



February 25, 2024 - Second Sunday of Lent

If God is for us, who can be against us?

~ Romans 8:31b

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.stpatrickssf.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.

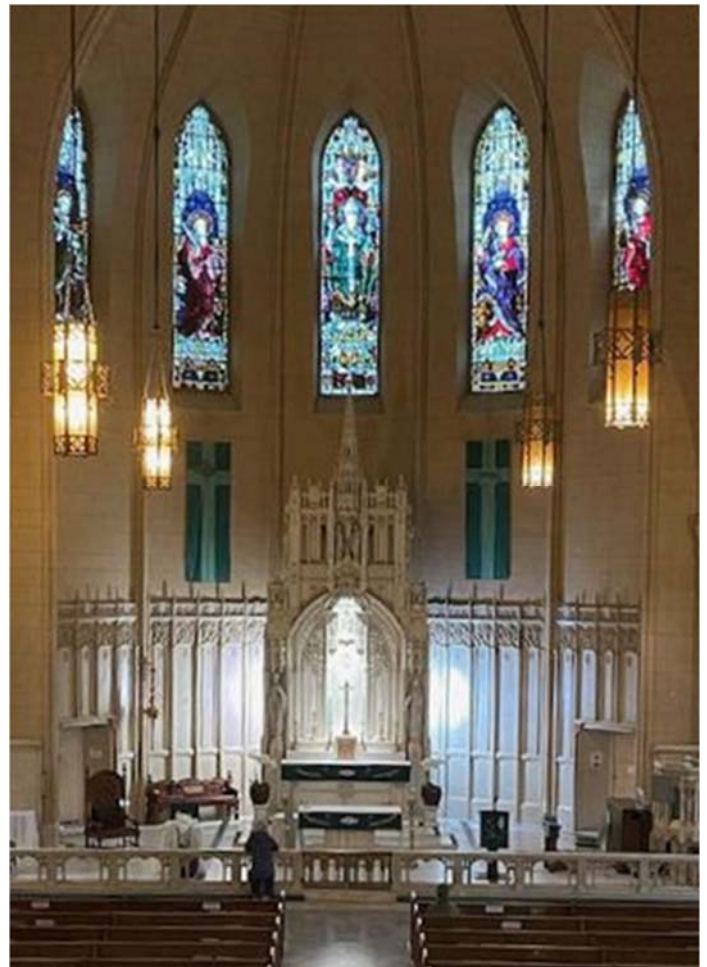
Saturday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass

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.



February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent ~ Year B

Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Ps 116:10,15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving (Ps), the gift of his very son (1). This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all (2). In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiahship (3).

Second Sunday of Lent

Today is the Second Sunday of Lent. This week is about beloved sons, Isaac and Jesus. In the first reading from Genesis, Abraham is told to sacrifice his only son. He prepares to do just that. The reading from Romans reminds us that God's only Son was sacrificed for us. In the passage from Mark's Gospel, the disciples are shown that Jesus is God's beloved Son. In each of these readings a beloved son is brought to the brink of death. Abraham's obedience and trust in God is tested. Jesus is not tested but revealed to his disciples, who do not understand what they are seeing. Abraham and the disciples are told to listen. By listening they are brought beyond death into life. Our Lenten preparation is about listening for the word of God even when, like Abraham and the disciples, we are asked to do what we think we cannot do.

Testing Testing Testing

Often it can seem as if our faith is being tested. We can be asked, like Abraham, how much we are willing to sacrifice in obedience to God's call. Abraham appeared willing to sacrifice his most precious gift, his son, Isaac. Abraham went so far as to take the knife with which he could have ended his son's life. But God did not ask that of him. God asked only that he be willing and that he continue to listen. In Mark, it is the disciples who are tested to understand the vision that they are given of Jesus, visibly transformed from an ordinary man like themselves to beloved Son of God. Peter, impulsive Peter, speaks and plans an action. He is rebuked and told to listen. The test is not about action. The test is to listen.

Listen

Both Abraham and the disciples are called to listen. Abraham's action is stopped by a message from God. Isaac is spared because Abraham listened for the ongoing word of God in the midst of the most awful moment of his life. Peter's action is halted by the voice of God telling him to listen. The disciples listen but do not understand what Jesus tells them about his resurrection. But they do listen. How difficult is it for us to listen for the word of God amid the noise of daily life, the necessary and unnecessary chatter of work and home and all the places in between. How can we hear the word of God within the cacophony of our lives? We must listen. We listen by our intentional effort to create a place of peace and quiet within our lives that we maintain despite the noise that surrounds us. We build an ark to ride out the flood. We maintain a spring to survive in the desert. We hold dear our most sacred possession, the self that Jesus died to save, while still being willing to sacrifice it for God's call.

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Impression

When we try to make an impression, that's the impression we make.

