

As God's Children, We Serve

The Responsorial Psalm continues the theme of serving the Lord in His holy dwelling place. This same idea is found in today's Gospel, where Jesus calls the temple in Jerusalem, his Father's house. The psalm speaks of making pilgrimage to the Lord's house, the one place where we find ourselves at home and where we can experience God's love unconditionally. Jesus came into the world so that we could experience His love here, in His presence. When we dwell in Him, He is our home. ● The Second Reading, from St. John, speaks of the great dignity the Lord has bestowed on us, not as slaves but as God's children. He treats us with the same respect He treats His only-begotten Son, Jesus. He calls us to share His love and mission here on earth and His glory in heaven. There we shall be like the One we love; not only sharing in His image and likeness but truly one with Him. We know we are God's children when we keep His commands living moral, giving lives. The commandments are not rules that imprison, but guidelines to help us choose what is right and good. They teach us virtue and generosity, especially if we live the greatest of all laws: love. ● The Gospel scene shows Jesus at age twelve (*when He discerned that He was both human and divine*) among the teachers in the temple. It is at this time that Jesus declares that His Father is God in heaven. His three day absence can be seen as preparation for Our Lady, who would be without Jesus again for three days after He died and was buried. Now, as then, she learns to trust that He must be about His Father's business. ● As God's children and with His grace, may we always turn our minds and hearts to Him in trust.

Prayer of the Week

Father in heaven, creator of all, you ordered the earth to bring forth life and crowned its goodness by creating the human family. In history's

Faith First

moment when all was ready, you sent your Son to dwell in time, obedient to the laws of life in our world. Teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all people that we may share in your life for ever. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Retreat for Women

Join the women of Sacred Heart by signing up for the annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on the weekend of January 11-13, 2019. Ask someone who has made the retreat and they will tell you they have never been more at peace with God and the world. A retreat once a year is a vital necessity these days. Consider giving the gift of a retreat to a loved one! ● For more information please call Kim Paquette at 916-479-1736. Sign-up forms are also available in the church vestibule. You may register on-line at www.christthekingretreatcenter.org.

Words of Appreciation

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love (Saint Teresa of Calcutta). ● Thank you to all who make Christmas so special here at Sacred Heart!

Parish Mission/Retreat: Save the Date

As previously announced there will be a Parish Retreat beginning Sunday, February 10, 2019 and concluding Tuesday, February 12. The presenter will be Father Robyn Ryan, Ph.D. a Passionist priest whom you may recall gave a down-to-earth lecture on God and the Mystery of Human Suffering last year. The theme of the retreat will be *Gazing on the Face of Christ*. Watch the bulletin for specific information about these talks. If you have any question contact Rita Spillane, Adult Faith Formation coordinator, at 916-452-4830.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
December 30 - January 6**

Sun	8:00am	Barbara Dovichi (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Mary Ann Rich (+)
Mon	8:00am	Larry Rust (+)
	5:30pm	Linda Ryle (+)
Tue	9:00am	For the People of the Parish
Wed	8:00am	Larry Garcia (+)
Thu	8:00am	Jay Kilburn (+)
Fri	8:00am	Bradford Dozier (+)
	12:00pm	Gene Vittori (+)
Sat	9:00am	Noel Ferris (+)
	5:30pm	SH School Fnd. Mem & Rem
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Marie Moorefield (+)
	11:00am	Int...Loretta & Darryl Hall

In Memoriam

Let us pray for all those who have died and are in need of prayer. May they enjoy light, happiness and peace.

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

2019 Church Calendars

The 2019 calendars are available for parishioners to pick up after Mass in the church vestibule. They have been made available through the courtesy of the Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, a ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento. Be sure to read the message from Bishop Soto in front of the calendar. ● In order to make sure that every parishioner who wants a calendar receives one, please take only one calendar. at this time

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.

Advent Giving Tree

Thank you for making our Sacred Heart Giving Tree a success again this year. Our parish community has brightened the holidays for hundreds of local men, women, and children. The recipients of your generous gifts are deeply grateful. ● A special thank-you to Sharon Rich for coordinating this outreach program.

School Christmas Break

Students, teachers and staff will enjoy the Christmas Holiday this year from December 24 to January 4. School will resume on January 7. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Sacred Heart Parish School.

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.

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Please Do Not Park in Lot Across the Street

The small office building parking lot across 39th St. from the church has, until now, been available for weekend parking. However, the tenants now have shifts on the weekends and they need their parking spaces. ● Please be courteous and honor their request not to park in their lot at any time.

Parish Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1 for New Year's. Of course, you may leave a message on the office extension on those days; your call will be returned when the office re-opens on Wednesday, January 2.

Security/Safety Committee

Sacred Heart's position on a major street and near a hospital sometimes results in a mentally ill person coming into the church. While most of these people mean no ill will, they can be frightening to our parishioners. On a rare occasion, they might be violent, able to harm themselves or others. To address these issues and draft a plan for how best to confront these situations, Fr. Walton would like to establish a committee of parishioners with any kind of law enforcement or public safety background, as well as Mental health professionals. ● If you are interested in joining this committee, please call Fr. Walton at 916-452-4136 or email him at shchurch95816@aol.com with your availability and contact information.

**Sacred Heart Parish School
7th & 8th Grade Advent Service Project**

The junior high students at Sacred Heart School took part in an exciting new service project this Advent. The 7th and 8th grade religion classes competed against one another to see which class could raise the most money. The winning class got to choose the charity that would receive ALL of the junior high donations. ● The seventh graders competed for the Wildlife Conservation Society. After much discussion, the class chose this wonderful organization because it addressed the seventh pillar of Catholic Social Teaching: "Caring for God's Creation." They felt strongly that protecting wildlife for future generations is a vital part of our Catholic Faith. ● The eighth graders competed for the Sacramento Children's Home. The class felt strongly that they wanted to choose a charity that worked with people their own age. They chose this excellent charity because it addresses the second pillar of Catholic Social Teaching: "The Call to Family, Community, and Participation". ● The students were instructed that they needed to work to earn the money they contributed. Many students did chores for family and friends, babysat, or sold crafts and baked goods. In a little over three weeks, the 8th grade class raised more than \$1400 and the 7th grade class raised more than \$800. Since the 8th graders won the competition, a donation of \$2000 will be made to the Sacramento Children's Home. To thank the 7th graders for their generosity, the 8th grade class decided to make a donation of \$325 to the Wildlife Conservation Society on their behalf. ● The 8th graders at Sacred Heart Parish School wish to thank all the generous parishioners who donated more than \$600 to their cause after the 9:30 am Mass on December 16.

Children's Church

The program at the 9:30 am Sunday Mass will not be offered on December 30. The program will resume on Sunday, January 6. ● If you are interested in helping periodically with the sessions, please contact Christie Montelongo at 916-455-5949. ● You do not need to have a child in the program to volunteer. However, in keeping with Diocesan policies, all volunteers in contact with children are required to be fingerprinted and complete the diocesan online *Safe Haven Program*.