

The Power of the Word

In the First Reading, we learn about the power of the Word. In Hebrew theology “the word” is an expression of God’s will. Words are not just symbolic representations, but in some way *make present* the object represented by the word. Words produce reality (e.g. the words of consecration effect the Eucharist). In the creation story, we hear God speak words and all things are made. Thus, when God’s word is poured out upon the earth, it makes His presence a reality, as in the case of the Eucharist. God’s word is a seed which produces an abundant harvest. ● The Responsorial, Psalm 65, connects the First Reading and the Gospel, referring to the fertility of God’s word as a seed sown in the fields. This part of Psalm 65 speaks of the bounty God showers upon the earth. The Israelites are making a courageous profession of faith, saying Yahweh is not just the only God, but that He is also the God of the harvest. He is the One who causes all good things to happen on earth. (This is in stark contrast to the pagan worship of fertility gods and the former Jewish belief that Yahweh was a god of the desert) ● In the Second Reading, we see how sin changed the world. When Adam and Eve sinned, death and alienation entered the world that God had created good. They were alienated from God (hiding from Him), each other (blaming each other), and creation (the enmity between them and the serpent). Sin destroyed the unity and corrupted the goodness of creation. But God’s Spirit was breathed into us; we and creation have been renewed. The Spirit cries out within us that we are God’s children now. ● Today’s Gospel presents the parable of the seed to be sown. Jesus explains the mysteries of faith in a way we can understand. He wants us to realize that we have a solemn responsibility to cooperate with God’s grace in our lives. It is not enough to merely think nice thoughts about God, we must dedicate our minds, our lives and all we possess to the service of His Kingdom. Anything less will not produce true peace in the Kingdom, which begins here and now. It is He who sows the word of God in our hearts. We can carefully and lovingly prepare the soil within by acts of kindness, penance, and conversion. In this way, we yield a rich harvest for everlasting life.

Faith First

Prayer of the Week

Father, let the light of your truth guide us to your kingdom through a world filled with lights contrary to your own. Christian is the name and the gospel we glory in. May your love make us what you have called us to be. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Primary Source of Knowledge of Jesus

The primary source of knowledge about Jesus is the New Testament. Every page of its 27 books proclaims the “Incarnation,” the teaching that God became man in Jesus Christ. Belief in this doctrine is, in fact, the distinctive sign of Christian faith. Like the Hebrew scriptures (contained in the Old Testament), the New Testament is a collection of books which announces the fulfillment of God’s promises in his Son, Jesus Christ. It contains the following categories of books: ● the *Gospels* are faith testimonies proclaiming salvation through Jesus Christ. They contain both facts about the historical Jesus and the faith of early Christians on the meaning of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. (Four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.) ● The *Acts of the Apostles* deals with the early history of the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, from Pentecost Sunday to the arrest of Paul in Rome around AD 63. It was written by the author of the gospel of Luke as a sequel to the gospel. ● The *Pauline Epistles*, the earliest New Testament writings, take up particular problems faced by the early churches and continually proclaim the centrality of faith in Jesus. ● The *Epistle to the Hebrews* deals with the priesthood of Jesus. Its author is unknown. ● The *Seven Catholic Epistles* were written to encourage the universal (catholic) Church to keep the true faith and to remind Christians to live Christ-filled lives. (Seven books: James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1,2, and 3 John, Jude.) ● *Revelation (The Apocalypse)* is a highly symbolic work written to aid Christians under persecution to remain steadfastly loyal to Jesus. ● The gospels are our main source of information about the historical Jesus, but above all they are faith testimonials announcing the good news of salvation. Their primary interest is to herald the good news of and about Jesus. The authors let their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior shine forth.

Meetings & Events

Calling the Homebound

As we all know, many parishioners are still sheltering in place and are not able to attend Mass. If you would like to receive a telephone call from a parishioner, to check up on you or just to chat, please call the Parish Office. Moreover, many stay-at-home parishioners do not have computers or the computer skills to read our bulletin online and won’t hear of this offer. If you know of anyone in the parish who might benefit from a telephone call, please let the office know and they will be contacted.

Sign up for Coming to Mass

Bishop Soto has asked each Parish to put in place a mechanism for contacting people who may have been exposed to Covid-19. In the unfortunate event that a parishioner comes down with the coronavirus there needs to be a way to ‘contact trace’ others who may have been exposed. For this reason and because seating restriction limit us to 90 persons per Mass, we are all asked, if possible, to sign up online each for weekday and weekend Masses via the Parish Website. On the Parish Home Page, just below “Resuming Public Mass,” you will see Signup Sheets click here. (There are 70 slots for each Mass. At each Mass there will be 20 slots available for parishioners to just “walk up” to Mass.) Remember, *only 90 people per Mass!*

Volunteer Sign Up

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help out at Masses. Please remember, you need to sign up on **two** different places: on the Sign-Up Genius on the parish website, and on the Google Sheets for Volunteers. Please call Amy at the parish office (916-452-4136, ext.2) to be given the necessary instructions to access the signup sheet.

