

Serving the Suffering Christ

The theme of the First Reading (like the Gospel) is the suffering the just one endures at the hands of evildoers. The evildoers conspire to attack the just one because they cannot stand his goodness. If we try to live Christian lives, choosing the good, rejecting evil, we too, will suffer for the Good News. There are people who will resent us for our choices, and they will oppose us. • Today's Responsorial is the cry of a psalmist oppressed by surrounding difficulties. He cries out to the Lord, knowing He will listen. Sometimes God intervenes powerfully, righting wrongs; other times He asks us to trust in our suffering. It is then we are asked to be patient, He will meet us on the cross. Either way, He answers our appeal in the most loving way possible. • The Second Reading warns against the danger of allowing our passions to guide our actions. Bad things happen when we allow our passions to run amok. We end up using other people as objects of our own gratification. We are miserable, full of jealousy and resentment. However, if we live peacefully, with gentleness and mercy, then we will live with others as God intended. • Mirroring the First Reading, today's Gospel, presents Jesus predicting His passion and death, referring to Himself as *the Son of Man*. Son of Man implies *power and authority* (the Book of Daniel) and *suffering* (the Book of Isaiah) as well. The disciples did not understand Christ's prediction about His suffering or death, they were clinging to the

Faith First

Year of Saint Joseph
(December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021)

**150th Anniversary
of the Declaration of Saint Joseph
as Patron of the Universal Church**

Saint Joseph, by the work of your hands and the sweat of your brow, you supported Jesus and Mary, and had the Son of God as your fellow worker. • Teach me to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given me to support. Teach me to see in my fellow workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that I may always be charitable and forbearing towards all. Grant me to look upon work with the eyes of faith, so that I shall recognize in it my share in God's own creative activity and in Christ's work of our redemption, and so take pride in it. • When it is pleasant and productive, remind me to give thanks to God for it. And when it is burdensome, teach me to offer it to God, in reparation for my sins and the sins of the world. Amen.

Saint Joseph, Protector and Guide,
pray for us.

reconciled to God.

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."
-- Mark 9:35

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
September 19 -- September 26**

Sun	8:00am	Roger Dhesi (+)
	9:30am	Int...Evelyn Marie Ortega
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
Mon	8:00am	Int...Jimmy Madrigal
Tue	8:00am	Roy Lofing (+)
Wed	8:00am	Melvin & Edith York (+)
Thu	8:00am	Gertrudes & Ana Rose Gabanal (+)
Fri	8:00am	Jose, Anna, & Lucy Oliveira (+)
Sat	9:00am	Barbara Eisengart (+)
	5:30pm	Robert Slakey (+)
Sun	8:00am	Int...Evelyn Marie Ortega
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	John Vanacore (+)

power aspect. Jesus counters that thinking by telling them that whoever serves a child, does God's will. Children cannot pay us back, so serving them and all who are powerless, is to serve Christ Himself. • May we have the grace to always recognize the suffering, helpless Christ in others and serve Him in them.

Prayer of the Week

Father in heaven, the perfection of justice is found in our love and all humankind is in need of your law. Help us to find this love in each other that justice may be attained through obedience to your law. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Meaning of the Passion and Death of Jesus

The birth, life, and teaching of Jesus are summed up in his passion and death on the Cross. Jesus freely entered into human suffering and death in order that humanity would be freed from the bondage of sin and death. His fidelity to his Father's will led him to a life of radical self-giving and, in the end, of total self-sacrifice. • The death of Jesus would be a tragic ending to the gospels except for the unparalleled fact of his resurrection. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, death itself died and all humanity was

In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Slakey • September 5, 2021
(Twin Brother of Tom Slakey)

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Pam Milchrist, Valerie Hoag, Martha Anderson, Hope Harrington, Diane Peters, Michael Kelly, Brian McKenna, Rita Johnston, Patrick Valenzuela, Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, Margarita Enriquez, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Dale Wooldridge, Nancy McGarry, Michael Fletcher, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, 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

