

**Stepping Out in Faith and Trust**

These past Sundays we have heard about the need to trust in God, not in our own riches. This Sunday takes this theme one step further, telling us that if we hold on to God, we will have to endure persecution. • The First Reading speaks of the Prophet Jeremiah's persecution. Jeremiah had been called by God to warn the Israelites of their pending destruction if they did not turn away from their decadence. They ignored him, continued in their sin, but when the foretold destruction came, they blamed Jeremiah and tried to kill him. Ironically, a foreigner intervened, and he was saved. • The Responsorial reminds us of the suffering we will incur when witnessing to God's word in our lives. Often the reaction to suffering is depression, anger, or frustration. Like the psalmist, we wonder why God is not helping us, why He is not intervening for us after we have waited so long. Truth requires great humility, realizing that our understanding of what God is calling us to be will grow over time. • So in the Second Reading, St Paul exhorts us to persevere in running the race that lies before us, unburdening ourselves of all the sinfulness that weighs us down. If we really understood how much Jesus has done for us, then we would be willing to do whatever it took to live in His love. St. Paul reminds us of all who have gone before us in Faith, beginning with Jesus who endured horrible things out of love for us. This love should inspire the strength we need to reject temptation and imitate the previous exemplars. • We should not be surprised when Jesus tells us that He came to bring division not peace. Living God's love can bring rejection, often by those closest to us. We may not have to die or be tortured for our Faith, but we will be made fun of or taken advantage of. May we have the grace to live our Faith, whatever the cost, remembering the ultimate goal of eternal heavenly peace and bliss with Our Lord and those who have gone before us in Faith.

**Prayer of the Week**

Let us pray with humility and persistence. • Almighty God, ever-loving Father, your care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts

**Faith First**

of all who live. May the walls, which prejudice raises between us, crumble beneath the shadow of your outstretched arm. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Call to Human Solidarity**

Solidarity--friendship or social charity--is a Christian virtue that sees to the just sharing of both spiritual and material goods, fair pay for services, and a peaceful effort to establish a just social order both nationally and internationally. • As social beings we live in a network of relationships. Society and the individual are engaged in reciprocal relationships. The individual is responsible for the well-being of society, and society has duties to the individual. Problems in the socioeconomic order demand all types of solidarity: between the wealthy and the poor and among the poor themselves, between employers and employees and among workers themselves, and between nations and various population groups. In the words of Pope St. John Paul II: *The exercise of solidarity within each society is valid when its members recognize one another as persons. Those who are more influential, because they have a greater share of goods and common services, should feel responsible for the weaker and be ready to share with them all they possess* (On Social Concerns, 39). • Christians cannot escape the call of others, especially the weak. Love of God is united to love of neighbor. We are one human family, dependent on one another, and have the Christ-given call to be one. Jesus himself prayed for human solidarity: "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you"(John 17:21). • Because we are one, Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. The parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates well this double command to love self and neighbor. The Samaritan realized that when one person suffers everyone suffers because we are fundamentally brothers and sisters. Not to recognize and respect the dignity of a single person, especially one who is suffering, is to deny the Son of Man who came to teach us that we are one with him and with one another.

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
August 18 - August 25**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Efren Santiago Andres (+)
<b>Mon</b>	8:00am	Phillip Fougere (+)
<b>Tue</b>	8:00am	Altar Society Members (+)
<b>Wed</b>	8:00am	Doris Wagner (+)
<b>Thu</b>	8:00am	Jose, Anna & Lucy Oliveira (+)
<b>Fri</b>	8:00am	Lee Basford (+)
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am	Abigail Laresesve (+)
	5:30pm	Nita York (+)
<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Dick Cutting (+)

**In Memoriam**

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

**Please Pray for the Sick**

Susan Finnegan, Thomas Wolfanger, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, 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.

**Back To School**

School has begun at Sacred Heart Parish School! We celebrated with a parent coffee, a school Mass on August 15<sup>th</sup> and a picnic and playground blessing on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin the new school year.

**Parish School New Programs**

We are very excited to announce that, starting in August, we are adding a part time music instructor, Ms. Liz Eshleman, a part time art teacher Ms. Helen Grandy, a Spanish program that will be computer based through Rosetta Stone, and another computer program called IXL, that will meet the needs of all students who may need a little extra practice to those who need a little extra challenge.