~ Anonymous

Patrician Meeting

Join us this Sunday for the monthly Patrician Meeting, a Catholic discussion group sponsored by the Legion of Mary. This month's topic is...

Lent and Holy Week

Speaker ~ Ellen Ramoran

Date ~ Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

McKenna Hall

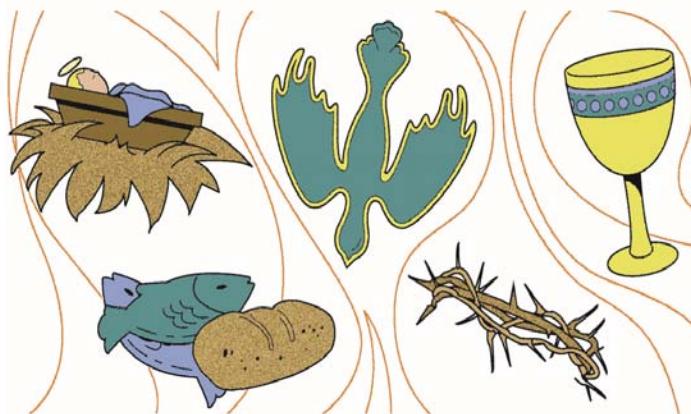
Join us for a lively discussion and share your thoughts and experiences with other Catholics just like you.

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.

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.



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Happy Birthday!!

Happy Birthday to our Parishioners born this week.

Katherine Dizon	02/18	Louie Tunque	02/22
Brian Paul Reyes	02/18	Bartolome Valmores	02/23
Edna Abello	02/19	Donna Fe Andico	02/24
Manuel De Jesus Rosales	02/19	Zenaida Flores	02/24
Florencio Abello	02/22	Ma. Shiela Montemayor	02/24
Emily-Hillary Hebron	02/22	Vangie Nocon	02/24

Please Pray for our Holy Father's Intention for February



Pope's Intention: For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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

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Manolito & Dulce Jaldon	Vida Ventura
Georgina Jose	Josephine Villa
Kaiser Permanentesf, 4Center & Oncology	Edwin, Rosalie, Krista, Ezra & Juliana
Kusina ni Tess	Cielito Littaua Yoma
Judy Neri Labaria	Claudine Yu
Tita Labaria	Charlie A. Yparraguirre
Dan And Annie Lacap	

Living Stewardship Now

What matters above anything else in your life? Is it a person, material things, your health and comfort, your career? Be absolutely honest! Is God at the center, or off to one side?

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Saints & Special Observances

Tuesday: optional memorial ~

St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor of the Church

SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings for the Week

Monday: *Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38*

Tuesday: *Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12*

Wednesday: *Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28*

Thursday: *Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31*

Friday: *Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,45-46; Mt 21:33-43,45-46*

Saturday: *Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32*

SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3,7,12-17; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-2; Jn 2:13-25

Today's Readings

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18).

Psalm — I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b-34).

Gospel — Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white (Mark 9:2-10).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997.

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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.

The Art of Listening

If you want God to listen to you when you pray, shouldn't you listen to God when God speaks to you?

~ Anonymous

LEGION OF MARY - ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Contact Person – Cathy Bohol – (415) 760-1966

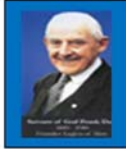
Margarita Galindo – (415) 283-9945, Parish Office – (415) 421-373

JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL **PRÆSIDIUM**

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.

Church Etiquette ~ What is It?

- It's getting to Mass on time.
- It's moving to the center of the pew so that others can fill in, even when they're late.
- It's placing the missalette back in the book holder after Mass.
- It's putting the kneeler up after Mass.
- It's checking your pew and taking your tissues, books, Cheerios, gloves, purse, keys, hat, camera, glasses and scarf with you when you leave.
- It's everyone appreciating those who do all of the above! God bless!

A New Idea

Everybody thinks of changing humanity; nobody thinks of changing themselves.

~ Leo Tolstoy

The Surly Bird

Some doctors say that cheerful people resist disease better than grumpy ones. The surly bird catches the germ.

~ Anonymous

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25 2024

If God is for us, who can be against us?

~ Romans 8:31b



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.

After the transfiguration, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had ...

R	E	M	T
D	I	H	O
A	E	S	R
D	E	N	F

R _____


Answer: *risen from the dead*

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saint snippets

February 25




I have accepted this life of sacrifice because I know that Christ is in the poor.

Bl. Mariam Vattalil
20th-century Indian religious sister who devoted herself to catechetical formation and social justice
Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

saint snippets

March 1




Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith, and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me.

St. David
6th-century Bishop of Wales who founded many monasteries known for their austerity.
Copyright © 2020, Michael Thimons

saint snippets

March 2



God is asking me to be poor with the poor in order to bring them to Christ.

