

January 14-15, 2017
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 49:3-6 First Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

Our wall calendars have been changed, the Christmas decorations have been returned to the garage or storage shed, the residual holiday cookies have been consumed or allowed to harden for use as hockey pucks and the NEW secular calendar year is off and running. So too with our Church Liturgical Calendar, while we 'sort-of' began in Advent/Christmas with the 'prelude', these are the weeks when we move away from angels, shepherds, stars, gold, frankincense and _____ so as to hear-a-fresh the story of the ADULT JESUS. Not unlike being surprised when we encounter someone '*we think we know*' and realize that the person has changed, is different or must now be seen in a different light because of whom we or they have become because of life circumstances; our Scriptures this weekend give us the opportunity to hear about the 2017 Jesus and not just the Jesus we knew in 1954, 1986, 2010 or whenever. The task of the Church is NOT to continually tell people about who Jesus WAS...but to encourage/invite people to meet the Jesus of TODAY, of NOW. Sure, we tell the old stories, including this weekend's account of John the Baptist testifying to Jesus' ministry, but the invitation is to RENEW our relationship with Jesus in the here and now. Too often people have settled on a single image/experience of Jesus based on what assorted ministers or friends have shared, essentially, second or third-hand testimony. Our purpose in being here within our parish home today is to invite you to meet Jesus for YOURSELF, to begin building anew your relationship with him. These are the days when old images or understandings of Jesus may need to be discarded or packed away, when time-seasoned wisdom/understanding replaces whimsical spiritual fantasies. As we, all the time, individually renew the relationships that define our world, so now, today/tonight, is the opportunity to ask ourselves... 'Who is this Jesus of Nazareth to ME...TODAY?'

Thank you for starting your New Year with our Santa Clara community. As we gather back together from all our assorted holiday outings, gatherings and adventures, we start to anticipate what each new week will bring us...along with preparing ourselves for the unexpected surprises. This week Bishop-Elect Tim Freyer will officially be ordained as the new Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Orange; **Evening Prayer (7pm) at the Arboretum at Christ Cathedral on Monday the 16th is open to the public**; if you cannot attend the Ordination Mass you may wish to come to Evening Prayer for a sample of the formality of these events. On our local parish level we start to anticipate the St. Francis School OPEN HOUSE on the 28th & 29th...**and you should have started to receive our mailings about the really, really exciting OPPORTUNITY getting closer and closer...the annual PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL-2017!** Please make sure you review the material we are sending you and please pray on how you will participate in anticipation of our Pledge Weekend, February 4-5. The Bulletin has other STUFF that may be of interest to you, please take a copy home with you and...as you settle into your January routines, please know that you are loved. FKB