

The Catholic Church of the
Immaculate Conception

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110 619 295-4141 FAX 619 295-4142
e-mail: parish@ic-sandiego.org Website: www.ic-sandiego.org

OCTOBER 04, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 11

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org; 858 490-8332

Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts
fielder@ic-sandiego.org 619-297-3426

Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 10

Marsha Long, Music
pictures@marshalong.com

Parish Office Hours
Monday: Noon to 4:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday at 8:00 am
First Friday Mass & Devotion: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 P.M.
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00AM, 11:30 AM. 5:15 P.M.

Holy Day Masses: 8 A.M., 7:00 P.M.

Penance: For daily Mass goes 7:30 AM, For Parish on Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 P.M., and by appointment

Baptisms & RCIA: *By appointment only.* Please email Deacon Fitzmorris at rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org.

Weddings: *By appointment only.* Arrangements must be made at least **one year** in advance. Please contact the office

Funerals: *For arrangements, please call the parish office.*



History of Immaculate Conception Parish

It was here in Old Town that Father Junipero Serra celebrated his First Holy Mass in California on July 2, 1769, near the site of the present Immaculate Conception Church, and it was on the hill overlooking Old Town that he planted the cross which marked the site of the Mission and the Presidio.

In 1849, the first parish church was established in Old Town with the name of Immaculate Conception and was dedicated in 1858. It still stands and is known as the Old Adobe Chapel on Conde Street. The cornerstone to the present Immaculate Conception Church was laid in 1868 under the direction of Father Antonio Ubach. With the population swing toward the south, it was not until July 6, 1919, that the church was dedicated by Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles.

WE PRAY — Pray the Rosary in October —

MASS INTENTIONS

05	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Bosiljka Maras	MT
06	8 AM	<i>St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher</i> Lucien Salazar Family, SI	RE
07	8 AM	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i> †Rosemarie Underwood	RE
08	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Iona Bezoenik, SI	MT
09	8 AM	<i>St. Denis & Companions; St. John Leonard</i> †Maria Ruza Bosa Maras	RE
10	8 AM	<i>Weekday; BVM</i> Virginia Bezoenik, SI	RE
	5:15 PM	†Marian Carson	MT
11	8:30 AM	Custodio Family, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	Francisco & Erlinda Tobias, SI	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	MT
	5:15 PM	Deborah Bute, SI	MT

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

October: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

1st	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Camarillo
4th	David Exner North American College Rome,
4th	Brian Frice Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Oscar Lopez, St. John's Camarillo
3rd	Nathan McWeeney Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Raymond Napuli, Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Michael O'Connor Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Eric Tamayo North American College Rome
4th	Corey Tufford North American College Rome,
4th	Derek Twilliger Mt. Angel Seminary OR
3rd	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS


05	Rev. Charles Fuld
06	Rev. David Gaa, OFM
07	Rev. Edward Gallagher, Jr.
08	Rev. Msgr. Michael Gallagher
09	Rev. Garrett Galvin, OFM
10	Rev. Higinio Garcia
11	Rev. Robert Gavotto, OSA

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Jon 1:1--2:1,11; (Ps) Jon 2:3-8; Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1-8, Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-10; Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Mal 3:15-20; s 1:1-6; Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Jl 1:13--2:1-2; Ps 9:2-16; Lk 11:15-6
 Saturday: Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-12; Lk 11:27-28

PRAY FOR HEALING

Jesus, we ask you to bring your peace and healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen

Esther Fitch, Lydia Castillo Herrera Margaret Kelly, Patricia Kennedy, Dorothy Kleint, Deena Marchiano, Dena Mendoza, Jean Miller, Patricia O'Grady, Mary Jane Tiernan, Marguerite Vorst, Marie Whitman, Martha Zamudio, Carlos Amaya, Fred Levine, Mike Rodriguez, Lisa Becerra, Maguire Fitzpatrick, Tony Jenkins, Peter Nalwalker, Bob Witt, Frank Garay, Frances Garcia,		Socorro Pacheco, Linda Lee, Amparo Valenzuela, Robby Witt, Phyllis Altomare, Alicia Ambrose, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas. Inez Cerda Bull Rose McBrien Cosmo Busalacchi Maria Casanova, Steve Stone, Laura Castillo, Edna Moore, Maria Esperanza Kramer Joan Busalacchi Georgiana Ottenheimer, Mark Brandon. Jeanne Pontius, Esther Salazar, Joane Anderson Janet Meyers
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PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

Jesus, protect all who serve our country.

