



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS
as photographed by Fr. Abraham Chiu

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 20, 2022

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

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



--PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN--

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION
SATURDAYS from 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SUNDAY MASS:

SATURDAY VIGIL: **5 PM**

SUNDAY: **8 AM, 10 AM & 5 PM**

DAILY MASS:

6:30 AM & 8:30 AM (MON-FRI)

8:30 AM (SATURDAY)

HOLY DAYS:

6:30 AM & 8:30 AM; 7:00 PM

HEALING MASS:

1:30 PM - 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH FACEBOOK @ 10 AM



PARISH CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Fr. Bernardin Mugabo
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Bit-Shing Abraham Chiu
Pastor Emeritus	Fr. Thomas Bland
Mercy San Juan Hospital Chaplain	Fr. Alban Uba
Deacon	Keith Johnson
Deacon	Jack Wilson
Deacon Emeritus	Larry Niekamp
SJE Business Manager	Linda Gospodnetich
SJE Parish Secretary	Bernadette Hicks
Religious Education Coordinator	Joanne Giffard
Director of Music & Liturgy	William Becker
SJE Pastoral Council Chairperson	Tom Ennis
SJE Finance Council Chairperson	Mary Ellen Meier

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

WWW.STJOHNEV.COM

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



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (916) 483-2161

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (916) 483-4628

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: _____

GUEST COLUMNIST'S (PASTOR'S) PAGE



*--Thank you, **THANK YOU**, Joe ROMANAZZI for helping me out time and time again; this time while I was stretched soooo thin...*

God bless, Father Bernardin MUGABO

By: Joe Romanazzi,
SJE Guest Columnist

Love, Hope and Dreams Make a Home



Not long ago, I was stopped at a traffic signal behind a car that had a bumper sticker on it that read, ***"You Are a Child of God, Call Home"***. The wording made me chuckle as I recalled the [Halloween](#) night scene in the 1982 movie ***E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*** when E.T., dressed as a ghost, and Elliott snuck out into the forest so that E.T. could make a successful phone call home. As I continued driving down the street, I thought about how having a home is important to ***all*** of God's creatures.

Most of us have probably heard the old adages, "Home is where the heart" or "Home Sweet Home". They mean that wherever you are and whoever you are with, your home and family provide the greatest emotional bond. They perfectly capture the importance of having a loving and comfortable home where **LOVE**, **HOPE** and **DREAMS** coexist. This fact did not escape Mother Teresa when she said, "Love begins at home" or American poet Robert Frost (1874–1963) when he remarked, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." I doubt that Frost fully understood the magnitude of his words as they would pertain to our society today. Many children of all ages "boomerang" back home for both short and long stays for a variety of reasons, including for divorce, unemployment, debt, and school.

Many years ago, I remember reading about a male bird on the East Coast who had found what he thought was the "perfect" home in which to raise a family. It was in the coin box of a self-serve car wash. The owner of the car wash complained about losing significant amounts of money from his coin machines each week. He just couldn't believe that his employees were stealing the money so he setup a camera to identify the culprit(s). As it turned out, the bird was attracted by the gleam of overlooked quarters in the change cup. He made off with the coins in an attempt to clear out a space for a nest. When the bird finished clearing the coin cavity he would sit, sing and wing-wave, hoping to attract a female to join him in his new home. Unfortunately for this love-struck bird, his efforts at clearing his chosen space were thwarted by the customers at the car wash who kept refilling his "perfect" home with additional quarters.

Near the end of the Gospel as Jesus was dying on the cross, he asked the Apostle John to take care of His mother Mary, and from that hour, John took her into his home (John 19:27). What a privilege! We too can invite our Blessed Mother into our homes by praying the Rosary and reflecting on all that she does for us every day. Our Heavenly Mother Mary has the ability to intercede for us here on earth with Jesus because being a good Jewish son, He listens to her.

Besides our Blessed Mother, we can also invite Jesus into our homes by spending time with Him in prayer every day. Taking Jesus home means living in *His light* and allowing Him to be the focus of our day. He came to earth from Heaven to bring joy and good news to every home. But we have to take the initiative to open the door when He knocks and then have the courage and faith to let Him in.

