

<h1>Our Lady of the Sierra Parish</h1>		
 30th SUN. IN ORDINARY TIME	 VOLUME 033 OCTOBER 24, 2021	 YEAR B
St Joseph the Worker Mission 56522 Road 200 North Fork, CA 93643	OUR LADY OF THE SIERRA PARISH CHURCH 40180 Indian Springs Rd Oakhurst, CA 93644	St Dominic Savio Mission 40077 Road 222 Bass Lake, CA 93604

WHY DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE IN PURGATORY?

... is a question often asked by RCIA inquirers coming from Protestant denominations. The article below from EWTN and the quote from St. Faustina on the right aptly answer the question.

While the word "Purgatory" does not appear in Scripture, the possibility of *purification after death* certainly does in undeveloped form. For example, in the book of Maccabees, Judas Maccabee sends an offering to the Temple on behalf of his fallen men who had committed a superstitious act (2 Macc. 12:39-45). While this Catholic biblical text is not in the Protestant Bible, owing to its removal by the Reformers, it nonetheless witnesses to the faith of Israel in the 2nd century B.C.

In the New Testament, Our Lord advises us to settle our affairs before going before the judge, or else we may be thrown into prison, where we remain until our debt is paid.

Mt. 5:25-26 Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

This is a basic principle of justice, debts of justice must be paid. We cannot pay our debt to God, it is infinite. Christ paid that debt, uniting our nature to His Divine Nature, and we receive forgiveness when we turn to Him in repentance through those whom He appointed for this purpose (John 20:21-23; 2 Cor. 3:5-6). The temporal guilt, due to the consequences in us, in others, in the good order of society, remain, and we must settle them to the extent we are able—returning stolen money, correcting injury to someone's good name, asking forgiveness of someone we hurt, physically, emotionally, morally and so on—if not in this life, in the next. It is these debts within our power to repair we cannot simply set aside, whether in life or in death.

On November 2, All Souls Day, we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who are being purified before entering Heaven.



St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: "I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but without effect for themselves; only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them do not touch me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God . . . [I heard an interior voice] which said, My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it." (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 20)

A DAILY PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



OUR LADY OF THE SIERRA

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MASS INTENTIONS

Tue 26	8:30 AM Mass for Marilyn Bieneman (RM) req by Deb Graham
Wed 27	8:30 AM Mass offered for Sandra Lopez (RM) req by Jim Ejchorszt
Thu 28	8:30 AM Mass for Martha Hernandez (RM) req by Daniel Hernandez
Fri 29	8:30 AM Mass for Maria Isidro (SI) req by Martha Isidro
Sat 30	4:00 PM Mass for Oscar Valadez (SI) req by Alicia Valadez
Sun 31	8:00 AM Mass for Marilyn Bieneman (RM) req by Deb Graham; 9:30 AM Mass for All Parishioners; 11:30 AM Mass for Marilyn Bieneman (RM) req by Deb Graham
KEY	RM-Mass for the Dead; SI-Special Intentions; req - requested

MASS READINGS

Mon 25	Weekday Rom 8:12-17/Lk 13:10-17
Tue 26	Weekday Rom 8:18-25/Lk 13:18-21
Wed 27	Weekday Rom 8:26-30/Lk 13:22-30
Thu 28	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles <i>Feast</i> Eph 2:19-22/Lk 6:12-16
Fri 29	Weekday Rom 9:1-5/Lk 14:1-6
Sat 30	Weekday [BVM] Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sun 31	31 ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Dt 6:2-6/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34

REMEMBER TO COME IN SAINT'S COSTUME ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31! FAMILIES COME AT 10 AM. SAINTS' ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 11:00 AM.

MUSIC AT LITURGY

At the end of the 11:30 AM Mass last Sunday, Fr. Victor expressed his preference for community singing during Mass over singing performance from a choir loft or section. He said that singing encourages active engagement in the liturgical celebration. Actually, Fr. was simply echoing the sentiments of many in the clergy including Pope Francis himself, as evidenced by the article below.



