

Lent: Our Chance to Repent

Today's Gospel recalls the theme found in the Second Reading: those who have received God's grace are responsible for what they have received. St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that *every gift from God carries responsibility*. If God has revealed His love and goodness to us, then we must respond appropriately. St. Paul speaks of the prefiguring of Baptism and Eucharist in the Old Testament. He also recalls how the people rejected God in these precursors, sinned, and for this were severely punished. How much more is today's Christian responsible, who has received not the precursors of Baptism and Eucharist but the actual Sacraments. • Lent is a season when we are called to honestly examine our lives and remove from our hearts anything that keeps us from loving God and our neighbor. Lent is not to be squandered. We honestly do not know how much time we have to turn to the Lord's ways. We do not even know how much time we have to live. We see disasters on TV, we pass car accidents on the road, we hear of people we know who die suddenly. Every moment is precious. In a sense, we are living on borrowed time, and this season of repentance is too valuable not to use well. • There is also a positive dimension to the parable about the tree, found at the end of today's Gospel. Lent is a time to dig around our roots and fertilize them with God's word, prayer, penance, and receiving the Sacraments, etc., so that even if we have not really *borne fruit* yet, we might still have a chance to do so. We cannot let our past failures paralyze us; we must courageously use every opportunity for growth that God provides to us.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray to the Father and ask him to form a new heart within us. • God of all compassion, Father of all goodness, to heal the wounds our sins and selfishness bring upon us you bid us turn to fasting, prayer, and sharing with our brothers and sisters. We acknowledge our sinfulness, our guilt is ever before us: when our weakness causes discouragement, let your compassion fill us with hope and lead us through a Lent of repentance to the beauty of Easter joy.

Faith First

Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance

Two powerful effects of baptism are forgiveness of sin and the adoption of the baptized into God's family. Further, the Holy Spirit given in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and the reception of the Lord in the Eucharist make us holy. However, the new life we receive through the sacraments of Initiation does not take away our weakened human nature. Our inclination to sin remains, requiring a life-long struggle to conversion. • A major help in this struggle to heed Jesus' command to repent and to believe in the gospel is the sacrament of Conversion, also termed Penance, Confession, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation. • We call it the sacrament of Conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to repent. This, in fact, is the first step for sinners to take in returning to the loving Father who awaits with open arms. This sacrament calls Catholics as individuals and as a community to turn to God's infinite mercy and walk the path of renewal. • We call it the sacrament of Penance to emphasize that a life of conversion involves doing penance and making satisfaction for sins we have committed. • We call it the sacrament of Confession because an essential element of the sacrament is to tell our sins to the priest. Through this sacrament we also "confess," that is, acknowledge and praise God for the bounteous mercy God extends to us. • We call it the sacrament of Forgiveness to underscore that through the priest's absolution God imparts pardon and peace. • Finally, we call it the sacrament of Reconciliation because God's love empowers us to become reconciled, to become one again, with those we have harmed through our sins.

Fridays During Lent

There will be two Masses offered every Friday during Lent: 8:00 am and 5:30 pm. Also, on Fridays we have the Stations of the Cross at Noon. On First Friday, April 5, the Stations follow after the Noon Mass.

Meetings & Events

Lenten Soup Suppers

All parishioners are welcome to join us for the second Lenten Soup Supper this Friday at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall, following the 5:30 pm Mass. The Soup Suppers allow parishioners to socialize, hear about worthy organizations in our community, and contribute in a small way to their cause. • This Friday, March 29, we will about the Parochial Athletic League (PAL) outreach to financially-challenged Catholic elementary schools. Funds raised helps to ensure that these schools are able to purchase sports equipment, uniforms, and field teams to participate in the PAL program. Any donations are very much needed and appreciated. • The last Soup Suppers will be held on Friday, April 5.