St. Angela of the Cross
Spanish foundress of a religious community. She devoted her life to serving the local poor and ill until her death in 1932.
Copyright © 2019, Michael Thimons

Living God's Word

God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob and Rachel, God and Father of our Lord, give us a glimpse of the glory that you have prepared for all who trust in you and remain faithful to you. Strengthen us to walk through any darkness that may threaten our ability to believe.

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CATHOLIC CORNER

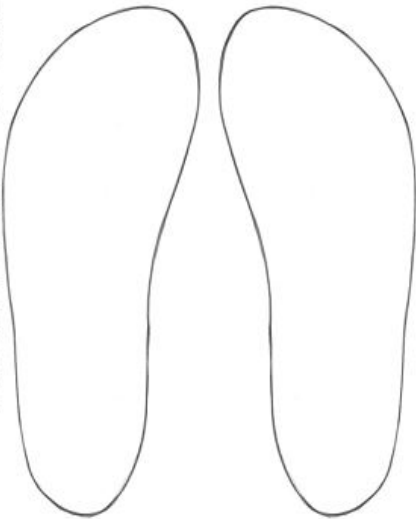
WALK BEFORE THE LORD

The psalm response for today's Mass is from Psalm 116:9:

*I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

All people of God are filled with God's life. God's life in us never ends! Think of some of the ways that you "walk before the Lord." Imagine that you are walking in Jesus' footsteps, trying to do the things he once did.

In these footprints, write some examples of ways that you will follow Jesus as you try to "walk before the Lord" every day. Invite everyone in your family to trace their footprint on a piece of paper, cut it out, and write how they try to follow Jesus. You can trace your own footprint, too. Have each person place the footprint next to his or her bed. Then, when you get up in the morning you will be reminded of how God calls you to walk that day.

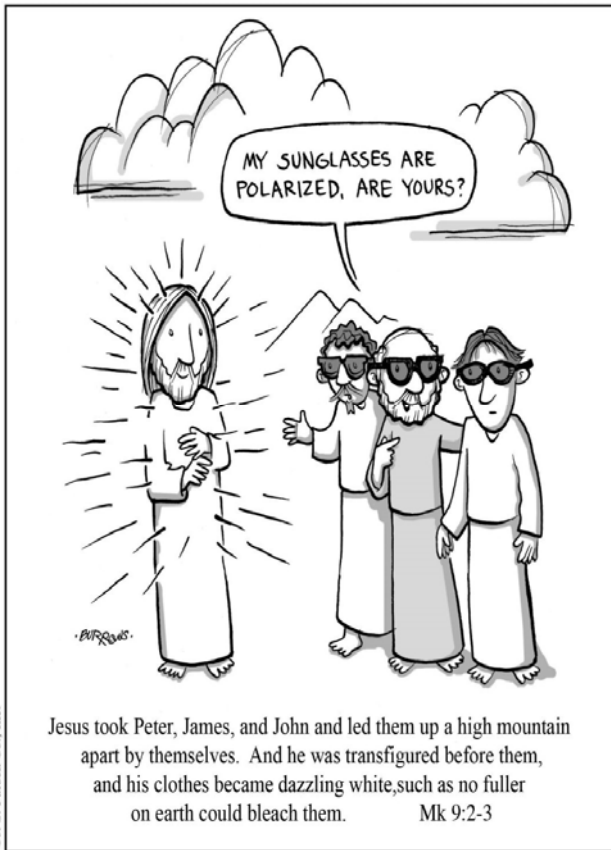


*If you sing the psalm at Mass today,
listen carefully to the melody of the response.
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*