In a recent U.S. Catholic survey, eighty percent of those questioned said that music at Mass was very important to them. However, only thirteen percent were totally satisfied with the music that they have and actually sing. The music at Mass is important, very important! It is not simply a performance by a soloist or choir, a background to accompany our prayer, a means to create a mood, or an incentive to shout and clap our hands. Music is integral to our liturgical worship.

Pope Francis has clearly defined the purpose of music at Mass. He said that it is "first of all a matter of participating intensely in the mystery of God, in the 'theophany' that takes place in every Eucharistic celebration, in which the Lord makes himself present among his people, who are called truly to participate in the salvation realized by the crucified and risen Christ" (Homily at Santa Marta, December 12, 2013). The Second Vatican Council called for full, active and conscious participation of the laity at Mass. Like the introduction of the vernacular in liturgy, music is meant to foster this participation.

However, Pope Francis has noted that the very "introduction of vernacular languages into the liturgy has raised many issues: of language, form and musical genre. At times, a certain mediocrity, superficiality and banality have prevailed to the detriment of the beauty and intensity of the liturgical celebrations" (Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the International Conference on Sacred Music, March 4, 2017). Good liturgical music should be both aesthetically pleasing and theologically correct. For example, any song that refers to the Eucharist as bread and wine has no place in Catholic worship. The Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus and the songs we sing should express this reality.

Lifting our hearts to God in liturgy always goes beyond the boundaries of human speech. Thus, liturgy, by its very nature, calls upon the help of music and song to praise to God.

(by Bishop Arthur Serratelli, <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com>)



OCTOBER 24 - WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



EVERY YEAR, SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS on the next-to-last Sunday of October. **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). He reminds us that, "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves," as we "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel."

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

CHANGE IN WEEKLY INCOME REPORT

You may notice a change in the Income Report for September 23 to 29, 2021 on the right. The OLS Finance Council recommended this change to show parishioners the parish's net income after deduction of the Diocesan Assessment (16%) and the second collection passthrough. The net income is what is used to cover staff compensation and basic expenses of the parish.

UPCOMING SUNDAY 2ND COLLECTIONS

Oct 24 **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY:** support churches, schools, hospitals.

Oct 24 **Maintenance Fund:** Care and maintenance of grounds and facilities.

Nov 1 - **All Saints' Day;** Nov 2 - **All Saints Day** - collections support ministries of all 3 churches.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

MON 25	4:00 PM October Rosary WG
TUE 26	8:00 AM Rosary; 8:30 AM Mass 4:00 PM October Rosary - K of C
WED 27	8:00 AM Rosary; 8:30 AM Mass 4:00 PM October Rosary - Families
THU 28	8:00 AM Rosary; 8:30 AM Mass 3:30 PM 1ST COMMUNION CLASS 4:00 PM October Rosary - Families 6:00 PM RCIA; 7:00 YOUNG ADULTS
FRI 29	8:00 AM Rosary; 8:30 AM Mass 9-10 AM Adoration 4:00 PM October Rosary NF & BL
SAT 30	2:30 PM YOUTH GROUP; CONFIRMATION CLASS 3:00 PM Confessions 3:30 PM Rosary, 4:00 PM Mass
SUN 31	8:00 AM Mass North Fork; 9:30 AM Mass BL; 11:00 AM All Saints; 11:30 AM Mass

INCOME 9/23 - 9/29 2021

First Collection	
Weekend Masses	\$ 3,628.80
Diocesan Assessment (16%)	-580.61
Second Collection (Parish)	
Maintenance	1,618.00
Evangelization & Faith Formation	10.00
Other Parish Income (candles & store)	126.00
Second Collection (Passthrough)	
Sacraments & Mass Intentions	40.00
Total 1st & 2nd Collection (Parish)	\$ 4,842.19
Passthrough Collection	-40.00
TOTAL PARISH COLLECTION (Net)	\$ 4,802.19

Note: Passthrough collections/receipts include all funds NOT managed by the parish i.e. Bishops Appeal, sacrament income, etc.

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