Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

Our Gospel passage today is placed near the beginning of John’s Gospel. Many think that this passage would fit better slightly earlier when John was arrested, tortured, and crucified. John saw this episode as key to making clear what was so very important to Jesus. As is typical for John, some words can refer to several important factors.

His reference to “Passover” would be a good example. The word refers to the time when the chosen people of God were released from their slavery in Egypt and passed over to freedom where they could allow God to develop a more personal relationship with them.

The word also refers to the mission of Jesus. He was sent by the Father to renew the Jewish faith and have the Jewish people pass over from a faith that would be led by the one who showed respect to the Temple to one led by the God of love that He revealed. Jesus cleverly balanced. Jesus is letting the people know that He realized even more that God desired and Jesus made clear was that God wanted hearts open to Christ and that God the love of God could release people from the slavery of their sins.

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Passover is a symbol of freedom and liberation from slavery. It is a time when the Jewish people celebrate God’s deliverance from their oppressors in Egypt. In the Gospel passage, Jesus is using Passover as a metaphor for his own mission to free people from their spiritual bondage.

Jesus’ reference to “Temple” totally throws the Jews off guard. The word also refers to the mission of Jesus. He was sent by the Father to renew the Jewish faith and have the Jewish people pass over from a faith that would be led by the one who showed respect to the Temple to one led by the God of love that He revealed. Jesus cleverly balanced. Jesus is letting the people know that He realized even more that God desired and Jesus made clear was that God wanted hearts open to Christ and that God the love of God could release people from the slavery of their sins.

Some of us were instructed to believe that the penance given us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation was meant to have us atone for our sins, as if we could earn God’s forgiveness or pay back God for that forgiveness. God wants us to accept that mercy, compassion and forgiveness are gifts freely given and that the only fitting response to those gifts is an attitude of gratitude which leads us to forgive ourselves so that we in turn know how to forgive one another.

When Jesus refers to what He encountered in the marketplace, we can only imagine the kind of chaos and noise that was evident. Through all of the babbling, theabay, and the noises of the animals and birds, how likely would it be that people would or could focus on the atmosphere to reflect quietly on God’s love dwelling within us and embracing us as God’s precious and beloved people.

Jesus’ use of the word “Temple” totally threw the Jews off balance. Jesus is letting the people know that He realized even more that God desired and Jesus made clear was that God wanted hearts open to Christ and that God the love of God could release people from the slavery of their sins. We are likewise called to let the love of God release us from whatever interferes with our relationship with God and our ability to support one another in love.

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Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC, and help Jesus in disguise. Special envelopes are available in the Vestibule. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Please pray for those who are sick, in pain or recovery, or in need of spiritual healing. (Names will appear for 3 weeks.)

Sheldon Anderson Jr
Glen Mueller
Alex Quiraz
Rosa Santos
Joe Foure
Gerry Ryden
Dick Armstrong
Judy Smoot
Shirley Newton
Sandy Harris
Andy Sigler
Del Schweiger
Ben De Quiraz
Myron Howe
Bill Amantea
Linda Aiello
Maggie Ward
Dorothy Dorn
Lucia Bravo
Lisa Reilly
Hannah O’Connor
Eleanor Peterson
Jacobo Olson
Dave Greiner
Jean Dean
Madeleine Crepin
McKenzie Ballentine
Pat Atoeh-Hamilton
John Ward
Stephanie Hamer
Minerva Harrissel
Carol Graber

Please pray for the souls of those who have died:

Sylvia Jenson
Lucia Bravo
Sylvia Jenson
Alex Quiraz
Rosa Santos
Joe Foure
Gerry Ryden
Dick Armstrong
Judy Smoot
Shirley Newton
Sandy Harris
Andy Sigler
Del Schweiger
Ben De Quiraz
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Thursday Night Location Changes!

This Thursday, March 8th, 6:30pm Mass will be in the St. Cecilia Room. The Community Meal will be in the Vestibule from 6:00pm-6:45pm. These changes are temporary.

