

**Stepping out in Faith**

The First Reading recalls how Elijah encountered the Lord on God's holy mountain. It was thought that the Lord would appear in His usual dramatic Old Testament way of fire, wind and earthquakes. Here, the Lord reveals His presence in the whispering sound of the breeze. God wants us to understand that He does not always act through extraordinary means, but also in ordinary, simple, humble, everyday ways. He wants us to recognize His presence in our daily life, as much as we recognize Him in tremendous events. ● The Responsorial Psalm is again one of the lamentation psalms, ending like they all do, in confident thanksgiving for future deliverance. The psalmists believed that benefits would be showered on all who hoped in the Lord. There is also the theme of justice as a prerequisite for peace. We learn from God about justice. He calls us to practice justice in the way we deal with others. His justice is mixed with mercy, so in doling out what is deserved, we are challenged to forgive, as He does us, even when undeserved. ● In the Second Reading, St. Paul dispels the erroneous accusation that he hates the Jews. He offers to be sent to hell in their stead, in order to guarantee their salvation. This gives us a difficult measure of Christian love. He reiterates that the Jews are still God's people even if they are unfaithful, for God is always faithful. ● Today's Gospel again shows God's mastery of nature and His power over evil. In this case, Jesus approaches His Apostles in the middle of the night (considered the time when evil forces have sway) and walking on the sea's water (defying nature). The fact that Jesus has control over both night and sea, shows He is in charge of nature and superior to evil forces, whenever and wherever they exist. Both are rendered impotent in His presence. This Gospel demonstrates Peter's typical impetuosity when he steps out of the boat and onto the water to meet Jesus. Soon he begins to sink by letting his fear take over. Jesus chides him for his lack of faith. Ultimately, we must trust the Lord. He calls us to allow His grace to transform our hearts in His love by stepping out in faith.

**Prayer of the Week - Feast of Mary's Assumption**

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore

**Faith First**

the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless life and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**That Tiny Whispering Sound**

How many times in our lives have we sought some sort of sign from God of what direction to take, what decision to make? It is as if we were waiting for our personal lightning bolt to strike, giving us a clear answer. The truth is, there may not be a lightning bolt, but God will always give us an answer. ● God may visit us in a tiny whispering sound, as he visited Elijah. If we get distracted or are not paying attention, we can miss God passing by. When an infant smiles at us, someone holds the door for us, or offers a helping hand, there is an opportunity to sense the presence of God. The answer may arrive in the words of a psalm, or in the unassuming example of sacrificial love we witness in another. ● We often identify Thomas as "the doubting Apostle," but in this Sunday's Gospel we see that Peter also doubted. That image of Peter sinking in the water can be very real for us. We have likely had that same sinking feeling when adversity enters our own lives. Like Peter, we can cry out, "Lord save me!" We know what it is like to make that cry; we should also know what it means to respond to another's cry of the same. ● There is a story told about a school principal who was cleaning out the storage area of the parish school. She came across an old crucifix that was about four feet tall. Unfortunately, the hands and feet had broken off the corpus. She was planning to have it buried on parish property when she got an idea. ● Instead of burying of the damaged crucifix, she asked the maintenance person to give it a good cleaning. Then she hung it in the main entrance area where all the students, staff, and parents would see it. Underneath the cross she installed a sign that read: "Will you be my hands and feet today?" ● This might be a good prayer for all of us to bring to the Lord today: "Help me to be your hands and feet today. Give me the grace to help another to hear your quiet whisper. Allow me to be there for someone, keeping them from sinking into the water of doubt and despair. Let me hear your tiny whispers."

**In Our Prayers**

**Daily Mass Intentions  
August 9 - August 16**

|            |         |                              |
|------------|---------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b> | 8:00am  | For the People of the Parish |
|            | 10:00am | No intention requested       |
|            | 12:00pm | No intention requested       |
| <b>Mon</b> | 8:00am  | Andrew Cochrane (+)          |
| <b>Tue</b> | 8:00am  | Don Rossotti (+)             |
| <b>Wed</b> | 8:00am  | Gene Vittori (+)             |
| <b>Thu</b> | 8:00am  | Rose Ann Guerra (+)          |
| <b>Fri</b> | 8:00am  | No intention requested       |
| <b>Sat</b> | 9:00am  | No intention requested       |
|            | 5:30pm  | Joan Carlberg (+)            |
| <b>Sun</b> | 8:00am  | Don & Anita Cerqui (+)       |
|            | 10:00am | For the People of the Parish |
|            | 12:00pm | No intention requested       |

**In Memoriam**

**Donnald Anderson • July 30, 2020**  
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

**Please Pray for the Sick**

Gene Sirois, Delia Chavez, Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, Gene Yeager, Margarita Enriquez, Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Nancy McGarry, Patrick Valenzuela, Michael Fletcher, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Marie Schumacher, 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**

**Assumption of Mary into Heaven**

In 1950 Pope Pius XII officially proclaimed the doctrine of the Assumption: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." This doctrine, which has its roots in ancient Catholic belief, shows the connection between Mary's unique role as God's mother preserved from original sin and the reality of our final resurrection in Christ. In her assumption, Mary was preserved from the decay of death. Mary, the mother of the Savior, is the first to share in the Lord's resurrection. She is the living model for all people whose future destiny is union with the risen Lord. Her assumption to heaven is an anticipation of our own resurrection. ● Throughout her life and in her glorious death, Mary points the way to Jesus and God the Father.

