

**The Challenge of Christianity**

The First Reading is again from the Prophet Amos where he attacks the decadence of the rich. They only look out for themselves, while failing to protect the defenseless ones. He assures them that their desire to be first will indeed be granted, they shall be the first to be exiled when Israel's punishment comes. • The Responsorial is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God, who is good, loving and generous, for He is the Refuge of those in need, the Justice for the defenseless. It is also a reminder to us that if we are faithful followers we will reach out to those in need. The measure of any society is how well it treats its most powerless. The measure of our Christianity is how much we act like Christ. • In the Second Reading, St. Paul again reminds us of the need to be consistent in our lives, in our commitment to the Lord through our Baptism and our participation in the Sacraments. The challenge is to live what we say we are. (Pope Saint John XXIII was once asked why there are so many atheists in the world, to which he replied that it was our fault because we often fail to be what we say we are. Likewise, Gandhi was asked what he thought of the teachings of Christ; he said they were wonderful, and that someone should try to live them.) If we live God's love then we shall one day meet Him in glory. • The Gospel presents the challenging story of Lazarus (not Martha & Mary's brother) and the rich man (whose purple garment was indicative of incredible wealth). We note that the rich man did nothing wrong to the poor man, he simply did not do the good he could have done. This lack of good action is called the sin of omission. Both die; Lazarus resides in the bosom of Abraham (a euphemism for heaven) and the rich man is in hell. In this story we see that the omission of charity is a serious offense against the One who is Charity itself. We are reminded that miraculous visions or utterances will not persuade us because Jesus' resurrection should be sufficient. Let us pray that we have the grace to live the challenge of our Christian belief.

**Faith First**

**Prayer of the Week**

Let us for the peace of the kingdom which we have been promised. • Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in your unbounded mercy you have revealed the beauty of your power through your constant forgiveness of our sins. May the power of this love be in our hearts to bring your pardon and your kingdom to all we meet. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**First Friday Adoration: Fri., October 4**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 8:00 a.m. Mass and concludes with Benediction at 12(noon). Mass is celebrated immediately after Benediction. • Join us and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. On First Fridays, parishioners are encouraged to include in their prayers, a prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. A special prayer for vocations is available in the church vestibule.

**What Does Conversion Involve?**

The words *conversion* and *repentance* are synonymous. In the gospel, when Jesus calls for his followers to convert and to embrace the gospel, he is talking about interior conversion, that is interior repentance. This interior conversion is first a gift from the Holy Spirit who gives us the grace to return to the Lord, to have the courage to begin anew. Interior conversion involves reorienting our lives, returning to God, rooting out sin in our lives, and hating the evil we have committed. It also involves deeply wanting to change our lives, firmly intending to change our lives, firmly intending to sin no more, and trusting fervently in God's infinite mercy and grace. A wonderful help for Christians to help reorient their lives is to look at Christ Jesus suffering on the cross for our sins. • Interior conversion manifests itself in external actions of penance. Scripture and Tradition have always stressed the importance of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving--three acts that express conversion in relation to self, to God, and to others.

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
September 29 - October 6**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Terry Andrews (+)
	11:00am	Andrew Cochrane (+)
<b>Mon</b>	8:00am	MaryAnn Johnston (+)
<b>Tue</b>	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
<b>Wed</b>	8:00am	Irv Levin (+)
<b>Thu</b>	8:00am	Harry Anderson (+)
<b>Fri</b>	8:00am	Father John Grace (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am	York & Reta Families (+)
	5:30pm	SH Sch. Found. Mem & Rem
<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	save (+)
	11:00am	Maria Gonzalez (+)

**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 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 Next Saturday!**

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 this week 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 meets twice a month, the second and fourth Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in St. Anthony Hall located on the school campus. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

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

Children's Church needs volunteers to continue! The program will begin *this* 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. (Parents fingerprinted at the Parish School *must* be re-fingerprinted for the Parish.)

**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 ritaspillance@gmail.com

**Altar Society News**

We invite all to stop by our Bake and Craft Sale at the Fall Festival, Saturday, October 5. Savor a sweet treat as you stroll the grounds or grab a dessert to take home or for a school lunch. Stop by the unique craft sale and find a creative holiday gift. We hope to see you at the Fall Festival!

**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.

**Rose Window Update**

Two weeks ago, the parish selected ARG -Conservation Services of San Francisco as the preservation/contractor to restore the stained-glass window over the church's main entrance. The terra cotta frame, dating from the opening of the church in 1931, is especially in need of repair. The church entrance will remain usable during the project. The project is paid for through the Church Building Fund, which has this year alone also paid for the church's new boiler (cost: \$161,000) and the repair of the rectory tile roof (cost: \$73,000). The Church Building Fund was initially funded by the Parish share from the Diocesan ONE campaign, and by the sale of a duplex generously donated by a parishioner. These projects have depleted much of the Fund, and we as a Parish will need to replenish it for future projects. You are encouraged to consider making a special donation to the Fund.

**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.

*Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. ---1 Tim. 6:11*

**Science Camp**

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Sacred Heart Parish School are getting excited about their weeklong trip to Environmental Camp at Sly Park. This is a fun opportunity to learn, along with other 6<sup>th</sup> graders from the diocese about nature, biology and working collaboratively with one another. Students will return with a new appreciation of God's creation and their classmates.

**2019-2020 Faith Formation Registration**

Children in non-Catholic schools, grades Kindergarten through 8th grades have been signed up for the Parish's Faith Formation Program. Registration forms are still available in the church vestibule. • Classes started Tuesday, September 3 and will continue every Tuesday from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Sacred Heart Parish School, 856 39th Street. • The fees for classes are: \$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.

**A Theology of the Body**

You are invited to participate in a three-session presentation entitled "Man and Woman He Created Them" on Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of Marriage and Family on three Saturdays: October 5, October 12, and October 26 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Easter's Faith Formation Center, 6916 Sunrise Blvd. Suite I, Citrus Heights. The presenter will be John Hamlon, M.A. in Theology from University of San Francisco. • To register and receive a study packet, email easterfaith@gmail.com