



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## *Catholic Church*

### JUNE 30, 2024



## 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He took the child by the hand and said to her,  
“Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say  
to you, arise!” - Mk 5:41

## Sacraments

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:30 am
	6:00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

### Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am, 8:15 am

### Holy Day Mass Times

6:30 am, 8:15 am, Noon  
7:00 pm

### Reconciliation / Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm  
& by appointment

### All Other Sacraments

Please call the office for information. Please note for marriages please call the office at least 12 months in advance.

## Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva

### Pastor

Fr. Julius Kaburu

### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Ignatius Haran

### Pastor Emeritus

Dennis Gorsuch

Jim McFadden

William Goeke

### Deacons

## Parish Office

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm  
307 Montrose Drive, Folsom  
Phone: 916-985-2065

### Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

### Social Media:

@FolsomCatholic

## Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

### Bulletin Date Ads Due by 5pm

Jul 7	Jun 25
Jul 14	Jul 3
Jul 21	Jul 11
Jul 28	Jul 18

# Welcome to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

**We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.**

**We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,  
sacramental, loving and charitable.**

## Today's Readings

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 / Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 (2a) / 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/  
Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

*"I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me."  
(Ps 30)*

## Gospel Meditation

*By Father John Muir*

Sin isn't given its due these days. Downplaying sin is dangerous. But there is also another spiritual misstep in which we make way too big a deal out of sin. It happens, for example, when we persistently wonder if our confessed sins are "really" forgiven, or suspiciously ponder what God "really" thinks about us, behind His merciful face. Or when someone returns to Church, and we question whether his or her conversion was genuine. Or when we commit some sin and put on a sad face for days, thinking, "Maybe my sins are too great for God to deal with." God save us from that attitude!

Well, he does just that, this week, in the raising of Jairus' daughter. The dead twelve-year-old's house is filled with a spirit of excessive moaning and groaning, tumultuous weeping and wailing. They even laugh at Jesus in a mocking tone. It's shocking how easy it is for him to raise the dead child. It is equivalent to gently waking a kid from a light nap. And then he sends her off to get some lunch. No big whoop. The overactive drama is actually part of the problem, and removing it is a key part of the miracle.

Friends, sin can and does kill, but Jesus is always ready and able to raise us back to life, often without much hullabaloo. His ease of forgiving should never be a pretext for presumption, minimizing sin, or taking lightly the cost he pays for our sins on the cross. But for God's sake, we often need Jesus to put out the weepers and wailers. He's the Lord. And remember, the girl is not dead, she's just sleeping.

## Scripture Reflections

### First Reading

Our wisdom writer teaches us that God did not create death, rather, death entered the world from the envy of the devil. How should a Christian think about death?

### Second Reading

Paul encourages the community of believers in Corinth to share with others out of their abundance as a means of establishing equality. What could you share with others among your family and friends this week?

### Gospel

Mark presents us with independent healing stories of how faith in Jesus saves.  
What needs healing in your life?

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At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we welcome all  
as members of  
the Body of Christ.

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## Farewell and Thank You Fr. Renier

All are invited to join us for  
**Father Renier's Farewell Reception on  
Saturday, June 29, in Gallagher Hall,  
following the 5:00 pm Mass.**

As you know, Father Renier will be going to his next assignment as Pastor at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Rocklin. We wish Father Renier the best, continued guidance from the Holy Spirit and a heartfelt thanks for his service here at St. John the Baptist for the past 5 years.

## July 4th Holiday

Only one Mass will be celebrated. Join us at 10am. The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

## VBS 2024

**"Scuba - Diving into Friendship with God"**

July 29-August 2, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Daily Sign-in: 8:45 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

Location: Gallagher Hall

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th grade

Fee: \$30 per student

Contact: Shannon Langer

slanger@folsomcatholic.org

Registration can be done online. We hope to see you there.

We are also looking for volunteers to prepare and run this amazing weeklong event. We are looking for Middle and HS students to be part of our prep team. Prep dates will be every Tuesday starting June 25, 11-6pm in the Parish Hall.

Registration and more information can be found at [folsomcatholic.org/VBS](http://folsomcatholic.org/VBS).  
Registration is due by July 19.

## Just a Reminder

### Keep Our Church Clean & Silence Your Phone

Please help us keep our church clean. Food and drinks are not allowed in the church. As a courtesy to everyone at Mass, please remember to silence your cell phone.

## Mass Cancellations

The 6:30am weekday Mass is cancelled from May 13 - July 1. Please join us at the 8:15am Mass.

