

March 03, 2024 - Third Sunday of Lent

I, the Lord, am your God . . . You shall not have other gods besides me. \sim Exodus 20:2a, 3

St. Patrick Catholic Church

San Francisco's Historic Landmark #4 Founded in 1851

756 Mission St. (between 3rd and 4th Streets)
San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel (415) 421-3730 ~ Fax (415) 512-9730
www.stpatricksf.org

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Roberto "Fr. Obet" A. Andrey - *Pastor* Fr. Ted (Teodoro) Magpayo - *Parochial Vicar* Deacon Ferdinand Mariano - *RCIA Coordinator*

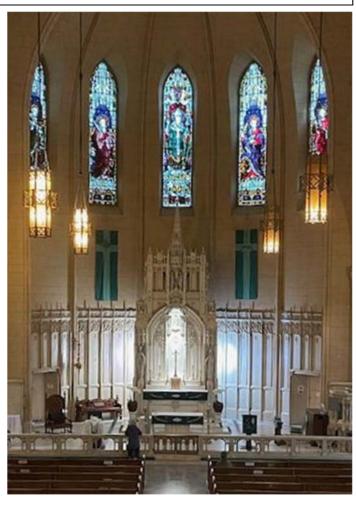
Rachelle Morales and Nenette Murata - Religious Education Coordinators

Charles Corpus - Music Coordinator Virginia Dilim - Wedding Coordinator Nora Regaspi - Office Manager Camelle Sudario - Parish Receptionist Emy Pasion - Bookkeeper

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Saturday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m 5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Tagalog Mass: 1st Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Family Mass: 2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Charismatic & Healing Mass: 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m.



March 03, 2024 Third Sunday of Lent ~ Year B

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3,7-8,12-17; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:2-25; Jn 2:13-25

The law liberates and leads us to freedom (1). It is to be trusted for it is a source of wisdom (Ps). Jesus speaks of the ultimate freedom to be won for us by his being raised up (3). He is the sign of the power and wisdom of God (2).

Third Sunday of Lent

Today is the third Sunday of our Lenten preparation. Today's readings begin with a listing of the simple, straightforward rules in Exodus. However, in First Corinthians, we see that our faith is anything but simple rules. Our faith is in the spirit of a crucified Christ, a God whose foolishness is wiser than our wisdom, whose weakness is stronger than our strength. John's Gospel does nothing to help reconcile these seemingly irreconcilable expressions of faith. Jesus sees people conducting business outside the temple and reacts violently. Jesus' anger at the disrespect shown by following the letter but not the spirit of the Law is palpable. Jesus is the Spirit of the Law. It is Jesus, the Crucified, to whom we look for our faith.

Live By the Rules

Life might be easier if there were just a list of rules that we could follow. There is such a list in Exodus. Rules offer the false sense of security that if we follow them then we will have done enough. Our Christian faith, however, is rooted not in rules, but in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection defy all the rules. Jesus knew that strength is born of weakness and wisdom born of foolishness. Jesus' life embodies that paradox. What Jesus knew when he went up to Jerusalem and entered the temple area was that his Father's house had been made a marketplace, a place of commerce, transactions, and exchange of goods for money. What the temple represents, who Jesus is, is a relationship, an ongoing relationship of one soul to another, of our souls to God.

Rise in Relationship

Rules are the most basic and primitive way to shape our behavior in accordance with larger principles and truths that go beyond rules. The rule says "You shall not kill," but the truth is that all life is sacred and must be protected and safeguarded. The rule is the least you can do. Jesus lived as if he were required to do not the least but the most. He lived as if he must not just protect and safeguard the lives before him. He lived as if he must sacrifice his own life for the lives of others. Jesus understood that the rules were not just about avoiding certain acts but were also about embracing certain truths. Not only must one not kill, one must have the strength to give one's own life for others if that is required. One must not lie but must speak the truth even when to do so seems foolish. These rules outline for us the beginning of our understanding of strength born of weakness, wisdom born of foolishness. Jesus shows us how much is really required.

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Be on Time For Mass Next Week!!



Daylight Saving Time begins *next* weekend. Don't forget to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before you go to sleep on March 9th so you won't miss your appointments next Sunday.

Lenten Recollection

Everyone is invited to our Lenten Recollection on Saturday, March 9th from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the church followed by Mass at 12:10 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Everyone is encouraged to join the communal praying of the Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 12:10 p.m. Mass during Lent. Stations of the Cross prayer books are available in the gift shop for a small fee. The Santo Niño Novena, normally prayed on Fridays, will not be prayed in lieu of the Stations of the Cross.



Novena to St. Patrick

We will pray the Novena to St. Patrick 15 minutes before every Mass from Friday, March 8th through Saturday, March 16th. Join us as we celebrate the Patron Saint of our parish as well as the Principal Co-Patron of our City and Archdiocese.

Wonder

People go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains . . . and they pass by themselves without wondering.

~ St. Augustine

Third Sunday of Lent March 03, 2024

I, the LORD, am your God . . . You shall not have other gods besides me.

~ Exodus 20:2a, 3

Happy Birthday!!

Happy Birthday to our Parishioners born this week and last.

Apologies for missing last week's celebrants.

