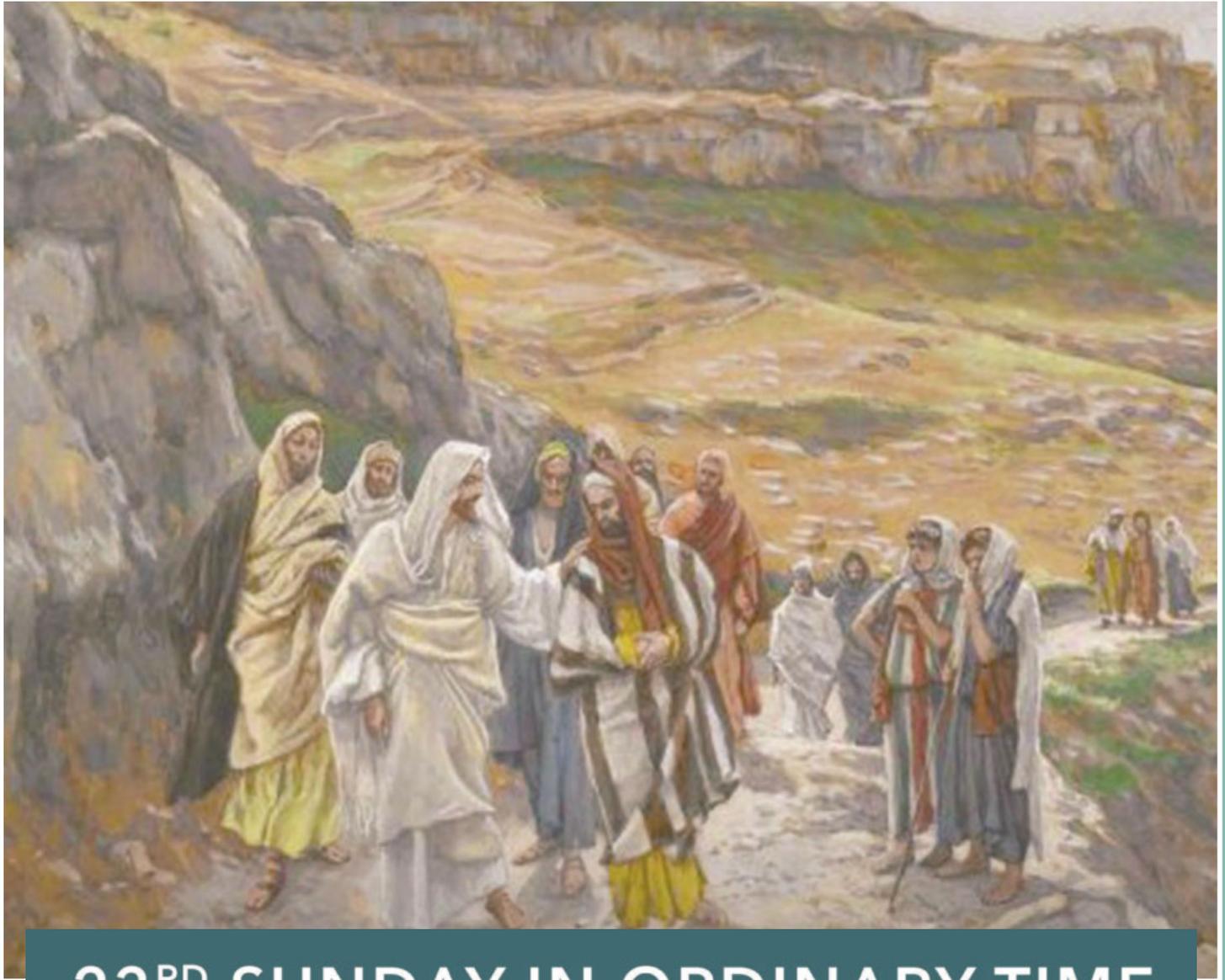




# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## *Catholic Church*

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” - Lk 14:28, 33

## Sacraments

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:30 am
	6:00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

### Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri.	6:30 am
	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  
& 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 Date Ads Due by 5pm

Sep 11 Aug 30

Sep 18 Sep 8

Sep 25 Sep 15

Oct 2 Sep 22

# 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

Wis 9:13-18b / Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 / Phlm 9-10, 12-17 / Lk 14:25-33

*"In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge."*  
(Ps 90)

## Gospel Meditation

What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult.

There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. "Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor)." "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge. To walk this sacrificial journey means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta)." Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don't feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened.  
Believe in God's love and seek it above all other things!