**Morning Prayer Opportunity**

Would you like to begin your day by praying together with other parishioners? At 8:00 am, Monday through Friday, a group of parishioners gathers via Zoom to pray. Our time together involves praying aloud the Psalms, listening to a hymn, and sharing intentions for which we wish to pray. Morning Prayer lasts for about 25 minutes. Please send an email to Rita Spillane at ritaspillane@gmail.com or call the Parish Office and speak to Amy if you would like to join this group.

**Safety/Security Projects Update**

Last month the Parish initiated a number of projects to enhance parish safety and security. A new concrete walkway between the rectory and parish hall was poured for ADA access. A second handicapped parking space was added, requiring the re-grading of a small portion of the parking lot. A bollard was installed in the parking area near the medical building's dumpster and a protective iron grill was placed around the hall's exterior water main. A new iron gate/fencing was installed at the parish hall main entrance. Iron fencing was added to the existing brick wall at the north end of the hall. In the coming weeks, additional iron fencing will be added to existing fencing between the church/parish hall and the medical building next door. Replacing the parish hall exterior doors with more secure doors and frames comes next. The final projects, of (1) re-opening the exterior church doors in the Pieta Chapel as an emergency exit only and (2) installing new exterior church/rectory lighting along 39th Street will follow. ● Funding has come from the Parish Building Fund at a total cost of approximately \$365,000.

**Parish Building Fund**

The safety/security projects are funded by the Parish Building Fund. That fund was established initially by a bequest from a very generous parishioner who gave the Parish in his estate planning a duplex with the understanding that it would be sold. The proceeds would go to establish the Parish Building Fund. Subsequently, another parishioner, who

**Church Closures Episode 2**

On Monday July 13, Governor Newsom again ordered the closure of indoor church services in Sacramento County, as the rate of corona virus infections has increased dramatically in the past four weeks. Therefore, there will be no public Masses offered at Sacred Heart church until the closure order is lifted (again). The Church is open for private prayer Monday--Friday from 8:00 am to 9:30 am; Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; and Sunday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. ● Please refer to the list below in this bulletin or on the parish website for Masses that can be watched on television or streamed online. ● Continue to pray for the victims of the virus, their families, and the health workers charged with treating the sick.

asked to remain anonymous, has contributed very generously to the Fund. We are extremely grateful to these individuals and many others who have donated to the Fund. Donations are donor-restricted and can only be used for church/parish hall/rectory projects. ● Please consider making a donation to the Building Fund. Our goal is to begin rebuilding the Fund.

**Parish Pen Pal Project**

Recently, the Parish Pastoral Council met using the online resource Zoom. At the meeting the Pastoral Council discussed the possibility of creating Parish Pen Pal for parishioners who have sheltered in place during this coronavirus pandemic. We have identified approximately 80 households who have had minimal contact with others. To help alleviate their lack of contacts the Council thought the Parish should invite other parishioners to correspond with this group. Many of these parishioners are elderly, but not all. We are looking for parishioners who are willing to consider

being a Pen Pal with one of these parishioners. If you are interested, please contact Amy at the Parish Office (916-452-4136 ext. 2).

**Plans for Sacred Heart School 2020-2021**

Sacred Heart School faculty and staff are excited to begin the new school year. We will be starting a bit differently than we have in the past, but we are hopeful to be back in our classrooms on campus in September. From August 17-September 8 teachers will be meeting their students with their parents at school and through Zoom. Our hope is to rebuild our community and rekindle our faith life. Students will have the opportunity to brush up on some academic skills and pick up supplies that may be needed if at home learning needs to be continued. We have many protocols in place when we get the green light to return and we look forward to a healthy school year.

**Parish Website Resources**

We have posted on the Parish Website at <https://sacredheart.church/> some spiritual resources to nourish our faith and prayer life. There are a number of websites that celebrate Mass daily. ● [EWTN](#) Eternal Word Television Network ● [Catholic TV](#) ● Salt and Light Media [Canadian Daily TV](#) on You Tube. Here are some helpful spiritual resources and some daily meditations on the Scripture readings of Mass: ● St. Louis University has a fine website exploring the depths of Sunday readings. Explore historical, cultural context, thoughts from the early Church, Scripture in depth, and other areas of significant import. Find it at [liturgy.slu.edu](http://liturgy.slu.edu) ● [Word on Fire](#) is Bishop Barron's website which is extremely popular. Bishop Barron explains the Sunday readings each week. The site has numerous videos, homilies, and other Catholic resources.