If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

COLOSSIANS 3:1

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 31, 2022

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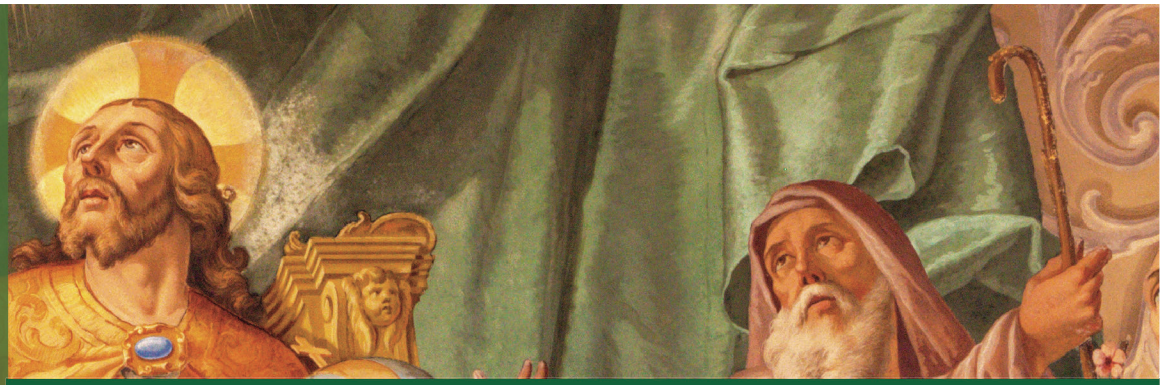

Church of the Epiphany

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Matthew 2:10-11 (NABRE)

827 Vienna Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
Tel. (415) 333-7630
Fax. (415) 333-1803
www.epiphanysf.com
facebook.com/cotesf94112

Pastor
Rev. Eugene Tungol ext: 118

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Michael Brillantes ext: 116

In Residence
Rev. Rolando Caverte ext: 126

Deacon
Deacon Ven Garcia, Jr. ext: 114

Directors of Music
Leon Palad (English),
Roberto Garcia-Leiva (Spanish)

Director of Finance & Plant Management
Terry O'Neill

Bookkeeper
Willie Lim ext: 112

Parish Office & School of Religion Support Staff
Jesús Pedroza ext: 113

Elementary School Principal
Brian Joost

School of Religion/ Faith Formation
Phillip Carrion ext: 115
RCIA : Jesús Pedroza ext: 113

Daily Masses/Misas Diarias:
6:30am & 8:00am
Saturday Masses/Misa los Sábados:
8:00am & 5:30pm (Vigil/Vigilia)
Sunday Masses/Misas los Domingos:
6:30am, 8:30am, 10:00am (livestream),
11:30am (español) & 1:00pm
Adoration/Adoración:
First Fridays/Primer viernes del mes
8:30am-12:00pm

School of Epiphany:
600 Italy Ave. San Francisco, CA 94112
Office: 415-337-4030
Fax: 415-337-8583

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30am – 12:00pm

Confessions: Saturday 4:00pm-5:00pm
Confesiones: Sabados 4:00pm-5:00pm

Sick Calls
In case of an emergency, please contact the parish office at 415-333-7630 any hour of the day or night.

Reflections ~ Reflexiones

Gospel: Luke 12:13–21

As so often happens, Jesus tells a parable because someone has asked him a question. A man wants him to settle a squabble about an inheritance, but Jesus will have no part of it.
Concern about money prevents people from focusing on the Kingdom of God. The Parable of the Rich Farmer shows how foolish it is to keep piling up possessions. Right when the greedy man is gorging himself on food and drink, he dies. Death prevents any chance of reform.

1.) In our society, we must all spend some time making money. How much time? How much of our thought and energy goes into this? How do we keep ourselves from spending too much time and energy on making money? Does our need to make money take too much time away from family and friends?
2.) Of course, we do not work just for money. Every job is an opportunity to love God and others. How do you love God and others in your work? If your work is being a student, how do you love God and others while you are at school?

