



## **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **February 20-21, 2016**

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

- Sat. Feb. 20: 5pm: *Pro Populo*
- Sun. Feb. 21: 7am: +David Lucas  
8:30am: Bishop Michael Barber  
10:30am: Fr. Kenneth Nobrega  
12:30pm: +Joseph Crow
- Mon. Feb. 22: 8am: Fr. Alex Snyder  
6pm: Tomas Rodriguez
- Tues. Feb. 23: 8am: +Marie Rieger  
6pm: Shelly Fuller
- Wed. Feb. 24: 8am: Fr. S. Zak, +Fr. D. McDonnell, +Fr. Joseph  
6pm: +Carol Grant & Robert Grant
- Thurs. Feb. 25: 8am: +Simon Tang  
12pm: +Francisco Villacorta

6pm: +Patricia Alvarez

Fri. Feb. 26: 8am: +James Lassen  
6pm: Dave and Beth Kerscher

Sat. Feb. 27 8am: Kathryn Rieger  
10am: +Anthony Tonti  
5pm: *Pro Populo*

**There are Masses still open for intentions on Feb. 29-March 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14-18, 19. ●**

**Please keep in your prayers....** Fr. Stan Zak, Fr. Bill Marshall; Lianne Claver; Betty Garland; Mary Walker; Alex Porcuna; Lewis Mullen; Carmel Mahoney; Nancy Duenas; Brad O’Leary; Titus Ekanem; Elisa & Giovanni Mancarti; Vic and Nancy Miloslavich; Kathryn Rieger; Judy & Louis Delligatti; Eugenia Hunter; Rose Bloom; Stella Lurton; Sue Weber; Cornelius McCauley; Laura Montgomery; Sara Zendejas; Rosaline White; Josephine Palacios; Annie Bozzardi; Francis Martinez, Mike Rodriguez; Patrick Ventanilla; Paul Ehrfurth; John Ehrfurth; Lily McWilliams; Anaidel Perezarevalo; Janice Siliger; Claudia Bermudez; Robert Martinez, Laverne Seliger; Eddie Martinez; Jim Gilheany, Sr.; Nathan Knight, AJ Garcia; Sylvester Bell, Keith Borchers; Arthur Connick; Paul Oei. ●

***In Memoriam:*** +Virgil Garcia, +Wanda Krawczyk, +Bill Leita, +Michael Smith, +Rolando “Ron” Arnaldo, +Taro Yamaguchi. ***Requiescat in pace.*** ●

## **Transfiguration**

On the mountaintop, after praying, He became transfigured before them as the glory of His Divinity flashed through the threads of his earthly raiment. It was not so much a light that was shining from without as the beauty of the Godhead that shone from within. It was not the full manifestation of Divinity

which no man of earth could see; nor was His body glorified, for he had not risen from the dead, but it possessed a quality of glory. His crib, His carpenter trade, his bearing opprobrium from enemies were a humiliation; fittingly there should also be epiphanies of glory, as the angels' song at His birth and the voice of the Father during the baptism.

Now, as He nears Calvary, a new glory surrounds Him. The voice again invests Him in the robes of the priesthood, to offer sacrifice. The glory that shone around Him as the Temple of God was not something with which he was outwardly invested, but rather a natural expression of the inherent loveliness of "Him who came down from heaven." The wonder was not this momentary radiance around Him; it was rather that at all other times it was repressed. After Moses, after communing with God, put a veil over his face to hide it from the people of Israel, so Christ had veiled His glory in humanity. But for this brief moment, He turned it aside so that men might see it; the outgoing of these rays was the transitory proclamation to every human eye of the Son of Righteousness. As the Cross came nearer, His glory became greater. So it may be that the coming of the anti-Christ or the final crucifixion of the good will be preceded by an extraordinary glory of Christ in His members.

In man, the body is a kind of cage of the soul. In Christ, the Body was the Temple of Divinity. In the Garden of Eden, we know that man and woman were naked but not ashamed. This is because the glory of the soul before sin shone through the body and became a kind of a raiment. Here too in the Transfiguration, the Divinity shone through humanity. This was probably much more natural than for Christ to be seen in any other pose, namely, without that glory. It took restraint to hide the Divinity that was in Him.

The Old Testament was coming to meet the New. Moses the publisher of the Law, Elijah the chief of the Prophets—both of them were seen shining in the Light of Christ Himself...The subject of conversation of Moses, Elijah and Christ was not what he had taught, but His sacrificial death...Their work was done, they pointed to Him to see the Redemption accomplished. (Taken from *Life of Christ* by Fulton J. Sheen) ●

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Parish's annual **40-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is scheduled to begin at 2pm on March 11 (Friday) and continues until 7am on March 13 (Sunday). Sign-ups are available in the vestibule.

