



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## *Catholic Church*

### JULY 4, 2021



## 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!" - Mk 6:2

## 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  
(Spanish Mass resumes Aug ust 1)

### Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri.	6:30 am
	8:15 am
(6:30am Mass resumes July 6)	

### 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

July 11	June 29
July 18	July 8
July 25	July 15

# 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

Ez 2:2-5 / Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd] / 2 Cor 12:7-10 / Mk 6:1-6a

*"Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy. "*  
(Ps 123)

## Gospel Meditation

It's all so ordinary that we can easily miss it. The seagulls hunting and diving for mollusks at the beach offer a display of determination and precision as they gather their food for the day.

It's simply what these creatures do. Yet, there's a magical artfulness and skill to their work that speaks volumes about the One who breathed life into their being. This is pretty much the way it is with God's presence. God comes in common ways through common things and ordinary people. Sadly, we are so engulfed in our little worlds of order and ideas to notice the beauty and wonder of it all. Many have numbed themselves to the Divine spark at the essence of all life because that's just the way it is. What's so special about it? A sunset is a sunset and a seagull is a seagull. That's precisely what they thought about Jesus too. After all, isn't he just the carpenter's son? What merit can his words possibly have?

If we're looking for God to come in an event that is so dramatic and intense that it knocks our socks off, then think again. When pondering God's relationship with His people and God's action in our lives, we have to go back to the stable and the recurring, creative, unending power of God's presence. It was a quiet, run of the mill kind of night. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary. To the naked eye, a woman gave birth to a child and there wasn't anything extraordinary to see. We have a hard time understanding God's ordinary-ness. Jesus grew up in an ordinary town, had neighbors and did normal human things. Perhaps that's why we don't always like the Gospel. It doesn't dazzle us with extraordinary things but simply challenges us to take a different look at our ordinary stuff. That makes us uncomfortable. We prefer things as they are. Our lack of faith can even cause us to take offense at what Jesus says and does, dismissing it as folly.

God's life-giving presence continues to sustain that seagull in flight and keep all things in being regardless of whether we have the faith to see and understand this. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be hardened and blinded to what God is doing or desiring to do. While God continues to do what he has done for all eternity, faith is needed for God's presence to bear fruit. The blinders we wear and the expectations we bring to life can often prevent us from seeing graced moments that radiate with God's graceful presence. They also prevent God's transforming, healing, and hope filled vision for our world from being realized. Without faith, God won't be able to do much for us either.

## Scripture Reflections

### First Reading

Today's reading is an excerpt from the prophetic call Ezekiel received while in exile in Babylon (Ez 1:1-3:27). The Lord commissioned Ezekiel to go and confront the "rebellious house" of Israel. How do you imagine the Israelites received Ezekiel's message?

### Second Reading:

Paul learned that the "thorn in his flesh" taught him to be humble and dependent upon God's grace alone. Where do you see God's grace most present in your life?

### Gospel:

Jesus was "amazed" at the lack of faith his fellow Nazareans had in him, suggesting Jesus expected a different response. Why do you think the villagers of Nazareth "took offense" at Jesus?



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

### **Celebrating Independence Day**

Monday, July 5 there will be only one Mass at 10am in the church. The Parish Office will be closed for the holiday. Stay safe this holiday!

### **Worship Updates Here at St. John the Baptist Effective as of June 20**

- Bishop Soto has rescinded the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. All the Catholic faithful in the Diocese are obliged to personally attend and actively participate in Sunday Mass. Individuals are not obligated to attend if they are sick, have a vulnerable health condition, are caring for someone with a vulnerable health condition, or other serious reasons .
- Churches have returned to 100% seating capacity.
- Facial masks aren't required but are still encouraged.
- The distribution of the cup is still suspended.
- There will be a separate line for those wishing to receive communion on the tongue. It will be in front of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the chapel side. After the minister gives out communion on the tongue, he/she will sanitize their hand after each communicant. If you are not receiving communion on the tongue please go to an alternate line.
- Confessions will still be heard outside of the confessional. Confession time remains the same.
- The exchange of the sign of peace during Mass may resume.
- Congregational singing may resume.
- Contact tracing sign ins are no longer needed.
- 6ft social distancing is not required.

#### **Upcoming changes**

##### **Effective July 6**

- The church will no longer be open all day. It will be locked following the 8:15am Mass on weekdays and after the 11:30am Sunday Mass.
- 6:30am Mass will again be celebrated Mon-Fri.
- Adoration will be moved back to the Adoration Chapel. See page 5 for hours.

