

With Hearts Always

Open and Ready

Most of Jeremiah speaks of the devastating punishment to befall Israel for her infidelity. However, today's First Reading from Jeremiah focuses on the Lord's restoration of Israel, not because she deserved it but because the Lord favored her and would be merciful, sending an anointed One to guide her in His way. • The Responsorial reminds us that to please God, we must have hearts open to His instruction. By nature, we are inclined to yield to sinful and selfish habits. We fool ourselves into thinking that we are doing God's will, when, in reality we are doing what we want. If we are humble of heart, we can hear what God wants to tell us. He wants us to choose justice because that will lead us along the real path of peace, joy, and life. True *fear of the Lord* means having the right perspective, recognizing that God is our Creator and we are His creatures called to obey. In our obedience we find life's true freedom. • In the Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us to love and serve the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength; *and* to love others as we love ourselves. These are the two basic elements of Christianity. It is good to be reminded of these so we can keep reaching for that higher plane of conduct and pleasing God. • In today's Gospel we again find Jesus speaking of the end of the world, perhaps not literally, but symbolically so that His listeners could understand. The eternal truth here is that no matter when the world ends, *we* should be *vigilant*. We do not know how much time we have to live, so we should treat each moment of life as precious. We cannot afford to postpone our conversion until tomorrow. In this Advent season, we should re-dedicate ourselves to virtue and prayer. Our goal is to be ready to greet the Lord: whenever He calls us to Himself at the end of our earthly life or at the end of the world. • May we always respond to His grace and be ever-ready.

Prayer of the Week

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his

Faith First

coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. Through Christ our Lord.. Amen.

The Advent Season

Advent is the most countercultural season of all for Christians. The secular world is bent on buying and selling, partying, rushing around, and worrying. Psychiatrists say this time of the year is the most stressful of all. People do a lot of worrying. They are afraid of feeling guilty if the gifts they give are not as good as the ones they receive. Or if they invite some people but not others. Isn't it ironic? We have so much fear and guilt over the birth of the One who came to take away our fear and guilt! • So the Church offers us a whole other way to move through this season with great symbols: *Quiet*--as opposed to noise; *Light*--as opposed to darkness; *Waiting*--as opposed to rushing around. • After all, the Lord we are waiting for is already present in the people we are waiting with. And the whole purpose of his coming is to make us more peaceful and loving.

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm

Visiting priests will also be available to hear confessions.

A Home Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Introduced on the First Sunday of Advent the evergreens on this wreath remind us that God's life in us never dies. Its circular form shows us that God's love has no beginning and no end. The four candles represent the four Sundays of the Advent season. The violet candles remind us of the importance of diligently preparing ourselves for Christmas and the Lord's coming; the rose candle reminds us of why we work so hard to prepare for Christmas, that is, the joy of the Lord's coming. The candle light on the wreath will grow brighter each week as Christmas draws near. • A blessing prayer for home: Let us pray (pause briefly for silent prayer). • Lord God, bless our wreath and bless us as we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we draw closer to You in holiness, and may Your Spirit grow in us, dispelling the darkness and sin of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

In Our Prayers

Daily Mass Intentions

December 2 - December 9

Sun	8:00am	John Yeargin (+)
	9:30am	Aaron Sanchez (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish
Mon	8:00am	Gene Domek (+)
Tue	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
Wed	8:00am	Mary Elizabeth Flatley (+)
Thu	8:00am	Altar Society Members (+)
Fri	8:00am	Gloria Wingard (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
Sat	9:00am	For the People of the Parish
	12:00pm	Robert T. Roark (+)
	5:30pm	Domingos Silveira (+)
Sun	8:00am	Kenneth Belke (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Peter Jurisich (+)

In Memoriam

Christopher Peterson • November 11, 2018

Genevieve Dalosta • November 23, 2018

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Please Pray for the Sick

Bishop Francis Quinn, Rick Cwynar, Kang Simon Lee, Diana Zuniga, Suzie Riehl, Laurel Sunderman, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Josephine Davila, Dale Wooldridge, Donnal 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.

