

Continued from page 1

It is an ordinary time of encouragement, this liturgical season. As we encourage ourselves to hold fast to our New Year's resolutions, let us also remain firm in our desire to know God and to be love for others each and every day.

Pope Frances, in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation EvangeliiGaudium, puts it best. He writes: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. 'The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that He is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'" In all the commonplace ways of our lives, let us keep walking: listening, praising and responding to God's call.

Jenny Girard Malley, MA

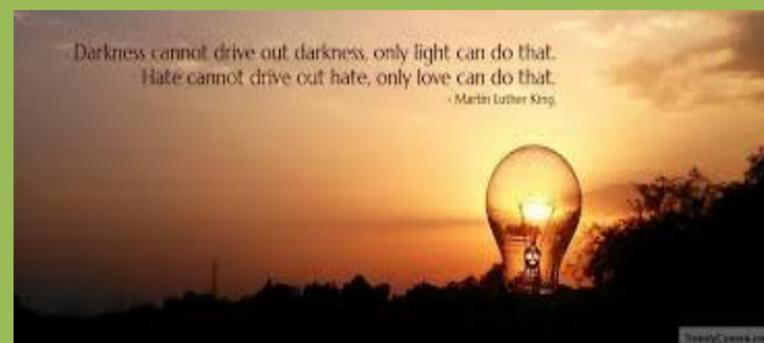
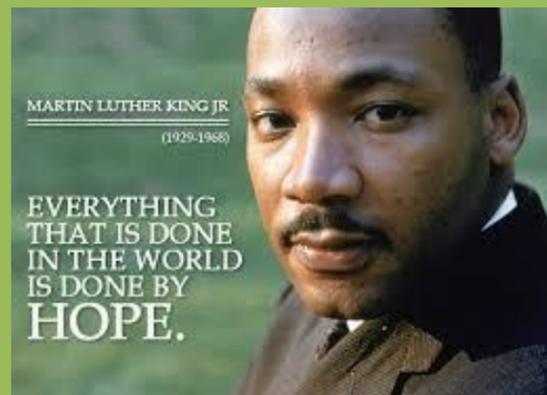
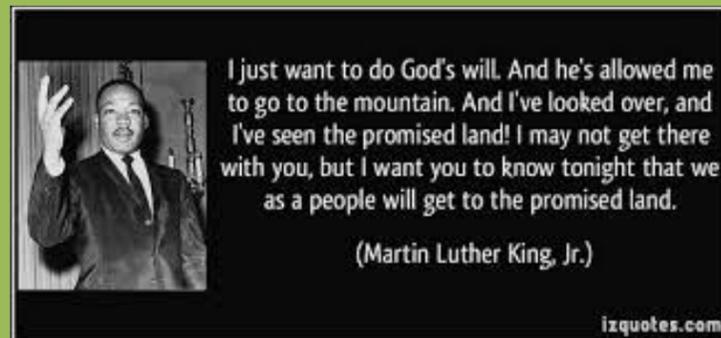
Art and Environment Update:

Please take home poinsettias this weekend and next weekend.

The environment change from Christmas to Ordinary Time will be Saturday, January 17th at 10:30 a.m. until done.

The change from Ordinary Time to Lent will be Monday, February 16th, at 6 p.m.

There will be refreshments at both occasions

Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**Saint Augustine Catholic Church**

400 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, California

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This weekend we begin Ordinary Time, emerging from the seasons of Advent and Christmas into a new season that asks us to be as joyful, as mindful of Christ's work in our lives, as we have been during these special seasons of celebration.

It can be difficult. There may be some sadness as the tree comes down, as the lights go into their boxes, as the vibrancy of all the activity comes to a close. Yet, this is where the challenge of Christian living resides. In the ordinary, mundane, day-to-day life we re-enter this week.

In the readings this weekend, we are asked to embody Jesus in all that we do. It is not about the holiday moments here. We are called to be Jesus in the simple, everyday moments. The Epiphany that just occurred is not only a story about the Magi who visited Jesus 2000 years ago; It is a message about how each of us should live our faith in body and spirit, in thought and action, in today's world. We must be the lights of Christ for others.

We are reminded and encouraged:

- It may be hard to hear God's voice, as it is for Samuel in the first reading; yet we must try to listen. We must try again and again.
- It may be difficult to understand what implications Paul is speaking of in the second reading when he talks about "glorifying God in our bodies;" yet, we must remember that following Christ is not just a spiritual endeavor, it is a physical embodiment of all that he gave to us through His birth.
- It may be confusing to figure out how to be a disciple in a society that often avoids any talk of God; yet, we are called to follow, to hear our name, and to be in community with one another.

Continued on page 4

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Mission Statement

We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.

Kindly keep the following parishioners in your prayers as they have been placed in **Hospice care**: Hortense Atkins and Marilyn La Placa.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Patty Wiesner, Lexi Venema, Mary Flynn, Tom Hayes, Russell Wikander, Alice Atkinson, Rose Knapp, Stephanie Sauder-Andrade, Rose Domaguing, Madeleine Shannon, Matilda Maes, Mary Pavao, Claudia Johnson, Carmon Woodyard.

And those who have died:

George Shaw, Cora Jose, Jeanne Harold Boxley, Kay Irwin, Timothy Michael Solovieff, Toby Burditt, Juanita Morris, Kristina Velarde.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 17th, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, January 18th, 2015 8 a.m.

DJ Jones (+)

Sunday, January 18th, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Anna Mary Arnhart (+)

Sunday, January 18th, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

January 11th, 2015:\$ 4,184 (includes EFT)

We will continue our Bible Study this Sunday, January 18, 2015, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Rectory dining room. All are welcome. Please bring your Holy Bible, a pen and note pad.

In the Powerful Name of Jesus,

Fr. Freddie Thomas

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:30 a.m.

Communion Service

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4 p.m.

Please come and join us every Tuesday morning at St. Augustine's, combining elements of Taizé music, contemplative prayer, and liturgy of the hours. The service will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will last approximately 25 minutes.

No prior experience or training is necessary in order to participate; all that is needed is a desire to meet with a small group to spend time in prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Schaeffer at lilac52@gmail.com or [415-935-1729](tel:415-935-1729)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For Adults

What qualities do you have that would cause others to recognize you as a disciple of Jesus?

For Children

What does it take to be a follower of Jesus?

ST AUGUSTINE'S PARENT FAITH SHARING GROUP

All parents are invited to attend this group which creates a space for you to pray together and talk together about parenthood and Christian life. Our next meeting is *Sunday, January 25 from 9:15-10:15 in the school cafeteria*. The topic will be Family Prayer: Ideas to Bring Prayer into Your Home. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Girard Malley at jennysacc@gmail.com

ST. THERESA 10-WEEK IGNATIAN PRAYER ADVENTURE

We invite you to come and experience a taste of the Ignatian Exercises during this 10-week retreat. This retreat, an adapted version of the 32-week retreat, provides an opportunity to deepen your spiritual life, learn new prayer methods and share the graces of the retreat in a small group setting. If you are interested in learning more or participating, please contact Laura Bennett, lwbenett7@msn.com (510) 652-1835

Please join members of the Prayer Tree to pray “Rosary for Peace” on the 1st Sundays of the month.

Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 a.m. on following days in 2015: February 1st, March 1st, April 12th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th.