My Brothers and Sisters, remember we are just traveling through this world. Where we call home now is our temporary home away from home while we are on our earthly pilgrimages. Some day we will hopefully be returning to our Heavenly abode. If we invite Jesus into our earthly dwellings now, He, in turn, is more likely to invite each of us to go home with Him to live for all eternity in Heaven. Sounds good to me, how about you?

DEACON JACK'S HOMILY (FEBRUARY 20, 2022)



FORGIVING: Jesus speaks a message today as the Word, the teacher sent by God the Father to help us understand the Father's will - forgive and you will be forgiven. Forgive those who have hurt you, forgive even your enemies and your Father in Heaven will forgive you. This Gospel Reading is the second part of St. Luke's Sermon on the Plain. St. Matthew included the Sermon on the Mount – tomato, tomaaato. In the first part last week, our Lord explains the blessings and the woes from the view of God. A view which is totally different than the view we have of ourselves using the world's values as the measuring stick.

For example, **Blessed are you who are poor for the kingdom of God is yours.** If we were to stand on the street corner with a sign saying: Blessed, are you who are poor, most people would respond, are you kidding? Jesus doesn't joke in the Sermon on the Plain, He turns our focus on God's view of social justice and being merciful as God is merciful. God loves us so passionately because we are all His children that He will forgive and call us back no matter how many times we fall. We exist, all of the universe exists, and continues to exist, each and every day because of God's love. This love is patient, this love is kind. It is not jealous.

Man was given the gift of passion as part of being created in the image and likeness of God. This gift of passion brings forth great art, great music, great writing, great love of God, great love for our parents, spouse and our children, and also, compassion, a feeling of wanting to help someone else. These are a light to the world. The fall by Adam introduced an evil side to our passions; jealousy, greed, revenge, hate. This is a darkness.

Last week, Jesus spoke at the Sermon of the Plain, praising God's children that wisely choose to suppress the darkness and promote the good. Blessed are you who are poor for the Kingdom of God is yours. Can you imagine how radical a statement this was to them – and us? The way of the world in ancient times greatly favored those who had strength, wealth, connections, favored those who ruled. Not much seems to have changed. Can we imagine what it must have been for someone who was at the bottom rungs of society to hear Jesus say we are blessed; we who are poor in strength, wealth and connections? Those who had strength, wealth, connections could do as they pleased, letting go their passions toward jealousy, judgment and hatred. Jesus instructs us that instead of fostering jealousy, judgment and hatred, we must use our will to be more like our Father in Heaven, forgiving even when it doesn't seem justified.

Look at the example of David. King Saul with three thousand men hunted David out of jealousy after Saul starts to lose his power in the kingdom and sees David as a rival. This jealousy was not unfounded as David had been secretly anointed by Samuel the prophet to replace the current anointed King Saul. When David has the opportunity to slay Saul as he slept, David chose to be merciful to his enemy as Saul was still the anointed King. David trusted in God to be the judge of Saul's fate, trusted that God would reward those who show mercy.

Saint Paul in the Second Reading makes the connection between the earthly Adam and the spiritual, second Adam, Jesus. Each of us bears the image of both but God gives us the ability to choose, the way of darkness, the way of light. The way of forgiveness and mercy is the spiritual way Jesus teaches today.

Jesus speaks in the Gospel of a radical change to resolving conflict to everyone in the world today. We sit on the brink of another armed conflict. Legal systems sentence to death criminals. Some mothers "choose" to cause the death of the unborn. People vote to allow doctors to assist or prescribe drugs that will cause the death of the elderly. This is the darkness Jesus addresses offering instead to be more forgiving.

