

Dear People of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors: Today's Gospel passage is about the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This is a typical love story. Lazarus' sisters acknowledge that Jesus loved him. Two sentences later the Gospel states that Jesus loved not only Lazarus but his two sisters as well. For some reason Jesus delays in going to where the three lived. When he got there, Martha forgot about her love for Jesus when she expressed that had Jesus been there, Lazarus would not have died. Guilt trip! Like the true lover that He is, Jesus leads Martha to a deeper understanding of Himself. She begins with resorting twice to head knowledge in saying that she knows whatever Jesus asks of God will come about. After Jesus reassures her that Lazarus will rise, she says she knows that. Taking her deeper in her awareness of who Jesus really is, He says that he is the resurrection and the life. Martha becomes more heart-felt when she says she believes this about Jesus.

Whoops, she takes a step back in saying that Jesus is coming into the world when He is standing right in front of her. As we reflect on how intimately we are aware of who Jesus is, we can easily identify with Martha. We say we know that God loves us. Our goal in life is to believe in the depths of our being that Jesus is the Son of God whose Spirit, in light of second reading, dwells with us. St. Paul says "if only' the Spirit of God dwells in you." Does He or doesn't He? It is an on-going process by which we come to accept deep in our being that the Spirit truly dwells within. We might ask, how can this be when we sin? But God does not extract His love or His Spirit from us when we sin. The more we focus on God's constant Presence within and among us, the more likely we are to transform our lives and become more loving and less focused on sin, imitating the very nature of God.

One sign of our deepening belief in God's love is to allow the Spirit, referencing our first reading, to open the graves within us, acknowledge that we have sinned, but allow the Spirit help us realize ever more fully that God focuses on His love for us, a love that does not change because of our sin. We often say that pride is a major sin. It surely is when we get to thinking that our sins can in any control God's view of us or His way of relating with us.

Back to our Gospel. Given the lack of love within the people at Lazarus' grave, Jesus becomes perturbed and deeply troubled. In His humanity, Jesus felt like any of us does.

The key is what He did about those unpleasant feelings. He stepped toward the grave and with the confidence He had in His identity as the Son of God, He ignored the information about the number of days Lazarus had been dead and commands that the stone be removed, and, acting out His identity, commanded Lazarus to come out. We pray that we, too, acting out our identity as God's beloved people, will who draw one another from all forms of emotional and spiritual death, and help to unwrap one another from our guilt, shame and anything else that hinders our being the person that God created us to be. And be alive!

~Fr. Roman

The week of March 30th—April 5th (Palm Sunday)

All Parish activities have been cancelled until further notice. Updates will be posted on the parish website. If you need assistance with anything (like shopping), please call the parish office (916) 989-7400.

FLU/CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Holy Mass

Until we are able to gather together again, Divine Savior offers an opportunity for you to view Mass on our Parish website. Parish Facebook and YouTube (Divine Savior Orangevale).

Sunday Mass - will be livestreamed, Sat. at 4:30pm and Sun. at 9am. Recordings will be available at 6pm & 11am

Daily Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:00am. A recording of the Mass will be available for viewing by noon.

Our Church and Parish Office will be closed until further notice, however staff will answer the phone Monday through Friday from 8:00am until 4:00pm. For **funerals, confession, or anointing of the sick**, please call the parish office.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion—

As Catholics, we share a strong desire to share in the Body and Blood of Christ with our brothers and sisters at the table of our Divine Savior. When this is not possible, we have the option of making a Spiritual Communion. This is the prayer we say at Divine Savior during Mass.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart ... I unite myself wholly to you, embrace You, because I know you are already here (hands over heart), and I will NEVER be separated from You. Amen

**Stay connected to the parish,
Download myParish app!**

Right now, myParish App is the most effective means to push-out important information to parishioners in a timely manner! If you don't have it, go to myParishapp.com and download to your Apple or Android phone. After download, choose FIND A PARISH, and put the 95662 Zip code and it will take you to Divine Savior Catholic Church. Thanks!

Reflection from Fr. Marcel —The Gospel narrative for this Sunday recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. The reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life. Jesus reminds us in John 10:10; that he came that we may have life and have it in abundance. The Gospel also calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we also join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him; may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life. As we journey together as one parish family during this time of uncertainty; may we remain resolute, firm, steadfast and unmovable in our faith and trust in the Divine Savior. May we also believe that we shall live to tell the story. In addition, Pope Francis reminds us: "*As Christians we should respond to the pandemic of the virus with the universality of prayer, of compassion and tenderness.*" He also encouraged everyone: "*Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt to those who are alone and to those who are most stricken.*" May we remember in our prayers all who have contracted the coronavirus; that God's healing Spirit will ease their symptoms and restore them to health and for an end to the pandemic; that God will guide and inspire everyone working to curtail the virus and help them to employ proper hygiene.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

Many thanks to those who have offered your gifts of treasure to our parish in this last week whether by mail or electronically. In reflecting on the blessings we enjoy because of God's goodness and kindness, we find it important to continue to find fitting ways to express our gratitude to God, even when we are not able to gather for Sunday Mass. I realize that some of our parishioners need to be extra careful with money during this unusual time. For those who can continue with their usual contributions or even increase them a bit, it will surely help to minimize the amount we will need to dip into savings.

For those who which to switch from writing checks, please go to our parish website <http://divinesavior.com>. Scroll down to the section titled "**Quick Resources**" and choose "**Support our Parish**". Please notice that we have added a new option, "**text giving.**"

~Fr. Roman Mueller, S.D.S.

A prayer from our pastor

Dear God of us all:
No one needs to tell you, God, that it has been well over two weeks since Covid-19 caused us to make significant changes to life, including our life as a faith community. It was on March 11th that we cancelled our Parish Crab Feed, and the following weekend had our last Masses together in our beautiful church building. Loving God, it feels like a much longer time has elapsed. We look to you, gracious God, to help us get our minds around the reality that we are in this for a lot longer than we had expected. Our patience has already become a bit frazzled, so remind us that you continue to be with us and that putting our trust in you will diminish or even dispel our dread.

We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so that we can be renewed with wisdom and all the other gifts we need in order to make the most of this time. Through it all, we continue to give thanks to you for the technology that allows us to share in Mass through social media.

Thank you for reminding us to focus on your infinite love for us, a love we promise to make real in our relationships with each other. We pray, as always, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Food resources during Quarantine

OV Food Bank: 6483 Main Ave. Orangevale
Open Monday 11am-4pm, Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm, and Thursday 10am-12:30pm.

Volunteers needed—If you are under 65 and able to volunteers, please sign up at their website at <https://ovfoodbank.volunteer.com/>.

Seventh Day Adventist Food Closet: 5810 Pecan Ave, Orangevale
Tuesdays 9-12
916-967-0405

Meal Distribution for Students in Need During School Closures

San Juan Unified will provide an opportunity for families to pick up two meals daily (lunch and breakfast for the following day) in a mobile walk-up or drive-thru meal service for children 18 and under. For school sites go to the district website.

Link to **Folsom/Cordova (FCUSD)** offering meals: <https://www.fcusd.org/Page/38976>