

Justice Based on Mercy

This Sunday's readings challenge us to adopt a radically different sense of justice, one based on mercy. • The First Reading recounts an episode from the life of David. David, chosen by God to succeed Saul, was anointed by Samuel as the next king. (Saul had sinned against the Lord, so the Lord rejected him.) This made Saul very jealous of David, to the point of often trying to kill him. To spare his own life, David fled. Then one night the tables were turned, and David came upon Saul and his men while they were sleeping. David could have easily killed Saul and ended it all, but he would not kill the Lord's anointed. He refused to do the evil that Saul wished to do to him. This shows us how we can respond to those who do us evil. We can *respond with love and forgiveness*, taking the wind out of the sails of their wrath. • The Responsorial reminds us that we have learned what mercy is from the way the Lord treats us. He is slow to anger and always forgiving. • The Alleluia Verse echoes the call to a new standard of conduct, based on love for our brothers and sisters. • Today's Gospel is known as the Gospel of mercy. In it Jesus calls us to base our actions on the call to mercy and true Christian love, not a soft and cuddly love but on a choice to serve others, including those who may hate or hurt us. It is not motivated by the return of love, but by the other person's need. We do not base our love and forgiveness on deserving, no more than God does with us. His mercy to us, we share with others. We try to be as generous as we can, and God supplies what we cannot give. This is His challenge to us, the life-long goal for which we aim.

Disciples on the Journey Lenten Program

Sign-ups for the *Disciples on the Journey* program will take place after each Mass this weekend, February 23-24 and the next, March 2-3. Small groups meet in homes for the six weeks of Lent to discuss the Sunday Scripture readings and their application to daily life. Guide booklets are provided. We are looking for group leaders and participants. • Please contact Andy Sevier at 916-599-7664 or seviers@surewest.net if you have any questions or Diana Oglethorpe at Diana@mstarchitects.com

Faith First

to grow in truth. Open our eyes to your deeds, our ears to the sound of your call, so that our every act may increase our sharing in the life you have offered us. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Living the Christian Life

Our key Catholic beliefs center on faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. But Christianity is more than a set of beliefs; it is a way of living. Christian faith must result in a life of loving service, or it is an empty faith. Christian morality helps us discover how we should live as a result of our faith in God's Word, which has been revealed to us in Christ and in his Church. • Christian morality can be summed up in the word *responsibility*. There are two components to this term: *response* and *ability*. To what do we respond? Christian life is a response to God's freely given love and his gift of salvation offered to us through Christ. Christian morality comes to the forefront when people say yes to God, when they freely respond to his love. The essence of Christian morality is, simply, love. "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). • The second aspect of Christian morality is the ability to respond to God--the ability to love and say yes to God. This is also a gift, freely bestowed on us. It is part of what it means to be a human being. Human persons have basic dignity, which flows from their being created in God's image (with a soul). This implies that we can think and love and are in relationship to others in community. Our conscience aids us in a life directed toward God and other people. • Pope Saint John Paul II in his encyclical *The Splendor of Truth* wrote, "Christian morality consists in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church....The one who loves Christ keeps his commandments" (cf. John 14:15).

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, faith in your word is the way to wisdom, and to ponder your divine plan is

Food Collection this Weekend

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is continuing to restock our food pantry for home visits in our Parish area and that of the Sacramento State Newman Center. The following items are needed: mayo, salad dressing, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken and spam), Marinara sauce, small bags of rice and pasta, cake or cookie mixes, granola/energy bars, cereal boxes and individual cereal cup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables. A bag filled with *non-perishable, unexpired* food may be left inside the altar rail. • Questions about donations please call Emilia Jankowski at 916-927-1667.

Time to Return Your Palms

Many of us keep the palms we received on Palm Sunday and display them behind a hanging crucifix. Now is the time to return the old, dried palms to the basket in the vestibule. The old palms will be burned and the ashes used on Ash Wednesday this year. The palms, which symbolized joy on Palm Sunday, now become symbols of the fact we are sorry for our sins. This reflects the joy of the people when Jesus first rode into Jerusalem, which turned to sorrow when he died on the Cross to save them from their sins.

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal Speaker

This weekend, a speaker from the Stanford Settlement will speak at all the Masses to explain how your donation is being used for its important work in providing programs, services and opportunities to enhance the lives of disadvantaged and disenfranchised individuals and families. Stanford Settlement has such programs as after school groups and Summer Day Camp for children, a Teen Center program for youth, and a comprehensive Senior Center. Your donation **next weekend** to the Annual Catholic Appeal will help continue this vital ministry.

