

**For The Bulletin Of
October 22, 2017**



**THE FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS
OF ANTIOCH AND THE 29TH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

From Father Robert

Today we celebrate our patronal feast day which is actually celebrated on October 17th in honor of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Happy Feast Day to all! How blessed we are to have a patron upon whose life, witness, ministry, and martyrdom the early church is based and who contributed to the developing understanding of what it means to be followers of Jesus, to be His disciples, to share in the Eucharist, and to become His presence in the world. May this be a special day of blessing for all of us who are privileged to call this our spiritual home. On behalf of the leadership of the parish: The pastoral Staff, The Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council, thank YOU all for all that you do to make this parish the amazing community of faith that it is, your acceptance of your responsibility to share with us in the building of God's kingdom in our midst,

responding so faithfully and generously to the needs of others and especially those on the periphery and margins of life in this world, for your continuing and amazing generosity to so many causes that meet the needs of others, your support of all of our outreach ministries as well as our educational and spiritual opportunities for personal growth and development offered throughout the year. Every day I thank God for allowing me to be your Brother and Shepherd. Let us continue to pray for one another as we journey together, using our time, talents, and treasure to build His kingdom in our midst and beyond.

The prayers of today's liturgies reflect the feast day while the scripture passages are from the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The reflection is based on these passages from scripture.

There are many deep divisions between "Caesar" and God', between earthly kingdoms and the kingdom of heaven. In today's gospel the Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians rise what amounts to a minor division when they raise the question of paying "the census tax to Caesar." Seeing through their ruse, Jesus turns the tables and enraps them "with the truth." The "way of God" is not found in opposing civil and religious realms, but in acting as Jesus would in both areas of life, responding appropriately in each "kingdom." Like Jesus, we are to give ourselves for the good of others in all areas of life. Giving ourselves first to God, we will know the "way" and the "truth" of all other loyalties, and our choices and behaviors will further God's plan of salvation.

Jesus quickly dispatches this false divide between realms in which we live, commanding His hearers to give to each realm what properly belongs to it. This is actually the easy part of life. The deepest divide to which we must attend is between disingenuous hearts living a lie and transparent hearts living “in accordance with the truth.” This deepest divide is what Jesus came to heal – for those who wish to be healed. It would seem that the religious leaders – who ought to be the very ones who model for the people how undivided hearts live and act – are the very ones who do not choose to be healed. They seem to do everything to foster division. They pretend to be turned toward God through their strict religious observances, but in effect are turned toward themselves. They pretend to be deeply religious, but in effect are shallowly self-promoting.

By trying to entrap Jesus these corrupt religious leaders are actually putting “Caesar” (that is, their own will and agenda, their own fears and obstinacy) ahead of God. Their own actions have betrayed that they themselves do anything but “teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.” Their own life-style and way of relating to others betray who and what is first in their life.

The obligations to Caesar and God are radically different: to the state we pay taxes, but to God we give undivided hearts. Isaiah speaks for God: “I am the Lord, there is no other”; our ultimate loyalty and self-offering is to God and so we “give to the Lord the glory due His name!” If we keep God central in our lives, then there is no problem with giving “to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.” Further, if we place this in the eschatological (end times and

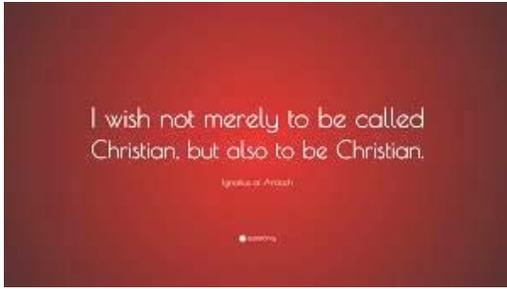
fulfillment) context of Matthew’s gospel, the controversy with which the religious leaders confront Jesus simply crumbles, for everything in this world ultimately belongs to God; there is nothing of this world that compares to Who God is and how much God cares for and loves us, and nothing of this world is worth more than what God offers us. The only thing God asks of us is the self-offering that acknowledges Who God is and who we are in relation to God. In return, God gives what no emperor or state can give: a share in divine Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Often our struggle with living this gospel is not really about two “kingdoms” presenting opposing values, but rather that our own divided hearts trump everything else. The kind of self-giving that gives to God what is God’s due and to society what is society’s due necessitates that we think of others first. It truly is that simple, yet sometimes so hard to live!

What questions and issues do today’s scripture passages raise for you?

- The divisions I experience in daily living are...I respond to these divisions by...
- I know I am living “in accordance with the truth” when...The truth of my life is...
- What and who help me give to God what belongs to God are...



About Liturgy: Worship and Gift of Self

If there is anything we learn from the prophets of the Old Testament and from the religious leaders of the New Testament, it is that worship cannot be empty. Worship is the praise of God that is borne out by caring for others who are the beloved of God; caring for others is caring about God. Worship that stays within the four walls of a building is empty; even the very structure of liturgy itself reminds us that God changes us during liturgy so that we can live better for the good of others. We are dismissed from liturgy to live what we have celebrated. Worship begins with God's gift of Self to us; it concludes by sending us forth to be a gift of self for those we meet in our everyday living. This is how we live with the integrity of Jesus.

