



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

February 27-28, 2016

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Feb. 27: 5pm: *Pro Populo*

Sun. Feb. 28: 7am: +Antonin Scalia
8:30am: Those who pray for the sick
10:30am: The Mullen Family
12:30pm: Seminarians of St. Philip Neri Seminary

Mon. March 1: 8am: +Salvador Martinez
6pm: Shelly Fuller

Tues. March 2: 8am: Peggy Guinther Martinez
6pm: Sally Abidan

Wed. March 3: 8am: +Lou & Mona Frank
6pm: +Hugo da Silva

Thurs. March 4: 8am: +Nelson Omana
12pm: +Bruns Grayson
6pm: +Msgr. Fred Bitanga

Fri. March 5: 8am: Fr. Stan Zak
11am: Return to the faith of extended family of TORCH
members
6pm: Pam's Family

Sat. March 6: 8am: Gladys Isedu
10am: +Helen Geiger
5pm: Shanon Brady, Joseph Brady

There are Masses still open for intentions on March 7, 8, 10, 15-18, April 6 and 9.

Please keep in your prayers.... Fr. Stan Zak, Fr. Bill Marshall; Lianne Claver; 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; Sylvester Bell, Keith Borchers; Arthur Connick; Paul Oei; Theresa Kunihira

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

Our Lord’s Testimony Concerning Himself

The closer a person approaches God, the less worthy he feels. A painting under candlelight shows fewer defects than under the brilliance of the sun; so too the souls who are some distance from God feel more certain of their moral integrity than those who are very close to Him. Those who have left the lights and glammers of the world, and for years have been irradiated by His countenance, have been the foremost to acknowledge themselves as freighted down with the great burden of sin. St. Paul, who has been such an edification to men, called himself “the chief of sinners.” In the presence of the holiest of creatures, the soul becomes self-accusing and broken-hearted with the weight of its defects. As evil men feel their guilt more in the presence of an innocent babe than in the companionship of those who are wicked like themselves, so he who loves God is the most deeply burdened with the sense of his own unworthiness.

But Our Blessed Lord, Who claimed oneness with God, never once confessed a sin or an imperfection. In vain can this be attributed to moral dullness, since His analysis of sin in others was so penetrating. What man is there in the world who could boldly stand up before great crowds and say: *Which of you can prove me in the wrong?* (John 8:46).

Though Our Blessed Lord associated Himself with sinners, there never existed the least suspicion against His spotless innocence. He told His disciples to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses,” but not even in His last agony did He have to utter such a prayer. He forgave the sins of others, in His

name: “Thy sins are forgiven thee,” and yet never asked for pardon. He issued the challenge: “If you cannot detect a moral blot on My escutcheon, then credit Me with truth.” Because He was sinless, He asserted His position in such a way as to make claims upon all mankind, such as calling Himself “the Light” of a darkened world: *I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark; he shall have the light of life.* (John 8:12).

Note, it is not His teaching that is the Light of the World, but rather His Person. As there is only one sun to light a world physically, so He was asserting that He was the only Light for the world spiritually; without Him every soul would be wrapped in darkness. (Taken from *Life Of Christ* by Fulton J. Sheen).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On March 5th (Saturday), **Fr. Torlach Delargy**, a priest of the Prelature of *Opus Dei*, will be with us to give a **Lenten recollection**. Fr. Torlach will offer three talks. **Confessions** are heard between the talks. The schedule is as follows:

1pm.....Individual Silent Prayer
1.15pm.....**First Talk** on Prayer, followed by individual confessions and Rosary.
2.30pm.....**Second talk** on an aspect of the Commandments, followed by the Divine Mercy chaplet
4pm.....**Exposition** of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration.
4.15pm.....**Third talk** on the Eucharist
4.40pm.....Benediction
5pm.....**Holy Mass** in the Ordinary Form
 offered and preached by **Fr. Robert Verrill, O.P.** (Dominican)



The Parish would like to thank **Jerome and Annalynn Placido, Valerie and John Burkart, Sr. and Jr., Jeremiah York, and Fr. Brandon Macadaeg** who served as retreat master at our recently-concluded and successful Parish Youth Retreat which was joined by our Confirmation candidates. Please continue to pray for these our candidates for Confirmation.●

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. ●

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 join us for Adoration. ●



"I know fasting and abstinence are good for the soul, but do you think if I lose 1.0 pounds doing it that it will still count for Lent?"

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued):

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.

Your contributions support parishes and schools in need. These face many challenges to maintain, build, and grow their own ministries and programs in order to bring the Gospel message to those they serve. In some parishes and schools the financial challenges far exceed the ability to fund basic services.

As we "share in God's mercy" it is the responsibility of all Catholics to grow deeper in relationship with God and become more faithful stewards of His gifts as we also share our faith in mission to all people. Each year, the Diocese provides subsidies and grants to assist with operating expenses at our inner-city Catholic schools and parishes that are facing extraordinary and immediate financial challenges.

100% of all funds collected over an individual parish's goal are returned directly to the parish. In 2014, 45 parishes exceeded their goal. Here at St. Margaret Mary, we exceeded our **Bishop's Appeal** goal in 2014 by 130%! Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners! We did it then, we can do it again for **Bishop's Appeal 2016**. The next **Bishop's Appeal** second collection is on the weekend of March 13. Please support this year's **Bishop's Appeal**. ●

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. ●

The **Adult Theology Seminar** continues this Wednesday, March 2nd at 7.15pm. The topic this week is from chapter seven of Pope Benedict's *Jesus of Nazareth*. Chapter seven is on the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

The Seminar is held in the Rectory. It is preceded by a light potluck at 7pm. After the Seminar, Compline is offered at 8.30pm in the Church. Classes are open to all and are free. ●

In his Christmas message, **Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ**, recalled hearing Pope Francis' call for each parish and monastery in Europe to sponsor a refugee family. 'Wouldn't it be great if we become the first diocese in the USA where every parish co-sponsored a refugee family?' he asked.

