

live *the* faith

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously

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Living the Faith: Serving Responsibly

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church
a Stewardship Parish

Volume 2, Issue 3 September & October 2014

Live the Faith:

By Fr. Mark Wagner, Pastor

Since we are a big family of families here at St. Joseph's Parish we love to get together for special occasions and we love to invite everyone to join the party. That's why we're inviting the whole town of Modesto to join us for our 44th Annual Parish Festival on September 5-7.

This year our theme is "Duc in Altum" ("Put out into the Deep") which is what Jesus said when He invited Peter to go out into deeper water for a great catch of fish. We hope this year that we will gather many people for our festival, and hope many people will "catch" the excitement and the contagious joy of our Catholic faith and wish to join us regularly.

Parish life is family life. It is interesting that Fr. Joseph Illo is wishing to return to parish life. After being institutionalized in academia for two years he began to miss working in the parish setting and now he is in San Francisco at Star of the Sea Parish where he will establish a community of priests called an "Oratory." He was quoted in the Modesto Bee saying: "I am hard-wired for working in a parish." We are happy for Fr. Illo, and pray that he and his new parish family will live happily ever after!

The other day Fr. Illo was visiting Modesto and he came with me to visit the family home of Mary Smyth, who had served as Confirmation Coordinator of our Parish School of Religion. Currently, she serves our parish as a lector and as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. A few weeks ago her 26-year old daughter Elizabeth, who was also one of our Catechism teachers a couple of years ago, was diagnosed with several large malignant tumors and underwent a successful surgery to remove them. After praying together,



Mary's daughter, Elizabeth at a young age

I gave Elizabeth Holy Communion. As we were leaving, I said "I'm glad I was able to bring Jesus AND Fr. Illo!" What a beautiful thing it is that in our religion we have not only the sacraments but priests who represent Christ, and who serve as the spiritual fathers to bring comfort to God's children! We continue to pray that God will give Elizabeth complete healing.

God invites us to His family celebration. Jesus once said that the Kingdom of God is like a king who gave a wedding feast for his son and invited many. But when those invited did not come he had to "cast his nets further" and bring in all the people they could from the main highways and the street corners (Matthew 22:1-14). This is the parable that I think of when I meditate on the Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, which is one of the new mysteries added to the rosary by Saint John Paul II.

What a beautiful image of the Kingdom that God prepares for His people and how He does everything possible to get us into the Kingdom of Heaven, which is "the wedding feast of the Lamb" (cf. Rev. 19:9). The parable also mentions that one

Serving Responsibly

person came in without being properly dressed for a wedding. That is why good Catholics try to prepare themselves for heaven by going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion to show "they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

We are planning a wonderful parish festival for those who will choose to come. And God is planning a wonderful future in heaven for those who clothe themselves in Christ.

Just like a family who invites guests and then prepares by making sure the house is clean and everyone is on their best behavior, we are getting ready to welcome the non-parishioners and even the non-Catholics who might come to our festival! We need all you to come and share friendly smiles so that everyone feels attracted to the Catholic faith and would like to become members of God's family!

I would like to conclude this article with another one of my favorite passages from the Bible. It is from the First Letter of St. John, who says that we are already part of God's family by our baptism, but that we are invited to something greater in heaven. He says that we don't know what it will be like in heaven, but we do know that "... we will be LIKE GOD." This is an amazing statement:

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are... Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure."

Heaven will be like the love that unites brothers and sister; like the love that unites parent and



Fr. Francis and Suzanne Flint enjoy a good laugh and winning Bingo card during the 2013 Festival.

child; and even more, it will be like the love between a husband and wife. Heaven will be the Wedding Feast of the Lamb who will marry His bride the Church (Rev. 19:9). Jesus will be the bridegroom of our souls. In heaven, we will be no longer two but one body in Christ. This mystery has not yet been revealed, but we have a foretaste of it when we receive Holy Communion.

