

Serving the Communities of the Almanor Basin

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS CATHOLIC PARISH

220 Clifford Drive, Lake Almanor



Our 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.

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

Office: (530) 259-3932

Website: ourladyofsnowsparish.org

Email: olslakealmanor@gmail.com

To register, please fill out and put bulletin in collection basket

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B Journeysong 868

December 24, 2023

Good News

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Romans 16:25–27 / Luke 1:26–38

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is God who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God’s love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life

—Father Joseph Juknialis

Pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for their release to praise the Lord. In return, these Souls will pray for us.

dear Padre

The Bible talks about Jesus’ brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary’s only child?

The Catholic Church’s position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to “the brothers of Jesus” or to his “sisters” (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term “brothers” (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn’t restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to “brothers in arms” as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of “cousins” as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins.

Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered “the brothers of Jesus” as cousins, not siblings.

After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

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

OLS News

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:

4th Sun. of Advent vigil Sat. Dec. 23: 5pm

4th 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.

Christmas Gift Suggestions--

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

A blessed Christmas to you and all of your loved ones!

Welcome to Father Philip Wells, who will be here while Father Josh is on vacation!

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

Suggestion for 2024: Think about volunteering to clean our church and Social Hall once in a while. Bring a friend! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the office door. All the cleaning supplies are provided. For more information, call Julie Chavez at 530-596-4951 or Sally Harvey at 530-570-5437. Thanks to all who are already cleaning the church!

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

Father Josh's Liturgical Tidbits: The Creed

On Sundays and Solemnities, why is it a practice for us Catholics to recite the Creed after the homily?

It may seem a bit tedious for us to keep reciting the Creed every Sunday, but whenever we fulfill our Sunday obligation by going to Mass, we not only renew our relationship with Christ, but we also renew our Baptismal promises by proclaiming the basic tenets of the faith.

The Creed is placed toward the end of the Liturgy of the Word, because the Profession of Faith is an opportunity for us, as God's people, to respond to the Lord's revelation and salvation offered to us through the readings and the homily.

Saying the Creed is more than just reciting words of prayer. It is a response to the Word of God that was just proclaimed, and it is also a profession by which we renew our faith together with the members of the Body of Christ, the Church. These words have been professed by Christians up and down the centuries so that we may never forget who we are as a Christian people. The words proclaim who we believe God is, who Jesus is, what He has done for us, the nature of the Church, and our ultimate destination.

Weekly Offerings

Sunday, Dec. 17th: **See next week's Bulletin**

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

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

SAT. 5 PM *need volunteer* *need volunteer*

SUN. 9:30 AM Lani Hovland Jeffrey Janus

Christmas Eve 5 pm *need volunteer* *need volunteer*

Christmas Day 9:30 am Kitty DeWitt Steve DeWitt

Email us at: olslakealmanor@gmail.com

To receive our bulletin by email, contact Steve DeWitt: crannmorti@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 ourladyofsnowsparish.org. There are also information cards in the Social Hall. Thank you for your contributions!

Commemorative Bricks can be ordered for \$100. Forms are available in the Social Hall. Contact Steve DeWitt at 530-258-4222 or crannmorti@gmail.com for more information. The proceeds from the bricks help with many special projects, such as the beautiful flooring in the Social Hall.

Pray for our Sick and Deceased Loved Ones

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 Oswold	
Jane & Reed Hilliard	Francis Ouellette	
Matthew Hunt †	Diana Pallari †	† indicates deceased

Weekly Mass Intentions

December 23	Saturday	5:00 pm	Genny Amante †
December 24	Sunday	9:30 am	Arlynn Swanson †
Christmas Eve		5:00 pm	Sick Parishioners
Christmas Day	Monday	9:30 am	Pat Martin
December 26	Tuesday	8:30 am	Special Intention
December 27	Wednesday	8:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
December 28	Thursday	8:30 am	Those Named on our Bricks
December 29	Friday	8:30 am	Those in war-torn countries

OLS NEWS (continued)--

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 contributors! May God bless you!

St. Alphonsus's Christmas Morning Meditation

Come, then, O all ye devout souls.

Jesus invites you to come and kiss His feet this night.

The Shepherds who came to visit Him in the stable

of Bethlehem brought their gifts;

you must also bring your gifts.

What will you bring Him?

The most acceptable present you can bring Him is that of

A contrite and loving heart.

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.