

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 29, 2018

**We stay united to Jesus and give visibility
to his presence when gathered as a
Church.**

We remain united to Jesus by three ways in particular: by gathering in his name, by listening to his word, and by sharing his Body and Blood.

Concerning gathering in his name, Jesus told his disciples, "Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them." When we gather in Jesus' name we have his promise that he's there with us. Concerning readings and explaining his word, Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever listens to you listens to me."

When we hear the Gospel read and explained, we have Jesus' promise that we listen to him. Finally, concerning eating and drinking his Body and Blood, Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in him." When we share the Lord's Supper, we have Jesus' promise that he's united with us.

This leads us to an important point: If we want to find Jesus today, we will find him in his Church, or we won't find him at all.

Sometimes we hear people say, "I can find Jesus and unite myself to him in my own way. I don't need the Church." When we hear this, we want to cry out, "But there is no Jesus apart from the Church. There is no Jesus like the one you are talking about. That Jesus died on Calvary 2,000 years ago."

The only Jesus there is today is the Jesus who rose on Easter Sunday. And this Jesus lives in his Church, or he doesn't live at all. As evidence of this, recall Paul's experience on the road to Damascus, before his conversion. Listen to how the Acts of the Apostles describes it: "Suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?'"

"Who are you, Lord?" he asked. "I am, Jesus, whom you persecute," the voice said."

Paul was confused. He hadn't persecuted Jesus. He had persecuted only his followers.

Then it dawned on Paul. Jesus and his followers were one. There were like a head and a body. Trying to separate Jesus from his followers was like trying to separate a head from its body.

Years later Paul wrote: "Jesus is the head of his body, the Church; he is the source of the body's life."

Lord, you are the vine and we are your branches. As the branches draw life from the vine, so we draw life from you.

Lord, help us remain united to you always, by gathering in your name, by hearing your word, and by sharing your Body and Blood. For in this way we make you visible to our world. Lord, help us remember always that where your Church is, there you are.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Call the office for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment.

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 am. All women and all men are invited!

MASS INTENTIONS April 28 – May 4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Parishioners. Fr. Rudy
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Harold M. Hoyt. Fr. Tom
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + John Magnin. Fr. Rudy
Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Francis Acosta. Fr. Rudy
Friday 8:00 a.m. Communion Services

FOOD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE...

We collect non-perishable food items for the food pantry of Santa Cruz every Saturday and Sunday. Your donations help feed the poor and hungry that come to the parish.

Men's Club Meeting

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 pm. **On Wednesday May 9th 2018**
"Together supporting each other, we can do great things."

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 pm. in the Community Center. Our next meeting is **Wednesday May 23th!**

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time. Please contact Ruth McCormick
ruthmcc@flash.net

Spirituality Program Coordinators

Sister Molly Neville SNJM & Lynn Rombi SNJMA villamariasspirituality@gmail.com
Villa Maria Del Mar - 21918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA - (831) 475-1236

Mary's Magnificat:

Proclaiming the Greatness of God!

May 18-20, 2018 & July 27 – 29, 2018

Men's & Women's Silent Retreat – Retreat Master Father Joe Nassal, CPPS, is Provincial Director of the Kansas City Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

To Register Go online or Call:

www.stclaresretreatcenter.com 831 423-8093

St. Clare's Retreat – 2381 Laurel Glen Road – Soquel, CA 95073

We pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray for the families and our Country!

Tent of Abraham

Interfaith Dialogue, the third presentation in a three-part series on Religious prejudice.

"Christians and Religious Prejudice"

Sunday, May 6, 2018 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Feature Speaker: Fr. Cyprian Consiglio, OSB, Cam. Prior, New Camaldoli Hermitage

Holy Cross Parish Hall – 210 High St. Santa Cruz, CA

10th Annual BLESSING of the Hot Rods

(Because insurance isn't always enough)

Free Admission No Vehicle Entry Fee

- **HOT RODS**
- **CLASSIC CARS**
- **CUSTOM CARS**
- **MUSCLE CARS**

Saturday May 19th, 2018

10 am to 3 pm

For more information contact Herb Curran & Chris 408 315.7662

Kids' Activities!!!