In heaven, the saints will not only be with God, but they will also be "LIKE GOD!" God has great plans to allow us to share in His divine nature. Jesus shared our human nature so that we could share in His divine nature (cf. 2Peter 1:4). On Earth, we are His brothers and sisters because He was born among us as our brother. But in heaven, we will be sharing in the family life of the Holy Trinity. Being "like God" would mean that we would have some of the attributes of our omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent God: What will this be like? We do not know. "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

See you at the festival!

Fr. Mark

44th Annual Parish Festival 2014

September 5, 6 & 7



Our 2014 St. Joseph's Parish Festival – our 44th Annual – is fast approaching. Thanks to God and our hard working Festival Committee (led by Co-Chairs Bob Shannon and Ed and Sue Gamboa), many of our “Festival Favorites” will be returning, along with some new elements. This year's Festival theme is “Duc in Altum” and features a wonderfully colorful design on our festival t-shirts. When asked what they like most about the Festival, people usually reply “the food” or “the great entertainment.” This year, we will have delicious new and favorite menu items from our Filipino, Root Beer and Almond Fizz Float, Mexican and Italian Food Booths. New this year is the Friday night “Mexican Dinner,” which will feature authentic Mexican food. Also on Friday night and new this year, we will have a “Latin Dance Contest,” with our very own Fr. Hamilton as judge. The Saturday night Italian Dinner always sells out fast with its delicioso food and reasonable prices. Our entertainment begins on Friday night with our Noche Latina Night and continues on Saturday with the “The Phil Friendly Trio.” They are known for their danceable Rock-a-Billy vocal style. Sunday talent seekers can enjoy “Rising Talents” Talent Show, where winners are awarded cash prizes. They will be followed by the toe-tapping sing-song of our Old Fashioned Live Country Auction at 4:30. The

TradeWinds Dance Band, which features music from the 40's through the 90's, will be our final headliner. If thinking about Festival Food makes you feel like you need to just sit down in the air conditioned parish hall, you can do that on Sunday at 1:25 and watch the San Francisco 49rs vs. Dallas Cowboys. Beer tasting will be available, served up by Barley and Wine. If you want to test yourself, or watch others be tested, check out the Saturday afternoon Catholic Family Feud, or just check out our new carnival rides.

Finally, wait until you see the changes in the Ministry and Apostolate Hospitality Tent. Our Stewardship Committee is excited to showcase our parish organizations and ministries and will welcome you with a cold drink of water. Buy tickets and volunteer online at www.stjmod.com/festival. For more information or for live auction or sponsorship or advertising, call 551-4973, ext. 207.



A teen volunteer holds up some of Tony Castro's famous Portuguese sweetbread during the 2013 Festival Auction



2014 PARISH FESTIVAL SCHEDULE September 5, 6 & 7

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

5pm Friday – Opening Prayer

Carnival Rides All Three Days

Friday: 5pm-10pm

Saturday: 4pm-10pm

Sunday: Noon-10pm

Parish game and food booths, BINGO, cake walk, Ministry and Apostolate Hospitality Tent & Entertainment

All Three Days

Fri. 5pm-10pm Sat. 4pm-10pm Sun. Noon-8pm

Entertainment Schedule

All events will take place under the entertainment tent.

Friday 7pm: Noche Latina,

Saturday 7pm: Rockabilly Night with Phil Friendly Trio

Sunday 6pm: Local Talent and Big Band
with Tradewinds Dance Band

Live Old Fashioned Silent & Live Auction
Free admission!

Sunday: 4:30-6pm

Come, view and bid on auction finds, including gift certificates, jewelry, furniture, toys, sports, home décor & so much more!

