



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

We follow Christ by Living our Faith, Sharing Knowledge and Serving the Community.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22nd 2020



DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE

March 13, 2020

To Our Community in the Diocese of San José:

Santa Clara County, together with the greater Seattle area, has been at the epicenter of the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the United States. Over the past few weeks, our Diocese of San José has followed the guidance of Santa Clara County health officials in responding to the presence of the virus. The Governor of California has weighed in recently requesting that no gatherings assemble with more than 250 persons. In my recent discussions with county health officials, I have been told that we have reached the exponential phase of the epidemic, with the number of those testing positive for the virus expected to rise dramatically.

As a Diocese, our top priority remains the health and safety of our families, children, and the vulnerable of our community. Out of an abundance of caution, we have closed all Diocesan school facilities from today, Friday, March 13, through Friday, March 27. **In addition, I am requesting that all parishes, missions, and chapels in the Diocese of San José suspend all public Masses beginning Saturday, March 14, until further notice.** Baptisms, weddings, and funerals may be celebrated but should be limited to immediate family. Faith Formation classes also should be suspended until further notice. All parish gatherings are being suspended until further notice.

With the preceding in mind, I have issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time for all Catholics in the Diocese of San José.

Though public Masses are being suspended, I encourage parishioners to remain connected to their parish community and to pray for each other. The Diocese and several parishes will continue to livestream Sunday Masses in various languages. Information on these Masses and other spiritual resources are provided on our Diocesan Response to Coronavirus webpage at dsj.org/coronavirus.

During this difficult time, I ask that our priests, deacons, religious, and parish staffs remain attentive to the needs of shut-ins, the elderly, the sick, and the vulnerable through creative outreach. Priests will remain available for individual confessions and urgent pastoral needs, including the anointing of the sick (Last Rites). I also encourage our parishes to reach out to parishioners through phone campaigns, social media, and other methods.

We are profoundly saddened that we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist as a community, but we are reminded that Christ always remains with us, especially in times of uncertainty such as these. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your families.

Yours in Christ.

Bishop Oscar Cantú

PARISH DIRECTORY

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24 Hour Emergency

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408-997-5107 edgar.elamparo@dsj.org

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408-997-5112 merry.reardon@dsj.org

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408-997-5108 penny.warne@dsj.org

Faith Formation 408-997-5112

Baptism 408-997-5115

Initiation 408-997-5112

Marriage 408-997-5115

Sacrament of the Sick 408-997-5110

Pastoral Care 408-997-5110

Social Ministries 408-997-5111

Youth Ministry 408-997-5106

Music Ministry 408-997-5121

Finance Office 408-997-5101

Finance Council John Beck
goya12string@yahoo.com

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stephaniekavanagh2@gmail.com

Holy Spirit School

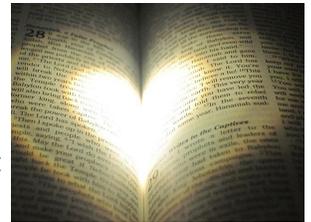
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San Jose, CA 95120
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Greg Vohs, Interim Principal
Maira Gutierrez-Folchi, Assistant Principal

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



In this Sunday's gospel, we hear the powerful story of the man born blind who Jesus heals on the Sabbath. Instead of celebrating the gift of his healing, the Pharisees grumbled about



the fact that Jesus healed someone on the "sabbath" breaking the law and they condemned him for it. When we hear this gospel, it seems absurd that anyone would object to healing someone especially a man who had been blind from birth. The ensuing dialogue between the Pharisees, the healed man, his parents and Jesus just adds layers to the absurdity. The irony between the man born blind who can see the significance of what took place and the Pharisees who can see but are spiritually blind to the deeper reality. The irony should not be lost on us.

Often in our own lives we get caught up with the letter of the law and forget the spirit of the law. We want everyone to obey the "law and order" but there needs to be merciful application of the law itself. Jesus was the master at the pastoral application of the law. Yes, it was unlawful to work on the Sabbath but if a person was blind and needed to be healed, then he would heal him. There was no contradiction here for Jesus. Love always trumps the tenets of the law. Jesus obeys the law through a merciful filter.

