

**Always be Prepared for Jesus**

Today's readings remind us that we should always be prepared for the after-life, for we know not the day nor the hour. This is the typical theme in this pre-Christmas time of Advent. Nevertheless, it suggests we always be prepared to meet Jesus after this life ends for us, whenever that may be. • The First Reading speaks of the coming judgment upon the world which would establish justice not destruction. Such a world, which we still await, will only be fully realized when Jesus returns in glory. • The Responsorial is a pilgrimage psalm celebrating the journey to the temple in Jerusalem. Jerusalem and its temple represent God's blessing on Israel, for it is there that His people can encounter and worship Him. The city's order and unity symbolize the people's ability to live a well-ordered life. The ultimate reward and promise to God's chosen people is a peace so profound that even nature is affected and we begin to live God's peace here and now on earth. • In the Second Reading, St. Paul is trying to rouse us to Christian vigilance of faith and trust for we do not know when our life will come to an end. Our Christianity means that our daily decisions reflect the decision to live for and in Jesus. • Today's Gospel advises preparation at least for the proximate coming of Our Lord at the major feast of Christmas. Continuing the theme of His glorious return at the end of time, an unknown time, we are reminded that the important thing in life is to be always prepared to meet Our Lord and live each day as if it were our last.

**Prayer of the Week**

Let us pray in Advent time with longing and waiting for the coming of the Lord. • Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. 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**

**Advent Season Handout**

Handouts on the Advent Season are available in the church vestibule. Please pick up a copy as you leave church today. The handout contains informative and helpful information to enhance our participation in this season.

**Mary's Immaculate Conception**

This year, December 8, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. As a result, the feast day will be transferred to Monday, December 9. It is not, however, a holy day of obligation. • Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 am and 12(noon).

**Parish Christmas Schedule**

Watch your mail box for the Parish Christmas Schedule of Masses and Confession times. Schola Cantorum's Christmas concert is also listed. • If you do not receive a schedule in the next week or so, please call the Parish Office. Schedules will also be available in the church vestibule.

**Schola Cantorum Christmas Concert**

Enjoy the annual family program of music for Christmas-tide featuring candlelit processions, and familiar and new carols. Dr. Donald Kendrick will conduct Schola Cantorum in their annual Christmas Concert "From Heaven On High" on Saturday, December 14 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm in Sacred Heart Church. • Suggested donation is \$15 General or \$10 Students/Seniors. Tickets are available after the 11:00 am Sunday Mass or online at scholacantorum.com. You may also call 850-545-4298. • The choir has a variety of CDs that make wonderful gifts.

**Parish Study Group**

We are discussing the book entitled, *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* by Bishop Robert Barron. The assignment for Tuesday, December 3 is Chapter 7, pages 172-194. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall behind the rectory. Newcomers are always welcome. • For more information, please contact Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

**Meetings & Events**

**Sacred Heart Holiday Home Tour**

The 46th Annual Holiday Home Tour is just around the corner. This year's Tour is Friday, December 6th thru Sunday, December 8th. Tickets are on sale now at sacredheartmetour.com and at local retailers. Tickets will also be sold after each Mass this Sunday. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the event. Don't miss the beloved Holiday Boutique and Café located at the School. No ticket is required to visit the Boutique, Café, or Champagne Bar.

**Advent Giving Tree**

Please consider giving a gift to a less fortunate member of our community through our Giving Tree, located by the Our Lady of Grace Chapel, near the piano. Place your gift card with its tag by the Giving Tree by Sunday, December 15. Gift cards may also be left in the Parish Office mailbox.

**Sacred Heart Parish School Foundation**

The Foundation just made its yearly gift to Sacred Heart School for tuition assistance: \$65,000, the largest amount ever given in a single year. The Foundation is funded by the pink envelopes found with the offertory envelopes, from memorial gifts, and by individual donations. Established in Please consider using the pink envelopes in order to continue our ability to provide tuition assistance. Thank you for your support of the Foundation.