FR. JEFF WOCKEN, S.D.S. ELECTED PROVINCIAL

This past week representatives for the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers in the United States met. One important piece of business was selecting the top officer for the Salvatorian men in this country. Fr. Jeff served our parish as associate pastor from July 2000 until June 2006. Mary will remember him for a variety of talents including his using his guitar and singing as part of his homilies. He is also quite accomplished with the flute among many other outstanding talents. Please pray for this newest ministry of his that will begin in July of this year.

Moving On Fellowship

Meets on the 1st Monday each month. Our next meeting is March 5th at 10:30am. Join us for a no-host brunch at Annie’s Restaurant on the corner of Beech & Greenback. We are an informal group of Divine Savior widows and widowers who try to offer support, encouragement, prayer and practical help to the bereaved, so they might “move on” in discovering a meaningful life after the death of a loved one. For more information call Pat Biasotti, 530-307-2147

Our Young Adult Ministry has been reignited!
The name is LUX which is Latin for Light and their goal is to provide a safe community for young Catholic adults where they learn to live as Christ lived and live to show the loving light of Christ to others. Join us THIS WEDNESDAY, March 7th from 7pm – 9pm in Y1. We will meet every Wednesday from 7pm - 9pm in Y1. Daniel Ardoin is the contact and coordinator of the new ministry and if any questions come in, he can be reached at (916) 844-6642 or email him at lux@divinesavior.com.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

We take communion to those who cannot come to Mass for a period of time. If you think you might be interested in this ministry, you may contact Mary at mrhmaryk@outlook.com for information.

FRIDAY FISH – DOES IT MATTER WHAT I BUY?

Did you know that your tuna and fish patties might be from the labor of enslaved fishermen? Please join us at one of two sessions to find out how the seafood purchases we make contribute to human trafficking, and where we can buy fish that is from healthy sources that DON’T support slave labor or negative environmental impact.

Monday, March 5th: 9:30-10:45am in Room Y3 OR 7:00-8:30pm in Room Y1

Around the Diocese

“Catholic Viewpoint, Faith, Hope and Love” is now available each week on Sacramento Faith TV Comcast Channel 20, Consolidated Channel 19, and AT&T Channel 14, at 7:00am Sunday, 9:30am Tuesday, 8:30pm Wednesday and 5:00pm Thursday. It evolved after Sacramento Faith TV requested Father Kiernan do something on Catholicism for their station. The show covers many topics in the Catholic Faith, with appreciation for other beliefs. Guests share their faith and view of life in half hour interviews. You can find the show any time on YouTube. You simply type in “Catholic Viewpoint, Faith Hope and Love”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| Monday | 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30 |
| Tuesday | Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35 |
| Wednesday | Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19 |
| Thursday | Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23 |
| Friday | Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:26-34 |
| Saturday | Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14 |
| Sunday | 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 |

Alternate readings (Year A):

- 1 Sm 16:1b, 6
- 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6
- Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21
- Alternate readings (Year A):
  - 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6
  - Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Faith/News Update

Is God calling you?
Interested in becoming a Catholic?
Have you been coming here and want to know more about the Catholic faith? Never been baptized? Want to make your First Confirmation? Contact Sharon at the parish office, 989-7400 or sharon@divinesavior.com. She will explain the process called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), which provides a safe place for you to explore your spiritual desires using the scriptures and receiving support and guidance from the parish community.

Vocations Cross

Saturday, March 3rd at the 4:30pm Mass, Martha Luke will take home the Vocations Cross for two weeks to pray daily for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.

Pray the Rosary

Lent is a great time to develop a deeper life of prayer. Praying the rosary is a wonderful opportunity to grow in prayer and fellowship with others. We pray the rosary together following our daily morning Masses. Come join us after the 8:30am Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday night at 7:00pm and every Sunday following the 745am Mass.

Friday Lenten Stations

Please join us every Friday during Lent
For stations and soup & bread supper following.
6:30 pm each Friday
In the Church

March 9 Hosted by: Rosary Group
March 16 Hosted by: Our Lady of Guadalupe
March 23 Hosted by: Community Meal Ministry