## Eucharistic Revival Concert

**Dave Brubeck's  
PANGE LINGUA VARIATIONS**

July 6, Saturday

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Cost: \$25-\$75

Registration Link

<https://cbssac.ticketspice.com/brubeck>

In 1983 the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento commissioned legendary musician Dave Brubeck to compose a variation of the Thomas Aquinas hymn "Pange Lingua, Gloriosi" ("Sing, My Tongue, the Savior's Glory"). The work beautifully captures the poetic spirit of the original

Gregorian chant infused with Brubeck's signature jazz improvisation and interludes. It was Brubeck's first sacred composition since he had converted to Catholicism. The Dave Brubeck Quartet first performed the work in the Cathedral with orchestra and chorus over two nights in May, 1983 to sell-out audiences.

On Saturday, July 6 Grammy-nominated composer/musician Chris Brubeck, Dan Brubeck (sons of the late maestro), and pianist Joe Gilman will join the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Choir and Orchestra to recreate this beautiful work in the historic and magnificent surroundings of the Cathedral, which celebrates its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Tickets to the concert and an optional wine-and-cheese reception are now on sale!

An optional wine & cheese reception and tours of the Cathedral [\$50 per person] will begin at 6 pm before the 8 pm performance. All proceeds will be used to support the Cathedral's Social Service Ministries.





PRAYER

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, June 30th

7:30am Luisita Sogueco+  
9:00am Joseph & Purificacion Siruno+  
Elsa Lawas+  
11:30am Kristi Rico (birthday)  
Soledad Serrano+  
6:00pm People of the Parish

### Monday, July 1st

8:15am Tinta Thamby  
Teodora Austria+  
Sarah Maya+

### Tuesday, July 2nd

6:30am  
8:15am Yolanda Rodriguez+  
Rochi Cabusas (birthday)

### Wednesday, July 3rd

6:30am  
8:15am Luz Rico (birthday)  
Maddisen Dang (birthday)

### Thursday, July 4th

10:00am Khanh Doan Family

### Friday, July 5th

6:30am Jennifer Pais+  
8:15am Eden Nuval+  
MaryLou Olague+

### Saturday, July 6th

5:00pm Casto Galang (birthday)  
Maureen Bradshaw

## Observances

### We Celebrate This Week

#### Monday

St. Junipero Serra

#### Wednesday

St. Thomas

#### Friday

St. Anthony Zaccaria  
St. Elizabeth of Portugal

#### Saturday

St. Maria Goretti

### June is Dedicated to: The Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Pope Francis'

### Monthly Intention for June

#### For Those Fleeing Their Own Countries

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

## Intercessory Prayers

### Prayers for the Sick

*We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.*

Adaline Dalupan	Luisa Penman
Agnieshka Ossowska	Karen Bookey
Baby Gianna Brooks	Karen Spiess
Barbara Duncan-Noel	Kyle Pasterski
Benedict Doan	Macy Knadle
Charlene Agles	Margaret Vopacke-Reilly
Dave Hodson	Marmo Lil Ocampo
Eberardo Madueno	Matthew Awbrey
Elzira Elfilali	Michael Long
Gloria Marquez	Paul Halloran
Gordon Ferriss	Paulita Narciso
Gretchen V. Reindl	Percy Park
John Leonard	Sally Ann Thomas
John Said	Theresa Martin
Johnny Johnson	Vien Tran
Joseph Giles	Virginia V. Miller
Lilia Tanjoc	

### Prayers for Our Troops

*We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families.*

Andrew Pecha	John Lopez
Brandon Heffel	Joshua Penman
Carl Crossman	Marc Jules Ocampo
David Tressler	Michael Dalupan
Dylan Flynn	Samuel R. Rodriguez

### Prayers for the Recently Deceased

*We pray for the souls of all who have recently died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.*

Allan MacDonnell	Mario Palma
Anastia Umma	Mary Steiner McInnis
Bill Platz	Maureen Bradshaw
Bruce Hamman	Mimi McCall
Candy Jensen	Pat Bagley
Cirilo Garcia, Jr.	Phyllis Batt
Don McGhee	Roger Lopez
Elaine Dougherty	Rory O'Bar
Fe Abano	Rudolfo Guese
Gabriel Morales	Sarah Maya
Jim Reed	Theresa Thomas
Joana Marie Daysor	Timothy J. Andrade
Jonamel Elemينو	
Jose Antonio De la Cruz	

## Prayer Requests

Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. Names will appear for two months. Please visit the parish office for Mass Intentions.

At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
time in conversation with our  
Lord is at the center of  
our lives.