Mexican Fiesta Dinner - Fr. O'Hare Hall

Friday: 5-8pm

\$7 Adult / \$2 Child (age 3-10)

Italian Pasta and Meatball Dinner - Fr. O'Hare Hall

Saturday: 5-8pm

\$7 Adult / \$2 Child (age 3-10)

St. Joseph's Promising Talents Competition

Sunday 2:30-4:30pm

Cash Prizes/Free-entry. Must complete entry

(forms at www.stjmod.com/festival.html) & audition

St. Joseph's Festival Raffle

Donations of \$5 each or 5 for \$20, or \$20 for \$40

Closing Prayer & Drawings: 8pm Sunday

NEW THIS YEAR!!!!

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON
FOOTBALL GAME
IN HALL WITH BEER
TASTING 1:25PM**

**ROOTBEER FLOATS
ALMOND FIZZ FLOATS**

PHOTO BOOTH

**TEEN
GAME ZONE**

Get more for your money! Buy festival tickets in advance at the parish office or online through paypal at www.stjmod.com/festival.html

Annual Stewardship Renewal

September 13 & 14

By The Stewardship Committee (Rose LaMont, Chair)

Catholic Stewardship is like a well-balanced, three-legged stool upon which our faith rests. If one leg of the stool is shorter than the others, the stool will be unstable and our faith may topple to the floor. This year's Stewardship Appeal is a time to reflect on the gifts God has given us, and plan what we will do with these many gifts to bring Him greater glory.

Pray Gratefully

The most important leg of our Stewardship stool is prayer. We must make practical plans to ensure we pray gratefully. Weekly Mass is a wonderful start, but like a plant that needs water or a child who needs love, our prayer life will not thrive on a once-a-week schedule. Prayer should play an important part of our daily routine. Look at your Annual Renewal Card for ideas about how you and your family can grow your prayer life this year, and allow God into your daily lives.

Serve Responsibly

The next leg is about putting our personal talents and abilities into action by serving responsibly. Not one of us is a perfect expression of Jesus Christ, but if each of us identifies the piece of perfection God has given us, our combined gifts will grow into a full expression of God's love. This year's Ministry Tent at the Parish Festival will be organized to help you "shop" for a way which will enable YOU to serve God in order to leverage your unique gifts and preferences. Visit the displays and find one that piques your interest in the areas of liturgy, spirituality, religious education, youth and family, parish leadership, community life and outreach. God's love is alive on this earth through the gifts we put to work in His name.

Right: A sample stewardship card, featuring new ways to serve. You can return your stewardship renewal card at Mass (September 13 or 14), the parish front office or by mail.

Give Generously

The third leg we must build to balance the Stewardship stool is the generous giving of money and material goods for the work of the Church and the support of those in need. When we plan to give generously, we are able to manage our budgets in a way that makes giving joyful. Sacrifices can be planned, and we can choose as individuals and families where our financial gifts will go. Plan what you can give. Be generous. And feel the joy of God's glory in the work that will be done with what you have given!



2014 Annual Stewardship Renewal



Pray Gratefully | Serve Responsibly | Give Generously

Community Life Stewardship

- Annual Parish Gala - Dinner/Auction (Planning Committee)
- Book Store
- Library
- Boy Scout Troup
- Dinners and Feast Day Volunteers
- Fall Festival Planning Committee
- Health Ministry Team
- Knights of Columbus
- Maintenance Volunteers
- Mom's Group (English, Spanish)
- Office Volunteers
- On-the-Go Adults
- Seniors (Fellowship for those 55+)
- Senior Strength Training

Above: While you are at the parish festival, find out more information about how you can pray gratefully, serve responsibly, and give generously by stopping at the Ministry Tent. Our tent is sponsored this year by Bertolotti Disposal.

