

**God's Compassion & Forgiveness**

The First Reading recalls what happened when Moses ascended Mount Sinai to meet the Lord. Meanwhile, below, the people were creating from their gold, a golden calf to worship. The Lord would have destroyed this stiff-necked people, if Moses had not implored God's mercy on them by reminding Him of His promises to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; for God could never go back on His promise. So, the Lord relented. • The Responsorial Psalm reminds us that the only way we can obtain forgiveness of sin is by having a humble, contrite heart. Only then can God renew us. If He were to withdraw His Holy Spirit, we would perish. If He breathes His Spirit into our hearts anew, we are recreated. • This Sunday is one of those rare occasions where the same theme runs through all three readings: how God deals with sinners and reacts to sin. We see in the story of St. Paul's conversion, how God works through our weaknesses to show His strength. God did not punish St. Paul, this arrogant blasphemer and persecutor of His people, instead God forgave him and used him as an instrument of His mercy. Paul became a visible proof of why He came into the world, to save sinners. • In the Gospel we find this theme of reconciliation and Jesus' mission to bring about the healing of our sinful ways. It is a Gospel of compassion & forgiveness of sin. God is not out to get sinners by revenge, rather, He actively seeks out those who sin, in order to offer them His forgiveness. The first parable of the lost sheep illustrates this, the Shepherd's great joy at finding the lost sheep. God reaches out to those who have alienated themselves by sin. The second parable tells of the woman who went in search of her lost coin and her great celebration in finding it. So too, God seeks us out and rejoices when we are found. The third parable is the story of the prodigal son. The father in this story is waiting outside the house (untypical of an earthly father) for the son's return. So too, God the Father is always on the lookout for our return.

**Prayer of the Week**

Let us pray for the peace which is born of faith and hope.  
 • Father in heaven, Creator of all, look

**Faith First**

down upon your people in their moments of need, for you alone are the source of our peace. Bring us to the dignity which distinguishes the poor in spirit and show us how great is the call to serve, that we may share in the peace of Christ who offered his life in the service of all. 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.

**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 forms are available in the vestibule of the church. • Starting Tuesday, September 3 and continuing every Tuesday, classes are 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.

**Interested in Becoming a Catholic?**

Classes are held once a week starting Tuesday, September 17 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. The program continues a few weeks after Easter Sunday. • If you know anyone (a family member, a friend, a neighbor, and a co-worker) interested in joining the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) 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.

**Repentance**

From the Greek word *metanoia*, repentance means change of mind or change of heart. A key aspect of following Jesus is to turn from our sins and embrace the way of the cross.

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
September 15 - September 22**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	The McGee Family (+)
	11:00am	Isabel Grace Flynn (+)
<b>Mon</b>	8:00am	Int...Fr. Sijo Chirayath
<b>Tue</b>	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
<b>Wed</b>	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
<b>Thu</b>	8:00am	Altar Society Members (+)
<b>Fri</b>	8:00am	Int...James Madrigal
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am	Int...Gerardo Medina
	5:30pm	Dolores Fernandez de la Vega (+)
<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Terry Foley (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Ilga Hinsey (+)

**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**

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 Mugarategui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

**Meetings & Events**

**Fall Festival Coming Soon!**

The Fall Festival is an annual event that takes place on the first Saturday of October. We will continue many of the traditions of the past including slides, rock climbing, and game booths for the children, as well as Cherry Bells, Bingo, and the Wine Wheel. The steak booth will grill up the traditional recipe steak sandwiches, pizza, and more. The School will be selling raffle tickets the next two weeks after all Sunday Masses. Come join for a day filled with fun and community. Gates open at 11:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

