

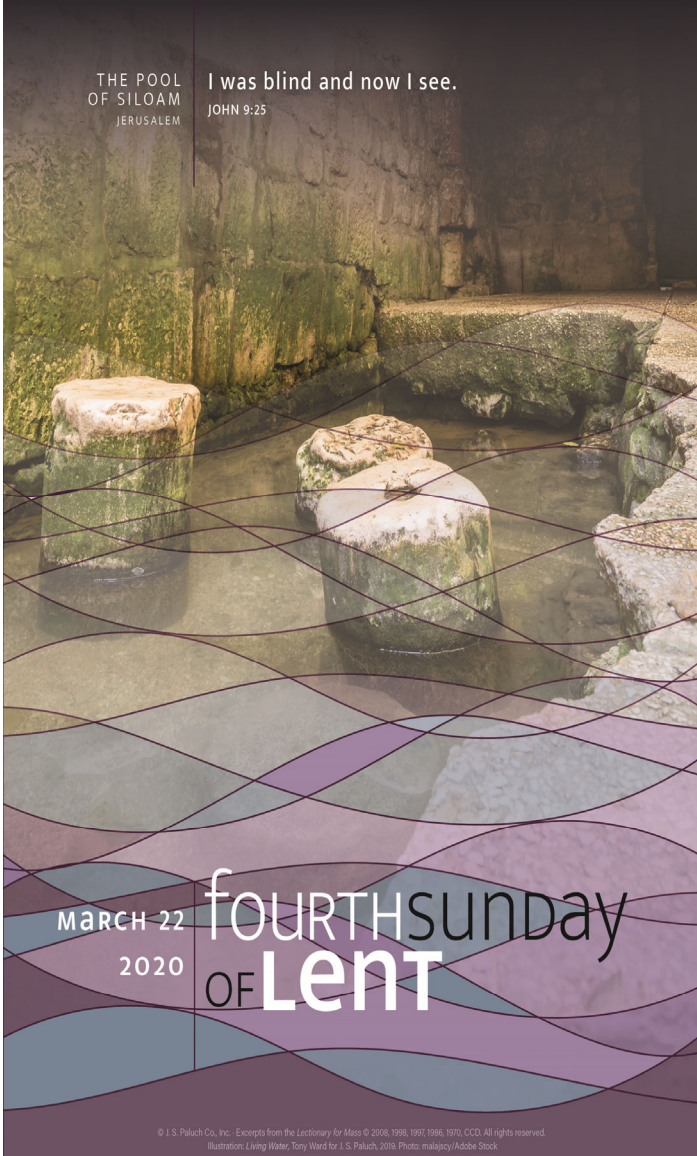


CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

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

3200 Harbor Street ~ Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: 925-432-6404 Fax: 925-432-6748
Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org
www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org
[www.Facebook.com/goodshepherdchurchpittsburg](https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdchurchpittsburg)



THE POOL OF SILOAM
JERUSALEM

I was blind and now I see.
JOHN 9:25

MARCH 22 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

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Illustration: Living Water, Tony Ward for J.S. Paluch, 2019. Photo: malaisy/Adobe Stock

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9am-12 pm & 1-4 pm
Fridays: 9am-4pm (Basic Services)

Schedule of Masses

Sundays: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12 noon & 3:00pm Spanish

Monday through Friday: 7:30 am

1st Fridays: 7:00 pm

3rd Fridays: 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Morning Prayer: (Liturgy of the Hours) 7:00 a.m. (Chapel)

Saturdays: 8:00 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Holy Days: 7:30 am & 7:00 pm

Confessions: Fridays after 7:30 a.m. Mass

Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

Adoration: Fridays after 7:30 am Mass until 9 am

1st Fridays after 7:30 am mass until 6:45 pm

24 Hour Adoration: In the Chapel (door code required ~ call parish office)

Devotions: Divine Mercy: Monday-Friday after 7:30am Mass, Saturdays & Sundays before Masses

Our Lady of Fatima/Perpetual Help~ 1st Saturday

Santo Nino 2nd Saturday

Divine Mercy 3rd Saturday

Saint Padre Pio 4th Saturday

Healing Mass 5th Saturday

(All devotions take place following 8:00 am Mass)

Baptisms: In order to make baptismal arrangements contact

carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Marriages: In order to make marriage arrangements contact

carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org 6 months prior to marriage day.

Funeral Arrangements: Should be arranged by family, church and mortuary. Normal Christian burial consists of Vigil Service, Holy Mass and Burial in a Catholic Cemetery. Any other arrangements should first be discussed with parish priest.