## Scripture Reflections

### First Reading

Our Jewish sage teaches us that the mystery of God can only be understood through wisdom provided by the "Holy Spirit." When do you pray for the gift of wisdom?

### Second Reading

Paul urges his partner Philemon to see Onesimus no longer as a slave but as a "brother now that Onesimus is a believer in Christ. When has your faith provoked an examination of conscience?

### Gospel

Jesus teaches the crowds that true discipleship demands one to "renounce all (your) possessions." In other words, one's ultimate concern should be solely the possession of the gift of salvation. Why do you think this is not self-evident to many?



## New to the Parish?

September 10, Saturday, 3:45 pm  
Contact: Joyce Starosciak  
916-740-4628 , jastaros@gmail.com

The St. John the Baptist Welcoming Ministry is holding an orientation session for new parishioners. You will meet other new parishioners, learn about our ministries, take a guided tour of the parish facilities, and receive a small gift to welcome you. The orientation will end before 5pm mass. Please contact Joyce to register.

## Knights of Columbus

**Faith in Action Community  
Youth Sports Program**

September 10, Saturday  
Registration: Starts at 9-10 am  
St. John Parish Soccer Field  
Contact: Dick Phelan, 916-221-0596 or  
Percy Park, 916-936-6145

Open to all local public school children, SJND School children, Knights children and grandchildren, St. John Parish children, R.E. and Youth Groups, which includes all boys and girls, ages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 performing the Knights "penalty kick" competition.

Please contact brother's Dick Phelan or Percy Park for Soccer Challenge Application/Score Sheets "#4578", cutoff date is current year September 1 for "eligibility"!

Age groups 9, 10 and 11, boys and girls use size #4 soccer ball. Penalty kick from the 10 yard line.

Age groups 12, 13, and 14, boys and girls use size #5 soccer ball. Penalty kick from the 12 yard line.

At the Council level competition each participant kicks 3 practice and then, 15 kicks at the penalty goal. The person with the "highest score" by age group, boys and girl determines the "winner" of that age group!

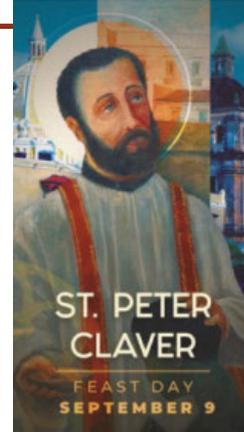
At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we welcome all  
as members of  
the Body of Christ.

## Labor Day Holiday

September 5, Monday

There will only be one Mass celebrated on the Labor Day Holiday. Join us at the 307 Montrose Drive location at 10am.

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the holiday.



Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to

be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.



### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, September 4th

7:30am Alma Janus+  
9:00am Cathy Kovarik+  
11:30am Lawrence & Dorothy Populorum  
(65<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

1:30pm Julia Montoya+  
6:00pm Chuck Kudija+

#### Monday, September 5th

10:00am Ray Reiss+

#### Tuesday, September 6th

6:30am Fred Mead+  
8:15am Marble Peter Thomas+ (1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniv)

#### Wednesday, September 7th

6:30am Franco Ramirez+  
8:15am Louis Silva+

#### Thursday, September 8th

6:30am Jesus Fernando+  
8:15am Melany & Carlos Ventura (birthday)

#### Friday, September 9th

6:30am Alfred Gomez+  
8:15am Franco Ramirez+

#### Saturday, September 10th

5:00pm Dick Pasterski+

### Observances We Celebrate This Week

Monday

Labor Day

Thursday

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday

St. Peter Claver

### September is Dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows (or Dolours) of Mary

### Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for September For the abolition of the death penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

### 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.*

Ana Bracamonte	Kristi Beckley
Barbara Lowenkron	Kyle Pasterski
Betty Wilson Lane	Lori G. Rico
Bill Peterson	Margie Reilly
Bob Ely	Mauricio Bracamonte
Brian Shannon	Oscar Guillen
Cora Gonzales	Ricardo Henriquez
Debbie Rabourn	Robert Lustan
Jairo Moncada	Sandy Young
John Tierney	Stella Lovine
Jonathan Pacheco	Susan Suboc
Joseph Cardenas	Tony Tran
Joy Bryla	Vince Matranga
Kim May	
Kimanh Davis	