Catholics Come Home: Starts Thursday, March 7

The first session will be a welcome and program overview, followed by a discussion of the *Nicene Creed—Our Christian Articles of Faith*: we will review of the basic tenets ("articles") of Christian belief. • If you or someone you know is considering returning to the Church, or has recently returned, these sessions are an opportunity to learn more about the Church, the Sacraments, the Mass and more. Sessions are open to any Catholic who wants to learn more about our shared Faith. • 6 weekly sessions held Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30, March 7 through April 11, in the Parish Hall. • Flyers with session details are in the vestibule. And for more information, visit the Parish website at www.sacheart.org/crh.php or call the Ministry Office at 916-452-4830.

Parking Issue

Very soon, a new restaurant will be opening across J Street from the church. It is a restaurant that specializes in breakfast and lunch, but unfortunately it has no parking lot. Sacred Heart will need to restrict its parking lot for parishioners only. We will have appropriate signage as well. Although parking in the medical lot next to Sacred Heart is available to us, we cannot restrict that space as we can our lot. We are asking that parishioners help out by moving their cars from our lot after they have attended Mass in order to free up spaces for the next Mass. If you decide to patronize the restaurant after Mass, please do not leave your car in the church lot, but find alternate parking.

Meetings & Events

Youth Group Update

The Sacred Heart Youth Group will meet this Wednesday, February 27. The group will gather for its annual "Charity Movie Night". Optional donations will be collected at the movie night to benefit the Mustard Seed School. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are held in St. Anthony's Hall from 6:30-7:30 pm. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

Parish Men's Retreat

Men of the parish are invited to make the annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center located in Citrus Heights. (This is a good follow up to our "In-Parish Retreat.") • The Men's Retreat is on March 1,2,3. For more information call Jim Paquette at 916-479-1542 or to make a reservation email the Retreat Center at www.christthekingretreatcenter.org.

St. Vincent de Paul 2018 Year End Report

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference serving the parishes of St. Mary's and Sacred Heart just completed their 2018 annual report. Your support via the Annual Catholic Appeal and your monthly food donations to the SVdP enabled volunteers to make 76 home visits in the two parish area. The volunteers served 229 people (157 adults & 72 children), provided 132 bags of food, assisted 37 with rent or lodging payments, another 26 with utility payments and 27 vouchers for clothing and mattresses. In addition, food donations were provided monthly to the Catholic Newman Center located at Sacramento State while school is in session. Many individuals within the two parish rely on assistance from our SVdP. Thank you for your generosity! • Questions please call Emilia Jankowski at 916-927-1667.

Second Quarter Parish Financial Report

The Parish Finance Council has prepared a financial report covering the period of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. • A copy of the report is available in the church vestibule for parishioners to pick up and review.

Altar Society News

• A reminder to send in your \$20 family dues by February 28 either by dropping an envelope in the collection basket labeled Attn: Altar Society or mailing to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spilman Ave, Sacto 95819. Thank you for your support.
• Our thanks to Betty Hernandez whom we forgot to acknowledge earlier this month. Betty is partnering with Mary Domyancic to provide and care for the February flowers on the Blessed Sacrament Altar. We appreciate her help.

Flu Season

Bishop Soto has temporarily suspended the Communion cup. The administration of Holy Communion under both kinds will resume once the flu season has passed.

Retrouvaille: Marriage Assistance Rescue Program

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of married couples to regain good communication and return to a happy, joyful marriage, through attending one of their weekends and the follow up training sessions. Please pick up a brochures outlining the Retrouvaille program in the church vestibule. • If you desire more information please call Carl Eschen at 209-753-9284 or visit helpourmarriage.org or call the Parish Office and we will put you in contact with a local couple.

In Our Prayers

In Memoriam

Genevieve Eiberger • February 7, 2019

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Bishop Francis Quinn, Elliot Sevier, Rick Cwynar, Kang Simon Lee, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Josephine Davila, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Teresa Yeung, Nancy McGarry, Vivian Stolp, Rita Doherty, Patrick Valenzuela, Cheryl Halm Lincoln, Michael Fletcher, Grayson Kemp, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Grace Grant, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Marie Schumacher, Ralph Goodall, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Barbara Cramer, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Daily Mass Intentions

February 24 - March 3

Sun	8:00am	Don Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	John Silveira (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
Mon	8:00am	Edward Humphrey (+)
Tue	8:00am	Marie-Danielle Deveaud (+)
Wed	8:00am	Frances & Peter Sexton (+)
Thu	8:00am	Cecelia Ann Keiser (+)
Fri	8:00am	Lu Morris (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
Sat	9:00am	Helen Jankowski (+)
	5:30pm	SH School Found Mem & Rem
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Richard Flatley (+)
	11:00am	Efren Santiago Andres (+)