

Beloved by Baptism

The First Reading is a hymn foretelling a mysterious figure, the Suffering Servant of the Lord. This Servant is God's chosen one, His "beloved" as Jesus is called at His Baptism in today's Gospel. The Servant is a gentle figure who will bring justice to the entire world, not just Israel. Jesus applies this prophecy to Himself whenever he speaks of His mission, especially His suffering and death on the cross. • The Responsorial is probably an ancient hymn to Baal, the god of storms, hence *the voice of the Lord* is Hebrew for *thunder*. It was a Jewish theologian, in an act of faith, who substituted Baal with *Yahweh*, the Lord, and proclaimed *Him* as the true source of fertility and life for the land, not the pagan idol, Baal. • The Second Reading recalls the story of the Roman pagan, Cornelius, who wanted to become a Christian. He was a God-fearing pagan who sympathized with Jewish ways. St. Peter was in his home, and so testifies to the Holy Spirit's descent upon Cornelius even prior to his baptism. St. Peter defines the two kinds of baptism: St John the Baptist's - one of conversion; and the one given by Jesus - one of *conversion* and *receiving* the Holy Spirit. • The Gospel continues the theme laid out in the Second Reading, namely distinguishing between John the Baptist's baptism and that of Jesus'. Jesus' baptism is not only one of conversion, but also an invitation into the life of the Trinity. Even in this Gospel, St. Matthew is intent on showing how Jesus is the *fulfillment* of all that was expected of Him. The Holy Spirit appears as a *dove* to symbolize the *love* between the Father and the Son, i.e. *the Holy Spirit*. This Holy Spirit is also *Their love for us*. When God breathes His Spirit into our hearts (through Baptism, Confirmation, etc.) He lets us know that we are His beloved children too.

Faith First

Presentation on Racism

Please plan to attend the evening class on Racism. Bishop Soto and the bishops of the U.S. have urged all parishes to host listening sessions for this important topic. In preparation for this evening, please visit and watch a 4 minute You Tube clip entitled: the U.S. Bishops Are Speaking Out on Racism. The video is posted by EWTN. Bishop Murry explains the importance of speaking up at this time in our nation's history of rising racial incidents in the U.S. Carolina Estrada, a diocesan representative, will lead the discussion on *Monday, Jan. 27, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the school cafeteria*. Come and join us!

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray that we will be faithful to our baptism. • Almighty, eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan, you revealed him as your own beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism derives its name from a Greek word that means to "plunge" or to "immerse" into water. Thus, its name highlights the new Christian's death and resurrection into a new life with Christ. • Church tradition has also called baptism "the washing" or "regeneration" or "bath of enlightenment." These descriptions suggest a rebirth of the spirit and point to the necessity of receiving catechetical instruction about the mysteries of

God's love. This can take place either before or after receiving the sacrament. Baptism also makes us children of light and empowers us to bring the light of Christ into the world. In brief, baptism is God's gift to us that confers the grace and life of Christ.

Annual Pro-Life Mass

Join Bishop Soto on Wednesday, January 22 for a special Mass marking the 47th anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Decision, *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion. In the Diocese of Sacramento, January 22 is designated as a Diocesan Day of Reparation. All are asked to observe this Day of Reparation through fasting, prayer, penance, and works of mercy. • The Mass will be celebrated on the 22nd at 12:10 pm in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 11th and K Streets.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
January 12 - January 19**

Sun	8:00am	Terence McCartan (+)
	9:30am	Int...Andrew Holz
	11:00am	John McCormick (+)
Mon	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
Tue	8:00am	Gene Vittori (+)
Wed	8:00am	Aaron Sanchez (+)
Thu	8:00am	Brad Frahm (+)
Fri	8:00am	Kurt Zutavern (+)
Sat	9:00am	Int...Kourtney Burdick
	5:30pm	John Reid (+)
Sun	8:00am	George & Rita Godby (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	John McCormick (+)

In Memoriam

Lucienne Perkins • December 17, 2019

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon her.

Please Pray for the Sick

Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, 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.

