



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 5-6, 2016**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Sat. Mar. 5: 5pm: Shanon Brady, Joseph Brady
- Sun. Mar. 6: 7am:  
8:30am: Bishop Michael C. Baber, SJ  
10:30am: The Mullen Family  
12:30pm: *Pro Populo*
- Mon. Mar. 7: 8am: For conversion of Cecil's family  
and children  
6pm: †A. Santiago, +F. Alzate, +F. & +D. Guinayen
- Tues. Mar. 8: 8am: For conversion of Cecil's family and children  
6pm: † Normand Gendron
- Wed. Mar. 9: 8am: † Samuel Ernesto Mendoza  
6pm: Santiago & Benedicata Dakudao
- Thu. Mar. 10: 8am: +Nelson Omana  
12pm: † Sharon Schlageter  
6pm: † Theresia Joseph
- Fri. Mar. 11: 8am: † Christopher Rutkowski  
6pm: † John Joseph Sweeney
- Sat. Mar. 12: 8am: † All Souls in Tam Ho Family  
10am: Shelly Fuller  
5pm: † George Young

**There are Masses still open for intentions on March 16-18, April 9, 11-14, 16, 18-23**

**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.; Sylvester Bell, Keith Borchers; Arthur Connick; Paul Oei; Theresa Kunihiro, Thomas Borchers.

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



## **Repentance**

Repentance implied a turning away from sin and a turning to God. The first four Beatitudes [Jesus] preached were a description of this inner and radical change of heart, namely, poverty or humility of spirit, sorrow for sin, meekness, hunger and thirst for love of God. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Our Lord had drawn a picture of the soul penitent who “entered into himself,” as if sin had externalized him, and then returned humbly to the father’s house. The Angels of heaven, He said, rejoice more over one sinner doing penance than ninety-nine just who need not penance; the publican in the back of the temple mourning over his sins, He said, went back to his house justified. How in His farewell discourse before the Ascension, He bade the world repent.

The preaching of repentance was to begin at Jerusalem, for Salvation was first to the Jews. In that city the one great Sacrifice was offered for the sins of the world; there it was that the priesthood was shadowed forth with its rites and oracles. There it was that prophecy announced the Captain of Israel; and it was there as Isaiah said: “For instruction issues from Zion, and out of Jerusalem comes the word of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:3)

The Divine order to begin preaching Redemption in Jerusalem was a mark of His great compassion; for He was directing the Apostles to go to those who had falsely accused Him and tell them that He was their Advocate; that he would plead their cause from on high; and finally assure them that, though they scourged Him, through His stripes they would be healed.

Having finished His own autobiography, Our Lord reminded them again of the Spirit that he promised the night of the Last Supper and fulfilled partly when He breathed on them and gave them the power to forgive sins. “I am sending upon you my Father’s promised gift; so stay here in this city until you are armed with the power from above” (Luke 24:49).

Thus He promised a manifest increase of the Spirit beyond a breathing; in fact it would be a “power from on high.” But to receive it, they must wait ten days after His Ascension. This power would be greater than that given to Moses for his work of guiding Israel....(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 Adoration** 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.



**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 all volunteers of St. Margaret Mary's:** our Parish is in the second cycle for **Safe Environment Training**, which is the cycle from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. This means that volunteers who have not had the mandatory training for **Safe Environment** within the past three years, or have not had training at all, are required to do so before the cycle ends this June.

All training is now online and all volunteers and employees of the Parish are required to train every three years. The cost to train is \$8.00. The Parish will reimburse for the cost.

The website is at [shieldthevulnerable.org](http://shieldthevulnerable.org).

Those who volunteer with children/youth are additionally required to take a [LiveScan](#).

For information about LiveScan, accessing the site, and about the **Safe Environment Program**, please contact **Valerie Burkart** at **stmmworks@ymail.com**.

Our volunteers are among the most active, most conscientious, most generous individuals in the community. They give freely of their time and resources to get the work of the Church done. The Parish owes them a lot.

To help equip them in their work and to help them ensure that our Parish remains a safe place for children, the Diocese is requiring this training of all its volunteers. Please check the Q & A below:

**Question:** Who are the “volunteers” required to be trained?

**Answer:** Volunteers include (but not limited to) sacristans, readers,, adult servers, choir members, musicians, flower arrangers, St. Vincent de Paul, KofC and other groups which hold ministries within the parish (including TORCH).

**Question:** What material does the training cover?

**Answer:** The training material at [shieldthevulnerable.org](http://shieldthevulnerable.org) helps to train adults to recognize and respond to signs of abuse, informs them of the reporting procedures, and teaches how to safeguard children.

**Question:** By going through the training, am I not being put under suspicion?

**Answer:** Not at all. Firstly, this training is a requirement for all volunteers in a Parish as mandated by the Diocese in compliance with the US Bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” The training will help enable you to be mindful of any signs that a child has been harmed and will teach you how to respond appropriately.

The Parish wishes to thank the generosity of all our volunteers and urges them to continue to help make our Parish a safe place for our young people.



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. An excellent speaker and homilist, 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.





*'Well, all I have to say is, if our whole life is going to pass before us when we die, I sure hope I can run mine on fast-forward!'*

*From "Father's Flock" of St. Margaret Mary's Parish, by Arden Glass*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued:

If you would like to help the Parish with getting **Easter lilies** for our Church, please find in the vestibule forms and envelopes for making a donation.

You may designate a flower offering in memory of a loved one.

