



CHURCH OF THE

# Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and  
Sharing the Love of Christ

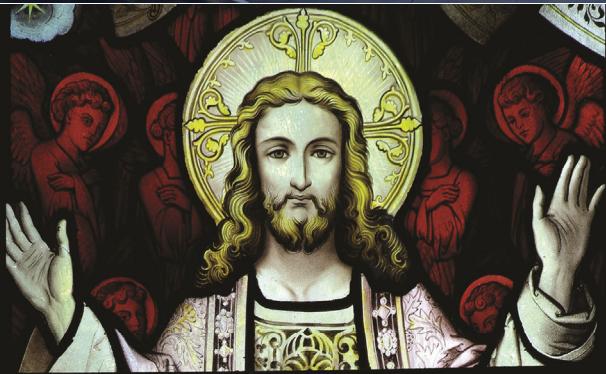
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*Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

August 30, 2020

THE SON OF MAN WILL COME  
WITH HIS ANGELS IN HIS FATHER'S GLORY,  
AND THEN HE WILL REPAY ALL  
ACCORDING TO THEIR CONDUCT.

Matthew 16:27



The Parish Office is operating virtually during the pandemic. We will answer your phone calls and emails as soon as possible. Our telephone system is now up and running! Thank you for your patience.

## NEW MASS SCHEDULE

### Monday - Friday

7:30am in the Garden - No livestream

### Saturday

8:00am in the Garden – No livestream

5:30pm Vigil – Livestream Only

### Sunday

8:00am (in the garden) - livestream

10:00am (in the garden) - livestream

12pm (Spanish) - Livestream Only

### Communion

Drive through communion after each Mass in front of the church.

### Adoration

Fridays 8am – 9am in the garden

### Confession

Fridays 8am-9am in the garden

Saturdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm

or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE 925-432-6404—Ext. 25

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Today's gospel instructs us how to handle the cross that comes with life. Jesus indicates that the way to become his disciples involves forgetting self, carrying the cross and following him. He encourages us to have the determination and strength to pick up the cross and follow Him and His way; the way of love. The problem with many of us is when we realize the enormous challenges before us, we do not pick up the cross. We pick up our slippers and start racing away. We are used to so much comfort or learned to be indifferent, that we dread resolving life's trials.

Jesus took our sufferings on Himself because of His unconditional love for us. He is willing to sacrifice for our sakes, for our salvation. He embraced the cross, carried the cross and even died on the cross just to show how much He loves us all. Indeed, this is not the standard of men, for human reaction is to choose a comfortable and easy life. Man's standards say, "Be comfortable, seek security, enjoy life." Yes, who among us doesn't want a comfortable, enjoyable, and secure life? That is also the reason, when there are problems to be solved, be it in family, school, workplace or community, that many people would rather flee, keep quiet, seek liquor or even drugs, hang out all night with friends, rather than courageously face one's issues, one's cross.

However, the reality of life is not just a bed of roses. The reality of life is that among the roses there are also thorns and we have to deal and face these thorns – our problems, challenges, and trials in life. It does not mean that you just accept your fate and don't do anything about it. If medical experts, for instance, can remedy or lessen suffering, like the discovery of medicines that will cure advanced cancer or HIV, that would be a great contribution to humanity. If the front liners risk their lives to treat COVID-19 patients and seek for a cure of this virus, then we also have to do our part not to spread the virus and pray that this pandemic will soon end.

But if suffering is inevitable and beyond human control, the Christian attitude is that we offer it to God, uniting it with the sufferings of Christ so it becomes meritorious and not wasted. In the words of St. Paul: "If you suffer with Christ, you will also rise with Him."

Jesus now points out to us that the cross is not a sign of pain and suffering anymore, but a symbol of hope and love. When we carry our cross, we deny our self and follow Him. Let us remember that He bore the cross on his shoulders and was nailed to it, all because of love. He gives us hope that beyond all suffering there is resurrection, there is new life. We need to take up the cross for it is the only way that we can follow our Lord. We all want to follow our Lord Jesus. We have to also bear our cross like Him, and at the end, experience the everlasting joy in following Him.

*Fr. Chris*

The celebration of the  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
has been approved by our Bishop and will  
take place in our Spiritual Garden this  
weekend. Please pray for our Candidates!



