Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

Today’s Gospel includes the famous words of John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.” One of the very fundamental exercises in grasping what the scriptures mean is to be careful what is actually said and what is not said. There is no question that John is expressing that God sent Jesus so that all people would believe in Him. John does not say that God sent Jesus to die for our sins or to redeem us.

What does believing in Jesus look like? The first step is to realize and accept that Jesus’ mission was to reveal the love of God in every way possible, the love that prompted God to give to the world His only Son. God did not send Jesus to condemn anyone but to provide healing for all people of the world. The second and equally important step is to imitate Jesus in revealing the love of God in all ways and means possible so that others are most likely to accept that love, to allow it to transform their lives and to share the message, especially by the way we all treat one another.

At the beginning of today’s Gospel passage, Jesus states that Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. Snakes were biting people and raising them on a pole helped the people to see that those same snakes were a reminder that if the people remained faithful to God, they would be healed. In the same manner, Jesus says that He will be lifted up, in His case, on the cross. When we look at a crucifix what image comes to our minds? Is it a symbol of a life focused on suffering and pain or is it a symbol of love lived to its fullest, to the very last breath of Jesus?

If our imitation of Jesus is revealing with every fiber of our being the love God has for all people, we will experience some amount of pain and opposition because, just like in the earthly life of Jesus, some people simply do not accept or choose to live in loving ways. To love means to be open to constant transformation as our relationship with Jesus becomes more and more intimate.

To love means to be open to the darkness of non-belief. As Jesus stated, there are people who prefer the darkness of non-belief to the light of true love. And yet, who can stand in front of a crucifix and not be moved by the love that is there? It is not by our good deeds that we are saved; we are saved by love and we do good deeds and loving acts as our way of expressing our thanks to God for all the gifts God blesses us with.

Pray for the Military Personnel wherever duty calls them to serve, homeland or overseas. Adrienne Alculescu, James Alculescu, John Alculescu, Logan Amos, James Arwood, Robert Atwood, Jordan Buissett, Anthony Brooks, Jonathan Brooks, Jacob Camarillo, Aimee Chabot, Ephraim Choi, Eliane Cruz, Matt David, Derek Dasher, David Del Acuitor, Aliyen Dowell, Joe Downey, Andrew Devlin, Brian Eberhardt, Katharine Ernst, Daniel Ferguson, Tom Feyoe, Mathew Fox, Timothy Fox, Joseph Gast, Tyler Gedstal, Erik Harnett, Jeremy Herbert, Susan Hocker, Stephen Holtclay, Yutaro Hosaka, Benn Iida, George Johnson, Tyler Kenobbie, Nicholas Koeffgen, William Kraintz, Tyler Krawczyk, Andy Kuchin, Dayna Landry, Nick Lieb, Kelly Manuza, Donor Marin, John Masterson, Benet D. McGrane, Garrett McKinnon, Aaron McMurray, Francis Montijo, Joseph M. Paddock, Nathan Paddock, Chris Payant, David Peirson, Rachael Portoman, Logan Rasmussen, Troy Rasmussen, Tim Reid, Neal Ridge, Tony Rodriguez, Nicholas Roha, Ryan Ross, Matthew Sandoval, April Skon, Jacob and Nikki Stebr, James Thruche, Jaydne Trujillo, Aimee Vigil, Noah Villarreal, Dallas Walsh, David Wentling, Kyle William and Brian Wright. Please contact Mary, 988-4984 to add or remove names as space is limited.

If your loved one is out of the military please call Mary at 988-4984 to have them removed.

Please pray for those who are sick, in pain or recovery, or in need of spiritual healing. (Names will appear for 3 weeks.)

Sheldon Anderson Jr
Glenn Mueller
Alex Quiroz
Rosa Santos
Joe Forret
Gerry Ryden
Dick Armstrong
Judy Smoot
Shirley Newton
Sandy Harris
Shari Sigl
Del Schweiger
Ben de Quiroz
Myron Howe
Bill Amantea
Linda Aiello
Dorothy Donner
Lucia Bravo
Sylvia Jenson

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Please pray for the souls of those who have died:

Sylvia Jenson
Carol Gruber, Sr.

Names will appear for 3 weeks.

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March 12th
March 13th
March 14th
March 15th
March 16th
March 17th
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March 28th
March 29th
March 30th
March 31st

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Driver Safety and the Aging Driver
Jerrod Sieberg, DSM I, Senior Driver Ombudsman Northern California Region, DMV
Hear ideas for safe, prolonged driving independence from the local DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman. Topics will include: driver license renewal strategies, DMV criteria for evaluation of Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive or physical impairments, and how your health is closely connected to your driving.

