

Dear People of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

As we gather for worship this weekend, our Gospel passages for this Sunday and the next two Sundays are taken from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, we read that Jesus was walking through a section of Samaria. The Samaritans and Jews did not like each other, in great part because the Jews thought that the Samaritans had defiled themselves by marrying people not of their own type. The animosity between the two groups could be quite severe, to the point that it was risky for Jewish people to journey through the Samaritan territory. Jesus was not going to let these unpleasantries stop Him. He sits at a well that would have special significance to both groups.

Even a greater break from custom was that Jesus interacted with a foreign woman without another adult present. Both could have been accused of inappropriate behavior. Jesus is interested only in showing us how to bridge gaps, even severe ones, that we have allowed to develop between each other. We certainly know this by our being very cautious with whom we choose to speak about politics, and even at times religion. What does Jesus have to teach us by His interaction with this woman who had a rather colored life to the point where she needed to go alone at the most inconvenient part of the day to get water. She was not allowed to go with the other women who were considered holy.

Clearly, this lady got a great deal more than just water to quench her physical thirst. We know that when our human interaction with another benefits that person, it typically benefits the other party as well. Jesus must have been thrilled to put aside all the prejudices he grew up, especially that women were inferior to men. He no doubt was quite happy that He was able to lead the woman to see Him not just as a Jewish man but as someone who chose to rise above Jewish views of the Samaritans and lead the woman to realize that her past indiscretions would not keep Jesus from treating her as a beloved person of God.

It does not get any simpler than this. Regardless of whatever barriers exist among us for whatever reason, we are called to see each other first as God's precious and cherished people. As Pope Francis continues to invite us, we are to suspend our judgments and provide the opportunity to listen to one another's stories. Perhaps there are circumstances in this lady's formation that set her up not to honor herself as a beloved person of God. In listening to others, we do our best to encourage them to reconsider their self-image and ponder what God, our creator, thinks of them.

We, by God's grace, are quite capable of finding ways to connect with people that allow all involved to be enriched. Sometimes people are so stuck in their outlook that no encouragement will get them to consider any other ways of looking at life. Because of Jesus' caring attention to the woman, she was empowered to return to her village and invite others to come and meet Jesus. She must have exuded such a transformation that the townspeople put aside their prior judgment of her and went out to meet Jesus. Through her influence, the townsfolk developed a personal relationship with Jesus.

~Fr. Roman

Schedule for the week of March 15th—March 20th

All Parish activities other than Mass have been cancelled through the end of March. Updates will be posted on the parish website.

REMINDER

We have a 5:30pm Sunday evening Mass every week.

FLU/CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Per direction from the Bishop, all parish gatherings other than Mass have been canceled through the month of March. This includes Crab feed, Stations and Soups, Community meal, Taize prayer service, and the healing service as well as all children and youth faith formation sessions AND hospitality following Mass. Please pass this word to other parishioners. If you have not downloaded myparishapp.com to your phone, please consider doing so as all information is quickly distributed through it. Simply go to the main page of our website for easy download information or give us a call at the office.

Additionally, Bishop Soto has given dispensation of Mass attendance to anyone over the age of 60 until further notice. For further information on the Diocesan response to the virus, please go to the diocesan website, the parish website or Facebook page. If you have any questions/concerns, please call the parish office.

Please go to the parish website for the Center for Disease Control's list of recommended preventative actions to prevent the spread of flu/coronavirus.

Please continue to pray for ALL who are ill, and those who care for them, that God's angels may surround them, and that they be held in the palm of His beautiful hand.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

NEXT Sunday we will have a special collection Catholic Relief Services. Please visit www.usccb.org/crscollection for more information.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE Sales will take place THIS WEEKEND, March 14th & 15th after all Masses in the Vestibule.



Year over Year Plate Collection Performance

Table with 3 columns: Year, Week # 36, YTD thru Week # 36. Rows for 2019-2020 Year and 2018-2019 Year.

MASS INTENTIONS

- March 14th 4:30pm Virginia Schreiner (D)
March 15th 7:45am Deceased Parishioners of Divine Savior
March 16th 8:30am Robert Hass (D)
March 17th 8:30am Mike Jordan
March 18th 8:30am Kathleen Koregolos and Family
March 19th 8:30am Mike Jordan
March 20th 8:30am Kathleen Koregolos and Family
March 21st 8:30am Maria Bego Cain (D)
March 22nd 7:45am People of the Parish
March 22nd 9:30am Phuc Nguyen (D)
March 22nd 11:30am People of the Parish
March 22nd 5:30pm Phuc Nguyen (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Pray for our Military Personnel wherever duty calls them to serve, homeland or overseas.