I once heard a very wise speaker describe a problem I had at the time. A friend had spoken some very harsh words during an argument we had at work. These words cut so deeply that I no longer considered him a friend. I could not forgive what he had said. The speaker said we can get in a situation of figuratively keeping someone who hurt us deeply in sort of a jail in our minds. We keep them there so we can tell them what we think we should have said in response to their harsh words or action. We keep them there so we can replay the event in our minds, letting them out of the jail so we can be triumphant, so we can get our revenge. After our victory, we put them back in this jail so we can extend our torture of them, we will let them know again just how victorious we would be. I had someone in my fictional jail and I had no desire to be like David, this person was now my enemy. I would replay the event late at night in my mind. It kept me awake. The speaker said: Don't you realize that the person you are torturing is yourself? The person you have in your mind's jail has no idea what is going on, they are not being affected, only you are losing sleep.

The answer to your problem is to let them out of jail and throw away the key. What – throw away the key, that is just as radical as being Blessed for being poor, but that is exactly the way God wishes we would be. Throw away the key and look at how Jesus treated those who put Him on the cross – He prayed for them. Father, they do not know what they do. Throw away the key to let go of the darkness, to bear the image of the Heavenly One. Throw away the key so God can fill that darkness within you with light. Throw away the key and trust that Jesus is the Just Judge. All of us face judgement by God, throw away the key, trusting that God sees everything in everyone's life. Jesus tells us throw away the key: stop judging and you will not be judged, stop condemning and you will not be condemned, forgive and you will be forgiven. We may never forget the hurt but we can prevent that hurt from festering and continuing to cause us pain. Pray for the gifts God wishes to give us, courage to be merciful as the Lord is merciful, strength to throw away the keys of our enemies, light to overcome the darkness.

LITURGY (INTERCESSORY PRAYERS) FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Let us now turn to Heaven as we offer our needs and the pain of our neighbors to our merciful Father.

For the Church: that we may be instruments of God's mercy and compassion by sharing the forgiveness that we have received with others. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For national leaders: that God will give them wisdom in addressing the issues that challenge society, free them from self-reliance, and inspire them to work for the common good. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all who have been our enemies, whether politically, economically, or personally: that we may let go of hurts and grudges, and seek a new understanding of them. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all who have never experienced forgiveness: that they may encounter the free and healing gift of forgiveness through someone who loves as Jesus taught. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For rain and snow: that in God's merciful love may we receive snow to cover the mountains and rain to fill the lakes and reservoirs, and moisten our farmlands. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all who are sick: that God will restore the sick to health, help all to get good sleep, and strengthen all who care for the sick. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all our deceased Parishioners, relatives, and friends, that our merciful God may give them eternal rest. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For these intentions, the intentions shared by this community during the week that we bring to the Altar, and for the intentions of all those whom we promised to pray. Let us pray to the Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Ever-gracious and merciful God, turn toward us and receive our needs, our sorrows, and fill us with hope in our day. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SJE WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekend of:	<u>Actual</u> (Week):	<u>Budget</u> (Week):	<u>Surplus/ (Deficit):</u>
February 13, 2022	\$10,413	\$10,365	\$48
<i>Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to St. John's Church!!</i>			

PARISHONER UPDATE INFORMATION

We ♥ love
having you as part of our flock



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE
sjecarmichael.org
OR USE OUR EMAIL

[office@
sjecarmichael.org](mailto:office@sjecarmichael.org)
To update your
address, phone
number and
email address

WEEKLY ADORATION



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

Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary are
prayed beginning at 4:10 pm.

Benediction at 5:00 pm. God bless.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please Note: BAPTISMS ARE SCHEDULED MONTHLY.

For more information and instructions, please visit our website, www.sjecarmichael.org to download and complete our Baptismal Registration Form or contact Deacon Jack or Deacon Keith through our

"baptisms@sjecarmichael.org" email address for Baptism and Baptism Class Schedules.



PARISH NEWS

SJE CHOIR REHEARSAL

Calling all SJE Choir Members, past, present, and potential, to attend our next rehearsal on:

Wednesday, February 23, at 7pm

For choir up-dates, please email
Bill Becker at

music@sjecarmichael.org

Let's sing!!!



IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the soul of SJE Alumna Class of 1988

JENNIFER MARIE LEHNER, daughter of longtime SJE Parishioners Paul and Ada Lehner, sister of Ray (his wife Allison) Lehner and aunt of Oliver, Harry, and Lochlan Lehner,

who unexpectedly passed away on Tuesday, February 2nd. Her Rosary/vigil will be on Friday, February 25th at 6 pm and her Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, February 26th at 12 noon, both at ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, with her funeral reception to follow in our Tralee Center.