#### Prayers for Our Troops

*We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families.*

Michael Dalupan

#### Prayers for the Recently Deceased

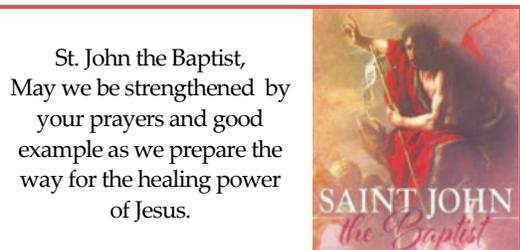
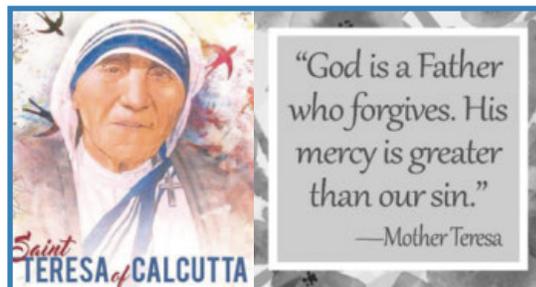
*We pray for the souls of all who have recently died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.*



Alma Janus	Michelle David
Carol Flack	Patrick Warholc
Clara Halog	Paul Bisdorf
Earl Santee	Robert Alarid
Elaine Sharp	Steve Lawson
Gyan Singh Bains	Tom Porter
Jim Loughridge	Tonia A. Fullenwider
John Rocker, Jr.	(DeBellis)

### Prayer Requests

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



At St. John the Baptist Parish, time in conversation with our Lord is at the center of our lives.



## The Adoration Chapel

Chapel hours are: Mon-Fri 9am - 8pm,  
Sat 9am - 5pm and Sun 7am -11am

First Friday of every month Eucharistic Adoration:  
9am to 7pm in the church

The Adoration Ministry has immediate need for dedicated adorers for these hours

Monday:	10-11 am	12 - 1 pm	4 - 5pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm*
Tuesday:	5 - 6 pm				
Wednesday:	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm*	7 - 8 pm*	
Thursday:	3 - 4 pm	5 - 6 pm			
Friday:	11-12 pm	7 - 8 pm*			
Saturday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	12 - 1 pm	1 - 2 pm	2 - 3 pm 3 - 4 pm

\* sign ups are especially needed at these times

To sign up please contact Veronica Thomas at thomas\_vera@yahoo.com

## Confession

**Saturdays: 3 - 4:30 pm & by appointment**

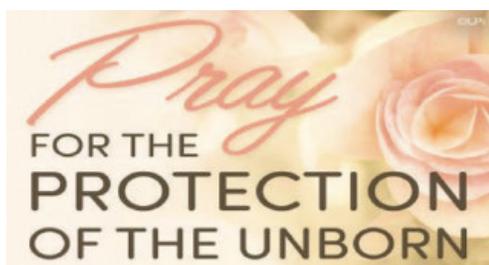
Confessions at this time are offered outside of the confessional. We will continue a face to face format in a larger setting.

## Respect Life Ministry

**"365" Days for Life**

Contact: Joanne Dudgeon  
916-607-2228

Come to pray for moms and babies. It's that simple. God uses us as a sign to the moms driving into the parking lot that choosing life is what God wants for them. We show them that they have alternatives to ending the life of their child. If women/men stop for information, we give them love and support, to include all the resources that they need. Four women changed their minds over the course of one week this month so far. Praise God! Come and see what miracles God has planned for you... Our focus is Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 8am-2pm~ busy surgical abortion days up to six months gestation. St. John's carpool on Wednesdays from 11:00am -1:00pm, contact Joanne.



## Labor Day Blessing

This day has its foundation in the union organizing history of our country and the rise of the workers to strive for a better life. Let us remember today all those who labored to obtain for us the right to work in a safe environment with decent wages.

*O God,*

*you asked St. Joseph to accept your will that his wife-to-be would have a Son.*

*St. Joseph accepted your will and worked with Jesus as his father and teacher.*

*We seek your blessing upon all the work of our hands, and we dedicate our work to your greater glory.*

*We ask your blessing upon all workers, especially those who work to make our lives easier and more enjoyable.*

*We ask all this through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, in the name of Jesus your Son, in the unity of Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

*St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us.*



At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
time in conversation with our  
Lord is at the center of  
our lives.



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At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we foster a  
commitment to lifelong  
spiritual growth.

## Fall Scripture Studies

Contact: Teresa and Lee Weider  
916-983-8065, laweider631@gmail.com

Group in-person and individual online studies begin the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>! Two new studies will be offered on weekday mornings and evenings:

- (1) *“Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life”*, a 10 week study on the Christ-centered treasures of the Catholic Faith.
- (2) *“First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community”*, an 11 week study on St. Paul’s advice for living a Christian life in a pagan culture.