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The Little Ones

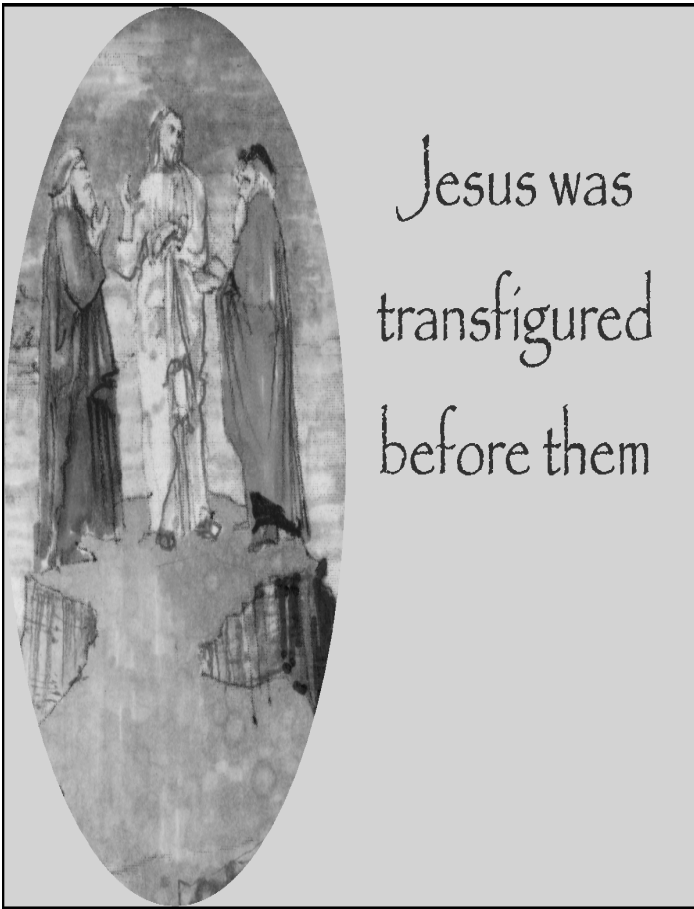
Jim Burrows



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Mk 9:2-3

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CHRIS MCDONOUGH

The Obedience of Abraham and Jesus

God tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today's scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God's own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham's obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God's promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time.

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Treasures From Our Tradition

The second Sunday of Lent every year recalls the Transfiguration of the Lord. Since the fourth century, Mount Tabor has been the focus of devotion to this event. As mountains go, it is not particularly lofty, rising about fifteen hundred feet, within view of the Sea of Galilee and very close to Nazareth. Scripture doesn't identify the mountain, but in the year 348 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem said he preferred Mount Tabor to Mount Hermon as the site of the Transfiguration, and his opinion won. It has long been a strategic military site, and ancient fortresses are visible on the heights. Over the centuries, churches and fortified monasteries rose on the mountaintop, only to be destroyed by various invaders. Six hundred years ago, local Christians started to decorate the ruins with flags and banners on the Feast of the Transfiguration. In 1631, the Sultan granted permission to the Franciscans to live on Mount Tabor, and they have been there ever since, discovering the ruins of an old Crusader church and constructing the present church on the site in 1924.

The top of the mountain is divided into Greek Orthodox and Latin (that's us) zones. At one time, tourists arrived on the summit by bus, but this is no longer permitted. Some ride bicycles up a challenging and winding path, while others take the four thousand three hundred steps constructed for Christian pilgrims in the fourth century. It's hard to imagine the fishermen following Jesus up this craggy mountain without complaint. Visitors will sympathize with Peter's plan to construct booths and stay put with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah for a while, enjoying the view, and planning the trip back down.

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



Jesus was
transfigured
before them

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History of Salvation

The first reading today continues the "history of salvation" narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year. Today's story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The overall tone of the first reading, psalm, and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week's Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News.

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Treasures From Our Tradition

The basis of Abraham's test in the first reading is the fact that his neighbors followed a religious system that demanded human sacrifice. In offering Isaac's life on an altar of sacrifice, he is following long-accustomed religious practice. Ancient people accepted this because they thought that life was an ever-renewing circle: what had been lost would be restored in time. But here, God springs this trap and gives Abraham, Isaac, and you and me, a future. From now on, God will provide the sacrifice. From this point on, our lives have a direction, a purpose, a goal.

The faithful following of Lent and its consoling, challenging scriptures strengthens and prepares us to remember the Lord's passion and resurrection. Today, many parishes welcome home the elect, men and women chosen on the First Sunday of Lent for the Easter sacraments, from a celebration with the bishop. The scriptures today are chosen with them in mind, to steady their steps, to clear their vision, to strengthen their resolve: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

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

Making Room

"Why would a loving God ask a father to kill his own son? I can't read this story without getting angry," said Michael. The other members of his parish Bible study group nodded. "Even if Isaac's life was spared at the last minute, it seems as if God wanted only blind obedience from Abraham. I don't get it!" Discussion followed Michael's remarks. Nora commented that our understanding of who God is and how God deals with people has evolved over time. Michael remained troubled. "I just can't see that this story has any value for me today." Jim spoke up, "Well, it hits me where I live." Jim, the new one in the group, tended to hang back—but not today. "Isaac must have been the most precious thing in Abraham's life: the one on whom all his hopes for the future were pinned." Jim went on, "To be asked to give up that child was to be asked to give up his greatest treasure, but the relationship with God was a greater treasure than even his own son." Jim paused and looked around him, "The most precious thing in my life has been my wife. We had no children so she's been my whole world. When she got cancer I bargained with God—'I'll do anything if you let her live'—and she did live. In thanksgiving for her recovery I joined the Tuesday prayer group and I signed up as a food pantry volunteer. Just doing those two things made me realize how much I wanted God and a life with God. My wife is still just as dear to me, but God has taken a hold on my life my life in ways I could never have imagined before—because I have finally made room for God."

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Listen and Follow

“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” And listen they did. From that moment on, Peter, James, and John were ardent followers, forsaking everything to follow in their Master’s footsteps. Like the psalmist crying, “O Lord, I am your servant,” the three disciples committed themselves to lives of incredible hardship and indescribable joy. After that day on the mountain, they never again wavered in their chosen vocation.

