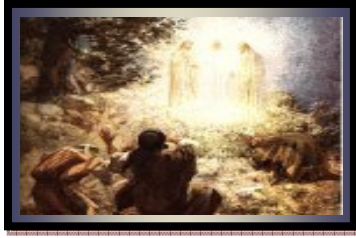


Second Sunday of Lent



This Week in Our Parish

February 28, 2010

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 **7:00 pm:** Spanish Mass

Monday: **12:15 pm:** NO Daily mass **7:00 pm:** Hispanic Leaders Mtg.

Tuesday: **12:15 pm:** NO Daily mass **7:00 pm:** Knights Mtg.

Wednesday: **12:15 pm:** NO Daily mass **6:30 pm:** Rosary **7:00 pm:** Our Lady the Mts. Penance Service

(Jasper)

Thursday: **12:15 pm:** Communion Service

Friday:  Cleaning Team Four

6:00 pm: Stations in (Eng.) **6:30 pm:** Lenten Meal Sponsored by Knights of Columbus **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: 3rd 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 **7:00 pm:** Spanish Mass

Why We Do What We Do

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about a number of core, essential Catholic beliefs that many Catholics see as optional or choose not to believe or learn more about. These are beliefs that for Christ and His Church are required beliefs for Catholics.

The ones mentioned were: 1) the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ; 2) Sacred Tradition; 3) the Church's moral and teaching authority, including the Pope and the *Magisterium* (teaching office); 4) abortion is a grave sin and moral evil; 4) Church offices of bishop, priest/presbyter, and deacon; 5) Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession; 6) Sacrament of Marriage; 7) Sacrament of Holy Orders; and 8) Church and Biblical teaching on the human body and human sexuality.

Some Catholics today do not believe there are Seven Sacraments. The first to significantly dispute this was John Calvin, founder of the Calvinists and Presbyterians who only acknowledged the sacrament of baptism. He had a very different understanding of grace, human nature, and God's saving activity. Calvin took passages of St. Paul and decided that some are "Predestined to Hell." St. Paul speaks of "those he predestined he also called." (*Rom 8:30*) And that

"the elect attained it." (*Rom 11:7*) Calvin decided if the "called" and "elect" are predestined to Heaven, than some must be "Predestined to Hell." This despite the verse "For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all." (*Rom 11:32*)

For Calvin, earthly wealth and success were signs of being "the elect." Earthly suffering and poverty" were signs of "the condemned" and were punishment from God. Calvin's original church in Geneva, Switzerland is one of the wealthiest in the world and its members include many millionaires. His "Prosperity Gospel" was condemned by the Catholic Church and declared a heresy. Catholic teaching requires an "Option for the Poor."

Calvin and many other Protestant leaders denied Infant Baptism as well, despite Biblical and Church evidence of infant baptisms from the beginning. The Acts of the Apostles tell us that whole and entire families were baptized. There is nothing about postponing baptisms of small children till they were of age to make a decision for themselves." We are told that Cornelius and his entire family are baptized (*Acts 10-11*). That Lydia "and her household" were baptized. (*Acts 16:15*) And that a jailer "and all his family were baptized at once." (*Acts 16:33*)

Many Catholics today wish to dispute infallible teachings about the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Assumption of Mary, and her perpetual virginity, despite Biblical references and writings of Church Fathers going back to the time of the Apostles. We have eyewitness accounts to her death and immediate Assumption and the angel Gabriel addresses her "Hail Mary, Full of Grace," an existence without sin *before Christ* only possible through an Immaculate Conception. (*Lk 1:28*).

Most Protestants believe Mary had other children. The Bible says only that Jesus had brothers and sisters—*not ever* that they were Mary's children. Early scholars offered two explanations: 1) the word for brother and first cousin at certain times was the same word, or 2) when a man had more than one wife in the Bible, his children were distinguished by reference to the mother (sons of Rachel, sons of Leah, etc.). Historically it is thought Joseph was older and quite possibly was a widower with children by a previous wife.

The necessity of faith and works is also disputed. This goes back to Martin Luther who even wanted to remove the Letter of James, since it didn't support his thinking. "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" (*Jas 2:14*) Luther, a Catholic Augustinian monk, failed to see that the works had to be inspired by the same Holy Spirit who inspired faith in the first place. Works I come up with independently on my own by merely my own thinking cannot be true works of faith.

Many Catholics also do not understand the influence and shaping of our Jewish roots. Christ grew up Jewish! Mary and Joseph were Jewish. The Last Supper—our Mass—was a celebration of the Passover meal going back to the time of Moses. The Apostles were Jewish. The New Testament Scriptures were written by Jewish Christians who, guided by the Holy Spirit, started Christianity after Pentecost and thus were the first converts in a sense. Some wrote from mixed communities of Jews and Gentiles who dealt with the challenges of bringing two previously opposed groups together. When we read the Old Testament, we understand much more deeply the foundations of Christianity. Foundations that most Christian denominations diminish. Others try to go back exclusively to these roots, ignoring 2,000 years of Tradition.

Prayer

Our prayer in Lent should be focused on asking Christ to shine His light on those places in our life that need healing, forgiveness, conversion, and change. Too often we try to look at things on our own and are either too gentle or too harsh.

