



CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

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

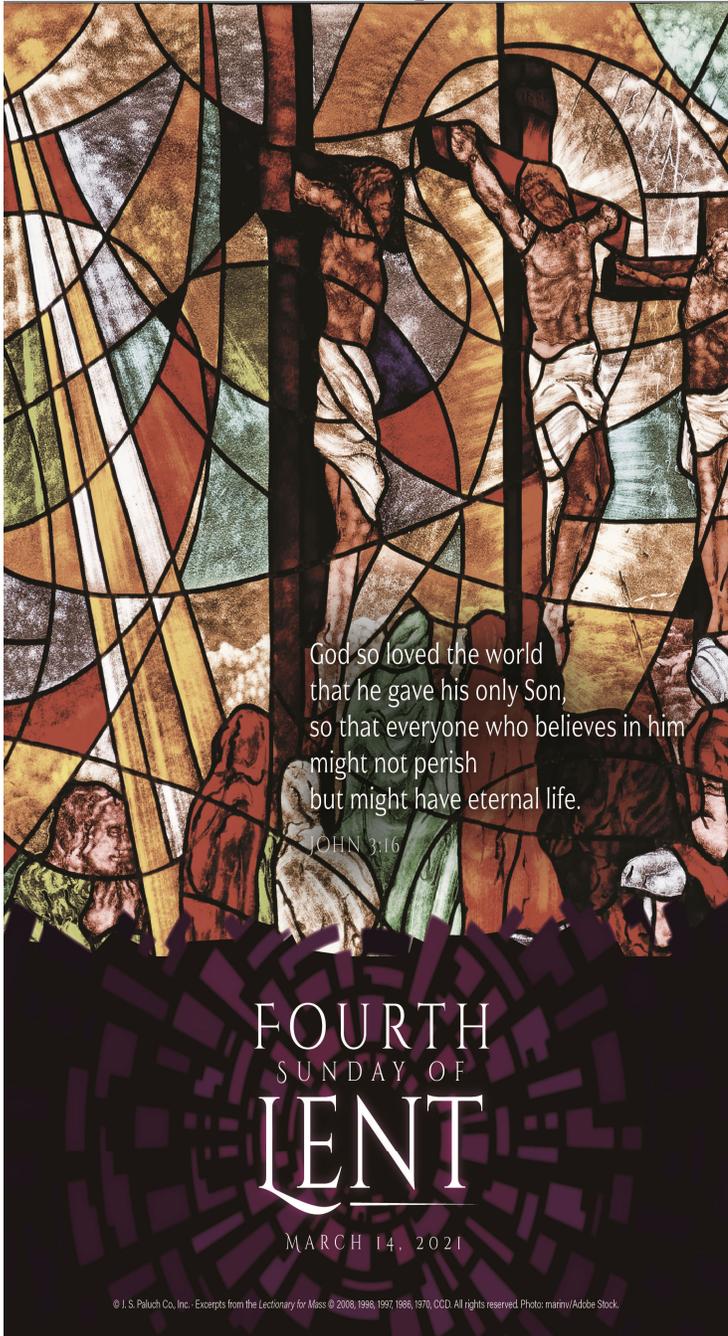
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God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

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Church
REOPENING

25% capacity = 150 People per Mass/Service

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

*ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: Catholic Church of the Good
Shepherd, Pittsburg, CA*

*Visit our parish website to sign up for weekend
Mass you want to attend.*

Monday - Friday

7:30am

Saturday

8:00am and 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday

8:00am, 10:00am, 12pm, 3pm Spanish

Communion

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

Adoration

Fridays 8am – 9am

Confession

Fridays 8am-9am

Saturdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm

or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. John describes God's love for us with a famous quote from Jesus, "*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*" This fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" in Latin means, "Rejoice!" In the middle of the serious season of Lent, the Church invites us to rejoice as the Entrance Antiphon says: "*Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her.*" God is love; and His love never changes. We, human beings, are subjected to change; but God never changes. He is love.

From eternity, God the Father and Son love each other so much that it overflows into the world. We are created in that love. We fall into sin. But God keeps on loving us by sending his only Son to die and to atone for our sins. God's love for us is always unconditional. "*What good is it if you only greet those who greet you; if you only love those who love you? Don't sinners do the same? So love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*" (Luke 6:32-33). Unconditional love is to love all.