Though our tests may not be as severe as Abraham’s and our peak experiences not as dramatic as the Transfiguration, we all face the daily challenges of walking “before the Lord in the land of the living.” As we follow our varied calls to love and serve, let’s be comforted by Paul’s reminder to the Romans: “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

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Reflecting on God’s Word

Two of today’s readings take us up a mountain. Mountains are sacred places in the scriptures. Moses meets the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob on Mt. Sinai. Elijah has an experience of this same life-giving God on Mt. Horeb. Today Abraham goes up Mt. Moriah in obedience to God’s command to “take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love” (Genesis 22:2) and offer him there as a holocaust.

It is hard to get past this reading today and focus only on the story of the Transfiguration. This story of God testing Abraham to see if Abraham will obey is a story of great anguish. “See” is an important word here: Moriah means “the place of seeing.” Abraham responds to Isaac’s question about a victim, saying God will provide, a word rooted in the Latin word for seeing. God will see to it that there is a victim, just as God will see that Abraham is obedient in all things.

Seeing also takes place on Mt. Tabor. Peter, James, and John see Jesus in glory, his clothes dazzlingly white; they see him speaking with Moses and Elijah, representing the law and the prophets; and they see a cloud overshadowing them, and hear a voice calling for their obedience: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him” (Mark 9:7).

With them, we are invited to see Jesus as the beloved Son whom the Father “did not spare . . . but handed over for us all,” as Paul reminds us (Romans 8:32). The mystery of the Cross and Resurrection is an invitation to see God’s love for all God’s beloved children and trust in it.

~ James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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Treasures From Our Tradition

Within the tradition of the Christian church, there are differing ways of observing a Lenten fast. For Eastern Catholics and Orthodox, the discipline is close to our understanding of “abstinence.” Certain foods are eliminated from the diet entirely. The rules are basically monastic rules, and the customs of a monastery table are embraced in the home. This year, “Meatfare Sunday” is February 26, and it is the last time that meat is admitted to the diet until Easter. The following Sunday, known as “Cheesefare Sunday,” takes cheese and all dairy products from the table. It is also known as “forgiveness Sunday” because a true fast is about crowning life with love, holding back harsh words, and cutting off anger.

The Eastern churches fast even from celebrating the Eucharist from Monday through Friday. We don’t count Sundays as fast days, but Eastern Christians fast through the weekends. People are expected to come as close to the ideal as possible, and the Lenten services keep reminding them not to take pride in their fasting, since the devil himself never eats! What’s left on the menu? Grains, vegetables, eggs (maybe), and fish. Imagine the joys of the Easter table after such a fast!

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

This is a Test



I used to wonder how God could lie to Abraham about sacrificing his son Isaac. But the story begins by telling us God put Abraham to the test. Abraham himself seems to know it’s a test—in verses left out or our reading, he tells the servants that he and Isaac will return after the sacrifice; he also tells Isaac that God will provide the offering. Apparently, I’m the only one fooled by God.

I don’t know if I would have passed the test. I would have at least argued with God about it, begging him to spare my son. Yet in our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God did not spare his own son. (Rom 8:32) He passed his own test. Jesus was sacrificed so that God could show us how much he loved us: By dying, Jesus showed us the promise of resurrection, which shows us that we can also have new life by the forgiveness of our sins. If God loves us so much that he gives his Son to die for us, why would he not forgive us? Or as Paul says, if He is on our side, who can hurt us?

What does that tell us about life? You may have noticed that things don’t always go your way. We sometimes suffer for no apparent reason. We may lose someone we love through death. We may be tempted to lose faith when we see wars, killer tornados, terrorist attacks—if “God is for us,” why does he allow these things? Because he is still testing us. And not necessarily testing the victims of these troubles. If I get angry at God because I hear about someone’s death, I haven’t passed the test.

Does that mean those tragedies are our fault? No, God gives everyone free will and some people choose to do wrong. And some accidents are just accidental; no one is necessarily at fault. God intervenes sometimes and lives are saved. Other times, God intervenes by saving us after death with our resurrection. But as long as people doubt God’s love, there will be tests. That’s why it is so important to proclaim the Kingdom: so that someday all people will know God’s love and not need to be tested.

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

Feast of Faith The Opening Prayer

At the conclusion of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, the presider says or chants the words “Let us pray,” followed by the Opening Prayer. This prayer is also called a “collect” because it gathers or “collects” the prayers of the entire assembly into one. The Roman collects that we pray in our liturgy—noted for the brevity, clarity, and conciseness of the Latin originals—date from a variety of periods. Some are quite new; others reach back more than a thousand years. They are truly treasures of our tradition.

