

First Sunday of Lent



This Week in Our Parish

February 21, 2010

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent/Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am: Mass **9:30 am:** RCIA **10:00 am:** Spanish Mass PSR 2nd-8th **11:30 am:** Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1st **11:30am:** ESOL class **12:30 pm:** Youth Group **12:45pm:** Citizenship classes **1:00 pm:** Spanish Mass **3:00 pm:** Baptism Class (Sp.) **7:00 pm:** Spanish Mass

Monday: 12:15 pm: Daily Mass

Tuesday: 12:15 pm: Daily Mass

Wednesday: 12:15 pm: English Mass 6:30 pm: Rosary

Thursday: 12:15 pm: Communion Service

Friday:  Cleaning Team three

6:00 pm: Stations in (Eng.) **6:30 pm:** Lenten Meal Sponsored by Bob & Susan Parlo

7:30 pm: Stations in (Sp.)/Prayer group

Saturday: 10:00 am: PSR in Spanish 12:30 pm: PSR Session II
2:00 pm: Sp. Youth Int. Group 5:30 pm: Vigil Mass

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am: Mass **9:30 am:** RCIA **10:00 am:** Spanish Mass PSR 2nd-8th **11:30 am:** Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1st **11:30am:** ESOL class **12:30 pm:** Youth Group **12:45pm:** Citizenship classes **1:00 pm:** Spanish Mass **3:00 pm:** Baptism Class (Sp.) **7:00 pm:** Spanish Mass

Why We Do What We Do

Marriage and sex are sacred. For Christ and His Church, marriage is elevated to the level of a sacrament where God's grace forms a permanent union and that union becomes an outward sign of God's love. Human sexuality is God's sacred gift of his creative power—a sharing of His power to create human life. With that gift comes a responsibility and the need to respect ourselves, our relationships, and our actions.

God orders all things including His power to create. He entrusts it to us with an expectation we will not misuse our bodies or the gift of sexuality. When the gift is shared as God intends, then there is harmony and the possibility of new human life is carefully considered and joyfully welcomed. The gift is meant to be shared as God intends.

Sex is for marriage! Only.

The ends or goals of marriage are the procreation of children and the unity of the couple who are united by God's love. Marriage is between a man and a woman and is the highest human expression of God's love. Marriage and sexual activity—which should only happen in marriage—require maturity, responsibility, and a permanent, covenant commitment, that welcomes a child as a gift and a blessing.

This requires all dimensions of relating—spiritual, emotional, psychological, intellectual, informational, intuitive, social,

and physical. A married couple forms a new family and within that context is the proper sharing of the physical and sexual dimensions.

Too often sex today involves two individuals with different agendas who "use" the other person for self-benefit and to satisfy lustful desires that bring temporary pleasure. There is no relational or spiritual foundation and the sexual activity is void of its true meaning. It usually leads to a sense of emptiness, a distancing, and a disconnection.

"True love waits" is one of the truest statements ever made. As discussed last week, one of the blessings or "fruits" of the Holy Spirit is self-control. Mastery of one's urges and selfish desires is necessary for relational permanence. Just like an athlete trains, the spiritual person must train, deepening his/her prayer life and relationship with Christ and allowing Christ to help discipline thoughts, desires, actions, and attitudes. The spiritual person understands the need for purity before marriage and strives for perfect abstinence (thought, word, and action) and chastity of mind and body. He/She resists temptation with courage and turns to Christ for help.

Sadly many parents, young adults, and teenagers no longer believe this is possible. The current thinking is "everyone's doing it!" If everyone was committing murder, it would still not be right and something Christians would not do. Why is the wrongness of pre-marital sex and adultery any different?

Listen to the prayers of the Church from the wedding mass: "This outpouring of love in the new covenant of grace is symbolized in the marriage covenant that seals the love of husband and wife and reflects your divine plan of love." (Marriage II) "The love of man and woman is made holy in the sacrament of marriage, and becomes the mirror of your everlasting love." (Marriage III) "You have designed the chaste love of husband and wife for the increase both of the human family and of your own family born in baptism." (Marriage I)

Today we have a number of amazing single parents and also grandparents raising their grandchildren. We also have pregnant teenagers who courageously choose to have their babies and even keep them. We affirm the good they are doing.

But when we have pregnant 12-year olds, 14-year olds running off with boyfriends, and 16-year olds moving in with their boyfriends, than we have to change what we are doing. When more than half of our babies are born out of wedlock, than something has to change.

When the "hand out birth control and condoms to everyone method" of the "experts" has only resulted in earlier sexual activity, more teenage pregnancy, more violence against women (who are increasingly viewed as sex objects), and more relationships based on physical/sexual attraction alone, than something has to change. At a time when delayed maturity is increasingly common (no longer maturity of an adult by age 18), and yet the start of sexual activity is earlier and earlier, something has to change.

It needs to change back to the way it used to be. When Biblical values and good marriages were the norm rather than the exception and sex was regarded as sacred and reserved for marriage. And people respected their bodies, resisted temptation, and restrained their passions. It begins in the family and in our churches.

Thank You

The staff at St. Clement's would like to give a special thank you to

Jan Drexler for coordinating the Mardi

Gras/Valentine party this year. Along with Jan we also thank everyone who helped to make the night a success. It is never an easy task to undertake a big

event and we are extremely grateful for the use of your time and talents.



