

Invited into Covenant with God

This Sunday's Gospel is the beautiful story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, the woman at the well. In the Old Testament "well" stories were where one met his or her spouse (e.g. Isaac, Moses, Ruth). St. John uses the well account to underscore God's relationship of *covenant*, i.e., marriage with the Samaritan (pagan) people. As with the Israelites, the marriage covenant relationship with God is spiritual or mystical. The use of the *title* "Samaritan woman", rather than a *person's name*, indicates the symbolic role she plays. To remain hidden due to her reputation, she goes to the well at the hottest time of the day, high noon, in order to avoid other people. In His conversation with her, Jesus extends greater dignity and respect to the woman, than she gave herself. He offers her *living water*, the kind that gives spiritual strength and sustenance. The woman at the well does not understand so He directs her to call her husband. More symbolism here; for the number of husbands she had represent the number of gods her people served until this encounter with Jesus. In offering her the *living water*, Jesus is becoming her *seventh Spouse, the perfect biblical number* (remembering that this marriage is *symbolic* of God's covenant with His people). She asks Him if He is the Messiah. The Samaritan concept of Messiah was a more spiritual one than the Jewish concept of a conquering hero. The Samaritan Messiah was one who would reveal God's secrets to them. This is exactly what Jesus was doing in revealing all the woman's secrets to her. The woman learns about true worship of God; to worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, i.e. to worship the Father *in* Jesus (the Truth) and *through* the Holy Spirit (the Spirit). Filled with His grace, the *font of living water* welling up inside of her, the woman, who once avoided the people out of shame, now fearlessly goes back to her people to sow the seed of the harvest of the Samaritan people's faith. In sharing her discovery, she helps to bring them to salvation. They then encounter Jesus themselves and come to a more profound faith based on their own experience of Him, not just her testimony. The people who had searched for love in many gods, now found true love and peace in the one true God. This is a reminder to us, while on our Lenten journey, to try to eliminate the false gods of our life to find true love and true peace in the one true God.

Faith First

Lenten Penance Service

Our annual Lenten Penance Service will be on Monday, March 30 at 6:30 pm. Visiting priests will assist with hearing confessions. An examination of conscience guide is available in the church vestibule to help prepare us for the Sacrament of Penance.

Academic Decathlon

On Saturday, March 7, Sacred Heart Parish School sent 12 of our best and brightest junior high students into battle at the Diocese-wide Academic Decathlon, hosted by Jesuit High School. Their efforts earned them a fourth place overall finish among 20 schools. Six out of eight students placed in the top ten in their events. The

team took fifth place in Super Quiz and sixth place in the Logic Quiz; an individual third place trophy went to Mia Lederer who competed in Current Events. Congratulations go to all our decathletes: Logic Quiz Captain: Daniela Lopez, Super Quiz Captain: Reese Hughes, Literature: Sydney Laird, Religion: Madeline Souza, English: Andy O'Neill, Math: Colin McGhee, Social Studies: Adam Sunderman, Current Events: Mia Lederer, Science: Mason Barnes, Fine Arts: Dominic Parra, Alternates: Adam Parra and Mikiko Palmieri.

40 Days for Life

You are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer, vigil and fasting for an end to abortion. A flyer in the vestibule provides complete details on this pro-life activity. For additional information, please contact: Susan Money via email at susanalive@gmail.com or by phone at 530-320-1614.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
March 15 - March 22**

Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	Efren Santiago Andres (+)
	11:00am	Patricia & Maurice Spillane (+)
Mon	8:00am	Int...Lisa Madrigal
Tue	8:00am	William Charles Mitchell (+)
Wed	8:00am	Int...Altar Society Members
Thu	8:00am	Int...Tess Lopez
Fri	8:00am	Int...Marie & Clifford Pereira
	5:30pm	Kang Simon Lee (+)
Sat	9:00am	Mary Maitland (+)
	5:30pm	Int...Joan Zilaff
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Mark Anderson (+)
	11:00am	Paul & Anita Guidera (+)

In Memoriam

Charles French, M.D. • March 7, 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

Dick Grutzmacher, Gene Yeager, Adria Laubacher, Margarita Enriquez, Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donnal 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 Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Meetings & Events

Lenten Soup Suppers

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers, Fridays March 20, March 27, and April 3. The dinners will immediately follow the 5:30 pm Mass in the Parish Hall. Please come enjoy a soup dinner with fellow parishioners and contribute to the charities that will be presenting. This year the soup suppers will benefit the Sacramento Newman Center food closet, the Youth Group's Blessing Bags project, and Boys for Bikes. • We hope you will join us.