Sgt. Ahmed John Alexander, Natalie Augustine, Major Jerry Bloomquist, Col. Mike Bodkin, Danny Carpenter, USMC, LTJG Joseph Colangelo, USN, Cpl. Samuel James Comer, Daniel Dinglebeck, USN, PFC, David Eley, USMC, Micah Emery, Sgt. Christopher Escalona, Capt. Pedro Esquivel, 1Lt. Cortez Fabia, Juan Carlos Galazza, SSGT. Vincent Charles Lucario,	Robert Clinton Long, MC2, Sgt. Adriana Matizel, Wendell Miculob, LTJG Joe F. Moralez, USN; LCPL Matthew A. Pena, Sgt. Richard Pierce, Sgt. William Paul Powers and Cinco, CPL Wilson Santiago; Alfred Tello, Ricky Thibeault, Tony Tulloss, PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, USN
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†PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED†

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace Amen.

William Kennedy, Joan Schmitt Robert McMahan, David Diaz, Margie Gautier, Patrick Piggot, Rodney Serrano, Concepción Garza, Richard Solís Moreno, Laura Marks, Alvin Weaver, William Bethel, Lillian Sinclair, Olga Hritz, Imelda Hoeckelmann, Angelina Olivarez,	Alice Perry, Joseph Moreno, Louie Serrano, Gustavo Sosa, Floyd Watson, Iola Torre, Thomas Briggs, Emilie Graham, Angela Cordova, Ramiro Moreno, Alexander Toczko Jeannette Toczko José Teofilo Solorio Ray & Betty Jackson Denise Cooney Joanne Mangiameli
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**ST THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS, OCT
1**

FROM THE PASTOR

*In the heart of the church I
will be love*

Since my longing for martyrdom was powerful and unsettling, I turned to the epistles of St. Paul in the hope of finally finding an answer. By chance the 12th and 13th chapters of the 1st epistle to the Corinthians caught my attention, and in the first section I read that not everyone can be an apostle, prophet or teacher, that the Church is composed of a variety of members, and that the eye cannot be the hand. Even with such an answer revealed before me, I was not satisfied and did not find peace.

I persevered in the reading and did not let my mind wander until I found this encouraging theme: "Set your desires on the greater gifts. And I will show you the way which surpasses all others." For the Apostle insists that the greater gifts are nothing at all without love and that this same love is surely the best path leading directly to God. At length I had found peace of mind.

When I had looked upon the mystical body of the Church, I recognized myself in none of the members which St. Paul described, and what is more, I desired to distinguish myself more favorably within the whole body. Love appeared to me to be the hinge for my vocation. Indeed I knew that the Church had a body composed of various members, but in this body the necessary and more noble member was not lacking; I knew that the Church had a heart and that such a heart appeared to be aflame with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realised that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In one word, that love is everlasting.

Then, nearly ecstatic with the supreme joy in my soul, I proclaimed: O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: my call is love. Certainly I have found my place in the Church, and you gave me that very place, my God. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love, and thus I will be all things, as my desire finds its direction.

SAINT TERESA OF AVILA, OCT 15

Let us always be mindful of Christ's love

If Christ Jesus dwells in a man as his friend and noble leader, that man can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us. He is a true friend. And I clearly see that if we expect to please him and receive an abundance of his graces, God desires that these graces must come to us from the hands of Christ, through his most sacred humanity, in which God takes delight.

Many, many times I have perceived this through experience. The Lord has told it to me. I have definitely seen that we must enter by this gate if we wish his Sovereign Majesty to reveal to us great and hidden mysteries. A person should desire no other path, even if he is at the summit of contemplation; on this road he walks safely. All blessings come to us through our Lord. He will teach us, for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example.

What more do we desire from such a good friend at our side? Unlike our friends in the world, he will never abandon us when we are troubled or distressed. Blessed is the one who truly loves him and always keeps him near. Let us consider the glorious Saint Paul: it seems that no other name fell from his lips than that of Jesus, because the name of Jesus was fixed and embedded in his heart. Once I had come to understand this truth, I carefully considered the lives of some of the saints, the great contemplatives, and found that they took no other path: Francis, Anthony of Padua, Bernard, Catherine of Siena. A person must walk along this path in freedom, placing himself in God's hands. If God should desire to raise us to the position of one who is an intimate and shares his secrets, we ought to accept this gladly.

Whenever we think of Christ we should recall the love that led him to bestow on us so many graces and favours, and also the great love God showed in giving us in Christ a pledge of his love; for love calls for love in return. Let us strive to keep this always before our eyes and to rouse ourselves to love him. For if at some time the Lord should grant us the grace of impressing his love on our hearts, all will become easy for us and we shall accomplish great things quickly and without effort.