The **40-hour Devotion** or *Quarant'Ore* is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. The Blessed Sacrament remains in a monstrance on the altar during the next forty hours while the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. ●

Please mark your calendar: On March 5th (Saturday), **Fr. Torlach Delargy**, a priest of the Prelature of *Opus Dei*, will be with us to give a **Lenten recollection**. The activities for that day is still being worked on. But please save the date and check the bulletin for updates. ●

This year the goal set for St. Margaret Mary for **Bishop's Appeal 2016** is \$18,424.95, which is the same goal set for us back in 2014. The Diocesan Goal for this Year's Appeal is \$2.5 million.

For this year's Bishop's Appeal, Bishop Barber has adopted the motto: "Sharing In God's Mercy" in conjunction with the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** proclaimed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Among the programs supported by your contribution to the Bishop's Appeal is clergy formation and retirement. Appeal funds are used to support those in seminary, preparing them for a lifetime of service to the Church in the East Bay. These men are pursuing a special call to service, and need our prayerful and financial support.

The cost to the Diocese to support these seminarians in their studies is one of the largest budget items. As more men discern their call to serve the Church, these costs will continue to grow.

Continued updating, renewal, and education for priests who currently serve is important for a vital and growing Church. The Diocese provides renewal programs, sabbaticals, and continuing education for our priests.

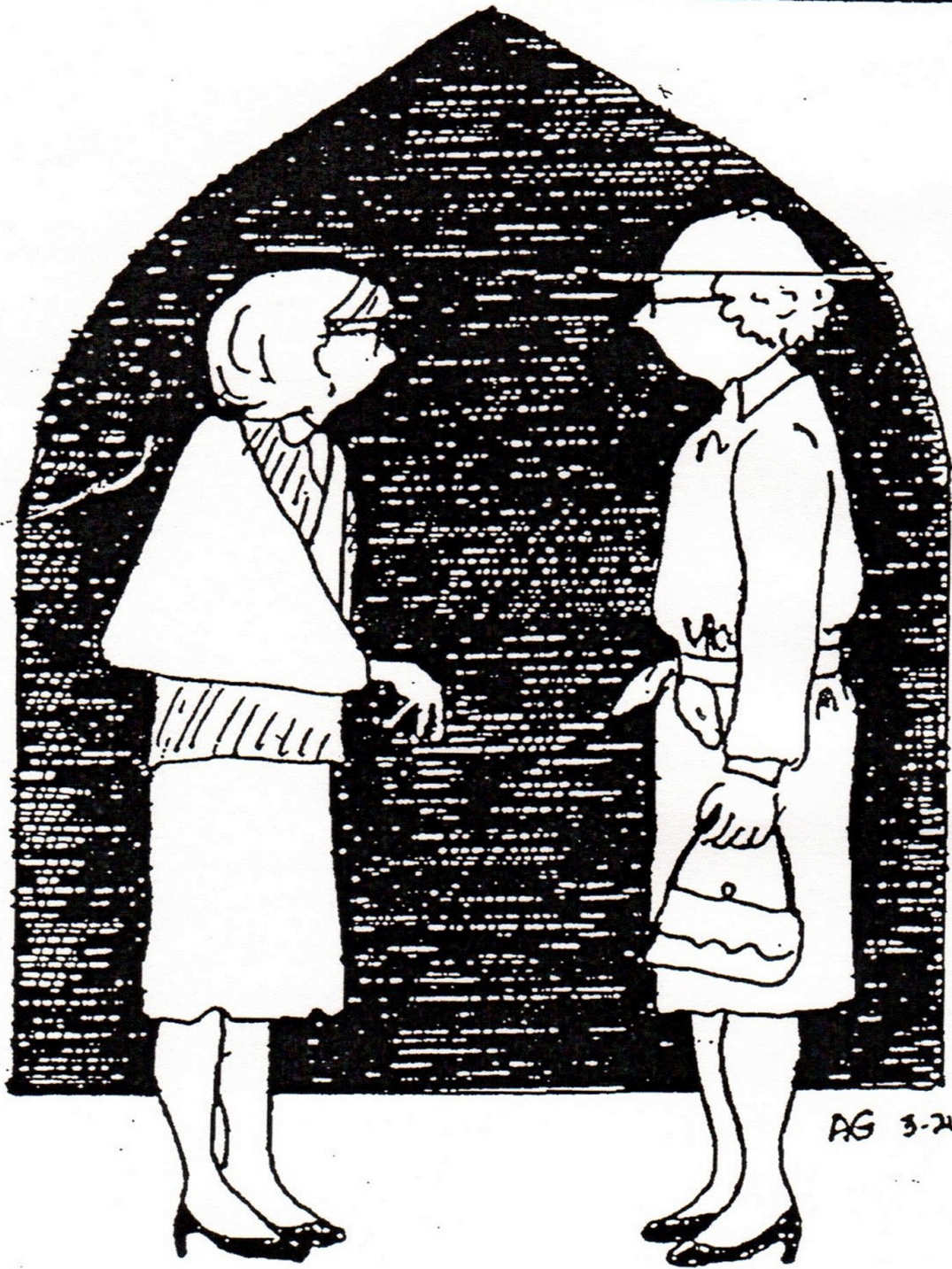
In their retirement years, our priests deserve our thanks for their lives of service. Funds from the Bishop's Appeal will be used to provide supplemental retirement and long-term care for our elderly priests.