##### **Effective August 1**

- The Spanish Mass will resume at 1:30pm (First Sunday of the Month)

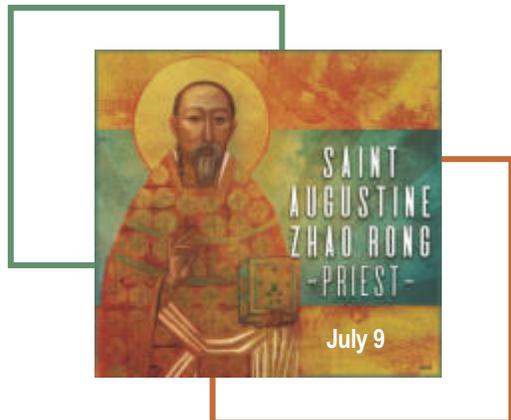
### **School Gate Closure Update**

Some of you may be wondering why the school parking lot has been closed for several weekends now. It is to protect the school property, especially the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary from random hate crimes and possible vandalism. In light of all the vandalism that has happened in parishes around the diocese, the School Administration deemed it appropriate to close the school gate for the time being.

The parish back gate has been opened to help facilitate the flow of traffic. If you want to avoid the after Mass traffic back up we encourage you to use the back gate as your exit.

**Journey with Joseph:**  
**Celebrate your Dad or Grandad at the Sacramento Rivercats Game**  
August 22, Sunday  
Contact: Sandra Hernandez  
916-733-0123, shernandez@scd.org

As part of our Year of St. Joseph celebration, Bishop Soto invites you to join him for a special day with the Sacramento Rivercats on Sunday, August 22 to honor our Fathers and Grandfathers. The event starts at 11am for an opportunity to play catch on the field with your family. Dads and Granddads get a special blessing from Bishop Soto at 11:45am. First pitch is at 1pm. Dads and Granddads get a commemorative baseball and there's an opportunity to take pictures on the field with the Bishop. Tickets are available on the First Base side or on the lawn. Tickets and information available at: <https://fevo.me/dioceseofsacramento> or call Sandra.



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### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, July 4th

7:30am Maddie Dang (*thanksgiving*)  
9:00am Arsenio Uri+  
11:30am Alejandro Steinmuller+  
6:00pm Steve Neumann+

#### Monday, July 5th

10:00am Jennifer Pais+

#### Tuesday, July 6th

6:30am  
8:15am Andrew Bower+

#### Wednesday, July 7th

6:30am  
8:15am Constancio Ilas Sr.+

#### Thursday, July 8th

6:30am  
8:15am Andrew Bower+

#### Friday, July 9th

6:30am Fernanda Castelo+  
8:15am Teodora Austria+

#### Saturday, July 10th

5:00pm Manuel Palma (*birthday*)

### Observances

#### We Celebrate This Week

**Mon:** St. Anthony Zaccaria,  
St. Elizabeth of  
**Tue:** St. Maria Goretti  
**Fri:** St. Augustine Zhao Rong and  
Companions

**July is Dedicated to:**  
The Precious Blood of Our Lord

### Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for July Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

### 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.*

Arlis Himmelmann	Kimanh Davis
Christopher Kovarik	Lora Iliff
David Allingham	Lucy Tran
Eberado Madueno	Margaret Kimball
Evelyn Ronquillo	Marelou Montemayor
Eusebio Santos	Minh Davis
Geraldine Giacobazzi	Monica Heffel
Gloria Bladel & Family	Randy Elliot
Joseph Cardenas	Robert Coughlin
Joshua Weidinger	Sheila Montemayor
Karen Bookey	Silda Galang

#### 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 died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.*

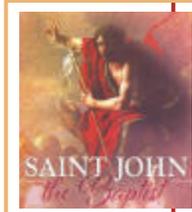
Agrifino Angeles	Karen Norris
Andrew Bower	Luz Villamil-Hoyt
Anita Rivera	Madeline Easton
Bob McIntyre	Maria M. Acosta
Carlos Henriquez	Maria Di Costanzo
Charlotte Hughes	Maria Novello
David Fredericks	Marilyn Dorr
Doris Hodge	Nona Piha
Elena Aquino	Norma Aley
Eli Marquez	Puspa Banka
Esperanza Olson Garcia	Raul Edward Martin
Fabian Generao	Richard Legget
Hilarion Aspera	Robert Coughlin
Janina Frys	Therese Brelivet
Jong Nam Han	Thomas Lazore
	William Heffel



### 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.

O God,  
You raised up St. John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ. Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace and salvation. Grant that as St. John was martyred for truth and justice, so we may energetically profess our Faith in You, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life. Amen.