Let me explain by analogy. Many of you know that I now need to use reading glasses. I can still read at a distance but I need glasses for anything up close. If I cannot find my glasses, I can manage and guess what is there, but it is not really clear. I lose some words on occasion and miss the meaning completely at other times. With glasses I can see everything clearly.

The glasses for the law is "love." When we put on the "glasses of love" then we can see clearly how to apply the law. When we see someone in need, then we don't look at the color of their skin or the notice their accent or their gender. We only see that they are in need and they need our help.

This week has been the strangest of weeks. It feels like a week of "the day after 9/11" days. Do you remember 9/11 and the day after? There were no planes flying. We were trying to comprehend what happened and we were in shock. It feels like that again. We are in shock as we are all told to "shelter in place" and we do not understand the extent of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community. We might be afraid and a little scared.

If we can put on the "glasses of love" in this situation then we will have a better sense of everything. When we buy things at the stores, remember there are lots of people in need. Please don't stockpile. Be thoughtful and only take what you need. Think about those most vulnerable around us like our elderly neighbors or relatives. Maybe we have not spoken to them in a long time. Now is the time to reach out. Forget about old grudges and the hurt that may have happened. Love is the filter. Love is the answer.

Question of the Week

How does belief in the final resurrection from the dead affect your family's daily life?

LIVING THE LITURGY



What We Believe – Part 2

Many religions invoke God as "Father." The deity is often considered the "father of gods and of men." In Israel, God is called "Father" in as much as He is the Creator of the world. Even more, God is Father because of the covenant and the gift of the law to Israel who 'His first-born son.' Most especially He is "the Father of the poor," of

the orphaned and the widowed, who are under His loving protection. By calling God "Father," the language of faith indicates two main things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent or unequalled authority; and that He is at the same time goodness and loving care for all His children.

"When Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray (Luke 11:1)." And Jesus taught them on how to pray by calling God "Our Father."

Pope Francis said, it is so beautiful to pray like Jesus! Formed by His divine teaching, we all dare to turn to God calling Him "Father", because we are reborn as His children through water and the Holy Spirit. As scripture says, "God the Father destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will (Ephesians 1:5)."

Pope Francis continues, "No one, truly, could call him "Abbà" — "Father" — in a familiar way without having been created by God, without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as Saint Paul teaches in Romans 8:15." How often there are people who say "Our Father" but do not know what they are saying. Because yes, He is the Father, but when you say "Father", do you feel that He is Father, your Father, the Father of mankind, the Father of Jesus Christ? Do you have a relationship with this Father? Remember this he said, when we pray the "Our Father", we connect with the Father who loves us, but it is the Spirit who gives us this connection, this feeling of being God's children.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

M 3/23	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
T 3/24	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
W 3/25	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
TH 3/26	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
F 3/27	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
S 3/28	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
S 3/29	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]



Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass / Communion Service

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.

Daily Holy Hour

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.

Daily Rosary

Monday - Friday 9:15 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation

8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation

First Friday of the month
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

M 3/23	8:30	Aji Mathai
T 3/24	8:30	Eddie Dy Burcio † Carol Magallon †
F 3/27	8:30	Mabel Cunha † Alfonso Meraza
S 3/28	5:00	Gene Conry †
SU 3/29	9:30	Mary Lukash † Alfonso Meraza † Carmen Meraza † Christian Ayala †

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill:

Jim Orsley
Hunter Pilarski
Henry Vitkovich

For those who have recently died:

Edward Stacy



School News

Faith, knowledge and community don't end when our school goes to distance learning. Holy Spirit School is working diligently to ensure all of our students are actively engaged in their learning while practicing social distancing. Take a look at this introduction video from Mrs. Wilson to her K-5 science students.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oFkXjiiISwD_v3w7LPAqL36pN0MA5yq/view?fbclid=IwAR3lLGEuOaXVn-0SQg-zsjhk4Nuzw2vy9Wj5BfJpm0AK5AQ5bc4NPnv7gFU

In addition to videos, students receive a daily learning grid to support their efforts and guide their parents through the day's activities. Monday's grid listed the religion assignment for 4th grade as "Write a prayer for the people being affected by the virus. Share your prayer on Seesaw."

