



ILLUSTRATION BY PATT ILLLOULI

Sacred Heart Church

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[HTTPS://SACREDHEART.CHURCH](https://sacredheart.church)
OFFICE HOURS: M - F, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES:

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30 P.M.; SUNDAY 8, 9:30,
AND 11 A.M. (MUSIC WITH SCHOLA CANTORUM)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

M - F: 8 A.M.; SAT 9 A.M.
FIRST FRIDAY: 8 A.M. AND 12 NOON
HOLY DAYS: PLEASE SEE BULLETIN
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: 9 A.M. (NO 8 A.M.)

RECONCILIATION: SATURDAY 4-5 P.M.

BAPTISM: PLEASE CALL RECTORY

MARRIAGE: PLEASE CALL RECTORY SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy

Awesome Mercy

Today's First Reading is a reminder to us Christians to practice great charity and generosity in our treatment of each other, as the early Christians did in St. Paul's community; taking care of one another with the Apostles being the focal points of unity. • The Responsorial, Psalm 118, is a song of wonder and gratitude for God's forever enduring mercy, so fitting the Easter Season. When we think of how difficult it is to forgive others, we get a small glimpse into God's mercy. We can not even begin to understand the depth of His mercy. God loves all and destroys the power of sin by responding with ever greater mercy. Hence, we are filled with awe, not the kind based in fear, but the kind we feel when we recognize the enormity of His goodness and mercy. This does not lead us to ignore life's problems but to confront them, knowing that nothing can separate us from His love. • Today's Second Reading is thought to be written to combat a second century heresy that denied the divinity of Jesus, saying God would never take on human form and certainly not die on a cross. It also lacked in charity and practiced immorality, hence St. John's insistence on love and observance of the commandments. He argued that the Faith is proved by Baptism (*water*), the Eucharist (*blood*), and *witness to truth*, inspired by the Holy Spirit. • The first part of today's Gospel focuses on man's recreation in the Holy Spirit. It recalls the Genesis creation story of Adam, when God *breathed* His Spirit into him, so that he would have life. Now we are created anew with our sins forgiven by the *breath* of the Spirit, acquiring new life by the Spirit. The second part of the Gospel is about belief in the divinity of Jesus. St. Thomas did not want to believe

Faith First

without concrete evidence. Upon touching the wounds of the risen Savior, St. Thomas proclaims Him as Lord and God; *one of the rare times Jesus is called God in the New Testament*. This witnessing to the resurrected, incarnate Jesus rejects the early heresy that denied the incarnation and suffering of the God-man. In conclusion there is praise for those who believe without seeing. • May our lives be praiseworthy in witnessing to our Faith.

Prayer of the Week

Let us pray
as Christians thirsting for the risen life.

Heavenly Father and God of mercy,
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.

From the waters of death
you raise us with him
and renew your gift of life within us.
Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life
we share with Christ

and help us to grow as your people
toward the fullness of eternal life with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Jesus our Savior

Christians hold that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation. Everything that Jesus said and did revealed God. The words he spoke were from the Father, living in him, doing his work. He came to bring salvation. The very name *Jesus* means "God saves," thus expressing our Lord's identity and mission.

Our Salvation

Salvation refers to the good that God intends for us. It is the mending of broken relationships, which keep us from being whole and at one with God and with our neighbor. It is the showering of God's blessings, the forgiveness of sins, and the reconciliation of all creation to God. Salvation can refer to God's saving activity at work in both individual lives and within the whole of humanity.

The Paschal Mystery

The paschal mystery refers to Jesus' passion, death, resurrection, and glorification (ascension). Through these key events of our salvation, Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin. He shares his life with us and through the Holy Spirit instructs us that love of God and neighbor is the vocation of all who belong to God's family.

In Our Prayers

Daily Mass Intentions

April 11 -- April 18

Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Chuck Purcell (+)
	11:00am	Lily Fuentes (+)
Mon	8:00am	Catherine Feehan Willey (+)
Tue	8:00am	Rose Anne Guerra (+)
Wed	8:00am	Gene Vittori (+)
Thu	8:00am	Nita York (+)
Fri	8:00am	No Intention
Sat	9:00am	No Intention
	5:30pm	Rose Stanley (+)
Sun	8:00am	Don & Anita Cerqui (+)
	9:30am	For the People of the Parish
	11:00am	No Intention

In Memoriam

Charles "Chuck" Purcell • March 14, 2021

Carol Oettle Colby • March 25, 2021

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

Please Pray for the Sick

Mickey Lloyd, Rita Johnston, Patrick Valenzuela, Tom Duval, Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, Margarita Enriquez, Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Nancy McGarry, Michael Fletcher, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;

Meetings & Events

Easter Break

Sacred Heart School is currently on a two-week break. Classes will resume tomorrow, April 12 and continue for just seven weeks until the end of the school year. This school year has been challenging to staff, students, and teachers alike, but we are grateful that Sacred Heart has been able to offer in-person classes for this year. Years from now, the students can look back on this pandemic year and add "resilience" to the list of qualities they learned as children.