Evangelio: Lucas 12:13-21

Como sucedía con frecuencia, Jesús contaba una parábola porque alguien le hacía una pregunta. Un hombre quería que Jesús zanjara una disputa sobre una herencia, pero Jesús no participó de eso. La preocupación por el dinero impide a la gente centrarse en el reino de Dios. La parábola del rico granjero muestra lo tonto que es almacenar posesiones. Justo cuando el avaro hombre tenía mucha comida y bebida, muere. La muerte le impide la oportunidad de reformarse.

1.) En nuestra sociedad debemos ganar algo de dinero. ¿Cuánto tiempo debemos invertir en ello? ¿Cuánta de nuestra energía e ideas deben dedicarse a ello? ¿Cómo evitamos gastar mucho tiempo y energía haciendo dinero? ¿Nuestra necesidad de hacer dinero nos roba tiempo para estar con nuestra familia y amigos?
2.) Por supuesto que no trabajamos sólo por dinero. Cada trabajo es una oportunidad de amar a Dios y a los demás. ¿Cómo amas a Dios y a los demás en sus trabajos? En su trabajo como estudiantes, ¿cómo aman a Dios y a los demás en la escuela?

Treasures from our Traditions ~ Tradiciones de nuestra Fe

When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, there was the usual buzz of speculation about likely successors. Cardinal Agajanian, Patriarch of the Armenians, was highly thought of as a likely choice. This took many Catholics by surprise, since he had never celebrated the same liturgy as Pope Pius, but followed ancient Armenian customs according to the Eastern Church, which veils the Eucharisic liturgy from sight by a series of curtains, and in which the priest kneels while the people stand for Communion. In the years that followed, the Second Vatican Council would affirm the dignity and independence of the Eastern Churches, in complete union with Rome, yet different in patterns of life and worship. We have the same faith, the same sacraments, and the same pope. Yet everywhere in the world our separate Churches are combined into families held together by the ministry of bishops. All of this serves as warning: If you ever say, “But we’ve always done it this way,” you are on very thin ice indeed! —*Rev. James Field*, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Del 1 al 5 de agosto los capitalinos en El Salvador celebran la fiesta del Salvador del Mundo, cuando recuerdan la Transfiguración de Jesús en el Monte Tabor. Como muchas fiestas patronales en Latinoamérica esta semana está llena de carnavales y desfiles. La celebración principal es una procesión religiosa con la imagen de Jesús, el Divino Salvador del mundo. La estatua de Jesús con sus brazos extendidos en bendición es llevada desde la Basílica del Sagrado Corazón hasta la Catedral Metropolitana. Vestida de un rojo que recuerda su pasión, la imagen es cargada sobre los hombros de una veintena de fieles. Al llegar a la catedral la imagen patronal es puesta en una torre de más de 20 metros de alto. Eventualmente la estatua revestida de blanco aparece de una esfera encima de la torre en medio de gritos, aplausos y cantos. Esta esfera azul representa el mundo entero, mundo salvado por Cristo. La transfiguración de esta imagen en San Salvador recuerda la pasión y resurrección de Jesús, eventos claves que han hecho de él, el Salvador del Mundo entero.
—*Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM,*
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THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

THANK YOU

*My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the following parishioners who have so far responded to our 2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA). As of now, we have received **$47,300** of our assigned goal, which is **$92,174**. If you have not received a brochure, please pick one up in the church vestibule of the parish office. You can also donate online through our website. Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you and your families.*

Reverend Eugene Tungol,
Pastor

Mr. Proceso Hernandez
Mr. Arsenio Herrera
Ms. Olga Hoja
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lew
Ms. Angela Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Maestre
Mr. & Mrs. George Mande
Mr. & Mrs. Jose J. Martinez
Mr. & Mrs. William Mateo
Mr. & Mrs. Mirlo Medina
Mr. Petronilo Medina
Mr. & Mrs. Bernardo Menconi
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Mendoza
Ms. Wenefrida Monce
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Orantes
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Ortega
Ms. Nora Pastor
Mr. & Mrs. Domingo Pedroza
Mr. & Mrs. Bernardo Postrado
Mrs. Luz Quijano
Mr. & Mrs. Iram Rada
Mrs. Luz Recinos
Mr. & Mrs. Juan Rodriguez
Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Santa Elena, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Cesar Santiago
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Shane
Ms. Sophia Simpliciano
(Continued on next column)

Mr. & Mrs. Homer Vilan
Mr. & Mrs. Ernesto Villanueva
Ms. Adonna Viterbo
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Weinkauf
Ms. Maria Ynot
Mr. & Mrs. William Zapata

If your name is not listed above, please understand that it takes time to receive the doner list. Please be patient and again thank you for your generosity.