These studies along with *Lectio Peter* and *Lectio Mark* are also available for individuals online. See the parish website for more information or contact Lee or Teresa if you have questions. Everyone is welcome!

## October Is Respect Life Month

September 26, 7pm to 8:30 pm  
Holy Trinity Parish Social Center  
3111 Tierra de Dios Drive  
El Dorado Hills, CA  
Contact: ssf123@pacbell.net

The Respect Life Ministry at Holy Trinity Parish has invited Wynette Sills, Coordinator for the Sacramento 40 Days for Life Campaign, to come and speak to the Holy Trinity Community. 40 Days for Life aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate life! Refreshments will be provided.

## “We Were Born Ready”

Contact: Moises De Leon  
916-733-0133, mdeleon@scd.org

Join us! We were born Ready Campaign is a forum to empower, equip, mobilize, and resource Catholics to fulfill their baptismal call to serve women, children, and families, especially women in difficult and unexpected pregnancies. Catholics are called to take an active role in legislative issues that harm those most vulnerable in our society. For more information visit: [wewerebornready.com](http://wewerebornready.com).

## Our Lady of Fatima Procession

Tuesday, September 13, 6pm  
Contact: Henry Altamirano  
925-899-7769

We will pray the Rosary to Our Lady during our procession around the neighborhood. We will begin at the church.

## Where’s the Sacrifice?

“It’s not that I want you to do it. It’s that I want you to want to do it.”

If you’re married or in a relationship, your partner has probably either said something like this to you or you have said it to them. If one of you hasn’t said it, you have probably wanted to, and it’s likely that a big argument or two was had where you dance around the sentiment, these exact words flashing in your mind like an old-time movie marquee.

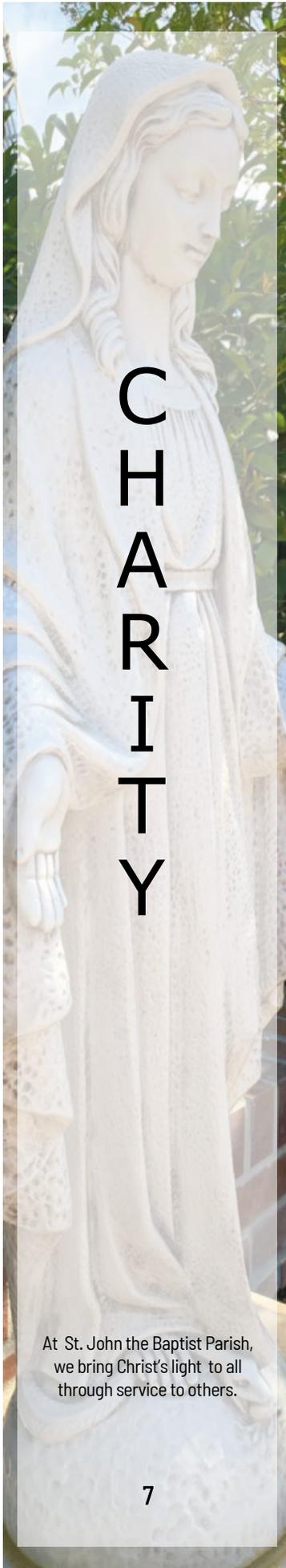
The “it” never really matters much. Taking out the trash, painting the bedroom, traveling to your in-laws’ for Christmas — whatever the subject matter of the disagreement is, it’s all just so much set dressing. The heart of the matter is the sacrifice and desire. That’s what it all hangs on. Am I with a person who will sacrifice for me?

When Paul writes to Philemon that he is sending Onesimus to him, he says exactly this. He tells Philemon that he would prefer to keep Onesimus with him, but that he does not want to deprive Philemon both of Onesimus and the opportunity to make a sacrifice worthy in the sight of the Lord.

The point is not who gets to hang out with Onesimus. The point is, as it says in the Gospel, who is willing to carry his cross? Who is willing to renounce his possessions? Who is willing to do the good deed for the sake of the other?

God doesn’t care that much about what we have to offer. He cares much more that we have the strength to offer whatever we have.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we bring Christ's light to all  
through service to others.

## Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

Weekly goal: \$25,529.00

Weekly Offerings:

August 20/21 \$ 11,611

August 27/28 \$ 13,120

### 2nd Collection

This weekend our 2nd collection is for our RE Program and SJND.

Next weekend our 2nd collection will be for our Building and Maintenance Fund.

## Catholic Charities and Social Concerns

Care for Creation

Laudato Si' Diocesan Kickoff

September 9, Friday, 6-8pm

St. Anthony Parish

511 Main Street, Winters, CA 95694

Contact: Laura Rios

916-733-0251, lrios@scd.org

This event begins a multi-year reflection and action plan in response to Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si'.

