



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

St. John the Evangelist Parish is a welcoming and responsive faith community, nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharistic Table. We are open and trusting in the love of Jesus Christ to advance the power of the Holy Spirit, within the parish and beyond, by living the Gospel.

PARISH INFORMATION

5751 Locust Avenue
Carmichael CA 95608-1320
Parish Office: (916) 483-8454
Web: www.sjecarmichael.org
Email: office@sjecarmichael.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am to 4 pm
[Contact Us by Phone or Email](#)

ALL MASSES (SUNDAY & WEEKDAY)

ARE ***SUSPENDED***

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE PER
THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
DUE TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE
CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

SUNDAY "PRIVATE" MASS LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH FACEBOOK @ 10 AM

PARISH CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Fr. Bernardin Mugabo
Pastor Emeritus	Fr. Thomas Bland
Mercy Hospital Chaplain	Fr. Alban Uba
Deacon	Keith Johnson
Deacon	Jack Wilson
Deacon Emeritus	Larry Niekamp
SJE Business Manager	Linda Gospodnetich
Religious Education Coordinator	Sr. Hannah Mary O'Donoghue
Director of Music & Liturgy	Cara O'Shea
Youth Minister	Cara O'Shea
SJE Pastoral Council Chairperson	Tom Ennis
SJE Finance Council Chairperson	Mary Ellen Meier

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

5701 Locust Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608
Phone: (916) 481-8845
Fax: (916) 481-1319
Email: office@stjohnnev.com
Principal: Christie Horton



Registration/Change of Address: Allow at least 3 months to receive envelopes or for any changes.

I want to register in the parish. I have changed my address; my envelope # is _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PASTOR'S PAGE BY DEACON JACK

Sing your hearts out during the time of stay at home:

I have always found music lifts my spirits. If you are staying at home and it is just too quiet, put on some music to brighten your day.

The great council of Vatican II spent much energy determining how the liturgy – the public worship of God, should be conducted to foster the full and active participation of all during the sacred liturgy of the Mass. The precautions and medical reasons that have led to the suspension of public Mass in so many places have greatly affected the people of God. I saw cars driving slowly by the church as I worked on getting the Livestreaming of Mass running. I suspect those cars had parishioners who were coming by just to see their place of worship.

Watching Mass on your television, computer or phone during this time does offer a continued connection although I don't think anyone would consider it a good substitute. Looking for some consolation that can be had during this time, I wondered how we could have a more active participation even though we are not physically in the sanctuary of SJE. One idea that came to me is actively participating in the music (my introduction was a sneaky way to get to this). From one of the four main documents from The Vatican II council:

CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY

SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM

SOLEMNLY PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON DECEMBER 4, 1963

“118. Religious singing by the people is to be intelligently fostered so that in devotions and sacred exercises, as also during liturgical services, the voices of the faithful may ring out according to the norms and requirements of the rubrics.”

The voices of the faithful may ring out.

From my vantage point on the Altar at Mass for the first few months of this year, I could see many parishioners who sang as much as they could, many parishioners that would open the missal in the back of the pews and follow along perhaps singing and others who did nothing but stand and seemingly just wait for the music to end. We are *all* invited to let our voices ring out.

Yes, I know, some can truthfully say, I don't know how to read music so I cannot fully and actively participate and others will say I have a terrible voice and I don't want others around me to hear it. Well – we are at home now. You don't have your friends in the pew in front of you listening to your voice. At most you probably have your spouse and children who love you so much ... Ahh but I know it can still be embarrassing, even if it is family. You never heard me practicing the Exultant I sang at the Easter Vigil Mass before Cara agreed to help me (she should get much more than 50% of the credit) so I know about singing at home making not so angelic sounds. This is the time to practice!