Christmas Thank You

This Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Our parish celebrations were greatly enhanced with the help of many ministries: Music with Schola Cantorum and Vox Nova, directed by Don Kendrick and the School Choir directed by Liz Mazzaferro and Ingrid and Steve Penney; Ushers (coordinated by Jan Radimsky), Readers (coordinated by Lisa Konarski), and Eucharistic Ministers (coordinated by Maureen Sharp); the Art and Environment Committee (Gabi Stallings, Mimi Holtkamp, Josette Borland, and their families), along with the Altar Society members led by Linda Rutherford, decorated the church; Karl and Kim Voltrez, Margie Bennett, Donna Nelson, Steve Hyde, and Tom Flynn set up the Creche; Don Baumgartner and his Angels, who kept the church clean throughout all the celebrations; and Claire Hyde cleaned and ironed all the linens used at the Masses, not a small task! • Thank you to all of them for their contributions of time and talent. The church looked beautiful!

Parish School Open House

You are invited to attend the Sacred Heart Parish School annual Open House on January 26, 2020 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please drop in to see our school, meet our teachers and learn a bit more about the opportunity for an excellent, affordable education. All are welcome.

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 the school website (www.sacredheartsschool.com) or in the school office. • If you have any questions, please call the School Office at 916-456-1576.

Parish Study Group

We are discussing *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* by Bishop Robert Barron. The assignment for Tuesday, January 14 is Chapter 9, pages 224-249. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. • For more information, please call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

Flu Season: Special Precautions

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reports that the incidence of flu and flu-like illnesses is "widespread" and has reached a level requiring that we enact preventive measures to mitigate the possibility of infection at Mass. In order to protect the health and well-being of everyone, Bishop Soto has issued the following directives: (1) The use of the Communion cup is suspended temporarily. (2) Please receive the Body of Christ in the hand. (3) Do not shake hands. Offer the Sign of Peace to those around you with a simple nod, saying "Peace be with you." (4) Do not hold hands during the Our Father. • The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and other holy days does not apply to those who are sick. If you are sick, please stay home and take care of yourself. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. And pray for those who are sick. The administration of Holy Communion in both kinds will resume as soon as it safe and prudent to do so.

Meetings & Events

"Second Sunday" Social -- Today!

Join us for the "Second Sunday" Social from 12(noon) to 1:30 pm today in the Parish Hall. It is a chance to catch up with fellow parishioners and meet some new faces. Bring a friend or make a new one. We hope to see you there!

Altar Society News

• Time to join or renew your membership for the Altar Society. Annual dues is only \$20 per family. Our ministry buys and cleans vestments for priests and altar servers, and altar cloths; purchases items for the sanctuary as needed; and provides altar flowers. *Members will be in the church vestibule at all Masses next weekend, January 18-19, for you to enroll or renew.* Envelopes may be picked up and returned by February 2 either by dropping it in the collection basket labeled ATTN: Altar Society or mailing to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spilman Ave., Sacramento 95819. Please make checks payable to Sacred Heart Altar Society. Thank you for your support of this important parish ministry. • Members are invited to attend our next meeting on Friday, January 17 at 10:00 am in the Parish Office. • Our thanks to Tracy Swanson and Bridget Parsh who are providing flowers for the Blessed Sacrament Altar for the remaining weeks in January.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS)

All mothers are invited to our next monthly gathering on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm at St. Anthony Hall, located on the school campus. Please join us for prayer and fellowship.

Youth Group Update

The Sacred Heart Youth Group met just once in December, but made the most of it by hosting a fun-filled Christmas party. At the group's annual Christmas Party, members played Christmas trivia, enjoyed some treats, and took part in a fun-filled "White Elephant" gift exchange. • The Youth Group will be hosting two meetings in the month of January. The group will be kicking off the new year on January 15th with our annual Trivia Night. Bring all of your best trivial knowledge and win some great prizes. Our second meeting for the month will be held on January 29th. The theme for our second meeting is still to be determined. Due to a scheduling conflict, both meetings in January will be held in the school library. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are from 6:30-7:30 p.m. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman <psunderman@sacredheartsschool.net>

Knights of Columbus Crab Dinner

Come and enjoy a delicious six-course crab dinner on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 5961 Newman Court, across the street from the Sacramento State Catholic Newman Center. Social hour is from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$45 per person. • Contact Al Piccardo to RSVP at 916-439-7664, and indicate you are a Sacred Heart parishioner. We hope you will be able to join us.

Farmers Market at Mercy General Hospital

Did you know that there is a Farmers Market every Friday, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at Mercy General Hospital. The farmers market is set up in the parking lot in front of the J Street entrance. • Come and check it out for yourself.