

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

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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
September 10, 2017

HE IS AMONG US

Although Jesus' words as recorded by Matthew are of great importance for the life of our Christian communities, they haven't often received the attention of commentators and preachers. This is Jesus' promise: **"Where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them."**

Jesus isn't thinking about massive celebration like those in the Plaza of St. Peter's in Rome. Though only two or three, he's there in their midst. It's not necessary that the hierarchy be Present; it's not so much how big the group is.

What's important is that "they gather together," not dispersed, not debating; not putting one another down. What's decisive is that they come together "in his name:" that they listen to his call, identify with his project of God's Reign. That Jesus be the center of their small group.

This living and real presence of Jesus is what needs to enliven, guide and sustain the small

communities of his followers. It's Jesus who lives and breathes in their prayer, their celebration, their projects and activities. This presence is the "secret" of every living Christian community.

We Christians can't gather in our groups and communities in the old way: out of custom, or inertia or just to fulfill some religious obligation. We may be many, or often few. But what's important is that we gather together in his name, attracted by his person striving to make a more human world.

We need to reawaken the awareness that we are communities of Jesus. We gather to listen to his Gospel, to keep alive his memory, to be infected with his Spirit, to welcome in ourselves his joy and his peace, to announce his Good News.

The future of the Christian faith will depend for the most part on what we Christians do in our concrete communities during the coming decades. It's not enough what Pope Francis can do in the Vatican. Nor can we put our hope in a small group of priests who get ordained in the coming years. Our only hope is Jesus Christ.

We are the one who have to center our Christian communities in the person of Jesus as the only force capable of regenerating our worn-out and routine faith. The only one capable of attracting today's men and women.

The only one capable of bringing to birth a new faith in these times of unbelief.

The renovation of the Church's central core is urgent. Reform decrees are necessary. But there's nothing as decisive as returning radically to Jesus Christ.

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:
Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish
Every Tuesday at 8:15 am. All Women and All Men.

MASS INTENTIONS September 9 - 15
Saturday 5:00 p.m. The Robert's Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. The Sobrak-Seaton
Thursday 9:00 a.m. Virginia Stehly
Friday 8:00 a.m. Adolph Donato Jr.

Men's Club Meeting
Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. on Wednesday, **September 13th**
"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.**
September 27th
Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.
Please contact Ruth McCormick
ruthmcc@flash.net

Stewardship of Treasure
Report of Collection \$ 1,065.00
Weekly EFT \$ 647.00
Total \$ 1,712.00

Thank you and God bless you!

Only 2 Weeks Left to Sign up for

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about, or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on **September 22 -24, 2017** call 831-479-1260 or email:

Monterey@RetroCA.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Wonderful Women's Weekend!

Enjoy a wonderful women's weekend at St. Clare's Retreat! A silent retreat will be held on **September 15 - 17, 2017**

The guest speaker is **Father Serge Prost O.P.** The retreat starts with Friday dinner and ends with Sunday lunch. The cost for all three days is \$140.00; single rooms are available on request \$150.00

For reservation & more information, contact Jeanette Roberts at 353-1880

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Thursday, September 14

This feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The two churches were rebuilt by Patriarch

Modestus of Jerusalem 626, but were later destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher, rebuilt by the Crusaders, was dedicated in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress, St. Helena in 320.