St. Joseph's Events Calendar

September Events

Sunday, September 14

Youth Group Kick-Off

5:30pm Mass in the church/7pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall

September 15-18

Parish School of Religion begins this week
(class times vary throughout the week)

Saturday, September 27

"Cena-Baile" Hispanic Dinner Dance

5:30-10pm - Fr. O'Hare Hall

October Events

Saturday, October 4

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi/
blessing of the animals 10am



Tuesday, October 7th

Our Lady of the Rosary

International Rosary after 5:45pm
Mass with the "Ave Maria" Prelude
by our cantors

Saturday, October 18

Day For Life, Fr. O'Hare Hall
See back page for details

Saturday, October 25

Planned Giving Seminar

9:30-11am in Fr. O'Hare Hall

FREE Breakfast! An overview of estate tax law. Presented by St. Joseph's Development Committee. Call 551-4973, ext. 202 to RSVP.

November Events

Saturday, November 1

MHMHOM – Annual Parish Gala

Saturday, November 1

All Saints Day

Not a Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, Oct 31- Vigil Mass

Sat, Nov 1 - 8:00am, 9:30am,

12:00 TLF, no confessions, 5:30 vigil Sun mass

SAVE THE DATES:

7th Annual Parish Gala

Dinner and Auction

Saturday, November 1



"An Evening in Rome – Celebrating our Saints" Join us for St. Joseph's Annual Parish Gala Dinner and Auction with gourmet food and wine. Silent and live auctions with dancing and after dinner cordials and chocolate. See the Fr. O'Hare Hall converted into the Vatican, complete with Swiss Guards! A special evening you won't want to miss. For table sponsor and ticket information, or to advertise your business call (209) 551-4973, ext. 207

Amazing Advent Mission!

December 7-10

December 7-8: Fr. Joseph Illo
"Building Better Families" and
"Defending Married Love"

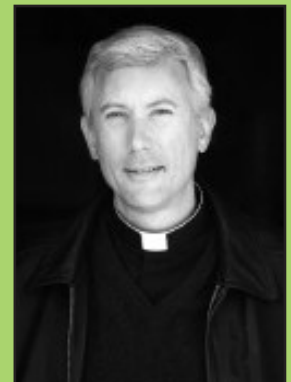
December 9-10: Fr. Angel
Espinosa de los Monteros (en
Español)

"Creer en Familia" (Grow as a
Family) and "Defender el Amor"
(Defending Love)

Fr. Joseph Illo, former pastor
of St. Joseph's and new pastor
of Star of the Sea Parish in San
Francisco, will provide a moving
reflection about family life and
married love.

Fr. Angel Espinosa de los Monteros, renowned family
life presenter, has provided over 1,500 high energy
presentations throughout the world.

Free all four nights; freewill offering for Fr. Angel taken
on the final night and concluding with a holy hour.





St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1813 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95355

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St. Joseph's Presents...



**Starts promptly after 8am Mass until
2:30pm, in the Fr. O'Hare Hall
Free Admission**

This event will be one you won't want to miss! Join us as we bring together three speakers from around the nation to share their knowledge, wisdom and experience on "LIFE, all ages and all stages."

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, MA, and the Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center. He has undergraduate degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry. He holds a Doctorate in Neuroscience from Yale University.

RSVP at www.stjmod.com/Life



He has testified before members of the Massachusetts and Wisconsin state legislatures and has participated in roundtable discussions on stem cells, cloning, and other biotechnologies throughout the United States and Canada.



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY
OF FAMILIES

Scan this image with your smart phone and go directly to St. Joseph's web page to view upcoming events and the latest blogs. Visit: www.getscanlife.com for a free QR Scanner

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sundays: 7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am, 12noon, 1:30pm (Español), 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30am and 1:30 Sunday Mass

DAILY MASS

Monday-Friday 8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am
Traditional Latin Mass, Fridays at Noon

CONFESSION

Monday through Friday 5pm-5:30pm*
Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

Homebound please call 551-4973 for a priest to visit you by appointment.

*During Lent Friday confessions occur before the 5:45pm daily Mass due to the Stations of the Cross

Our Parish Mission:
*To Evangelize God's People
Beginning with the Gift of the
Holy Eucharist.*

www.stjmod.com
(209)551-4973