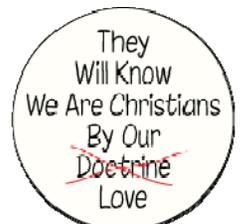
Is it possible for a rose to say I will give my perfume to good people and withhold it from bad people? The rose, by its very nature, cannot but love all. Is it possible for a candle to say I will give my light to good people in this church and withhold it from the bad? Is it possible for a tree to say I will give my shade to good people, but hide it from the bad? It cannot. The tree will give shade even to the man who is cutting it down. Love so enjoys the loving that it is unaware of itself.

Like the tree, the rose, and the candle, love gives and expects nothing in return. This kind of love is called Agape in Greek. Agape is a total self-giving love. It does not pick and choose. It loves all and gives all. Agape begins with God the Father in his act of creation. It continues with Jesus who gave us his all. His self-giving act sets up a model of love for us, delivering us from the bondage of law. He transforms law into love, for only love will set us free.

"*A bell is no bell until it is rung. A song is no song until it is sung.*" And a Christian is no Christian until he or she shows love. By this love will everyone know that we are His disciples. When we say we love God, we sacrifice our time, our work to be with him, to serve him. When we say we love our neighbors, we sacrifice our ego, our pride to forgive. Sacrifice is another word for love, for there is no love without sacrifice. Sacrifice itself is love in action.

This is an example of how we show Christian love in concrete practice that I found on the Internet: "*in the home it is kindness, in business it is honesty, in society it is courtesy, in work it is fairness. Toward the unfortunate it is pity; toward the weak it is help; toward the wicked it is resistance; toward the strong it is trust; toward the fortunate it is congratulations, toward the penitent it is forgiveness, toward God it is reverence and love.*" To love is nothing, to be loved is something but to love and to be loved by the one you love, that is everything.

Lenten Blessings,
Fr. Thi Hoang





Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

San Juan describe el amor de Dios por nosotros con una cita famosa de Jesús:

"Tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna". Este cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma se llama Domingo de Laetare. "Laetare" en latín significa, "¡regocíjate!" En medio del serio tiempo de Cuaresma, la Iglesia nos invita a regocijarnos como dice la Antífona de Entrada: "¡Alégrate, Jerusalén! Alégrate por ella, los que la aman; alégrate con ella, que la lloraste". Dios es amor, y su amor nunca cambia. Nosotros, los seres humanos, estamos sujetos a cambios, pero Dios nunca cambia. Él es amor.

Desde la eternidad, Dios Padre e Hijo se aman tanto que se desborda en el mundo. Somos creados en ese amor. Caemos en pecados. Pero Dios sigue amándonos al enviar a su único Hijo a morir y expiar nuestros pecados. El amor de Dios por nosotros es siempre incondicional. *"¿De qué sirve si sólo saludas a los que le saludan; si solo amas a los que te aman? ¿No hacen lo mismo los pecadores? Por tanto, ama a tus enemigos y ora por los que te persiguen"*(Lucas 6: 32-33). El amor incondicional es amar a todos.

Es posible que una rosa diga que le daré mi perfume a la gente buena y se lo negaré a la gente mala? La rosa, por su propia naturaleza, no puede dejar de amar a todos. ¿Es posible que una vela diga que daré mi luz a la gente buena en esta iglesia y se la negaré a los malos? ¿Es posible que un árbol diga que daré mi sombra a la gente buena, pero que la esconda de la mala? No puede. El árbol dará sombra incluso al hombre que lo corta. El amor disfruta tanto del amor que no se da cuenta de sí mismo.

Como el árbol, la rosa y la vela, el amor no da y no espera nada a cambio. Este tipo de amor se llama Ágape en griego. Ágape es un amor total y abnegado. No escoge y elige. Ama todo y lo da todo. Ágape comienza con Dios Padre en su acto de creación. Continúa con Jesús que nos dio todo. Su acto de entrega establece un modelo de amor para nosotros, liberándonos de la esclavitud de la ley. Él transforma la ley en amor, porque solo el amor nos hará libres.