The diaconate is a special ministry of service vital to ongoing programs in our parishes, prisons, and hospitals in our area. The deacons who serve our Diocese are also provided continuing education, formation, and support in their ministry. ●

Thanks to **Lori Libby** who served the priests lunch this past Friday for the Monthly Holy Hour for Priests. The main volunteer (the cook) has been procured for the remaining months until May, but we can use some extra volunteers to help out. If you are available to help on any specific month, please contact **Lily Mullen** to sign up at [lily.mullen@gmail.com](mailto:lily.mullen@gmail.com) or (925)827-1946.

The priests who attend this monthly morning of prayer and recollection appreciate our efforts to provide a homemade meal and serve them. In this little way we say ‘Thank You’ for their ministry to us. ●





**"I'm so sorry about your accident!  
Is it true you did it falling off the  
straight and narrow path?"**

**(From *Father's Flock of St. Margaret Mary's Parish* by Arden Glass)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued):

Due to the temporary loss of the Parish Hall, the **St. Vincent de Paul** conference will not be collecting new children's clothing this year. Instead, it will make a monetary contribution to the **Women's Center** in downtown Oakland. This center provides critical support (emergency shelter, showers, household supplies, etc.) for homeless and low-income women and their children.

You may assist them by writing a check to St. Margaret Mary's with a notation "SVdP" and placing the check in any collection. All SVdP money collected during Lent will go to the **Women's Center**. Please consider this almsgiving opportunity. ●

**Rice Bowls** from **Catholic Relief Services** (CRS) are available this weekend. They are in the vestibule. Please bring the Bowls back to Church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016.

**Operation Rice Bowl** is a Lenten program of CRS: The official relief & development agency of the Church in the USA. 75% of offerings to Operation Rice Bowl fund CRS' development projects overseas. 25% of contributions support hunger & poverty alleviation efforts in dioceses across the USA. ●

The Pastoral Staff of St. Margaret Mary is offering to all a CD entitled **Mercy**. It contains sermons by Los Angeles' Auxiliary **Bishop Robert Barron** on the topic of God's mercy. Bishop Barron speaks about the prodigal son, the Divine Mercy, the Resurrection and the forgiveness of sins, and other topics. Along with the CD, the Staff is giving away DVD's of episode six from Bishop Barron's groundbreaking **Catholicism** series. Episode six is entitled "**A Body Both Suffering And Glorious: The Mystical Union of Christ & The Church.**"

Please take home a copy of the CD and DVD from the vestibule. ●

The Parish's **JP2 Youth Group** and this year's **confirmandi** are on retreat this weekend. Please pray for a fruitful and prayerful retreat for our young people. ●

There will be a **Priesthood Discernment Group Meeting** on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in the Pope John Paul II Room. This will be an evening of prayer and reflection for those who are thinking about priesthood with an opportunity to listen to priests and seminarians about their own discernment and vocation. Please contact the Vocations Director, Fr. Neal Clemens, for more information at 510-267-8345 or [nclemens@oakdiocese.org](mailto:nclemens@oakdiocese.org). ●

**Sisters from the Convent of St. Elizabeth** in Minsk in the country of Belarus will be coming to our Parish on **March 8th (Tuesday)** after the 8am and 6pm Masses. They will be here to exhibit and sell handmade religious items made by the Sisters.

The Convent was founded in 1996. The Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults, those addicted to drugs and alcohol, as well as the homeless in the area where their Convent is. The Sisters have organized workshops so that the people they serve help the sisters make the religious wood-carvings, crosses, icons, rosaries, ceramic gifts, and others that will be on display. ●

## **To-day**

For to-day, our Lord tells us, to-day's troubles are enough.

And that applies, in a sense, even to our sins. After all, try as we will, there are some of our venial sins to which good resolutions seem to make no difference at all. The occasions of them are so frequent, the premeditation required for them is so small, that we cannot reach them at long range. We want to make a heroic resolve that we will never commit them again; but experience has taught us to distrust those resolves. Very well, then; here is a new use we may make of the magic word "to-day".