## Adoration

The Adoration Chapel hours are: Mon-Thu 9am - 8pm,  
Sat 9am - 5pm and Sun 7am -11am  
Friday Adoration is in the church: 9am to 7pm

The Adoration Ministry has immediate need for dedicated adorers for these hours listed.  
To sign up please contact Veronica Thomas at [thomas\\_vera@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_vera@yahoo.com)

Monday:	10-11 am	11-12 pm	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm
Tuesday:	9-10 am	12-1 pm	2 - 3 pm	4 - 5 pm		
Wednesday:	12 - 1 pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm		
Thursday:	9 - 10 am	11 - 12 pm	12 - 1 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm	
Friday:	6 - 7 pm					
Saturday:	9 - 10 am	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	12 - 1 pm	1 - 2 pm	2 - 3 pm 3 - 4 pm
Sunday:	8 - 9 am	9 - 10 am	10 - 11 am			

## Respect Life Ministry

Parish contact: Joanne Dudgeon  
916-607-2228

*A Prayer for Life*

*Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.*

*Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.*

*Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen*

If anyone is interested in praying with the Respect Life team at the abortion mill, call Joanne.



*Heavenly Father, you have given us the gifts of life and liberty and entrust to your people the duty to guard these gifts wherever they are threatened.*

*Help us to protect the freedom of all to follow the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ, and to bring his light and truth to the ends of the earth.*

*Guide all who play a role in enacting Legislation to uphold the freedom of conscience of all citizens.*

*Send us your Spirit to inspire in us the wisdom and courage needed to witness to the truth and to stand up for all whose religious liberty is endangered.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our country, pray for us.*

## Companioned Prayer Ministry

**St. John's Prayer Circles**

Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Mondays, 9:45 a.m., Church Chapel

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., Church Nave

Contact: Michelle Hendricks

[mhendricks@CompanionedPrayer.org](mailto:mhendricks@CompanionedPrayer.org)

Companioned Prayer:

A way to listen for God's promptings of your heart

If you are interested in learning more about Companioned Prayer, please contact Michelle. You may also find more information on one of the tables in the narthex of the church.

*"I hope everyone can participate in the Companioned Prayer program. It can change your life."*

*-The late Most Reverend Francis Quinn  
Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento 1979-1993*

## Live the Liturgy

**Inspiration For the Week**

*Talitha koum. Girl, arise! Jesus said this to the dead daughter of the synagogue official, and she obeyed. Listen for his voice when you are weighed down, burdened with doubt or misery, for he says it to you, too. Arise!*



At St. John the Baptist Parish, time in conversation with our Lord is at the center of our lives.



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At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we foster a  
commitment to lifelong  
spiritual growth.

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## Quo Vadis Weekend

Retreat for Boys Ages 13-17

August 2-4, 2024 (Friday-Sunday)

Trinity Pines Catholic Center, Colfax

Cost: \$95

Where Are You Going? Boys ages 13-17 will learn about the Priesthood, Diaconate and Married Life. The retreat will be in-person. There will be time for fellowship, games and prayer about their vocation.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Late Registration is \$100 as of July 19.  
Registration will not be accepted after July 24. Registration:  
[scd.formstack.com/forms/quovadis](http://scd.formstack.com/forms/quovadis)

## Independence Day

Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.



GOD BLESS  
AMERICA!

## (Practicing) Catholic

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### The Touch of Christ

For a long time, I didn't understand why the virtual Masses of the pandemic were so wearisome to me. Theoretically, shouldn't it be a tired mother's dream, fulfilling her Sunday obligation from the couch, not having to worry how much noise the kids are making?

But it wasn't. Seeing Mass without experiencing it left me hungry. It left me starving.

Then a wise priest explained it to me. "Watching virtual Mass is like taking a virtual shower," he said.

Grace might not be something we can see with our eyes, but it is very much something that is transmitted physically. Jesus has a human body for a reason. He needs to touch people.

We see that nowhere more clearly than in this Gospel. The crowds are pressing on him, everyone trying to get close, everyone trying to share his space. The hemorrhaging woman claws her way through, desperate to make physical contact with him, any part of him, even his cloak. The synagogue official begs Jesus to come and "lay hands" on his daughter, knowing that this is the only way for her to survive. He doesn't ask for Jesus' good thoughts or approving gaze. He knows that isn't what he needs.

In the Gospels, Jesus saves people chiefly through his own touch because he wants to show us — you and me, sitting in the pews — something very important about how we are saved.

But where do you and I find the touch of Jesus Christ? Where do you and I find salvation?

