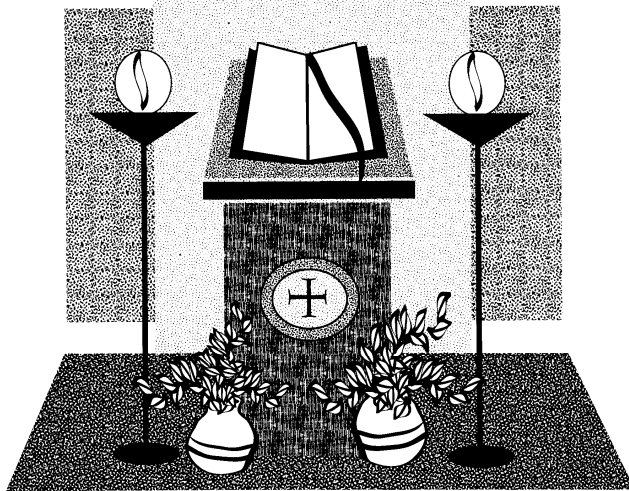


If today you hear the voice of the Lord  
harden not your hearts



## **Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

August 1, 2010

"I am the bread of life."

### **Accountability to God: An Attitude Check**

In the parable of the rich fool, the rich man owns land that produces a bountiful harvest. There is no mention that he acquires the goods of his harvest wrongfully. I presumably would say that he is a fair rich man. But in the story that unfolds, God calls this man a fool. So we ask the question, "why"?

Well, the answer is that the farmer seeks to secure himself and his future without reference to God. Being "foolish" in this sense signifies an attitude that denies God in the blessings found in one's abundance. This attitude runs consonant with the representation of greed that forms an idolatry in the heart of the rich man. With such an attitude, he fails to consider that his life is just a loan from God. And as a loan, everything that has been provided in his life is to be given back to God in thanksgiving, and that the rich man fails to do. The lesson here is that one has to make an accounting to God for the blessings one has received.

In this context, Jesus is teaching us that failure to make an accounting to God in the abundance of blessings that we receive forms in one's heart an idolatry of greed. Thus, this situation becomes an exhortation that our possessions should not become a source of security apart from God; otherwise, our own possessions may deny us a true claim to life, a richness that matters to the eyes of God. This reminds us that possessions distract us from true wealth, from what is rich in the eyes of God.

In demanding an accounting, God does not really count much the amount that we give back, but the attitude of willingness to forsake the security of possessions. God wants us to look to Him for our security and not to our own ability to accumulate possessions and lay up wealth for the future. This is the kind of attitude He wants us to form in our hearts. God wants us to put Him the first in the lists of our accounting.

Fr. Bart  
Parochial Vicar

# Mass for the Intentions Week

**July 31 – Aug. 7, 2010**

		<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested By</b>
Saturday, July 31	5 p.m.	Lena Jeffre †	Jeffre Family
Sunday, Aug. 1	8 a.m.	Luis Torres †	Ann Torres
	9:30 a.m.	Sr. Mary Christine †	Joan & Sherly Arouge
	11 a.m.	Eugenio Artiaga †	Reyline Artiaga
	12:30 p.m.	Nnamdi Uche †	Uche Family
	6 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Brazilian Community
Monday, Aug. 2	8 a.m.	Margaret Hicks †	Gerald Hicks
Tuesday, Aug. 3	8 a.m.	Soledad Versozol Tiongson †	Violeta Tiongson
Wednesday, Aug. 4	8 a.m.	David Phillips	Evelyn Phillips
Thursday, Aug. 5	8 a.m.	Remedios C. Manuel †	Menci Ferreros
Friday, Aug. 6	8 a.m.	Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
Saturday, Aug. 7	8 a.m.	Paula Liu – Good Health	Grandma & Grandpa
	5 p.m.	Claire Gorin †	Frank & Mildred Gardner

## Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (155)	\$3,465
Loose Donations	<u>1,421</u>
<b>Total Regular Collection</b>	<b>\$4,886</b>

Next Weekend: Mission Co-op

**Please remember your parish in your will.**

## Message of Stewardship

Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

## Next Weekend: Mission Co-op

Our second collection next weekend will be for the Mission Co-op. Each year around this time, missions from all over the world – many of them plagued by natural disasters, civil strife and religious persecution – appeal for help from the parishes of the Oakland Diocese.

As the name implies, the mission effort is a cooperative one, with the participating missions given an equal share in the total donations.

## Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Josephine Abbissinio, Dorothy Abel, Dorothy Alexander, Evelyn Baker, Bill Brazil, Barbara Brendlinger, Elizabeth Brown, Josephine Canepa, Jeffrey Chavez, Steve Connell, Isabella Kristine Cruz, Deloris Davis, Juanita Estrellas, Norte Estrellas, Walt Faria, Louis & Sally Fernandez, Michael Fleming, Emilio Gallegos, Ann Gerletti, Fran Giachino, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Joe Gressel, Betty Harrell, Frances Haynes, Joanne Hockman, Steve Jeffre, Emanuel Johnson, Adie Kasari, Tom Kennedy Jr., Marsha Lightfoot, Maria Impang Lozada, Eric Lubrano, Evelyn Miché, Lolita Parafina, Stephen Pellin-gra, Dina Pieroni, Leola Richardson, Sr. Mary Soong, Julie Spotts, Amy Stymer, Jack Sudall, Marilyn Sutton and Helene Wulbern.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

## No More Clothes, Please

We have a new policy for the bins outside the Conference Room and at the San Pablo Ave. church entrance. We are only accepting non-perishable food. No clothes, please.

This is because the church has no storage space. Please take your clothes directly to the recipient agency, such as the Bay Area Rescue Mission at 2114 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond

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### **Holy Hour for Priests Wednesday**

At the request of the Presbyteral Council, Bishop Cordileone has invited every parish to conduct a holy hour to pray for the priests of the diocese.

The holy hour is to take place at every parish, including St. John's, from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4, the feast day of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests.

All parishioners are invited to attend this holy hour of prayer to intercede for the priests who serve the Oakland Diocese: for those who are now serving, for those who are retired, sick or have passed away, and for current and future seminarians. This holy hour will conclude the Year for the Priest in the Oakland Diocese.

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### **GRIP Staging Food Drive**

The Greater Richmond Interfaith Program is feeding lunch to an average of 250 hungry people each day, compared to 200 people per day last year. The homeless shelter is always nearly full to capacity.

GRIP is running low on food and is asking its member congregations to support efforts to feed the hungry in a variety of ways:

1. Become a walker for the annual Harmony Walk to End Hunger Oct. 9. Ask friends, family and businesses to sponsor your walk with cash donations. Aim to raise at least \$1,000 each.

2. Bring canned vegetables and spices to the barrels outside the Conference Room and the San Pablo Ave. entrance of St. John's Church during the month of July. Large cans are preferred but all sizes are welcome, but please no glass containers.

3. Volunteer to prepare and serve a nutritious dinner at the GRIP homeless shelter on the third Saturday of each month. Thanks especially to Olivia and Walter Wong, with help from Jean Bush, for providing a six-course Chinese takeout dinner to the shelter guests on June 19.

4. Write checks to GRIP for general GRIP needs or to Joseph Orr of St. John's to help pay for the dinners.

For more information, please call Joe Orr at work 450-7933 or at home 237-5568.

### **Spend Vacation on Essentials**

*By Catholic News Service*

Take advantage of summer vacation by spending time on the essentials in life: listening to the word of God, Pope Benedict XVI says.

Speaking during his Angelus address at the papal summer residence, the pope said it is important that people "rest from our daily labors, so that we may give time to the one thing that is truly necessary in our lives – listening to the word of God in attentive stillness."

People need to work and dedicate themselves to their homes and professions but God must still come first, he said.

God is that "inner light of love and truth" that gives every action meaning, value and joy, he said.

Without that deeper meaning, everything one does is reduced to "fruitless and disorganized" busyness, said the pope.

He said he hoped the holidays would leave people "truly refreshed in body and spirit."

### **Conference on Culture of Life**

Mary's House of Mercy, a lay apostolate of the Divine Mercy Eucharistic Society, invites you to a one-day conference embracing the culture of life on Saturday, Aug. 7, at Holy Spirit Parish Gym in Fremont.

Speakers will be Fr. Tom Euteneuer, president of Human Life International, and Dr. John Bruchalski, a former abortion doctor who was touched by God's mercy.

Registration will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m., with Mass starting at 8:30 a.m. Registration forms are available at Divine Mercy Chapel, next door to St. John's Church, or by e-mailing [divinemercuryjesus@comcast.net](mailto:divinemercuryjesus@comcast.net).

### **St. John's Seniors**

St. John the Baptist Community Center  
6500 Gladys St., corner of Lexington  
Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850  
Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays  
12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3:  
Bingo

## **Sacrament of Penance ‘Like an Oil Change,’ Bishop Says**

*By Catholic News Service*

Impurities in a car engine, clutter behind the couch, weeds taking over a garden — all are metaphors for sins used by Bishop Daniel F. Walsh of Santa Rosa in a letter to Catholics he wrote for the diocese’s quarterly newsletter, *North Coast Catholic*.

“Every so often we have to weed our gardens,” Bishop Walsh said in the letter. “If we don’t, the weeds will take over and the garden disappears.”

