

Open to God's Call

In the First Reading, God is speaking to Solomon in a dream. Solomon is offered whatever he wants. God is greatly pleased by Solomon's request for *wisdom* (not power or worldly riches) in order to better govern his people. God grants his noble desire, and Solomon became known throughout Jewish history as the wisest of kings. ● In the Responsorial Psalm we find the Jewish attitude toward law, God's commands, to be one of great gratitude. They saw God's law as, His wisdom expressed, and an incredible gift of mercy. In their view, God showed them how to live the good life by giving them His commandments. May we follow their exemplary attitude toward God's commands and see the life-giving power of His laws. ● In the Second Reading, St. Paul explains what it means to be predestined. God called us into existence with love, and predestined (*invited*) us to share in His life. Predestination is an *invitation*. It is a process: He calls us, then, pursuant to our response, He justifies us; then finally, He glorifies us in the next life. This great love God has for us fills us with awe and tremendous gratitude. ● Today's Gospel gives us three allegories to show the kind of response we can have to encountering God's kingdom. The desire to abandon previously considered priorities in order to acquire the much more precious (*like selling all to purchase a field of buried treasure or an extremely valuable pearl*) or deciding to say no to lesser goods to obtain a greater good. The third and last allegory revisits the theme of the final separation of the good from the bad at the end of time, reminding us that in the meantime we must choose between the kingdom of light and that of darkness. At the end is the story of the good scribe, which serves as an important reminder to be willing to go beyond our usual preferences in order to find the good and the true wherever it is, otherwise we might miss out on something God wants us to know.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray for the faith to recognize God's presence in our world. ● God our Father, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, in the beauty of human life. Touched by your hand our world is holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share

Faith First

your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Salvation History

The story of God's self-disclosure, God's saving action in history, is known as salvation history. The story of God's generous love began with the creation of our first parents. After their fall God promised to redeem us and gave hope of eternal life to the human race. God's abiding love revealed itself in covenant--loving agreements between God and humans. For example, in the covenant with Noah after the Flood, God immediately began to reach out to the divided peoples with the goals of eventually uniting all people in Christ our Lord. ● A profound event in God's plan was the covenant with Abraham and the creation of the nation of Israel. Through the patriarchs, the founding fathers of Israel, and Moses, through whom God revealed the divine law, God taught the people of Israel to acknowledge him as the one true God. Through prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah, God gave Israel hope for salvation: a future Messiah who would write a new covenant in the hearts of all humans. The poor and humble, whose dependence on God was shown beautifully in the life of Mary the Mother of God, bear this hope in a special way. ● Salvation history reached its high point in the coming of Jesus Christ, the fullness of God's revelation. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, the Son, who lived among us, taught us in human words and deeds about his Father, and completed the Father's work of salvation. Jesus is God's final Word; God has no other word to give us. To see Jesus is to see the Father. ● God's self-communication and plan for us require a response on our part. That response is known as "faith," a commitment of our whole lives to a loving God and a resounding "yes" to the truths God has shared with us in Christ our Lord. The letter to the Hebrews defines faith as the "assurance of things we hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). ● Faith, like revelation, is a free gift of God. through the action of the Holy Spirit, the gift of faith enables us to submit our wills and intellects to God. It binds us to God in a love relationship, giving us conviction, commitment, and trust.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
July 26 - August 2**

| | | |
|------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Sun | 8:00am | No intention requested |
| | 10:00am | No intention requested |
| | 12:00pm | For the People of the Parish |
| Mon | 8:00am | For intention requested |
| Tue | 8:00am | Charles French (+) |
| Wed | 8:00am | No intention requested |
| Thu | 8:00am | No intention requested |
| Fri | 8:00am | No intention requested |
| Sat | 9:00am | Loretta Mette (+) |
| | 5:30pm | SHS Found. Mem. & Rem. |
| Sun | 8:00am | For the People of the Parish |
| | 10:00am | No intention requested |
| | 12:00pm | No intention requested |

In Memoriam

John Ingoglia • July 12, 2020

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Gene Sirois, 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 Curriel, 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, 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 with 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 hall's main 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. ● Last week, workers have started Project (2) above. The shrubbery was removed and a new concrete ADA compliant walkway was poured in between the parish hall and rectory. A second handicapped parking space was added and the required asphalt grade changes/new signage was made to a section of the parking lot. A new security fence/gate will soon be installed. The exterior doors will be replaced with more secure

doors and improved hardware. This project will make the hall entrance/exit easier and safer.

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.

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.

Returning to School

Sacred Heart Parish School is hoping to re-open 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.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord, you call us all by name to follow your path. You always bless your Church and guide your followers to become leaders who think of others before themselves. Mold us in the image of your Son, to respond to your call as Priests, Sisters, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay servants of the Gospel. Embolden us all to grow in knowing of you, and allow this knowledge to open our hearts and minds to your call. Amen.