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

Faith Response to Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time? A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately. The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need. Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first. In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others. Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children. The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves). Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly. But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed everything in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something. Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections. Death rates in the city were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved. We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it’s unclear what’s in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move beyond them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need (*continued next page*)....

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities. Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets? One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home. Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues: • Prudence - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take? • Justice - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need? • Temperance - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence? • Fortitude - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any). • **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' song "On Eagle's Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
- **Avoid touching your face.** • **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
- **Follow the guidance of local officials.** • **Stay home if you become ill.** • **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable. • **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway. • **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.** • **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment. • **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation. • **Proactively love your neighbor!** • **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc. • **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
- **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
- **Pray** for all those affected by the crisis.

**We celebrate a
Children's Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10 am and a Youth Mass at 10 am
on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please join us!**

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 925-432-6404 or a form can be mailed or emailed to you. You can also visit our web site at 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 & 14th)

\$ _____ 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.

COVID-19

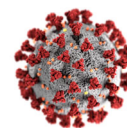
**In accordance with the Contra Costa Health
Services order dated March 16, 2020, the parish will be
physically closed until April 7th.**

**We are operating the office virtually through the telephone (925-432-6404), our web site
www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org,
or email at**

office@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**All masses are suspended, but the chapel is available 24 hours a day to provide a place of prayer and
solace. We will be providing more information on the celebration of sacraments soon.**

**We appreciate your understanding in this matter and praying for your health and safety and a swift
end to this crisis.**



**"I AM
LOVE AND MERCY
ITSELF"**

Church of The
Good Shepherd
3200 Harbor Street
Pittsburg CA
94565

**April 18 & 19
2020**

Saturday, April 18th
7:00 to 9:00 PM Christine Watkins - **TALK - (CHURCH)**



Mrs. Christine Watkins, MTS, LCSW, is a popular Catholic speaker and author. Formerly an anti-Christian atheist living a life of sin, she began a life of service to the Catholic Church after a miraculous healing from Jesus through Mary, which saved her from death. Before her conversion, she danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet Company. Today she has twenty years of experience as a Catholic speaker, retreat and parish mission leader, spiritual director, counselor, with ten years as a hospice grief counselor and ten as a post-abortion healing director. She is the author of the Amazon #1 best-sellers: *OF MEN AND MARY: How Six Men Won the Greatest Battle of Their Lives.*

Jesus, I Trust in You

Sunday, April 19th
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Fr. James Blount, SOLT - **TALK - CONFESSIONS (HALL)**



Fr. James Blount, is an internationally known Exorcist Priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity (SOLT) - Georgia Mission. A very gifted Spiritual Director and Confessor, Fr. Jim is a bold charismatic preacher endowed and empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He speaks of living a life in relationship with each of the Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and his intimate relationship, love and devotion to Jesus and Mary draws many souls to also fall in love with them. Father is a powerful instrument of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by so many stories of miracles, healings and conversions. Dedicated to his healing and deliverance ministry, Father travels preaching and proclaiming the Gospel whenever and wherever he can, in the United States and abroad.

4:30 PM
Divine Mercy Healing Mass
with Fr. Blount in the CHURCH

CONTACT (925) 250-6837
For any questions regarding event

FREE ADMISSION
Donations Greatly Appreciated!

COME ONE, COME ALL, AND BE HEALED!

Please be advised that the above event is subject to change or cancellation due to the Covid 19 Virus issue.



Caring for the Caregiver

"I'm so overwhelmed, getting more and more involved in caring for my parents." "There's so many decisions to make, I could really use some help."

"How can I be more prepared?"

If these thoughts have ever crossed your mind, you are not alone. Virtually every one of us will care for a loved one at some time in our life. Though rewarding, it's not always easy. Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of everyday life, health, career and caring for an aging parent, spouse or grandparent, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides caregivers a faith perspective, as well as practical and emotional supports, useful tools, and shared experience. Discover the blessings that come from caring for another. Be nourished.

Our first meeting will be: Date: Wed. April 13 at 7:30pm at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 3351 Contra Loma Blvd. Antioch. For further information, please call Mike Clark, 575-1343 or Louberttha Thomas, 684 9695.

Our goal this year is \$35,600

**REBUILD MY CHURCH
2020 BISHOP'S APPEAL**

As we continue our efforts to raise funds for the diocese and our parish through the 2020 Appeal, let us remember that our individual gifts, when combined with that of parishioners from across the diocese, makes a significant difference in the lives of so many people who rely upon our Church for their spiritual, pastoral, educational or human needs.