Instead of worrying about whether we shall ever commit these sins again, let us simply resolve not to commit them to-day. "Deign, O Lord, to keep us, just for this one day, without sin"; let us see if we cannot cheat the devil, like some exacting creditor, by saying, "Not just yet; not to-day". And let us ask for no more than the grace to avoid those sins just in the sixteen



hours which lie between bed-time and bed-time. Let us make to-day a holiday even from our venial sins. Even if we fall again to-morrow, something is gained.

This day without sin—as it is such a special day, we will try to avoid, his grace helping us, our sins against God, the little daily infidelities and irreverences by which we offend him. One day is very much like another, and for that reason it is terribly easy to get into a rut of imperfection—just a little longer in bed than will allow us full leisure to prepare for Mass and Communion, and so on all through the day, little bits of self-indulgence and self-pleasing. Deign, O Lord, this day to keep us from such sins against yourself.

This day without sin; as it is such a special day, we will try to avoid sinning against ourselves, by the wrong use of God's creatures. Walk out in the early morning and look at God's creatures; how beautiful they are, with the dew still clinging to them, and the new sunlight turning them all to silver, the flowers fresh as buds, the air pure, the birds singing as if they had never know what it was to sing before. (Saint Gertrude says that you ought to offer your heart to God every morning as a rose with the dew still on it.) In that early morning air, you recognize that every dawn is a re-birth; nature seems virgin, untarnished, only waiting for your sin, like a second fall of man, to rob it of its innocence. Well, to-day, as it is such a special day, we will try to keep that freshness and innocence of the morning all day in our hearts. We will not give in our names to that human conspiracy of sin which defaces God's creatures by misusing them. (Taken from *A Retreat For Lay People* by Ronald Knox) ●

This week's **second collection** is for the Archdiocese of Military Services. Last week's second collection for the Bishop's Appeal totaled \$1,143. Next week's second collection will be for the Diocesan Insurance and Assessment. Thank you for your support.

<b>Weekly update</b>	<b>February 13 &amp; 14</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Actual - 1st Plate	\$3,888	\$30,216
Parish Pay 1st Plate	\$1,160	\$9,260
Total 1st Plate	\$5,048	\$39,476
Goal	\$6,400	\$44,800
Shortfall	\$1,352	(-\$5,324) ●

## **MUSIC**

**Prelude (5&10:30)** Heinlein, by R. Ellasser

**Hymns for today:** #362 Forty days and forty nights #365 , Domine

**5pm (Sat.)** Mass of Christian Unity, Vermulst

**10:30am:** Mass for Lent, by Charlotte Ellis

**offertory:** O My God Bestow, Pergolesi

**12:30pm:** Gregorian Mass XVII

**Postlude (5&10:30)** Erhalt uns Herr bei deinem Wort, Buxtehude ●

## **Little Catechism Of The Life Of Prayer**

Chapter II: The Method of Mental Prayer

**What is the best way to understand the Carmelite method of prayer?**

In order to understand the Carmelite method of prayer one must keep in mind the idea of mental prayer as it is presented by St. Teresa; that is to say, that prayer consists in an intimate conversation with our Lord, in which we speak to Him especially of love, responding to his invitation to love Him. The various parts of prayer have as their purpose to lead us gently to this loving conversation with Him.

## **How does the preparation serve this purpose?**

The preparation ought to serve to bring us close to our Lord; for we cannot in fact speak intimately with anyone if we are not near the person. We ought therefore to place ourselves in the presence of God with lively faith and in the humble attitude of a soul that knows itself to be a child of God.

## **What is the purpose of reading?**

Reading serves to provide a subject for loving conversation with our Lord, a conversation that can be nourished by the consideration of all the mysteries of our holy faith and of the various gifts and graces we have received from the Lord; in fact in everything in which God's love is manifested toward us. But since it is not possible to speak of all these matters at the same time, we may select for our reading the subject with which we wish to be occupied and make our consideration easier, following the explanations and reflections of a book.

## **Why meditate?**

The meditation or personal reflection that we make on the divine gift or on the mystery that we have selected in our reading, serves a double purpose: the one intellectual, the other affective. The intellectual purpose is to understand better God's love for us, as it is manifested in the mystery or in the divine gift that we are considering, and thus to be every more convinced of the loving invitation addressed by God to our soul. The affective purpose consists in moving the will to the exercise of love and to its manifestation by responding to the divine invitation. Meditation becomes therefore the immediate preparation for loving conversation with our Lord.

(By Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalene, O.C.D.) ●

(Next week: How does one pass from meditation to the loving colloquy?)

[\*\*RETURN TO HOMEPAGE\*\*](#)