***Please note*: only new donors (those whose names have not appeared before in the bulletin) will be listed.**

Please be sure to visit:
https://epiphanysf.com/parish-online-giving

ONLINE GIVING

Calendar / Calendario

Sunday, July 31, 2022
7:00pm: OKH Sunday Silence-AA

Monday, August 1, 2022
7:00pm: OKH Grupo Progreso-AA
7:00pm: 7W Epiphany Choir

Tuesday, August 2, 2022
5:00pm: RH Legion de María
7:00pm: CAF Social Cultural

Wednesday, August 3, 2022
7:00pm: OKH Grupo Progreso-AA

Thursday, August 4, 2022
6:30pm: OKH Grupo de Oración

Friday, August 5, 2022
8:30am: CH Eucharistic Exposition
9:00am: AS Legion of Mary
12:00pm: CH Eucharistic Benediction
6:30pm: OKH Epip. Youth Group

Saturday, August 6, 2022
4:00pm: CH Confessions

Sunday, August 7, 2022
9:30am: RH Spanish Baptism Preparation Class
11:30am: CH **EL SALVADOR DEL MUNDO MASS (Spanish)**
12:30pm: CAF **EL SALVADOR DEL MUNDO RECEPTION**
2:00pm: OKH Knights of Columbus
7:00pm: OKH Sunday Silence-AA

COLLECTIONS

July 24, 2022 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Collection: $7,419.16
2nd Collection: $1,751.00

Second Collections:
Today: St. Vicente de Paul
Next Week: Parish School

Intentions/Intenciones:

Sunday, July 31, 2022
6:30am: Renato Canto †
8:30am: Susan Cordova †
10:00am: People of the Parish
11:30am: Manuela Rivera de Rascon †
1:00pm: Romeo Madali †

Monday, August 1, 2022
6:30am: Isidro De Vera †
8:00am: Ludovico Cava †,
Felisa Lafuente †

Tuesday, August 2, 2022
6:30am: Ursula Nguyen †
8:00am: Amelia D. Juangco †

Wednesday, August 3, 2022
6:30am: ***Thanksgiving:*** Nelson Bartolome
8:00am: Augusto D. Gulaberto †

Thursday, August 4, 2022
6:30am: Cecile Lan †
8:00am: Roselily C. Villacarlos †

Friday, August 5, 2022
6:30am: Gregorio & Nieves Aquino †
8:00am: Dominga J. Zapata †

Saturday, August 6, 2022
8:00am: ***Thanksgiving:*** Nathaniel Rimando
5:30pm: ***Thanksgiving:*** Rosa Pedroza

Sunday, August 7, 2022
6:30am: Tran Tung †
8:30am: Ludovico Cava †
10:00am: People of the Parish
11:30am: Elsa Colorado †
1:00pm: Jesus Maria & Josefina Padilla †

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Alphonsus Liguori
Tuesday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli; St. Peter Julian Eymard
Thursday: St. John Vianney
Friday: Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; First Friday
Saturday: *The Transfiguration of the Lord*; First Saturday

Epiphany Parish News

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

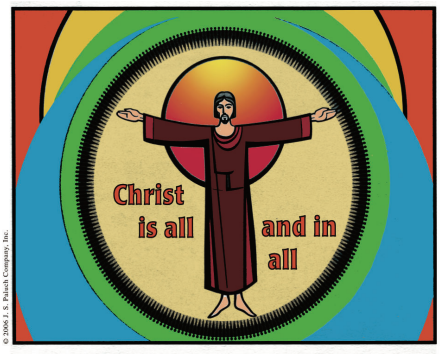
As we are reopening the church to all pre-pandemic activities, we would like to ask for volunteers who would like to join the committee who is helping with the cleaning and upkeeping of our church building. Please call the parish office and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.

