

# 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

# Week at a Glance

Sunday

All Masses | Church Second Collection Catholic Relief Services

#### **Tuesday**

After 8:15am Mass | Church Stations of the Cross

#### **Friday**

6:30pm | Church Stations of the Cross

#### **Sacraments**

#### **Weekend Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm Sunday 7:30 am

> 9:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm

1st Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

#### **Daily Mass Times**

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am Mon. - Sat. 8:15 am

#### **Holy Day Mass Times**

6:30 am 8:15 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm

# Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm or by appointment

#### **All Other Sacraments**

Please call the office for information.

# Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva Pastor

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat Parochial Vicar

William Goeke Jim McFadden **Deacons** 

Fr. Ignatius Haran
Pastor Emeritus

#### **Parish Office**

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm 307 Montrose Drive, Folsom Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media:

@FolsomCatholic

### **Bulletin**

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

Bulletin DateAd Due by 5 pmMarch 29March 19April 5March 25April 12March 31

# Welcome to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,
sacramental, loving and charitable.

# **Today's Readings**

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6[1] / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-3

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

-In 9:35-38

# **Gospel Meditation**

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man "sees" as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God's kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

# **Scripture Reflections**

#### First Reading

In the story of the prophet Samuel anointing the young David as the next king, neither Samuel nor David's father, Jesse, foresaw David to be God's anointed. When have you been surprised by God in your life?

#### Second Reading

Paul taught the Ephesians that as believers in Christ, they need to live as "children of light" and "learn what is pleasing to the Lord." From your own life experiences, what do you think pleases God?

#### **Gospel Reading**

Jesus' healing of the man born blind exposed the blindness of some of the Pharisees of Jesus' day. How do we prevent ourselves from being blind to God's presence in this season of Lent?



#### **Canceled Activities/Events**

Upon the advice of health officers from local counties Bishop Soto has directed that gatherings such as those listed below are canceled until further notice.

- Knights of Columbus Lenten Soup
- Knights of Columbus Fish Dinners
- •Pastoral Care is cancelled for March
- •The Adoration Chapel is closed for March
- Funeral Receptions for March
- Lifeteen, Edge or Religious Education
- Bible Study Classes (contact class leader)
- •Senior Visitation (limited to phone visits)
- Praise and Worship
- Theology on Tap
- Companioned Prayer
- •Listening for God in Our Lives Series
- Dcn McFadden's Lent 2020 Series
- •Womens' Games

# Special Dispensation from Bishop Soto

Due to instructions provided by State and local public health officials, Bishop Soto has granted dispensation to <u>all</u> members of the Catholic Faithful within our Diocese from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. This dispensation will continue until further notice. A link to a full copy of the Decree is available on the home page of our website at folsomcatholic.org. Scroll down to just past the Mass Times to Diocese of Sacramento: Coronavirus Updates.

#### Reminder

With growing concerns about the Corona virus it's important that we continue to be vigilant about taking precautions against the spread of disease.

- •The distribution of the chalice is suspended until further notice.
- •The exchange of the sign of peace is suspended until further notice.
- •Reception of communion in the hand is encouraged.
- •All ministers serving at the altar should wash their hands frequently. Hand sanitizer should be readily available in the sanctuary for use by the ministers.



# Have Musical Skills? Play an Instrument?

Contact Bill Carpentier 916-730-8560 bill.e.carpentier@me.com

If you have vocal skills, play an instrument, or are part of a musical or dance group, consider becoming part of the Music & Entertainment portion of our Fellowship Festival, being held on June 27th on Parish grounds. Subject to committee approval, you can be part of our live entertainment! Contact Bill at the email or phone number listed above.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with organization of the festival between now and June. We could really use your help setting up and staffing the event between the hours of 4pm - 9pm on that day. We'd LOVE to have you join our team. Can we count on your help to make this the best family fun event we've ever had?

# Elephants, Tigers & Books, OH MY!!

SJND Spring Book Fair

The Book Fair will be supporting our classroom and Resource teachers.