Meetings & Events

Advent Giving Tree

Our parish Giving Tree has been placed next to the Our Lady of Grace Chapel, near the piano. Tags hanging on the Tree will benefit the children at St. Francis Terrace, those served by the Sacramento Catholic Diocesan HIV/AIDS Ministry, low-income seniors at Arden Villa Senior Citizens' Center, and people served by the Human Trafficking Medical Home. • Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, December 8

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses at 9:00 am and 12(noon)

Bethlehem Olivewood Crafts: This Weekend

Again this year, representatives from Bethlehem Christianity Mission will be in the church vestibule after all Masses this weekend to sell hand-made olive wood crafts. These hand-crafted items are made by the Christian families in Bethlehem. The sale of these items is the primary source of their annual income. With ongoing tension in the Holy Land, the opportunity for these Christian families to see their crafts to tourists is greatly diminished. Please support our fellow Christians who have chosen to remain in the Holy Land by purchasing a religious item. In doing so, you are also able to give a meaningful religious gift to a loved one for Christmas.

Parish School Now Accepting Applications

The School is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Applicants for Transitional Kindergarten must be 4 years old by September 1, 2019 and applicants for Kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1. We will also be accepting applications for 1st- 6th grades. • For more information, please contact the Parish School at 916-456-1576.

Altar Society Christmas Flowers

Please consider a donation *in memory of* or *in honor of* a loved one to help us beautify the church sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. Checks should be made payable to *Sacred Heart Altar Society*. Please include your name, telephone number, and the name(s) of those being remembered or honored. Place in an envelope marked "Attention: Altar Society" and drop in the collection basket or mail to Claire Hyde at 5500 Spillman Ave., Sacramento 95819. Please return donations by December 18. • Thank you.

Consider Making an End of Year Gift

Many parishioners make a special end of year gift to the Parish. This is very much appreciated, enabling the Parish to meet the growing expenses of Parish operations. Such a gift has the added benefit of being tax deductible. You may want to designate your gift to *Sacred Heart Building Fund* for the maintenance and preservation of our church, rectory, and parish hall *or* to *Sacred Heart Parish School Endowment Foundation* for school families needing tuition assistance *or* to *Sacred Heart Church* for its general operations. • We are most grateful for our parishioners' regular and special donations to second collections throughout the year. • If you are not contributing on a regular basis, please consider doing so. If you have not increased your weekly contribution in some time, and your financial circumstances allow you to do so, please consider increasing your weekly contribution. Like your household expenses, parish expenses continue to increase. • Thank you for considering this end-of-year appeal.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Special envelopes are available in the church vestibule. Please give generously to next weekend's second collection.

Youth Group Update

The Sacred Heart Youth Group had two great meetings during the month of November. At the first meeting, the group put on a Charity Bingo Night, raising more than \$150 for Sacramento Food Bank Services. At the second meeting in November, the group focused on the theme of "gratitude". Due to the Christmas break at school, the group will be meeting only once in December. The December meeting will be our Third Annual Christmas Party on December 12th. The meeting will feature a "White Elephant Gift Exchange", so please bring a wrapped gift to the party. Gifts should be fun and inexpensive. Re-gifting is encouraged. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for our next meeting. All meetings are held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in St. Anthony's Hall. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

"Second Sunday" Social

Next Sunday, December 9 - 12(noon) to 1:30 pm

in the Parish Hall

All are welcome!

Butte County Fire Collection: Today!

The tremendous loss from the Camp Fire in Butte County and the nearby areas is heartbreaking. Bishop Soto has authorized a special collection for the fire victims. We are taking up the special collection at all Masses this weekend. • Please make your check payable to "Sacred Heart Church." The Parish will send one check to the Diocese of Sacramento for the Fire Assistance Fund. • You may also donate online - - Visit www.scd.org/donate and choose the Fire Assistance Fund.

Schola Cantorum Christmas Concert

Enjoy the annual family program of music for Christmastide featuring candlelit processions, Gregorian Chant and familiar and new carols. Dr. Donald Kendrick will conduct Schola Cantorum in their annual Christmas Concert "From Heaven On High" on Saturday, December 15 at 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 pm in Sacred Heart Church. • Suggested donation is \$15 General or \$10 Students/Seniors. Tickets are available after the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays or by calling 850-545-4298. • The choir has a variety of CDs that make wonderful gifts. Visit our website at www.scholacantorum.com

First Friday Adoration: Friday, December 7

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 8:00 am Mass and concludes with Benediction at 12(noon). Mass is celebrated immediately after Benediction. • As we begin the Advent season, join us and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. On this First Friday, there will be a special prayer for those affected by the Butte County fire. Copies are available in the church vestibule.