This time for creation offers individual believers and communities an opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork that he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live. Join us to learn about the Diocese of Sacramento's commitment and how you can participate! Registration Link: [https://scd.formstack.com/forms/care\\_for\\_creation](https://scd.formstack.com/forms/care_for_creation)



## Knights of Columbus

Bishop A Gallegos Council 6197

Faith in Action Life Program

Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)

August 20 - October 2

Contact: Brother Percy Park

916-936-6145 or dbk576@aol.com

We are collecting all baby items; new or clean, slightly used (clothing, blankets, diapers) and donations. Most needed are NB and size 1 diapers, wipes, bouncers, and pak n plays. All proceeds and donations aid and support single women after pregnancy who live in our local maternity homes and the Sacramento Diocese Gabriel Project. The Knights of Columbus "cart" will be placed in front of the Church or vestibule at the weekend masses.

The Gabriel Project ministry helps mothers who are faced with crisis pregnancies. They often times feel abandoned by their families, the fathers of their babies, and their communities. Our church community responds with love by providing spiritual, emotional, and material support to help meet their needs. Through prayer and action, we assure the mother that she has our love and most importantly, the love of Christ.

### Inspiration of the Week

"Stand up straight and don't slouch!" Many a child has heard these words bellowed from their mother's lips. We need the perspective of others to help us understand when we are not walking as straight as we could be. God sends us the Holy Spirit to correct and guide us so that our paths through life can be straight. Without this assistance, how we see and understand ourselves and the world around us is incomplete. We will also lack the virtue of fortitude. It takes courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to the task of discipleship. We have to put aside things that the world says are necessary and follow a path placed before us by Jesus Christ. Jesus is asking us to follow him. We must consider what we have to do to be free enough to do so. God needs us to show the world a complete picture of what life is meant to be, correct its vision and tell it to stand up straight!

# KID'S CORNER

## Sharing the Gospel

Living God's way can be very hard for some people. Name the people in your family. Can you love God more than you love your family? Name some of your friends. Can you love God more than you love your friends? Name your favorite books, movies or toys. Can you love God more than those things? It is OK to love your family, have good friends, and enjoy the gifts God has given you. Just remember to love God first.

## ✝️ Mission for the Week

Say a special prayer to God today. Thank him for your family, your friends, and for all the things God has given you to enjoy.

## 🙏 Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you more than anyone or anything else.

## 📖 Read the Gospel and Color

Lk 14:25-33



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel

- |          |          |        |
|----------|----------|--------|
| DISCIPLE | WIFE     | SISTER |
| FATHER   | CHILDREN | LIFE   |
| MOTHER   | BROTHER  | CROSS  |

C R O S S U L I F E  
P S **D** N O F Y W A N  
T W I F E B U I T L  
M D S A S T O W H R  
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E U L W E L D W N T  
R Y E B R O T H E R  
O U S I T D W N F I

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

### New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

### Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

## Prayer Ministries

### Companioned Prayer

Dcn. Bill Goeke, 916-673-7996

### Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*

-*Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass*

-*Cenacle* - Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

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

### Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas\_vera@yahoo.com

*1st Friday of the Month - 9am - 7pm (church),*

*Sign Up for adorers is in the vestibule*

### Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle)

-*English* - 1st Saturday of the month

Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411

-*Spanish* - Every Saturday

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

David Brauer, dabrauer@hotmail.com

### Religious Education

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

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

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

### Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, 916-985-2065

### WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

## Parish Committees/Councils

### Finance Council

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

### Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

### Pastoral Council

Shannon Frazier, 916-761-2912

## Outreach/Charity Ministries

### Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

### Gabriel Project

Debbie Sultan, 916-337-5786

### Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

### Grupo Pastoral Hispano

Rommel Hernández, 530-387-1009

### Knights of Columbus

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

### 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 (311 Montrose Dr.)

Mercy 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, 916-220-5968

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

## Additional Ministries

### Children's Babysitting at Mass

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### Family Fellowship

Rachel Marsh, 916-945-6992

### Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

### Women's Game Day

Every Wednesday, Garden Room, 11am - 4:30pm.

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

# MINISTRIES

"Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will."

## Why do Catholics light candles in church?

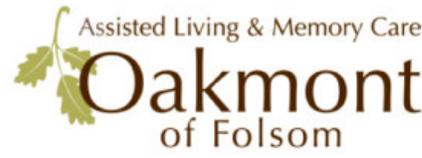
Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.



As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

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