

**Our Lord's Presentation**

In the First Reading, the Old Testament prophet, Malachi, speaks of a messenger who prepares for the Lord's Day. The New Testament identifies that figure as John the Baptist. Malachi also speaks of the Lord coming to the temple for a time of judgment. Today's feast celebrates that day when Jesus was presented in the temple. Jesus' presence in the world provoked a time of crisis. One had to decide for or against God, one had to take a stand. Jesus is the purifying fire that separates the gold from its impurities. • The Responsorial Psalm is a processional psalm. The pilgrims proclaimed the verses in responsorial fashion while marching up to the temple in Jerusalem for major feasts. This psalm celebrates the day David triumphantly brought the Ark of the Covenant (God's presence) into the holy city. • To dispel the error of thinking angels were superior to Jesus, because they were pure spirit and He was human; in the Second Reading, St Paul explains why Jesus took on our flesh. Jesus wanted to be like us in everything but sin, so becoming man, He fully experienced our human condition. So, like every other first-born Jewish child, he was brought to the temple for the rite of redemption (where the first-born is "bought back" from God). • The Gospel is the presentation of Our Lord in the temple. Ever since the first-born of the Israelites were saved from death during the Exodus from Egypt, God somehow had a right over the firstborn. They were ritually *bought back* from the Lord by the sacrifice of turtledoves or pigeons. The presentation event was a rite of redemption of the firstborn. While presenting Jesus in the temple, the Holy Family meets Simeon. Simeon was a righteous and devout man who had awaited the Savior's birth. St Luke always reminds us that there were many righteous people in Israel who followed Jesus; and purity of heart defined His followers. The sword that pierces Mary's heart is God's Word. Simeon means that Jesus' birth will force Mary to discern who Her Son is. While She knew He was the Messiah, to believe He was God was almost impossible. When Luke shows Her present at the descent of the Holy Spirit he demonstrates his own belief that Mary believed the impossible, that Jesus was the Son of God.

**Faith First**

**Prayer of the Week**

All-powerful Father, Christ your Son became man for us and was presented in the temple. May he free our hearts from sin and bring us into your presence. 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.

**Story of the Presentation of the Lord**

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord was first observed in the Eastern Church and commonly known as "The Encounter." • At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives a glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and 40 days later, a grand procession of people carrying lighted candles held to honor Jesus as "...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." • Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice--her "purification." Anyone who had contact with a mystery - birth or death - was excluded from Jewish worship. However, this feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification. • The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas (instead of 40 days after Epiphany). • In Luke's account of the Presentation, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early reference to the Roman feast dubs it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy. The Church still sings it at day's end at the official office of Evening Prayer by reciting the Canticle of Simeon. • The Presentation of the Lord originally concluded the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
February 2 - February 9**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Jenner Chapman (+)
	9:30am	Bob & Lois Boemer (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
<b>Mon</b>	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
<b>Tue</b>	8:00am	Rouzbeh Daylami (+)
<b>Wed</b>	8:00am	Int...Irene Stone - 100th Birthday
<b>Thu</b>	8:00am	Int...Tom & Bob Slakey 90th Birthday
<b>Fri</b>	8:00am	Ligaya Booth (+)
	12:00pm	Valerie Garaventa (+)
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am	Carolina Maria Faraia (+)
	5:30pm	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sun</b>	8:00am	Gallegos Family (+)
	9:30am	Karen Paulk (+)
	11:00am	Sister Maria Bierer, IBVM (+)

**In Memoriam**

**Thomas Wolfanger • January 28, 2020**

Saints of God, come to his aid!  
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!  
Receive his soul & present him to God the Most High.

**Please Pray for the Sick**

Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, Patrick Valenzuela, Michael Fletcher, 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**

**Sacred Parish School Crab Feed**

Crab is once again king at Sacred Heart's annual Crab Feed! Save the date for Saturday, February 22. Crab with melted butter, crab cakes, bread, Caesar salad, vegetarian and meat pasta -- what's not to like? Tickets for the event are on sale now through February 7. No tickets will be sold after that date. Individual tickets are \$60, or organize a table of eight for \$480. Wine is welcome for a \$10 corkage fee. The evening starts at 5:30. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by dancing from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm. • Register for tickets on line at: <https://sacredheartcrabfeed.ticketspice.com/sacred-heart-crab-feed-2020>

**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.sacredheartschool.com](http://www.sacredheartschool.com)) or in the school office. • If you have any questions, please call the School Office at 916-456-1576.