In this **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, Catholic Charities of the East Bay is taking Francis' and Barber's in asking the faithful to welcome refugees. Catholic Charities has a **resettlement program** which is responsible for the refugee for the first 90 days; parishes would be welcome to continue mentoring the family during and after that.

To learn more about his program please go to an article in the *Catholic Voice* from Feb. 8. The article can be read online at catholicvoiceoakland.org from the front page. ●

For **First Friday** devotions this week, the Litany of the Sacred Heart will be offered after the 8am Mass. Stations of the Cross follow after that and after the 6pm Mass. Also on Friday, families of TORCH will attend

Mass at 11am. The **Divine Mercy chaplet** is offered at 3pm, with Confessions and Adoration beginning at 2pm. The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be offered after the 8am Mass this **First Saturday**. Please join us. ●

This week's second collection is for the Insurance and Diocesan Assessment. Last week's second collection for the Archdiocese of Military Services totaled \$1,094. Next week's second collection will be for the Building Fund. Thank you for your support.

Weekly update	February 20 & 21	Year-to-Date
Actual - 1st Plate	\$5,095	\$35,311
Parish Pay 1st Plate	\$1,160	\$10,420
Total 1st Plate	\$6,255	\$45,731
Goal	\$6,400	\$51,200
Shortfall	\$145	(-\$5,469)

●

To-day

This day without sin; as it is such a special day, we will try to avoid sinning against our neighbors. After all, we ought to know ourselves by now, and we ought to know our neighbors by now. We know almost exactly the people we shall be meeting to-day, their defects, their little weaknesses, their little jokes. We know the work we shall be having to do; perhaps we can make a fairly good guess at the food we shall have for dinner. We shall find ourselves talking to So-and-so, who will tempt us to uncharitable conversation. But to-day is a holiday; we will put all that behind us. Deign, O Lord, to make this day a day unlike the others, a day without sin.

[Let] us think of this new day as if it were going to be the last of all our days on earth. Let us imagine that you go to bed to-morrow night and wind up your watch just as usual; and letters are in the post, written to your friends, assuring them that you are quite well—and then, in the night, just a click in the mechanism of your body, a moment of horror in your dreams, and next morning the bell will be tolling for you, and your soul will have met its God in judgment. Can we find a text with the word ‘to-day’ in it which will give us comfort and warning at the approach of death? Yes, we can remember our Lord’s words to the Penitent Thief: “I promise thee, today thou shalt be with me in Paradise.”

Cast your mind back to that familiar scene of our Lord’s Crucifixion. Beside him stands a creature, the most beautiful that was ever formed since Adam lost his innocence. In all her life no defiling thought has ever entered her being; there has been no action which was tainted with self, no moment at which her will was not perfectly united to the will of her Creator. Of such, you would say, is the kingdom of heaven. And on a cross, behind her, hangs a guilty wretch who is paying the last penalty for a career of crime. We have no evidence in Scripture that this man had ever harboured a generous sentiment, or possessed a redeeming virtue; even on the cross, his repentance is an afterthought. Of such, you would have said, the devil reaps his harvest of souls. Yet at that last moment, it may be, in which the gift of speech was granted him, he spoke a few words to his guiltless fellow-sufferer; and from that Heart, busy with all the tragedies of a universe, came to this one suppliant his sentence of reprieve: “Amen I say to thee, to-day thou shalt be with me in Paradise.”

(Taken from *A Retreat For Lay People* by Ronald Knox) ●

MUSIC

Prelude (5&10:30): Vater unser im Himmelreich, D. Buxtehude

Hymns for today: 363 The glory of these forty days, and #365 Parce Domine

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

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

Offertory: Parce Domine, S. Olivieri.

12:30pm: Lenten 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

How does one pass from meditation to the loving colloquy?

This transition should not be made at a precise, almost mathematically determined moment, but in a wholly spontaneous way. By making our reflections in the presence of God, and thus seeing more clearly how much God loves us, we easily feel moved to speak lovingly to Him. On the other hand, the reflections that we were making before to ourselves, we continue for some time conversing with our Lord, and this serves to give us a keener realization of his love. Finally we leave behind all considerations in order to abandon ourselves fully to the exercise of love and its manifestation, and thus we pass to the loving colloquy. In this conversation we tell God and repeat in a thousand ways that we love Him, that we desire to love Him more and to prove our love to Him.

Is this colloquy important?

This colloquy is most important; it is the central part of prayer. It effects directly the concept that St. Teresa had of mental prayer, which she considered an intimate conversation with our Lord, and in which one responds to His love. For that reason the soul may occupy itself in this way during much of the time of prayer and even for the whole hour.

What is the purpose of the last three parts of prayer?

The last three parts or acts of prayer, that is the thanksgiving, offering, and petition, serve to prolong more easily our loving conversation with our

Lord. They are in fact only more definite acts of affection, or rather various ways of manifesting our love.

What should be our attitude in these parts?

In our thanksgiving we manifest to our Lord our humble gratitude for the gifts we have received from Him. In the offering, moved by loving gratitude, we also wish to give something to the Lord. In the petition or request, humbly convinced of our poverty and weakness and desirous nevertheless of really loving our Lord, we implore His aid that we may succeed and be faithful to the resolutions formed in the offering. These acts are therefore a prolongation of the loving colloquy, flowing spontaneously from the meditation.

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



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