

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

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 6, 2018

Miracle of Love!

Several years ago Reader's Digest carried a moving story about a baby boy in a Milwaukee hospital. The baby was blind, mentally retarded, and had cerebral palsy. He was little more than a vegetable that didn't respond to sound or touch. His parents had abandoned him. The hospital didn't know what to do with the baby. Then someone remembered May Lempke, a 52-year-old nurse who lived nearby. She had raised five children of her own. She would know how to care for such a baby. They asked May to take the infant, saying, "He'll probably die young." May responded, "If I take the baby, he won't die young; and I'll be happy to take him." May called the baby Leslie. It was not easy to care for him. Every day she massaged the baby's entire body. She prayed over him; she cried over him; she placed his hands in her tears. On day someone said to her, "Why don't you put that child in an institution? You're wasting your life."

The years passed: five, ten, and fifteen. It wasn't until Leslie was sixteen years old that May was able to teach him to stand alone. All this time he didn't respond to her. But all this time May continued to love him and to pray over him. She even told him stories of Jesus, even though he didn't seem to hear her. Then one day May noticed Leslie's finger plucking a taut string on a package. She wondered what this meant. Was it possible Leslie was sensitive to music? May began to surround Leslie with music. She played every type of music imaginable, hoping that one type might appeal to him. Eventually May and her husband bought an old second-hand piano. They put it in Leslie's bedroom. May took Leslie's fingers in hers and showed him how to push the keys down, but he didn't seem to understand. Then one winter night in 1971, May awoke to the sound of someone playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. She shook her husband, woke him up, and asked him if he had left the radio on. He said he didn't think so, but they decided they'd better check. What they discovered was beyond their wildest dream. Leslie was sitting at the piano. He was smiling and playing it by ear. It was too remarkable to be true. Leslie had never gotten out of bed alone before. He'd never seated himself at the piano before. He'd never struck a piano key on his own. Now he was playing beautifully. May dropped to her knees and said, "Thank you, dear God. You didn't forget Leslie." Soon Leslie began to live at the piano. He played classical, country western, ragtime, gospel, and even rock. It was absolutely incredible. All the music May had played for him was stored in his brain and was now flowing out through his hands into the piano.

Leslie, who was now 28, began to talk. He didn't carry on extended conversations; but he did ask questions, give simple answers, and make brief comments. For example, one night he was watching a comedy on TV. He got fed up with the dialogue and said, "We'd better turn that off. They're all crazy." Leslie now plays concerts for church groups, civic organizations, cerebral palsy victims and their parents, and retarded children and their parents. He's even appeared on national television.

This is the good news contained in today's Scripture readings.

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.

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

MASS INTENTIONS May 5 - 11

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Parishioners. Fr. Tom

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Leslie R. Olsen. Fr. Tom

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Murphy-Dwyer. Fr. Rudy

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Vikki L. Banuelos

Friday 8:00 a.m. + Sylvia Cordle

**10th Annual Blessing of the Hot Rods &
Wine Tasting
CAR SHOW**

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH 10 – 3 PM

Antique. Classic. Custom. Muscle. Hot Rods.
Sports.

Wine Tasting with Local Wineries
BBQ BEEF Lunch. Live band. Raffle Prizes!
NO Registration FEE

Bring gently used coats for annual coat drive
Awards 2:00pm

Muffins & Coffee after 8 am. for Hot Rod
owners to beat the beach traffic

Like us on Facebook [blessingofthehotrods](https://www.facebook.com/blessingofthehotrods)
www.blessingofthehotrods.com

Christ Child Men's Club

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

Dear First Communion Parents,
May 13th, there is no class, but the children need
to be at mass so they may make their **First
Reconciliation. Father will meet with the
children after mass and they will,
individually, make their First Reconciliation.**
May 20th, is First Communion! The children
need to report to the religious
education/community center at 9:00 am.
Sincerely, Herb and Chris Curran