Altar Society News

• Members are invited to join us for our next meeting on Friday, March 20 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.
• Please consider a donation *in memory of* or *in honor of* a loved one to help us beautify the church sanctuary with flowers for Easter. 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 in an envelope marked "ATTN: Altar Society" and drop in the collection basket or mail to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spilman Avenue, Sacramento 95819. Please return donations by April 1. Thank you for your generosity

Parish Study Group

We are discussing *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelley. The assignment for Tuesday, March 17 is Chapters 9, 10, and 11; pages 108-136. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. • For more information call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

Youth Group Update

During the month of March, the Sacred Heart Youth Group will be working on its annual "Blessing Bags" Project. This Lenten Service project involves putting together bags of toiletries, non-perishable snacks, and other essentials to distribute to the homeless in our community. The bags will be distributed to Loaves and Fishes to support their work with the homeless in the Sacramento area. • Parishioners who would like to support the project are welcome to drop items by the school office between now and March 31. Members of the group will be making a shopping trip to purchase necessary items, so if you would prefer to make a small donation, we are happy to purchase items on your behalf! • Please note: our March 28 meeting has been cancelled. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are held in St. Anthony's Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

Flu Season Reminder

To protect the health and well-being of everyone, the Bishop wishes to remind us of the following directives: (1) The use of the Communion cup is suspended temporarily; (2) The faithful are strongly encouraged to receive the Body of Christ in the hand; (3) Do not hold hands during the Our Father; (4) The president/deacon at Mass is to refrain from inviting the assembly to exchange the sign of peace. It is to be temporarily omitted; (5) Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must cleanse their hands with an alcohol-based antiseptic before administering Holy Communion. • Thank you for following these directives. Please pray for the sick.

MOMS Gathering

All moms are invited to our next MOMS monthly gathering on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm in St. Anthony Hall. • Please join us for prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Verdi Requiem Concert

The Verdi Requiem will be performed by Sacred Heart's Schola Cantorum and the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra on Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 pm in the Memorial Auditorium in honor the late longtime Sacramento chef Biba Caggiano. The program will also feature four outstanding soloists from the Metropolitan Opera and will be given in place of Schola's annual Lenten Choral Mysteries concert. • For tickets please visit sacramentochoral.com or call 916-808-5181.

Seniors News

Please join us after the 5:30 pm Mass on Friday, March 27. We will be in the Parish Hall for the Lenten Soup Supper. Questions? Call Nancy Reid at 916-922-3830.

Let us come into the presence of the Lord with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

Parish Safety Measures

The next several months will see major implementation of the safety committee recommendations. This past week several of our safety projects have moved forward. Upcoming changes include:

- Currently, the parish is undertaking the installation of a new expanded security camera system, including the replacement of the previously installed ones which have proven to be unreliable. This project will cost approximately \$24,500.
- An evaluation of the exterior lighting needs was done at night and a proposed plan has been developed to provide much better lighting along 39th Street and to illuminate the bell tower to highlight its architectural beauty. A detailed proposal and cost estimate has not yet been received.
- The reconfiguration of the Pieta chapel to allow for the reopening of its doors as an emergency exit only is being studied. This includes restoring the original chapel ceiling and floor, and the temporary moving of the Pieta, and its return once the chapel has been reconfigured. A detailed proposal and cost estimate has not yet been received.
- A plan for the upgrading of the rod iron fencing and gates in the area between the church and the medical building and between the parish hall and the rectory to improve the security of the areas has been developed. The plan also calls for the replacement of the parish hall exterior doors and a new concrete path between the hall and the rectory for handicap access. This will require the removal of the existing shrubbery along the rectory. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$78,500.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next weekend, our parish will take up the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please give generously to the collection, and help Jesus in disguise. • For more information about the collection contact www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.