

God Hears the Humble Prayer

The First Reading, the Responsorial and the Gospel all remind us of the importance humility plays in our prayers being heard. It is not as we humans are inclined to behave, we tend to show partiality to the rich and powerful, but God's ways are not ours. God reaches out and embraces the weak and powerless since they recognize their own inability to survive without His help. • This First Reading speaks of the power of the prayer of the lowly, humble soul, "it pierces the clouds and does not rest till it reaches its goal." • In the Responsorial we find God searches the hearts of all people, rewarding the just and punishing evil-doers. He answers the cry of the poor and those in distress. It is good to know we can turn to Him for true justice, for He will be our refuge and our strength. • In the Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us to seek God's consoling presence when we feel most alone and deserted; when no one could possibly understand our suffering. • In today's Gospel, Jesus cautions us in our attitude when we pray. Are we like the self-righteous Pharisee or the humble tax collector? Do we lavish ourselves with praise and think that we are doing God a favor or is our perspective more realistic and humble? Do we acknowledge our sinfulness? Jesus allows us to see the benefit of honest self-recognition, and God's merciful and loving view toward the humble and their prayer. He exalts the humble. • May we also have the grace to be humble.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray in humble hope for salvation. • Praised be you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no power for good which does not come from your covenant, and no promise to hope in, that your love has not offered. Strengthen our faith to accept your covenant and give us the love to carry out your command. 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.

Faith First

What is Purgatory?

The Church teaches the existence of purgatory, that is, the final purification of the elect before the final judgment. • This doctrine makes sense. When we die, we face God's infinite love. To embrace this all-loving God, we must let go of all imperfections and hesitations to love God perfectly. Purgatory is our Passover from death to life. We pass through the fire of God's love which enables us to embrace completely the all-holy God with open hearts. Purgatory is necessary because, as the Book of Revelation teaches, only a clean person can enter heaven. • Purgatory comes from the Latin word for "purification, cleansing." What needs cleansing are venial sins and any punishment due our sins which is present at death. This process of purification can also take place in this life as we continuously die to selfishness and rid ourselves of sin and self-pride. But experience teaches us that this purification is long and painful. To become other-centered, more loving, and Christ-like takes a lifetime of growing in holiness. • The Church has not defined the exact nature of purgatory, nor has it officially declared what kind of "place" purgatory is or "how long it lasts." Space and time images are just that--images that try to describe the mystery of eternal life. • This process of purification does involve some pain. It will be painful to let go of all selfish attachments when we pass to a new life with our all-loving God. But those in purgatory are also joyful and peaceful because they know that they will one day be in union with God in heaven. Thus, purgatory involves a paradox: joy and peace while in a state of purification. Traditionally the image of fire has helped us understand the nature of the suffering in purgatory. Perhaps, persons in purgatory "burn" with remorse because they are not yet one with God who is infinite goodness and love. • The doctrine of the communion of saints underscores our unity with all our Christian brothers and sisters. Our faith tells us that in God's goodness our prayer and good works help lessen the pain of our brothers and sisters as they enter eternal life. God hears the prayers we offer for others.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
October 27 - November 3**

Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	Guichard & Radimsky Families (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
Mon	8:00am	Thomas Pinkel (+)
Tue	8:00am	Boots Trolio (+)
Wed	8:00am	Msgr. Brendan O'Sullivan (+)
Thu	8:00am	Beth Brock (+)
Fri	8:00am	Stephen Coonley (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
	5:30pm	For the People of the Parish
Sat	9:00am	All Souls (+)
	12:00pm	All Souls (+)
	5:30pm	SH Sch. Fnd. Mem & Rem
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Daniel Basurto (+)
	11:00am	Int...Susan Jones

In Memoriam

Cecile T. Soderlund • September 28, 2019
Sister Bridget Mary Flynn, RSM • October 22, 2019
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
 And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Please Pray for the Sick

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, 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

Youth Group Update

Save the date for the Youth Group's "Thanksgiving Charity Cornhole Tournament" which will be held on Wednesday, November 13th. The suggested donation of \$10 per player will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help feed the hungry during the holiday season. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for our next meeting. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net.

Special Thanks!

Sacred Heart Parish School is very grateful to the amazing team who made the annual Fall Festival a huge success. Thank you to Laura West, Christina Ellermeyer, Howard Hughes, Jaime Montelongo, Jessica Cook, Kevin Lewis, Nick Kufasimas, Don Palmieri, Justin Ozeroff, Tony Glenn and Mary and Gabriel Mullen. Their tireless efforts made for a fun and successful day. • Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Rose Window Update

As you can see, the scaffolding has been erected both outside the main church entrance and inside in the choir loft. This will allow the preservationists easy access to repair the cracks in the terra cotta stained-glass window frame. This week the window frame and surrounding area underwent a thorough cleaning in preparation for the actual restoration work. ARG-Conservation Services of San Francisco, a highly-regarded preservation/contractor company is making the required meticulous repairs. Due to the complexity of the project, the Parish also has contracted with John Fidler, an international preservationist with an office in Marina del Rey, to oversee the project. 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. Please write in the "Memo" field *Church Building Fund*. • Thank you for your consideration of this request.

The Lord is a God of justice, who knows no favorites.
 -- Sirach 35:12

Parish Safety Committee

The Parish has undergone a vulnerability assessment of the church, parish hall, and rectory, conducted by an independent consultant. The Safety Committee has reviewed the assessment report, and is in the process of implementing many of its recommendations. • The Committee also in the process of developing safety protocols to respond to medical events and disruptive person events. • Watch the bulletin for periodic updates.

Grab a Bag, Fill a Bag!

Thank you for supporting the "Grab a Bag, Fill a Bag" campaign by taking a grocery bag home with a color ribbon last weekend. Maybe you forgot to pick one up. There are still bags in the vestibule of the church and you can return it next weekend. The Parish would also like to thank Trader Joe's on Folsom Blvd for donating the bags and the 8th graders of Sacred Heart Parish School for tying a ribbon on each bag.

First Friday Adoration: November 1

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.

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. At the class, the necessity and importance of baptism are explained as are the obligations and duties of parents and godparents. 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.

Accepting Applications for 2020-2021

Sacred Heart Parish School is now accepting applications for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten for next school year. Students in TK must be 4 years old by September 1, 2020. Kindergartners must be 5 by September 1, 2020. Applications may be found online at our website (www.sacredheartschool.com) or in the school office. • Questions? Please call the school office at 916-456-1576.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Scripture reminds us as Christians we are to feed the poor and help people who are in need. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Sacred Heart and St Mary's Parishes will be making Thanksgiving food baskets for families we have served this past year that live in the two-parish area and for the families of students that attend Cristo Rey High School. Cristo Rey High School of Sacramento provides a Catholic, college preparatory education and professional work experience to high school students with limited financial resources. Fill a bag with non-perishable items suitable for Thanksgiving (except turkeys). The pantry is also in of need cereal, rice, small jars of peanut butter, jam/jelly, corn bread, cookie and cake mixes, canned fruit, marinara sauce and salad dressing. Bring your non-perishable, unexpired food items this weekend October 27/28. Please leave the items just inside the altar rail. If you forgot there is still time to participate by bringing your donations next weekend. Thank you for your generosity. • Questions about donations please call Emilia Jankowski at 916-927-1667.