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



## The Adoration Chapel

**Please Note:** Adoration will continue to be held in the Church until July 6. On July 6, the Adoration chapel will reopen.

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 - 11:00 am	11-12:00 pm			
Tuesday:	10 - 11:00 am	1 - 2:00 pm	2 - 3:00 pm		
Wednesday:	10 - 11:00 am	11-12:00 pm	1 - 2:00 pm	6 - 7:00 pm	7 - 8:00 pm
Thursday:	10 - 11:00 am	1 - 2:00 pm			
Friday:	10 - 11:00 am	11-12:00 pm	1 - 2:00 pm	6 - 7:00 pm	7 - 8:00 pm
1st Saturday:	11 - 12:00 pm	12 - 1:00 pm	3 - 4:00 pm		
3rd Saturday:	10 - 11:00 am	12 - 1:00 pm	2 - 3:00 pm	3 - 4:00 pm	

To sign up please contact Veronica Thomas at [thomas\\_vera@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_vera@yahoo.com)

## Live Stream Mass

[scd.org/coronavirus/livestream-mass](http://scd.org/coronavirus/livestream-mass)

Please visit the Diocesan page. It lists Parishes which are currently live streaming Sunday and Daily Masses.

## Church Hours

### Monday - Friday

The church will remain open for those who would like to pray before the Blessed Sacrament from 8am-4:30pm.

### Saturday - Sunday

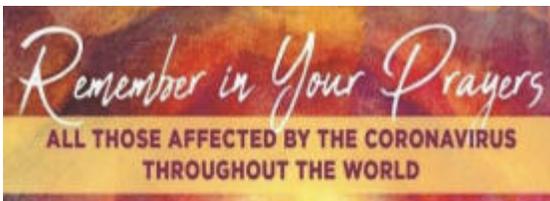
On the weekends, the church will be open from 7am-6pm.

**Please Note:** Effective July 6 the church will no longer be opened during the day. It will be locked following the daily 8:15am morning Mass and following the 11:30am Sunday Mass.

## Confession

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

**Please Note:** Confessions at this time will still be offered outside of the confessional. We will continue a face to face format in a larger setting.



*Compassionate and Loving Father,*

*In the face of confusion and concern  
impart to us the calm of Your presence.*

*In You allow us to find  
hope and healing.*

*Be with those who serve the sick and  
give them Your caring hands.*

*Be with those who lead and give them  
Your spirit of wisdom.*

*Be with those who have fallen ill and  
give them Your comforting heart.*

*Wrap Your arms around our world  
and hold us in Your Love.*

*Allow us at this time of trial to then  
serve as instruments of that love  
to all we meet.*

*We ask this in Your Name.*

*Amen*





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

### Vacation Bible School 2021

Come join us for a ride on the Rocky Railway  
where Jesus' power pulls us through!

August 2nd through 6th  
Contact: Shannon Langer  
916-985-7338

Vacation Bible School 2021 will wrap up summer from August 2nd through 6th! Registration is limited for this year, so register early. Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us! We are also looking for a few more adults/teens to help run the week. It looks to be an exciting week exploring how Jesus' pulls us through. Call Shannon for information.

Remember--on the Rocky Railway Jesus' power pulls us through!

### RCIA

Contact: Shannon Langer  
916-985-7338  
slanger@folsomcatholic.org

Are you interested in being baptized or in becoming Catholic? RCIA is for you! We are beginning a new group shortly, so please contact us now. Please call or email Shannon Langer, Director of Religious Education.

### Ministry Days – Save the Date

September 24 & 25  
St. Francis High School  
Contact: Jennifer Campbell  
jcampbell@scd.org or 916-733-0135

Join to reconnect with disciples from all around the Diocese, share our experiences in this uncertain time, equip ourselves for the road ahead and receive God's protection as we JOURNEY WITH JOSEPH... Pope Francis asks us to follow the example of St. Joseph in this uncertain time. St. Joseph didn't have much control over the situation he found himself in, but he humbly accepted God's plan. We, like St. Joseph, are called to accept our current situation as part of God's loving plan for us, to tenderly accompany and collaborate with those we encounter, and move forward creatively and courageously in our ministry efforts. For more information go to [www.ministrydays.com](http://www.ministrydays.com)

### Come & See Day

St. Patrick's Seminary  
July 10, Saturday

The Office of Priestly & Religious Vocations is inviting young adult men age 21 or older who are discerning their vocation to a Come & See day at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. You will need to come prepared to cover the cost of two meals for the day and your own travel expenses. Space is limited so please RSVP by Tuesday, July 6th at [ghernandez@scd.org](mailto:ghernandez@scd.org). When you RSVP, please include your name, address and phone number.

