

# Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Pastor: Father Rodel D. Tabanao**  
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**Saturday: 5pm | Sunday: 8am and 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](http://www.ourladyoftahoe.org)**

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Lord, you were trying to prepare your friends for bad news (the Passion) and good news (the Resurrection), but they did not want to hear you. They were caught up, as I am often caught up, in private competitions and jealousies. It takes a lifetime to realize the silliness of my ego-trips. Do not despair of my silliness, Lord. Go on teaching me. In welcoming Jesus Christ into our lives, we welcome the Father and the Spirit. We welcome the Divine. With him, we are part of a total world, spanning heaven and earth, reaching out to all of humanity. Prayer is part of that mystery. Prayer touches into the links of heaven and earth. It links us also to all of humanity. When we pray we join the whole human race in their prayer to God, and we join Jesus in his prayer for us.

Reflection: The Church honors Saints Cosmas and Damian—twin brothers, physicians, and martyrs who have been widely venerated in the East and West since the time of their deaths. Little is known for certain about these saints. What we do know is that they were martyrs, most likely under Roman Emperor Diocletian. What has come down to us by way of legend, however, offers an inspiring witness of faith and courage from the early Church. Cosmas and Damian might have been born in Cyrrhus, modern-day Syria, and later moved to the Gulf of Iskenderun in Cilicia, modern-day Turkey, in the mid- to late-third century. They were twins, sons of a Christian mother and possibly a Christian father, who raised them in the faith. They were educated in the science of healing and became physicians. At that time, physicians were often paid based on their reputations. Those who were highly skilled and successful often catered to the wealthy, receiving regular salaries from them. Others charged for services on a case-by-case basis. Because Cosmas and Damian were Christians, legend holds that they decided to evangelize the largely pagan community in which they lived by doing something extraordinary. They offered their healing services for free! This charitable work earned them the title “Anargyroi,” meaning “without silver.” Their counter-cultural practice caught the attention of their fellow citizens and drew many to the faith. Legends hold that they were excellent physicians who healed many, perhaps more through their prayers than by their science. One legend states that they were the first to transplant a leg to an amputee, which is often depicted in art. In 284, Diocletian became the Roman emperor and embarked on many reforms within the empire. In 303, he began to issue a series of edicts that led to an empire-wide persecution and death of many Christians. Prior to that, persecutions were more localized and random. Around the year 287 or 303 (records are conflicting), the Roman Prefect Lysias of Cilicia arrested the twins Cosmas and Damian. Christians of prominence were often the first to be targeted. As was the custom, the brothers were given the opportunity to publicly renounce their faith and honor the Roman gods to save their lives. They refused and were sentenced to death. Various legends surrounding their deaths state that they were first tortured in an attempt to get them to comply with the prefect’s wishes. However, they were miraculously preserved from suffering, sustaining no injuries. Multiple attempts were then made to kill them by drowning, fire, arrows, and stoning, but each attempt failed. Finally, Cosmas and Damian, along with three of their brothers, were beheaded. It is believed that Cosmas and Damian were buried in the city of Cyrrhus, their possible birthplace. From that time on, they have been widely venerated. Many miraculous healings have been attributed to their intercession. Within a century of their martyrdom, churches were built in their honor in Jerusalem, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. In the sixth century, Roman Emperor Justinian I honored these saints by restoring the city of their burial. Shortly after, the emperor received a miraculous cure through their intercession. In gratitude, he brought their relics to Constantinople where he built a Church in their honor that became a popular pilgrimage site. In that church, a custom began where the faithful would remain all night at their tomb in prayer, seeking miraculous cures to their ailments. Many miracles have been reported over the centuries. Also in the sixth century, Pope Symmachus inserted the names of Cosmas and Damian into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) and Pope Felix IV repurposed a fourth-century pagan temple in Rome, within the Forum of Peace, renaming it the Basilica Santi Cosma e Damiano. Though it has gone through many renovations, the fifth-century mosaics depicting their story are among the most revered pieces of sacred art in Rome. Though we will never know the exact historical details of the lives and martyrdoms of Saints Cosmas and Damian until we reach the glories of Heaven, the virtues they enshrine should be a source of inspiration and encouragement. Their work of evangelization through free and selfless service in the name of Christ is worthy of imitation. Their heroic martyrdom presents us with the virtues of courage and fidelity to Christ. Their miraculous intercession for those who have been ill should invite us to rely upon their intercession for the sick today.