Una campana no es campana hasta que se toca. Una canción no es canción hasta que se canta ". Y un Cristiano no es Cristiano hasta que muestra amor. Por este amor todos sabrán que somos sus discípulos. Cuando decimos que amamos a Dios, sacrificamos nuestro tiempo, nuestro trabajo para estar con él, para servirle. Cuando decimos que amamos a nuestro prójimo, sacrificamos nuestro ego, nuestro orgullo para perdonar. El sacrificio es otra palabra para el amor, porque no hay amor sin sacrificio. El sacrificio mismo es amor en acción.

Así es como mostramos el amor Cristiano en la práctica concreta que encontré en Internet: *"en el hogar es la bondad, en los negocios es la honestidad, en la sociedad es la cortesía, en el trabajo es la justicia. Para los desdichados es lástima; para los débiles es ayuda; para los malvados es resistencia; hacia el fuerte es confianza; para el afortunado es felicitaciones, para el penitente es perdón, para Dios es reverencia y amor "*. Amar no es nada, ser amado es algo más que amar y ser amado por el que amas, eso es todo.

Bendiciones de Cuaresma,

Padre Thi Hoang



2020 TAX DONATION LETTERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY CALLING YVETTE OR CARMEN IN THE PARISH OFFICE (432-6404) OR BY EMAILING yvette@goodshepherdpittsburg.org OR carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR RECEIVING THEM BY REGULAR MAIL OR EMAIL.

Please note: Under the Cares Act, if you are taking the standard deductions on your 2020 taxes, you can deduct \$300 per person in charitable giving for 2020.

HAVE YOU NOTICED SOMETHING NEW ON OUR PROPERTY?!

We are very happy to let you know that a parish family purchased a beautiful sign that is now hung above our garden gates, naming it:

FR. HELMUT RICHTER'S SPIRITUAL GARDEN

We have always loved this beautiful space on our property but we didn't fully appreciate its full potential until we were faced with the pandemic.

We have been able to continue celebrating masses and sacraments in this beautiful space. If it weren't for Fr. Helmut's vision and foresight, we would not have been able to do so

This sign is a way of saying **THANK YOU!**

We appreciate what you have done for us.

We also appreciate the family who thought of and paid for this tribute.

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH @7PM.

For safety reasons due to the Covid, the confessions will take place in the church and the hall at the same time. Come and Be Healed!

SECURITY GATE UPDATE

As you may have noticed, the security gates are up. We have begun securing the property daily and will begin replacing the broken windows soon. At this time, the plan is to have the gates open from 6:30 am to 7 pm. On weekends, we will open all the gates. On the weekdays, we plan on opening the main gate for ingress and egress. We will inform you of any changes as we monitor how this plan is working out.



In celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, the combined Filipino-American Communities and the Filipino Clergy of the Diocese of Oakland invite you to celebrate these following Novena Masses:

- March 7 Holy Spirit (12:30PM)**
37588 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536
- 8 Saint Anne (10AM)**
32223 Cabello St, Union City, CA 94587
- 9 All Saints (4PM)**
22824 2nd St, Hayward, CA 94541
- 10 Saint Raymond (12:15PM)**
11555 Shannon Ave, Dublin, CA 94568
- 11 Saint Michael (5PM)**
458 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550
- 12 Saint Philip Neri - Saint Albert (3PM)**
1022 Holly St, Alameda, CA 94502
- 13 Saint Catherine of Siena (9:30AM)**
604 Mellus St, Martinez, CA 94553
- 14 Saint Joseph (8AM)**
837 Tennent Ave, Pinole, CA 94564
- 15 Most Holy Rosary (7PM)**
1313 A St, Antioch, CA 94509
- 16 Cathedral of Christ the Light (7PM)**
2121 Harrison St, Oakland, CA 94612



gifted to give
500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

NOTE: Pending Diocesan and country guidelines, we plan these Masses to be livestreamed and/or outdoors. We will send out more information, including the links, as we approach the dates. Mabuhay at maraming salamat po!