Either mail/send the forms and envelopes to the Parish Office, or drop it in one of the collection baskets during Mass. Thank you.



As is the custom of the Parish, during the Easter Octave **Novena Masses for the conversion of sinners** are offered.

The Novena Masses begin on March 28 (8am) through April 2 (8am). The forms for your intentions will be found in the vestibule next weekend.



In his 2015 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 this **resettlement program** please go to an article in the Catholic Voice from Feb. 8. The article can be read online at [catholicvoiceoakland.org](http://catholicvoiceoakland.org) from the front page.



During these days of Lent, please remember to pray for members of our community who are preparing to receive the Sacraments.

These include our **First Communion candidates, our Confirmation candidates, those who wish to be received in the Church** from other Christian denominations, and for our one Elect, **Ron Montgomery**.



<b>Weekly update</b>	<b>February 27 &amp; 28</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Actual - 1st Plate	\$4,653	\$39,964
Parish Pay 1st Plate	\$3,220	\$13,640
Total 1st Plate	\$7,873	\$53,604
Goal	\$6,400	\$57,600
Shortfall	\$0	(-\$3,996)

**This week's second collection is for the Building Fund. Last week's second collection for the Insurance and Diocesan Assessment totaled \$1,155. Next week's second collection will be for the Bishop's Appeal. Thank you for your support.**



## **To-day**

[The] Penitent Thief made an act of perfect contrition. He had done nothing to deserve such an opportunity, but he found, and he caught, the hour of grace. Mercy and pardon were all about him that day; here is the time of pardon; the day of salvation has come already. On that day of salvation he would harden his heart no longer. Not hell only, but Purgatory was balked of its prey; he had gained the first plenary indulgence.

Let us hasten, then, while it is called to-day, to ask pardon with the Penitent Thief for our old sins. For we too, in times past, have lived only for the day; and the words "make the most of to-day, which now invite us to



contrition”, were once the motive of spiritual carelessness. We too, like those of whom the Wise Man wrote, have said, reasoning with ourselves, but not right, “Come, let us enjoy pleasure while pleasure is ours; youth does not last, and creation is at our call; of rich wine and spice take we our fill. Spring shall not cheat us of her blossoming, crown we our heads with roses ere they wither.” And now all that is yesterday and is nothing; to-day is the reality, and that day our last this side of eternity. “I reflect upon days long past, the immemorial years possess my mind”; they are gone, those yesterdays, so brief, so fleeting, and nothing lies before us but an endless to-morrow.

And, as if that were not enough, there crowds in upon us, this last day, the memory of all we have left undone; all the inspirations which went unmarked, the calls which were left unheeded; all the opportunities we had, just for a moment, of doing some kindness to an unhappy fellow-creature, opportunities which were never repeated; all the time we wasted, frittered away on silly toys when we might have devoted its usefulness to God. “He has cut me off while the web was still in the making”, we say with King Ezechias; we have looked for the rest of our years, and there was nothing left; “before the day reached its evening, he would make an end of me”—we are being cut off from life when we were only just beginning to live for God.

Here is the time of pardon: the day of salvation has come already; we can efface to-day, to-morrow, with salutary tears, the memory of those sins whose debt, to-morrow, we must needs expiate by suffering. Let us remember our sins each day, as if we had no more space left for sinning; let us weep over them, as if this were our last opportunity of contrition. And he, who returned to heaven with the Penitent Thief for his escort, will shorten our Purgatory and hasten to unite us with himself.

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



# MUSIC

**Prelude (5&10:30)**Echo Fantasia in D, J. Sweelinck

**Hymns for today:**366 Attende, Domine #365 Parce, Domine

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

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

**Offertory:**I heard the Voice of Jesus Say

**Communion:**Stabat Mater, 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: Method of Mental Prayer

### **Should one observe a definite order in following these acts of prayer?**

The order indicated above is the most logical, but in prayer one may use great liberty: we may follow these parts in the order that appears the most spontaneous. On the other hand, we may take up any one part several times. This applies also to meditation and the loving colloquy which may also be frequently alternated.

### **Are the last parts necessary?**

No, these acts are optional. In fact whoever can occupy himself sufficiently in the loving colloquy without having recourse to these acts may do so without delay. But in the beginning of the life of prayer, the attention is often aided by a certain variety of acts; in this case it would be well to have recourse to them.

Chapter III: Preparation and Reading

### **Are there different kinds of preparation for prayer?**

Carmelite authors often distinguish a two-fold preparation: the “proximate” preparation by which we place ourselves in immediate contact with God to begin an intimate conversation with Him, and the “remote”

preparation by which we dispose our faculties to recollect themselves easily in God.

**What is required so that the faculties may be disposed to recollect themselves?**

For this it is necessary that the faculties be not excessively absorbed by creatures and that their tendency to occupy themselves with God be cultivated. To procure these conditions the two elements that constitute the remote preparation are useful. The first element, since it treats of removing an obstacle, is “negative”; the second, directed to procuring a quality, is “positive”.

**What is the negative element of the remote preparation?**

The negative element of the remote preparation is the avoidance of distractions of the mind and attachments of the heart. For the practice of the love of God to be easy, one needs to have a free heart; this requires a great detachment from creatures. Whoever wishes to love God greatly ought to reserve for Him the vigor and tenderness of his affections and not squander them on person and thing which easily captivate an unguarded heart....  
(continued)

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



[RETURN TO HOMEPAGE](#)