Frank Mabry	02/25	Derek Edward Dispo	03/04
Elizabeth Wolf	02/25	Ganni Von Vergara	03/04
Maria Guadalupe Rosales	02/26	Geralyn Yparraguirre	03/04
Thelma Dancel	02/27	Aliw Bandelaria	03/05
Philo Naveena	02/27	Jenrick Maeko Jennings	03/05
Joseph Montano	02/28	Coleta Aviso	03/06
Juancarlos Plascencia	02/29	Maya Masangcay	03/06
Holly Julian	03/01	Precious Listana	03/07
Aleah Raymundo	03/01	Manuel Masangcay	03/07
Micaila Tan	03/02	Juanita Abello	03/08
Ricardo Vergara	03/02	Ian Cabungcal	03/09

Please Pray for our Holy Father's Intention for March



<u>Pope's Intention</u>: For the new martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

St. Patrick Church Lifetime Donors

You can still make a donation by going to our parish website: www.stpatricksf.org. On our homepage scroll down and click Online Giving. Create an account if you don't have one. Once you have created an account, please choose the Lifetime Donor option. We are asking a Lifetime Donor to donate a minimum of \$20 a week or \$80 a month. Your privacy and financial information are safe with us. And we recommend that you use your credit card for an easier and faster transaction.

Thank you for your generosity and support.
For more information,
email us at *information@stpatricksf.org*or call us at 415-421-3730

We have 89 Lifetime Donors as of 11 Jan 2024

In Memory of Nicomedes & Juanita Abello Eleanor Lawsin

Felicitas Locsin Marilou Alegre Corazon M. Ambata Merly Lorete Roberto Andrey Fe Macatangay Ben Jacob Banatao Beltran C. Marces Joy, Jen & Jackie Bandelaria Corazon Mariano Valente Banez Loren Masangcay Eufemia Barcelona Evelyn Mendoza Evelyn Bird Rachelle Morales Maria Bravo Jeff & Nenette Murata Mercedita Cadiz Norman & Lily Nangca

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Manolito & Dulce Jaldon Vida Ventura
Georgina Jose Josephine Villa

Kaiser Permanentesf, 4Center & Oncology Edwin, Rosalie, Krista, Ezra & Juliana

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 Judy Neri Labaria
 Claudine Yu

 Tita Labaria
 Charlie A. Yparraguirre

Dan And Annie Lacap

Relevant Radio

Tune your radio to 1260 AM or 101.7 FM for 24-hour broadcasts concerning Catholic teachings and prayers.

Saints & Special Observances

Monday: optional memorial ~ St. Casimir Thursday: optional memorial ~

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs Friday: optional memorial ~ St. John of God, Religious Saturday: optional memorial ~ St. Frances of Rome, Religious SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30 Tuesday: Dn 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-35 Wednesday: Dt 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23 Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Today's Readings

First Reading — God gives the law through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or Exodus 17:3-7. **Psalm** — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or Psalm 95.

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) *or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

Gospel — Many began to believe in Jesus' name when they saw the signs he was doing (John 2:13-25) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Looking for Lay Ministers

The proclamation of the Word of God at Masses and other Liturgies is one of the sources of faith, wisdom and understanding God and Jesus have given to the Church. Because of its importance, the Church takes great care in ensuring that the Spoken Word is proclaimed with dignity and reverence. As a parish, we try our very best to fulfill these expectations.

The source and summit of our life as a people of God are the gifts of Christ's Body and Blood, the Eucharist, and the community gathered to share in this Eucharist. Over time, the Church has seen the need for Lay Faithful to assist with the distribution of Communion at Masses and other Liturgies. As well, Eucharistic Ministers assist the parish by bringing Communion to people who are unable to attend Mass.

If you're looking for a way to serve your parish, or if you've ever wanted to be a lay minister and serve during Mass, now is your chance. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Mission Doctors Association 2024 West Coast Retreat/Seminar

Mission Doctors Association will offer the 2024 West Coast Retreat/Seminar on March 8-10, 2024 for Catholic Doctors, Dentists, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants considering short-term mission service. This will be held at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. This weekend is offered free of charge to those considering serving at a Mission Hospital or Clinic in Africa or Latin America.

Visit the website: www.MissionDoctors.org or Call the office for more information (213) 368-1872.

LEGION OF MARY - ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Contact Person – Cathy Bohol – (415) 760-1966 Margarita Galindo – (415) 283-9945, Parish Office – (415) 421-373 JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL **PRAESIDIUM**

Meeting - Sundays at 11:30 am in Bitanga Hall



The Legion Family Worldwide On all continents In over 170 countries 4 million active members 5 million auxiliary members



The Founder Frank Duff 1889 - 1980

Legion of Mary's History

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on the 7th of September in 1921.

It is a lay Catholic organization giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in

almost every country.

Legion of Mary's Aim

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members

developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's works.

Legion of Mary's Unit

The unit of a Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussions. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a praesidium.

Legion of Mary's Active Works

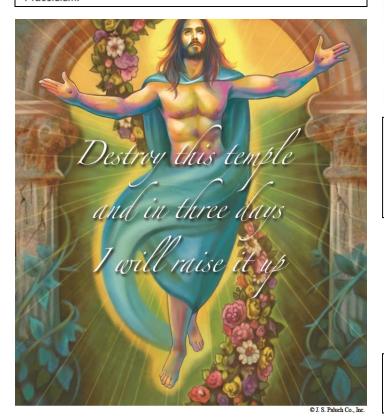
The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of everyone. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in homes

and hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolate and missionary undertakings

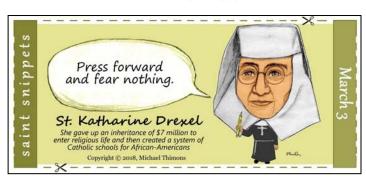
sponsored by the parish. The works are more of spiritual works of mercy.

