

All Nations Shall Worship Him

The First Reading is a foretelling of the deliverance of Israel and the worship of their God by Gentile peoples of all nations. God will fulfill His promises to them. God's glory will so shine upon His chosen people that foreigners from all over will come in pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pay homage to the Lord. • The Responsorial, Psalm 72, describes the perfect king of Israel: someone as wise as Solomon; one who secures justice for all, especially the poor; a great warrior to enlarge Israel's boundaries. No king could fulfill these high expectations, so the prophets spoke of a future king, unlike any other in Israel. The arrival of the Magi to pay homage to the infant Jesus, the Messiah, is the fulfillment of this prophecy and the inauguration of God's reign. In the Magi, the *recognition* of the splendor and majesty of the newborn King of Kings and the *homage* of Him by all the nations of the earth begins. • In the Second Reading, we see the bounty of God's love extends to all peoples; this is the mystery of salvation. The New Covenant is one in which all peoples will participate in God's grace, for all are chosen by Him, without distinction. All are invited to be part of the mystical body of Christ. • The Gospel continues the Epiphany theme of the other Scripture readings. Epiphany means *manifestation*. We commemorate the day the glory of God's Messiah was made manifest to all peoples in the personage of the Magi. Even though the murderous King Herod (*whose paranoia about rivals to his throne caused him to murder a wife, three sons and a high priest brother-in-law*) sought to destroy the Messiah, God's protection of His Son's mission prevailed. The Magi brought three gifts: *gold*, the gift one gives to a king; *frankincense*, what is burned to honor a god; and *myrrh*, an ointment used in burials. These gifts indicated not only His divinity and royalty, but also how Jesus would save us.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray that we will be guided by the light of faith. • Father of light, unchanging God, today you reveal to people of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh.

Faith First

Your light is strong, your love is near; draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes, to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord is one of the oldest Christian feasts. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man. • Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man. • Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi. • Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity; at the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him; and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth. • Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men. Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmas-tide—the twelve days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany. • Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West. Today the Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 12.

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
January 5 - January 12**

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| Sun | 8:00am | Terence McCartan (+) |
| | 9:30am | Int...Kristin Stone |
| | 11:00am | For the People of the Parish |
| Mon | 8:00am | Delores Gordon (+) |
| Tue | 8:00am | Int...Kourtney Burdick |
| Wed | 8:00am | Int...Altar Society Members |
| Thu | 8:00am | Annita Jewell (+) |
| Fri | 8:00am | John Silveira (+) |
| Sat | 9:00am | Int...Rick Barbara |
| | 5:30pm | For the People of the Parish |
| Sun | 8:00am | Terence McCartan (+) |
| | 9:30am | Int...Andrew Holz |
| | 11:00am | John McCormick (+) |

In Memoriam

Gail Hamilton • December 14, 2019

Saints of God, come to his aid!
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord!
Receive his soul & present him to God the Most High.

Please Pray for the Sick

Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, Thomas Wolfanger, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, Patrick Valenzuela, 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, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henricksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Meetings & Events

Presentation on Racism

Save the date! You are invited to attend a panel presentation on the topic of Racism to be held on **Monday, January 27, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in the School Cafeteria. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Hearts* to invite all the faithful to "...open our minds and hearts to Christ's love for all people and to the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism." Bishop Soto has asked all the parishes to promote and hold listening sessions on this important topic. Please plan to attend.

Retreat for Women

Join the women of Sacred Heart signing up for the annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on the weekend of January 10-12, 2020. The theme for the retreat will be "Come and See," with reflections taken from the Gospel of St. John. Have you ever thought of giving the gift of a retreat to a loved one and/or yourself? • For more information, please call the Retreat Center at 916-725-4720 or Kim at 916-479-1736. Sign-up forms are also found in the church vestibule.

School Christmas Break

Students, teachers and staff are enjoying the Christmas Holiday. The Parish School will resume on Monday, January 6. • The Parish's Faith Formation students will return to class on Tuesday, January 7.

Parish School Open House

You are invited to attend the Sacred Heart Parish School annual Open House on January 26, 2020 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please drop in to see our school, meet our teachers and learn a bit more about the opportunity for an excellent, affordable education. All are welcome.

Accepting Applications for 2020-2021

Sacred Heart Parish School is now accepting applications for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten for next school year. Students in TK must be 4 years old by September 1, 2020. Kindergartners must be 5 by September 1, 2020. Applications may be found online at the school website (www.sacredheartschool.com) or in the school office. • If you have any questions, please call the School Office at 916-456-1576.

Farmers Market at Mercy General Hospital

There is a new Farmers Market every Friday, from 9:30 am to 1:00 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!

Knights of Columbus Crab Dinner

Come and enjoy a delicious six-course crab dinner on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 5961 Newman Court, across the street from the Sacramento State Catholic Newman Center. Social hour is from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$45 per person. Contact Al Piccardo to RSVP at 916-439-7664, and indicate you are a Sacred Heart parishioner. We hope you will be able to join us.

Words of Appreciation

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love (Saint Teresa of Calcutta). • Beautifully

decorating the sanctuary and church, carefully setting up the Nativity scene, diligently preparing the altar linens, meticulously cleaning the church, generously ministering to others, and joyfully enhancing our Masses with inspiring music...Thank you to all who make Christmas at Sacred Heart so special!

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.

Parish Study Group

We are discussing *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* by Bishop Robert Barron. The assignment for Tuesday, January 7 is Chapter 8, pages 195--223. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. • For more information, please call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

2020 Church Calendars

The 2020 calendars are available for parishioners to pick up after Mass in the church vestibule.

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 church office at 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.

Please Remember

Since we do not have security around the church, please, for your child's 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.

Flu Season: Special Precautions

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reports that the incidence of flu and flu-like illnesses is "widespread" and has reached a level requiring that we enact preventive measures to mitigate the possibility of infection at Mass. In order to protect the health and well-being of everyone, Bishop Soto has issued the following directives: (1) The use of the Communion cup is suspended temporarily. (2) Please receive the Body of Christ in the hand. (3) Do not shake hands. Offer the Sign of Peace to those around you with a simple nod, saying "Peace be with you." (4) Do not hold hands during the Our Father. • The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and other holy days does not apply to those who are sick. If you are sick, please stay home and take care of yourself. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. And pray for those who are sick. The administration of Holy Communion in both kinds will resume as soon as it safe and prudent to do so.