My best argument for singing now that we are at home comes from my music teacher during formation, Sandy Holland. Sandy pointed out that music that is supposed to be sung, has to have natural places where the singer can take a breath. Nobody can sing for the length of an average hymn on one breath. Music needs to be constructed so singers and choirs could all draw in air to continue to the next part of the piece. For example:

Holy God, we praise thy name (breath)

Lord of all we bow before thee (breath)

All on earth thy scepter claim (breath)

When all are singing this melody together, we all *breath* at the same time. Isn't that what a body of many members would do, the mystical body of Christ? Imagine when we no longer need to stay at home and can attend Mass at SJE. The bell rings, we stand and everyone begins to sing the opening hymn. At the natural break in the music, we all take in a breath, breathing as a single Body of Christ, our voices all ringing out his praises

St. Paul tells us:

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and we were all made to drink of one Spirit (1Cor 12:13).

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: (cf Romans 12:4-6).

Some may still say I don't have the gift of reading music, so I cannot exercise singing as the one Body of Christ. I suspect we all can read the words printed below the music in the missal. Could you hold the missal to the page of the song, reading the words of the song and breathing at the natural pauses in the music? Imagine at the natural break in the music, we all take in a breath, breathing as a single Body of Christ, our voices all ringing with some of us speaking out his praises!

This stay at home time has given us a unique opportunity to work on participation in the music at Mass. An Easter time to prepare for the day we will all be together again. Perhaps we could print out the words of one of the hymns we will sing at the Mass we livestream. Copyright laws complicate printing out the music itself in our bulletin but with the words everyone can say the hymn and if you recognize the tune, sing it out. What do you say? **Deacon Jack Wilson**

FR. BERNARDIN'S HOMILY (MAY 24, 2020)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension of Jesus happened on the 40th day after His Resurrection. Generally it was celebrated on Thursday of the 6th week of Easter, but because of its importance and meaning, it was moved on the Sunday after, where many people can go to Mass and enjoy this Feast.

Jesus foretold His ascent to the Father:

In **John 6:62**: Christ asked the Jews "what if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?"

In **John 20:17**: He said to Mary Magdalene: "stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them "I am going to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."

In **John 14:3**: He said: "I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

In **John 14: 2**: I go to prepare a place for you. In My Father's house, there are many dwelling places.

The readings of today's Mass describe in detail the **Ascension of Christ into Heaven**. Immediately following His Resurrection, Christ traveled with His Apostles into Galilee. During this time He appeared to them many times. On one occasion He appeared to a crowd of five hundred people. He left no doubt in any one's mind during these forty days that He had truly risen from the dead. On the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Christ had dinner with His apostles in the upper room in Jerusalem; then He commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations. This mission is not given to a selected few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and evangelizer. On Ascension Day, we are all commissioned to go forth, to preach the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace by our words and our lives.

He was lifted up before their eyes, into a cloud that took Him out of their sight. Two young men with white garments appeared and announced to the Apostles that it was not necessary to keep looking in the sky because Christ had ascended into Heaven.

By entering Heaven, Christ was returning to His true home. Christ had been living on earth for some thirty-three years. He had come to earth on a special mission, but now His mission was over. He had come to redeem mankind and this He accomplished. Now He was returning to His true home.

A question comes to mind: is Jesus gone forever because they saw Him disappearing in the clouds? No. Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of His body, have to bear. He showed this when He cried out from above." Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" and when He said: I was hungry and you gave Me food." Christ did not leave Heaven when He came down to us, nor did He withdraw from us when He went up again in Heaven. Some saints like St. Padre Pio are known for **bilocation**; what about Jesus who gives them that power?

"The Risen Lord worked with His apostles and confirmed the word through accompanying signs". Christ is present in His Church, in sacraments, in His people." I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world". (Mt 28:20)

St. Therese of Avila expressed it centuries ago: "*Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which He is to look out Christ's compassion to the world; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which He is to bless now.*" Christ needs us to witness to His presence in the world. These people will not believe unless, like the doubting Thomas, they see Him and touch Him in us. "You must be my witnesses!" Jesus says to us. We are His witnesses if, in spite of living in difficult circumstances, we continue to trust in God and to live according to His will.

But, while on earth, Christ had promised us that we, too, could enter Heaven. He promised that all who were baptized and believed in His teachings and obeyed His commandments would enjoy Heaven too. His entrance to Heaven is a pledge of our own future resurrection. His Ascension marks the opening of Heaven to all mankind.

