

Did You Know...

✠ News and trivia from our parish and the Catholic Church ✠
-- contributed by the Christ Child Church Women's Club --

Christ Child Catholic Church

Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the Challenges of Loving Service

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Our Altar Lives and Breathes

Whenever we attend Mass, changes at the altar often seem to have magically materialized. A change may be subtle or small, but sometimes it can be meaningful or noteworthy. These changes occur almost continuously -- they have been happening ever since Christ Child was a mission, in the late 1960's. If you look at the altar closely, you may notice a subtle change. At other times, it can jump right out at you.

Did you know that we have a group of people dedicated to keeping the altar fresh, timely and current? Did you ever wonder how it was managed, and who was responsible?

Our parish is blessed with a small group of dedicated, committed ladies that volunteer their time, talents, and efforts for the beauty and comfort for all of those who enter our humble mountain church. At a minimum, they join together weekly to prepare the Church and altar for the week's services.

However, this band of ladies can often be seen throughout the week, dashing in and out of the Church, performing various tasks to beautify our surroundings. With Father's input and guidance, they are continuously planning upcoming needs for the altar and the Church.



Our mountain environment, with its thrilling weather conditions, is seldom a deterrent to these ladies. During rain storms, snow, wind, blistering heat, and even after earthquakes and forest fires, these ladies have continued in their dedication to our Church.



During the 1985 Lexington Hills Fire, one devoted altar lady took it upon herself to drive to the church to gather and save the Church Seal and vessels. Please note she had to drive *toward* the fire area, through heavy smoke and poor visibility, to accomplish this task.

Much time is spent in locating, purchasing, and transporting flowers, plants and decorative materials. And as the seasons change, so do the various themes. Orchids become pumpkins, pumpkins transform into a Christmas tree, and on Ash Wednesday the Christmas tree fades into the subdued colors of Lent. And in the Spring, our altar is bathed in the beautiful bright colors of Easter.



As the liturgical calendar changes, so do the altar's colors. A variety of new, fresh linens appear. Banners, pennants, and tapestries are refreshed and candles change colors as they are displayed on a diverse number of pedestals. On special occasions and events, the altar is revamped to match each occasion.

Another member of our wonderful crew was instrumental in the very structure of the altar itself. To create our totally unique setting, the altar and the its natural redwood furnishings were visualized, obtained, and built due to one altar lady's desire, resources, and determination. It is a superb, and beautifully crafted, addition to our "church in the redwoods".



These hard-working ladies generally do not seek recognition, but you probably know who they are. They're the "busy bees" that can be seen, before and after mass, plucking faded flowers and leaves, realigning the linens, washing the Communion vessels, doing a little cleaning and dusting, or tending to any number of other odds and ends.

They can always use a little help, so if you have some extra time, ask if you can get involved. Father Eugenio would be more than happy to point out who to talk to.

--- *Andrea Bruna, edited by Karin and Greg Illes*

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