### The Prophecy of You and Me

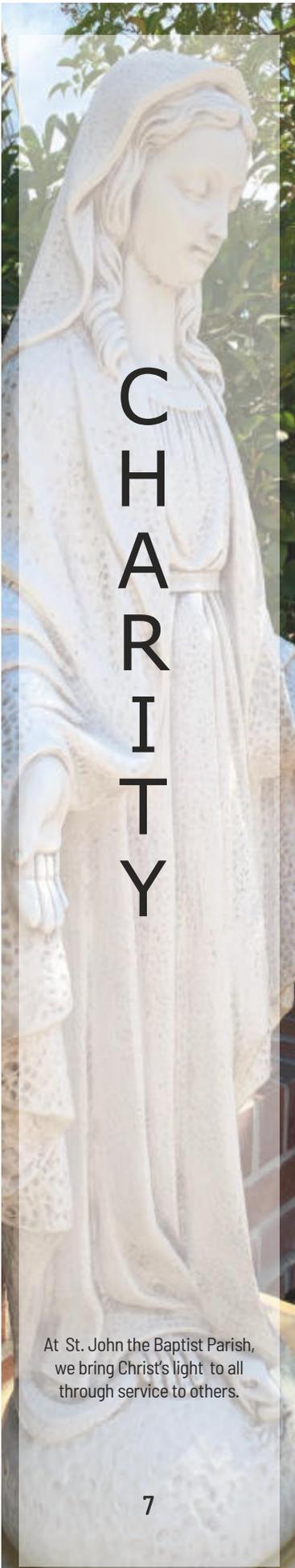
Prophet. There's a heaviness to this word. It's weighted down with meaning. We think of prophets and we think of Charlton Heston with wild hair and a booming voice, reaching out his hand to work wonders of nature by the grace of God. We think of prophets and we think of ancient Biblical history — someone far away, someone so removed from our everyday life. A prophet is someone who knows something we don't.

When I let you in on this secret, it might scare you at first: in a way, God is calling you to be a prophet. He is calling me. He is calling anyone who hears the truth of the Gospel. However, there is no need for the megaphone and the wild locusts. This prophet gig might not be what you're thinking.

What does a prophet do? He hears and testifies to the truth, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's unpopular, even when it results in, as Paul says, "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints." A prophet doesn't have to be smart or rich or ordained; heck, he doesn't even have to be particularly willing.

All a prophet has to do is listen to the truth. The truth we receive from Christ, through the Gospel and the sacraments, is a mighty gift. But it is a gift that we are not meant to simply keep for ourselves. In possessing it, we are compelled to also pass it on, to share it, to let the Spirit set us on our feet.

~ 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:

June 26/27 \$14,707.50

### 2nd Collection

Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! As a parish, we collected \$1530. Our contributions, combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world, provide essential support for the Holy See's activities and help Pope Francis relieve the victims of wars, oppression, and natural disaster around the world. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).

This weekend our second collection will be for our RE Program and SJND.

Next weekend our second collection is for our Building and Maintenance Fund.

### Inspiration for the Week

God never ceases to proclaim His Word. His life-giving presence continues to sustain all things and keep them in being regardless of whether there is the faith to receive or perceive Him. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be so hard of heart and obstinate that we fail to see what God is trying to do. While God remains ever present, faith is necessary for God's power to bear fruit. As we celebrate our country's independence, let us not forget the difference between liberties and freedom. While the liberties we have are most welcome treasures, only freedom from what blinds, deceives, and weighs us down can bring happiness. God is all about healing, transformation, and hope. In order for God to do what God does best, we have to invite Him in and see Him for who he is. Otherwise, God's will for humanity will be something at which we simply take offense, a common reaction when something challenges or unsettles us.