Students are also able to upload photos of their work for teachers to review and assess. Here is a kindergarten leprechaun trap!



To learn more about our school, please contact Maria Apodaca maria.apodaca@dsj.org. Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are being accepted online: <http://www.holyspirit-school.org/admissions/application/> and as soon as we reopen, we will continue to schedule morning shadow visits for prospective students.

Reverse Collection-Suspended



The Reverse Collection for Sacred Heart has been suspended, until further notice.

Sacred Heart serves many people in our community from the homeless to the struggling working families with young children.

Old and young alike are in need of just the bare essentials.

Items in high demand include:

- ◆ pop-top cans,
- ◆ disposable diapers,
- ◆ infant formula
- ◆ men's underwear (new sizes especially L, XL)

Holy Spirit is a very generous community and Sacred Heart appreciates all that we do for them.

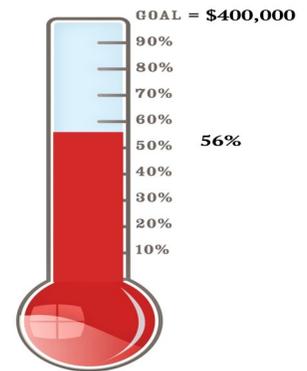
We ask that you pray for those in our community that need our help the most during this time.

Holy Spirit will resume the Sacred Heart Reverse Collection, when able to do so.



Thank you to our many generous parishioners that have returned gifts and pledges to the 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your support to this Appeal helps our parish in our financial responsibility to our larger Diocesan Church. To date we have received 56% of our goal from 51% of the families in our parish.

Please remember, that any amount over our goal comes back to our parish 100%. We want your participation and need your support.



Catholic Relief Services

The collection of the Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services, at this time has been suspended. Thank you to all of you that have been collecting your change for the Rice Bowls. We will share the information on how to return the Rice Bowls, when it is available.

Visit the Elderly as a Lenten act of service, part 2



With County mandatory in-home sheltering, making visits to the elderly is unlikely except for direct relatives and close neighbors. Try visiting the elderly by phone, video chat and snail mail! Seniors have much to teach us and now is a great time to check in and connect. Share some of your time with someone you know is isolated by asking "open-ended" questions that require an answer of more than Yes or No from them. Here are some conversation starters:

- What was your first home like?
- What are your earliest memories of school?
- How did you meet your spouse? (if appropriate)
- What were the big world events when you were growing up?
- What advice would you like to pass along?
- Is there one thing you would like to be remembered for?
- What were popular games and hobbies when you were young?
- Who were your heroes or role models?
- What is the most interesting place you ever visited?
- What was your favorite subject in school?



St. Christopher Catholic Church San Jose, CA
Holy Name Society

Given the CDC advise for seniors to stay away from crowded places and the craziness going on at grocery stores, the men of Saint Christopher's Holy Name Society would like to volunteer our labor to assist

seniors who cannot or should not get to the store for groceries or otherwise over the next few weeks. Our thought is that we could be provided with a shopping list and deliver to the homes of those in need.

Many of us are working from home this week and will have the flexibility to help. All of us are without symptoms, taking necessary precautions on hand washing/sanitizing, and have been fingerprinted and background checked by the Diocese

- Mike Gosset - (408) 316-7986
- Tony Fery - (408) 307-3617
- Jeff Dunham - (408) 605-0960
- Joe Gentzkow - (408)655-2095
- Sean Miller - (408) 769-8758
- Nick Mooney - (408) 892-1440
- Chuck Nunley - (408) 679-2879
- Paul Knapp - (408) 838-3948
- Paul Borrelli- (408) 476-0951
- Bill Delucchi- (408) 644-8434
- Adam Clouse- (408) 306-6737
- Anthony Podesta- (408) 646-2778
- Dave Creamer- (408) 376-1630

We are also open to other idea on how we can help.

Best Regards and God Bless,

Chuck Nunley

- Did you have a career? Were you a homemaker? What did you like best about it?
- What was your church experience and faith life like when you were younger? How has it changed over the years?

Remember that even though some senior citizens might have memory loss and other cognitive issues, they still have much wisdom to share about our past. Be patient and show them you care just by listening with no expectations. You will be amazed at some of the insights and memories they can share.