Our Divine Savior Catholic Church
566 East Lassen Avenue, Chico, CA 95973
530-343-4248 / Fax 530-343-3538

Rev. R. Francis Stevenson, Parochial Administrator
Mr. James Burkett, Deacon

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm, Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am, Morning Mass: 8:00 am (Monday-Friday)
Confessions: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.
— Baruch 5:7

Mission Statement
Our Divine Savior Parish, a Roman Catholic community, nourished by God’s grace and the sacraments, embraces the mission of Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we live the gospel through our worship of God and through loving service to one another and to the greater community.
PARISH PERSONNEL

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Jennifer Forward, 345-6201

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Cecelia Dickman, 802-1608
odsmusicdirector@gmail.com

PLANT MANAGER/SOCIAL HALL MANAGER
Rich Ripp, 518-3811

YOUTH MINISTRY
Rob Sheridan, 680-4294
odsyouthministry@yahoo.com
Facebook.com/odsyouthministry

SECRETARY
Bunny Ripp, 343-4248
ourdivines@yahoo.com

CUSTODIAN SERVICES
Scott & Judy Keller, 898-8512

NURSERY CARE
Juliet Polk, 893-8092
Rienna Boe, 342-4919
Amanda Ball

Website:
www.ourdivinesavior.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

PARISH INFORMATION

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
Christopher Guidry, 530-433-0418
odsrcia@yahoo.com

BAPTISM PREPARATION
Deacon James Burkett, 893-2348

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY
By appointment, 6 months in advance. Call the Parish Office

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Sundays from 10:05am - 10:50am in the Parish Hall

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
During the 11:00am Mass - Matt & Pamela Meuter, 566-0425

PARISH MINISTRIES / ORGANIZATIONS

ALFAR SERVERS
Kay & Dave Brandt, 343-8331

BEREAVEMENT /FUNERAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE
Tamara La Rossa, 809-1782

BULLETIN
ourdivines@yahoo.com , 343-4248
Deadline: Monday, 3:00 pm
Bulletin Advertising: Please call the Parish Office, 343-4248

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
Greta Souza, 899-9938

CATHOLIC LADIES RELIEF SOCIETY
Susan Struble, 345-4642

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
Deacon James Burkett, 893-2348

CHOIR
Choir rehearsal held weekly on Wednesday, 7:00-8PM in church. Contact Cecelia Dickman, 802-1608,
odsmusicdirector@gmail.com

CONSOLATION MINISTRY
Lyn Dorenzo, 891-8026

FLOWER DONATIONS
Pat Mulholland, 891-8342
Norina Egan, 342-2027

INNER HEALING MINISTRY
Derette Layne, 530-588-4386 for a confidential appointment.

JESUS CENTER
Randy Linquist, 894-0460

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13765
Jim Callas, 894-2142

LEGION OF MARY
Claire Richard, 893-1722

LITURGY COMMITTEE
Joanie Frericks, 345-8638

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER and VOCATIONS COMMITTEE
Deacon James & Stephanie Burkett, 893-2348

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND
Maureen Vogel—Please call Parish Office, 343-4248.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL
Dave Abbott, 891-1491

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Jim Earney, 918-520-1161

PRO-LIFE CATHOLIC MINISTRY
We meet the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursday of the month in the ODS Prayer Room, 6-8:30 PM.
Mary Waldorf, 345-8638

PRO-LIFE ROSARY GROUP
This group meets the 1st Thursday of the month in the ODS Prayer Room, 6-7 PM.
Diane Lusk, 519-9749.

SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES
If interested in joining one of the Small Church Communities, contact Carol Weigel, 343-3885

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Barbara O’Brien, 680-7917

TORRES SHELTER
Rich Nichols, 520-4418

WELCOMING MINISTRY
Charlie McCarthy, 520-0334

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday mornings 9-11AM in the ODS Prayer Room. Everyone is welcome.
Contact Terry Matthews, 893-1644
**Weekly Readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>passages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Is 35: 1-10; Ps 85:9; Lk 5:17-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98: 1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4; Mt 11:28-30</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Zec 2:14-17, or Rv 11-19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18</td>
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**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading** — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

**Gospel** — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

**PUT ON JOY**

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song—“Prepare the way of the Lord,” for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

**Mass Intentions**

- **Sat 05** 5:00 Steve Frericks, d (Joanie Frericks)
- **Sun 06** 7:30 Living & Deceased Parishioners of ODS
  - 9:00 Tom Limper, d (Julie Limper)
  - 11:00 Living & Deceased Parishioners of ODS
- **Mon 07** 8:00 Albert Perry, d (Marion Perry)
- **Tue 08** 8:00 ODS St. Vincent de Paul, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, (ODS Chico Conference of St. Vincent de Paul)
- **Enriqueta Guzman, d (Gusman/Garcia Families)**
- **7 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners of ODS**
- **Wed 09** 8:00 Intentions from Hear Our Prayer Book
- **Thu 10** 8:00 Joe Carlos, d (Ed & Marilyn Fujii)
- **Fri 11** 8:00 Joe Carlos, d (Denise & Dan Harner)

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

This is a Holy Day of Opportunity

**Mass Times:**

- **8 AM & 7 PM**
Parish Finances
Collection for November 28–29

Sunday Collection $2,996.05
Projects/Initiatives 350.00
Thanksgiving 725.83
Torres Shelter 60.00
St. Vincent de Paul 80.00
St. Francis/St. Clare 10.00

Thank you for your generous support. Your ongoing donations are essential in helping us meet the many needs of the parish and community.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Special Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious:
Support elderly religious. A parishioner writes, As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, "I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful.” Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Parish News

THIS WEEKEND: CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS of St. John's and Our Divine Savior Catholic Church will be hosting a Bake & Craft Sale after 5:00 P.M. Mass Saturday December 5th and again Sunday December 6th after the 7:30 and 9:00 Mass. Event will be held in the O.D.S. Parish Hall, 566 E. Lassen Ave. Questions, call Janet Shannon, 345-7467.

RAFFLE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: After all Masses December 13th & December 20th, St. V. de Paul will be selling tickets to raffle off two gift baskets from the Monastery of New Clairvaux. The cost of each ticket is $5.00. The drawing will be held after the 11:00 Mass on the 20th. You need not be present to win. Each basket contains the following: a bottle of red table wine, a bottle of Trebbiano 2014 white, a box of Trappistine dark chocolate almond squares, two etched wine glasses, a set of winery slate coasters, and two wine tasting passes. Don't miss out on this opportunity to win a lovely gift basket and, at the same time, help St. Vincent de Paul help those in need in our community. Thank you for your continued support!

MANY THANKS: Special thanks to Kay Brandt who has guided our altar servers these past few years at ODS. She has trained and mentored these volunteers to serve with dignity and reverence. We are very proud of our altar servers and give credit to Kay Brandt for her guidance and devotion to this ministry. Thank you, Kay, for all you have done here at ODS

CONCERT: The ODS Choir presents "Singing on St. Lucy's Day," a concert showcasing beautiful Advent Carols and a preview of the music for Christmas Midnight Mass. The concert will be held in the church on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 4 pm. There will be a suggested general admission donation of $3 at the door to raise funds for new audio equipment. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: St. Vincent de Paul has picked 5 local, needy families that have asked for Christmas gifts for their children. There will be tags outside of church after Masses the first two weeks of Dec. Please help brighten up a child’s Christmas. Thank you always for your faithful support.

JESUS CENTER CHRISTMAS: Once again we will be collecting flannel shirts for the Jesus Center. There will not be a tag for you to take. We are asking that you bring in flannel shirts in a variety of sizes, Large, X-Large and XX-Large. You may bring them to church and they will be picked up for distribution for the Jesus Center. Last day for drop off will be the weekend of Dec. 19/20th.