**Parish School on Facebook and Instagram**

We would love to share all the ways we are helping our students at Sacred Heart Parish School grow in mind, body, and spirit. If you would like to stay up-to-date on all the wonderful things happening at the Parish School, be sure to follow us on social media! • On Facebook and Instagram, search for **sacredheartsac**. You may find our profile with our school logo and click "Like" on Facebook or "Follow" on Instagram.

**2019-2020 Faith Formation Registration**

Children attending a non-Catholic school in grades Kindergarten through 8th grades have been signed up for the Parish's Faith Formation Program. In case you did not previously register, registration opportunities will be available after all Masses today and next weekend. • Starting Tuesday, September 3 and continuing every Tuesday, classes will be held from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Sacred Heart Parish School, 856 39th Street. • The fees for classes are as follows: \$75 for one child and \$100 for two or more children. There are additional per child fees for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. • If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact Tila Madrigal, Religious Education Coordinator, at 916-947-2683 or by email at tilamadrigal@gmail.com.

**Altar Society News**

- We are needing a volunteer to care for the altar server vestments for July, August, and September. This is not a time consuming commitment and any interested parishioner (you need not be a member of the Altar Society) or altar server parent can contact Linda Rutherford at 916-457-9572 for more information.
- We have several crafters to participate in our Fall Festival event, but would welcome more. Now is the time to be working on your inventory for the sale. Contact Tila Madrigal at 916-947-2683 or tilamadrigal@gmail.com for more information.

**Senate Bill 24**

This bill would mandate staff at all California state university health clinics to dispense abortion inducing medications. This is an unprecedented intrusion on university campuses, and strives to further indoctrinate the young to the ideology of abortion. • A copy of Bishop Soto's letter urging us to join him in opposing this proposed piece of legislation is available in the church vestibule. Please consider contacting your elected representatives to let them know your thoughts on this important issue.

**Meetings & Events**

**Interested in Becoming a Catholic?**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is designed for adults who have never before been baptized, adults who have been baptized in a non-Catholic church, and adults who have been baptized as Catholics as an infant/child yet never received or received limited religious instruction in the Faith. Classes are held once a week starting the end of September and continuing a few weeks after Easter. If you know anyone (a family member, a friend, a neighbor, and a co-worker) interested in joining the RCIA process, please share this information. They are encouraged to contact Rita Spillane at the Ministry Office (916-452-4830) and leave a message or email Rita at ritaspillane@gmail.com

*With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption. --Psalm 130*

**Please Remember**

Since we do not have security around the church, please, for your child protection and safety, always accompany him/her to the restrooms located in the church vestibule. We are located on a busy corner with increasing foot traffic.

**St. Vincent de Paul Soc./Sac State Newman Center  
Food Donation Weekend, August 24-25**

With students returning to Sacramento State and visiting the Catholic Newman Center, the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting non-perishable food items next weekend August 24-25 to stock the pantry at the Newman Center. • The Newman Center is in need of ready to eat, small individual/single serving size items such as instant soup/meal in a cup, Top Ramen, mac & cheese, energy/granola bars, instant oatmeal/cereal, fruit/dessert cups, tuna/chicken salad individual pouch/can, dried fruit/nut snack packs, small cracker packages, microwave popcorn, and hot coco packets. • When selecting items please keep in mind students usually only have access to a microwave and hot water. Also, the Sacred Heart/St Mary food pantry is in need of cereal, marinara sauce, jelly/jam, peanut butter, spam, and crackers. A bag filled with non-perishable, unexpired food may be left inside the altar rail. Many local families and Sacramento State students rely on assistance from our Society of St. Vincent de Paul pantry. Thank you for your generosity! • Questions about donations, please call Emilia Jankowski at 916-927-1667.

**Baptism Class for Parents and Godparents**

A baptism preparation class is offered the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. To attend you must sign up by calling the church office at 452-4236 ext. 2. Baptisms take place on the first and third Sundays of the month after the 11:00 am Mass (around 12:15 pm). Parents and godparents must attend a preparation class. • For more details, please call the Parish Office.

**Farmers Market at Mercy General Hospital**

There is a new Farmers Market in the neighborhood. Every Friday, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, Mercy General Hospital sponsors a farmers market in the parking lot in front of the J Street entrance. Shoppers can purchase organic fruits and veggies, fresh baked bread, organic cheese, homemade salsa, tamales and more. This is an initiative of Mercy Hospital as a community service to support healthy food production and the farmers who grow it.