SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday to Friday 12:10 pm
Monday to Thursday 5:10 pm
Saturday Vigil 5:10 pm
Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am
En español 1:00 pm
Chinese 3:00 pm 5:00 pm
En español 7:00 pm

State Holidays 12:10 pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Monday to Friday 11:30 am — 12:00 pm
Saturday 4:00 pm — 4:45 pm
Domingo - En Español 12:30pm a 12:45 pm 6:30 pm a 7:00 pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Thursday 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Friday 12:45 pm to 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS

English—3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am
Español - 4º Sábado del mes, 9:00 am

BAPTISM CLASSES

English—1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm
Español — 2do jueves del mes, 7:00 pm

WEDDINGS — Contact 916-444-3071,
Six (6) months in advance
The Time of Penance

"The time of Penance has come; the time to atone for our sins and to seek our salvation". So says the antiphon for the mid-morning office of the Liturgy of the Hours during Lent. There are some Catholics who tend to equate "penance" with the rigorous and austere penances of the Saints, and there is something almost frightening about the very concept of "doing penance" for one's sins. This might be a fear that has been handed down through the centuries among Catholics, a distant reminiscence of the "Canonical Penances" that were assigned to repentant sinners in the early centuries of the Church, which were indeed austere. Those penances were progressively mitigated over time until the penances doled out in Confession in the last century or so were reduced to rather benign offerings: "Say one 'Our Father' and three 'Hail Mary's'". Nowadays one might receive a simple admonition: "Don't be so hard on yourself, that's your penance".

Perhaps some priests have gone too far in relaxing the penances they assign in Confession, but the progressive easing of penances over the centuries represents a growth in the Church's understanding of the role of penance in the spiritual life of the faithful: the effectiveness of penance is not measured by the degree of its severity, but by the contrition and conversion of heart on the part of the one doing the penance. One of the thieves crucified with Christ had no more time to amend his life and do penance for his sins, and thus he could make no reparation for his crimes; nonetheless, his sincere contrition and humility, his faith in the reality of Christ's Messianic mission, were enough to obtain for him the happy sentence of the One who shall Judge the living and the dead, "Amen I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:39-43).

In the parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus spoke of the indifference of the invited guests, which led to their exclusion from the feast. The master of the house sent forth his servants to gather the poor and the homeless and bring them to the feast, "Go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). As the hour grows later and we near the end of age (whenever that shall be), and as the apathy and religious indifference of those who should know better increases, the door of mercy opens ever wider for the less worthy, and they find an easier access to the grace of God and the forgiveness the Gospel offers.

As time goes on, we become more and more like the laborers in the parable of "The Laborers in the Vineyard". Some were hired at the beginning of the day and some at the last hour. Those who were hired at the last hour of the day and were paid the same wage as those "which have borne the burden and heat of the day" (Matthew 20:12). The emphasis in the parable is laid, not on the worthiness of the laborers, but on the generosity of the owner of the vineyard and his right to give to the last as much as he wanted. Of course, the parable may offend our sense of fairness, but the mercy of God does not depend on our worthiness to receive it, but on the largess of God's offer of forgiveness and redemption.

However, this ever increasing and liberal offer of mercy has a sharp edge, for Jesus said, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required . . ." (Luke 12:48). And because of the infinite mercy and generosity of God, the book of Hebrews admonishes us, "See that you refuses him not . . . for if they escaped not who refuse him that spoke on earth (i.e. Moses), much more shall we not escape, if we refuse him who speaks from heaven" (i.e. Jesus. Hebrews 2:3; cf. 12:25). In her teaching, Saint Catherine of Genoa wrote that the souls in Purgatory lament that they must pay with such frightful sufferings what in life they could have purchased with a penny's worth of penance.

Since "The time of penance has come . . ." let us now return to our God, to His Son Jesus Christ, and to the Catholic faith that dispenses the graces of Salvation liberally and freely for our benefit; let us offer our penance, our prayers, our alms giving, and our fasting in satisfaction for our short comings; let us take our serious sins to the Sacrament of Confession and receive God's liberal forgiveness; "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). ~John-David Black~

Why can’t Catholics eat meat on Fridays?

So why is it that the Church instructs Catholics to abstain from meat on Fridays (as well as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), but gives the "thumbs-up" for Catholics to eat fish?

First of all we must ask the question, "why Friday?" The USCCB gives a succinct explanation: Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church.

Since it is believed Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross on a Friday, Christians from the very beginning have set aside that day to unite their sufferings to Jesus. This led the Church to recognize every Friday as a "Good Friday" where Christians can remember Christ's passion by offering up a specific type of penance. For much of the Church's history meat was singled out as a worthy sacrifice on account of its association with feasts and celebrations. In most ancient cultures meat was considered a delicacy and the "fattened calf" was not slaughtered unless there was something to celebrate. Since Fridays were thought of as a day of penance and mortification, eating meat on a Friday to "celebrate" the death of Christ didn't seem right.