ALTAR SERVER COORDINATOR: We are presently looking for an Altar Server Coordinator to assist with scheduling and training our altar servers. This is a very rewarding ministry and our altar servers are very appreciative of the guidance given. Please speak to Father Francis or call the parish office at 343-4248 for more information.

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL is beginning the "Parish Phase" of its Annual Fund. Having completed the "Parent Phase" with 100% participation from Notre Dame School parents, we are now looking for your support of our school community.

You will receive a letter from the Notre Dame Annual Fund. Our school is in need of your prayers, and if called, a financial contribution. As always, your continued support of our school is greatly appreciated!
WOMEN’S RETREAT: I’d like to invite you to some quiet time on a retreat. Each year, here at our parish we offer our parishioners the chance to take some quiet time on a parish retreat at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. Our retreat is scheduled for Feb. 5-7, 2016, to register you can go online at www.christthekingretreatcenter.org or call Stephanie Burkett 893-2348 or Terry Matthews 893-1644.

Birthright

After forty plus years, we have to move by the end of December and are seeking a new location. We are looking for a small office space—safe, central, private and affordable where we may continue to assist needy pregnant women and their little ones.

Any ideas, suggestions, leads, please contact, 345-9711 (office) or 345-4961, Noel.

Knight’s Pancake Breakfast
Join us after the 7:30 & 9AM Masses
For food & fellowship
In the Social Hall
This Sunday

Are you ready?

As we enter the Advent season what voice do you hear whispering in your ear? Is it the siren song of shopping lists or the blur of decorating duty? Does your mind buzz with joyous expectation of parties and celebrations?

Step out for a minute into the silence of the desert. There’s another voice you need to hear. Out of this season of holiday activity, God is calling us to His work: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” We cannot merely look forward to the gift of the Christ Child. We must prepare His way, with lives and hearts free from sin, clearing the path for God’s Spirit to work. In Advent, each child of God is called to walk in the footsteps of John the Baptist, preparing our selves and our world for God.

Are you ready?

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE:
December 24th, Thursday
Children’s Mass
4pm (in the social hall)
Christmas Vigil Mass
7pm (in the church)
Midnight Mass
**********11:30 (in the church)**********
Choir starts at 11:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY:
December 25th, Friday
Christmas Day Mass
8am (in the church)
10am (in the church)

Prayer Requests
Please keep in your prayers:

Sandra Hughes  Connor McCampbell  Alex Quiroz
Claire Johnston  Janet Grens  Gloria Trent
Marie Vieira  Lynn Utech  Patricia M. Garrity
Jamesie Sullivan  Paul Hackett  Rosa Hart & Family
Steven Riley  Mary Beth Dion  Mary Turner
Pam Kruger  Gayle Hoaney  Gary M. Benedetti
Dr. James Hine  Margaret Foulks  
Joe Richard  Lorenzo Diamond

Please note: In order to keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. Please resubmit after that time by contacting the Parish Office, 343-4248.
Religious Education Classes

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Catholic Catechism (2223)

Our Divine Savior’s Religious Education programs are designed to support parents as the primary educators of the faith. We offer Religious Education classes for kindergarten through 6th grade on Sunday mornings from 10:05-10:50. If a weeknight is best for your family’s schedule, we now offer Religious Education classes for 2nd-6th grade on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00.

Call the Religious Education office at 345-6201 for information and to register. Additional information about schedules, and forms to register students, can also be found on our website at Our Divine Savior Catholic Church in Chico, CA.

FAMILY LITURGY NIGHT

Our Annual Family Liturgy Night will be Thursday, December 10th at 6PM in the Church. This special Mass is intended for our children and families who are preparing for their first sacraments. In order to more fully appreciate our Faith, especially the Mass and the Sacrament of the Eucharist (or Communion) it helps to understand it and know why we do things the way we do. This Mass will be a regular Mass except that the priest will stop occasionally to explain things and point out the importance or meaning of what we do.