It's in the water flowing over the infant's forehead. It's in the Host dissolving on our tongues. It's in the oil that is pressed to the skin of the confirmand, the dying man, and the brand-new priest. It's in the embrace of the newly married couple. It's in the extended hand of the priest as he says, "Your sins are forgiven."

It's still here, two thousand years later. It's still waiting for us to reach out and grasp it.

*"If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."  
— Mark 5:28*



At St. John the Baptist Parish,  
we bring Christ's light to all  
through service to others.

## 2nd Collection

This Sunday is the fifth Sunday of the month. Our second collection is for St. Vincent de Paul. As you may recall, the number of families that we are now serving with food has increased significantly. Thanks to your financial support and food donations, we hope to continue to provide for our families. God bless you and your families.

## SAVE THE DATE

**2024 Knights of Columbus  
Pacific Islander Aloha Festival and  
Scholarship Fundraiser**

August 10, 2024, Saturday  
Gallagher Hall  
5pm to 10:00 pm

Lot's of good Fun, Food, Entertainment,  
Raffles, Silent Auction, Photo Booth.  
We are selling "tickets" starting June 15 & 16  
(every other weekend) through August 3/4.  
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON THE  
DAY OF THE ALOHA FESTIVAL

## Our Sincere Gratitude

Thank you to those who have been so generous to the parish with their contributions. For those of you who are able, please continue supporting our parish financially as generous as you can. You can continue mailing your collection envelopes and for those who are interested in using our online giving, don't hesitate to call Kashmir for help at: (916) 985-2065 ext.17.

Again "Thank You" for your continued support. It is heartwarming to see your support of St. John.



*"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life  
to give us life. Night and day, He is there.*

*If you really want to grow in love, come  
back to the Eucharist, come back to  
that Adoration.*

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta -

## Saint of the Week

### Examples of Our Faith

St. Thérèse  
of Lisieux  
(1873-1897)



was born in France, the youngest of nine children. Her mother died when she was four. Thérèse was described as being sensitive and precocious as a child.

Thérèse experienced a transformative conversion early on when she saw a vision of Mary, Mother of God. She had fallen ill, and the doctors of her time were unable to diagnose or treat her. She experienced fevers, convulsions, and fearful visions. This lasted until, turning her face to the statue of the Blessed Mother near her bedside, she asked Mary to take pity on her. According to her writings, Thérèse said that she experienced a beautiful vision of Mary. In this vision, when Mary smiled upon her, all her pain and illness disappeared. This experience, The Healing of Our Lady of the Smile, contributed to setting Thérèse's heart on pursuing religious life.

When Thérèse was 15, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux, France. She took the name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face and began a life of prayer and intimacy with God. Despite her struggles with depression, she always put her best foot forward. She tragically died of tuberculosis at age 24 but, before her death, she said "My mission — to make God loved — will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Now, she is fondly known as Thérèse the Little Flower of Jesus and roses have become a symbol of her intercession.

During her life, Thérèse wrote several essays cataloguing her pursuit of holiness that were later published under the title "Story of a Soul." These writings earned her the privilege of being the youngest person to ever be designated a Doctor of the Church and continue to be treasured by Catholics world-wide! St. Thérèse, pray for us!



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."



**Mk 5:21-43**

In today's Gospel reading, Jairus asked Jesus to come to his house. The daughter of Jairus was dying, and he knew Jesus could make her well again. While they were walking to his house, she died. Did Jesus give up? No way! Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid, but to keep believing that Jesus could help her. Jesus was even stronger than death. He walked into the house, held her hand, and told her to get up. Jesus admired the faith Jairus had.

 Mission for the Week

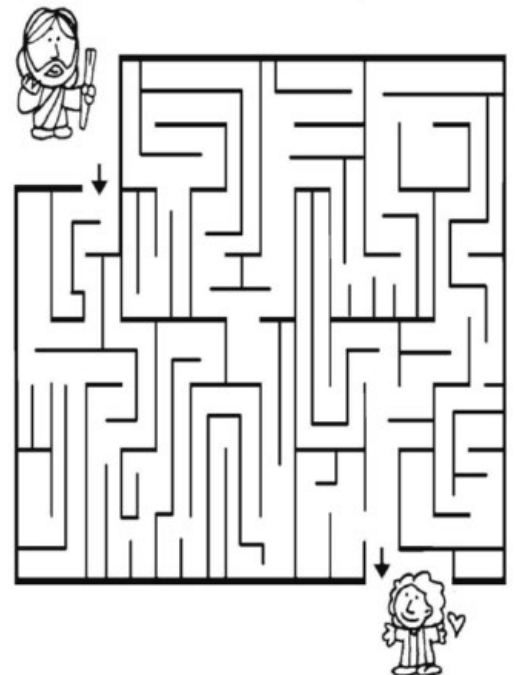
Jairus knew that Jesus could help him. Write down three things that you are afraid of, and ask God to help you.

