

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Choose

The First Reading speaks about our God, who is one of power and mercy, a seemingly odd combination since many see mercy as weakness. God's power is not one that imposes His will on us. Instead of condemning us all, He is very lenient and extends His powerful mercy to all. • The Responsorial Psalm underscores God's remarkable mercy; He is good and forgiving. His mercy extends to all nations, yet we must realize we need it before we can receive it. This is why we turn to Him and beg His mercy. • In the Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us that we are often sluggish and confused in our prayer, due to sinful habits and our own weakness. The Holy Spirit whispers Godly things into the depths of our hearts, so that we can know what we really need. The Spirit gives breath to our prayer and the courage to ask for our deepest aspiration: Someone who loves us without limit. • In today's Gospel, Jesus presents us with three parables to help illustrate the dawning of God's kingdom. The people were disappointed and wondered where was God's intervention...when would evil be punished and goodness rewarded. The parables begin to answer these queries. The kingdom, like wheat planted in the fields, grows alongside the weeds, until harvest time, the end of time. In the interim, people must choose between good and evil, for the kingdom or against it. Like the mustard seed, the kingdom is growing; it begins hidden and so small as to be nearly invisible, yet when full-grown it becomes a bush so large and strong that the *'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches'*. The kingdom, like the nearly invisible yeast, has tremendous effects on the dough, as the tremendous effect Christianity can have on society. These parables are meant to encourage us, especially when evil seems to be winning against good. There will always be evil in the world until the last day, but we are most effective when we realize that change comes in small ways, in the little things we do each day.

Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father, let the gift of your life continue to grow in us, drawing us from death to faith, hope, and love. Keep us alive in Christ Jesus. Keep us watchful in prayer and

Faith First

true to his teaching till your glory is revealed in us. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Communion of Saints

Jesus, the head of the Church, communicates his abundant gifts and graces to the members of the Church. Because all Christians form one body in Christ, the goodness and gifts of each member are communicated and shared with one another. Among the gifts the members share are faith, sacramental graces, benefits from each other's special gifts (charisms), their love for each other, charitable giving, and social concern. The term "communion of saints" means, therefore, communion among the holy persons in the Church ("the saints," which includes us all) and communion in the holy things, especially the Eucharist. • The communion of saints includes all those who are now living on earth (the pilgrim church), those who are being purified in "purgatory" (the church suffering), and those who are blessed in "heaven" (the church in glory). The term "communion of saints" also underscores that the people of God, the Church, is a eucharistic community. The Church is a community of people, a real communion, gathered around the Eucharistic table of the risen Lord. This community is called, gathered from around the world, and unified by the Holy Spirit. The risen Lord comes to us in his word proclaimed at the Eucharist and in the consecrated bread and wine. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church is united into a communion of love and holiness as it partakes of the gift of the risen Lord, the source of all holiness. • The doctrine of the communion of saints flows from our belief that we Christians are closely united as one family in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The bond of love makes us one. In a certain sense, all of God's people are dependent on one another. Those of us who are still living depend on the prayers and good works of our Christian brothers and sisters who are united to us in the friendship of the Lord. We also believe in the value of prayer for our departed brothers and sisters who are being purified in purgatory. Finally, we believe that those Christian heroes whom we call saints in heaven are vitally interested in those of us who are still living or in purgatory. The saints pray and offer their merits for us in our weakness.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
July 19 - July 26**

Sun	8:00am	Margaret Decker (+)
	10:00am	For the People of the Parish
	12:00pm	Margaret Tucher (+)
Mon	8:00am	No intention requested
Tue	8:00am	Arthur Medina (+)
Wed	8:00am	Jose, Anna & Lucy Oliveira (+)
Thu	8:00am	Stefan Jankowski (+)
Fri	8:00am	No intention requested
Sat	9:00am	No intention requested
	5:30pm	Carla Ann Carlberg (+)
Sun	8:00am	No intention requested
	10:00am	No intention requested
	12:00pm	For the People of the Parish

In Memoriam

Joanne Winchell • July 3, 2020
John Ingoglia • July 12, 2020
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
 And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Please Pray for the Sick

Delia Chavez, Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, Gene Yeager, 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.

Meetings & Events

Parish Pen Pal Project

Recently, the Parish Pastoral Council met using the online resource Zoom. At the meeting the Pastoral Council discussed the possibility of creating Parish Pen Pal for parishioners who have sheltered in place during this coronavirus pandemic. We have identified approximately 80 households who have had minimal contact with others. To help alleviate their lack of contacts the Council thought the Parish should invite other parishioners to correspond with this group. Many of these parishioners are elderly, but not all. We are looking for parishioners who are willing to consider being a Pen Pal with one of these parishioners. If you are interested in doing so, please contact Amy at the Parish Office (916-452-4136 ext. 2)

Calling the Homebound

In addition to the Parish Pen Pal project, we also want to reach out to some parishioners who would appreciate a periodic telephone call from a fellow parishioner. • 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.

Safety/Security Projects

Before the suspension of the public celebration of Mass due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Parish Safety Committee carefully 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 with more secure doors and frames; 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 these 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 was poured this past week, and new security fence/gate will soon 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 hall entrance/exit easier and safer.

Church Closures Episode 2
 On Monday July 13, Governor Newsom again ordered the closure of indoor church services in Sacramento County, as the rate of corona virus infections has increased dramatically in the past four weeks. Therefore, there will be no public Masses offered at Sacred Heart church until the closure order is lifted (again). The Church is open for private prayer Monday--Friday from 8:00 am to 9:30 am; Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; and Sunday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. • Please refer to the list below in this bulletin or on the parish website for Masses that can be watched on television or streamed online. • Continue to pray for the victims of the virus, their families, and the health workers charged with treating the sick.

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.

Returning to School

Sacred Heart Parish School is looking forward to re-opening on August 13th for the new school year! The faculty and staff have spent

the summer months in preparation for a full return on a regular schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. We have the physical and mental health of our students, families and school staff as our top priority and are excited to be together again. Hygiene will be at the top of our list of priorities to keep everyone healthy! • Please join us in praying for an end to this pandemic.

Parish Website Resources

We have posted on the Parish Website at <https://sacredheart.church/> some spiritual resources to nourish our faith and prayer life. There are a number of websites that celebrate Mass daily. • [EWTN](#) Eternal Word Television Network • [Catholic TV](#) • Salt and Light Media [Canadian Daily TV](#) on You Tube. Here are some helpful spiritual resources and some daily meditations on the Scripture readings of Mass: • St. Louis University has a fine website exploring the depths of Sunday readings. Explore historical, cultural context, thoughts from the early Church, Scripture in depth, and other areas of significant import. Find it at liturgy.slu.edu • [Word on Fire](#) is Bishop Barron's website which is extremely popular. Bishop Barron explains the Sunday readings each week. The site has numerous videos, homilies, and other Catholic resources.

Automatic Church Giving

Most banks and credit unions provide their customers with the service of paying many of their recurring bills automatically, e.g. utilities, communication services, etc. Many parishioners may not realize that this service is also a convenient way to make their regular donation to the church. We encourage parishioners to consider using this manner of giving. • Please use your envelope number as the account number when setting up your payments. This will enable the Parish to credit your donations more easily. Thank you.