Seniors News

Seniors, come join us for our next get together on Friday, March 29 at 6:00 pm. We will be eating at the Lenten Soup Supper in the Parish Hall, following the Lenten Mass at 5:30 pm. • Any questions, please contact Nancy Reid at 916-922-3830 or by email at ReidNancy@aol.com

Food Collection ALL WEEKENDS of March

During our Lenten journey you are invited next weekend, March 30-31 to bring to the altar non-perishable food donations for our Society of St. Vincent de Paul pantry and the Catholic Newman Center. May this almsgiving be an expression our gratitude for all that God has given us. The pantry is in need of canned meats (tuna, chicken, ham, Spam), mayo and salad dressing, small bags of pasta and rice, marinara sauce, peanut butter, jam/jelly, cereal and individual cereal cups, canned vegetables and fruit, cake or cookie mixes, and granola/energy bars. A bag filled with non-perishable, unexpired food may be left inside the altar rail. Your generosity is appreciated. • Any questions about donations and volunteering, please call Emilia Jankowski at 916-927-1667.

Youth Group Update

This Wednesday, March 27, the group will be hosting another Charity Bingo Night. A former Youth Group member who now attends St. Francis High School is organizing this night. She and several classmates are raising funds to support St. John's Center for Real Change. Please bring a donation for this great organization, and you could win some great prizes. • 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 located on the School campus from 6:30-7:30 pm. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next weekend, our parish will take up the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please give generously to the collection, and help Jesus in disguise. • For more information about the collection contact www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

The Protection of Children

The Diocese of Sacramento and Sacred Heart Parish are committed to keeping everyone, especially children, safe from all abuse. The Diocese has procedures in place for all parishioners, including Sacred Heart, to maintain a safe environment for all. Over the next few weeks, the bulletin will give an overview of the various plans already in place, the role of the Diocese in training volunteers and paid staff, and guidance in the reporting of any allegations to the appropriate authorities. • Please be sure to read the bulletin concerning this subject. Next week, we will briefly address the topic of training in abuse prevention. (The specifics of the training programs can be found on the diocesan website www.scd.org/safeenvironment.)

Please Remember

Since we do not have security around the church, please, for your child protection and safety, always accompany him/her to the restrooms located in the church vestibule. We are located on a busy corner with increasing foot traffic.

Lenten Penance Service
Our annual Lenten Penance Service will be this Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm. Visiting priests will assist with confessions. An examination of conscience guide is available in the church vestibule to help us prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.

Catholics Come Home

The fourth of six weekly session will be held this Thursday, March 28, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. This week's topic is: *The Mass & the Eucharist—Source and Summit of the Catholic Life*. This session will be presented by our pastor, Msgr. Walton. • Are you looking to reconnect with your Catholic faith? Interested in deepening your faith? 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, its Creed and history, the Sacraments, the Mass and more. Sessions are open to any Catholic who wants to learn more about our shared Faith. • Flyers describing the weekly topics are available in the vestibule. For more information, visit the Parish website at www.sacheart.org/crh.php or call the Ministry Office at 916- 452-4830.

O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to others.

Lenten Service at School

All students at Sacred Heart Parish School are participating in service projects during Lent. Kindergarten is busy making blankets for the Linus Project, TK-8 will be designing cheerful placemats for the patients at Mercy General Hospital and all students are working to fill their Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services. The children are learning that while we have people in need that are close to home, we also have neighbors all over the world that appreciate our support.

Missoula Theater at Sacred Heart Parish School

All are welcome to join the cast of "The Frog Prince" for the performances that will be held Friday, March 29 at 6:30 pm and Saturday, March 30 at 2:00 pm. Come for a fun show, great performances, and the joy of watching children sing and dance. • Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. All performances will be in the school gymnasium.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
March 24 - March 31**

Sun	8:00am	Thomas Manning (+)
	9:30am	Joshua Wingert (+)
	11:00am	Patricia & Maurice Spillane (+)
Mon	8:00am	Vivian Buletti (+)
Tue	8:00am	Joan Koster (+)
Wed	8:00am	Linda Ryle (+)
Thu	8:00am	Christopher Peterson (+)
Fri	8:00am	Marie Lucas (+)
	5:30 pm	Int... Monica Gisla
Sat	9:00am	Doris Wagner (+)
	5:30pm	Linda Ryle (+)
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Betty Baumgartner (+)
	11:00am	Genevieve Mary Dallosta (+)

In Memoriam

Michael Rome • February 9, 2019

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Bishop Francis Quinn, Dusty Haeling, Elliot Sevier, Kang Simon Lee, Diane Peters, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, 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.