Brothers and sisters, we, too, like Jesus Christ, we have a beginning and end in this earth. Like Jesus, we all have a mission or purposes to accomplish while we are still alive. The purpose is not to be a millionaire, not to work for Satan, not to divide people, but to build them up, to save souls for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Before all of this, you need to save your own soul first, regardless of your responsibilities.

Ascension reminds us to set our hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1 - 2) Do all you can so that you may be with Him in Heaven for eternity. Matthew 6:33 "but seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Let us pray to Jesus asking the favors we need, so that one day we may share with Him the gift of eternal glory.

LITURGY (INTERCESSORY PRAYERS) FOR MAY 24, 2020

Ever mindful of Your care and concern for us, Your people, O God, we now offer these prayers:

For the Church; that we may grow in our awareness that Christ is in us and see the hand of God in the people, the events in our lives and in the created world around us.

Lord hear our prayer

For our community; that through the words of Jesus and the example of the early disciples we may discover who we are as disciples of Jesus and help others to come to know the risen Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For the grace of conversion; that we may strive to bring the brokenness, injustice, addictions, and selfishness of our society under the saving and redeeming reign of Christ.

Lord hear our prayer

For all experiencing persecution; that they will draw strength from the victory of Christ and hold fast to the hopes planted in their hearts.

Lord hear our prayer

For all who are ill or recovering from a medical procedure, especially our Pastor Emeritus Father Tom Bland, that God's healing Spirit will ease their suffering, give them strength, and restore them to wholeness.

Lord hear our prayer

For all who have died, for our loved ones who have died, and particularly those who have served our nation who we remember this Memorial Day weekend; that God will welcome them into the company of the saints forever.

Lord hear our prayer

For these intentions, the intentions shared by the community throughout the week that we bring to the Altar, and all those intentions written in the silence of our hearts.

Lord hear our prayer

Gracious God, our hope-filled journey of Easter continues. As we respond to Your call to bring about Your kingdom here on earth, remain with us and guide us into new ways of being. Hear our prayers and the prayers of all of Your faithful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

MASS INTENTIONS

**PLEASE NOTE: PRIVATE MASS WITH INTENTION(S)
IS/ARE OFFERED DAILY BY FR. BERNARDIN**

Masses for the Week of May 25-30, 2020

Monday: *St. Bede, Priest & Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi*
John Paul Cooney (I)

Tuesday: *St. Phillip Neri, Priest*
Victoria LoVullo (I)

Wednesday: *St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop*
Peter David Heiman +

Thursday:
Will (William) Cooney +

Friday:
Jay & Linda Barry (I)

Saturday:
John & Josie Pellegrino +

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

May 23/24, 2020

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Phone: 916-483-4628

Email: Religious.ed@sjecarmichael.org

Seventh Sunday of Easter/The Ascension of The Lord Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus called His followers (which includes you & me) to "Go and teach all nations says the Lord; I am with you always until the end of the world." (Matthew 28:16-20; Today's Gospel acclamation.

PRAYER by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Prayer for our times: "God we ask that all who are affected by this virus (COVID 19) be held in your loving care. In this time of uncertainty, help us to know what is ours to do. We know that you did not cause this suffering but that you are with us in it and through it. Help us to recognize your presence in acts of kindness, in moments of silence and in the beauty of the created world. Grant peace and protection to all of humanity for their well-being and for the benefit of the earth."

(Despite the inconveniences & frustrations of these times... what blessings have you experienced?)

Mass from SJE each Sunday at 10:00 am on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjecarmichael.org>

Pope Francis' May intention: "We pray that deacons faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the whole Church".

Opportunities to grow in the spiritual life:

Websites: Parish: www.sjecarmichael.org

Diocese: www.scd.org

U.S. Bishops: www.usccb.org

General Catholic: www.americancatholic.org

www.catholic.org www.saintoftheday.org

Daily three minute retreat: www.LoyolaPress.org

We recommend that you also listen to Catholic/Relevant Radio on 1620AM and send inquiries to:

askfather@relevantradio.com Also check out EWTN T.V.