ALTAR SERVERS

Epiphany Church needs Altar Servers. Altar Servers, like so many other Ministries, were disbanded during the pandemic, but now our priests again need Altar Servers to assist them in the celebration of the Holy Mass. Our Altar Server Ministry is open to all Baptized young people from 5th grade up. If you haven't made your First Communion, you should be in preparation to do so. High School students are also welcomed. **There will be a Training Session on Sunday, August 21st, after the 1:00 pm Mass in the Church**. John Mills, Altar Server Supervisor, and some Senior Altar Servers will be there to train you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Early enrollment for the Parish Religious Education Program for Faith Formation, First Communion and Confirmation will begin on Monday, June 6th. Applications will be available in the parish office and on the parish website www.epiphanysf.com at the "Faith Formation" menu tab. Please call the parish office for more information.



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How has the Lord answered my prayers?

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THE CENTER OF A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Today's readings invite us to reflect upon some of life's deepest questions, and to explore the meaning of faith. We hear of the universal human search for meaning in our lives in the book of Ecclesiastes. In Luke's Gospel, we hear Jesus' parable about one who foolishly seeks ultimate security through the accumulation of wealth. In Colossians, faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ is proclaimed as the path to a richly purposeful and meaningful life. The path of Christian faith places our work, our sufferings, and our limitations within the larger picture of God's purposes for all of us. In Jesus, God is revealed as our companion in human suffering and limitation. God's love is at the center of a meaningful life. We place our trust in this loving God, who created us to share in this love, and to share this love with others.

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NOTHING BETTER

Nothing . . . is sweeter than love; nothing higher, nothing stronger, nothing larger, nothing fuller, nothing better, in heaven or on earth.

—Thomas à Kempis

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A SISTER?

Do you wonder what being a Sister is all about? Come & See! The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul invite you to join us for a Religious Vocation Discernment Retreat in the **Bay Area Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2022**. For Single Catholic Women ages 18-40. FOR DETAILS: Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C./650-949-8890/213-210 9903/ srllaguna@doc1633.org/ www.Daughters-Of-Charity.com

ICA CRISTO REY ACADEMY

A Catholic high school in San Francisco that serves all young women has several open spots for this fall. If you have a student entering into high school, ICA Cristo Rey Academy is a phenomenal option that offers college preparatory classes and a work study program where each student works 1 day a week in a business throughout the Bay Area. ICA Cristo Rey Academy students thrive and 100% of their students have been accepted to college. ICA Cristo Rey Academy is also affordable and never turns families away due to low finances.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Do you or anyone you know want to be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith by being Baptized, receiving First Communion or Confirmation? Do you just want to learn more about the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith? You're welcome to join in Epiphany's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Registration forms and more information are available in the parish office or on the webpage at: www.epiphanysf.com/rcia.

WORRY

Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about never happen.

—Anonymous

Notícias de Epífanía

NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS

Ahora que estamos volviendo a todas las actividades que teníamos antes de la pandemia, quisiéramos invitarlos a unirse al comité que esta ayudando voluntariamente con la limpieza y mantenimiento de nuestro templo. Si están interesados en ayudar, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial y deje su nombre y número de teléfono y alguien del comité les llamará.

PROGRAMA EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

La inscripción temprana para el Programa de Educación Religiosa Parroquial para la Formación de Fe, Primera Comunión y Confirmación comenzará el lunes 6 de junio. Las solicitudes estarán disponibles en la oficina parroquial y en el sitio web de la parroquia www.epiphanysf.com en la pestaña del menú "Faith Formation". Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para más información.

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA DE ADULTOS (RICA)

¿Usted o alguien que conoce quiere iniciarse completamente en la fe católica siendo bautizado, recibiendo la Primera Comunión o la Confirmación? ¿Simplemente quiere aprender más sobre los fundamentos de la fe católica? Le invitamos a unirse al RICA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos) de Epifanía. Los formularios de inscripción y más información están disponibles en la oficina parroquial o en la página web en: www.epiphanysf.com/rcia. Este programa solo se ofrece en inglés.