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ALL OF THE GARDEN BRICKS ARE NOW IN PLACE! (except for the last few ordered)

Thank you to all of you who participated in this parish fund raiser!

If you wish to see your bricks in the garden, please visit any Sunday during the day when they garden is open. We will revisit garden hours once the pandemic is over and our property is secured.



2021 Lenten and Easter Celebrations

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES DURING LENT

Confessions: Fridays 8-9 am; Saturdays 4-5 pm and every Tuesday during Lent from 7-8 pm

Adorations: Fridays 8 am– 9 am; First Friday from 8am to 6:30 pm followed by 7pm Mass

Stations of the Cross: in the church and livestreamed all Fridays of Lent @ 7 pm

Parish Lenten Study Series: Robert Baron on the Eucharist, Thursdays at 7 pm

On Zoom @

<https://zoom.us/j/98302298313?pwd=azc2TFFqaDgzSDVJRUdsc2hieDY0UT09>

Parish Lenten 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph, beginning Feb 22 at 8pm on Zoom at

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77020066086?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77020066086?pwd=TTJoN3NkRE9nTzhNckZzVTlmT2Jqdz09#success)

[pwd=TTJoN3NkRE9nTzhNckZzVTlmT2Jqdz09#success](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77020066086?pwd=TTJoN3NkRE9nTzhNckZzVTlmT2Jqdz09#success)

March 15

7pm Lenten Reconciliation Service

HOLY WEEK

March 27-Palm Sunday Vigil 5:30 pm mass

March 28– Palm Sunday 8am, 10am, 12pm & 3pm (Spanish)

**April 1-Holy Thursday 8:00am Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Mid-Night.**



April 2-Good Friday

**8am Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours
12pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross
3:00pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross (Spanish)
7:00pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross**

EASTER

April 3-Holy Saturday

**8am Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours
8:30am Easter Vigil Rehearsal
8:00pm Easter Vigil**

April 4 –Easter Sunday

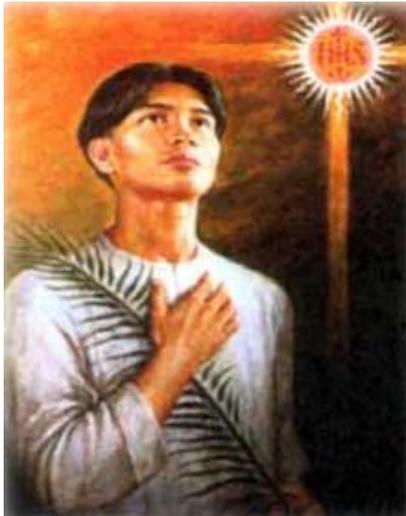
**7 am Mass
8:30 am Mass
10 am Mass
12 pm Mass
3 pm Spanish Mass**



FEAST OF SAN PEDRO CALUNGSOD

We are going to celebrate the Feast of San Pedro Calungsod this year on March 27, 2021, Saturday, at 8 am mass in the church. There will be no food reception. For information of mass sponsorship please contact:

Cecille Perez at 925-300-6234,
Cynthia Auza 925-597-1178,
Lani Andes 925-212-8408.



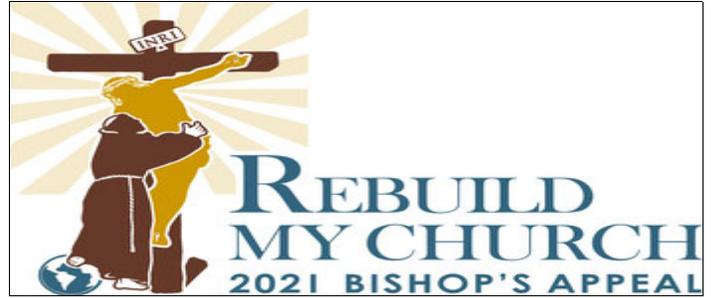
CYO BASKETBALL NEWS

The CYO Board will be recognizing 8th grade players with a drive by event on March 27th at 11 am in our parking lot.

These young people did not get to complete their final year of GSCYO because of the pandemic.

They will be receiving a recognition award package.

Let us pray for these and all of our young people who have been through so much this year.



The 2021 Bishop's Appeal
has officially launched!

