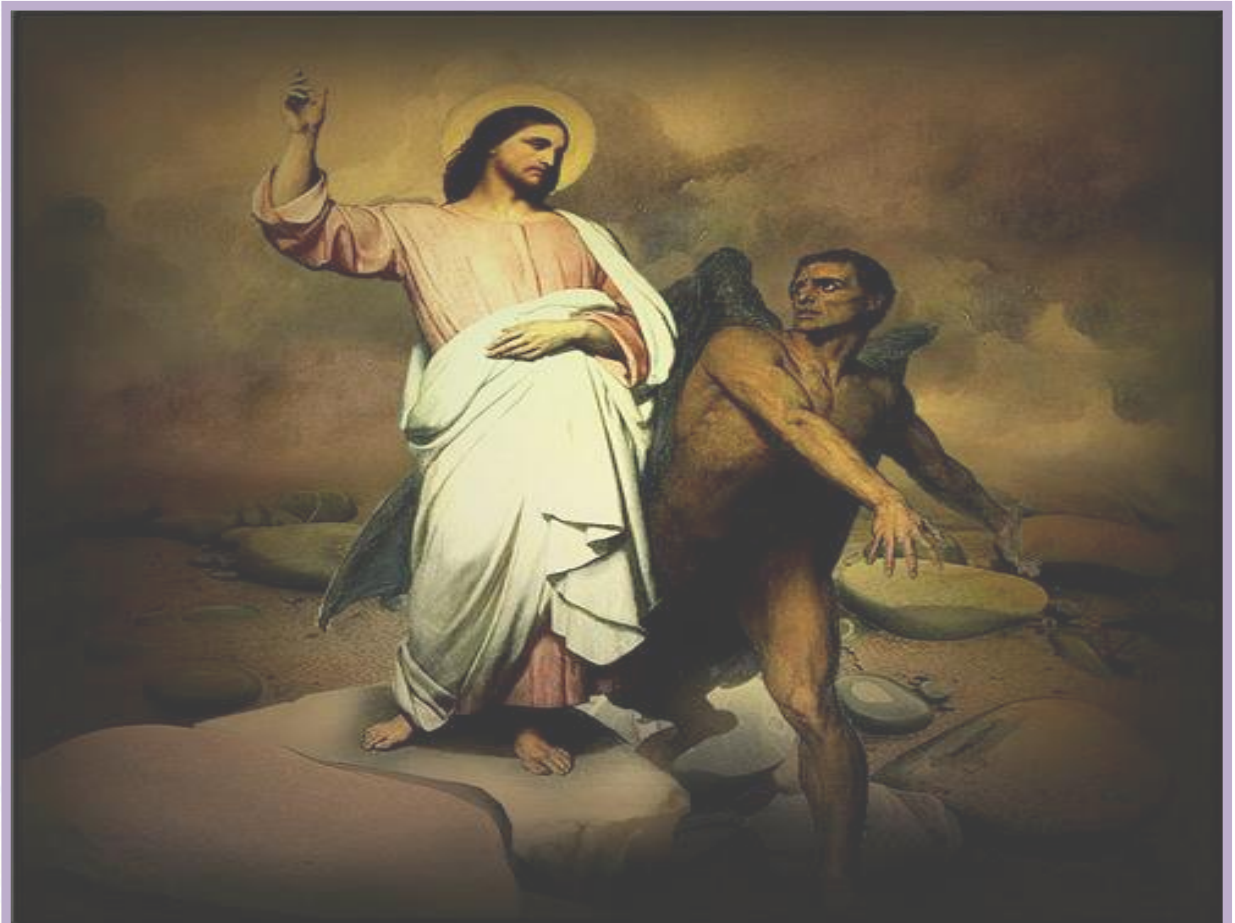


FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The Lord, your God,
shall you worship and him
alone shall you serve.

Matthew 4:10

Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church



Pastor: Father Larry Morrison
fr.larry@ourladyoftahoe.org

Office Manager: Susan Marschner
susan@ourladyoftahoe.org

Saturday: 5pm | Sunday: 8am & 11:30am

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 11:30am

Confession: Wednesday at 11am or by appointment

Baptisms and Marriages: Contact the parish during
business hours, M-F, 9am - 3pm

or visit our website: www.ourladyoftahoe.org

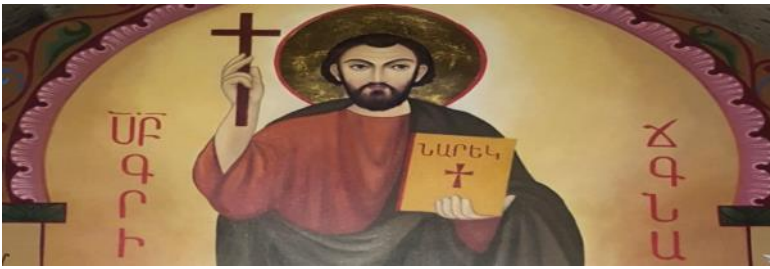
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"You Shall Be Like Gods"