#### **Fall Book Fair Hours**

March 29, Sunday 9am – 1pm March 30, Monday 9am – 3:30pm March 31, Tuesday 9am – 3:30

Cookies and Books 3:30pm – 6pm April 1, Wednesday 9am – 3:30 pm April 2, Thursday 9am -3:30pm

April 3, Friday 9am – 3:30pm

# **Knights of Columbus Scholarships**

April 30 - Deadline

Info: Dick Phelan, dickphelan@comcast.net

The Knights of Columbus Council 6197 is pleased to announce that Catholic high school scholarship applications are now available at SJND administration office and the parish office. You can also request an application online. Email Dick. Completed applications with accompanying attachments are to be submitted no later than April 30, 2020



#### **Mass Intentions**

### Sunday, March 22nd

7:30 am David Catricala; 9:00 am Carlos Costa; 11:30 pm John Needham; 6:00 pm Carrie Poytress (birthday)

#### Monday, March 23rd

6:30 am Julian B. Ocampo+ 8:15 am Daniel Penman+

#### Tuesday, March 24th

6:30 am Antonio Daquipa+ 8:15 am Nora Padilla+

#### Wednesday, March 25th

6:30 am Luisata Sogueco+ 8:15 am J.D. Haig (conversion)

#### Thursday, March 26th

6:30 am Francis Knapek+ 8:15 am Hermelinda Ruelas+

#### Friday, March 27th

6:30 am William Dunsmore \*\* 8:15 am Raul Pamatian

#### Saturday, March 28th

8:15 am Velimir Isailovic+ 5:00 pm Al & Theresa Dalupan (35th Anniv)

# Observances We Celebrate This Week

**Mon:** St. Turibius of Mogrovejo **Wed:** The Annunciation of the Lord

# March is dedicated to: St. Joseph

# Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for March

Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

# **Prayer Requests**

Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. Names will appear for four months.

For Mass intentions please visit the Parish Office to reserve a particular Mass time.

# **Intercessory Prayers**

#### Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

Alana Ramsay Alice Sulik Annie Brozosky Aurora Bertulfo Ada Watson Carmencita Ortiz Cher Juliet Daniella Alvarez-Limon **Bob Taylor** Bonnie Spencer Carman Hogan Don Hendrickson Eric Coscolluela Fr. David Shaw Frederick Nidoy Gilbert Mendivil Gordon Ferriss Gloria Mendivil Herbert Kohagura Hunt Linn **Jared Ellerson Jason Nhan Jim Esfner** Ioann Pasterski

Joey Durse **Judy Wilkins** Karen Clouser Larry Armour Leo Galang Liam Ocampo Lorraine Mayrand Matthew Khuu Max Castro Mike Venturini Natalie S. Marhauer Pam Morin Pat Koelfgen Paulita Narcisco Rebecca Yap Romy Cypher-Strauch Sabrina Nunes Sean Roth Thoa Gilpin

Sabrina Nunes Sean Roth Thoa Gilpin Vista Costa Vince Matranga Walter Cwynar Vickie Lustan

#### Prayers for Our Troops

We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families. Nicole Kuntz-Harding

# Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.

Andrew Kurimay Ann McLaughlin Anne Pachote Beverly Verdugo Bob Matranga Diane Pallari Doris McKeon Duke McCully Erlinda Estepa Frank Brugger Guerrino Zanet Irma Henriquez Isabel Viloria Jesus Gaytán John Drumm Sr. John O'Malley Joseph Dickenson Julian Ocampo Karen Clouser Karen Maez Liberato Mariano Jr.

Lisa Hueffed
Magdalena Malixi
Majida Haque
Mary Brisbin
Mary Grimes
MaryJo Barrett
Mary Jane McMahon
Mike Diorio
Nicolas Gomez
Patrick Pallari
Pedro Oquendo
Quy Pham
Rhyss Undajon-Haskell
Sanh Nguyen
Sr. Bridget Mary

Flynn, RSM Sr. Kathleen Kinane Sr. Mercedes Braga, SHF Teresita Ochoa Theresa Gonzalez William McCain

# **The Adoration Chapel**

**Please Note:** The Adoration Chapel will be closed for the remainder of March. Adoration has been moved to the Church from 9-4:30pm for the remainder of March

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited daily at 3:00 pm.

Perpetual Adoration is held in the Adoration Chapel on the

1st Friday of the month after 8:15 am Mass through 4:00 pm on Saturday.

