

Living God's Law

Means Showing Mercy

The First Reading makes us aware of how blessed we are to have such a loving God. The law God gave the Israelites was a wonderful gift. The pagan nations lived in fear for they had no idea what their gods wanted of them. The pagan gods were capricious, and the rules were constantly changing, so the people were never at peace. God's law guided Israel in the right paths. His law was written in their hearts. Wisdom was found in God's law, not in some far-away land. The people had only to observe it with integrity. • The Second Reading is a beautiful hymn about Our Lord. Here St. Paul uses various concepts to explain who Jesus is: *Icon of the Father*; icons are re-presentations of the Holy One. *Wisdom of God*, in the Old Testament, is an attribute of God. *The Architect* assisted God at creation and in revealing God's will. *Head of the Church* and firstborn of the dead. So Jesus, with God, brought about our justification by His death and resurrection, and He provided us a way to live in that justification by giving us the gift of His Church. • In Luke's Gospel, we turn to the question of what is the greatest of God's laws to be observed. St. Luke gears his words to the understanding of his pagan audience by using a *lawyer* to represent the one who questions Jesus. The lawyer asks how to gain eternal life. When Jesus directs him to the law for the answer, the lawyer responds with, "by loving God and neighbor." Then the question of *who is one's neighbor*, becomes the focus. Jesus challenges His listener by giving an extreme example of charity in the story of the Good Samaritan. Samaritans hated Jews and vice versa. Yet the Samaritan in the story reached out and showed extreme charity to this wounded Jewish man. Jesus asks the lawyer who the *true neighbor* is and he correctly answers, the Samaritan. Jesus tells him to follow the Samaritan's example by doing likewise, that is, by being merciful.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray to be faithful to the light we have received, to the name we bear. • Father, let the light of your truth guide us to your kingdom through a world filled with lights contrary to your own. Christian is the name and the gospel we glory in. May your love make us

Faith First

what you have called us to be. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

How is Moral Law Revealed?

God revealed the moral law to us in two stages: the law of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) and the new law of the gospel. Summarized in the Ten Commandments, the old law is imperfect, a preparation for the gospel. It shows what must be done and what must be avoided, but it does not provide the grace of the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to follow through. Its main function is to denounce and reveal sin. • The new law, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is the earthly perfection of the divine law, both natural and revealed. It is the work of Christ, most perfectly revealed in the Sermon on the Mount. It is also the work and grace of the Holy Spirit who guides us within through the law of love. • The law of the gospel surpasses the Old Testament law by bringing it to perfection. It does not add new precepts. Rather, the Spirit's life in us helps us reform our hearts so we might imitate the perfection of our heavenly Father. The new law requires purity of intention when we act, even challenging us to pray for and forgive our enemies. It calls us to be sincere in our religious practices of almsgiving, praying, and fasting. It finds its perfect summary in Jesus' Golden Rule--"So always treat others as you would like them to treat you" (Matthew 7:12)--and in his new commandment--"Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). • In addition, the Church recognizes the special value of the moral catechesis found in Romans 12-15:13, 1 Corinthians 12-13, Colossians 3-4, and Ephesians 4-6. The teachings contained in these passages and in the Sermon on the Mount reveal that the new law is really a *law of love* because it empowers us to put the Spirit's gift of love into action. It is also a *law of grace* because it gives us the strength to love obediently, through faith and the graces of the sacraments. Finally, the new law is a *law of freedom*, enabling us to act as children of God and friends of the Lord Jesus, sensitively responding to the inner call to love. • The new law also includes what we traditionally call the *evangelical counsels*, that is, poverty, chastity, and obedience. The purpose of these gospel virtues is to break down any barriers to the law of love and to perfect Christians who are striving to live totally for Christ.

Meetings & Events

Altar Society News

• The next Altar Society Meeting will be held on the parish hall on Friday, July 19 at 10:00 am. All members are invited to discuss our Fall Festival plans.

• Do you have a hidden talent? Have friends told you your crafts are good enough to sell? At the Altar Society Bake and Craft Sale at the Fall Festival, you can share your creativity with hundred and earn some money! Get your inventory ready and contact Tila Madrigal at 916-947-2683 or tilamadrigal@gmail.com for more information.

"Second Sunday" Social: This Sunday!