Contact www.christthekingretreatcenter.org or call 916-725-4720 for daily reflections. (Give them your email address)

CALENDAR:

As most of you know by now, due to the coronavirus, our Bishop, Jaime Soto, has suspended Religious-Education classes & Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Sacramento until further notice. We will do our best to keep you all updated as soon as we get the "All-Clear" from the Diocese. We know and understand that this is a very disappointing time for all of you—especially those scheduled to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation/Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year. As parents and guardians you are the most important people in your children's lives. Did you receive the resources, from the Diocese, which we forwarded to you a few weeks ago? Please select one from the suggested list and work with your children on that consistently. The Catechists & I are keeping you all in our thoughts & prayers... Sr. Hannah-Mary

God bless & guide your/our week.

PARISH INFORMATION

ADORATION Is BACK at our BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL!!!

Fr. Bernardin invites you to spend an hour/some time with Jesus on Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am to 5pm

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



6 ft SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED &
Less than 10 Persons in the Chapel at one time

Please join us online @ **FACEBOOK** for this week's Sunday Mass @ 10:00 am.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need a Facebook Account to view our Masses, etc. Just click on "**Not Now**" on the bottom of the Sign-In Page

Facebook Livestream begins with music 15 minutes before Mass

St. John's Blessed Sacrament Chapel is **OPEN** from **9am to 5pm** Monday through Friday for private prayer 6 feet Social Distancing (separation) required.

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD ON SATURDAYS FROM 3:15 TO 4:45 PM (OR LONGER IF NEED BE) IN THE SACRISTY (6 FEET SOCIAL DISTANCING) WITH NO MORE THAN 10 PERSONS TOTAL IN THE NARTHEX AT ONE TIME.

PARISH OUTREACH

Please add to your prayers, former long-time SJE Parishioners and volunteers **Cheryl Martin** and her daughter **Angelica Martin** and Cheryl's sister, now living in Tennessee, who have tested positive for COVID-19. May God return them all to good health

SJE SCHOOL NEWS

Dear SJE Parishioners:

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School is excited to get back to on-campus learning when our school year begins again in August!

If you would like to help us as we make some changes to our campus to better accommodate our students' health needs, we could use donations to help purchase water bottle filling stations. These stations will replace our traditional water fountains. We would like to purchase two wall-mounted stations for the classroom breezeway (\$1,000 each).

Any level of support would be greatly appreciated; please contact Principal Christie Horton at (916) 481-8845 or email chorton@stjohnev.com. *Thank you!!*



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for your continued support, which allows us to help the poor and needy in our neighborhood.

SVdP's Food Closet is OPEN on Wednesdays from 8am to 10am if you find yourself in need of food. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!** Also, if you can, SVdP donation envelopes were included in the May/June envelopes and any donation, large or small, is appreciated and helps us continue our work. **YOU make a difference! God bless you! Stay safe!**

GREAT NEWS!!

RAFFLE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 25th

After the Dinner for the Poor was postponed to 2021, the date to sell raffle tickets was extended to May 23rd. However, within a short time we were all sheltered in place and our churches closed. The repercussions from COVID-19 will be felt for a long, long time and one consequence will be the loss of revenue from 5th Sundays and general donations from parishioners. The Raffle is one sure opportunity to build up your conference checking account. The extension of the selling date to **Saturday July 25th** is just that opportunity. For now, let your fingers do the walking and call friends and family and have them mail checks to you and you in turn can mail the tickets back to them. Once we are back in church you can again plan a weekend sale after mass. Don't let this chance for an easy fundraiser pass you by. **John Murphy**, Conference President of St. Katherine Drexel is coordinating the raffle this year. Please contact him if you need more tickets or have questions.

Win a
Trip to
Hawaii
for 2

Trip is for 6 days and 5 nights
at the Sheraton Maui Resort
& Spa on the island of Maui

Includes airfare for 2, up to \$1000,
a \$500 American Express gift card and
a Hertz Rent-a-Car voucher up to \$400.
Total value of package is \$3500

Proceeds to benefit the
St. Vincent de Paul Society

You need not be present at
drawing on MAY 23 to win.