Legion of Mary's Active Membership

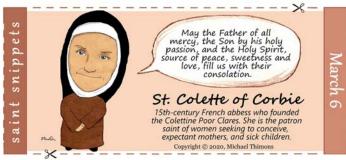
This membership is open to all faithfully practicing Catholics. Members attend weekly meetings and engage in prayers and active works. Candidates under 18 years of age can be received in a Junior Praesidium.



Letters from Heaven Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares. Jesus went up to Jerusalem. from the NAB @ 2010, 1991, 1970, CCD He made a whip out of cords and drove the money-changers out ... EAER HT Е Е F M



Answer: our of the tempte



Living Stewardship Now

If you have medical experience, try volunteering in a parish or community clinic that serves the poor. If you speak a second language, share your time with new immigrants, teaching them English or helping them to adjust to life in this country.

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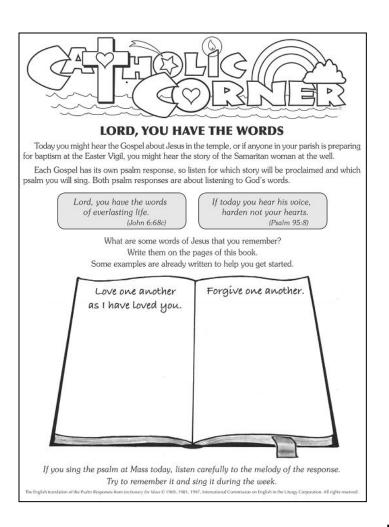
Living God's Word

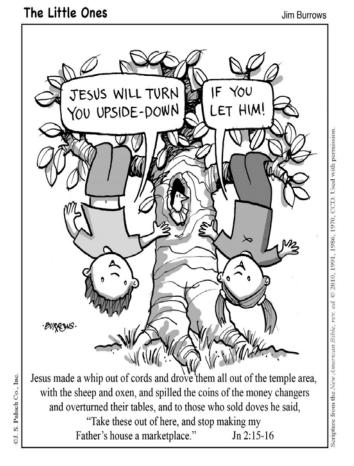
As much as we may want the temples of our lives cleared, we also *like* much of what takes up our lives. Still, God does come and does clear our temples in unsuspecting ways. Children grow up; friendships melt into memories. What is God asking us to clear away today?

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Reminders

People more frequently require to be reminded than informed. ~ Samuel Johnson









"Why go to confession again & again for a recurring sin? 'Cause God picks you up as often as you do your child."

Total Allegiance

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenantas a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easteroccupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God's protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

Treasures From Our Tradition

On this Sunday, our attention is drawn to an enriched diet of scripture readings in the liturgy's three-year cycle. Forty years ago, there was merely one set of readings for Sunday: two readings only, an Epistle, and a Gospel. Each Sunday of the year had two readings, and they never varied from year to year. In the late 1960s, we received an enriched book of readings (a lectionary) keyed to a course of readings over three years, named A, B, and C. The architects of this new plan realized that in Jesus' time, it took three years to read through the Law and the Prophets completely in synagogue worship. With the renewed liturgy, our worship has embraced this same rhythm that Jesus experienced in public prayer.

This year we are using the readings from Year B. The readings for Year A, however, are closely attuned to the Church's work of preparing to celebrate baptism at Easter. When the worship assembly includes people in the final stages of preparation, the Year B readings will often be set aside in favor of the readings from Year A, which this week include the story of the woman at the well. She is a fitting companion for those thirsting for living water.

 \sim Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Reflecting on God's Word

All of us wish we could be holy, we say, if only Jesus would come and do to the temple of our faith what he did to the temple of Israel's faith: cast out what doesn't belong, because we don't seem to be able to do it for ourselves, at least not with much effectiveness. We try to pray and find ourselves daydreaming about what to make for supper, about the latest family argument, about the meeting we're going to attend, about where we're going to spend our money.

We try to simplify, but we also like our lives the way they are. We like the cut of style, the thick of our lawn, the escape of vacation, the high from shopping or chocolate or daytime soaps or whatever catches our fancy. We wish we would love better, care better, have more compassion or patience, be more generous, but original sin always gets in the way—only we don't call it original sin. We say we don't have willpower or the energy. So what are we to do? John's Gospel promises that God will come and drive such stuff from our lives. In fact, the promise is that God will do it whether we wish God to or not, which is probably a good move on God's part simply because most of us are a bit fearful of what God may clear away.

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Forgiveness

If a bad person wrongs you, forgive the person, lest there be two bad people.

~ Anonymous

The Art of Listening



As we are now well into Lent, we can take a look at what it means to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. A good place to start would be the Ten Commandments. The reading from Exodus presents us with one of the first listings of the Commandments. In this passage, God explains some of the laws to show how serious they are. For the first one, God includes making images to be used for worship. Now you might jump to the conclusion that all the statues and crucifixes in our churches must be destroyed. Not so.