NO HAY NADA MEJOR

No hay cosa más dulce que el amor; nada más fuerte, nada más alto, nada más ancho, nada más alegre, nada más lleno, ni mejor, en el cielo ni en la tierra. —*Tomás de Kempis*

PREOCUPACIÓN

No me digas que preocuparme no sirve de nada. Yo sí sé. Aquello por lo que me preocupo nunca pasa.
—*Anónimo*

ORACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

Decimoctavo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Ayuda, Señor, a tus siervos, que imploran tu continua benevolencia, y ya que se glorían de tenerte como su creador y su guía, renueva en ellos tu obra creadora y consérvales los dones de tu redención. Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo y es Dios por los siglos de los siglos.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Cómo responde el Señor a mis oraciones?

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EL CENTRO DE UNA VIDA CON SENTIDO

Las lecturas de hoy nos invitan a reflexionar sobre algunas de las cuestiones más profundas de la vida y a explorar el significado de la fe. En el libro del Eclesiastés escuchamos acerca de la búsqueda humana universal del sentido de nuestras vidas. En el Evangelio de Lucas escuchamos la parábola de Jesús que habla de quien busca tontamente la seguridad definitiva mediante la acumulación de riquezas. En la carta a los colosenses, la fe en Cristo crucificado y resucitado, se proclama como el camino hacia una vida abundante en propósitos y con sentido. El camino de la fe cristiana pone nuestro trabajo, nuestros sufrimientos y nuestras limitaciones dentro de un panorama más amplio de los propósitos de Dios para todos nosotros. En Jesús, Dios se revela como nuestro compañero en el sufrimiento y las limitaciones humanas. El amor de Dios está en el centro de una vida con sentido. Ponemos nuestra confianza en este Dios amoroso, que nos creó para compartir este amor, y para compartir este amor con los demás.

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¿TE LLAMA DIOS A SER HERMANA?

¿Te preguntas de qué se trata ser Sister? ¡Ven y ve! Las Hijas de la Caridad de San Vicente de Paúl lo invitan a unirse a nosotros para un retiro de discernimiento de vocaciones religiosas en **el Área de la Bahía del 30 de septiembre al 2 de octubre de 2022**. Para mujeres católicas solteras de 18 a 40 años. PARA DETALLES: Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C./650-949-8890/213-210 9903/ srllaguna@doc1633.org/ www.Daughters-Of-Charity.com

ACADEMIA ICA CRISTO REY

A Catholic high school in San Francisco that serves all young women has several open spots for this fall. Si tiene un estudiante que ingresa a la escuela secundaria, la Academia ICA Cristo Rey es una opción fenomenal que ofrece clases de preparación para la universidad y un programa de estudio y trabajo donde cada estudiante trabaja 1 día a la semana en un negocio en todo el Área de la Bahía. Los estudiantes de la Academia Cristo Rey de ICA prosperan y el 100% de sus estudiantes han sido aceptados en la universidad. La Academia ICA Cristo Rey también es asequible y nunca rechaza a las familias debido a las finanzas bajas.

SERVIDORES DE ALTAR

La Iglesia de la Epifanía necesita servidores del altar. Los servidores, como tantos otros ministerios, fueron disueltos durante la pandemia, pero ahora nuestros sacerdotes nuevamente necesitan servidores para asistirlos en la celebración de la Santa Misa. Nuestro ministerio de servidores del altar está abierto a todos los jóvenes Bautizados desde 5to grado y adelante. Si no has hecho tu Primera Comunión, debes estar preparándote para hacerlo. Los estudiantes de secundaria también son bienvenidos. **Habrá una Sesión de Entrenamiento el domingo 21 de agosto, después de la Misa de 1:00 pm en la Iglesia**. John Mills, Supervisor de Servidores del Altar, y algunos ervidores mayores estarán allí para entrenar.

Today's Readings:

First Reading — Do not spend your life toiling for material gain (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 90).

Second Reading — Christ has raised you to new life, so seek now what is above (Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11).

Gospel — Be on guard against all greed, for your life does not consist of earthly possessions, but of the riches of the reign of God (Luke 12:13-21).