The Parish Website

We hope that you have begun to establish the habit of visiting <http://www.sacredheart.church>, the Parish website frequently. If not, there is always time to do that now! We especially encourage you to visit the FAQ tab on the Home page and look at the number of rich resources to be found on the Corona Virus page. Ironically the new restrictions to limit social contact and to shelter at home have spurred the Parish to list many resources to enrich your faith and prayer life. A blessing in disguise. The website will take you directly to spiritual and prayerful resources, books, pamphlets, prayers, novenas, and monthly Mass and prayer books. ● How do I read and meditate on Sacred Scripture? Go to the website for directions on where to find guides. ● Open Wide Our Hearts. There are links to videos, publications and articles that address current affairs. ● Coming Back to Mass. You will find helpful guidelines for what we need to do when we return to Mass. You can find the link to sign up to come to Mass. There are instructions on how we receive Communion while still respecting social distancing. ● We hope you have found the website to be useful during this pandemic.

Safety/Security Projects

Before the suspension of the public celebration of Mass due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Parish Safety Committee studied the recommendations of the parish vulnerability assessment report conducted last year by the Central California Intelligence Center Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. Our Safety Committee recommended that the Parish undertake three safety projects: (1) re-open the exterior church doors in the Pieta Chapel as an emergency exit only. The project requires a complete reconfiguration of the chapel interior and exterior improvements. (2) Install new iron fencing/gates between the church/parish hall and the medical building next door; replace parish hall exterior doors; pour a new concrete walkway for ADA access; and extend the fencing and gate to close off the main hall entrance. (3) Install new exterior church/rectory lighting along 39th Street. The Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council are in agreement that we should proceed with the projects. ● Funding will come from the Parish Building Fund at a total cost of approximately \$365,000. Jackson Construction has been hired to provide project supervision. ● Workers have started Project (2) above this past week. The shrubbery has been removed in between the parish hall and rectory, a new concrete ADA compliant walkway will be poured this week, and new security fencing will be installed. A second handicapped parking space will be added and the necessary grade changes to the parking lot will be made. This project will make the entrance and exiting of the hall easier and safer for everyone.

Remembrance of Anne-Louise Radimsky
The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.
 -- Psalm 65

In Our Prayers

Daily Mass Intentions

July 12 - July 19

Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	10:00am	Margaret Tucher (+)
	12:00pm	Anne-Louise Radimsky (+)
Mon	8:00am	Don Rossotti (+)
Tue	8:00am	Catherine Werry (+)
Wed	8:00am	John Silveira (+)
Thu	8:00am	Gertrudes & Ana Rose Sabana (+)
Fri	8:00am	Rose Anne Guerra (+)
Sat	9:00am	Anne-Louise Radimsky (+)
	5:30pm	Nita York (+)
Sun	8:00am	Margaret Decker (+)
	10:00am	For the People of the Parish
	12:00pm	Margaret Tucher (+)

In Memoriam

Anne-Louise Radimsky • July 2, 2020

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, 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, 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, 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.

Eighth Grade Graduation

This past Thursday, the 2020 Eighth Grade graduation was held at the church. These students may have had to finish their schooling via “distance learning,” but thanks to the modified reopening of public buildings, they were able to have an appropriate ceremony attended by 2 guests each. The graduates are: William Azurin, Gio Bagatelos, Owen Barnaby, Tatum Blackman, James Collier, Will Dowd, Jack Ford, Georgia Gale, Brynn Higgins, Declan Higgins, Reese Hughes, Josephine Jewell-Woodroffe, Antonio Kufasimes, Sydney Laird, Mia Lederer, Daniela Lopez, Colin McGhee, Maddie Mix, Jadin Norman, Giovanni Pacheco, Dominic Parra, Maria Rosales, Audrey Shackelford, Ashton Shvestsky, Makayla Smith, Adam Sunderman, Camren Taylor, Sophia Vanucci, Dante Villasenor. Congratulations!

Parish Building Fund

The safety/security projects are funded by the Parish Building Fund. That fund was established initially by a bequest from a very generous parishioner who gave the Parish in his estate planning a duplex with the understanding that it would be sold. The proceeds would go to establish the Parish Building Fund. Subsequently, another parishioner, who asked to remain anonymous, has contributed very generously to the Fund. We are extremely grateful to these individuals and many others who have donated to the Fund. Donations are donor-restricted and can only be used for church/parish hall/rectory projects. ● Please consider making a donation to the Building Fund. Our goal is to begin rebuilding the Fund.

Altar Society News

Our thanks to Linda Bottallo Zuniga and Diana Zuniga for providing and caring for the flowers that adorn the Blessed Sacrament Altar during July.