LOCATION: Hall A
DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2018
TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
RSVP: For more information and to reserve your seat, please call (916) 965-5565. We hope to see you there! This event is sponsored by Senior Care Solutions, Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center and the Alzheimer’s Association.

ADULT CONFIRMATION
If you’ve been baptized & received First Communion, but have not been confirmed in the Catholic Church, the diocese will hold Adult Confirmation on Pentecost Vigil, May 19, 2018. Our parish will have preparation sessions during the Easter season in preparation for Adult Confirmation. If you, or someone you know, is interested in Adult Confirmation please contact Sharon Litinnen at the parish office by April 1 to sign up. A baptism certificate is required.

Palm Sunday Messiah Sing-Along Concert
Saturday, March 24 from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Divine Savior is hosting Handel’s Messiah performed by a professional orchestra with amazing soloists and community choir, conducted by Gerald Rheault, will feature choral sing-along opportunities. What a powerful way to begin Holy Week! This event is free to the public. Bring along a Shirmer edition of the oratorio to join in the chorus numbers. Some copies will be available for purchase at the door.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND
We take communion to those who cannot come to Mass for physical or mental reasons. If you think you might be interested in this ministry, you may contact Mary at mtthmaryk@outlook.com for information.

Sacramento Life Center Annual Baby Bottle Project
Many thanks to all who picked up a baby bottle in support of the Sacramento Life Center!
On Saturday, March 24th and Sunday, March 25th, please return the bottles to the Vestibule or drop off beforehand at the parish office. Please return even if you have not filled it as they are reused each year!

Ready for an “Eggceptional” Easter Egg Hunt at Divine Savior?
Sponsored by KofC Council 13672
When: Saturday, March 31st 2018 11:00 until noon.
Where: Divine Savior Church by Rosary Path in front of Church.
Who: All Children Ages pre-school through 5th Grade
Weather Conditions: (Canceled if raining) Pray for good weather.
We’ll begin outside in the front of the church with our opening prayer.
Questions or wish to volunteer? Contact Bill Manos, KofC at (916) 965-3834
Please join the 40 Days For Life national campaign in Sacramento and help save lives.
For details visit: www.40daysforlife.com/sacramento or call Sally at (916) 849-0533.

Are you LOOKING for a Catholic Preschool that serves Infants through Pre-Kindergarten?
Holy Family is just the place for you! We offer care for infants and toddlers ages 6 weeks to 24 months, Preschool ages 3-4 and Pre-Kindergarten ages 4-5. We provide a loving, caring, nurturing and safe environment for your child (ren) to learn and grow! The children are introduced to an age appropriate academic based program, daily Religion activities, a calendar full of special events and a beautiful playground! We love them because He loved us first!!
Children are God’s masterpiece that we care for and adore each day!
We invite you to take a tour of Holy Family Preschool by calling (916) 722-4620.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**MARCH 20, 2018**

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13ed-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Ws 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23;
Jn 7:1-12, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9;
Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ec 3:14-15; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;

Friday Lenten Stations

Please join us every Friday during Lent
For stations and soup & bread supper following.
6:30 pm each Friday
In the Church
March 16 Hosted by: Our Lady of Guadalupe
March 23 Hosted by: Community Meal Ministry

**MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND**
We take communion to those who cannot come to Mass for a period of time. If you think you might be interested in this ministry, you may contact Mary at mtthmaryk@outlook.com for information.

Our Young Adult Ministry has been reignited!
The name is LUX which is Latin for Light and their goal is to provide a safe community for young Catholic adults where they learn to live as Christ lived and live to show the loving light of Christ to others.
Join us THIS WEDNESDAY, March 14th from 7pm – 7:30 p.m.
Friday – 9pm in Y1
Saturday:
Around the Diocese
SAVE THE DATE! God is Calling/DEUS VOCAT – May 4-6, 2018 at Trinity Pines Catholic Retreat Center: The Office of Priestly & Religious Vocations invites young women ages 13 to 17 to a weekend that will help them grow closer to Christ and reflect on God’s call for their life: Religious, Married, Consecrated Life or Single Life. Cost: $50 (weekend includes meals). For more information, please contact us at (916) 733-0258 or by email at smsmith@scd.org.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

WHAT'S HAPPENING - WEEKEND
SACRAMENTO LUX - 7pm
For stations and soup & bread supper following.

Is God calling you?
Interested in becoming a Catholic?
Have you been coming here and want to know more about the Catholic faith? Never been baptized? Want to make your First Communion? Contact Sharon at the parish office, 980-7400 or sharon@divinesavior.com. She will explain the process called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), which provides a safe place for you to explore your spiritual desires using the scriptures and receiving support and guidance from the parish community.

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