### FAITH FORMATION NEWS!

We are very happy to announce that we are working hard to complete sacraments for all of those who were being prepared prior to the pandemic. We will be reaching out to those families soon and we hope to have everyone complete their sacraments during the month of September.

Also, we are making plans for on-line catechesis for RCIA/Adult Confirmation, First Communion and Confirmation. Please be on the look out for more information in the coming weeks.

We are excited to be able to engage with those needing sacraments in this new, innovative way.

We are also happy to welcome back Dina Russell, who after being layed off due to the pandemic, will return to our Faith Formation Department to help make this all happen!



### PERMANENT DEACON ORDINATION

Family of the Good Shepherd! We are honored to host another Diocesan Event in the Spiritual Garden; a Mass of Ordination for 16 Candidates to be permanent Deacons. The Mass will take place at 8am, Saturday, September 12.

## **SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER**

With mass attendance down due to the Coronavirus, we ask that you consider signing up for Electronic Fund Transfer so that we can keep the parish up and running during this difficult time. EFT is a safe, convenient way to give to the parish even when you are unable to attend mass or you are away on vacation. Simply fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to the parish office at 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg, CA 94565 or a form can be mailed or emailed to you. You can also visit our web site at [www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org](http://www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org) and conveniently donate through the DONATION NOW BUTTON. If neither of these manners of giving suit you, you can mail in your contributions any time you will not be present at mass or place them through the mail slot in the parish office door. Thank you for helping keep our parish afloat during this very difficult time.

## **Electronic Funds Transfer The Easy Way to Tithe!**

**Church of the Good Shepherd offers a FREE tithing option more convenient for many of our members  
-Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Program.**

The program has been a great success since we started it several years ago.

- You Tithe No More Than You Normally Do.
  - You Control How You Tithe.
  - You Choose A Tithe Frequency: Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Or Monthly.
  - You Choose When You Want Your Account Debited.

## **ENROLLMENT IN ELECTRONIC DONATION TRANSFER FOR SUNDAY GIVING**

**Please enter the amount you wish to give and how often:**

## **\$ Weekly (Transferred every Monday)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Semimonthly (Transferred on 1st & 15th)

\$  Monthly (Transferred on 1st or 15th—indicate preference)

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to give this amount electronically weekly for 2nd collections using the same account information.**

## CREDIT CARD OPTION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKING ACCOUNT OPTION

**Simply attach voided check**

I authorize Good Shepherd Church to process entries from my credit card or checking account as noted above. This authority shall remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization.

## FROM THE CHAPEL

***The Chapel has been temporarily closed due to coronavirus restrictions.***

*We will keep you updated in the bulletin of a re-opening date.*

**For Questions: Call Bill Abitz at 925-872-5852**



El Evangelio de hoy nos instruye en la forma de manejar la cruz que viene con la vida. Jesús indica que la manera de convertirse en sus discípulos pasa por olvidarse de sí mismo, a cargar con la cruz y seguirlo. Nos anima a tener la determinación y la fuerza para tomar la cruz y seguirle, su camino, el camino del amor. El problema con muchos de nosotros es que cuando nos damos cuenta de la enormidad de los desafíos que tenemos ante nosotros, no tomamos la cruz. Recogemos nuestras zapatillas y empezamos a correr. Estamos acostumbrados a tanto consuelo o hemos aprendido a ser indiferentes, que tememos resolver las pruebas de la vida.

Jesús tomó nuestros sufrimientos en sí mismo debido a su amor incondicional por nosotros. Está dispuesto a sacrificarse por nosotros, por nuestra salvación. Él abrazó la cruz, cargó la cruz e incluso murió en la cruz solo para mostrarnos cuánto nos ama a todos. De hecho, estos no son los estándares del hombre, porque la reacción humana es elegir una vida cómoda y fácil. Los estándares del hombre dicen: "Siéntete cómodo; busca seguridad; disfruta la vida." Sí, ¿quién de nosotros no quiere una vida cómoda, agradable y segura? Esa es también la razón cuando hay problemas que resolver, ya sea en la familia, la escuela, el lugar de trabajo o la comunidad, que muchas personas prefieren huir, callar, buscar licor o incluso drogas, pasar toda la noche con amigos, en lugar de eso. que afrontar valientemente los problemas de uno, la cruz de uno.