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Readings For The Week:

Monday	Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday	Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday	Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 16:13-23
Friday	Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
Sunday	Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Hb 11:1-2, 8-19 [1-2, 8-12]; Lk 12:32-48 [35-40]

PRAY FOR THE SICK
OREMOS POR LOS ENFERMOS

Margie Abellana, Richard Anduha, Octavio Ang, Angela Aviles, Jillian Baires, Luis Castaneda, Kay Castle, Linda Cheng, Daniel Copenhaver, Magdalena D, Ramona DeMartini, Dawn Devenere, Nancy Evelyn Fuentes, Mario & Petra Laguatan, Rosario Lapuz, Frank Loomis, Lydia Marchany, Almira Tayag Montemayor, Maria Luisa Mora, Lorena Morales, Jose-Edson Naval, Robert Neri, Jose Ortega, Mark Padua, Edwin Ramos, Dante Tayag, Armando Uy, Conrado Uy, Jr., Rolando Uy, Javier Vasquez, Michael, Adrian & Raphael Volz
&
Those suffering from COVID-19

Please help us to keep our prayer list current. We will keep all requests on our prayer list for <u>ONE</u> MONTH unless notified to keep them on longer.

Pray for the Recently Deceased
Oremos por los Recientemente Difuntos:

Lucina Austin, Rev. Aloysius Pestun, SDB, Marino Tolentino Reyes, Rosita Romero, Richard Zunt
And for those who have died by violence this week.

<u>Sacrament of Baptism</u>

Registered parishioners are invited to have their children baptized at Church of the Epiphany. Parents and Godparents must participate in our Baptismal Preparation program.

<u>Sacrament of Matrimony</u>

To be married at Church of the Epiphany either the bride or groom must be ***Roman Catholic***.

1. You qualify as an "in parish" couple if you live within the parish boundaries or, have been registered and active for six months; or if you're an alumni of School of the Epiphany.
2. If you do not meet one of the qualifications above, then you are considered an "outside of the parish" couple. Contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date of your proposed wedding to participate in our marriage preparation program.

<u>Anointing of the Sick</u>

This sacrament is for the seriously ill, or those scheduled for surgery. Call the parish office when a family member is admitted to a hospital or nursing facility.

<u>REGISTERING TO OUR PARISH:</u>

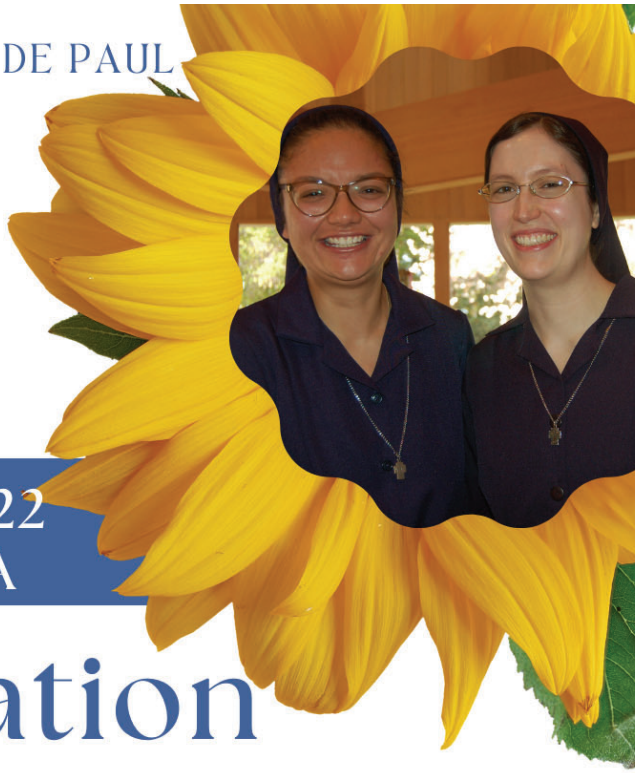
https://epiphanysf.com/register-as-new-parishioner or visit the parish office

<u>Our Mission Statement:</u>

We the people of the Church of the Epiphany strive to be a peaceful and welcoming parish. We strive to be mutually supportive of diverse communities. We strive to show compassion without distinction of age, gender, race or culture. Epiphany seeks to be a caring and loving community ever growing in faith formation.

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Join Us!