According to the USCCB, the laws of the Church classify the abstinence from "land animals." Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs — all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

In Latin the word used to describe what kind of "meat" is not permitted on Fridays is carnis and specifically relates to "animal flesh" and never included fish as part of the definition. Additionally, fish in these cultures was not considered a "celebratory" meal and was more of a penance to eat.

In the end, the Church's intention is to encourage the faithful to offer up a sacrifice to God that comes from the heart and unites one's suffering to that of Christ on the cross. Meat is given as the very basic penance, while the purpose of the regulation should always be kept in mind. For example, it does not necessarily give a person the license to eat a lobster dinner every Friday in Lent. The whole point is to make a sacrifice that draws a person closer to Christ, who out of love for us made the ultimate sacrifice a person can make.
Lent for me is a time of coming home to God. I think of the Father in the parable of the prodigal son. He waited every day for his son to return and how happy he was when his boy came home. We cannot forget that we are the beloved sons and daughters of God. God is very patient with us. So often we go wandering away from home. Sometimes it’s for years; other times it’s for a few days; and still other times it might be for an overnight. God is always standing at the door with arms extended to embrace us. No matter how many times we go wandering, we can always go home. Not seven times, but seventy times seven.

When Jesus was tempted in the desert, He lifted up three scripture passages that can help us in this Lent. We must not forget that Jesus was tempted just like ourselves, and He has some good scriptural advice for us which worked for Him.

ONE DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. (Lk.4:4) No question that we need food on the table, a place to live, a job to keep us going, clothes on our back, an education for our human development, relaxation for a renewal of our energies, and so on. We are especially conscious of these needs when the economy is bad and so many people are hungry, unemployed, without health insurance and hurting. Nevertheless, one does not live by bread alone. If we give in to that temptation, need will turn into greed and things of this world will become our false gods, our modern day idols. God knows we need all these things. What Jesus says to us is this: SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. We have to make a choice. Are we going to serve God or are we going to serve money and material things? We cannot worship both. ONE DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. Nourish yourself on the Word of God and the sacraments of the Church.

This leads us to Jesus’ second quote from Scripture: YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ALONE SHALL YOU SERVE. (Lk.4:8) The temptations are great to be greedy for power and wealth. There are people will step on anyone to get ahead. When I spoke to the students at St. Mary’s High School on Ash Wednesday, I told them that nothing makes them more an adult than to be generous, able to forget about themselves and to think about others. Acts of kindness and generosity bring out the best in you. YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ALONE SHALL YOU SERVE.

Finally in his temptations Jesus said to his tempter: YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST. (Lk.4:12) There is always the temptation to think that we can do anything we want and God will understand and be tolerant. St. Paul warns us that we cannot use the mercy of God as an excuse for sin. Our consciences need to be formed for goodness and righteousness by the word of God and by the teaching of the Church. We must be sincere in our search for the truth and honest in our relationship with God. YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.

WE may have failed in any or all of the above temptations. But do not be afraid. Jesus overcame all these temptations. By His grace and mercy we are forgiven when we go back home.

~Given by the Most Reverend Stephen E. Blaire at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton.~

~3~

absolution/ˈæbsəl(ə)ʊʃ(ə)n/ ~noun ~
1. formal release from guilt, obligation, or punishment.

Synonyms: forgiveness, pardon, exoneration, remission, dispensation
Antonyms: punishment, condemnation

~Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs~
May God’s Spirit always inspire us how to pray and be open to the Word that the Father may be glorified.
Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

~St. John of God, Religious~
Nineveh heard the preaching of Jonah and repented. The Word calls us to repentance as well.
Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

~Saint Frances of Rome, Religious~
If we petition in faith, we shall be heard, as was Esther.
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

The Lord forgives us in the conversion of our hearts, and rejoices in the reconciliation of one to another.
Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

We are called to love even our enemies, and thus walk in God’s ways, following the law of the Lord.
Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

~4~
THIS WEEKEND
BROWN BAG LUNCH COLLECTION

Put your faith into action by donating food to the BBL ministry this December. Up-to-170 “guests” come daily for lunch and the demand is great. For some of these adults, our lunches are their main meals, so we make them as nutritional as possible. We try to include:

- Non-perishables lunch pack like Bumble Bee tuna or chicken boxes*
- Raisins or Fruit Cups
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers
- Potato Chips
- Cookies or similar snack for dessert
- 16 oz. Water

You may bring the above packed individually in brown bags, or unassembled for the volunteers to bag. You may also donate money at the rectory or the cathedral’s online site. 100% of your donation is used to feed the poor. Checks should be made to “The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento” with “BBL Ministry” in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible.