Tickets
\$10.00



SJE PRAYER LIST

Please Pray for our sick and their caregivers: Andrea Armstrong, Bob Bodem, Robert Burns, Geoff Carter, Alicia Cortez, Russ Davis, John DePiazza, Melissa Duran, Kate Ellis, Karen Emmons, Debbie Erichs, Teri Erickson, Velia Escalante, Juanita Estrellas, Martin Fiorino, Anthony Gabriele, Lillian Geoffrey, Ella Gomes, Jimi Grant, Steve Guerrero, Donna Harris, Tom Harvey, George Heffner, Sr. Marion Hicks, Dick Hill, Mary Jeffries, Eduardo Jimenez, Yelena Kanavalchuk, Michelle Keyawa, Sayed Kian, Pat Lobrovich, Kim Louder, Karen Lydon, Angelica & Cheryl Martin of Tennessee (COVID-19 positive), Jennifer Martin, Arielle McLeskey, Pat Minnard, Manuel Molina, Michael Niekamp, Tony Nolasco, Gilles Ouellet, Lynn Parry, Mike Peterson, Alex Quiroz, Max Rankin, Jeff Reynolds, Ruth Salazar, Rena Scherman, Robert Scholtes, Christopher Scott, Paul Scurti, Lili Simic, Joan Smith, Hank Thompson, Kim Van Blaricom, Bob Walker, Katie Walker and all those with COVID-19.

DIOCESE MASS UPDATES FROM BISHOP SOTO

Message from Bishop Jaime Soto - Coming Back to the Table

May 20, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Acts of the Apostles begins with the Ascension of the Lord to the right hand of the Father's throne in heaven. Luke described the scene of Jesus being lifted up, "a cloud took him from their sight." (Acts 1.1-11) The lingering, longing look of the disciples' gaze fixed on the sky revealed their sense of loss. Their master had seemingly left them behind. As they stared up at the sky, two angels came to chastise the gloomy group. "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" The followers of Jesus were reminded that the Lord Jesus would return. With these words of encouragement, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. The scripture tells us, "All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus." (Acts. 1.14)

The cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic has hidden from our sight the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Lord Jesus offered in the Sacrifice of the Mass. We miss contemplating His closeness to us. We hunger to hear His merciful words entrusting Himself to us. We yearn with open hands and hearts to receive His most precious body and blood. Like those disciples in the Acts of the Apostles our gaze lingers with longing over the empty churches with silent altars waiting to fill our souls with the presence of the Risen Lord. I have much admiration and gratitude for all those who have "devoted themselves with one accord to prayer" with one another and with Mary, the mother of Jesus. The words of Jesus which conclude the gospel of Matthew give us confidence in our prayerful vigil, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt. 28.20)

We have endured a long Lenten Season that was more penitential than expected. The Easter Season continues to test Christian patience. This has been a spiritual journey that has tried everyone's faith. The Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, continues to assure us. Do not be afraid. With His rod and His staff, He will lead us through the "valley of the shadow of death". He will soon set a table before us.

The difficult precautions intended to stop the spread of the coronavirus have been prudent and necessary measures. Lives have been saved and the health of many, especially the most vulnerable, have been safeguarded. This effort is still not over. Justifiable fears linger. Continued calls for caution should be heeded. The sacrifices made by those who have been afflicted and those who care for them, especially health care workers, should be honored by our sustained vigilance.

My brother priests and I are preparing to resume the public celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. The date for lifting the suspension of public Masses has not been set but there are reasonable hopes that it will be soon. Much depends on the prudent, practical, personal measures each of us takes to maintain physical-distancing and other hygienic precautions. Returning to the Table of the Lord will incorporate these measures so that both the health as well as the holiness of the faithful can be nurtured. The steps to be taken have been outlined in the presentation, "**Coming Back to the Table**" (at scd.org **coronavirus update**). Please review this material. Prepare yourself both physically and spiritually for coming together around the Lord's altar of sacrifice.

Join me, Bishop Weigand, and my brother priests in praying for the Lord's mercy to end the pandemic. The sacrifices we make and sufferings we endure unite us ever more closely to the one saving sacrifice of Christ. May the Lord of tender mercies purify us and prepare us to receive the Bread of Life more worthily.

Holy Mary, mother of mercy and mother of the Church, pray with us and for us.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento

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