AROUND THE PARISH

What's the difference between a diocesan priest and a religious priest?

A diocesan priest ordinarily serves the church within a well-defined geographical area (a diocese). He serves the people within that particular diocese as a parish priest, but may also be involved in other forms of ministry. Most diocesan priests live and work in the same diocese for most of their life. Diocesan priests make two promises: obedience to the bishop and celibacy. This means that they promise to work with the Bishop and do what he asks them to do for the needs of the people of the diocese. Celibacy (chastity) is the promise they take that means that they will not get married, so that they can spend most of their time serving the people of God. Being part of a diocese or an order is like being part of a family. The men are like brothers to each other and usually turn out to be some of your best friends.

A religious priest, on the other hand, is a member of a community which goes beyond the geographical limits of any diocese. A religious priest seeks to live a vowed life within a community of men for mutual support and the accomplishment of some work. There is an emphasis in the community on shared ideals, prayer, and commitment to Christ. Religious priests work in a wide variety of ministries. Religious communities were founded at different times in history and often focus on a special ministry (e.g. the Jesuits are involved in education and missionary work, the Salesians work with the young. See our Religious Link for more specific information on specific Religious Communities in our diocese). As members of a worldwide order or group of men, following the ideals of their founder (e.g. the Franciscans follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi), they make vows to live their lives in the same manner. The vows that religious priests make are poverty, celibacy (chastity), and obedience. The vow of poverty means that the priest will not own anything of his own. A religious, for instance, would not personally own a car, but more than likely would have the use of one provided by his community. All of his property will be shared by the brothers in his order.

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Parents and children as well as all interested adults are welcome to attend Family Catechesis in the bride's room of the parish hall every other week. The program resumes on Sunday, October 18, at 9:45, right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Each year on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, thousands of people are baptized into the Catholic Church in the United States. Parishes welcome these new Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

If you are interested in becoming a baptized member of the Church, consider participating in the RCIA process.

For information, please contact Fr. Richard at 619-295-4141, ext. 11, or email pastor@ic-sandiego.org.



2015 Baptism Schedule

**October 5 Class
October 11 Baptisms**

(See ic-sandiego.org for more dates.)

Please join **St. Augustine High School** in welcoming Dr. Abigail James to our gymnasium on Monday, October 19th at 6:30 pm. Dr. James is a leading author on the education of young men. Her talk on **“Teaching the Male Brain”** is free and open to all. No RSVP is needed. Please email Mike Haupt at mhaupt@sahs.org with any questions.

St. Augustine High School-3266 Nutmeg St. 92129

The **Prayer Chain Ministry** has been established in our parish. Our intention is to mobilize our parish community to pray for someone who has suddenly become ill, is going in for surgery, has a personal emergency or special needs they would like kept in prayer. Please contact Ruthe Jenkins if you are in need of prayers or if you are interested in being part of this powerful ministry on either the contact team or as part of the prayer chain. Email: rutheis@cox.net or phone 619-981-1424.

LOVE OUR PRIESTS Prayer Group



Please join us for a special Mass honoring **ABBOT SHARBEL EWEN, O.S.B.**

**PRINCE OF PEACE ABBEY
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058**

*I am the Good Shepherd,
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*
John 10: 7-10

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: ASCENSION PARISH
11292 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92124-1524



Most Reverend Abbot Sharbel Ewen, O.S.B. is the “newly elected” Abbot of the beautiful PRINCE OF PEACE ABBEY – Oceanside, CA. Let's get together to hear his fascinating story and to meet this dedicated and loving priest.

THE MASS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN INFORMAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON *Bring a friend & a dish to share!*

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

With gratitude for the gifts we have received,
parishioners and visitors made a joyful
return to the Lord.

September 27, 2015

Total Collection: \$5030.11
Envelopes: \$2,867.00 Plate: \$2,163.11
Total contributing households: 85

5:15 Sat	\$ 552.73
8:30 Sun	\$1451.37
10:00 Sun	\$1155.77
11:30 Sun	\$ 984.52
5:15 Sun	\$ 715.72
Mailed	\$ 170

EXPENSES

September 21-25, 2015

Copier	\$265.28
Fire Inspection	\$412.15
Gas & Electric	\$1,528.97
Maintenance	\$377.50
Music	\$600.00
Water Utility	\$919.39
Supplies	\$143.98

Total: \$4,247.27

Building Fund: \$933.20

Need help in praying the rosary?