*As a cheaper yet still healthy alternative to tuna or chicken packs, buy Vienna sausage cans 40-55 cents each and make sure they have flip tops. Another great option that is only 64 cents each is a small can (flip top) of Chef Boyardee beef ravioli. Small 3/packs of peanut butter from the dollar store are a good cost saving option too.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES are invited to
FIRED UP 2017
March 4 or 5
“FIRED UP,” the eighth annual conference for confirmation candidates from throughout the Diocese of Sacramento, will take place twice, on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5 each day at Christian Brothers High School, located at 4315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Sacramento. The event is sponsored by the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

The day will feature keynote speakers APeX ministries, breakout sessions, games and confirmation-related activities. The day will culminate with Mass with Bishop Jaime Soto, in which the candidates will all renew their baptismal promises, receive a blessing and commit to the final phase of their confirmation preparation. Cost for the day is $45, and includes lunch and a t-shirt. Space is limited.

The March-April issue of Catholic Herald, the magazine of the Diocese of Sacramento, has been published. The digital edition is available at www.scd.org or www.catholicherald sacrament o.org.

LENTEN VESPERS

The Cathedral Choir will sing Vespers (Evening Prayer) each Wednesday during Lent beginning on Wednesday March 8 at 7:15 p.m. Evening prayer will be sung in the Cathedral Eucharistic Chapel. Parking after 7:00 p.m. is free in the parking lot adjacent to the Cathedral. This is a unique opportunity to enhance your Lenten journey to Easter for a relatively short (30 to 40 minutes) but intense service of prayer. RCIA and Confirmation classes in other parishes are encouraged to attend these services.

Evening Prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus’ command to “pray always” (Luke 18:1; see also 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.

In addition, the Cathedral Choir will be singing Tenebrae on Wednesday April 12 at 7:15 p.m, a service of psalms and hymns traditionally presented in Lent. Wednesday April 12 is the day before Holy Thursday, the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

The Cathedral choir also sings Morning Prayer at 9:00 am on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday mornings.

MARCH 4 & 5 RITE OF ELECTIO N

The Rite of Election brings to an end the period of the Catechumenate and inaugurates the Period of Purification. The Act of Election by Bishop Soto is a proclamation of admission to the reception of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), and is a significant turning point in the Catechumenate process. The rite celebrates the transition in the life of the catechumen from one who is seeking to one who is ready to stand firm in a commitment. The election is the announcement that the community has discerned that the catechumen is indeed ready to celebrate the Easter Sacraments.

Sacramental "election" is focused on what God has done and is doing in these people’s lives. It is a public announcement that we, the Cathedral Parish, have seen God at work in them, and that they are ready to enter into the covenant relationship established through the sacraments. Since only a bishop may confer this election, each of the 106 parishes in the Sacramento Diocese sends its catechumens to the Cathedral during one of the four designated Rites of Election.

Saturday March 4, 2014 10:00am and 7:30pm
Sunday March 5, 2014 3:00pm and 7:15pm
**Adult Confirmation Preparation Classes**

Cathedral Parish Adult Confirmation Classes will begin on Thursday March 9, from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Lower Level for those who, for whatever reason, have never been confirmed. Bishop Jaime Soto extends this invitation each year providing that candidates have prior instruction. The Adult Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Soto on June 3, 2017, the Vigil of Pentecost, at the 5:00 pm Mass. Please call Sister Jenny at 444-5364 to join this class.

**Father - Son Program**

The Father-Son program explores God’s special gift of human fertility and the beauty and wonder of God’s plan for growing up and becoming a man. The program will be offered for boys ages 12 to 15 and their dads in English from 10 am to 2 pm on March 11 at Presentation Parish School in Sacramento. The total cost is $20 per family and includes lunch. Visit www.fathersonprogram.com for more information about the program content and to register.

**Vocation Awareness Day**

Have you ever asked yourself what you are going to do as an adult? Do you wonder what brings real happiness? Is God going to be a part of your life? If you ever asked yourself these or similar questions, then Vocation Awareness Day is the event for you! High school students, college students, and young adults are invited to join us on March 11, 9am - 3pm at St. Basil Church in Vallejo. This FREE day will explore how to discern a vocation and provide opportunities to hear from diocesan priests and religious men and women from a variety of orders. RSVP by March 7 to Sue Schuttinger at sschuttinger@gmail.com.