"St. Joseph, father and guardian of virgins, into whose faithful keeping were entrusted innocence itself, Christ Jesus, and Mary, the Virgin of virgins, I pray and beseech thee through Jesus and Mary, those pledges so dear to thee, to keep me from all uncleanness, and to grant that my mind may be untainted, my heart pure, and my body chaste; help me always to serve Jesus and Mary in perfect chastity. Amen." (www.mostholymonastery.com)



"2010" Weekly Budget	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected February 14 th	\$ 5,549.93
Difference	+ \$ 199.93

Second Collections

02/14/10 "St. Vincent de Paul".....\$1, 998.86

Campaign '10 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 02/07/10.....	\$ 90,134.33
February 14 th Collections.....	\$ 0
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$ 90,134.33

Second Collection: There will be no second collection next Sunday.

Our Newly Baptized

The parish of St. Clement's would like to welcome our newest members Alexander Paulson, Vanessa Sandoval, Robert Morales, Katlin Chamlee, and Suzannah Gallagher. These children were baptized into the Catholic Faith during the month of January and February of 2010. May the Lord protect them and their families as they begin their walk with Christ.

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2010

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the chosen people.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

The confession of faith of all believers in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert and was tempted.

Living the Paschal Mystery

The ritual act of professing our faith during Sunday Mass is no substitution for living it in our daily lives. When we are tested by temptations, our faith is put to the test, too, and we are faced with a choice of who we are and how we want to live. Lent is a time to examine our choices.

Just as God led Israel to a "land flowing with milk and honey" so will God lead us to salvation if we "call on the name of the Lord." For us, though, our desert is the demands of everything living, and our salvation is found on the cross. Each day we take up our cross and lay down our life for the sake of others, we are building strength to resist temptation and come to greater faith. Our simple acts of kindness are helping us resist temptation. Our doing well whatever the task at hand helps us resist temptation. Our complimenting another or offering a word of encouragement helps us resist temptation.

We don't have to go out into a desert to find temptation! But we do need God's nearness to resist it. And that God has promised us.

~**Living Liturgy**

Stewardship Thought 

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promise land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

Saturday February 20, 5:30pm.....	Rolon Family (prayers)
Sunday, February 21, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 21, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 21, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 21, 1:00pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 21, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Monday, February 22, 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Tuesday February 23, 12:15 pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, February 24, 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, February 25, 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, February 26, 6:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (English)
Friday, February 26, 7:30pm.....	Stations of the Cross (Spanish)/Prayer Group
Saturday February 27, 5:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 28, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 28, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 28, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 28, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 28, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

Upcoming Changes in the Mass



When Lent begins, many remember the "old" disciplines and requirements of Lent before the Second Vatican Council. Prior to the mid-1960s, abstinence from meat was required every Friday of the year in most parts of the world. "Fasting and abstinence are prescribed in the United States on the Fridays of Lent, Holy Saturday forenoon (on all other days of Lent except Sundays fasting is prescribed and meat is allowed once a day)." (1945 *Father Lasance Missal*)

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Pope Paul VI changed the requirements in 1966, but also urged us to do other penances. "He recommended that fasting be appropriate to the local economic situation, and that all Catholics voluntarily fast and abstain. He also allowed that fasting and abstinence might be substituted with prayer and works of charity." (*Wikipedia*)

Also, the Sunday fast before Mass was from midnight on (unlike today where it is one hour before). That changed in the mid-1950s when Saturday vigil masses also were reinstated.

Please pray for the following people who are suffering:



Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry- prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Brian Pierce-health & safety, Anthony Ortiz-health, Teresa Howard-health, Lou Brown-brain cancer, Jim Robertson-cancer, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, The people of Haiti-health & safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Pearl Turner-Parkinson's.

Stewardship

The season of Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a season where we can fast from worldly things to give more of our time and talent to the Church. It also is a season where we can

actively give to charity (almsgiving) in a variety of ways. This year I hope we especially will remember the people of Haiti and our local efforts through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our food pantry has seen continued high volume—40-50 families every two weeks.

Our parish chapter is in need of more volunteers to help with the growing demand.

U.S. Catholic History



"Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded on [All Saints Day](#) November 1, 1776 by [Spanish Catholics](#) of the [Franciscan](#) Order. . . while the ruins of "The Great Stone Church" (which was all but leveled by an 1812 earthquake) are

a renowned architectural wonder, the Mission is perhaps best known for the annual "Return of the Swallows" which is traditionally observed every March 19 (*Saint Joseph's Day*)." (*Wikipedia*) San Juan Capistrano is south of Irvine, Calif., and east of Laguna Beach.

Archdiocesan News

FIREPROOF: NEVER LEAVE YOUR PARTNER BEHIND, a 5-week series, begins February 26 at the Cathedral of Christ the King, 2699 Peachtree Road , Atlanta at 7:00 pm. The high-impact motion picture, FIREPROOF, dares couples to stand together against the flames that threaten to burn down marriages. **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Anyone married, single, or divorced - or those who want to pass on the legacy of their marriage to their children. It's never too late to have a GREAT Marriage! Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes a Participant Guide and the Love Dare book. For more information call 404-267-3671 or email evangelization@ctking.com. Nursery is available upon request (6 mos. to 4 yrs).