

WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

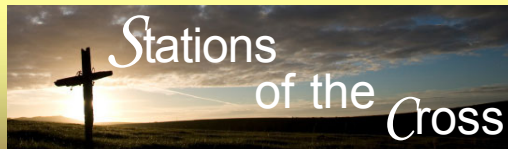


"This is the sign of my covenant . . . My Bow."
~ Genesis 9: 12, 13



1st Sunday of LENT
February 26, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 6:30 pm Mass during the Lenten Season.



- Palm Sunday April 1st
- Easter Sunday April 8th
- Divine Mercy Sunday April 15th

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



We have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday of the month. Adorers are needed to fill the hours from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. We would like to have at least two people commit to each hour.

If you would like to participate in this ministry of prayer in the Real Presence of Jesus, please call

Cora Belen at (916) 419-5662 or (408) 761-2493.

PENANCE SERVICE

Our Lenten PENANCE SERVICE is on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 pm.

There will be NO 6:30 pm Mass on this day.

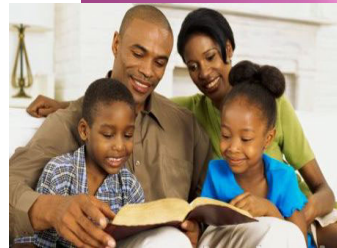


From The Parish Office . . .



Our Parish Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, February 28th from 12 noon to 1:00 pm for the Staff Meeting.

FEBRUARY - BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH



The Church in America has flourished and developed thanks to the **courage, spirituality, and tireless witness of faithful black laity, clergy, and religious.** This work was often supported in

solidarity by people of other backgrounds. Black Catholics have been active in America and in the Church from the very earliest settlements in the so-called "New World." During slavery, poverty, segregation, and exclusion, courageous and **holy African Americans** relied on their faith and dedicated themselves to living and sharing it.

Source: www.nbccongress.org

Signature Gathering Today!



Do not miss your opportunity today to help qualify **two important initiatives** for the November 2012 California ballot. **The California Bishops have endorsed the Parental Notification and the SAFE California initiatives. The Parental Notification**

Initiative will respect parents' right to be informed about the welfare of their daughters by requiring doctors to notify parents 48 hours prior to an abortion on their minor daughter. **The SAFE California Initiative** would recognize the dignity of human life, even in those who have done grave harm, by replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. If you are a California registered voter, please take just a few minutes today after Mass to sign these important initiative petitions.



**CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION
CALENDAR**

- ❑ **FIRED UP! CONFIRMATION CONFERENCE**
March 3, 2012 (Saturday), 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819
 - ❑ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION**
 - **Review and Examination of Conscience**
April 13, 2012 (Friday), 4:30pm – 6:00 pm
 - **First Holy Reconciliation**
April 14, 2012 (Saturday), 10:30 am
 - **First Holy Communion Rehearsal**
May 10, 2012 (Thursday), 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
 - **First Holy Communion***
May 12, 2012 (Saturday), 11:00 am
- *Children MUST be in Church by 10:30 am. Please check out sign up sheets for veil and adoration with your catechists.**
- ❑ **CONFIRMATION**
 - **Confirmation Rehearsal**
May 31, 2012 (Thursday), 7:30 pm
 - **Confirmation***
June 5, 2012 (Tuesday), 7:00 pm
- *Deadline of submission of sponsor packets is on March 25, 2012.**
- Please check the list posted on the CFF board.**

DIVINE MERCY
Sportsfest Spring 2012




Basketball
Thursdays and Fridays
starting March 1st

Volleyball
Wednesdays
starting February 29th



Venue
Norwood Junior High School
4601 Norwood Ave., Sacramento, CA 95838

For questions or for more information, please email sportsfest@divinemergynatomas.com.



School of the Faith

Learn more about your Catholic Faith through the "The School of the Faith"

LITURGY

Mondays beginning March 5th (for 3 months)
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Instructor : Fr. Octavio Ventura **Fee :** \$10 for the book

All classes will be held at the Narthex. Sign up sheet and flyers are available in the Narthex. For more information or if you have questions, please call **Mike or Renee Chavez** at (916) 928-0684 or email renee-chavez@sbcglobal.net.