Visit:
www.theholynosary.org
www.comepraytherosary.com

**WELCOME TO IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION!**

To register at the parish, please fill out the form below,
and drop it in the basket or call the office at 295-4141.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN
GENTIUM**

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

27. Bishops, as vicars and ambassadors of Christ, govern the particular churches entrusted to them by their counsel, exhortations, example, and even by their authority and sacred power, which indeed they use only for the edification of their flock in truth and holiness, remembering that he who is greater should become as the lesser and he who is the chief become as the servant. This power, which they personally exercise in Christ's name, is proper, ordinary and immediate, although its exercise is ultimately regulated by the supreme authority of the Church, and can be circumscribed by certain limits, for the advantage of the Church or of the faithful. In virtue of this power, bishops have the sacred right and the duty before the Lord to make laws for their subjects, to pass judgment on them and to moderate everything pertaining to the ordering of worship and the apostolate.

The pastoral office or the habitual and daily care of their sheep is entrusted to them completely; nor are they to be regarded as vicars of the Roman Pontiffs, for they exercise an authority that is proper to them, and are quite correctly called "prelates," heads of the people whom they govern. Their power, therefore, is not destroyed by the supreme and universal power, but on the contrary it is affirmed, strengthened and vindicated by it, since the Holy Spirit unfailingly preserves the form of government established by Christ the Lord in His Church.

**AFTER-ABORTION OVERNIGHT HEALING
RETREAT**

.. FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN (or Catholic-friendly) given by Rachel's Hope on Oct. 23-25, 2015. Held in Escondido at the St. Mary's Retreat Center. Closing Mass included. Group Size limited. Cost \$100: includes private rooms, meals and materials. Retreat begins at 6pm on Friday. Confidentiality maintained. For information/registration call Patti Smith, (760) 305-8044, gridirongranny@live.com.

Visit us on our website: www.RachelsHope.org

Sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

October

05	I.C. Seniors Lunch Meeting	11:00 a.m.
07	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
10	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.
11	Parish Registration Sunday	
	Parish Breakfast	9:30 a.m.
14	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
17	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.
18	Mission Sunday-Propagation of the Faith Special Collection	

ATTENTION I.C. SENIORS

Join fellow seniors for lunch on Monday, Oct. 5, 11:00 a.m. Guest speaker, John Altomare, Attorney at Law, will make a special presentation on various issues affecting seniors.

Special thanks to Ben and Beth Zanin for providing music for the Santa Maria Barbecue. Their contribution of time and talent is appreciated.

GIFT SHOP IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!!

The Gift Shop volunteers act as liaisons for Immaculate Conception Church by giving out general information of the area to all visitors.

Whether you want to volunteer once a week, once a month or more, and enjoy meeting people and making new friends...**This if for you!**

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Liz Fielder, Gift Shop Manager,
619-295-4141, ext. 13, or email
lfielder@ic-sandiego.org for more information.

“In a society without God, the human person becomes ‘nothing special,’ nothing sacred. The value of a human life is judged according to whether it is ‘productive’ or ‘efficient,’” he said. “Without God we don’t know who we are, or where we come from, or what we are here for.”
—Archbishop Jose Gómez of Los Angeles

FROM MISERICORDIAE VULTUS - Pope Francis

BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

FRANCIS
BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

6. “It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way.” Saint Thomas Aquinas’ words show that God’s mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence. For this reason the liturgy, in one of its most ancient collects, has us pray: “O God, who reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness...” Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, and merciful. “Patient and merciful.” These words often go together in the Old Testament to describe God’s nature. His being merciful is concretely demonstrated in his many actions throughout the history of salvation where his goodness prevails over punishment and destruction.

**Street Level of Fr. Serra Hall
619-297-3426**

Serra Gifts...



Open 7 days a week
Monday - Friday 9:30 -4:00
Saturday 10:00 to 4:00
Sunday 9:30 to 3:00

Serra Gifts offers a beautiful assortment of religious items for your home, for your family and friends.

Missalettes

As previously announced, beginning in Advent this November, the missalettes will no longer be in the pews because their cost is too high for our small parish.

In October, Serra Gifts will offer the **Living With Christ** Missalette for \$8.99 each. Youth missalettes will also available for \$16.99 each.

See our online catalog at:
<http://www.ic-sandiego.org/gift-shop>

**SOME OF US DO JUDGE DISCRIMINATELY AND
DO NOT LOVE INDISCRIMINATELY**

— Sylvia Thompson

If you are tired of observing Christians hide behind their misuse of Christ's admonition not to "judge" and so-called leaders' directing followers to "love" any and everybody regardless of their behavior, welcome to this believer's world.

