

Dear Parishioners,

Today is holy to your Lord your God. (Nehemiah 8:9)

In today's first reading, the Israelites were reaffirming their covenant with the Lord as they listened to Ezra the priest reading and interpreting the Scriptures. Having had their city overrun, having been sent into exile, and now having returned as a ragtag group to try to rebuild their lives, the people had endured one humiliating event after the other. But now, they saw a light at the end of the tunnel. They were beginning to come together again.

Ezra gave the people three short messages. First, he told them, "Today is holy to your Lord." Then, he urged them to celebrate their deliverance with "rich foods" and "drink." Then, he told them, "Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:9-10).

This reading also describes the people's response. They gathered for the entire morning, from daybreak until midday, to pray. And their prayer was one of full involvement: They listened "attentively." They stood up, raised their hands, bowed down in worship, and cried out, "Amen, amen" (Nehemiah 8:3, 6).

Now, let's shift our minds to today. Each Sunday, we come to Mass to celebrate what God has done for us. As the day of the resurrection, every Sunday is holy. Like the Israelites, we celebrate our deliverance from death. And like them, we look forward to our final homecoming—heaven. We have much to celebrate!

So let's be sure to come to Mass today ready to express our gratitude for Jesus' cross and to rejoice in our freedom.

But there is more. If you come with a listening heart, the word of God will come to life for you. Jesus' sacramental presence will fill your heart with his love and his grace to live a holy life. If you come with the right disposition, as the Israelites did, God will surely fill you up!

**"Thank you, Jesus, for your deliverance! Lord,
I believe in you and celebrate your love today."**

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator



WEEKLY OFFERING

January 17, 2016

\$5,929.45 Tithe and Offering
214.00 Building Fund
300.00 "We Care"

STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHT

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..."

(NEHEMIAH 8:10)

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life, he wants us to be happy! However, He expects us to generously share our blessings with those who are in need, without expecting anything in return.

Sacred Heart Retreat

Let 2016 be your year to take care of the Spiritual You! Ladies, it's almost time again for the spiritually rejuvenating retreat at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra. From Friday, April 8th until Sunday, April 10th you can come one or all three days to enjoy a little quiet time for yourself. For more information and/or to reserve your space, reach out to Evelyn Payne at 323.291.8325 or Sonya Robertson at 323.291.4846. We'd love to have you with us.

2015 Tax Statement!

Tax letters will be mailed by the end of January. If you do not receive a statement please contact Jo Ann Levi in the rectory. This is also a good time to make sure that you are registered in the parish. Only registered parishioners who are contributors will receive a tax letter.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Neh 8:2-10, Ps 19:8-15, Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday	Acts 22:3-16, Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday	2 Tm 1:1-8, Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	2 Sm 7:4-17, Mk 4:1-20
Thursday	2 Sm 7:18-29, Mk 4:21-25
Friday	2 Sm 11:1-17, Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	2 Sm 12:1-17, Mk 4:35-41
Sunday	Jer 1:4-19, Ps 71:1-17, Lk 4:21-30

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 30

5:15 PM Soul of Barbara Starks

Sunday January 31

8:00 AM Soul of Harold Goosby

10:00 AM Intention of Mr. Viagappan (father of Fr. Bernard)

12:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

DID YOU KNOW?

How do parents handle an admission of abuse?

No parent wants their children to suffer from abuse of any kind. However, if a child discloses any instance of abuse, how you handle this information is critical to their well-being. One of the most important things you can do when a child discloses their abuse is not over react, despite the strong and often overwhelming emotions of anger that you are experiencing at that moment. Be certain that you show the child great love and concern through calm, reflective words of understanding and compassion. For a copy of the Virtus® article "After Abuse is Disclosed" and more tips on how to handle abuse disclosures email jvienna@la-archdiocese.org.

RCIA Come, learn or renew your Catholic faith...

Tuesday, February 2 "Explanation of the Mass and Holy Eucharist", by Fr. Allan Roberts and Tuesday, February 16 "Sacraments of Holy Orders & Marriage" at Holy Name of Jesus (Acacia Center), 1955 W. Jefferson in Los Angeles from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM.

MARDI GRAS PARTY 2016

St. Jerome School invites you to a Mardi Gras Party on Saturday, January 30th from 7PM to Midnight. Live Entertainment by T-Lou and His Zydeco Band. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 at the door. Food included with ticket. For more information call Gloria Bijole at 310.465.8874.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please join us for a Buffet Dinner at our Anniversary Celebration of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Transfiguration Council and Court 220 at the Brownstone Bistro Restaurant on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person. We will be honoring our Charter member *Sir Knight Gregory Warner, Sr. and Lady Gerri Richardson*. Call Lady Gloria Wilkerson at 323.778.2243 or Brother Knight Leonard Anebere at 213.842.4807 for more information.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

High School or College Student Preferred...

The church office is in need of a volunteer. Please call Jo Ann Levi at 323.291.1136 for more details.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

February 25-28, 2016

Anaheim Convention Center

800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92802

This year theme is: Boundless Mercy

To register please see Ms. Refugio Godinez
or call the rectory at 323.291.1136.

ATTENTION

Please **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** allowed in church.
Thanks for your cooperation.



HOLY YEAR OF

Mercy

Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Daniel Boone, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Harry Charles, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Nigel Dunn, Betty Eason, Connie Farlice, Dwight Fauria, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Sister Mary Michaeline Gahwolf, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Millard Goode, Jr., Nancy Goosby, Mary Hall, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Mary Jené, Aaron Jittu, Joan Johnson, Robert Jordan, Briana Katz, Walita Keyes, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vydred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Dottie Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Reanna Semien, George Simon, Sr., Jeremiah Skyes, Lionel Smith, Sr., Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Alice Tenette, Tinkerbell, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Patricia Williams, Peggy Wright and Ralph Wright.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Year of Mercy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its Anointing, so the Jubilee of Mercy may be a Year of Grace from the Lord, and your church.

With renewed enthusiasm, may we bring your good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit
For ever and ever.

Amen.