Currently we have collected \$11,730.42 toward our \$35,600 goal.

Parish Staff

Fr. Thi Van Hoang, Parochial Administrator
925-432-6404 Ext. 11
frthihoang@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Fr. Christopher Villa, Priest in Residence
925-752-6357- sem.doctope@gmail.com

Deacon Gustavo Escruceria
Deacon.gustavo@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Grace Yvette Ripoli, Business Manager
yvette@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary
carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Debora Lawson
Director of Faith Formation For Youth
debbie@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Dina Russell
Director of Faith Formation For Youth
dina@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

Aylin Gonzalez
Office/Faith Formation Assistant
(Spanish Speaking)
aylin@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

OJOS NUEVOS. Me trabajó los ojos y empecé a ver.

El relato del ciego de Siloé está estructurado desde la clave de un fuerte contraste. Los fariseos creen saberlo todo. No dudan de nada. Imponen su verdad. Llegan incluso a expulsar de la sinagoga al pobre ciego y le dicen: “Nosotros sabemos que a Moisés le habló Dios”. “Sabemos que ese hombre que te ha curado no guarda el sábado». «Sabemos que es pecador”.

Por el contrario, el mendigo curado por Jesús no sabe nada. Sólo cuenta su experiencia a quien le quiera escuchar y dice: “Sólo sé que yo era ciego y ahora veo”. “Ese hombre me trabajó los ojos y empecé a ver”. El relato concluye con esta advertencia final de Jesús: “Yo he venido para que los que no ven, vean, y los que ven, se queden ciegos”.

A Jesús le daba desconfianza una religión defendida por escribas seguros y arrogantes, que manejaban autoritariamente la Palabra de Dios para imponerla, utilizarla como arma o excomulgar incluso a quienes sentían de manera diferente. Temía a los doctores de la ley, más preocupados por “guardar el sábado” que por “curar” a mendigos enfermos. A Jesús le parecía una tragedia una religión con «guías ciegos y lo decía abiertamente: “Si un ciego guía a otro ciego, los dos caerán al hoyo”.

Teólogos, predicadores, catequistas, clérigos y educadores que pretendemos «guiar» a otros sin habernos dejado iluminar nosotros mismos por Jesús, ¿no hemos de escuchar su interpelación? ¿Vamos a seguir repitiendo incansablemente nuestras doctrinas sin vivir una experiencia personal de encuentro con Jesús que nos abra los ojos y el corazón?

Nuestra Iglesia no necesita hoy predicadores que llenen las iglesias de palabrería, sino testigos que contagien, aunque sea de manera imperfecta, su pequeña experiencia del Evangelio. No necesitamos fanáticos que defiendan «verdades» de manera autoritaria y con lenguaje vacío, hecho de tópicos y frases hechas. Necesitamos creyentes de verdad, atentos a la vida y sensibles a los problemas de la gente, buscadores de Dios capaces de escuchar y acompañar con respeto a tantos hombres y mujeres que sufren, buscan y no aciertan a vivir de manera más humana ni más creyente.

En esta Cuaresma busquemos encontrarnos con Jesús para que nos abra los ojos y podamos ver su luz y su camino. Cristo vive.

Participemos en el VIA CRUCIS guiados por nuestro Coro de Niños, Armada Blanca, todos los Viernes de Cuaresma, Marzo 20, 27, y Abril 3, el Viernes Santo, 10 de Abril, será a las 2pm – los esperamos!

Servicio Penitencial Bilingue - Marzo 30 a las 7pm

COVID-19

De acuerdo con la orden de los Servicios de Salud de Contra Costa del 16 de Marzo de 2020, la parroquia premanecerá cerrada físicamente hasta el 7 de Abril. Estamos operando prácticamente a través del teléfono (925-432-6404), nuestro sitio web www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org, o correo electrónico

Todas las misas publicas estan suspendidas, pero la capilla está disponible las 24 horas del día para proporcionar un lugar de oración y consuelo. Pronto proporcionaremos más información sobre la celebración de los sacramentos. Agradecemos su comprensión en este asunto y orando por su salud y seguridad y un rápido final de esta crisis.

CUARESMA-Tiempo de Oración y Reflexión Los invitamos a participar en las próximas fechas:
Jueves, 5 de Marzo(Parroquia) 7:00pm a 9:00pm

ATENCIÓN COMUNIDAD HISPANA

Si algún miembro de la comunidad Hispana **esta interesado en recibir visitas a domicilio o comunión a los enfermos**, por favor comuníquense a la oficina parroquial para hablar con Carmen y establecer este servicio para nuestros miembros enfermos y confinados a casa.