**Youth Group**

The next meeting will be a Christmas Party held on December 11. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us. All meetings are held in St. Anthony Hall from 6:30-7:30 pm. • Questions? Please contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

**Altar Society News**

Please consider a donation *in memory of* or *in honor of* a loved one to help us beautify the church sanctuary with flowers for Christmas. Checks should be made payable to *Sacred Heart Altar Society*. Include your name, telephone number, and the name(s) of those being remembered or honored. Please place it in an envelope marked "Attn: Altar Society" and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spilman Avenue, Sacramento 95819. Please return donations by December 18. Thank you for your generosity.

**Financial Reports to Parishioners**

A financial report recapping fiscal year 2018-2019 with the adopted 2019-2020 budget and a financial report for fiscal year 2019-2020 ending September 30, 2019 are available for your review in the church vestibule. Please pick up a copy. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any member of the Parish Financial Council or Msgr. Walton. • We thank our faithful contributors and encourage all parishioners who are not contributing on a regular basis to please consider doing so.

**MOMS -- Ministry of Mothers Sharing**

Inviting all Moms to join us for fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Open to ALL mothers in the parish--new mothers to grandmothers--no prior MOMS participation required. Please join us from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in St. Anthony Hall on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Questions? Email Sarah at moms.sacredheart@gmail.com .

**Retirement Collection for Religious**

Giving in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. • Special envelopes are available in the church vestibule. Please give generously.

**Prayer for Life Novena**

With the start of Advent and of a new liturgical year, parishioners are encouraged to say a "Prayer for Life" Novena at their convenience. Those who would prefer to say it in a group setting may attend Saturday morning Mass after which the Novena prayer will be said, starting December 14. This will be done for nine consecutive Saturdays. Copies of the Novena prayer will be available in the church vestibule, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus.

**Bethlehem Olivewood Crafts -- This Weekend**

Again this year, representatives from Bethlehem Christianity Mission will be in the church vestibule after all Masses this weekend to sell hand-made olive wood crafts. These hand-crafted items are made by the Christian families in Bethlehem. The sale of these items is their primary source of income. • By purchasing a religious item you support our fellow Christians who have chosen to remain in the Holy Land. In doing so, you are also able to give a meaningful religious gift to a loved one for Christmas.

**First Friday Adoration: Friday, December 6**

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.

**New Ministry -- Medical Response Ministry**

The Parish is setting up a new ministry to deal with our responses to medical emergencies that sometimes occur during Mass. Parishioners who are medical professionals (nurses, physicians, EMTs, or paramedics) would be asked to respond to the incident (to provide assistance and first aid) and advise whether an ambulance or 911 is needed. A medical responder will be assisted by a monitor who will provide support services, e.g. meeting emergency personnel in the vestibule, bringing a first aid kit to the medical responder. • If you are interested in learning more about being a medical responder or a monitor, please give your name and contact information to the Parish Office (916-452-4136 Ext. 2) so we can follow up with you. We will be creating a list of medical responders and monitors who have agreed to respond if present when an incident occurs during a weekend Mass.

**California International Marathon Next Sunday**

The annual Marathon will take place on Sunday, December 8. J Street, from Carlson Dr. to Alhambra Blvd. will be closed from 8:00 am to 1:45 pm. • For more information, visit the Marathon's website at runcim.org

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
December 1 - December 8**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Patricia Keller (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Int...John McCormick
<b>Mon</b>	8:00am	Stefan Jankowski (+)
<b>Tue</b>	8:00am	Nita York (+)
<b>Wed</b>	8:00am	John Silveira (+)
<b>Thu</b>	9:00am	Rosa Lorta (+)
<b>Fri</b>	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am	Int...Janel Silva
	5:30pm	SH School Fnd. Mem & Rem
<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	The McGee Family (+)
	11:00am	Valerie Garaventa (+)

**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**

Barbara Testa, John Sarrow, Thomas Wolfanger, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, Patrick Valenzuela, 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 Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.