The Opening Prayer can be divided into four main parts: 1) the invitation, or “Let us pray”; 2) the silence that follows, during which each member of the assembly lifts up before God his or her own prayers; 3) the collect itself, spoken or sung by the priest; 4) and finally the Amen, by which the assembly says, “yes,” “may it be so,” making the prayer their own.

The collect itself almost always follows the same pattern. It begins with an invocation to God. A petition follows, usually very general. We ask for health, strength, wisdom, grace, forgiveness, faith, awareness. Every collect concludes by offering the prayer to God through Jesus Christ. With the Amen of the assembly, the Introductory Rites of the Mass come to an end.

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

Sustaining Experiences

Moments of intense or exalted awareness or insight occur to us only infrequently. We cannot sustain these heightened experiences for long, but they can sustain us for a lifetime. We need these sustaining moments as surely as we need sustaining bread. These ecstatic moments have the power to shake us to our roots, reorient us. They become references and pivotal points from which we proceed. Today's readings tell us about such sustaining experiences.

Comment

Today we hear of powerful, energizing promises fulfilled. We read of life drawn from a situation that portends cruel death. These stories take us to two summits—Mount Moriah of Abraham's nightmare, and Mount Tabor of Jesus' transfiguration. First, Abraham, our father in faith. We recall that he uprooted his family and journeyed from present-day Iraq across the Fertile Crescent to an unknown land. Abraham, who faltered and grew weary, moved steadily forward on the singular promise that his and Sarah's children would be as numerous as the stars on clear, cool nights and as many as the sands they could see in the burning and shadowless desert. Abraham and Sarah finally and at long last have the child of God's promise, a son named Isaac. And now, Abraham understands that this son is to be offered up—by Abraham himself. Mercifully, we are given a happy ending here. The mysterious God whom Abraham apprehends is not like the neighboring Canaanite gods, who demand human sacrifice. In the end, Abraham understands that God asks obedience and even sacrifice, but not this kind of sacrifice. Abraham's trust in God is absolute. God asks for and receives Abraham's fidelity, which is richly rewarded in his posterity—the twelve tribes of Israel.

This first reading is set before us to heighten and enhance the layered meanings of the Gospel itself. For the Gospel also brings us to a mountaintop, this time Mount Tabor. Here three of Jesus' closest apostles—Peter, James, and John—are privileged to witness the vision of Jesus with Elijah and Moses. These two represent the whole of the Hebrew prophetic and patriarchal tradition. On this apex, heaven and earth meet, and the former and new dispensation meet also. Again, God's voice is heard, and it speaks again of sonship. On Mount Moriah, God's words rang in Abraham's ears, reminding him that Isaac is his son, his only son. Here the voice of God introduces Jesus as "my beloved Son."

This ecstatic experience is so stunning and attractive that Peter would like it to go on forever. This is a deeply human response. As yet, the apostles do not know they will need all the inner strength they can summon as this Son, this beloved Son, enters into his passion and death.

Reflection

In the second reading, Paul asks the rhetorical question, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We are tempted to say that plenty can be against us! Perhaps on our better or easier days we can see that God is on our side. But not always. Like the three who were with Jesus on the top of Mount Tabor, we see and we do not see—or we forget. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the apostles will remember and grow to understand this mix of death and life that transpired from that first Good Friday to that first Easter Sunday. On Friday, the apostles surely recalled who was against them. They succumbed to those forces, in fact. They subsequently recovered their balance, however, because God was for them and with them. They were forgiven, granted peace, and commissioned to preach the gospel. The resurrection of Jesus provided the light and the life that the apostles could live by. The vision on Mount Tabor offered a glimpse of the full life of God attained in the death and resurrection to come. The image on Mount Tabor hinted at the life of the risen Lord, who broke all boundaries and exceeded all dreams. Though God spared Abraham's only son, the Son of God was not spared. The zenith on Mount Tabor eventually is balanced by the nadir of the Garden of Olives, where Jesus prayed for deliverance. But ultimately, the glory prefigured in the Transfiguration will be the fate of all believers, just as it was for Jesus Christ.

Jesus loved his life as dearly as we love ours. Yet he also recognized God's will and what was worth dying for. His embrace of his own death was equal to his embrace of God's words, "This is my beloved Son." For us, it is difficult to keep the seeming extremes of life and death in balance. Though our faith teaches us that life can come through death, we resist mightily. We need the vision of the Transfiguration to sustain us; we need the power of the Resurrection to strengthen us. We can find no better inspiration than our Lord Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, who has shown us the way through death to life.

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Your Grace Be Upon Us

The Lord Jesus took the path of Lent together with his disciples during his life on earth. He continues to follow it together with his Church. Lent is the period of a particularly intense presence of Christ in the life of the Church. So we ought to try to get closer to Christ in a more special way during this season.