★ YOUTH ★

Divine Mercy Youth Group meets every **Sunday in the Narthex at 6:30 pm**. We invite the youth to come join us.

February 26th : Prayer Meeting

March 4th : Adoration


March 11th : Movie Night

March 18th : Bible / Music Discussion

March 25th : NO Youth Meeting

If you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Pham-Nguyen** at (503) 560-1406 or email cathylanpham@gmail.com.


FOOD FOR THE POOR



Lent is the time for prayer, fasting and alms giving. **Please consider sharing your non-perishable food items with our needy brothers and sisters.** A bin is located in the Narthex for your donations.

"...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for Me."
~ Matthew 25:40

TAGALOG MASS



Please join us as we celebrate Tagalog Mass on MARCH 10th at 6:30 pm (every 2nd Saturday of the Month)

Potluck fellowship follows after the Mass. **Sponsors are welcome** to bring your favorite dish to share. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact **Maricel Lumaquin** at (916) 716-7471 or call the **Parish Office** at (916) 256-3134. Sign-up sheet is also available in the narthex.



1st Friday & 1st Saturday
This Friday & Saturday
March 2 & 3



STEWARDSHIP and FUNDRAISING

True Stewardship: Recognizing that all you have comes from God. Giving your time, talent and treasure to glorify God, His Church & People and your Parish. Remember that God will never be outdone in His generosity. Thank you for giving your special gifts to our Parish.



STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Carpenters, electricians, laborers, cooks and food servers who donated their time to our Parish last weekend.

Volunteers, led by **Eugene Declador, Matt Longo and Leo Velasquez**, began building the deck that will surround the 3 portable class & meeting rooms and laying electrical conduit to these buildings. Weather was gloomy, but work was brisk. Food & drinks were heartily consumed as the workers toiled throughout the day. These skills in construction, carpentry and electrical work is saving our Parish money as the labor is donated. Let us keep these men in our prayers as construction continues. Thanks to those who worked as directed to move lumber, backfill trenches, and perform other labor for the good of our Parish.



Schedule of Events

February 26th

Hospitality Sunday after the 5:00 pm Sunday Mass

March 3rd & 4th

Building Fund Second Collection

Note: New Pledge envelopes will be made available next quarter. In the meantime, please write "**Pledge Payment**" on your check and drop it in the 2nd collection basket.

March 24th

Hospitality Sunday after the 5:00 pm Saturday Mass

March 25th

St. Faustina's Rosary Makers Fundraising. Rosaries for sale after all Masses.

AND MORE EVENTS BEING PLANNED...

- Annual Stewardship Report to Parish
- Divine Mercy Golf Tournament
- New Car Raffle - \$25,000 Car or Cash

Read the bulletin each week for more information!



Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Submission of bulletin articles is due on **Mondays at 4:00 pm**. Please email your announcements/articles to bulletin@divinemercynatomas.com.

The Divine Mercy Devotion



Devotion to The Divine Mercy involves a TOTAL commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving and to be merciful as He is merciful. The devotional practices proposed in the diary of St. Faustina are completely in accordance with the teachings of the Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ.

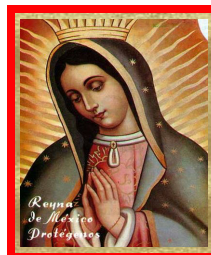
Merciful Heart

There are two scriptural verses that we should keep in mind as we involve ourselves in these devotional practices:

1. "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Is 29:13)
2. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." (Mt 5:7)

The Pharisees, to whom Christ was speaking in the first quotation above, were very devoted to the prayers, rules and rituals of their religion; but over the years, these outer observances had become so important in themselves that their real meaning had been lost. As a result, they had no relationship with God, they were not living the way He wanted them to live and they were not prepared for the coming of Jesus. By asking the Lord's mercy, trusting in His mercy, and sincerely trying to live His mercy in our lives, we can assure that we will never hear Him say of us, "Their hearts are far from Me," but rather that wonderful promise, "**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**"

GUADALUPE COMMITTEE



Please join us:

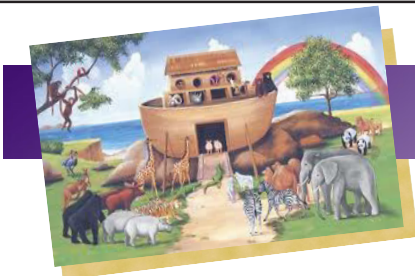
- **Spanish Mass** every 2nd Sunday of the month) at **7:00 pm**
- **Rosary in Spanish** every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Our monthly meetings are every **first Saturday of each month from**

11:00 am to 1:00 pm to plan for the December celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information or if you have questions, please contact **Lui (Lauro) Santamaria** at (916) 709-4600.