In the days of Moses, people of other cultures made images of their gods and declared that the image was the god, and so should be worshipped. The Lord wanted his people to remember that God cannot be limited to an image or idea. That is still true today. Our images and statues are meant to help us pray to God, not to that work of art. In that sense, they are no worse than using a beautiful sunset or mountain scene to help you pray.

On the other hand, some people give a superstitious meaning to religious articles. Burying a statue to help sell your house could be one example. If you want to ask for a favor from God, just ask Him. God is much more likely to listen to a sincere prayer than a superstitious action.

The reason God gives for the first commandment is that he is a passionate God, who has chosen the Israelites to be his people. When he punishes sin, he allows the effect of our bad choices to hurt us and those around us. But when we repent and change our ways, his love is everlasting.

God also emphasizes some commands by duplicating them. He tells us not to steal from others, and also not to plan to steal from our neighbor. The same with adultery: Planning it is just as bad as doing it. Taking his name in vain originally meant perjuring yourself after taking an oath to tell the truth. That is similar to the eighth commandment about false witness.

Jesus simplified all these commands when he reminds us to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Let's remember that as we turn away from sin to serving God better during Lent.

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Feast of Faith Postures of the Mass

In the Mass, we pray not only with our lips, but with our bodies as well. We stand when the ministers enter. In Western culture, standing is a sign of attention, a mark of respect: all stand when the judge enters the courtroom, for example. Standing is also an ancient posture of prayer, mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. When the readings begin, we sit down: a listening posture. Mary sat at Jesus' feet to listen to his teaching; the crowds sat on the hillside or the seashore to hear his words. Kneeling is another posture that is full of meaning. It expresses adoration and worship, but it can also express humility and contrition. We bow: a sign of honor and reverence, acknowledging the presence of God, especially when we receive the Eucharist. And there are other ritual gestures as wellstriking the breast, genuflecting, and of course making the sign of the cross. The liturgy invites us to pray with our whole person—with heart and mind, voice and body.

~ Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Keep Holy the Sabbath

There's no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments. The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

If we take this commandment literally, babies will go undiapered and dishes will stay on the table, or perhaps meals will not be served. The sick will go unattended and nothing that has anything to do with physical labor will be done. Is mental labor really work? How about changing that dirty diaper (poor baby!)?

We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love, and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: "The law of the LORD is perfect, / refreshing the soul" (19:8). Our Sabbath rest is a great gift, to be received from God with joy, not with nitpicking.

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Treasures From Our Tradition

If your parish is reading from Year B of the Lectionary today, and not Year A, as is normally done when there are elect present for the scrutinies and preparing for Easter baptism, you hear about Jesus driving the money-changers from the temple. If you wished to get as close as possible to this site today, you would in fact be at a Muslim shrine, the Dome of the Rock, built on the ruins of Herod's temple. Archeologists believe that this striking, gold-domed crown of a shrine is set precisely where the Holy of Holies once was. Jews believe that the rock is the exact spot where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac. It is not a mosque, as some think, but a shrine, the oldest one in the Muslim world. For them, the rock is the place from which the Prophet Mohammed ascended on a visit to heaven. The Crusaders mistook the shrine for the actual Temple of Solomon, and the infamous Knights Templar used it as their headquarters and model for their churches elsewhere. The geometric perfection of the shrine is a mathematician's dream. The inscriptions are not exactly hospitable though, since they encourage Christians to "depart from error" and declare that "Jesus son of Mary was only a messenger of God." In ancient times, those who prayed here after walking around the rock were given a certificate entitling the bearer to admission to paradise. The ticket had to be buried with them.

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The Path to Freedom

Most of us, if we were asked "Does the phrase 'the Ten Commandments' appear in the Bible?" would likely get it wrong, because the answer is "no." "The Ten Commandments" is a post-biblical, phrase that developed along with an image of God as police officer that is not found in today's passage from Exodus. The first phrase is the key: God is the one who brings us out of slavery; following God's law or commands is our path to freedom. The moneychangers whom Jesus drove from the temple were not explicitly breaking any of the commandments, but neither were they helping people to find God's path to freedom as they came to worship at the temple. This is an important Lenten lesson for us. We need to stop asking ourselves whether or not we are breaking specific rules or regulations and instead examine our lives to see if we are truly following a path to God's freedom through Christ.

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Reflecting on God's Word

All of us wish we could be holy, we say, if only Jesus would come and do to the temple of our faith what he did to the temple of Israel's faith: cast out what doesn't belong, because we don't seem to be able to do it for ourselves, at least not with much effectiveness. We try to pray and find ourselves daydreaming about what to make for supper, about the latest family argument, about the meeting we're going to attend, about where we're going to spend our money.

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Third Sunday of Lent

There's no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments (not the movie, the book.) The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

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God's Ways

In one of the tersest and most poetic passages in the letter to the Corinthians, Paul announces that "we proclaim Christ crucified . . . [for] to those who are called . . . Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23, 24). God's ways seem unreasonable to those who want a false god of worldly values. But Christ, in his crucifixion, confounds the reasoning of the power-hungry and the know-it-alls alike.