**Youth Group Update**

Another great year of Sacred Heart Youth Group is right around the corner! Are you a student in grades 8-12? Are you looking for an opportunity to share your faith in a fun and supportive environment? Do you like service projects, activities, games and great food? If so, Sacred Heart Youth Group is for you. The group will be meeting twice in September. At our first meeting on September 11, we played a number of fun games to help members get to know each other a bit better. Our second meeting on September 25 will be a planning meeting where we will brainstorm activities for the year. • Youth Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in Saint Anthony Hall located on the school campus. • If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

**Independent Compensation Program**

This Monday afternoon, September 16, the Independent Compensation Program (ICP) will begin accepting registrations. The Diocese of Sacramento is joining those in Los Angeles, Fresno, Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego in a program that brings compensation and justice to those who were sexually abused as minors by diocesan priests. All claims, regardless of how long ago they may have occurred, will be considered by the program. The ICP is independent, outside the control of any diocese. • For more information, including how to submit a claim, please visit www.CaliforniaDiocesesICP.com. Let us always remember to pray for the victims of priest sexual abuse. • As their pain is ongoing, so must our prayers for them be.

**Altar Society News**

- A reminder to all that we will not have a white elephant sale or a raffle for the Fall Festival. We thank you for many years of supporting our raffle. The school raffle is still ongoing.
- All are welcome to attend our September 20 meeting at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.
- Just 3 weeks until our Bake and Craft Sale at the Fall Festival! Bakers may call Janet at 916-915-7977 to donate goods to sell and crafts may call Tila at 916-947-2683 to secure a table for their sales.

**Church Rose Window Update**

The Parish retained John Fidler of John Fidler Preservation Technology Inc. to evaluate the extent of repair work needed on the terra cotta frame of the rose stained-glass window located over the church's main entrance. Mr. Fidler completed his window frame damage assessment, prepared a proposal outlining the scope of required repairs, and invited three qualified preservationists to submit bids. Each preservationist walked the site, inspected the window, and crunched the numbers. The bids have now been received, and we are in the process of evaluating them. In the coming week, the Parish will award the contract, and soon work will begin. During the project, the church will be fully accessible. • The project is being funded by the Church Building Fund. The fund was established from the Parish's share of the diocesan ONE Campaign and the sale of a duplex generously donated by a parishioner with the funds restricted to the Building Fund. Parishioners are encouraged to consider making a special donation to the Building Fund.

**Children's Church: Needs Your Help!**

Children's Church needs volunteers to continue! The program will begin next Sunday, September 22. This program provides nursery care for infants six to 36th months and a Sunday School Program for pre-school thru first grade children during the 9:30 am Mass. • If you are interested in helping periodically with the sessions, please contact Christie Montelongo at 916-455-5949. • You do not need to have a child in the program to volunteer. However, all volunteers in Children's Church must be fingerprinted and have completed the Diocese Online Safe Haven program. (Please Note: Parents fingerprinted at the Parish School must be re-fingerprinted for the Parish.)

**Schola Cantorum Returns**

The 11 am choir, Schola Cantorum, is back from their summer break. We welcome the following new singers: Laurie Soderstrom, Maja Gray, Mark Cota, Vincent Silvitti, Anthony DiCarlo, and Ben Thuesen. We are blessed to have these talented singers. Remember, "He who sings, prays twice!"

**Priests Retirement Special Collection**

If you missed last week's collection for retired priests, you may make a donation this weekend by using the envelopes labeled "Priests Retirement Fund" in the vestibule and drop the envelope in the regular collection basket or in the Rectory mailbox. Thank you.

**Farmers Market at Mercy General Hospital**

There is a new Farmers Market in the neighborhood. Every Friday, from 9:30 am to 1:00 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.

**Parish Safety Committee**

We have established a Safety Committee to identify security issues in and around the Church, Parish Hall, and Rectory. The committee has two workgroups: Medical Response and Disruptive Person. Over the summer each group has been meeting to identify risks and propose some response strategies. The Parish has undergone a vulnerability assessment of all the buildings, conducted by an independent consultant. We are awaiting the final report. • Watch the bulletin for periodic reports.