May God grant her eternal rest and strengthen and comfort her family. May she rest in peace.

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS PROCEDURE

In order to avoid "Mass" confusion, here are our procedures to schedule a daily Mass Intention(s):

- **Stop by** the **SJE PARISH OFFICE** between 9:30 am-4:00 pm Monday-Friday to request the Mass time and date (per availability). The recommended Diocese Mass Stipend is \$10 per Mass. Obtain a payment receipt and living or deceased Mass Intention Card(s).
- **Mail in** a Mass Intention request note with your phone number, address and check payment to: **SJE PARISH OFFICE, 5751 LOCUST AVE., CARMICHAEL, CA 95608**. We will advise if the dates requested are available and mail back the appropriate card(s) to you. **NO PHONE IN REQUESTS ALLOWED.**

ST. JOHN'S GIFT SHOP NEWS...



SJE CHURCH GIFT SHOP IS OPEN

AFTER 5PM VIGIL, 8AM AND 10AM MASSES

ST. PATRICK'S ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE!!

Proceeds benefit St. John's School



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL - FEB. 26TH

Bring God's tender care to others through the Annual Catholic Appeal

25% comes back to our Parish for our own outreach to those in need.

On the weekend of February 26, we will have the opportunity to come alongside those who are suffering through the **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**. Each of our gifts, no matter the amount, makes a difference in someone's life. Catholic Charities can respond to the greatest needs in our communities. Seminarians receive support as they prepare to serve our local parishes. Catholic schools in economically-challenged neighborhoods can provide tuition assistance.

Last year, 574 donors made donations to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** that brought **\$21,731 BACK** to **St. John the Evangelist** to support our own Parish ministries, our school and our outreach to the community.

Please prayerfully consider what you can give this year.

LOCKING OF CHAPEL – UPDATE

Due to homeless issues, our **SJE Blessed Sacrament Chapel** is locked Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. For now, the door will be open Wednesday and Friday for Adoration.

If someone wants to visit our Chapel on the days it is locked, they must first call (916) 483-8454 or stop by the SJE Office for admittance and the door will be locked behind them. This new procedure is for the safety of all concerned.

Our Chapel Door Keypad installation by end of February

REGISTERED AT ST. JOHN'S PARISH???

We are still receiving a lot of returned offertory envelopes due to invalid addresses coming back to the SJE Parish Office.

To update or register your current, **REVISED** information with our Parish, please complete the **"REGISTRATION/CHANGE OF ADDRESS"** strip located on the lower portion of the front page of our Bulletin and drop in the Mass collection baskets or Offertory Boxes, or call us at **(916) 483-8454**, stop by our office, drop the form in the mail or send an email to us at office@sjecarmichael.org.

We want to make sure you know we are here for you and that we are able to get ahold of you in times of need through a phone call or email address.

Thank you again for all you do for us at SJE Parish and God bless!

SJE PRAYER LIST

Please Pray for our sick and their caregivers: Andrea Armstrong, Bob Bodem, Nancy Born, Robert Burns, Chuck Carly, Geoff Carter, **Andrea Casperson**, Melanie Casperson, Ollie Claussen, Alicia Cortez, Corrine Davidson, Russ Davis, John DePiazza, Rick DiRegolo, Christine Dudley, Melissa Duran, Brenda Elazier, Kate Ellis, Karen Emmons, Madeline Endres, Debbie Erichs, Teri Erickson, Velia Escalante, James Espinoza, Juanita Estrellas, Anthony Gabriele, Frank Gianattasio, Ella Gomes, Jimi Grant, Steve Guerrero, Donna Harris, Tom Harvey, Margaret Hollatz, Gabe Howser, Mary Jeffries, Eduardo Jimenez, Yelena Kanavalchuk, Tom Karras, Reggie Keyawa, Larry Kraus, Dalice Lee, Ray Lloyd, Pat Lobrovich, Karen Lydon, Mary Mandara, Angelica & Cheryl Martin, Jennifer Martin, Arielle McLeskey, Pat Minnard, Manuel Molina, Marie Murillo, Tony Nolasco, Baby Dylan Ochoa, Gilles Ouellet, Mary Pai, Lynn Parry, Julie Paul, Mike Peterson, Alex Quiroz, Max Rankin, Jeff Reynolds, Sarah Rizzardo, Peter Robledo, Aida Saca, Ruth Salazar, Matt Sanders, Monique Sandoval, Rena Scherman, Robert Scholtes, Kim Schultz, Christopher Scott, Paul Scurti, Aurora Simental, Lili Simic, Carol Smith, Joan Smith, Ty Soohoo, Hank Thompson, Kim Van Blaricom, Deanna Vest, Bob Walker, Katie Walker, Theresa West, Jacqueline Whittle, Amanda Young and all those with COVID-19.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February 20, 2022