In a stunning denunciation of their denseness, today Jesus upsets their applecarts both literally and figuratively. In his reverence for God's house, he lets them know in no uncertain terms that what they are doing is vulgar and insulting to God. Then he tries to open their feeble minds with the insight into God's power and wisdom that is the cross. To them it looks like weakness and foolishness. But Jesus' self-giving sacrifice is exactly what completes the covenant for which the temple stands. The new Temple is Christ's own body and blood.

Wiser Than Our Wisdom

Today, it is easy to read this story literally and condemn the foolishness of those depicted. But when we are in fear, do we react with the love of God for those whom we fear, or do we succumb to the temptation of violence and power? When confronted with those with whom we disagree, do we label them as "bad guys" to justify any evil we find it expedient to wreak on them in the name of our "rights"? To be honest, we must admit that we all have trouble seeing God's truth in this story as it applies to our own lives.

If we only see literally, we will never understand what God is saying to us. We need to listen with different ears to the wisdom of God and to see with new eyes the power of God, which will seem to us, even in our day, to be foolishness and weakness. We still wrestle with the same desire for worldly power and wisdom as our forebears. Can we sit still this Sabbath day and let Christ fill us with God's power and wisdom?

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God's Word Today

"We proclaim Christ crucified." Saint Paul's words come to us on this, the mid-point of our Lenten journey. As we listen to the challenging words of today's scriptures, let us remember that it is the cross of Christ that reveals the central truth of Christian faith. For on that cross, the Lord took upon himself the sins of all—took on every breach of God's commandments—and won salvation for those who would turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel.

From Saint Margaret Sunday Missal, copyright © J. S. Paluch Company

Third Sunday of Lent

As we are now well into Lent, we can take a look at what it means to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. A good place to start would be the Ten Commandments. The reading from Exodus presents us with one of the first listings of the Commandments. In this passage, God explains some of the laws to show how serious they are. For the first one, God includes making images to be used for worship. Now you might jump to the conclusion that all the statues and crucifixes in our churches must be destroyed. Not so.

In the days of Moses, people of other cultures made images of their gods and declared that the image was the god, and so should be worshipped. The LORD wanted his people to remember that God cannot be limited to an image or idea. That is still true today. Our images and statues are meant to help us pray to God, not to that work of art. In that sense, they are no worse than using a beautiful sunset or mountain scene to help you pray.

On the other hand, some people give a superstitious meaning to religious articles. Burying a statue to help sell your house could be one example. If you want to ask for a favor from God, just ask Him. God is much more likely to listen to a sincere prayer than a superstitious action.

The reason God gives for the first commandment is that he is a passionate God, who has chosen the Israelites to be his people. When he punishes sin, he allows the effect of our bad choices to hurt us and those around us. But when we repent and change our ways, his love is everlasting.

God also emphasizes some commands by duplicating them. He tells us not to steal from others, and also not to plan to steal from our neighbor. The same with adultery: Planning it is just as bad as doing it. Taking his name in vain originally meant perjuring yourself after taking an oath to tell the truth. That is similar to the eighth commandment about false witness

Jesus simplified all these commands when he reminds us to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Let's remember that as we turn away from sin to serving God better during Lent.

 $Tom\ Schmidt,\ Copyright ©\ J.\ S.\ Paluch\ Co.$

Shake it Off and Step Up



One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried miserably for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided that the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey anymore.

He invited his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw.

With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something astonishing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping-stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

Number 9

For Dr. Greer, the tipping point came with a number. He was a young resident in a Miami Hospital in 1984 and his patient was a homeless man the police had brought in. The man had advanced tuberculosis and was so far gone he could not speak. No one knew his name: he was identified only by "Number 9" at the end of his bed. Dr. Greer did everything he could to find relatives or friends—anyone who could comfort this man who was past the help of modern medicine. No one was found, and the man died a few days later, essentially alone. Dr Greer is a gastroenterologist and liver specialist. He could have a top-notch practice on wealthy Ocean Drive, Miami, but Patient Number 9 had left his mark. Dr. Pedro José Greer realized that every patient has a story and a soul: their symptoms are the mask that conceals the dreams, hopes, successes, and failures of a human life. Soon after Patient Number 9 died, Dr. Greer opened Camillus Health Concern in Miami. In a quarter century of service, Camillus has grown to serve ten thousand homeless men, women, and children annually-people who have no other reliable access to health care. Each year at Greer's Saint John Bosco Clinic, six thousand immigrantsmany undocumented—receive medical treatment in a warm and sympathetic setting. For Greer, diagnosis and treatment is the easy part of doctoring. What's more important is compassion for the patient as a person. The winner of three presidential awards, two papal awards, and the MacArthur Foundation Genius Fellowship, Pedro José Greer has attracted the attention of the rich and powerful, but his mission remains the same. Everyone he helps ensures that Patient Number 9 is never forgotten. Everyone has a name. Everyone is treated with care and compassion.

Copyright © 2011, World Library Publications. All rights reserved. **Total Allegiance**

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God's protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

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Our Deepest Fear...

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be so brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?' Actually, who are we not to be? You are a child of God: Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

~ Marianne Williamson

Father, I Have Sinned

"Father, I have sinned against you..." (Lk 15:18)

In the period of Lent, the Church ponders these words with particular emotion, since this is the time when the Church more profoundly desires to convert herself to Christ—and without these words there is no conversion in all its interior meaning.