The Knights of Columbus Council 14158 meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month**.

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact **Eric Watson** at (916) 419-9940 or **Bill Gilsdorf** at (916) 285-6067.



© Church Bulletin Co

Baptism Floods Our Soul With Grace

Today's **First Reading** recounts the end of the Noah's Ark story. The flood was God's punishment for humanity's sins. The flood destroyed every living thing, except Noah, his family and pairs of animals Noah had taken with him into the ark. Once the flood receded, the first thing Noah and his family did was to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. This greatly pleased the Lord, so He made a covenant with Noah and all creatures that He would never again destroy the world by flood. God promised the rainbow as the sign of this pact and to remind Him of this covenant. This was done not because man was so good, for God had just admitted that man's heart is corrupt from birth, but as an act of His mercy.

The **Responsorial Psalm** emphasizes God's invariable fidelity to man, while reminding us of *our dependence* on Him in order to be faithful, for alone we are unable. When we sin, we betray God's love for us. This is why we reach out to Him. We depend on God to show us the right path; to give us the courage to do what is right. The greatest sign of His mercy is His promise to guide and instruct us. Our Lenten journey of conversion is a *surrender* to His guidance, for alone we cannot change ourselves.

When we SIN,
we BETRAY
God's love for us.



In the **Second Reading**, the theme is Baptism, seen as a washing to remove sin's contagion. As the ark saved Noah from the flood, so in Baptism are we saved from the drowning flood of sin. Baptism is an appeal to God for a clear conscience, supported by the pledge of Heaven's power to protect us. This is why the Sacraments are so important, because they are backed by Divine power. Baptism is the first building block, the foundation for all the other Sacraments.

Today's **Gospel** shows Jesus going out into the desert to pray and fast for forty days. *Prayer and fasting are His protective shield against Satan's temptation.* Lent is our time to spiritually fortify ourselves against temptation. The Church allots us this time to share in Christ's 40 days of prayer and fasting. The time is exact: beginning Ash Wednesday, concluding Holy Saturday and excluding the seven Sundays of Lent equal the 40 days. By prayer and self-discipline we learn to stay more focused on God and are strengthened to resist temptation. These habits of virtue turn our hearts to God and manifest His reign in the world.



"Bonded by Love, Building Our Stairway to Heaven" Campaign Prayer

God, Our Father, we come to you with a grateful heart for everything you have given us. You called us to be bonded by love and to offer our time, talent and treasure for the needs of our parish family. As we face our challenges ahead, fill us with faith and hope. Give us a spirit of cooperation; create in us a wise and generous heart that knows how to face the responsibilities and challenges of our parish project. We know there is much to do, but we believe that our goals are rooted in your promise. We ask you to guide us, send the Holy Spirit to give us strength. Divine Mercy, have mercy on us now and forever. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION
February 25 - 26, 2012
CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION
March 3 - 4, 2012
BUILDING FUND

SHARING OUR TREASURE

Offertory Collections	
Weekly Goal	\$ 8,000
29-Jan	\$ 6,345
05-Feb	\$ 7,151
12-Feb	\$ 7,004
19-Feb	\$ 6,063
Year-to-Date Collections	\$ 239,790
Year-to-Date Goal	\$ 272,000
Year-to-Date Shortage	\$ (32,210)

Building Fund Collections	
Annual Goal	\$ 372,000
29-Jan	\$ 1,390
05-Feb	\$ 14,173
12-Feb	\$ 7,695
19-Feb	\$ 2,016
Year-to-Date Collections	\$ 153,743

Special Collections	
Annual Catholic Appeal	\$ 2,717
World Youth Day	\$ 708

Thank you for your generous financial contributions to support parish operations and repayment of our loan obligation.

