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2025

#96 Our Lady of Sierra, Oakhurst



Our Lady of the Sierra Parish

Our Lady of the Sierra Church | St Dominic Mission | St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, July 20, 2025, Vol. 228

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Jer 38.4-6, 8-10; Heb 12.1-4;
Luke 12.49-53 – Jesus the Cause of Division
Focus: The Christian Life



Although Jesus is the Lord of peace, Jesus never promised us that the life of a Christian disciple would be easy or peaceful. In fact in the Gospel, Jesus tells us that he comes not to bring peace, but division, to set the world on fire. The division that Jesus talks about is that which comes from the people who reject the teachings of Jesus, and the way that the Gospel will divide people who accept and reject it. Jesus was aware that those who would follow him would face opposition from people around them. Not everyone is keen to hear the message of the Gospel, and so there will be pushback as a result. This was happening for the entire history of Israel, as we see in the first reading that even the prophets were rejected and persecuted. We see in the first reading how certain men hated Jeremiah for his teachings and sought to put him to death. If the people rejected and persecuted the prophets, Jesus Christ, and all his disciples, then we too must be ready for similar treatment. Despite the challenges, however, we can take heart in knowing that God

does not abandon those who are his disciples and are persecuted for his sake. St Paul says in the second reading to consider how much opposition Jesus endured, and to keep our eyes fixed on him when we ourselves go through the same opposition. As we live a life of stewardship, let us ensure that we make time to go to the Lord in prayer to seek his help in our own struggles. If we aren't spending time with Christ in prayer, let us make an earnest effort to spend a few minutes each day with the Lord, asking for his strength to face all opposition.

SUMMARY

Jesus never promised us that the life of a Christian disciple would be easy, but instead, he tells us that it will be difficult for the teachings of Christ is divisive, and hard for many to accept and believe. If the people persecuted Jesus and the prophets before him, how much more will the world persecute those who believe in Christ? Although the Christian life is not meant to be easy, let us take courage knowing that Christ has faced it all first, and will strengthen us when we face opposition ourselves. Can we lend our time and gifts to serve others?

SELF-EXAMINATION

How do you practice hospitality? Do you see it as an opportunity to show off what you have or as an opportunity to encounters others in mutual vulnerability?

LIVING LIKE THE SAINTS:

"If obedience sends you to the kitchen, remember that the Lord walks among the pots and pans and that He will keep you in inward tasks and in outward ones too." St. Teresa of Avila

Vision Statement: Journeying together in our quest for holiness.

Mission Statement: To become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patron, and accompanied by the shepherds, coordinators and people of our Church

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ourladyofthesierra@ols-oakhurst.org

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CALL — MEET — ASK
Our Servant Leaders

DISCIPLESHIP: A JOURNEY OF FOLLOWING
AND TRANSFORMATION (continuation)

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
OPPORTUNITIES

CALENDAR AND
SCHEDULES

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(510) 703-8467
MARK MACKEY, *Maintenance* (559) 877-4290

DISCIPLESHIP EXEMPLIFIED IN PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRY:
A Invitation to Respond to the Call of OLS

To be a disciple of Christ is to follow Him not only in belief but also in action. True discipleship is not a passive state—it is a living, breathing response to the love we have received from God. In our parishes, this discipleship takes concrete form through our active participation in the life and ministries of the Church.


The parish is not just a place we go to worship; it is a community, a spiritual family where each person is called to contribute their time, gifts, and presence. Ministries—whether liturgical, charitable, educational, or social—are not tasks for a few, but opportunities for all to serve Christ in others. When we sing in the choir, teach children, visit the sick, serve at the altar, or even help clean the church, we are participating in the mission of Christ Himself.

St. Teresa of Ávila reminds us: “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.” Our discipleship becomes real when we take up our role in the Church’s mission with love and humility.

Participation in parish life transforms both the community and the individual. It draws us closer to Christ, strengthens our bonds with one another, and teaches us to love as Jesus loves—generously and selflessly. It also deepens our sense of belonging and purpose. We are not just attendees; we are members of the Body of Christ, called to make His love visible.

Let us not sit on the sidelines of our parish life. Let us ask ourselves: Where is the Lord inviting me to serve? May we say yes with joy, knowing that every act of service, no matter how small, is a step on the path of holiness and a sign of true discipleship.

The time is now, CALL — MEET — ASK Our OLS Servant Leaders how you can get involved.



Dear Lord (by St. Ignatius Loyola)

Teach me true generosity.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds,
To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any
reward save the knowledge that I have done
your will. Amen.

SUPPORT THE BASIC NEEDS OF OUR PARISH.
CONSIDER GIVING A LITTLE MORE TO FIRST COLLECTION!

July 20 2025

1

OCIA 1 for unbaptized adults (non-Catholics)-
inquiry sessions have begun.
OCIA 2 for baptized Catholics who left the
church or who have been inactive for many
years and now desire to return.
Contact Erlinda at (559) 349-3855

2

BASIC CATECHIST CERTIFICATE
Diocesan requirement for lay Catholics who
wish to facilitate Bible studies, faith
formation, and small group studies.

- For current catechists who need makeups
- For new catechist candidates

Class #1 begins on **August 23, 2025**. Pick up
schedule and application from office or
register online at:
<https://www.osvhub.com/our-lady-of-the-sierra-parish/forms/basic-catechist-certificate-application-form>

3

JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST STUDY
July 30, 2024, 12-2 PM Luncheon Meeting.
Calling all parishioners who completed the
“Jesus in the Eucharist Study” during the 2nd
year of the National Eucharistic Revival.
RSVP requested. Call or text (559) 349-3855.

MASS INTENTIONS

22 Tue	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	26 Sat 4 PM	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham
23 Wed	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	27 Sun 8 AM	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham
24 Thu	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	9:30 AM	RM—Patricia Bougoino By Donna Wolfer
25 Fri	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	11:30 AM	11:30 AM Pro Populo

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

21 Mon	Office Closed
22 Tue	8:00 AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 Mother of Perpetual Help
23 Wed	8:00 AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 Devotion to St. Joseph
24 Thu	8:00AM Divine Mercy & Mass 9:00 Devotion to Padre Pio
25 Fri	8:00AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 to 12 Noon Sacred Heart ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
26 Sat	3:00 PM Confessions 4:00 PM Mass
27 Sun	8:00 AM Mass-St Joseph 9:30 AM Mass-St Dominic 11:00 AM OCIA Stage of Inquiry 11:30 AM Mass-OLS 6:00 PM Spanish Mass

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

21 Mon	Monday, 16th Week in OT Ex 14:5-18 Mt 12:38-42
22 Tue	(F) St. Mary Magdalene Sg 3:1-4b Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
23 Wed	Wednesday, 16th Week in OT Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Mt 13:1-9
24 Thu	Thursday, 16th Week in OT Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Mt 13:10-17
25 Fri	(F) St. James, Apostle 2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28
26 Sat	(M) Sts. Joachim & Anne, Ex 24:3-8/Mt 13:24-30
27 Sun	17TH SUNDAY IN OT Gn 18:20-32/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

F – Feast; S – Solemnity; M – Obligatory Memorial; m – Optional Memorial; OT – Ordinary Time

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM
Closed for lunch: 12:30 to 1:00 PM