

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

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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
November 4, 2018

Good Religion or Bad Religion!

What is the difference between good religion and bad religion? That is the theme with which we are dealing today. It should be noted that the primary difference between good religion and bad does not lie in the realm of theological ideas. Jesus did not denounce the scribes and Pharisees for what might be called “doctrinal heresy”. In fact he almost seemed to approve of them at that point. He told his disciples to “do everything and observe everything they tell you”. But then he added, “Do not follow their example.” In other words he approved of their religion theory but disapproved of their religion practice. He did not like what their religion had done to their character. Jesus knew that in matters of religion it is possible to be doctrinally correct and, at the same time, to be morally and ethically corrupt. These people had so misused their religion as to make themselves arrogant snobs. They were firmly convinced that they were just a little bit better than the average

run of people. And that, my friends, is one sure sign of a religion gone badly. Good religion always engenders humility. Bad religion engenders arrogance. Whenever you and I begin to think that we are a little bit better than some other person or some other group, we can mark it down at that very point, and our religion has started to go bad. It works something like this: Since I am right and you are wrong, and since I am better than you are, then God must surely be on my side against you. This means that I have a divinely mandated responsibility to get you straightened out. This gives me the right to impose my will upon you. If I cannot change your mind then I must control your actions so that you cannot corrupt the rest of society. This is the attitude that brought about the crucifixion of Christ. This is the attitude that created and sustained the institution of slavery. This is the attitude that inspired and energized the Nazi regime in Germany. This is the attitude that underlies all racial discrimination and religious persecution. There is no more damnable attitude on the face of the earth than the tragic notion that God is on my side against you. Let me illustrate the attitude by citing two events of recent history and a comment that was made concerning them. Some of us remember the tragedy when a Korean passenger plane was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter, killing two hundred sixty-nine people. The other event was less publicized. It happened a few months later in that same region. There was an accidental explosion on a Soviet military base that killed approximately three hundred of their military personnel. A short time later a nationally known television evangelist (Jerry Falwell) reminded his listeners of both events and then gave his interpretation of them. He pointed out that the second tragedy

is shrouded in mystery. And no one knows for sure what happened. But he insisted that he knew. His exact words were these: “God struck the match.” In other words, God caused the explosion. He was punishing them for what they had done to us. The evangelist was saying that same old thing – God is on our side against them. And I could not disagree more.

I am saying, my friends, that God is not on our side against anybody. Our role in this world is not to conquer and control. It is to save. “At the hour of death when we come face-to-face with God, we are going to be judged on love; not how much we have done, but how much love we put into doing.” Now that’s good religion! Father Ron Shirley

Women’s Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month,
November 28th from 1 to 2:30 pm.

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

Men’s Club Meeting - Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. on Wednesday, November 14th, 2018 “Together, supporting each other, we can do great things!”

MASS INTENTIONS November 3 - 9

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Judith Ann Hammond
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Leslie R. Olsen
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Jean Bergin
Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Martina Durham
Friday 8:00 a.m. + Margarita Ortega

Every Saturday we pray the ROSARY together in the church at 4:30 pm. Please come to pray for our families and our Country!

Pre-School: The Second Sunday of the month during the 10 am. Mass.
Family Social after mass!

Treasury Report Sunday October 27 & 28, 2018

TOTAL \$1,810.00
Second Collection for Maintenance was \$423.00 Thank You!

15th Annual Giving at Greenfield

It is a holiday tradition for the Christ Child parish to adopt 58 families from the Greenfield community. We will have the family information available after Mass on Nov. 3 & 4, 10 & 11 and 17 & 18. **We will deliver gifts on Saturday, December 8th.** For information contact Karen at 408- 353-2020 Or kjoesten@scusd.net

SPARE CHANGE FOR LIFE REMINDER We began our baby bottle campaign at the beginning of October, Respect Life Month, in support of **Birthright of San Jose** and it is now time to bring them back. Although if you never picked one up it’s not too late. There are a few left in the vestibule. We do reuse the bottles so please help us get them all back. God bless you in advance for your generous support. And if you feel called to do more, we can use more kind souls who are good listeners and have 3-4 hours a week to help out working with clients or behind the scenes. Call Norma or Dave at 408 353-3326

Give warmth, donate a coat! CHRIST CHILD’S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE is in full swing!

Donation collection boxes are in our Church foyer. All sizes of new or gently used coats, parkas, jackets, sweaters, caps, scarves and gloves are appreciated. **Winter wear for infants, toddlers, and youth is needed!** Our friends at HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH, GREENFIELD, CA benefit greatly from our generosity. Questions? Contact Joe or Andrea Bruna at 408 348-7061

Please use the envelopes to inscribe the name of your beloved dead who will be remembered in prayer at masses during the month November!