Reflexión de Cuaresma: "Encontrándome con Cristo"

Encontrándome con Cristo, es un proceso de formación espiritual intenso para la Cuaresma buscando una relación personal con Jesús. Esta formación está basada en:

"Si el Ministerio no fluye desde un encuentro personal y de una relación continua con el Señor, entonces, no importa cómo lo ha logrado, ese Ministerio carece de alma vital y fuente necesaria para dar frutos duraderos"

Inscríbase con Carmen en las oficinas o al final de cada Misa con alguno de los facilitadores.

ATENCIÓN MONAGUILLOS

Si les gustaria participar en la sagrada Misa y aprender aún más de su FE, comuníquense con **Rebeca & Bulmaro al 925-286-2276**, ellos los guiarán y enseñarán el bello ministerio de ser monaguillos.

- ♦ **Las cartas del 2019 de donación de impuestos están disponibles llamando a la oficina parroquial al 925-432-6404. por favor, indique si desea recogerla o que se la enviemos por correo.**
- ♦ **¡NUEVO PARA EL 2020!**
Misas trimestrales para la "Unción de los Enfermos" tendrán lugar los Sábados a las 10am, comenzando Mayo 2, Agosto 1o y Noviembre 7

Mass Intentions

March 23-29

Mass Intentions For The Week



- Mon** 7:30am Ann Rose Russo † #
Tue 7:30 am Death Anniversary of Ron Miller†*
Wed 7:30 am Michael & Laura Ann Florentino†*
Thu 7:30 am Rufina Sevilla † ^
Fri 7:30 am Death Anniversary of
Alejandro Navera † *
Sat 8:00 am Denny Pappas &
Bobby Carpino†#
5:30 pm Daniel Gonzalez † *
Sun 8:00 am John Thomas Galvan † *
10 am Stephen Esposito † *
12 pm Martina Mendoza & Family † #
3 pm FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH #

*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Christopher, ^=Fr. Helmut

WEEKLY COLLECTION



March 15, 2020- \$ 6,618.56

2nd Collection-
Passion Play \$ 1,824.00

Please help contribute for the smooth operation and good services of our parish. We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Also, please remember Good Shepherd when planning your last will and testament. Thank you!

Fr. Thi

MASS DATE	TIME	LECTORS	EM'S	ALTAR SERVERS
Mar 28	5:30 pm	J Fox J Florido	C Davi , B Davi, E & M Bond M Benitez, L Cellan, M Duran J Hurtado, J Sobel, A Roldan	N Ceballos Hart Family
March 29	8:00 am	I Kinadeter C Ghiselli	G Shipe , J Calampinay, L Hoggatt M & A Discipulo, D Shipe, E Vilorio, P Wilson, T Vo	C Tanyag B Cabading A Duran
March 29	10 am	R Rivera B Francisco	J Rinaudo , N Fontecha, M Hill I Pacheco, M Plata, M Reynoso K King, K Tan, D Viart	Castro Family Ross Family
March 29	12 noon	C Galeon S Bellando	A Pacheco , E Pacheco, M Cruz N Gavino, C Greely, J Lagarejos S & M Runes, N & T Umadhay	R Lagarejos Rodriguez Family
March 29	3:00 pm	L Hernandez A Gaytan	J Rodelo , M Guadalupe, L Abrego A & M Alvarez, M Cruz, A Garcia A Guzman, L Hernandez, L Mata	A Whearthy A Ramirez I Heredia G Heredia

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**EZEKIEL 37:12-14, ROMANS 8:8-11,
JOHN 11:1-45**

NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

2020 Lenten and Easter Celebrations
(Dates & Times Subject to Change)

Confessions: Mondays 7-8pm;
 Fridays 8-9am;
 Saturdays 4-5pm

Easter Triduum

April 9-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 10-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) 6:00pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL/ EASTER

April 11-Holy Saturday

8:00am—Morning Prayer/ Liturgy of the Hours

8:30am– Rehearsal for Easter Vigil

8:00pm Easter Vigil

EASTER

April 12-Easter Sunday

7:00am Mass

8:30am Mass

10am Mass & Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Prayer Park

12:00pm Mass & Easter Egg Hunt for children ~ Prayer Park

3:00pm Mass – Spanish Easter Egg Hunt for Children Prayer

April 18 & 19- Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Saturday, April 18 talk by Christine Watkins after the 5:30 pm mass in the church

Sunday, April 19 talk by Fr. James Blount 2-4 pm in the parish hall
 Healing Mass to follow at 4:30 pm in the church.