

Jesus Loves Us to Death

Jesus begins His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on a *colt* as prophesied by the Prophet Zechariah. The *colt* emphasizes the *humility* of the Jewish Messiah, in contrast to the Gentile kings who rode on great white chargers. The crowd pays Jesus, what can only be described as royal honors. Being the Passover feast, the city population of 60,000 suddenly grew to 300,000 due to the sudden influx of pilgrims. The crowd's reaction to Jesus made the Jewish and Roman leaders nervous, for this would be the perfect time for rebellion. • In the Passion drama, we find several interesting points. In Luke, as in John, we see the emphasis on the importance of meal time throughout both Gospel versions. So it is no surprise to find Jesus offering His most important teachings on discipleship during the course of the Last Supper. Jesus describes the role of disciple as one of *service*, not prestige. His entire ministry, even the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, was a lesson in service. • Jesus berates the troops for arresting Him at night when it could have been done in broad daylight, but they did not want to start a riot. Also, this symbolizes their service to the forces of darkness, not those of Light. • Note that even as Jesus is being crucified, He is concerned with the forgiveness of sin. He asks His Father to forgive the very people who are killing Him. Also, St. Luke is the only one who tells of the *Good Thief*, for Jesus has come to save the lost and those most in need of His love. Jesus forgives the *Good Thief* and invites him into paradise. The centurion's words affirm His innocence, while the small gathering recognizes this travesty and beats their breasts, begging for forgiveness. • Jesus' death allows us to encounter His holiness everywhere, for His Blood that He shed out of love for us, consecrates the world to His love. His obedience, even to His last breath, heals our disobedience.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your Son to be born of woman and to die on a cross, so that through the obedience of one man, estrangement might be dissolved

Faith First

for all people. Guide our minds by his truth and strengthen our lives by the example of his death, that we may live in union with you in the kingdom of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Palm (Passion) Sunday

Each year on Palm Sunday, we recount the story of Jesus' passion. We hear about the events leading up to his arrest; the agony of his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane; the passing of his case back and forth between Pilate, Herod and the Sanhedrin. We imagine what it was like for the very Incarnation of God to be judged by human beings. Each year, we are invited to enter into this story, to remember it, to accompany Jesus during these trials. • It is not the pleasant escape that we might find when we watch a movie or read a book. Rather, with his eyes we see the crowd whom he loves, shouting for his very death. With him, we witness his closest friends abandon, deny or watch from a distance. We see the cruelty of rulers and soldiers who mock him, beat him, and gamble for his garments. We are asked to remember the horrible death he endured, a public and agonizing death of being nailed to a cross. • It is an unpleasant business, the suffering of Jesus and of the world--for Jesus' death and resurrection did not remove suffering from our lives or the lives of those we love. And it can be terrifying to experience suffering ourselves or to walk with someone who is in distress. And we have choices when we do. We can be like Peter who denies, or the soldier who jeers; we can be an acquaintance who watches, or Pilate who washes his hands of the matter. • Or we can be like Joseph of Arimathea, who refuses to participate in an unjust persecution, or like the women who do not run from the agony of Jesus' death, but tended to his broken, lifeless body. Perhaps we will be like the centurion who praises God, even in the midst of darkness. • As we enter Holy Week, that is, into Christ's passion and partake of his victory found in the Eucharist, let us pray for the grace to see what is before us, to open our hearts to those who need us and to accompany those who suffer. Just as Christ did, and continues to do, for us.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
April 14 - April 21**

Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Aaron Sanchez (+)
	11:00am	H. John McAleer (+)
Mon	8:00am	Int...Kate Blanton
Tue	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
Wed	8:00am	Jose, Anna & Lucy Oliveira (+)
	10:00am	Int...Dr. Frank Slachman
Thu	8:00am	No Mass
	7:00pm	William Creeggan (+)
Fri	8:00am	No Mass
Sat	9:00am	No Mass
	5:30pm	No Mass
	8:00 pm	Linda Ryle (+)
Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Marilyn Josephine McAleer (+)

In Memoriam

Let us pray for all those who have died and are in need of prayer. May they enjoy peace, happiness, and light.