Our goal this year is: \$35,600

Please help us reach our goal!

La Eucaristía: Renovación Espiritual en la Cuaresma. Obispo Robert Barron

En la Iglesia primitiva, los católicos creían certeramente que Cristo estaba realmente presente bajo las especies del pan y del vino. Si una persona no creía esto, no podía ser miembro de la Iglesia. Hace unos años, una investigación de "Pew" informó que el 69% de los católicos cree que la Eucaristía es sólo simbólica. ¿Qué ha pasado? La falta de buena catequesis es una respuesta probable.

El Obispo Barron ha publicado una serie de estudios sobre la Eucaristía que reúne la historia y la enseñanza de la Iglesia para enseñar lo que Jesús enseñó: **que la noche antes de ser crucificado, tomó pan, lo rompió, diciendo "este es mi cuerpo..."** y que Jesús literalmente quiso decir eso.

Únase a nosotros para ver esta serie de videos de 4 sesiones donde miraremos la historia, y aprenderemos de lo que los primeros Padres de la Iglesia entendían lo que era la Eucaristía, y cómo y por qué es nuestro alimento espiritual.

Los encuentros los aremos a través de Zoom los viernes 5, 12, 19, 26 de marzo de 7:30 a 9:00pm.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95910382482>

Meeting ID: 959 1038 2482

Mass Intentions

March 15-21

Mass Intentions For The Week

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Mon	7:30 am	Dominic Vu † #
Tue	7:30 am	Jose Serrano & Margarita Duran † *
Wed	7:30 am	Josefa Tampos † *
Thu	7:30 am	Mary Ebright Nguyen † #
Fri	7:30 am	St. Joseph Capupus Family *
Sat	8:00 am	Birthday of Elenita Vilorio All Souls in Purgatory & Members of FOSS Edeltrudes Alegria † *
Sat	5:30 pm	Sancho Alesna Sr. † *
Sun	8:00 am	Cuca Hernandez † *
	10 am	Ann Zbacnik † *
	12 pm	Mr. Willie Carter † @
	3 pm	For the People ^

*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Helmut, ^=Fr. Salvador
@ Fr. Anselm

Parish Staff

Fr. Thi Van Hoang, Parochial Administrator
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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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aylin@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

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.

*This weekend at our
12 pm Mass, we will have
the 2nd scrutiny
for our RCIA Candidates.
Please continue to pray for
them as they prepare for the
Easter Sacraments.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 CORINTHIANS 36:14-16, 19-23
EPHESIANS 2:4-10, JOHN 3:14-21

NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

PASSION PLAY

Bishop Robert Barron's series on the Eucharist for Lenten Spiritual Renewal

**SATAN RECOGNIZES CHRIST'S BODY. DO WE?
Join us for Bishop Robert Barron's series on the Eucharist.**

Join us for this 8 session series where we will learn from history, the early Church Fathers what Jesus and his Church taught about the Eucharist and how and why it is our spiritual food for the journey. Meetings will be held via Zoom by facilitators who will lead us through a very fascinating, and even fun topic as we explore and recapture what the Church has always taught about the Eucharist. **The meetings will be held on Thursdays at 7 pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98302298313?pwd=azc2TFFqaDgzSDVJRUdsc2hieDY0UT09>

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph

Please join us to pray a 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph by
Father Calloway every evening at 8:00pm on Zoom at

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77020066086?
pwd=TTJoN3NkRE9nTzhNckZzVTlmT2Jqdz09#success](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77020066086?pwd=TTJoN3NkRE9nTzhNckZzVTlmT2Jqdz09#success)

The link is available on the parish website.
Each prayer session takes about 15-20 minutes.

This prayer meeting is hosted by Joseph Ortiz and the family.
All are invited.



UPDATE ON THE PASSION PLAY

The second collection on March 21 is for the Passion Play. Though there will not be a Passion Play this year, we ask that you support it in this collection. We have bills from last year, when we unfortunately had to cancel the play after ordering supplies, t-shirts, etc. We also anticipate having the play next year, and this will help us get a head start toward preparing a wonderful presentation. Thank you for your continuing support of this parish tradition!