On judgment: In my many years of studying Scripture, I have found nothing to imply that Christ's statement regarding judgment in Matthew 7:1-5 means that Christians must forego their capacity to be discriminating. A Christian is required to make assessments of his own behavior and that of others, based on Scripture.

Christ's words, in the Matthew text, make it clear that judging someone else when you yourself are indulging in similar or worse behavior is what He will not tolerate. He is clearly addressing "hypocrisy" here, those who claim Christianity as their mantle, but do not practice what they preach to others.

A good example is the evangelical minister Jimmy Swaggart, who in the late 1980s was implicated in an incident with a prostitute. Pastor Swaggart had earlier exposed another minister for having had affairs. In this case, Pastor Swaggart failed to remove the "beam" from his own eye before condemning a fellow Christian.

The verse following verse 5 (Matthew 7:6) admonishes that the believer not "cast pearls before swine." Christ is referring here to a believer's attempts to share things of spiritual value with those who show disdain for such things. Further in that same sermon (7:15-16), Christ said "beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing...you will know them by their fruits"; that is, by their behavior, what they produce through their actions.

For Christians to follow these directives from Christ, judgment is necessary. We must assess behavior, ours as well as that of others, to determine if it aligns with God's will as Christ expressed that will.

Judgment is therefore required of Christians, as long as we have examined our own behavior and found that we are free of the behavior about which we are judging. Scripture further clarifies how we must view judgment. John 7:24 cautions that ours must be "righteous" not superficial judgment.

The "I don't judge" excuse comes from many Christians who fear speaking out against homosexual activism. Their fear is understandable because the homosexual movement has morphed into a kind of "homofascism" that is horrendously evil.

Homosexual activists have gained control of much of the American judiciary, which can inflict considerable harm upon individuals who oppose their godless agenda. The lawless Obama administration, as part of its overall strategy to gut America's Judeo-Christian foundation, has tremendously aided and abetted the homofascist cause.

Consequently Christians, especially true biblically oriented Christians, are being targeted for silencing. To

avoid such persecution, some Christians will continue to pander to those forces of evil. Shunning judgment and declaring "love for all" is their preferred method of operation. It's much easier that way.

For Christian leaders to allow the misinterpretation of Scripture, so as to relieve followers of Christ of their duty to face down and oppose evil, is a grave fallacy, which will not go unnoticed by Almighty God.

On love: I am intrigued by a saying that permeates Christian dialogue these days, "Love the sinner and not the sin." Nothing in Scripture indicates that Christ made that statement, but St. Augustine did in a letter. His statement translates roughly "With love for mankind and hatred of sin." A version of the phrase, "hate the sin and not the sinner" appears in the 1929 autobiography of Mohandas Gandhi.*

Love, however, as expressed by Almighty God (and by extension, Christ) is not indiscriminate. He expresses it toward those deserving of such love. One commentary explains it as God's extending love to those who are not set in a course of wrong-doing. It is extended to all persons until they show, by behavior, that they reject His love. (Psalm 21:8,9 and Isaiah 26:10)

These are people who choose to *practice* sin, which is vastly different from sinning as a consequence of inherently sinful human nature. Their rejection of God's love is evident by a refusal to repent and turn away from the practice of sin that God hates. Godly love continues toward those of us who struggle on a daily basis to align our lives with His will, against inherent human weakness. Christ acknowledged this flaw in His followers. (Matthew 26:41)

As such, I do not, as a Christian, owe love to those who choose to defy God and practice sin. And because Christ has given me the directive to judge scripturally the behavior of those around me, I am equipped to determine who those people are by their actions and behavior – by their fruits. This does not preclude a principled, "agape" love for my enemy, as expressive of my sincere concern for the lasting welfare of all humans. Enemies can become friends.

I must, however, extend love as God extends love. The Psalmist expressed it well in Psalms 139:20-24.

This being the case, I am not inclined, along with many Christians who think as I do, to separate the willful (and I stress *willful*) sinner from his sin. They are one and the same. Continued refusal to repent (to stop practicing sinful behavior) is an affront to Christ's atoning sacrifice for our lives and will result in the willful sinner's death, along with his sin. Almighty God does not separate the two and neither should I.

I am well aware that many who profess Christianity are comfortably ensconced in their pithy sayings. Sayings that sooth their timid souls and relieve them of the need to judge. But some of us prefer not to go that route but rather choose to be guided by the whole of Scripture.

In due time, Almighty God will be the final arbiter of all of our choices.