**Seniors News**

Seniors, please join us for our next dinner gathering on Saturday, February 15. It will be at Hana Tsubaki, 5006 J Street, after the 5:30 pm Mass. If interested, please call Nancy Reid at 916-922-3830 or email at ReidNancy@aol.com • We hope you will be able to join us.

**Youth Group Update**

The Sacred Heart Youth Group had a great month of January. The group hosted a fun-filled "Trivia Night" where students competed in teams and tested their knowledge of geography, history, art, science, sports, and religion. The group also had a "Charity Bingo Night" to benefit St. John's Program For Real Change. This event was organized by a group of SHPS Alumnae and current St. Francis High School students. • The Youth Group will be hosting two meetings in February: Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. At the first meeting, the group will be working on various team-building activities. The second meeting will feature a reflection for Ash Wednesday. • 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 pm in St. Anthony Hall. • Questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at [psunderman@sacredheartschool.net](mailto:psunderman@sacredheartschool.net)

**Altar Society News**

Our thanks to Tila Madrigal who will be caring for altar servers' vestments and to Betty Fernandez and Mary Domyancic who will be providing the flowers for the Blessed Sacrament Altar during the month of February.

**Automatic Giving to the Parish**

We have met our goal of signing up the minimum number of automatic giving households required by the Parish's envelope company to allow us to send only envelopes for the Parish School Foundation and holy days of obligation to those parishioners. The reduced offertory envelope packets are now ready to be printed for these households for the March/April mailing. Look for them to arrive mid-February. Thank you for helping us to reduce the envelope packet cost. Questions? Call Amy (916-452-4136 ext. 2) at the Parish Office.

**Racism Listening**

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Listening Session on January 27. More than 60 parishioners from our Parish, and St Francis Parish, came to the school for the opportunity to share experiences of racism. The Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee on Racism led and facilitated the discussion. This will be the first of more opportunity to discuss the US Bishops' pastoral letter "Open Wide our Hearts." Please watch the bulletin for upcoming events or contact Rita Spillane at [ritaspillane@gmail.com](mailto:ritaspillane@gmail.com) for more information.

**Parish Study Group**

On Tuesday, February 4, we will begin a NEW study, *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelley (the same book read by the Parish Pastoral Council). From book back cover: "*Rediscover Catholicism* takes us on an adventure of life-changing proportions. Beginning with our common yearning for happiness, Kelly reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today both as individuals and as a Church." We meet every other Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall located behind the rectory. NEWCOMERS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME as we begin something new. The assignment for February 4 is the Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, and 3; Pages 5-38. • For more information please call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

*Be still, and know that I am God.  
- St. John of the Cross*

**Annual Sacred Heart Men's Retreat**

During this weekend, you can experience God's love, healing, peace, and forgiveness. Join men of the parish on the from Friday evening, February 28 to Sunday afternoon, March 1 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience of spiritual and physical renewal. • Call Jim Paquette at 916-479-1542 or go to [www.christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://www.christthekingretreatcenter.org) to make a reservation.

**Please Remember**

Since we do not have security around the church, please, for your child protection and safety, always accompany him/her to the restrooms located in the church vestibule. We are located on a busy corner with increasing foot traffic.

**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. This is an initiative of the Hospital as a community service to support healthy food production and the farmers who grow it. • Come and check it out for yourself.

**Pasta Dinner for Life**

The Knights of Columbus (Council 953) is hosting a five-course Italian dinner on Saturday, February 15 at 5961 Newman Court, across the street from the Sacramento State Newman Center. Social hour is from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person if you RSVP in advance, and \$30 at the door. To RSVP call Adam Struck at 916-914-5041 and indicate you are a Sacred Heart parishioner. Half of the net proceeds will go to Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home and the other half to the Sacramento Life Center. We hope you will be able to join us.