We must live in intimacy with him, open up our hearts to him, our consciences: "Lord, may your grace be upon us, because we hope in you." Lent is especially a time when grace ought to be "over us" in a particular fashion. Hence it necessary for us simply to open up to it.

God's grace is actually not so much something to be won as something available, calling for joyous acceptance, like a gift, without impediments being raised. This is concretely possible, first of all, through an attitude of deep prayer, which exactly entails weaving a dialogue with the Lord. Then it is possible also through an attitude of sincere humility, because faith is precisely adherence of heart and mind to the Word of God. Finally, through practice of authentic charity, which should let shine out all that love of which the Lord has already made us the object.

Just as the Lord commanded Abraham to set out on his path, so we too set out once again along this path of Lent at the end of which is the Resurrection. We see that Christ overcomes death and causes life and immortality to shine forth by means of the Gospel. Therefore, borne up by the power of God, we ought to take fatigue and disappointment, bearing them for the sake of the Gospel.

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

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

Satisfaction

Satisfaction consists in the cutting off of the causes of sin. Thus, fasting is the proper antidote to lust; prayer to pride, to envy, anger and sloth; alms to covetousness.

~ St. Richard of Chichester

The Inner Word: What's in your Heart?

Death hangs over every human life. Yet each of today's readings is a reminder of how God preserves life and continues it for the sake of fulfilling the divine promise. God saves Isaac and accepts a sacrifice in his stead. Paul writes to the Romans that not even death will end our lives. But the disciples of Jesus struggle to understand what rising from the dead means.

- What does resurrection mean to me?
- How has God preserved my life from death?
- When it comes time for me to die, what do I think will happen?

Applying the Word: God is for us

Those who are delighted to embrace the identity of church have come to the realization, as Abraham did, that our God is to be trusted. This God is for us, not against us; out to save us and not to condemn us, despite what we may have heard or been taught. There's a lot of painfully bad theology out there: It comes knocking on the rectory door every week seeking healing and correction. It's our job as preachers to proclaim the good news and make it sound every bit as good as it is. Our words, our demeanor, our treatment of individuals, and the experience of the Sunday assembly should persuade folks that it is good for us to be here. God's demands of us must not be presented as monstrous, and Jesus should never be portrayed as a terrifying presence awaiting us at the end of time—as one homilist I heard put it forebodingly, "We all face the final tribunal of father, son, and Holy Ghost!" The trinity doesn't morph into the "tribunal" without a little help from the homilist. Far better to assist in the transfiguration of a fearful God into the Beatific Vision that fulfills every longing. ~ Alice Camille

Scripture links

Good news central: *Mark 1:1, 15; Luke 3:18; 4:18*

Synoptic parallels: *Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36*

Abraham and his God: *Gen 12:10-20; 16:1-16, 19:1-29; 20:1-18*

God as beauty: *Exod. 33:7-23*

Catechism links

(Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph numbers)

Images of God: *CCC 35; 203; 210; 214-221; 284; 369-370*

Transfiguration: *CCC 554-556; 568*

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Mountain Climbing

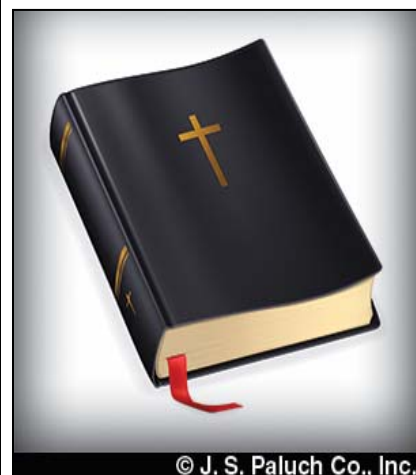
Growing up in the flat Midwest, my idea of a hill was a small bump we named "Devil's Hill" and rode our sleds down in the winter. No wonder real mountains fascinated me. In my 20s I visited the Rockies. What I thought would be an incredible adventure ended up with me out of breath and nauseous from the altitude. I could not wait to get back to sea level.

Abraham climbed a mountain with his son Isaac and a heavy heart only to return with the realization that he would be blessed beyond belief. Peter, James, and John are led up a mountain by Jesus and glimpse the mystery of salvation. They, too, were changed by their journey.

By now, with Lent in its second week, we might feel that we are approaching a spiritual mountain top. Perhaps we are feeling a little better about ourselves as we use our Lenten prayer and fasting and almsgiving to ascend the mountain.

We need to be wary of the dizzying heights we are trying to attain. The mountains do not just lift us up; they also make our lives a little more difficult. Going to the mountaintop means we will be tested when we get there. At sea level or on the highest peaks, we can't ever be satisfied with where we are in our relationship with God. And it is much too early in Lent to be satisfied with ourselves. We have many more mountains to climb up and climb down. Where it all leads us we will better understand on Easter morning.