# **Eucharistic Adoration Ministry Hours of Need**

For information please contact: Veronica Thomas, 916-817-8685 We need additional adorers for days and times listed below

Monday: 10 - 11:00 am 7 - 8:00 pm Tuesday: 2 - 3:00 pm 4 - 5:00 pm 7 - 8:00 pm Wednesday: 3 - 4:00 pm 6 - 7:00 pm Thursday: 9 - 10:00 am 2 - 3:00 pm 2 - 3:00 pm Friday: 11 - 12:00 pm 6 - 7:00 pm 7 - 8:00 pm 12 - 1:00 pm 2 - 3:00 pm 1st Saturday: 10 - 11:00 pm 11 - 12:00 pm 3 - 4:00 pm 2nd Saturday: 3 - 4:00 pm 4 - 5:00 pm 3rd Saturday: 2 - 3:00 pm 3 - 4:00 pm 4th Saturday: Sunday: 8 - 9:00 am 12 - 1:00pm 10 - 11:00 am

Please prayerfully consider signing up for 1 hour a week with the Lord in the Adoration Chapel. You will never regret it!

# Prayer Opportunities At St. John the Baptist

Companioned Prayer (Tue, 3:30 pm)
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
Morning Prayer (after 8:15 am Mass)
-Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Marian Movement of Priests Cenacles
-1st Saturday, 6pm, Adoration Chapel
-2nd Wednesday, 8pm Adoration Chapel

#### **Lenten Schedule**

Lent a time to reflect on the Paschal Mystery more intently

Stations of the Cross Fridays: 6:30 pm Tuesdays: after the 8:15 am Mass

Confession
Saturdays: 3pm - 4:30 pm
and by appointment

Normal Saturday times

Penance Service April 1, Wednesday 6:30 pm

### Respect Life Ministry 40 Days for Life Campaign

40daysforlife.com/sacramento Contact: Joanne, 916-607-2228 or Kathy, 916-337-6824

Here in Sacramento, a young mother walked up to the sidewalk outside the abortion clinic with tears in her eyes. She said, "You saved my babies and my family" as she held the hands of her twin two-year-olds. Additionally, a long-time abortion business employee told people there that she "just wanted to say goodbye. You won't be seeing me here anymore. I finally quit today." These are just a couple of encouraging stories ~ we pray more people will come out to be the presence that makes so much difference. Come help moms and save babies!

2232 Butano Dr, Sacramento Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

Carpools available from St. Johns, contact Kathy or Joanne.

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. "

(Ps 23)





#### **LENT 2020**

#### Being Sent into the Desert

March 2 - April 6, Mondays
7:00 pm St. John Paul II Room
Contact: Deacon Jim, macfam500@att.net
Please Note the event has been cancelled

March 22: "We Can See Clearly Now"
Our Gospel story for this weekend is the narrative of the man born blind. In the Bible and in John particularly, sight is used as a metaphor for spiritual vision or faith. Therefore, the man born blind is every one of us, born in the state of original sin. The Church, through the Sacraments, offers us the salve of Christ's Incarnation so we might be converted, healed, baptized, and attending Mass in right praise.



# **Inspiration of the Week**

Seeing is much more than just a function of our eyes. We can look at something with clear vision but not really see it. Often what we think we see is colored by our presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and needs. We judge things by appearance, but God looks into the heart. God's sight has a much wider range and far greater depth. Receiving things or people just based on appearance can lead us to erroneous and hurtful judgments. We think we are seeing clearly, but we are not. Allowing God to restore our sight so that we can truly see is a worthy goal for our Lenten journey. Look within and look without. What do you see? Allow God to complete the picture for you. Ask Him to give you the insight to look into someone's heart. Don't draw hasty conclusions or presume you know the truth. Be open and humble enough so that you can receive the sight that only God can give.

# **Couples for Christ**Christian Life Program

March 28, Saturday, 8-5pm March 29, Sunday, 8-12pm Garden Room

Contact: Myrah Empleo 661-993-4721

Please Note the event has been cancelled

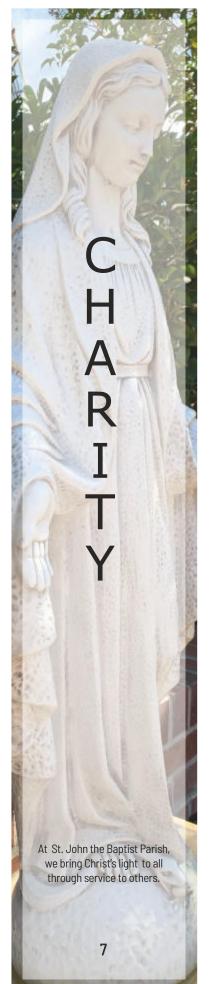
# The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Gracious

Vacations can be great times for refueling the body and renewing bonds within a family and between friends. No matter how good the vacation was, it is almost always good to get home when it is over. Sleeping in our own bed, taking a shower in our own bathroom, and resting on our own couch are some of the aspects of home we can miss while on the road. That's why encountering truly gracious and hospitable people while we are away is so important. These people are not family, but they sure can provide for us a glimpse of home. They can be waiters at a restaurant, desk hosts at a hotel, or even Uber drivers. They enrich our lives if for only a moment, yet that moment can make all the difference.