Lector Training/Refresher

All lectors, both daily and weekend, are invited and encouraged to attend a refresher session to brush up their skills and learn tricks of the trade from our colleagues. Where do you learn how to pronounce Old Testament names? How do you both look at the congregation and not lose your place in the reading? How do you judge your speed of speaking? Those things and more will be covered, along with personalized suggestions. Two opportunities are available: Thursday, September 23 from 6:30--7:30 pm, or Saturday, September 25, 10:00--11:00 am. For those who are not lectors but are curious to find out what is involved, please email your phone number to mgeigersacto@gmail.com and you will be contacted. RSVP to the training invitation to the same email address.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming a Catholic? • Call RCIA director Rita Spillane at 916-452-4830 to inquire about how to start the process of becoming a Catholic. The weekly classes will begin on Tuesday, September 21 at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

School Accreditation

Every six years Sacred Heart Parish School prepares a self study. We look at all of our programs and uncover the strengths and areas for improvement in all areas of school life. In March we will welcome a visiting committee for three days. This visiting committee will verify our findings and recommend our school for accreditation for the next six years. This process is challenging but produces great fruit. We welcome your prayers as we work to complete our self study.

Catholic High School Plans

Seventh and eighth grade have enjoyed a classroom presentation from Christian Brothers and are looking forward to a visit from St. Francis and Jesuit High Schools. This is an exciting time for our eighth graders as they discern the right placement in high school process. During the next few months the students will have the opportunity to attend Open Houses at the high schools and to experience a shadow day at each of the high schools. We are proud of their hard work in and enjoy guiding them through this important process.

*Come to me, all who labor and are burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord. --Matthew 11:28*

Support for Advertisers and Local Businesses

During this pandemic, many small businesses in our neighborhood have been struggling due to loss of patronage. Some of these businesses generously advertise in our bulletin, others are nearby shops that are used to serving our parishioners. If you are financially able, please support these neighborhood establishments at this critical time for them. • We thank and appreciate the businesses who choose to advertise in our bulletin, as well as those who serve our East Sacramento neighborhood community.

Food Donation Weekend

Next weekend, September 25-26, The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is collecting non-perishable food items for our food pantry and the students that visit the Catholic Newman Center at Sacramento State University. The SVdP food pantry is in need of cereal, crackers, peanut butter, jelly/jam, cake, brownie and cookie mixes, and canned fruit. Many families in the St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Parishes rely on assistance from our food pantry. The Newman Center is in need of ready to eat, small individual/single serving size items. Think of grab and go. When selecting items please keep in mind most students only have access to a microwave and hot water. The students that visit the Newman Center rely on your donations to get them through their school day and study hours. A bag filled with non-perishable, unexpired food may be left inside the altar rail. • Questions, call Emilia at 916-927-1667. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

Parish School Foundation Grant to School

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the Sacred Heart Parish School Endowment Foundation has made a grant of \$65,000 to the 2020-2021 school year. The funds are used entirely for financial assistance. • Please consider using the pink envelopes once a month, or making a memorial gift to aid in this ongoing effort to keep a Catholic elementary education affordable for our parish families.

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Knights of Columbus Cookie Sale

The Knights of Columbus, Council 953, will bake delicious Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, and Peanut Butter cookies for sale. All profits will be donated to the Sacred Heart Altar Society. Look for future bulletin announcements on pre-ordering cookies for delivery after Masses on the weekend of October 16-17. Freshly baked cookies will cost \$5.00 per bag of 4 cookies.

U.S. Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund

In light of the numerous natural disasters in various parts of the United States, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has established an Emergency Disaster Fund to assist with the humanitarian, long-term recovery efforts. The funds collected in this special appeal will be used to support the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church, as well as the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. • Sacred Heart Parish will take up the special collection on the weekend of October 2-3. • Our Parish Pastoral Council has asked that 50% of the funds we collect be designated to provide financial aid to parishes in the Diocese of Sacramento experiencing hardship due to the wildfires and that 50% be sent to the Bishops' Emergency Disaster Fund. • Any amount you may be able to give will be greatly appreciated. We hope and pray that as the need is great, so, too, will be our response. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.