## Loaves and Fishes

*There is always joy in giving.*

Over 200 homeless guests were served on Wednesday, June 23 with your donations. The co-ordinator of Friendship Park Breakfast Program wants to "thank all of the generous supporters. They made breakfast a special treat that day." We couldn't do this without your participation. Perhaps you gave a box of granola bars, multiple cups of soup, a 6 pack of water. It doesn't matter how large or how small your donation is--it all comes together "to feed the hungry". The Divine Mercy Ministry thanks you for your continued support.



Have you heard of the patron saint of purity? Born to peasant parents in southern Italy, St. Maria Goretti was a devout girl whose life was marked by difficulty. Her father died when she was nine, leaving her single mother with six mouths to feed. Two neighbors helped on the family farm, including a young man named Alessandro. He began making crude comments towards Maria. She repeatedly denied him. After several years, Alessandro attacked Maria to force himself on her. She resisted and, in his anger, Alessandro stabbed her. Maria died from the wounds' infections, but her last words were "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli, and I want him with me in heaven forever." While he was in prison, Maria appeared to Alessandro with a bouquet of roses, one for each wound he inflicted. In a true miracle of mercy, Alessandro experienced repentance, became a Franciscan brother after his release, and was later present at Maria's canonization.

*St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!*



# KID'S CORNER

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

## Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever felt left out? Jesus did. In today's Gospel, Jesus visited his relatives and old friends. These were the people he grew up with, the people who knew him the best. All of a sudden Jesus was not acting like he used to. They heard that Jesus was healing people, raising people from the dead, and telling evil spirits to leave. Jesus was even teaching about God's kingdom, like he really knew what he was talking about! Well, Jesus' old friends and neighbors did not like it one bit. How sad for them. God's own Son wanted to help them, but they didn't want it.



Prayer

Dear God, help me to listen to you and to accept the help that you want to give me. Amen.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel reading

Jesus taught wisdom	power miracle town	prophet heal faith
Jseus	<u>J</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u> <u>u</u> <u>s</u>	
pwero	_____	
phetrop	_____	
fathi	_____	
tnow	_____	
wisomd	_____	
taghtu	_____	
mirclea	_____	
hale	_____	



Mission for the Week

Read today's Gospel with your family. Talk about ways that people sometimes turn Jesus away. Pray together, asking God to keep you close to Jesus.

## Read the Gospel and Color

Mk 6:1-6a



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

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### 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

Dcn. Bill Goeke, 916-673-7996

### Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Zoanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*

-*Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass*

-*Cenacle* - Zoanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-*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* – 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

David Brauer, 510-820-5743

### 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)

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

Nina Pucci, 916-947-6386

### 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

Anna Haid, 916-956-1177

### 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 (Helping Hands)

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

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

# MINISTRIES

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

## Independence Day Prayer

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

We all know these words by heart. They are from the United States Declaration of Independence. However, are these words held with the same reverence around the world as they are held here at home? Sadly, no. There are many places in the world where it is a life-threatening endeavor to practice one's faith, that faith that was given to each human by that Creator who endowed us with inalienable rights.

Let us take a moment to remember all those people in the world who are not free to seek life, liberty or happiness. Let us pray...

O God,  
*you willed that the Jewish people be free from slavery by their Egyptian captors.  
 You will that all people should be free to worship you without fear  
 and to celebrate their religious beliefs freely,  
 even if they have not yet found you.*

*Grant that those of us who live in this great nation  
 will thank you daily for our freedom,  
 and work for the freedom of others around the world  
 that do not yet have the freedom to practice their faith openly and proudly.*

*We seek your wisdom where hatred abounds,  
 and ask for humility to offer our good works to others who live in fear and bondage.*

*We ask all this through Christ our Lord,  
 who frees us from sin and death through the wood of the cross.*

Amen.

**St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center** FD2263  
**Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center** FD2262

*For immediate assistance  
 anytime day or night please call*

**916-452-4831**



**CATHOLIC FUNERAL  
 & CEMETERY SERVICES**  
 OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

*se habla  
 español*

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 OF THIS SPACE**

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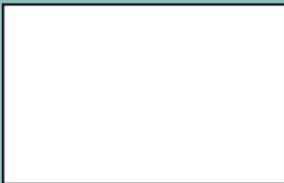
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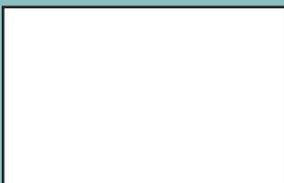
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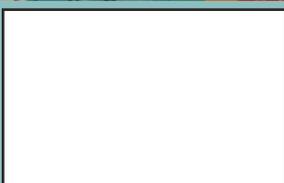
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