Join us today after the 11:00 am Mass (around noon) for our monthly Sacred Heart "Second Sunday" Social in the Parish Hall. "Second Sunday" is offered each month as a way to help build parish community. All parishioners, and their families/children, are welcome, regardless of the Mass they attend. Walk over to the Parish Hall for coffee and donuts along with fun and fellowship.

Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

Easter 2020 will be on April 12! Will you be ready? Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming a Catholic? Call RCIA director Rita Spillane at 916-452-4830 to explore the possibility of becoming a Catholic or renewing the practice of your Catholic faith.

Parish School Summer Hours

During the summer months the Sacred Heart Parish School office has the following schedule: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call before coming to the school. • The new school year begins August 15.

Email & Texting Scam on the Rise

The Diocese has received multiple reports from parishioners of several parishes about receiving scam emails from an imposter who creates an email address using the pastor's name and then sends a phony email asking for money in the form of gift cards. The scam has recently evolved and parishioners are now also receiving text messages from the imposter/scammer using the pastor's name and a local telephone number. A pastor or clergy member will never ask for gift cards electronically via email or text message. • *Please Note: Several Sacred Heart parishioners have received bogus requests allegedly from Father Walton asking for gift cards.* • If you would like more information on how to protect yourself on the internet, go to the SANS website and subscribe to the OUCH! Monthly Newsletters. • If you believe you are a victim of an internet crime (no matter what the dollar value), file a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center by going to the following website <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. For more information, go to their website.

Farmers Market at Mercy General Hospital

There is a new Farmers Market in the neighborhood. Every Friday, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, Mercy General Hospital sponsors a farmers market in the parking lot in front of the J Street entrance. Shoppers can purchase organic fruits and veggies, fresh baked bread, organic cheese, homemade salsa, tamales and more. This is an initiative of Mercy Hospital as a community service to support healthy food production and the farmers who grow it. Support your local farmers and enjoy organic, fresh produce!

Annual Missionary Appeal

The Missionary Cooperative Appeal is an annual program in which missionaries from around the world speak at each parish in the diocese. The goal of this appeal is to increase awareness of missionary work and to raise funds to help missionary organizations continue their evangelization efforts. In the Diocese of Sacramento, 50 different missions were selected this year to each speak at two parishes. Last year through generous donations, we collected \$420,110 for 50 missions. • Next weekend, our parish will be visited by Fr. Emeka Okwuosa with the Society of Divine Vocations. Father Okwuosa will share with us his religious community's special ministry of fostering and nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life for the Universal Church. The Society of Divine Vocations carries out their ministry in parishes, schools, and missions in 18 countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Vietnam, Philippines, Australia, and the United States. • Special envelopes are available in the church vestibule. *Please note that checks should be made payable to Sacred Heart Church.* All funds collected throughout the Diocese will be divided equally among the 50 missionary organizations visiting the Diocese this year. • Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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.

*Turn to the Lord in your need,
and you will live. --Psalm 69*

Modified Parish Office Hours this Week

During Amy Sparks' vacation this week, the office will be staffed by volunteers and will have shorter hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 12 noon.

Parking Issue

A new restaurant has opened across J Street from the church. This restaurant 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

Baptism Class for Parents and Godparents

A baptism preparation class is offered the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. To attend you must sign up by calling the Parish Office at 916-452-4236 ext. 2. At the class, the necessity and importance of baptism are explained as are the obligations and duties of parents and godparents. Baptisms take place on the first and third Sundays of the month after the 11:00 am Mass (around 12:15 pm). Parents and godparents must attend a preparation class. • For more details, please call the Parish Office.

In Our Prayers

Daily Mass Intentions

July 14 - July 21

Sun	8:00am	Catherine Werry (+)
	9:30am	Aaron Sanchez (+)
	11:00am	Jean-Jacques Devaud (+)
Mon	8:00am	Marvin Charles Menne (+)
Tue	8:00am	Joan T. Koster (+)
Wed	8:00am	Kang Simon Lee (+)
Thu	8:00am	Mrs. Fe Echiverri (+)
Fri	8:00am	Glen Schwartz (+)
Sat	9:00am	Isabel Grace Flynn (+)
	5:30pm	Maureen Durkin (+)
Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	Isabel Grace Flynn (+)

In Memoriam

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please Pray for the Sick

Thomas Wolfanger, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, Rita Doherty, Patrick Valenzuela, Cheryl Halm Lincoln, Michael Fletcher, Grayson Kemp, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, 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.