

Serving the Communities of the Almanor Basin

# OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS CATHOLIC PARISH

220 Clifford Drive, Lake Almanor



**O**ur Lady of the Snows Parish is a community that is ever mindful of the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament, in our church, in each other and in ourselves. We envision all who enter our doors will be welcomed and valued for their gifts. We strive to respond to the needs of all -- to bring about joy and spiritual growth. We open our hearts to the poor and vulnerable. We promote peace and justice for all. We are committed to be active stewards of God's creation, to preserve the beauty of nature and our surroundings and be ever grateful for His bountiful blessings.

PASTOR  
Rev. Fr. Joshua Sia

## MINISTRIES & COMMITTEES

Altar Society - Julie Chavez	(530) 596-4951
Baptismal Preparation (call Rectory at least 1 month in advance)	(530) 259-3932
Bulletin - Sally Harvey	(530) 570-5437
Environment Ministry - Luci Burgess	(530) 596-4636
Facilities & Maintenance - Steve DeWitt	(530) 258-4222
Hospitality Ministry (Ushers) - Carl Deveny	(530) 596-3319
Liturgy Committee - Pat Martin, Chair	(530) 258-2101
Marriage Preparation (call Rectory at least 8 months in advance)	(530) 259-3932
Men's Group - Larry Gibbs	(707) 479-6661
Music Ministry - Cindy Hawkins	(530) 258-0319
Parish Pastoral Council - Fr. Joshua	(530) 259-3932
RCIA - Debbie & Larry Rives	(530) 941-5506
Sick & Homebound Ministry - Fr. Joshua	(530) 259-3932

## MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday - 8:30 a.m.

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 1970, Chester, CA 96020

Office: (530) 259-3932

Website: [ourladyofsnowsparish.org](http://ourladyofsnowsparish.org)

Email: [olslakealmanor@gmail.com](mailto:olslakealmanor@gmail.com)

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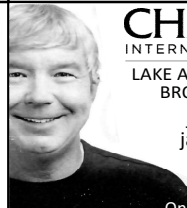
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*Public  
Welcome*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B Journeysong 865

December 17, 2023

### Good News

### dear Padre

### OLS News

**Third Sunday of Advent (B)**  
**Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 / John 1:6–8, 19–28**

The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life.

--Father Joseph Juknialis

May the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, always smile on you and obtain for you, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing.

Remember to pray the rosary during this season of Advent.

*Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?*

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us

--The Redeptorists

Please pray for the Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December: *"For persons with disabilities--We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."*

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

Weekdays Tues. thru Fri. 8:30 AM

Confessions: Sat. 4 to 4:30 PM or by appt.

#### Mass Schedule for Christmas week 2023:

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent vigil Sat. Dec. 23: 5pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30 am

Christmas Eve, Sun. Dec. 24: 5:00 pm

Christmas Day, Mon. Dec. 25: 9:30am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God:

Mon. Jan. 1 - 9:30am \*

\*Jan. 1, 2024 is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.

The 2nd Collection this weekend, Dec. 16/17, is a Special Diocesan Collection: the Annual Retirement Fund for the Religious.

Congratulations to Mary Hasselwander, winner of the Christmas Basket raffle. Thank you to the Altar Society and to all whose efforts made our Christmas Dinner a great success!

Thank you to all who bought gifts to place under Mama's Angel Tree. These gifts will be delivered to Mama's Crisis Pregnancy Center in Susanville. God Bless you!

The Men's Group had another clean-up day on Dec. 11th, burning brush and pine needles on our grounds. Thank you for your work!

Have you picked up your 2024 envelopes in the Social Hall? There are also extra boxes for anyone who wants to use envelopes. Choose any box that does not have a name on it. Thanks to all our donors!

Pick up your beautiful 2024 Calendar in the Social Hall, a gift from the parish.

Please take a moment to say a prayer for all of our sick and deceased parishioners.



