, or Foxit Reader, available at www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader/. **Most people already have Adobe Reader installed, but it is helpful to keep your Reader updated with recent versions.**

Another practical use for PDF's, but not always immediately thought of, is to “print” a webpage off the Internet. Webpages are notorious for being difficult to print because of the nature of their design. But you can choose your PDF printer driver, select options like portrait or landscape layout, fit to margins, quality of output, and compression of images. When you “print” the webpage, you should then have a pretty decent reproduction of the webpage on your computer that you can *then* send to your printer to create a hard copy. Although this is an extra step in generating a printed webpage, it is well worth the effort. I often create PDF's of webpages that I simply store on my computer, such as records of purchase transactions or submitted forms. If I want to actually print hard copies, the files are there at my disposal.

There are numerous programs for working with PDF's in varying levels of complexity, depending on your needs. For instance, *editing* PDF files or creating fill-in-the-blank forms require a more sophisticated program that usually requires purchase. Newer versions of the Microsoft Office products have their own PDF-creation features built in. But PrimoPDF and doPDF are two basic, reliable PDF creation programs that remain free for the taking, with no nags. Primo also offers a free online service for creating PDF's so you don't even have to install any software. How simple is that??

LIBRARY REPORT

Florence Reynolds



A variety of books appropriate for reading during Lent is offered in the Our Lady of the Pines library, located near the church entrance. Set up on an “honor system” with donations from parish members, the library is available when the church is open. Those participating in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may also wish to select a book for meditation.

MAYBE. . . we were supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for the gift.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Members of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society beg for money after Mass from time to time. The money collected goes to support the needy of Amador County. Please bring a bit of extra cash with you on Beggar's Sundays, the fourth Sunday of every other month, beginning in January, when volunteers will be begging for donations.

OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jim Perrine

1st VP: Joe Bertao

2nd VP: Ron Burns

Secretary: Connie Wright

Treasurer: Paul Christopoulos

OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month. A potluck dinner begins at 6:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society. There are no dues required. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing some new faces at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement made from the altar, please contact **Viki Routt at 296-4130 or vsroutt@hotmail.com** so it can be included in the announcements on Sundays. If you need an announcement placed in the Church Bulletin, please contact **Geralyn Harder at 296-3889 or bulletin@stpatparish.org**.

If you have a comment, compliment, question or an article for the *Pine Times*, please contact Ray Waugh (Publisher) at 295-1217 or at ray_waugh@juno.com. Material submitted via e-mail is very much appreciated. Photos are to be given to **Jim Perrine**, Director of All Graphic Images and Editor, at jmsu@volcano.net, or call 295-4753.

PARISH WEBSITE

<http://stpatparish.org>