Sin embargo, la realidad de la vida no es solo un lecho de rosas. La realidad de la vida es que entre las rosas también hay espinas y tenemos que lidiar y enfrentar estas espinas, nuestros problemas, desafíos y pruebas en la vida. No significa que simplemente aceptes tu destino y no hagas nada al respecto. Si los expertos médicos, por ejemplo, pueden remediar o aliviar el sufrimiento, como el descubrimiento de medicamentos que curarán el cáncer avanzado o el HIV, entonces será una gran contribución a la humanidad. Si los de primera línea arriesgan sus vidas para tratar a los pacientes con COVID-19 y buscan la cura de este virus que causó la pandemia, entonces también tenemos que hacer nuestra parte para no propagar el virus y rezar para que esta pandemia termine pronto.

Pero si el sufrimiento es inevitable y está más allá del control humano, la actitud Cristiana es que se lo ofrezcamos a Dios, uniéndolo con los sufrimientos de Cristo para que se vuelva meritorio y no en vano. En palabras de San Pablo:

Si sufres con Cristo, también resucitarás con Él.

Jesús ahora nos señala que la cruz ya no es una señal de dolor y sufrimiento, sino un símbolo de esperanza y amor cuando cargamos nuestra cruz, nos negamos a nosotros mismos y lo seguimos. Recordemos que Él llevó la cruz sobre sus hombros y fue clavado en todo por amor y para darnos esa esperanza de que más allá de todo sufrimiento hay resurrección, hay vida nueva. Necesitamos tomar la cruz porque es la única forma en que podemos seguir a nuestro Señor. Todos queremos seguir a nuestro Señor Jesús y por eso también tenemos que llevar nuestra cruz como Él y al final experimentar el gozo eterno de seguirlo.

Padre Chris

## CONGRATS AND WELCOME TO OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE NEWLY BAPTIZED BABY, GAVIN ASHTON GUECO ANUNCIACION!



**We pray for all of our students and families as they return to virtual classrooms and adjust to this new normal.**

**We pray for a smooth and successful new academic year and continued good health for everyone!**

### **Shepherd's Closet Procedure During Covid-19**

Due to the Covid-19 virus, Shepherd's Closet will continue to be closed until further notice. We will only be available in emergency situations. If you need help, you can call Ann and Bill Abitz at (925) 432-3995. Leave your name, phone number and a short message, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

### **Shepherd's Closet Supporters**

We, at Shepherd's Closet, sincerely appreciate your many donations of food, clothes, diapers, etc. Because we will remain closed until the pandemic is over, we ask you not to bring any donations to the church. Our trailers are full, and there is no place for any more items (big or small). If you want to continue helping us during this crisis, we will still accept monetary donations. If you can, please mark your donation, "Shepherd's Closet," on the memo line of your check. This donation should not take the place of your regular donation, but be an addition to it. Thank you!

## Mass Intentions

Aug 31-Sept 6

# Mass Intentions For The Week



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Mon	7:30 am	Rosauro Flores Espiritu †
Tue	7:30 am	Peter Dong †
Wed	7:30 am	All Souls †
Thu	7:30 am	Birthday of Marissa Steichen
Fri	7:30 am	Carlos Garcia †
	7:00 pm	Capupus Family
Sat	8:00 am	Capupus Family & Dolores Cabrera †
Sat	5:30 pm	Sancho Alesna Sr. †
Sun	8:00 am	Anniversary of John † & Angie Sorci
	10 am	Frances Ferrante Thomas † & The People of the Parish
	12 Noon	Divino Nino Jesus

\*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Christopher

## Parish Staff

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**Deacon Gustavo Escruceria**  
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**Grace Yvette Ripoli, Business Manager**  
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**Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary**  
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**Dina Russell, Religious Education Coordinator**  
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**Aylin Gonzalez, Faith Formation (Spanish Speaking)**  
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**WEEKLY COLLECTION:** Please help contribute to the smooth operation and services of our parish, especially during this most difficult time. You can give your donations to any staff member or place in the mail slot in the ministry building door. We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Fr. Thi

## Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country, let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*

*Amen.*

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**EZEKIEL 33:7-9, ROMANS 13:8-10,  
MATTHEW 18:15-20**

## NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

**BUILDING FUND**