~ Father Dominic Grassi



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LENTEN LECTURE SERIES 2024

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

7:00-8:30 PM EVERY TUESDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 26

**FOLLOWING THE 6 PM PARISH SOUP SUPPER
ST. PIUS HOMER CROUSE HALL**

February 20: Scientific and Medical Evidence of Our Transphysical Soul
and Evidence of the Soul from Our Transcendental Desires

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

March 19: The Four Kinds of Desire and Happiness and Moving to
Level Three and Four Happiness

March 26: The Christian Understanding of Suffering and Why Would an
All-Loving God Allow Suffering



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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

Marin:

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

WALK FOR PEACE & MEMORIAL VIGIL MASS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAN FRANCISCO | Office of
Human Life & Dignity
Restorative Justice Ministry



**Remembering 2023 Bay Area victims
of violent crimes, a call to end gun
violence, mass shootings and hate**

3:00 PM MEET TO WALK AND CARRY A CROSS
4:30 PM MASS SERVICE, FOLLOWED
BY FELLOWSHIP AND DINNER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JULIO ESCOBAR ESCOBARJ@SFARCH.ORG, 415 614-5572

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REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER AT
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SATURDAY | St Pius Church

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- Retired veteran of the LA County Sheriff's Dept
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8:30am – 3:30pm (Registration 7:30am-8:30am)

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Early bird \$40 (Register by Jan 20)
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**Sacrament
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Father
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- Seminary Professor
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Register at:
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For more info, contact Ed Hopfner
email: hopfnere@sfarch.org
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Training location: 1 Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109
- ✓ 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

Get started now

Contact Julio Escobar at 415 244-5594 or via email at escobarj@sfarch.org to schedule a screening interview.



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FOR AS SAINT JOHN PAUL II SAID,

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~ POPE FRANCIS

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Mass Intentions for Feb 25 - Mar 02

Date	Time	Intention
Sunday 25	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Therese Guintu SI Ina Howard † Jordan Chavez SI Lillian Gomez
Monday 26	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Beltran C. Marces † Jordan Chavez SI Evelyn Mendoza
Tuesday 27	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Rachele Morales † Jordan Chavez † Rosalinda Del Rosario
Wednesday 28	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Marilyn Sumulong † Jordan Chavez SI Norman & Lily Nangca
Thursday 29	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Vilma Nangca † Jordan Chavez SI Hersie Rosales
Friday 01	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Jesus & Helen Delos Santos † Jordan Chavez SI Familia Galindo Moreno Y Berziga
Saturday 02	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Luis & Danilo Purqued † Jordan Chavez SI Lillian Gomez

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

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Black Nazarene

Feast Day
January 9

Rosie Drapiza
Lydia Cagampan
Rene & Elsa Tuazon



San Lorenzo Ruiz 1st Filipino Saint (Sep 28)

Maureen Oakes
Fe Macatangay
Cathy Bohol
Alma Raymundo

Shiela Montemayor
Maribelle Olegario
Gino Percival Ventura
Torno Family
Alejandra Ayala

St. Anne Feast Day July 26



PRAYER TO St. Anne

O GOD, You
bestowed on St.
Anne such grace
that she was found
worthy to become
the mother of
MARY, who
brought forth
Your only
begotten SON.
Grant that we may
be helped by her
intercession.
Amen.

Photo: THE HOLY ROSARY Daily
www.holyrosary.com

Parish Registration

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph. No. _____

D.O.B. _____

Gender _____

Marital Status _____

Occupation _____

Please drop in the collection basket or return to the parish office

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 DECIDED IN
 YOUR HEART
 TO GIVE
 NOT RELUCTANTLY OR
 UNDER COMPULSION
 God **LOVES**
 A CHEERFUL
GIVER

*Krista Mari, Ezra Mari,
 & Juliana Mari*



*Laeti bibamus sobriam
 profusionem Spiritus.*

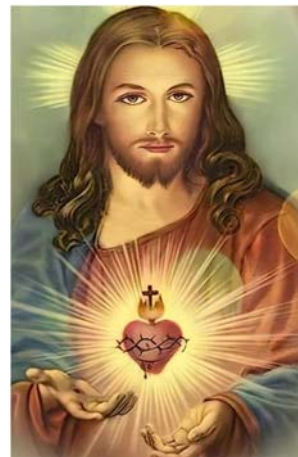
St. Patrick Charismatic Prayer Group

**Matt
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 SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR



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Matt Dorsey



*Most Sacred Heart
 of Jesus,
 Have Mercy on Us.*

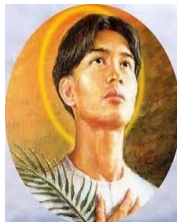
*First Friday
 of the month at
 11:00 a.m.*



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 OF
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Pray the rosary



*San Pedro
 Calunsod
 2nd Filipino
 Saint
 (April 2)*



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