We encourage and invite the entire parish community to join us for our Family Liturgy Night. Come and learn about the mysteries of our faith and support these children preparing for sacraments.

ADVENT FOR FAMILIES

Each year the Religious Education office provides our students with activities or devotionals to help their families during Advent. This year we are doing things a little differently. We will have several choices for families to choose the one that works best for them. In addition we will have a variety of prayers and blessings to use throughout the season. So, instead of feeling bad (good ole' Catholic guilt) for not utilizing the daily activity, or losing the project in your pile of Christmas things to do, come choose an Advent resource that will be useful and meaningful for your family this year.

Resources will be available during our December 6th Religious Ed classes (note; there is also a pancake breakfast that day). Look for the Advent resource table in the social hall. Your children do not have to be currently enrolled in our programs to utilize these resources. They will be available to all Parish families on a first come first serve basis.

As you prepare for and journey through this Advent season, remember that a “holy” family doesn’t mean a perfect family. Our messiness and efforts to follow Jesus the way our Lord intends us to, are part of the holiness in the domestic church. The Religious Education office wishes you a holy Advent and a Blessed Christmas Season.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry meets in the Youth Room (Social Hall) on Sundays at 12:15pm.

Facebook, Instagram ,Twitter, or on the web for current information!

Diocesan News

JOB OPPORTUNITY: St John the Baptist Catholic Church in Chico is looking for a Plant Manager to work 30 hours a week. Insurance benefits included.

The Plant Manager supervises all aspects of parish and the Notre Dame School maintenance to ensure a safe and efficient physical plant on a twenty-four-hour, seven days a week basis. The Plant Manager directs and oversees major projects for remodeling, maintaining, and improving the physical plant and grounds, as well as coordinates the use of furnishings and equipment.
Must have necessary mechanical skills. Must have good interpersonal communication skills. Must have ability to organize and prioritize time. Must have ability to supervise others, when necessary. Must have ability to maintain confidentiality. Some HVAC/Electrician skills. Must have familiarity with church and school environments; ability to work with a variety of constituents including children.

Please send resume to stjohn33@sbcglobal.net or 435 Chestnut St, Chico, CA, 95928.

Community Reconciliation Services

Dec. 9  St. Thomas the Apostle  Oroville  7pm
Dec. 10  Immaculate Conception  Corning  6pm
Dec. 11  St. Thomas More  Paradise  6:30pm
Dec. 14  St. Monica  Willows  7pm
Dec. 15  St. Isadore  Yuba City  6pm
Dec. 16  St. Joseph  Marysville  6pm
Dec. 17  Our Lady of Lourdes  Colusa  6pm
Dec. 21  St. Mary Mission  Hamilton City  7pm

Back to Life

“It is in the deserts of life that renewal can truly occur. Only then can the cleansing water of forgiveness flood the grounds of our repentance and bear His fruit. We may despise the desert for its solitude and pain, but it is that very severity that brings us back to Life.”

M A Stern

Family Room

This coming Tuesday, Dec. 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Besides being a holy day of obligation in honor of Mary, this year it is especially worthy of our attention. Pope Francis has chosen this date as the start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. He encourages us to consider how mercy is alive and active in our own hearts and minds, in our actions, and in our wider parish community.

Of course the root of all mercy is our loving God, who sent Jesus out of mercy for fallen humanity. Jesus lived mercy, never refusing to help someone in need, either physical, mental, or spiritual. Now Pope Francis reminds us that WE are called to show that same mercy to one another, without exception, with a heart full of the love that the Holy Spirit inspires in us.

For the year ahead, mercy is to be on our minds each day, all day. The opportunities are everywhere! WE can make the world a more loving, humane, peace-filled place. Begin by attending Mass either at 8 am or at 7 pm on Dec. 8. Consider making a donation to the St. Francis and Clare fund, to be used right in our parish to meet the financial needs of people who are suffering. Offer mercy to those you need to forgive, and know God's blessing is upon you.