

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

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
July 22, 2018

“Altar of the Chair”

Today’s Gospel presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd for people who were like sheep without a shepherd. At St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, the role of Pope as a teaching shepherd is depicted very powerfully in art. At the very back of the basilica, there is one of the most famous pieces in art history, done by the great sculptor Bernini. It’s called the “altar of the Chair,” and it was so beautiful and influential that art historians say it was the start of the baroque era. It was Pope Alexander VII who commissioned Bernini to build a sumptuous monument which would give prominence to the ancient wooden chair believed to have been used by St. Peter. Bernini built a throne in gilded bronze richly ornamented with bas-reliefs, in which the chair was enclosed: two pieces of furniture, one within the other. At the top of the altar, there is the brilliant translucent image of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove surrounded

by angels. The Holy Spirit is descending upon a huge bronze chair which houses what in the 16th century was believed to be the actual chair on which St. Peter sat to teach the people of Rome. Peter’s chair is a symbol of the teaching authority of the church and particularly of the Popes, the successors of St. Peter, who are Christ’s vicars on earth. The most formal teachings of the Church are called “*ex cathedra*,” meaning literally “from the chair.” Underneath the chair there are four bishops who are all famous teaching saints in the early Church – Athanasius, John Chrysostom, Augustine, and Ambrose – who are depicted referring to and spiritually upholding the teaching authority of the Church and papacy. But the element that is most relevant to today’s Scriptures is found sculpted into the backrest of the Chair. It’s a depiction of Peter feeding Christ’s sheep. It’s a reference to the end of St. John’s Gospel, when Jesus asked Peter three times, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter replied that he did. And Jesus responded, “Feed my lambs,” “tend my sheep,” and “feed my sheep.” Peter’s obedience in caring for Christ’s sheep is seen above all, therefore, in his TEACHING of Christ’s truth. Every year on February 22, the Church celebrates the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, to commemorate St. Peter’s teaching in Rome. **The Church needs ideal pastors:** The pastor must be a person of compassion. He must be able to feel deeply the suffering of others, to understand why they fear and tremble. The pastor is also called lead and “govern wisely,” living the teaching they communicate. They are to guide people in

right paths and are to be concerned about what is right and just...

Joke of the week: The young pastor was teaching the 23rd psalm to the Sunday school children. He told them that they were sheep who needed guidance. Then the priest asked, “If you are the sheep then who is the Shepherd?” (Obviously meaning himself). A silence of a few seconds followed. Then a young boy said, “Jesus. Jesus is the Shepherd.” The young priest, obviously caught by surprise, said to the boy, “Well then, who am I?” The boy frowned thoughtfully and then said, “I guess you must be a sheep dog.”

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 call, for an appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthing 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. All Women and All Men

MASS INTENTIONS July 21 – 27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Donald & Gail Hanley

Sunday 10:00 a.m. The Olsen Family

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + John Parker

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Dorothy Parker

Friday 8:00 a.m. Cinthya & Dante Carrillo

ST. FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN

Lunch is served Monday through Friday from 12 to 1 pm to the needy of Santa Cruz. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry please call 831-459-6712 for more information.

Thank you for your support!

ROSARY We pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray...

Women’s Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 – 2:30 pm. **July 25th!** Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time. Please contact Ruth McCormick ruthmcc@flash.net 408 353.1017

Stewardship of Treasury

July 14 & 15, 2018

Plate Collection \$ 938.00

EFT \$ 540.00

Total \$1,478.00

Thank you for your support and generosity.

8th ANNUAL PARISH HARVEST
PARTY & DANCE

LIVE BAND – DANCING, FOOD & DRINKS!!!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

STARTS AT 6 O’CLOCK

\$40 Donation Requested

For more information contact: Don Boisvert
408.828.2035

Ladies, September 14-16 is the date for our silent Christ Child Retreat with Father Serge Propst OP. The topic is “Inner Peace” Call St. Clare’s retreat Center directly 831 423-8093

PRAYER REQUESTS: Can be sent to christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com or written and placed in the box provided in the Church foyer.

Save Date Sunday July 29th after the Mass 10 am. The blessings of the Mosaic of the Holy Family and Columbarium/niche wall for the internment of the ashes of members of the Parish.

Men’s Club Meeting

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. on Wednesday, August 8th

“Together, supporting each other, we can do great things.”