 Puzzle

Help Jesus get to the sick girl.

 Prayer

Dear God, you are even stronger than death. Help me to have faith in you like Jairus had. Amen.





Our parish is enriched with many ministries, please consider learning about and engaging in one or more of our ministries. Call the contact listed .

## Welcoming Ministries

### New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

### Greeter Ministry

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

### Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

## Prayer Ministries

### Companioned Prayer

Michelle Hendricks,  
mhendricks@companionedprayer.org  
*Wednesdays, 9:30 am -11am, Church Chapel*

### Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241  
-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*  
-*Cenacle* - Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241  
-*Cenacle-Spanish* - Nury Pun, 916-212-7201

### Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas\_vera@yahoo.com  
*Sign Up for adorers is in the vestibule*

### Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests)

-*English* – 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am  
Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411  
-*Spanish* – Every Saturday  
Carmen Gaytan, 916-757-3893

### Our Lady of Fatima

Henry Altamirano, 925-899-7769

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### Adult Scripture Study

Lee & Teresa Weider, 916-398-1116

### Couples for Christ

Myrah Empleo, 661-993-4721

### Faith Untapped

Rachel Marsh, 916-945-6992

### Lay Mission Project

Laura Wicklman, 916-933-8471

### Praise & Worship

David Brauer, dabrauer@hotmail.com

### Religious Education

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

### WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Trista Gooderham, 612-382-7655

### Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

## Parish Committees/Councils

### Finance Council

Patty Robertson, 916-220-3600

### Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

### Pastoral Council

Shannon Frazier, 916-761-2912

## Outreach/Charity Ministries

### Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### Filipino Apostolate

Lili Rehwald, 916-220-2483

### Gabriel Project

Debbie Sultan, 916-337-5786

### Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

### Knights of Columbus

Tom Ireland, 310-347-7180

### Ministerio Pastoral Hispano

Beatriz LeCam, 916-765-3569

### Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday  
Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

### Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 x 4206  
-CSP Sacramento - Greg Mellor,  
Catholic Chaplain, 916-985-8610 x6425

### Respect Life Ministry

Joanne Dudgeon, 916-607-2228

### School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

### Senior Visitation

Charlene Agles, 916-984-9602

### St. Vincent de Paul (311 Montrose Dr.)

Mercy Knight, 916-985-4630

## Liturgical Ministries

### Altar Servers

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

### Children's Liturgy during Mass

Rachel Boyd, 916-296-3712

### Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion

Steve & Mary Anne Ashley, 916-479-2214

### Lectors

Patti Midtlyng, 916-837-8322

### Liturgical Environment

Arlette Peterson, 916-220-5968

### Music - See choir director after Mass.

## Additional Ministries

### Children's Babysitting at Mass

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

### Family Fellowship

Rachel Marsh, 916-945-6992

### Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-337-3607

### Security Ministry

Jim Miller, 916-220-4311

### Women's Game Day

*Every Wednesday, Garden Room, 11am - 4:30pm.*  
Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

# MINISTRIES

"Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will."

## Why Do We Do That—Catholic Life Explained

### Face-to-Face Confession

*In today's digital world, do we really need to be face-to-face with a priest to confess our sins?  
Would Facetime or Zoom ever be allowed?*



The question of whether or not Catholics can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation virtually (via social media, by phone, or in some other way) is a question that has actually been around for several years. The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought the question back in a new way, especially as many parishes were forced to introduce a sort of “social distanced” confession, with the sacrament being celebrated outdoors.

In reflecting on this question, however, there are a couple points that we want to keep in mind. First, as the Code of Canon Law observes in different places, the faithful have a right to the sacraments of the Church and the Church’s ministers have a responsibility to make them accessible. At the same time, however, we always have to be sure that we respect the nature of the sacraments themselves.

Although modern forms of technology and communication can help us in our work of evangelization catechesis, the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has reminded us that, “Virtual reality is no substitute for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the sacramental reality of the other sacraments, and shared worship in a flesh and blood human community. There are no sacraments on the internet” (The Church and the Internet, no. 9). Although our encounters with others on the internet and via social media can be considered “real” in one sense, in the sacraments we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. It is never just a private experience but is always grounded in the life of the Church and this means that it must truly be personal, including the contact between the confessor and the penitent. While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in mind the fullness of the Church’s tradition and the meaning of the sacraments.

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