When disciples of Jesus Christ act in a gracious manner to all those they meet, they provide a glimpse of home. This home is not in a house in a particular location, but it is a home prepared for all of us for eternity. No matter how comfortable we may be in our earthly homes, it truly pales in comparison to eternity with God. In that heavenly home, there is no darkness, only light. There are no tears, only joy. There is no hate, only love.

We are ambassadors for heaven by how we offer ourselves to others. Our stewardship of hospitality allows others to see a glimpse of what God promises to us. Unless we truly step up and act in a gracious manner, will those we encounter ever know the Truth? I hate it when I am on the road and fail to meet people full of joy and welcome. At least I can look forward to coming home. What do those along the way look forward to in the next life that you can't show them a glimpse of in this one?

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



### **2nd Collection**

This weekend, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please give generously to the CRSC, and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Next weekend is the fifth Sunday of the month and the second collection is for our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Your financial support allows us to assist those in need in our community with rent and utilities. Funds are also used to stock our food pantry.

### **Loaves and Fishes**

March 21-22, Vestibule Contact: Cathy Kovarik, 916-353-0688

We were able to share your contributions with over 370 homeless last month. It starts their day in a positive way with greetings of caring along with the food. The large designated cart will be in the vestibule, March 22. As always items especially needed are cup-of-soups, peanut butter and cheese crackers, hot chocolate and oatmeal packets, breakfast bars, raisins and fruit cups. Holy cards, rosaries and religious reading material also appreciated. The Divine Mercy Ministry thanks you for participating in this Corporal Work of Mercy during the Lenten season. All will be shared at Friendship Park March 25.

# **SJND Scrip Gift Cards**

Let Scrip help with your spring cleaning projects, from re-organizing the garage to your closet. You receive equal value for what you spend and you will be supporting St. John Notre Dame School at places like Lowe's, Home Depot, Target, WalMart and more. Stop by the table after Mass and thank you for your support.

# Win a Trip to Hawaii and Support St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Benefit Dinner for the Poor has been cancelled. However, our raffle ticket sales will help raise funds and we will continue to sell raffle tickets for a trip to Hawaii. Tickets are \$10 each and will be sold until May 23rd. We will postpone sales in the vestibule for now and hope to resume again in April or May. Ticket sales will benefit those in need. Thank you for your support.

# **Helping Hands**

Helping Hands will be closed for two weeks or until further notice. Please hold off bringing any clothing and food donations until then.

#### **Ultrasound Fundraiser Dinner**

April 24, Friday 5pm Folsom Community Center Contact: Stephen Pratt 805-279-5953

Our council will be hosting a professionally catered, three-course tri-tip dinner with the goal of raising funds to purchase a high resolution ultrasound machine for the benefit of the Sierra Pregnancy & Health Center. Once a woman in crisis sees the ultrasound of their unborn child, 80-90% who are considering abortion choose life.

Tickets are \$100 per person; \$750 for a table of 8. Ticket sales in the vestibule are scheduled for March 29, April 5, and April 12. Or checks made payable to "Folsom Council 6197" and sent to: John Boehm, 2089 Brook Mar Dr., El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-3703 or Dan Kimbell, 1173 Kingfisher Cir, Folsom, CA 95630-7660

# Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

**Weekly goal: \$25,529.00**Offering for March 14/15 is \$8515
On-line donations are not included



# **Sharing the Gospel**

When Jesus saw the blind man, he did not just walk by. Jesus stopped. He knew he could help the man, and honor God at the same time. Showing all of God's love and power, Jesus healed the blind man's eyes. For the first time in his life, the man could see Jesus and believe in him.

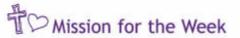


Jesus, thank you for helping the blind man believe in you.



Help me to find God!





Draw a cross and put it in a place where you can see it and think of Jesus every day.





Our parish is enriched with many ministries, please consider learning about and engaging in one or more of our ministries. Call the contact listed or see a Minister of Hospitality after Mass.