September 30~ October 2, 2022
In Person ~ Los Altos Hills, CA

Religious Vocation Discernment Retreat!

Is God Calling You to be a Sister?

Ask us!
Stay with us!
Pray with us!

Get to know us!

Sr.Lisa Laguna, D.C.
srllaguna@doc1633.org
213~210~9903 * 650~949~8890

FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 18-40.
RESERVE SPACE NOW.

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

COLOSSIANS 3:1

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 31, 2022

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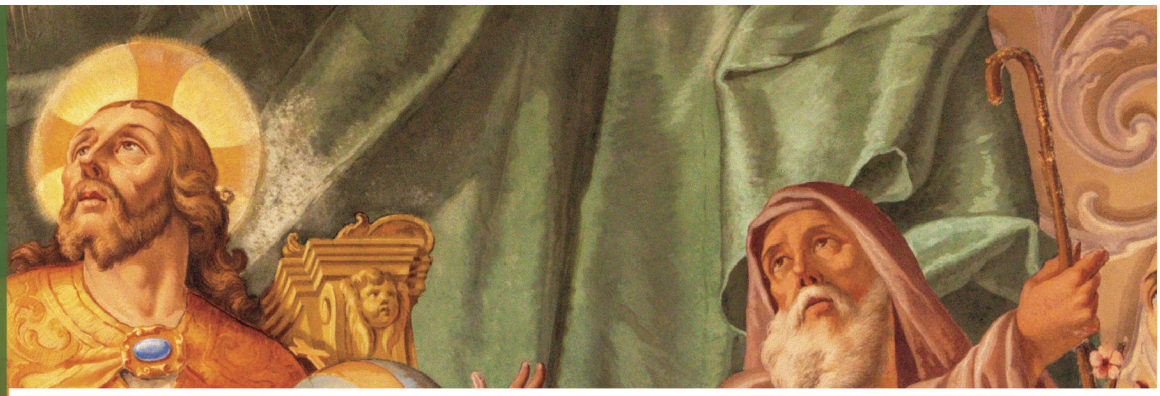

NOTHING EARTHLY LASTS FOREVER

"Teach us to number our days aright." Is there a more wise and prudent prayer for people of all ages than this verse from today's responsorial psalm? As we savor the lovely but limited days of summer we are reminded that nothing lasts forever. In today's first reading, the master teacher (Qoheleth) asserts "All things are vanity!" while the Gospel of Luke describes the ease with which our possessions can possess us. The second reading makes the point as well: "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." We see the problem of wealth from both sides today—from the viewpoint of the wealthy person who inevitably has to leave his riches to someone else and from the perspective of the potential inheritor who is at odds with his brother over how to divide their inheritance. The problem is clear; the wisdom is also.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Stephen Covey, in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, lists as his second habit: Begin with the end in mind. Is that not the point of our scripture reflections today? We know we will die. We know we "can't take it with us." If you've ever been tasked with cleaning out the home of a deceased person, you know how easily once-treasured items simply become another burden to deal with. Or you may have experienced how quickly the joy of owning the latest smart phone becomes as outdated as the model itself. So how do we think about all the stuff that we buy, accumulate, fret over where to store, and pay taxes on? Heaven forbid if we ever have to move!

RICH IN WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

Luke sets us on the right path when he affirms that we must be "rich in what matters to God." Needless to say, he is not saying that possessions themselves are evil. Today's psalm asks God—twice—to "prosper the work of our hands for us!" The danger is that, as one wag put it, "we never have enough of what we don't really need." What does matter to God? What is the opposite of vanity? Kindness to one another, mercy, forgiveness, generosity to the poor and needy—all of these remain beyond death. These are what we can take with us when we die. The great mystery in all this is that God is never outdone in generosity; the more we give away, the more we have.

July 31 is also the feast day of Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He epitomizes richness in what really matters. His military and court aspirations evaporated after he was seriously wounded in battle. His subsequent change of heart led him to found one of the most influential religious orders in the history of the Church. If the opposite of vanity is wealth that remains after death, Ignatius is most appropriately honored today.

TODAY'S READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23
Psalm 90:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 14 and 17
Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11
Luke 12:13–21