Without these words, "Father, I have sinned," man cannot truly enter into the Mystery and the Resurrection of Christ, so as to obtain the fruits of Redemption and Grace from them. Those are the key words. They, above all, show man's great interior openness to God: "Father, I have sinned against you."

If it is true that sin in a certain sense shuts man off from God, it is likewise true that remorse for sins opens up all the greatness and majesty of God, his fatherhood above all, to man's conscience.

Man remains shut to God so long as the words, "Father, I have sinned against you," are absent from his lips, above all while they are absent from his conscience, from his "heart."

Being converted to Christ, finding the interior power of His Cross and His Resurrection, finding the full truth of human existence in Him, "in Christ," is possible only with the form of these words: "Father, I have sinned." And only at the cost of

In Lent, the Church labors above all that every man and woman may blame himself or herself for sins before God alone and that they may consequently accept the salvific power of the pardon contained in Christ's Suffering and Resurrection.

From "Prayers and Devotions - 365 Daily Meditations" ~ Pope John Paul II

I Am Third

There was a boy who was very popular among others his age. He was an excellent leader in his school groups. One of his friends visited him and saw a homemade plaque in his room with the words "I Am Third" on it. His friend asked him what it meant and he replied, "It is the motto I try to use in my life. It means "God is first, Others are second, and I am Third."

The driving force in our lives should be trying to please God. Secondly, we should take into consideration the needs and pleasures of others. With our own pleasures subordinated, we will truly be the humble servants of God.

Faith Is

Faith is not merely praying Upon our knees at night; Faith is not merely straying Through darkness into light . . . Faith is the brave endeavor, The splendid enterprise, The strength to serve, whatever Conditions may arise.

~ Anonymous





Revelation

"Revelation" is a tricky word. It contains the Latin root that means "to veil or cover" something, as well as the modifier that changes the meaning to its opposite. Something veiled is tantalizing. We cannot quite ignore it. We are curious, interested, intrigued, caught. We want to know, because we want closure. We don't want to know, because we like the mystery or because in knowing we might end up having to make a decision that might mean that there will be no going back.

Comment

If we could gather all the knowledge and experience in the world, we might come to some glimpse or insight about the ways of God. But we would still be guessing. Personal revelation of the divine is a gift. In the Exodus and forging of a covenant, God is apprehended as one who acts on behalf of an enslaved people. God's deepest will for these people is that they respond to a covenant. The covenant is offered by God to a beloved and bewildered people on a desert mountain. Who would have thought it? Dreamed it? "I, the LORD, am your God who brought you out of ... that place of slavery." God the deliverer. God the covenant-maker. That is the exposed and veiled truth.

It took a long time for an enslaved people to understand that the commandments established the features of a relationship of God to a people and each person to the other. This newly freed people would know that they should keep God firmly in first place and reverently in mind and word. They should take a day a week off! Slaves should rest in the Lord! And then, they should care for one another and the good earth that encircles them. These ten commandments are avenues of expression, ways to let love show, ways to keep the covenant.

Thus we come to Jesus, whose behavior in this Gospel reading is somewhat surprising. Unlike the synoptic accounts of the cleansing of the Temple, which are set at the end of Jesus' public life, John sets Jesus' action near the beginning of his Gospel. Jesus' dramatic cleansing of the Temple occurs long before we are aware of any animosity from the official teachers of Israel. John is not so much concerned about auditing the Temple treasury as declaring clearly who Jesus is—the dwelling of God among us.

Today's Gospel action echoes the words that open John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (1:14). The Temple in all its glory is not the dwelling that ultimately and finally counts here. Six and forty years abuilding, the Temple was still no more than a building set aside for holy purposes. John wants us to make no mistake: Jesus is the new dwelling of God, who will not be destroyed and who will be raised up in three days.

Reflection

We are told that the "cleansing of the Temple" happened during the Passover festival, when Jesus was in Jerusalem with thousands of others who flocked there to recall the original Exodus and covenant. During that time, many came to believe in Jesus, but many also didn't. Jesus' anger in this story is aimed at those cynical leaders whose self-righteousness demands a clear, unambiguous sign tailor-made to oppose their comfortable expectations. Jesus is not the revelation they wanted.

There was not a way in the world that Jesus could reveal anything about himself or about God to these people in the usual way. For when the heart is closed and cynicism reigns, all signs are scorned and all bets are off. It did not matter what Jesus did in the Temple or what he said; a predisposition against Jesus would inevitably lead to a misreading of him. Even in our own time, the message of Jesus Christ is a challenge to the status quo.

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Treasures From Our Tradition

Participating in Lent, we are engaging in patterns that have endured across the centuries. From very early times, we have the sense of accompanying the elect on their journey to the font. From as long ago as the fourth century, we receive Lent as forty days to shake the dust from our spirituality and reorder our conduct. Then, fasting was not seen as a strict duty, yet it seems it was widely observed. Think of the rules of politeness and courtesy that everyone agrees on. Fasting was also seen as a social duty, since food was in short supply as winter wore on, and the weak and the sick had the first claim on what remained on hand.

As a boost to the fasting of the body, the church developed a richer spiritual fare, including celebration of the Eucharist every day. This practice began in Rome by the sixth century. Weekday Mass was only at designated "stations." The pope would arrive on horseback at the stational church. In those days, although the catechumenate was already in eclipse, there were pre-baptismal activities at the stational Masses: the giving of the Lord's Prayer, prayers for the godparents, and constant references to baptism.

~ Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

True Beauty

People are like stained glass windows; they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.

~ Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

A Deeper Change

So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:1



The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self—all your wishes and precautions—to Christ. But it is far easier than what we are trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do is to remain what we call "ourselves," to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time be "good." We are all

trying to let our mind and heart go their own way—centered on money or pleasure or ambition—and hoping, in spite of this, to behave honestly and chastely and humbly. And that is exactly what Christ warned us you could not do. As He said, a thistle cannot produce figs. If I am a field that contains nothing but grass seed, I cannot produce wheat. If I want to produce wheat, the change must go deeper than the surface. I must be plowed up and re-sown.

Lead me Lord, for I cannot lead myself to holiness.

from "Mere Christianity" ~ C.S. Lewis

Vocations

A vocation is a grace. By its nature it presupposes and requires that a voice should be heard - the voice of the Father through Christ and in the Holy Spirit, the wonderful invitation: Come!

~ Pope Paul VI

The Inner Word: What's in your Heart?

Ts it possible that the same God who established the Ten Commandments **L** would send his nly begotten Son to disrupt the very temple that enshrined that law? If this is the foolishness of God, then it is wiser than human wisdom. Religion is one thing, but the love of God transcends even the practice of the faith.

- How have the structures of religion been torn down in my experience?
- What do I see as the "weakness of God," and how is it stronger than human strength?
- How does God lead me beyond the Ten Commandments?

Applying the Word: Cleaning house

Te have to get rid of our other gods if we intend to reach the "Aha" experience of those early disciples. To begin, we might spend prayerful time reflecting on the masks those gods may be wearing: "taking care of my family," "ensuring our security," "survival of the fittest," "America first." We might list our most pressing goals and values, asking ourselves how these values honor or oppose the priorities Jesus taught. We can also meditate on the image of Jesus standing alone in the Temple, claiming ultimate authority in God's house. Over what portion of our lives does Jesus currently have sovereignty, and what elements of our lives do we still surrender to other gods?

~ Alice Camille

Scripture links

God alone: Deut. 6:4-9; Isa. 40:25-28; Jer. 10:10-13

The longest commandment: Deut. 5:6-10

The prophets on idolatry: Isa. 40:18-20; 44:9-20; Jer. 10:1-9, 11, 14-15 Synoptic parallels: Mark 11:15-19; Matt. 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48

Catechism links

(Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph numbers)

Monotheism: CCC 200-202 Idolatry: CCC 1852; 2112-14

Jesus and temple authority: CCC 576; 583-586; 651; 653

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DESTROY THIS TEMPLE AND THREE DAYS © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Market value

used to love Let's Make a **L** Deal. It seemed that Monty Hall could turn any situation into a deal. Got a comb in your pocket? He'd ask you to trade it for what's behind the curtain. Got a bobby pin in your purse? You could turn that into a new washer and dryer if only Monty would call on you.

Our culture can be a lot like Let's Make a Deal. It seems that everything is for sale, everything is up for negotiation. We measure the value of people, places, and things by the price they'd bring on the open market.

When Jesus upset the tables in the temple's marketplace he wanted to make an important point that wasn't about the supposed evils of business, but about the notion that salvation could be bought for the price of two turtledoves. God doesn't run a "meritocracy"— here going through the right motions (whether that's saying the right number and kind of prayers or donating a large amount to the parish building fund) secures your place in God's good graces.

God's good graces are a gift, not a purchase. We cannot buy our way into heaven. The deal God offers is this: "I've given you all that you are and all that you have. Just give me your heart in return."

~ Tom McGrath



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THE CATHOLIC FAITH & SCIENCE

Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A., D.Div.

Director of Education for Priests Archdiocese of San Francisco



In Collaboration and Permission of Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. Author of Academic and Scientific Research developed for the Magis Center & Sophia Institute for Teachers

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February 27 : Scientific Evidence of an Intelligent Creator and Philosophical Proofs of an Intelligent Creator

March 5: Evidence for Jesus' Divinity and The Historicity of Jesus' Miracles

March 12: Science and the Shroud of Turin and Why Believe in the Catholic Faith

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Participate in the Synod on Synodality!

Pope Francis invites the whole Church to participate in the next phase of the Synod on Synodality through engagement sessions that will inform the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Synodality in October 2024.

Engagement Sessions are taking place in each county this Lent:

San Mateo:

When: Friday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: St. Matthew Catholic Church

1 Notre Dame Avenue San Mateo, CA 94402

Contact: Teresita Contreras at tcontreras@stmatthewcath.org

<u>Marin</u>:

When: Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Where: St. Raphael Church