# **Welcoming Ministries**

#### **Communications Ministry**

Loreen McMahon, 916-933-1330

#### Ministers of Hospitality

Shannon Bleeker, 916-200-8059

#### **New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry**

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

#### **Ushers**

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

# **Prayer Ministries**

#### **Companioned Prayer**

Bill Stobbe, 916-505-3800

#### **Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle**

Pat Koelfgen, 916-989-2915

-Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer

-Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass

-Cenacle - Zoeanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-Cenacle-Spanish - Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Veronica Thomas, thomas\_vera@yahoo.com Perpetual Adoration—1st Fri 9am - Sat 4pm

# Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle)

-English – 1st Saturday of the month Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411

*-Spanish* – 2nd Wednesday of the month

Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

#### **Our Lady of Fatima**

Henry Altamirano, 925 - 899-7769

# **Spiritual Growth Ministries**

#### **Adult Scripture Study**

Lee & Teresa Weider, 916-983-8065

#### **Couples for Christ**

Myrah Empleo, 661-993-4721

#### Praise & Worship

Sheila Fitzpatrick, 925-437-0798

#### **Religious Education**

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

#### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Debbie Duncan, 916-798-0201

#### Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, 916-985-2065

#### WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Sue Collins, 916-337-6237

#### Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

# **Parish Committees/Councils**

#### **Finance Council**

Elizabeth Beigh, 916-730-1291

#### **Liturgy Committee**

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

#### **Pastoral Council**

# **Outreach/Charity Ministries**

#### **Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions**

Nina Pucci, 916-947-6386

#### Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

#### **Gabriel Project**

Helen Boyd, 916-367-8071

#### Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

#### **Grupo Pastoral Hispano**

Anna Haid, 916-956-1177

#### **Knights of Columbus**

Dick Phelan, 916-221-0596

### **Pastoral Care Ministry**

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday

Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

#### Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 x 4206

-CSP Sacramento - Greg Mellor,

Catholic Chaplain ,916-985-8610 x6425

#### School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

#### **Senior Visitation**

Charlene Agles, 916-984-9602

# St. Vincent de Paul (Helping Hands)

John Knight, 916-985-4630

# **Liturgical Ministries**

#### **Altar Servers**

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

#### Children's Liturgy during Mass

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

#### **Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion**

Steve & Maryanne Ashley, 916-479-2214

#### Lectors

Patti Midtlyng, 916-837-8322

#### **Liturgical Environment**

Arlette Peterson, 916-983-1389

**Music -** *See choir director after Mass.* 

# **Additional Ministries**

#### Children's Babysitting at Mass

Georgia Oatmeyer, 916-201-3193

#### **Family Fellowship**

Carol Stephenson, 916-952-6744

#### Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

#### Women's Game Day

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

Please send ministry updates and corrections to Loreen McMahon, mcmahon510@comcast.net.



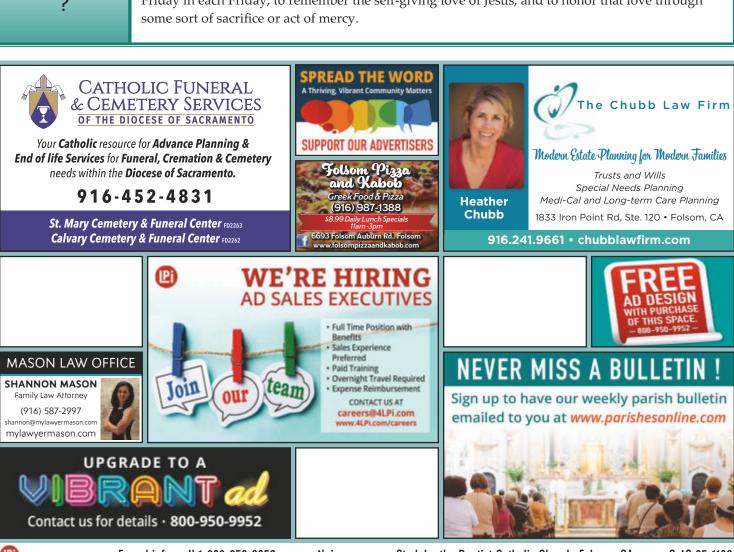
# Why do Catholics Eat Fish on Friday?

For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church's thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on "why we do what we do" among the Church's pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.







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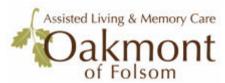
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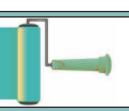






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