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/CCD/CFE

Grades: Kindergarten through Junior High

Phone: 916-483-4628 Email: ccd@sjecarmichael.org

This Wednesday, February 23, is the feast day of **St. Polycarp**, Bishop of Smyrna. We know very little about St. Polycarp's life as a child, but we do know that he was born around 69 A.D. Actually, St. Polycarp occupies an important place in the history of our early Catholic Church. He lived after the deaths of most of the Apostles, when a variety of the interpretations of Jesus' sayings were being shared. It is well known that as a young man St. Polycarp was a disciple of St. John the Evangelist probably while they were together at Ephesus. St. Polycarp truly believed the truth that he had heard about Jesus from the mouth of St. John, who was one of the Lord's very own Apostles. In addition, Saint Irenaeus of Lyon recorded that St. Polycarp also traveled with Papias, another disciple of St. John the Evangelist. Through his personal connection with St. John the Evangelist, St. Polycarp played a tremendously important role of authenticating the true orthodox teachings of Jesus Christ.

Truly St. Polycarp was a holy man whose mind was always grounded in God, and who consistently reflected on the life of Jesus. Everywhere that St. Polycarp traveled to teach the Word of God, he approached the people with sanctity and holiness. St. John the Evangelist later ordained St. Polycarp as Bishop of Smyrna. The sole surviving work written by St. Polycarp is the "Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians" which is a mosaic of references to the Greek Scriptures, and it is the first text to have quoted passages from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and the first letters of St. Peter and St. John. He is among the earliest Christians whose writings have survived, and he was an elder of a vital congregation that was a large contributor to the founding of the Christian Church. St. Polycarp's orthodoxy is widely accepted by Oriental Orthodox Churches, Eastern Orthodox Churches, Church of God groups, mainstream Protestant groups, Sabbatarian groups, and our Catholic Church.

At the end of his life, St. Polycarp visited his friend Syrian Anicetus, who was at this time the Bishop of Rome, to discuss the differences in the practices of the churches of Asia and Rome. He consulted with Pope Anicetus on the question of the date for the celebration of Easter. This controversy threatened to provoke a schism between the Catholic Church in Rome, and the Catholic Church in Asia Minor. As they never reached an agreement on a common date on which to celebrate Easter, they both agreed that Rome and Asia Minor would follow different practices in this regard.

Upon St. Polycarp's return to Smyrna, he then traveled to a nearby farm where he prayed intensely, because around 155 A.D. there was intense persecution of the Catholic Church raging all around him. In a vision he saw his pillow turn into fire. To his friends he confided that this dream meant that he would soon be burned alive. Calmly St. Polycarp then left to visit another farm. Two local boys were tortured until the police could find out St. Polycarp's whereabouts. When the authorities arrived to arrest him, St. Polycarp said, "God's will be done!", and he fed his captors a meal asking them simply to give him an hour to pray. Actually, they gave the eighty-six year-old St. Polycarp two hours to pray, and in that time he prayed for everyone that he had ever known, and also for the Church.