1104 Fifth Avenue (at A St.)

San Rafael, CA 94901

Contact: Tom Cashman at tcashman@saintraphael.com

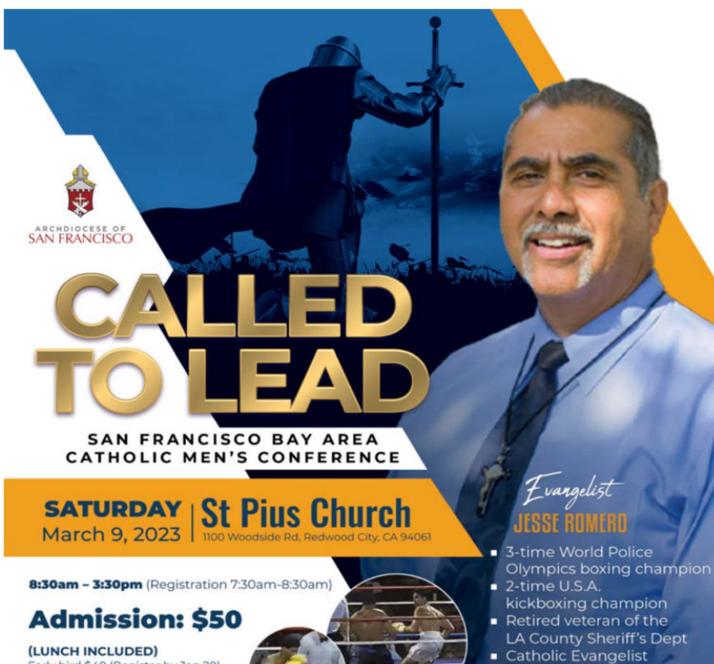
San Francisco:

When: Saturday, March 9, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Where: St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

1111 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Contact: Diana Luporini at dluporini@smcsf.org

More details are available through the Archdiocesan website at www.sfarch.org/synod



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- Ordained Melkite Priest



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Register at:

www.sfbaymen.info

For more info, contact Ed Hopfner emaoil: hopfnere@sfarch.org
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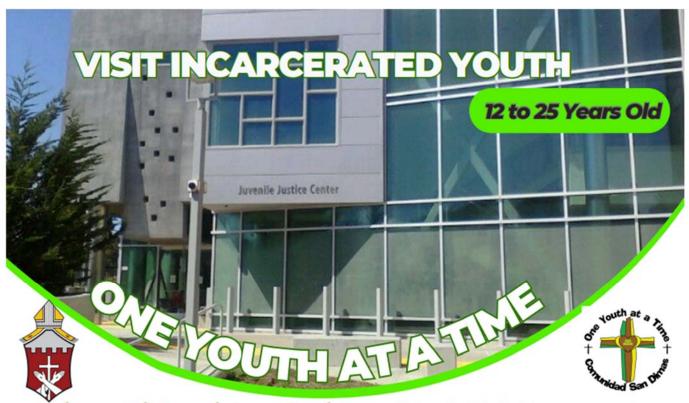
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- Complete City and County of San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department background application, live scan and required online training
- Volunteers must visit youth twice a month, every other week on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings
- Attend monthly in-person meetings, yearly spiritual empowerment retreats and restorative justice trainings and conferences
- Be a practicing Catholic
- Bilingual English/Spanish volunteers are preferable but not required

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~POPE FRANCIS

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Deacon David Mees



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Mass Intentions for Mar 03 - 09			
Date	Time	Intention	
Sunday 03	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Milagros & Marcos Gomez † Gertrude Sartor † Jordan Chavez † Msgr. Fred Bitanga SI Brian Dela Pena	
Monday 04	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Jose & Manuela Delos Santos † Jordan Chavez SI Justin Edwards	
Tuesday 05	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Alma Raymundo † Jordan Chavez SI Lolita Ramos	
Wednesday 06	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Marilyn Sumulong † Jordan Chavez SI Estela Sullivan	
Thursday 07	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	FH Emma & Dominic Tirone † Jordan Chavez SI Laura Vanmunching	
Friday 08	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Vida Ventura † Jordan Chavez † Cesar Rosario	
Saturday 09	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Josephine Villa † Jordan Chavez † Catalina Mariano	

Parish Schedule

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (in the Rectory)

(appointments are preferred) Monday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Every Tuesday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

Sto. Niño Devotion

Every Friday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

Sacred Heart

First Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Communion in the Home

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass. Please call the office at 415-421-3730 for more information.

> An expanded color version of our printed bulletin is available on our website: www.stpatricksf.org



Black Nazavene

Feast Day January 9

Rosie Drapiza Lydia Cagampan Rene & Elsa Tuazon

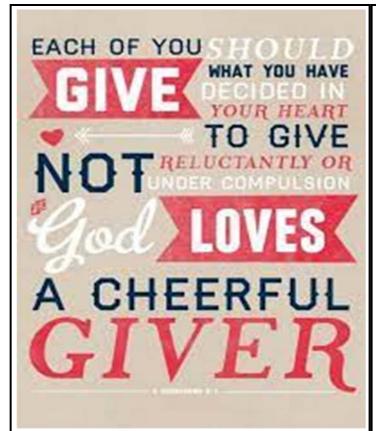


St. Anne Feast Day July 26



Anne such grace that she was found orthy to becom the mother of MARY, who brought forth Your only begotten SON. irant that we ma be helped by her intercession. Amen.

Parish Registration			
Date:			
Name:			
Address:			
Ph. No.			
D.O.B.			
Gender			
Marital St	atus		
Occupation	on		
Please dro	op in the collection basket or return to the parish office		



Krista Mari, Ezra Mari, & Juliana Mari



Laeti bibamus sobriam profusionem Spiritus.

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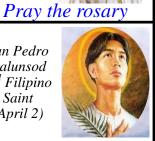


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