## *The Holy Family Sisters of the Needy, Inc., Mission Appeal*

September 28th & 29th is our annual Mission Appeal. This year, we warmly welcome The Holy Family Sisters of the Needy, a Religious Institute of Diocesan Right in Nigeria, West Africa. The Sisters pronounce the vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty according to the evangelical counsels. Many of their institute’s houses, projects, apostolates, and missions are situated in very challenging areas, especially rural areas where individuals are desperately and solely dependent on assistance. Besides, already existing religious and economic crises, the kidnapping of priests, religious, and other individuals has added more suffering to the already difficult situation of the country. The stipends the sisters receive in their other missions and apostolates barely take care of the children’s feeding. As a result many sisters face several challenges in their mission including a lack of housing, water, and electricity, all the while living in dilapidated orphanage homes and inadequate school buildings to mention a few. This mission appeal focuses on the two major challenges the sisters suffer in their missions including renovating the dilapidated orphanage homes and the inadequate buildings for the nursery and primary school. Urgent needs include but are not limited to constructing a new orphanage with a solid foundation, providing orphans with basic human amenities (water, electricity, shelter, food, and education), and constructing a fence to secure the compound. Please consider supporting THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS OF THE NEEDY in this upcoming mission appeal. With your help, so many lives will greatly improve. Thank you for your generosity and support!

*“I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.”*

*2 Corinthians 12:15*

From Bishop Mueggenborg: There is a very dangerous Abortion amendment that will be on the November ballot. This amendment will cause the following harm: 1). It removes all parental notification requirements which benefits child traffickers among other bad actors. 2). It permits non-doctors to perform abortions which will damage women. 3). It permits abortion at all stages even until the actual moment of birth. As Christians who value human life, we cannot permit the pro-abortion forces to succeed. They will use misinformation and fear to trick people into thinking that they will lose all access to abortion if they do not pass this amendment. That is simply not true. Abortion (sadly) is already enshrined in Nevada State Law and is protected. We do not need or want this terrible amendment. Please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqpPzuHmdvs>.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday	21	5pm	Intentions of OLT Parishioners	Pro Populo
Sunday	22	8am	Prayers for the Dufur Family	Sandra Wolf
Sunday	22	11:30am	† Mamerto & Dominga Quiva	Marilyn and Flor Mangosing
Wednesday	25	11:30am	† Catalino and Felippa Mangosing	Marilyn and Flor Mangosing
Thursday	26	11:30am	No Mass	
Friday	27	11:30am	Connie Maurera & Family - Healing and Comfort	Marilyn and Flor Mangosing



You are cordially invited to attend OLT's Annual Columbus Day dinner on Sunday, October 13. There is a 4pm meet and greet and dinner will be served at 5pm. The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna, salad, bread, and a sheet cake. The cost is \$20 per person, children under 8 eat for free. If you can bring an appetizer or dessert, that would be greatly appreciated. Tickets are available for purchase after mass. Please join us as we also celebrate Fr. Rodel's 12<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary (October 12, 2012).

Last weekend's collection came to \$4,687.12. 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.

We welcome visitors and groups to join our choir when visiting Lake Tahoe. What a wonderful way to share your faith and gifts by singing in our quaint mountain church located in Zephyr Cove. We ask that you join us for choir practice prior to singing with us. If you are a large group or choir, we can arrange for you to sing the gifts or communion song for mass. Practice times for each mass are 3:45-4:30pm (Saturday, 5pm mass), 7 - 7:15am (Sunday, 8am mass), and 10:15-11am (Sunday, 11:30am mass). Kindly note, 30 minutes prior to mass is devotion time and the church is quiet. If interested, please contact Jan via text or call 530-307-0148. Email [janromangonzales@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janromangonzales@sbcglobal.net) to make arrangements.

Susan and Fr. Rodel are attending the Diocese of Reno's Admin Seminar on Thursday, 9/26. The church and office are closed that day.

Last week we discussed the return of the Jews from Exile (Ezra and Nehemiah). The three phases of return were marked by a three part re-orientation. They were not only returning to the land but to their faith as well. The first phase was a return to Worship (Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple), the second was a return to the Word (Ezra re-establishes the prominence of the Torah), and the third was identifying as a group of people working together as a family (rebuilding the Wall). There are many parallels in these readings for us to consider. This week, we will review the Maccabean Revolt. After the final phase of the return, the Jews lived in relative peace for about 100 years and were faithful to the covenant. Around 336 BC, Alexander the Great swept across Asia. He aimed to unify the world around Greek culture and language. This Hellenization would require people to abandon their culture and religious beliefs. Please join us to walk through Maccabees on Wednesday at 10am in the parish hall. Please call Janine Nyre with any questions. 775-339-1961.

In the month of September, as we remember Our Lady of Sorrows, we lift in prayer all women who have experienced abortion and all those mourning the loss of an unborn child. We seek the tender intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows, praying that all who are hurting may experience the profound healing, boundless love, tender mercy, and compassionate embrace of God. If you or someone you know is in need of support, please visit our website at <https://www.highdesertcatholic.org/>. Click on "Our Works," scroll down, and select "Project Rachel." You can also contact our confidential, non-judgmental help line at 775-324-4325 or email [KarenM@Catholicreno.org](mailto:KarenM@Catholicreno.org) to access valuable resources.

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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