Every liturgy ends with some sort of mission – we are sent to love and serve the Lord in each other. These are not just ritual words at the end of Eucharist to which we more or less consciously respond, “Thanks be to God.” Our “Thanks be to God” is more than words – it requires of us to give thanks to God for all God has given us by our taking care of others and creation as God's gifts to us. Although the prayers and readings at liturgy change from celebration to celebration and these might give us some specific Christian actions we might try to live during the week, in a sense liturgy's

dismissal is always the same: go and *live* the transformation of liturgy and the deepening of God's Presence within. This is the gift of self liturgy asks of us: giving ourselves to others. This, then, is our ultimate praise and thanksgiving to God, our ultimate giving to God what is God's due.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Floral Arrangement at the Ambo today is placed to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of **Paul and Fara Costanza** on what would have been their 80th Anniversary of Marriage by the Costanza Family.



The last of the three part series on the Reformation takes place this coming Tuesday, October 24th, with Fr. Tom Bonacci. The series has been an outstanding way to help us prepare as a parish for next Sunday's area-wide celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Please come and join us for this informative and enlightening session and then join us as we gather for the **Reformation Festival Service next Sunday afternoon, October 29th at 4:00 p.m.** which we are hosting and will include the participation of our neighboring Protestant communities, a Joint Ecumenical Choir, and a wonderful reception following the service in our parish hall. This is an historic moment in the history of the Christian Church, in

the history of our parish, and in the history of East Contra Costa County. I hope you will make every effort to be here.



All Saints Day, on Wednesday, November 1st

We will gather for two celebrations of Holy Eucharist on this day: 8:00 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. As this is a solemnity and a Holy Day of Obligation, we are privileged to have the presence of our Choir and Cantors to support our sung prayer.

All Souls Day, Thursday, November 2nd

We will celebrate the Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed with Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. If you have filled out an All Souls' envelope and listed the names of your beloved deceased, please be sure to turn it into the office or place it in the collection basket to make sure it is included in the liturgy that morning. The All Souls Envelopes will remain at the Tabernacle throughout the month of November as we remember our beloved dead.



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Please be sure to turn your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR**. This means that beginning Saturday, November 11th, our Vigil Liturgy moves to **4:00 p.m.** and Reconciliation moves to **2:45 p.m.**



Please plan to join us for our Thanksgiving Day Liturgy on Thursday, November 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful liturgy with our Choir and Cantors supporting our sung prayer and the Thanksgiving Reflection is given by a parishioner. This year that reflection will be given by **Jack Goncalves**. The offering that day has always been designated for a worthy cause and this year it is going to our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. I hope your holiday plans will allow you to join us for this special day of giving thanks and praise to God for all His abundant blessings in each of our lives.

October Is Commitment Month

The weekend of October 28th and 29th will be “Commitment Weekend” when every parishioner will be invited to come forward at the beginning of the Preparation Rite to bring forward their offering as well as their Commitment Form for the coming pastoral year. This is our way of indicating to God and our faith community how we will make use of our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure to support the building of God’s kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. Please be sure to sign the Commitment Form which will be placed in the Chest that will be put at the heart of the Altar and which will be a constant reminder of the covenant we have made between God and ourselves to be servant disciples. These forms have been mailed to all parishioners this week.



Trip To Norway

I spoke with Linda Grelli from Black Diamond Travel last Monday and there are presently 14 people signed up to join us for the trip to Norway next August, 2018. We are able to take up to 30 people on this trip so if you would like to join us, please either speak to me or contact Linda at Black Diamond Travel. I have brochures and additional information with all the details so please do not hesitate to see me to get one.

Thank You from the Social Events Committee

The Social Events Committee would like to thank all those who attended our Oktoberfest celebration on October 7th. We hope you had a good time and enjoyed the fabulous German brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, apple strudel, beer and wine! Thank you for supporting our Kick- Off dinner for our St. Ignatius of Antioch Fall Festival!

A special thank you to our members who helped with this event: **Emily Douville, Sue Batterton, Brian & Vicky McCoy, Paul Schmidt, Reggia Desmond, Jennifer Webster, Rachelle Martin, Mary Ewing, MaryAnne Douville, Lorraine Lohmeier, Maryann Peddicord, Will & Catherine Avitabile, Leslie Eubanks, Chip & Jane Sharpe, Jose Palomino, Don Benson, Rich & Pam Confetti, Samantha Peralto, Estrella Rusk, Bob & Marla Plurkowski, Steve & Frances Rojek, Pat Dunleavy, Jose Palomino, Jr. and Jason Skrdlant.**

The profit for this event was \$2,154.83. Thank you again for your support!!



...to our parishioner volunteers who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the

weekend and the week ahead: **Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Jack Goncalves, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, Kathy Romeo, and Mency Osborne.**
 ...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing and Patricia Britton.**
 ...to our volunteers who prepared the Stewardship Renewal Letter: **Bernice Campbell, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield, Judy Quicho, Mena Macedo, Geri Chiechi, Nancy Newton, Belen Farin, Cynthia Enrique, Jane Enos, Judy Blakemore, and Crispina Malonosan.**
 ...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.
 ...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:
Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.
 ...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.
 ...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:
Lorraine Lohmeier, Sofie Zimmerman, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.
 ...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**
 ...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Belen Farin, Kathy Augusta and Beth Enea.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**

