

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

May 2024



We were truly blessed to celebrate Children's Day with the vibrant youth and the spirited oratory children a few days ago. The morning was a testament to our community's incredible generosity and active participation - the families who contributed, donated, and joined in the festivities, making it a delightful and memorable event.

Celebrating Children's Day is not just a tradition but a cherished opportunity to unite with the children, and it is deeply ingrained in our oratory and catechism. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who made this day a reality, and we eagerly anticipate your continued support in our upcoming religious events.

Summer Plans

PLANNING



As we approach the summer, our dedicated volunteers at the Oratory are already planning enriching activities. These activities, which are not just about fun but about creating a space for children to learn, bond, and spend quality time with their families, hold a significant place in our community. This month, our parish will be blessed with the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation for our children and youth. We are also nearing the end of a year of catechism, preparing to celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians together. Your presence and participation in these events are invaluable and greatly appreciated.

This year, we are eagerly preparing to celebrate the feast of the Virgin Mary on May 24th.

Our preparations, a collective effort of our community, will begin with a novena on Wednesday, May 15th. Each day, we will gather to pray the rosary, followed by a Mass and a small meeting to prepare us for celebrating the Feast of the Virgin. Last month, after the Mass of the Blessed Virgin, we began visiting the image of Mary Help of Christians in several homes throughout the parish. Families gathered, sang, prayed the rosary, and shared something to honor Mary in preparation for the novena. We hope that these days of May will bring joy and blessings to all and help us to deepen our love for the Mother of our Lord.

May Mary, Help of Christians, bless all the homes she visits and those of the parish!

When John Bosco was nine, Our Lady showed him his vocation in a dream. It was a dream that marked his destiny and belongs to all of us because we are part of this project of love. Don Bosco had many dreams throughout his life, but one that also marked his destiny was in 1860 when Our Lady spoke to him again and told him that she wanted to be honored with the title of "Help of Christians." Always in dreams, she showed him the place where the basilica dedicated to her would be built.

At that time, Don Bosco had only a few coins, which were not enough, but with her motherly intercession, he could finish the Basilica, which was consecrated on June 9, 1868.



Be The Change



We are part of a dream that came to Watsonville; when the first Salesians took charge of this temple, they asked for permission to call the church Mary Help of Christians. The devotion to Mary's Help of Christians comes from Don Bosco and the Salesians, knowing that "she has done everything."

The feast is celebrated on May 24, commemorating the return of Pope Pius VII to Rome on May 24, 1814. Today, millions of people in the Salesian family and worldwide celebrate Mary Help of Christians.

Many young people learn to be better Christians and citizens under the gaze of the "Madonna of Don Bosco," Mary Help of Christians. I am sure that in all the activities we have and are planning for the summer, she, the Mother of Heaven, will help us celebrate her with joy in everything we do.

Happy Mary Help of Christians Month to all!

Summer Activities

Summer Activities:

Wednesdays: Workshops. Doors open at 17:00.

Workshops start at 18:00 followed by dinner. Ends around 20:00.

Fridays: Family mass at 18:00 and movie night after mass.

Alternative, there will be board games for parents and young people.

Saturdays: Field trips around Watsonville. Two of them will include bikes.