Saints & Readings for the Week

1- Sunday of LENT • Gn 9:8-15 / 1 Pt 3:18-22 / Mk 1:12-15
Monday • Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 / Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday • Isa 55:10-11 / Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday • Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 11:29-32
Thursday • Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Mt 7:7-12
1- Friday • Ez 18:21-28 / Mt 5:20-26 • (abstinence)
1- Saturday • BVM / St Katharine Drexel • Dt 26:16-19 / Mt 5:43-48
2- Sunday of LENT • Gn 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 / Rom 8:31-34 / Mk 9:2-10



MASS INTENTIONS

February 25 Saturday

8:30am Librado Perez (*Special Intention*)
 5:00pm Rosalyn Enghoy (*Birthday*)

February 26 Sunday

7:30am Divine Mercy Parishioners (*Pro Populo*)
 9:30am Erlinda Delos Trinos †, Gloria Espejo †
 12noon Barbara & Stephen Morgan †

February 27 Monday

6:30pm Carlo Casarino †

February 28 Tuesday

8:30am Elisa Mendoza †

February 29 Wednesday

6:30pm Amelia Puno † (*12th Year Death Anniversary*)

March 01 Thursday

8:30am Abraham Aninzo †
 6:30pm Patricia Iredale †

March 02 Friday

8:30am Santiago S. Leones †

ST. FAUSTINA ROSARY MAKERS



St. Faustina's Rosary Makers normally gathers on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 pm to make rosaries and provide them to missions abroad and those in need who cannot otherwise afford one.

If you are interested in participating, please send email to faustinas_rosaries@sbcglobal.net or call Eric Watson at (916) 419-9940.

Next meeting is on February 27th

St. Faustina's Rosary Makers has a stock of rosaries available for purchase to give as gifts on birthdays and holidays. Please consider a new rosary for yourself or as a gift for family and friends. ALL proceeds are used to make mission rosaries for those less fortunate.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

February 27 Monday

7:00pm School of the Faith (Narthex)

February 28 Tuesday

12noon Staff Meeting

February 29 Wednesday

10:00am School of the Faith (Narthex)
 6:30pm Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help
 7:30pm DMDM Meeting (Narthex)

March 01 Thursday

9:00am Altar Society Flower Arranging
 7:00pm School of the Faith (Narthex)
 7:00pm Rosary in Spanish (Church)

March 02 Friday

9:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 3:00pm Holy Hour
 5:45pm Benediction
 7:15pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice (Church)

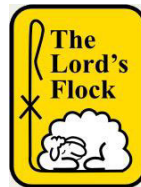
March 03 Saturday

9:30am CFF Sacrament Preparation Class
 11:00am Guadalupe Committee Meeting (Narthex)
 3:45pm Confession
 7:00pm Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Grp (Narthex)

March 04 Sunday

10:45am RCIA for Adults
 1:30pm Confession for CFF Students
 3:00pm Confession for CFF Students
 6:30pm Youth Ministry

THE LORD'S FLOCK



Every Saturday at 7:00 pm (7:30 pm on 2nd Saturdays) at the Divine Mercy Narthex.

For more information about The Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Community, please contact **Sis. Dina Espino at (916) 595-8006, Bro. Derick Santiago at (916) 439-3351, Bro. Rudy Bonifacio at (916) 849-7685 or Bro. Danny Barnaja at (916) 201-4344** or you can visit our website at <http://www.lordsflock.org/>

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sera Adjemian
 Consolatrix Ageas
 Adam Agot
 Sanford Alesna
 Muriel Alex
 Cynthia Alvarez
 Aristotle Arreola, Sr.
 Teresita Bacani
 Anna Baczynski
 Rudy Bandoma
 Aniceto Bautista
 Randy Brazil
 Marcelina Brecht

Bill Bullman
 Virginia Cajustin
 Jose De Guzman
 Walter Dennis
 Eugenio Ellos, Sr.
 Shirley Espiritu
 Evangelista Estaris
 Jose P. Garcia
 Mary Gomez
 Barbara Graichen
 Amelia Guibao
 Jocella Gutierrez
 Jose Gutierrez

