

Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Office Manager: Susan Marschner
susan@ourladyoftahoe.org

Saturday: 5pm | Sunday: 10am

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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Phone: 775-588-2080

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyoftahoe>

Jesus's acting in authority brought blessings to people—health and healing (1:23-28). His authority possessed an irresistible power that drew people not through manipulation, but simply by the person that he was and the truth of his own existence and the gifts that he gave. This was not a claim to authority that was necessarily open to empirical verification in his own time. To many people of his time, it was anything but obvious that Jesus acted on God's authority. To his opponents, Jesus was a blasphemer. Jesus had to trust that God would vindicate his authority—and, as Christians, we believe that God did vindicate his authority by raising him from the dead. How different from the conception of power and authority in our politics! Our politicians try to manipulate us. They say one thing and do another. They use their authority for self-aggrandizement. They look for short-term gain, even if that means doing the wrong thing, rather than doing the right thing and trusting that in the long-term, history (not to mention God!) will vindicate them. Will the future be any different? Jesus's authority and kingdom ministry invite us to imagine a different world – and to live towards it



When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Reflection: Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses. Jewish Law prescribed that two ritual acts needed to take place for a firstborn son. First, the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to "spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity" (Leviticus 12). During these forty days she was not to "touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled." For this reason, today's feast has at times been called the "Purification of Mary." Second, the father of the firstborn son was to "redeem" the child by making an offering to the priest of five shekels so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see Numbers 18:16). Recall that the firstborn male of all the Egyptians, animals and children, was killed during the tenth plague, but the firstborn males of the Israelites were spared. Thus, this offering made for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of protection during that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, today's feast is now referred to as the "Presentation in the Temple."

"Candlemass" is also a traditional name given to today's feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles had developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the "Feast of the Holy Encounter" because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple. Today's feast is celebrated in our Church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world. As we celebrate Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God's grace to us all, enabling us to spiritually become Jesus' "mother" by allowing Him to be born in our hearts by grace. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight. We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple. In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us. Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.



The Priest's Relief Collection is taken up each year to provide funds for this specific purpose. This collection will be taken up on **February 3 & 4**. As Bishop of the Diocese of Reno, I have a special concern for the priests who share with me the ministry and care for the faithful of this diocese. These priests have dedicated their lives to the ministry and service to the people of Northern Nevada. One of my responsibilities is to ensure that we are prepared to assist them, when necessary, with retirement and health needs that are extraordinary. Despite our best efforts to plan, there may be times when a priest may find it necessary to ask for additional financial assistance because insurance covers only a portion of health expenses or there is some other unforeseen crisis. I know you share with me a sense of gratitude for the ministry of our priests. Your financial support will enable me to be prepared to assist them in times of special need. Thank you for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel H. Mueggenborg

Most Reverend Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Bishop of Reno

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is offering a great weekend experience for couples and religious. Our next weekend is at Immaculate Conception Church in Reno, Nevada April 13th and 14th. This is a non-residential experience which means the couples will either go home or get a local hotel on Saturday evening and come back on Sunday. This is a time to Restore, Rekindle and Renew your relationship with your spouse. We say, "that not everyone needs a weekend, they DESERVE a weekend". To register go to www.sacramentowwme.org or <https://wwme.org/>

if you would like more information or contact Jim and Mary Carr at 775-742-1123 or 775-742 1533.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	27	5pm	Intentions of OLT Parishioners
Sunday	28	10am	† Antoinette Smith
Wednesday	31	11:30am	For the Healing of Jerry Emrie
Thursday	1	11:30am	For the Healing of Jerry Emrie
Friday	2	11:30am	For the Healing of Jerry Emrie

Pro Populo
The Marschner Family
Curt
Curt
Curt

2024 welcomes new officers to the Women's Guild here at Our Lady of Tahoe. All ladies of the parish are welcome to join us. Here is a list of recently elected and appointed members:

President: Kristie Grisafe
V/P: Liz Cordero
Treasurer: Mary Eaton
Secretary: Grace Connell
Publicity: Open
Spiritual Leader: Emily (Lee) De Pasquale
Scholarship/Foundation Liaison: Janis Brand
Altar Care/Linens: Liz Cordero
Gift Shop: Janis Brand
Pinecone Crosses: Lee De Pasquale



Last weekend's collection came to \$2,808.12. Donations are the financial lifeblood of the church. We ask that you continue this spirit of giving in not only your spiritual life but your personal and public lives as well, representing the enduring gifts of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

During the month of January, we celebrate the feast of the Mother of God and ask for her intercession to open the hearts and minds of all mothers who have had abortions. May they reach out for help to begin the healing process. Please find out more about us at <https://www.highdesertcatholic.org/>. Click on Our Works, scroll down, click on Project Rachel. Contact our confidential, non-judgmental help line 775-324-4325 or email KarenM@Catholicreno.org to take advantage of valuable resources.



Our next Bible Study adventure takes us to the book of Revelation! Our first session will be on Jan 31, 2024 at 10am in the parish hall and will cover the themes and imagery used in the Gospel of John to get ready to embrace the beauty and complexity of the Book of Revelation. All are welcome! Please join us even if you can only attend one session. For more information, please contact Janine Nyre at janinenyre@comcast.net or call 775-339-1961.



Please help yourself to a complimentary 2024 calendar courtesy of OLT's Women's Guild. They are on the tables in the back of the church. Also, for those of you who use offering envelopes, they are also on the tables in the back of the church.

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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IRA QCD: If you are 70 1/2 or older, ask your professional advisor if giving directly from your IRA is a tax-wise way for you to give.