**MORE THAN S’MORES – BBQ Dinner & Silent Auction**

Do you remember toasting marshmallows under the stars? And then building a perfect sticky, chocolate & graham cracker treat? Please join Friends of Pendola for the MORE THAN S’MORES BBQ DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION on March 11, 2017 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish. The proceeds from this Fund Raising Dinner will support Camp Pendola and provide the scholarships that help families send children to camp. Camp provides children, many of whom have had little exposure to nature, with a fun, enriching experience in the mountains in a Christian community. Tickets can be purchased by going to http://friendsofpendola.org/Events and clicking on the More Than S’mores logo. If you cannot attend and would like to donate or provide auction items, please contact Molly McGuire (916) 505-0535.

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**Fast, Pray and Give with the Diocese of Sacramento on Social Media**

This Lent, the Diocese of Sacramento invites you to deepen your faith through social media. For each of the 40 days, you’ll find a way to Fast, Pray, or Give related to the many challenges we Catholics face today. Challenges begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Follow the Diocese today! Facebook Diocese of Sacramento; Instagram @DioceseSacramento; Twitter @saccatholic.
1. Which disciple tried to walk on water, as Jesus did?
   - (Simon) Peter (Matt 14:29)

2. What does James say we should do if we lack wisdom?
   - Ask God for wisdom, in faith (James 1:5)

3. What is the first line of the Lord’s Prayer?
   - Our Father which art in heaven (Matt 6:9)

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ENGLISH IS HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But the plural is not the, this, or thim!

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The Legend of the Lenten Pretzel

A MONK is someone who does everything in his life for God. He lives in a special place with other monks, who pray and read the Bible many times during the day. They usually live in a building or group of buildings for this purpose. It is called a monastery.

MONKS usually make and/or grow their own food. In olden days, monks could not eat meat or milk or eggs during Lent! So, they had to figure out a special bread that did not use eggs or milk.

The monks were preparing a special Lenten bread of water, flour and salt. One of the monks saw some leftover pieces of dough. This monk decided to use the leftover pieces of dough for something special. He formed the dough into thin strips crossed into a looped twist to be like the folded arms of children in prayer, which was the traditional way children prayed back then. This treat was given to the children as they learned their prayers. They began calling the treat "Pretiola", which means "little reward" in Latin. (a common language of the monks). Soon it was known the world over as a pretzel.

Pretzels then began to be enjoyed by all people. They became a symbol of good luck and long life. They were also a common food given to the poor and hungry. They were cheap and easy to make and satisfied hunger.

The simple shape of the pretzel, arms folded in prayer, reminds us to pray every day. Every time you see a pretzel, remember prayer!
### Pray For One Another

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Let us pray for you or your loved ones. Submit your prayer request on cathedralsacramento.org or email: cbsprayer3@yahoo.com

Names will appear for one month. Please contact us at cathedralsacramento@gmail.com to extend the time or remove.

### The Season of Lent

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday during Lent
- After 12:10 pm Mass in English
- 7:00 pm Estaciones de la Cruz en Español

March 4 (Saturday)
- 10:00 am Rite of Election (#1)
- 7:30 pm Rito de elección en Español (#1)

March 5 (Sunday)
- 9:00 am Rite of Sending RCIA to Rite of Election
- 3:00 pm Rite of Election (#2) - Bishop Soto
- 7:30 pm Rite of Election (#3) - Bishop Soto

March 17 St. Patrick’s Day (see below)

March 21 Youth Advocacy Day

April 6 6:00 pm Chrism Mass (Bishop Soto)

April 8 5:00 pm Blessing of Palms at the Vigil Mass

April 9 PALM SUNDAY—Procession of palms

April 13 HOLY THURSDAY
- 12:10 pm Communal Penance Service
- 7:00 pm Celebration of Lord’s Supper

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY
- 12:10 pm Celebration of Lord’s Passion

April 15 HOLY SATURDAY
- 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Liturgy

April 16 EASTER SUNDAY

#### LENTEN DISPENSATION MARCH 17
The feast of Saint Patrick, March 17, falls on a Friday during Lent this year. Since Saint Patrick is a co-patron of the diocese, Bishop Soto has granted a dispensation from the ordinary Lenten obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays this one day. It would be appropriate to substitute another form of penance (a work of charity or exercise of piety) on that day in lieu of abstinence from meat, in order to maintain the penitential character of the day.

#### WELCOME
To Our New Parishioners — 2017

Carole McLaughlin
Jay Martinez
Veronica Jacobson
Ernesto Heredia
Steve & Wendy Mills
Cynthia Sardina
Cassandra Baber
William Baird
Elisa Montes de Oca
Lauren Cuevas
Alejandro Orozco Fernandez