This original temptation, outlined in the first reading, was a promise that what was right and what was wrong would be up to us; that we could write our own moral law. That's what the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" meant, and why Adam and Eve couldn't eat from it. We are all called to know good from evil, but not to decide it. To think we decide it is the error of the "pro-choice" mindset. "It's all up to me and my choice, even if it means killing a baby." In the culture of life, on the other hand, we live in the freedom of the children of God, and pattern our lives on the obedience of Jesus that leads to life eternal.



This golden age of the Armenian civilization is personified by Gregory of Narek — priest and poet, theologian and philosopher, monk and mystic. Gregory was born about 950 to a family dedicated to the Church. His father, Khosrov Antsevatsi, served as a bishop and theologian of the Armenian Church. After his wife's death, the bishop entrusted the boy to the care of an uncle, Anania. A respected scholar and monk, Anania founded the Narek Monastery (known as Narekavank) on the shores of Lake Van in what is today eastern Turkey and reared Gregory as one of the monastic community, to which his pupil remained attached for the rest of his short life. Few details of Gregory's life are known, but hints of the man's years of pain and suffering suffuse his writings, particularly his "Book of Lamentations." Written in the waning years of the first Christian millennium, "Lamentations" is considered by scholars a metaphor for the preparation and celebration of the Badarak — an "edifice of faith," wrote Gregory. The 95 lamentations are grouped together, mirroring the different stages of the liturgy, from the dismissal of the catechumens, the profession of faith and Communion to the final prayers in preparation of death and judgment. The work of St. Gregory of Narek encouraged the development of classical Armenian as a literary language, even as his work has been translated into many languages and adapted for music. His writings adorn much of the liturgical life of the Armenian Church, apostolic and catholic, including the Eucharistic liturgy, which Gregory's father described as "the great medicine": "We beseech you," the priest prays silently as he ascends the sanctuary, "with outstretched arms, with tears and sobbing prayers." Gregory died about a year after he completed the final prayer of his masterpiece. "By your noble and glorious blood, offered unceasingly to please God who sent you, may the dangers be lifted from me, may my transgressions be forgiven, may my vices be pardoned, may my shamelessness be forgotten, may my sentence be commuted, may the worms shrivel, may the wailing stop, and the gnashing of teeth fall silent," he wrote. "Let the laments lessen and tears dry. Let mourning end and darkness be banished. May the vengeful fire be stamped out and torments of every kind exiled.... "May you who grant life to all be compassionate now. Let your light dawn, your salvation be swift, your help arrive in time, and the hour of your arrival be at hand." Seventy years after Gregory penned these words, Armenia disintegrated when the Seljuk Turks defeated the imperial forces of the Byzantines in the Armenian town of Manzikert. As the Byzantine emperor's army retreated to Constantinople, the Turks and their allies rushed to fill the void, overrunning Armenian and Byzantine territory, including St. Gregory's Narekavank. Nevertheless, Narekavank thrived for nearly a millennium, becoming a notable center of illuminated manuscript production, scholarship, pilgrimage and prayer. Early in the 20th century, the monks founded a boarding school and a seminary within its walls — a source of pride for the influential and wealthy Armenians of Ottoman Turkey, who dominated trade in luxury goods and spices and served as bureaucrats for the sultan. But the development of national movements, which began in the Ottoman provinces of the Balkans, significantly altered the position of the empire's Christian minorities, especially its Armenians. Fearful of the national aspirations of the empire's Armenians, which were nominally supported by France, Great Britain and Russia, agents of the Ottoman sultan assaulted Armenian communities and institutions, beginning with isolated pogroms in 1894 and 1895. Eventually, these incidents spread throughout the empire, fueled after the Ottoman Turks entered World War I as an ally of Germany and Austria-Hungary. By 1923, some 1.5 million Armenians perished in what many today call the Armenian Genocide. Those who survived, perhaps a quarter of a million people, fled to Lebanon and Syria. In 1915, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were driven from their communities in eastern Anatolia — many to their deaths. Narekavank, and the tomb of its great saint, was abandoned. Open to the elements, the monastery was defiled, and its churches pillaged. Today, nothing remains of this important center of the Eastern Christian tradition. Yet, the writings of the newest Doctor of the Church, an "angel in human form," survive, carrying to God the cries of millions of hearts.

The Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) for 2023 is now underway! It raises funds annually for the various ministries and efforts of Evangelization within our diocese. This is an essential appeal and needs your support. Our assessment at Our Lady of Tahoe is \$47,179.00. Please remember, stewardship begins with each one of us, but the work of the church belongs to all of us. Will you prayerfully consider making a generous monetary gift to CSA? If you are unable to, please make a gift of prayer. Brochures and pledge cards are on the tables in the back of the church. Blessings!

Let us pray together for the victims and all the suffering from the earthquakes that devastated Turkey and Syria.

The **LORD** is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

PSALMS 34:18



Mass Intentions

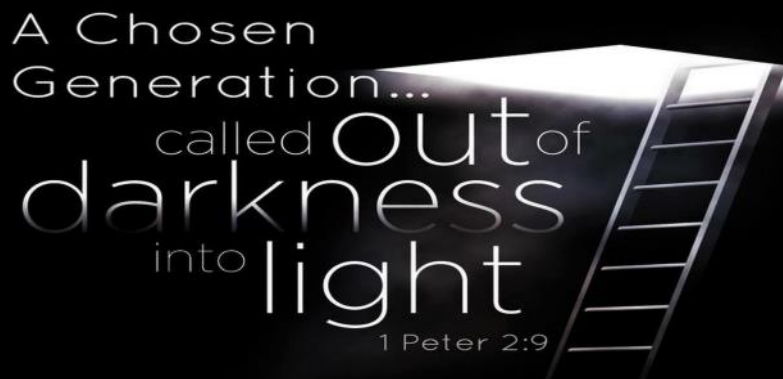
Saturday	25	5pm	† Michael & Florence DePasquale	The DePasquale Family
Sunday	26	8am	Intentions of OLT Parishioners	Pro Populo
Sunday	26	11:30am	Suzi VanCamp	Chris Thomas
Wednesday	1	11:30am	† John J. Ahern	The Ahern Family
Thursday	2	11:30am		
Friday	3	11:30am		

Last weekend's collection came to 3,161.00.
Thank you for being a blessing with your giving!



Thursday March 30th, 2023 at Saint Rose of Lima, Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass centers around the blessing of the three Holy Oils that will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders (Ordination) for the following year. After the blessing of the Holy Oils, they will be distributed to each Catholic Parish in the Diocese. Additionally at this Mass the Priests of the Diocese in the presence of the Bishop- renew their promise of priestly ministry. This is a unique Mass in the Church's liturgical calendar and is a great way to prepare for Holy Week. Please join us for 5:30PM Chrism Mass at Saint Rose of Lima on March 30th. This event is on the Diocese of Reno calendar at <https://www.highdesertcatholic.org/event/diocese-of-reno-chrism-mass/>

We will have Stations of the Cross this year at 12 noon, following the 11:30am mass on the Fridays of Lent. Parish Ministry Leaders, please contact Liz Cordero for scheduling the Stations of the Cross for yourself and your members. Her email is mycapercat@yahoo.com. More details to come soon.



Offertory Rites #6 – “Pray, brothers and sisters...”

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession...” 1 Peter 2:9 NIV

As we read in the book of Hebrews, the defining characteristic of a priest is that he offers sacrifice (c.f. Hebrews 5:1). The one eternal high priest is Jesus Himself who offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. And Jesus makes us present to that one sacrifice through the priests of the Church, acting ‘in Persona Christi.’ Throughout the centuries, however, the Church has also recognized that each believer, because we have entered into the life of Christ in baptism, also participates in the royal priesthood of Christ (c.f. Lumen Gentium 34). In this sense, we act as ‘priests’ in a cooperative manner, as we offer our lives, our families, our joys, and our sorrows to God the Father. These two priestly offices, the ministerial and the royal, are summarized in invitation “pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice [ministerial priesthood] and yours [royal priesthood of all believers] may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.” While these two participations in the priesthood of Christ differ in essence, they have the same purpose, as the world, offered in and through Jesus, returns back to the Father. What do you feel called to dedicate to the Lord this week? What is the thing you feel God is calling you to offer to Him?

As disciples of Jesus Christ, and in the name of Mary, Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic community welcomes and embraces all those who come to us. With guidance of the Holy Spirit, through worship, the sacraments, and loving service, we provide for one another's spiritual and material needs. In being so nourished, we reach out in faith to serve the larger community.



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