## Pray for our Sick and Deceased Loved Ones

### Father Josh's Liturgical Tidbits: The Homily

You know it when you hear it! Many of us probably don't have a good consistent experience with homilies, because each priest has his own style and not every priest's gift is preaching. Preparing and delivering a homily requires putting together many different skills and types of knowledge: public speaking, creativity, knowing sound doctrine, the Scriptures, historical context, current news, and social issues among other things.

So what is a homily? A homily serves as an instruction, reflection, consolation, and exhortation within the liturgy. What makes it different from simple "preaching" or a "sermon" is that its structure must be found within the liturgy (mass, baptisms, wedding, funerals, etc.), and therefore must be done by members of the clergy who represent the figure of Christ. Its purpose, then, is to unpack the Lectionary readings of the liturgy being celebrated. A homily brings forth the timeless Word of God to our lives today, our lives as we live in the world, and our lives in the world to come. From the time of the Apostles, the Church Fathers, the saints of the past, even until today, it is a place of instruction for the faithful to know and develop their relationship with Christ and each other.

Joe Beuchat	Helen Karch †	Miguel Pena †
Jayden Bird †	Erin Kelly	John Pezzi †
Vernon Burgess	Karen Klemek †	Kerry Phillips †
Paul Burke	Abigail Krebs	John Price
Troy Buzzell †	Alma Kopernik	Linda Porter
Lucia Carillo †	Nancy Lambert †	Joe Rawson
Reuben Chavez †	Ronald Longacre †	Janet Saitone
Ron & Fran Dennis	Lou Ann Martin †	Robert Shadley †
Mary Deveny †	Pat Martin	Lori Sinclair
John Fehrman †	Andrea Maumoynier	Marcella Unalles
Jean Fernandez †	Priscilla McEfee †	Bruce Van Alostyne
Monique Figlietti	Fran Moale †	Faye Wilkinson
Dan Higgins	Kathy O'Donnell	Ruby Vocke †
Mary Hasselwander	Lawrence Oliver †	
Aubrey Hawkins †	Scott Oswald	
Jane & Reed Hilliard	Francis Ouellette	
Matthew Hunt †	Diana Pallari †	† indicates deceased

### Weekly Offerings

Sunday, Dec. 3rd and Dec. 10th combined	\$2,846.00
Holy Day--Immaculate Conception	\$ 250.00
Maintenance	\$ 9,150.50
Westwood Resource Center and Helping Hands	\$ 337.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 145.00

### --- This Weekend's Ministry Schedule ---

#### Eucharistic Ministers

#### Lectors

<b>SAT. 5 PM</b>	Cynthia Riggins	Nita Jimenez
<b>SUN. 9:30 AM</b>	Kitty DeWitt	Steve DeWitt

Email us at: [ollakealmanor@gmail.com](mailto:ollakealmanor@gmail.com)

To receive our bulletin by email, contact Steve DeWitt: [cranmorti@gmail.com](mailto:cranmorti@gmail.com) or call him at 530-258-4222.

Sunday mass is live on Facebook: <https://fb.me/ourladyofthesnowslakealmanor>.

ONLINE GIVING: simply click the "Donate Now" link on our website [ourladyofthesnowsparish.org](http://ourladyofthesnowsparish.org). There are also information cards in the Social Hall. Thank you for your contributions!

**Year-end Charitable Giving:** If you have a 2023 "Required Minimum Distribution" (RMD) from a retirement account, please consider a donation to Our Lady of the Snows. Thank you to all our donors!

### Weekly Mass Intentions

December 16	Saturday	5:00 pm	Ronald Longacre † and Larry Gene † and Diane Miller †
December 17	Sunday	9:30 am	Pat Martin
December 18	Monday	-----	NO MASS
December 19	Tuesday	8:30 am	Scott Oswold
December 20	Wednesday	8:30 am	Janet Saitone
December 21	Thursday	8:30 am	Those named on our Bricks
December 22	Friday	8:30 am	Special Intention

### OLS NEWS (continued)--

#### A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and  
open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us  
to be merry with good hearts.

Please remember if you are in need of spiritual guidance, special anointing, or just information—call the Rectory (530-259-3932) for an appointment. We are here to help and to ease your burden.