Please Pray for the Sick

Robin Aurelius, Elliot Sevier, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Teresa Yeung, Nancy McGarry, Vivian Stolp, Rita Doherty, Patrick Valenzuela, Cheryl Halm Lincoln, Michael Fletcher, Grayson Kemp, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Grace Grant, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Marie Schumacher, Ralph Goodall, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Barbara Cramer, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henricksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Meetings & Events

Today "Second Sunday" Social

Join us for the "Second Sunday" Social from 12(noon) to 1:30 pm today in the Parish Hall. It is a chance to catch up with fellow parishioners and meet some new faces. Bring a friend or make a new one. We hope to see you there!

Altar Society

Please consider a donation *in memory of* or *in honor of* a loved one to help us beautify the church sanctuary with Easter flowers for the Easter season. Make checks payable to *Sacred Heart Altar Society*. Include your name, telephone number, and name(s) of those being remembered or honored. Place in a marked envelope to "Altar Society" and drop in the collection basket at Mass or mail to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spilman Ave., Sacramento 95819. Please return donations by April 15. Thank you for your generosity.

Anointing of the Sick

There is a special Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 am. • The Anointing is for those suffering from serious illness both physical and psychological, for the elderly and frail, for those facing major surgery, as well as for those terminally ill. The sick person may repeat the sacrament if, after recovery, he or she falls ill again or if the original condition worsens.

Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked all parishes throughout the world to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. • Your support helps the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. • The wars, unrest, and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to this Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. • Please make your check payable to "Sacred Heart Church." In the memo field add "Holy Land Collection." Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

Parish Study Group

We are discussing Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to Transfiguration by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The assignment for Tuesday, April 16 is Chapters 7 & 8, Pages 202-238. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874 or Alice Cano at 916-446-1206.

The Protection of Children Safe Environment Information for Volunteers

All employees and all volunteers who work with children are required by the Diocese of Sacramento to complete a child abuse prevention and diocesan policy training program once every three years. The on-line training program, Safe Haven, is a three part video series offered through Catholic Mutual Group. Volunteers who have regular contact with children are also required to be fingerprinted and undergo a background check. • For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 916-452-4136 or the Diocesan Safe Environment Office at 916-733-0237.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the 40 students from Sacred Heart Parish School and Parish Faith Formation programs who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, April 7. • The newly-confirmed are: William Azurin, Giovanni Bagatello, Owen Barnaby, Natalie Bibica, Ava Brownholtz, Sofia Ceballos, James Collier, Riley Domine, Olivia Del Nero, Katherine Donlan, William Dowd, Georgia Gale, Brynn Higgins, Declan Higgins, Winston Holtkamp, William Holz, Reese Hughes, Josephine Jewell-Woodroffe, Joseph Knego, Sydney Laird, Mia Lederer, Daniela Lopez, Samantha Marsee, Colin McGhee, Henry Miller, Maddie Mix, Leo Muraoka, Joseph Muraoka, Samuel Nealon, Giovanni Pacheco, Dominic Parra, Maya Rodriguez, Leslie Ruiz, Audrey Shackelford, Maxwell Smith, Adam Sunderman, Camren Taylor, Dante Villasenor, Anita White, Owen Wilber. •

Holy Week / Easter Schedule

- Monday, April 15**
8 am Mass
8:30 am - 9:30 am Confessions
- Tuesday, April 16**
8 am Mass
8:30 am - 9:30 am Confessions
- Wednesday, April 17**
8 am & 10 am Masses
(10 am Mass w/Anointing of the Sick)
- Holy Thursday, April 18**
No 8 am Mass
7 pm Mass followed by Adoration until 9 pm
Confessions after Mass
- Good Friday, April 19**
12(noon) Celebration of the Lord's Passion
3 pm Stations of the Cross
7 pm Meditation on the Seven Last Words
- Holy Saturday, April 20**
No 9 am Mass or 5:30 pm Mass
4 pm - 5 pm Confessions
8 pm Mass of the Easter Vigil
- Easter Sunday, April 21**
8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am Masses

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue learning about the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

Thank you for the generous response to the appeal for food. The response was overwhelming; the pantry is well-stocked.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the second grade students from Sacred Heart Parish School and the Parish Faith Formation Program who participated in their First Reconciliation during the last two weeks. The students are learning to understand the power of forgiveness and reconciliation while they prepare for their First Holy Communion on May. • We thank our dedicated teachers who prepared them!

Parish School Easter Break

The school will be closed during Easter Week. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Holy Thursday, April 18 and return to school on Tuesday, April 30.