As St. Polycarp was taken to the arena, the crowds roared and cheered. A voice from Heaven was heard in the area around him saying, "Be brave, Polycarp, and act like a man." The proconsul begged Polycarp to give in and save himself by swearing an oath of allegiance to Caesar. St. Polycarp responded with, "If you imagine that I will swear by Caesar, you do not know who I am. Let me tell you plainly, I am a Christian." The proconsul threatened to throw him into the arena to the wild animals unless he changed his mind, which St. Polycarp refused to do. Then he was threatened with death by fire, which also did not frighten him. As the fire was lit, St. Polycarp said, "Amen." Eye-witnesses at the arena then saw a miracle, for as the fire burst up in an arch around Polycarp, like sails surrounding him, instead of burning St. Polycarp, the sails glowed as gold glows when melted in a fireplace. Anger now captivated his captors so they stabbed St. Polycarp to death. Actually his flowing blood put the fire out. The date of St. Polycarp's death was February 23, 156.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Joanne Giffard, Religious Education Coordinator

ccd@sjecarmichael.org

jkoockgiffard@aol.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 21-26, 2022

Monday: *St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

6:30 am Richard (I) and Roselene (I) Kelley

8:30 am Michael † and Mary Ellen E. † O'Donoghue

Tuesday: *The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

6:30 am Charles Guarnieri †

8:30 am Albert Ferrel (I)

Wednesday: *St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*

6:30 am Peter David Heiman †

8:30 am Marianne Yannetta (I) and David Martin (I)

Thursday:

6:30 am Kelli Anne Turner †

8:30 am Vienna Golsong †

Friday:

6:30 am John Lubecki †

8:30 am Michael †, Mary Lou † and Harry † McLean

Saturday: *BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*

8:30 am Clem (I) and Mary Ellen (I) Meier and Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

PLEASE JOIN OUR MINISTRIES

Please prayerfully consider joining one (or more) of our vibrant SJE Ministries:

Ministry of the Holy Eucharist, Eucharistic Homebound Ministry, Eucharistic Adoration, Commentators, Lectors, Altar Serving, Altar Society, Music Ministry, Ushers, B'Friends (Funeral Receptions), Offertory Counters, Grounds Maintenance and more.

Please contact: **Deacon Keith Johnson** at deaconkeith@sjecarmichael.org; **Deacon Jack Wilson** at deaconjack@sjecarmichael.org or our **Parish Office** either by phone (916) 483-8454 or email office@sjecarmichael.org for more information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRAYER (CON'T)

A.D. which is his designated feast day. Although centuries have passed since St. Polycarp and the Apostles walked the earth and followed the path of Jesus, they help us to see how close God really is to us.

OUR PRAYER: ST. POLYCARP, MAKE US STEADFAST WITNESSES TO THE TRUTH OF GOD IN WORD AND DEED, JUST AS YOU WITNESSED TRUTH IN YOUR OWN LIFE AND DEATH. THROUGH YOUR INTERCESSION, LET OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR RELIGION BE ONE OF LONG DURATION, A LIFE PROJECT WHICH ALWAYS ENDURES. AMEN.

A GLIMPSE OF SPIRITUALITY BY FR. ABRAHAM

Humans are unreliable, but God is not. Why did the Pharisees test Jesus? As a matter of fact, even if they witnessed Jesus' mercy and love for people by performing various miracles and healings, they believed that Jesus was not the Messiah, the Son of God. To put it bluntly, they felt that their status was insecure when Jesus existed among them.



"The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven, to test him."

First, there is "argument" (syzētein), which is a verb interpreted as dispute or strife. In the face of the truth of Jesus, people can only humbly obey. Dispute means dissatisfaction with Jesus and the belief that Jesus is wrong.

The Pharisees asked Jesus to show "a sign from Heaven" (sēmeion apo tou ouranou) because they simply denied that the miracles Jesus had performed were all from Heaven. As a result, they intended to test him.

"Test" (peirazontes) here has a negative meaning, i.e. to test one maliciously and craftily as to put to the proof of the judgment of the Pharisees. In short, the Pharisees did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Everything he did was worldly not heavenly. They required Jesus for a sign from Heaven so that when he failed, they would humiliate him publicly, or incite the crowd to reject Jesus.