The sacrament of penance, he said, “is like periodically checking the garden of our souls for weeds that hamper our discipleship.” There has been a decline in participation in the sacrament since the Second Vatican Council but whatever the

reasons for its decline, Bishop Walsh said, “I think in our permissive society we have lost the sense of sin.”

The objective of his letter was to encourage and invite everyone to return to going to confession regularly. Comparing souls to cars, the bishop indicated the importance of maintenance. Every so often, drivers service their vehicles with an oil change to prevent a buildup in the engine.

“There may not be any major problem with our engine,” said the bishop. “But slowly, over time, minor impurities have been building up. If we leave those impurities unattended, they will eventually result in major and costly problems for our car.”

### **Summer Series Starts**

Our summer series on the Sacrament of Reconciliation is starting this weekend.

Each summer, our parish devotes a series of Sunday homilies to a particular subject as a means of increasing our knowledge of the faith.

The emphasis for these talks is on catechesis, rather than reflections on the particular scripture readings for that Sunday.

This year’s topic will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The schedule:

Aug. 1 – Examination of Conscience

Aug. 8 – Confession

Aug. 22 – Reconciliation & Absolution

(On Aug. 15, we will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)

Our parish Web site has related videos on “Confession,” “How To Say the ‘Act of Contrition,’” and other topics. Just go to [www.SaintJohnTheBaptistChurch.org](http://www.SaintJohnTheBaptistChurch.org) and click on the Multimedia link.

### **Help for Marriages**

The Retrouvaille program helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

For confidential information or to register for the program beginning the weekend of Sept. 10-12, call 648-6874 or e-mail [Oakland@Retro.com](mailto:Oakland@Retro.com) or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

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### **Got Your Raffle Tickets?**

A letter and flyer announcing our annual Parish Festival on Sunday, Sept. 19, has been mailed to all registered parishioners.

Also enclosed in the mailing are 12 raffle tickets per household. Purchasing these dozen tickets will put you in our “\$100 Club” and qualify you for a special additional drawing that will take place at the Festival.

All ticket purchasers will be eligible for four successive Sunday drawings:

- \$500 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Aug. 29;
- \$500 after the 11 o’clock Mass on Sept. 5;
- \$500 after the 12:30 Mass on Sept. 12, and
- the \$1,500 grand prize during the Festival.

To qualify for these drawings, you can mail your tickets and payment to the church office, place them in the church collection or buy them at the tables outside church starting next weekend.

Then please plan to join us from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19, for our parish Festival to enjoy kids’ carnival games, ethnic foods, drinks, Grandma’s Garden, our Country store, music, live entertainment, cotton candy and good fellowship.

We do not plan on having a Festival Dinner on Saturday night, Sept. 18.

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# August 2010

CC – Community Center    CC-2 – Community Center Upstairs    CH – Church    CR – Conference Room    DR – Dining Room    MR – Music Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:30: Coffee Hour (CR)	<b>2</b> 2 pm: St. John's 2020	<b>3</b> 9 am: Seniors (CC) 7:30: Brazilian Choir (CH)	<b>4</b> 11:30: Women's Covenant (CC)	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 11 am Choir	<b>6</b> <i>Transfiguration</i> 7:30: 12:30 Choir (CH)	<b>7</b> Anointing of Sick after 8 am Mass (CH) 9 am: Pastoral Council (CR)
<b>8</b> 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>St. Lawrence</i> 9 am: Seniors (CC)	<b>11</b> 11:30: Women's Covenant (CC)	<b>12</b> 10: EC Royale Mass 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 11 am Choir	<b>13</b> 7:30: 12:30 Choir (CH), Brazilian Prayers (CR)	<b>14</b> 9:30: Liturgy Cmte (CR)
<b>15</b> <i>Assumption of Mary</i>	<b>16</b> 7: Technology (CR)	<b>17</b> 9 am: Seniors (CC)	<b>18</b> 11:30: Women's Covenant (CC)	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 11 am Choir	<b>20</b> 7:30: 12:30 Choir CH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 pm: Mandarin Mass	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>St. Bartholomew</i> 9 am: Seniors (CC) 7: Stewardship (CR)	<b>25</b> 11:30: Women's Covenant (CC) 7 pm: Youth Choir (CH)	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 11 am Choir 6: GRIP Walk (CR)	<b>27</b> 7:30: 12:30 Choir (CH), Brazilian Prayers (CR)	<b>28</b> 9 am: Finance Cmte (DR) 9 am: DRE Training (in Spanish) (CR)
<b>29</b> 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9 am: Seniors (CC)	<b>1</b> 11:30: Women's Covenant (CC) 7 pm: Youth Choir (CH)	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm: 8 am Choir 7:30: 11 am Choir	<b>3</b> 7:30: 12:30 Choir (CH)	<b>4</b> Anointing of Sick after 8 am Mass (CH) 9 am: Pastoral Council (CR)