Pieta Chapel Project

This past week, the renovation of the Pieta Chapel was completed. The Pieta statue has been relocated to the south wall, the original ceiling has been re-plastered and opened up, new mahogany paneling installed, a new image of Our Lady of Guadalupe painted, along with decorative gold-leaf ceiling highlights. The primary reason for the renovation was to enable the exterior door to be reopened as an emergency only exit. (The exit was closed nearly 70 years ago.) Since the project was financed completely by the Parish Building Fund and not from Parish Sunday offertory or a special appeal, please consider donating to the fund as a way of paying it forward to the next generations of Sacred Heart parishioners.

Altar Society News

- We are looking for volunteer(s) to provide and care for the flowers on the Blessed Sacrament Altar during the month of May and June. Several of our months are covered by two friends who share the responsibility. For more information, please contact Linda at 916-541-0346 if you are interested. Our thanks to Andy Sevier and Suzanne Pyne for supporting our ministry by providing flowers for the Blessed Sacrament Altar for the past years during May and June. A thank you also to Linda Rutherford who is providing and caring for the Altar flowers during the month of April.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. -- Ps.118:24

Indoor Mass

Our regular weekday and weekend Mass schedule has resumed with health restrictions. The church is opened one half hour before Mass and closed 10 minutes after Mass, so that the pews may be sanitized. Please continue to follow all health restrictions: wearing a face mask, sanitizing your hands frequently, maintaining social distancing, and contact tracing. Thank you for observing these restrictions.

Catholic Faith Formation

The Catholic Faith Formation (CFF) program for children attending a non-Catholic elementary school will resume classes via Zoom this coming Tuesday, April 13. The CFF students will then only meet two other Tuesdays, April 27 and May 11, after which they will begin their summer break. The CFF program for 2021-2022 is in development with classes beginning in early September. Further information and registration will be available this May.

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.

Attend Mass Virtually!

If you are choosing to stay home during the pandemic, you can still attend Sunday Mass virtually online. Visit the parish website at https://sacredheart.church for various Masses available.

Easter Season

The Easter Season refers to the Great Fifty Days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, a celebration of our participation in Christ's resurrection which brings us from the death of sin to a life of grace. Its last ten days (Ascension Thursday through Pentecost) focus on the promise of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The fiftieth day (pente-) is seven (the perfect number) squared plus one (the first day of the New Life). The word Easter probably has roots in the Norse term Eostur, the season of the rising sun, or the time of the new birth of spring. Both these meanings lent themselves well to Christian symbolism for the new life of the risen Christ, the eternal light.

Bright Week

The eight-day week beginning with Easter and ending the following Sunday is one of the octaves kept by the Church. It is traditional to consider the octave day as belonging to the feast, so that Easter would last eight days, including two Sundays: Easter itself (the high feast) and this Sunday (the "low" one, thus "Low Sunday"). It was once common practice for those who had been baptized during the year, especially those initiated at the Easter Vigil, to wear white clothes to Mass during the octave. In fact, this symbolic clothing of the neophytes inspired all members of the faith community, clothed in Christ, to celebrate this grace by wearing new clothes at Easter. With everyone called to rise and shine, it is no wonder that the Easter octave was called Bright Week.

Free Compact Disc

Please help yourself to a complimentary CD featuring our choir Schola Cantorum in a beautiful performance of Maurice Durufle's Requiem. It is Schola's gift to our congregation for Holy Week and Easter as a reminder of Schola's annual Lenten Choral Mysteries concert.

Advertisers and Local Businesses

During this pandemic, many small businesses in our neighborhood have been struggling due to loss of patronage. Some of these businesses advertise in our bulletin, others are nearby shops that are used to serving our parishioners. If you are financially able, please support these neighborhood establishments at this critical time for them. We thank and appreciate the businesses who choose to advertise in our bulletin, as well as those who serve our East Sacramento neighborhood community.

Annual Appeal Continues: Please be Generous!

Preliminary reports on the Annual Diocesan Catholic Appeal indicate the Sacred Heart in-pew collection is about 25% of the amount gathered in past years at this point in the Campaign. Because of the pandemic, this drop-off is understandable. But in a twist of fate, the pandemic also created a greater-than-normal need for donations. Please, if you have not yet donated, you can do so by using an envelope found in the vestibule (or received in the mail from the Diocese) or by donating online at https://www.scd.org/catholic-foundation/donate-annual-catholic-appeal. Remember, 25% of your donation is returned to the parish to help our parish outreach to those in need.



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