"He probes the wellsprings of the streams, and brings hidden things to light. . . And to man he said: 'Behold, the fear of the Lord is wisdom; and avoiding evil is understanding.'" (*Job 28:11, 28*)

"God you know my folly; my faults are not hidden from you. . . But I pray to you, Lord, for the time of your favor. God, in your great kindness answer me with your constant help." (Ps 69:6, 14)



"2010" Weekly Budget	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected February 21st	\$ 5,570.87
Difference	+ \$ 220.87
Ash Wednesday	\$1,336.15
Second Collections	
02/21/10 "Black & Indian Missions".....	\$1, 071.56
02/21/10 "Central & Eastern Europe".....	\$ 303.00
Campaign '10 Pledges:	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 02/07/10.....	\$ 90,134.33
February 21 st Collections.....	\$ 0
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$ 90,134.33

Second Collection: Next Sunday's second collection will be for the St. Clement's Building Fund. If you receive envelopes you will find it marked March 14th. The envelopes should have been marked for March 7th however; an error put them on the same collection week as Catholic Relief Services. We will have two other dates that have the same error and will announce them as they draw near. We extend our most sincere apologies for the confusion, and many thanks for your patience and understanding.

Stewardship

"Bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.' And having set them before the Lord, your God, you shall bow down in his presence." (Deut 26:8-10)

Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2010

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Christ will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Baptism is our covenant with the Lord, Rather than animal offerings and "smoking fire pot and flaming torch", the sign of our covenant with God is water, chrism, white garment, and lighted candle. Luke's allusions to Jesus' death in Jerusalem prompt an allusion to our being plunged into Jesus' dying and rising in the baptismal waters. We are invited this Sunday to see our baptism in light of the transfiguration.

Baptism isn't simply a ritual we perform but a covenant with God that we live out the rest of our lives. During Lent as we walk with the elect through their final preparation for baptism we, too, prepare to renew our covenant with God at Easter. This means that we not only already share in God's life and look forward to that day when we will share eternal glory with God but we also embrace the suffering and death.

Let's face it: constant dying to self gets tiresome! This Sunday we are given a glimpse of glory to help ease the discouragement of a lifetime of self emptying. This tells us something about how we might keep Sundays holy. If each Sunday were a day of rest, a time to be good to ourselves, to do something special that is uplifting, to

enter into a moment of glory, we would be better fortified to continue dying to self. ~Living Liturgy

Stewardship Thought

Peter, James, and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the kingdom.

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.....	Ashly Barrabona (40 day Presentation
Sunday, February 28, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Monday, March 1, 12:15pm.....	No daily mass
Tuesday March 2, 12:15 pm.....	No daily mass
Wednesday, March 3, 12:15pm.....	No daily mass
Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, March 4, 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, March 5, 6:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (English)
Friday, March 5, 7:30pm.....	Stations of the Cross (Spanish)/Prayer Group
Saturday March 6, 5:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

Scholarships



Next month (March) we will begin the application process for two scholarships. The first is the St. Clement's "St. Mary's School Scholarship." St. Clement's for the second year is offering a partial scholarship to St. Mary's Catholic Grammar School.

The scholarship will either be one \$3,000 scholarship or two \$1,500 scholarships, depending on the number of applicants.

The scholarship(s) will be awarded based on financial need, but more importantly based on emotional, intellectual, and spiritual need. Applications will be available this week through the parish office. The scholarship(s) would be for the 2010-11 academic year. St. Mary's School (pre-K thru 8th grade) is located in Rome, Ga., and tuition is around \$5,000 per year. For more information, check out their website at www.smsrome.org.

The second scholarship is a new one called the Defalco Scholarship. The scholarship will be given to a graduating high school senior in memory of Sam Defalco. Sam, a vital member of this parish community for more than 30 years, passed away last June. We are still taking donations for the scholarship and plan to establish an endowment.

The Defalco Scholarship will be awarded to the student who best exemplifies the ideals and virtues that Sam showed everyone during his lifetime. These include courage, discipline, generosity, and a zest for life. The application will include a questionnaire and an essay. The scholarship will be awarded based on financial need, but more importantly based on strong character; the desire to grow, explore, and achieve; and the desire to help others.

Applications are available through the parish office. The scholarship will awarded May 16 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass when we honor Graduating Seniors.

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, Curtiss 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, 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, Jenna Proctor-health.

Homecoming



We welcome home Army Specialist Brian Pierce of our local 108th Cavalry and all our returning troops. Pierce, husband of Audrey Best Pierce—and also known as "Daddy" to little Ava—was scheduled to return from Afghanistan Feb. 27 to Ft. Stewart near Savannah. He should be in Calhoun on March 9 for a nice time of relaxation and reconnection. Brian has served as a Scout during his military tour. We are glad to have our troops home and we pray for those still overseas.

Archdiocesan News

There will be a SILENT WEEKEND RETREAT FOR WOMEN March 5-7 and a SILENT WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MEN March 12-14. Each will be held at Carmel Retreat Center in Hoschton. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the retreats will be given by a priest of the Legionaries of Christ and will provide time for directed meditations and the sacraments. Contact: (678) 679-5096 weekdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with questions or e-mail retreats@MissionNetworkAtlanta.org. To register online, visit www.MissionNetworkAtlanta.org and select event registration.