The incarnation of Jesus is the greatest sign from Heaven (sēmeion), which means the strongest sign of God's presence on earth. The Pharisees deliberately did not see it; when they saw, did not understand it; when they understood, did not believe it. It indicates that they subjectively rejected Jesus.

As the Son of God, Jesus simply ignored this so-called test because he did not come to take any tests from the devil.

Time is best spent with God. With the devil, even a second is too much.

Fr. Abraham Chiu

MONTHLY HEALING MASS

ST. JOHN'S HEALING MASS

Our Monthly "Healing Mass" is Celebrated **THIS SUNDAY**,

February 20th at **1:30 pm** in our **Church**

Confessions from **12:30 pm** to 1:25 pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference thanks you for your continued support throughout the year, which allows us to help the poor and needy in our neighborhood. It is appreciated more than you know.

SVdeP's food closet is open on **Wednesdays** from **8 am to 10 am** if you find yourself in need of food.

Everyone is welcome and meat, fresh veggies, and fruits are in abundance!

THE FOOD LOCKER DISTRIBUTED GROCERIES TO 210 HOUSEHOLDS IN JANUARY. THIS INCLUDES 277 ADULTS, 79 INFANTS AND CHILDREN, AND 198 SENIORS.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for spaghetti sauce! Well, it doesn't rhyme, but we do need spaghetti sauce.

Also plastic grocery bags

Thank you for your support throughout the year, we couldn't do this without you.

YOU make a difference! God bless you! Wear a Mask! Stay safe!

CARMICHAEL HART VOLUNTEERS

Carmichael HART's WINTER RESPITE

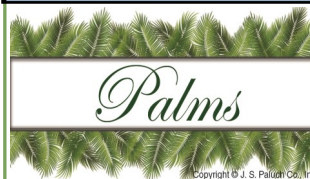
We at St. John's are hosting the **RESPITE** (at Carmichael Presbyterian Church on Marconi Ave.) on **Mondays; February 7, 14, 21 and 28** from **8:30 am - 1:30 pm**.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please call or email **PAM** at **(916) 716-6228**

or kpaeljohnson@gmail.com

Details can be found at www.carmichaelhart.org.

FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (3-2-2022)



BLESSED PALMS NEEDED!!

Please bring your dried, blessed Palm leaves from last year and deposit them in the wicker baskets provided on the table in both the Church or Chapel Narthex before or after Mass or Adoration.

Fr. Bernardin will be burning them to make the ashes for ASH WEDNESDAY on March 2nd. Thank you very much!!

SPOTLIGHT ON - GROUNDS MINISTRY

Fr. Bernardin/St. John's is in need of a **"GROUNDS" MINISTRY TEAM** to assist with landscape area maintenance on Saturdays; planter upkeep, pruning, lawn mowing, etc. depending on one's expertise and availability (garden tools/machinery provided).

Please consider this service ministry at St. John's to use your time, talents, treasure and hands to carry out God's work.

Please contact **Fr. Bernardin** or call the **SJE Parish Office** at **(916) 483-8454** or email us at office@sjecarmichael.org for any questions or more information. Thank you & God bless!!

2/15/22 DIOCESE COVID/MASK UPDATE

As conditions with the pandemic have improved, **Bishop Jaime Soto** and the Office of Worship would like to remind the faithful of the protocols in place for attending Mass in the Diocese of Sacramento. These protocols provide safe and healthy environments for our communities and are simple, sensible acts of charity:

Parishioners

- Parishioners are encouraged to wear masks while indoors regardless of one's vaccination status.
- Refrain from physical contact outside of one's household during the Exchange of the Sign of Peace.
- Individuals are not obligated to attend the Eucharist on Sunday or other obligatory solemnities if they are sick, have a vulnerable health condition, are caring for someone with a vulnerable health condition, or have other serious reasons (Canon 1245; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2181).
- All those eligible to receive vaccinations are encouraged to do so. Anyone with medical concerns should consult their doctor.

Holy Communion

- All ministers of Holy Communion must wear masks when distributing Communion to the faithful.
- During the distribution of Communion priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers should have sanitizer available for use when needed.
- For Communion, the distribution of the cup is still suspended.

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