Adrienne Aleschus, James Aleschus, John Aleschus, Logan Amos, Sean Amos, James Atwood, Andrew Bauer, Jordan Biasotti, Anthony Brooks, Jonathan Brooks, Jacob Camarillo, Aimee Chabot, Ephrem Choi, Elsie Cruz, Matt David, Travis Dardis, Derek Deatherage, David DeLaCruz, Alisen Dowell, Joe Downey, Andrew Durham, Brian Eberhard, Katharine Ernst & A.J. Smith, Tom Feyoe, Mathew Fox, Timothy Fox, Joseph Gast, Tyler Gedstad, Ereik Hartsell, Michael Haug, Jeremy Herbert, Susan Hocker, Yutaro Hosaka, Ben Isla, William Kraitz, Tyler Kraitz, Andy Kuehn, Dayna Landry, Charles Philip Lopez, Kelly Mancini, Doran Martin, John Masterson, Bennet D. McGrane, Garrett McMann, Aaron McMurray, Francis Montojo, Joseph M. Paddock, Nathan Paddock, Joshua Paige, Chris Payant, David Petisor, Darin Pillman, Tim Pillman, Rachael Portoman, Logan Rasmussen, Trey Rasmussen, Tim Reid, Neal Ridge, Tony Rodriguez, Nicholas Roha, Ryan Roux, Matthew Sandoval, April Skou, Jacob and Nikki Steeb, James Thatche, Jadyne Trujillo, Aimee Vigil, Noah Villarreal, Danny Walsh, David Wentling, Kyle William, Davis Wood, Brian Wright and Alexander Wrinkle. If your loved one is out of the military please call Mary at 916-988-4984 to have them removed.

Please pray for those who are sick, in pain or recovery, or in need of spiritual healing. (Names will appear for 3 weeks unless an extension is requested.)

- Bill Amantea, Jenny Azbill, Marlena Beyer, Julie Bouse, Pat Collier, Madeleine Crepin, Nenita dela Cruz, Michael W. Donner, JoAnn Elder, Dorothy Feldman, Bud Green, Sandra Harris, Martin Jennings, Michele Kinaan, Cookie McCormack, Allen D. Nelson, Patty Nicholson, Karen Paddock, Linda Parker, Gladys Reilly, Roxanne Rosales, Gerry Ryden, Tom Sekel, Shari Sigl, John Wick, Sheldon Anderson Jr, Sharon Backus, Talon Bonanno, Eduardo Bravo, Lauri Comly, Noreen Davis, Marilyn Domingo, Carol Dzedzic, Reggie Faulk, Gladys Gonsalves, Gary Green, Bridgette Hubbard, Diane Jones, Mike Mahoney, Vicente Meno, Glen Newton, John Padden, Gerrie Parker, Eleanor Peterson, Christopher Revak, Madeline Rose, Donna Schulte, Lee "Lucky" Shaver, Patricia Speere

Please pray for the souls of those who have died:

- Sara Hill, Ron Pustai, JoAnn Jarumay

—For these and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

VOCATIONS CROSS

Sunday, March 15th at the 9:30am Mass, Don and Lupe Marnach will take home the Vocations Cross to pray daily for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.



A Faith Response to the Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately.

The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first.

In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or

have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children.

The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

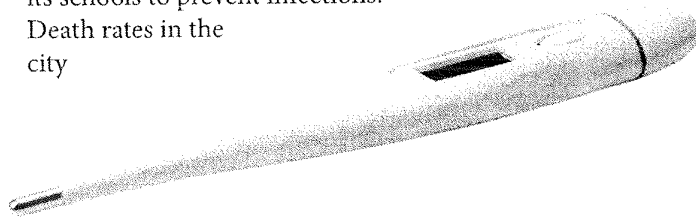
A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves).

Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly.

But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed *everything* in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something.

Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections. Death rates in the city



were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved.

We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it’s unclear what’s in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move *beyond* them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need.

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus’ name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the “social distancing” happening in many communities.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won’t have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don’t spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).
 - **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas’ song “On Eagle’s Wings” (“And he will raise you up...”) while you wash.
 - **Avoid touching your face.**
 - **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
 - **Follow the guidance of local officials.**
 - **Stay home if you become ill.**
- **Don’t take what you don’t need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.
 - **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
 - **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.**
 - **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
 - **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation.
- **Proactively love your neighbor!**
 - **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc.
 - **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
 - **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
 - **Pray for all those affected by the crisis.**