John Hebler
 Matilda Herrera
 Marie Holmes
 C. Huber
 Mary Isham
 Joe King
 Karen Lakomy
 Pricilla Lazo
 Judith Lladoc
 Liwayway Magsarili
 Jun Malabunga
 Lourdes Malabunga
 Tony Manalo

Cindy Marek
 Annalyn Merza
 Ethel Mims
 Boy Neri
 Chason Neri
 Rica Norbraten
 Arsenia Nudas
 Nancy Nuguid
 Fernando Omega
 Mario Pagaragan
 Sharen Phillips
 Russell Rapozo
 Ambiro Reyna

Sharon Ross
 Stacie Shaffer
 Alfreda Sim
 Bill Spallas
 John Stenhouse
 Will Sutter
 Matt Thode
 Carmina Trias
 B. Uribe
 Zenaida Uson
 Marlyn Q. Uy
 Domingo Villarama
 Mario Villarama

...and all in need of prayers including those who serve in the Military.

News From Around The Diocese



JOB OPENING

The Diocese of Sacramento seeks to hire a **Director of Clergy Formation effective July 1, 2012**. This position is responsible for the continuing education programs for both priests and deacons of the diocese, administration of the formation process for deacon candidates, and supervision of support staff for these programs. For more information and a complete job description, visit the diocesan website www.diocesessacramento.org and look under employment. **Deadline to apply is April 15, 2012.**

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

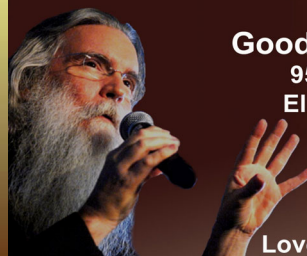
Come Pray, Help Women, & Save a LIFE!

The Lenten 40 Days for Life began on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Everyone is invited to participate in this life-saving, peaceful, prayerful ministry at the public sidewalk in front of the abortion business at **1750 Wright Street, near the corner of Wright Street & Alta Arden, Monday - Saturday, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, through April 1st.** By God's grace and the power of prayer, over 5,000 women have changed their mind, choosing LIFE for their children, rather than abortion, due to people just like you praying at the Sidewalk! See 40daysforlife.com/sacramento or call Wynette at (916) 955-1577 for more information.

Come and experience the Spiritual Renewal through Sacred Music, Teaching and Prayer with

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

Wednesday - February 29th, 2012



Good Shepherd Church
9539 Racquet Court
Elk Grove, CA 95758
916-684-5722
7:00 Start Time

Love Offering Requested



The Diocese of Sacramento will celebrate the annual **CHRISM MASS** on **Thursday, March 29th at 6:00pm** at the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**, 11th and K Streets, Downtown Sacramento.

The **CHRISM MASS** is one of the most important Diocesan celebrations. At this Eucharist, the Bishop blesses the **HOLY OILS**, which are used in sacramental celebrations in all the Parishes of the Diocese throughout the coming year.



Also in this Liturgy, our priests renew their commitment to priestly service in our midst. The Chrism Mass is a reminder that we are all a priestly people, called to proclaim the gospel in accordance with the sacraments we have received.

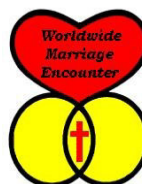
BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND



Beginning Experience is offering a special weekend retreat of healing and hope for divorced, separated or widowed persons on March 16th - 18th at Jesuit Retreat Center near Applegate.

For more information, please call (916) 835-2282 or visit our web site www.sacramentobe.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend



Do you miss the glow you had when you were first married? Do you wish you could talk about something besides all the stresses in your life? A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. Register for our next weekend **March 9-11 in Modesto**. For more information or to register, please call **Don & Jeannette Boltz at (530) 647-9749** or **Barry & Julia Reynolds at (530) 724-0373** or email to juliabarry@aol.com or visit our website <http://sacramentowwme.org> today..

A Day of Discipleship

Sponsored by RCL Benziger

A Day of Discipleship this Lent, a day-long retreat. This is an opportunity to step away from your parish ministries for

a day and reflect upon what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We hope this will be a fruitful day that helps us grow in relationship with Our Lord and one another.

February 28th
1:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Holy Rosary Community Center
575 California Street
Woodland, CA 95695