

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Responsorial Psalm reminds us that this is a time of mercy and gratitude, especially because this is Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate the fact that Jesus took our sins upon Himself, suffered and died for us, not because we deserved it but because we needed it. So God, out of immense love for us, did for us what we could not do for ourselves, by acting on our behalf, atoned for our offenses. His death and resurrection conquered sin, death, and alienation. This was a real act of mercy and love, so we are filled with incredible gratitude. Crucified in the crack of the stone of Golgotha, the stone rejected by the builders, Jesus again shows Himself to be the fulfillment of Psalm 118. He (*the stone rejected by the builders*) has become the *Cornerstone* of the “new building”, that is, God’s Kingdom. • The Gospel recounts two encounters with the Risen Jesus. In the first encounter we see Jesus greet His disciples breathing on them and saying, “Peace be with you”. When God created Adam, He breathed into a lump of clay and made it into a living human being. God’s own breath, His Holy Spirit, is breathed into us at Baptism. When we sin we reject that *Breath*. In Reconciliation, Jesus recreates that *Breath, His Spirit* within us, enabling us to be instruments of His love and mercy. • The second account reminds us that we can trust and believe in the risen Jesus, for we see Thomas, who did not initially believe, but after physically putting his hand into the Savior’s hand and side wounds recognized Our Lord and God. Here we are assured that we can freely believe that Jesus is indeed the second person of the Blessed Trinity, for He truly rose body and soul. He is truly alive; this belief makes us truly alive in Him.

Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faith First

Consider Reading “Rich in Mercy”

The encyclical letter “*Dives in Misericordia*” (Rich in Mercy) was issued by Pope St. John Paul II in 1980. The Holy Father addresses the theme of divine mercy which he says, “...humanity and the modern world needs so much.” The letter the Pope reminds that God’s mercy does not humiliate man, but on the contrary, gives him new value.

History of Divine Mercy Sunday

Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. • Humankind’s need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an “eclipse of the sense of God” and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. The Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy be observed. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. • *The Image...* Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that “Jesus, I trust in You” be inscribed under his image. • *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy...* The Chaplet was also given to St. Faustina with his promise: “Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ...I desire that the whole world knows My infinite mercy.” • *The Divine Mercy Novena...* Jesus gave St. Faustina nine intentions for which to pray the Chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday. (<http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>)

Meetings & Events

First Holy Communion

On Saturday May 4, second graders from the parish school and the other non-parochial schools will receive their First Holy Communion at a special Mass at 11:00 am. • Let us pray for these children as they take this important step in their faith journeys.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

This weekend, we will take up the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territory because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work in their communities. Your support of this appeal eases the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. • Special appeal envelopes are available in the church vestibule for your use.

Youth Group Update

The group will be meeting twice during the month of May. On May 8 the group will be hosting a fun-filled Trivia Night. Compete against your friends in several different rounds of trivia with questions on a broad range of topics. On May 29, the group will celebrate its graduates (from both 8th grade and high school) with an Graduation/End of the Year Party. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are held in St. Anthony’s Hall from 6:30-7:30 pm. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

New Altar Servers

Over the past several weeks, a new group of altar servers has been assigned to both Sunday and daily Masses. We thank these children, and their experienced co-servers, for volunteering to help at Mass. Not only does this help the priest, it usually helps the children develop a better and deeper understanding of the Mass. • We also thank Janet Gill for training the children in this ministry. Boys and girls entering 6th grade and older at the Parish School and in the Catholic Faith Formation program are encouraged to participate. • For more information about signing to be an altar server, please call the Parish Office.

Parish Study Group

We are discussing the book *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to Transfiguration* by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The assignment for Tuesday, April 30 is Chapter 8, pages 238-286. 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

Thank you for the generous response to the March appeal for food. We were able to help a number of households for Easter. • We will, as usual, collect again on the last weekend of the month, this weekend. Items of need are mayo, salad dressing, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken and spam), Marinara sauce, small bags of rice and pasta, cake or cookie mixes, granola/energy bars, cereal boxes and individual cereal cup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables. A bag filled with non-perishable, unexpired food may be left inside the altar rail. • Questions about donations please call Emilia Janowski at 916-927-1667.

May Crowning

On May 12, at the 9:30 am Mass, there will be a procession by children and a May crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many younger parishioners have not seen this devotional, which has been part of parish life for hundreds of years worldwide. For those with a special devotion to Mary, plan on attending this Mass and take part.

Welcoming RCIA Members

Sacred Heart Parish joyfully welcomes the members of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) class this year. They are: Katharine Smith, Emma and Grant Houle, Michelle Lorenzana, Sean Beahm, Justin Ozeroff, Steve Gay, Plua and Ian Maki. Our parish community is enriched by your presence as you join us at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord Jesus, the preeminent sign of the Church’s unity.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Thank You

This year’s Lenten Soup Suppers were a great success, thanks to the many volunteers who organized the evenings, prepared the soups, served the meals, and set up and cleaned up. A special thank you to Sarah Glenn for coordinating the evenings. Three groups shared their efforts to help meet some basic needs in the Sacramento community: Boys 4 Bikes, Diocese of Sacramento’s Parochial Athletic League, and St. Thomas More Parish in Paradise. We collected the following donations for the three organizations: Boys 4 Bikes -- \$ 1,000 ; The Parochial Athletic League -- \$1,000 ; and the Catholic Parish in Paradise ravaged by the recent fires -- \$1,128. This traditional Lenten activity is a wonderful way to get together with fellow parishioners and to learn more about the needs of those who depend on the generosity of the local community. Thank you to all involved.

Easter Thank You

Easter is the culmination of the Liturgical Year and takes the efforts of many people to make the Triduum to be the prayerful center of our celebrations. We owe great thanks to all who participated in these rites, especially to RCIA Director Rita Spillane, who prepared our candidates and catechumens for their reception into the Catholic Church; to Dr. Donald Kendrick and *Schola Cantorum* for the beautiful music that supported our liturgies; and to Linda Rutherford, the Altar Society members and the Art and Environment Committee for their decorating the church so beautifully. In addition, we thank all of the ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, and altar servers for performing their ministries at all of the services throughout the Triduum. Thank you for all you contributed your time and talent during this season.

Rose Sale

After all Sunday Masses on Mothers’ Day (May 12), roses will be sold, with the profits going to the Sacramento Life Center. Please consider purchasing a rose and help save the life of an unborn child.

Third Quarter Parish Financial Report

The Parish Finance Council has prepared a financial report covering the period of July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. A copy of the report is available in the church vestibule for parishioners to pick up and review. • We thank parishioners who are financially supporting the Parish. If you are not, we encourage you to please consider doing so. Thank you.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
April 28 - May 5**

Sun	8:00am	Terence McCartan (+)
	9:30am	Joshua Wingert (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
Mon	8:00am	Glenn Takai (+)
Tue	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
Wed	8:00am	George Kovacevich (+)
Thu	8:00am	Kimberley Misthos (+)
Fri	8:00am	Doris Wagner (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
Sat	9:00am	Int... Evelyn & Oscar Cota
	5:30pm	For the People of the Parish
Sun	8:00am	Don Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	Mary Maitland (+)
	11:00am	Bill Riehl (+)

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, 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 Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.