



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
 February 24—March 3
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 4:00 p.m. F. Wayne Frey; Marlene Morris; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. H.S. Trapp
- 5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; James R. Cresson; John H. Schroder, Jr.;

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Roberta Wynne Bruley; Jane O'Brien Chatelain; John M. Coogan; Charles Gegg; Kathy Hartson; Nancy Hartson; Marie Rivert; Dr. Alfred E. Ramirez, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Darolyn Thompson; Joe Tonsmeire

- 11:00 a.m. Anne Gabrielle Baile; Dianne Estopinal; Robert Warren Sabaté; John H. Schroder, Jr.

- 5:30 p.m. John H. Schroder, Jr.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

- 12:00 p.m. Willie Edmond; Eva Temento

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 11:30 a.m. Sanctification of Priests

- 12:00 p.m. Willie Edmond; Angelina Gattuso

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

- 12:00 p.m. Willie Edmond; Stephen Andrew Losee; Della LeCompte Springman

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

- 11:30 a.m. Jude Estopinal; Joed Loustaunau

- 12:00 p.m. Willie Edmond; Conchetta Caammarata Salvaggio

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

- 12:00 p.m. Willie Edmond; Patrick Stephen Villalobos

TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2007

7:00 p.m. Confessions

7:30 p.m. Latin Tridentine Mass

8:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30 p.m. Benediction

FIRST SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007

CRUSADE FOR THE CONVERSION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS—MORNING OF PRAYER

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass All are invited.

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

The Claddaugh Group invites all for coffee and doughnuts in Reynolds Hall, behind the rectory, after the Sunday morning Masses.

SUNDAY OFFERING—February 18, 2007

First Collection \$ 5,629

Second Collection* \$ 1,211

* Restoration and Maintenance

TENEBRAE—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007

A Service of Darkness (a Meditation on the Passion and Death of Christ) by Hal Hopson will be presented by the Choir and Readers on February 25, 2007, the First Sunday of Lent, at 7:30 p.m. Security will be provided. For more information: 525-4413.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Way of the Cross—Every Friday after the 12:00p.m. Mass

Confessions—Before the Masses

SPECIAL LENTEN SERIES—MARCH 4, 11 AND 18, 2007

A special Lenten series will be presented between the 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m. Sunday Masses by Dr. James Jacobs, Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame Seminary. The theme: Foundation of the Spiritual Life. A Transcendental Meditation.

CLADDAUGH POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

Join us next Saturday, March 3 for our next potluck and general meeting. We will meet in the rectory following 5:30 pm Vigil Mass. Meeting will begin soon after. We have many things to discuss, including upcoming service events and opportunities, a special opportunity with the Vatican Mosaic exhibit, as well as an update on our "sister" parish in California. Dinner will follow. Please bring a covered dish to share, as beverages will be provided. The Claddaugh group was formed to foster fellowship among the "younger" parishioners at St. Patrick's Church. Everyone is welcome.

EXHIBITION OF THE VATICAN MOSAIC STUDIO

Old Ursuline Convent; 1100 Chartres St., New Orleans

Through June 1, 2007; 9:00 A.M.—5 P.M.

Thirty-seven mosaic artworks from the Vatican Mosaic Studio, replications of prominent artwork. New Orleans is the only stop for the art tour, proceeds from the exhibition will support the restoration and preservation of the Old Ursuline Convent. For more information: 504-569-1401; 800-535-7786; www.vaticanmosaics.com.

The *Archdiocese of New Orleans, Coat of Arms* designed and crafted by the Vatican Mosaic Studio, a memorial gift in honor of John H. Schroder, Jr., can be seen above the lectern here at St. Patrick's Church.

THE MASS IS THE GREATEST FORM OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

To schedule a Mass, please fill out the Mass Form found in the vestibule of the church and deliver it to the rectory office, or place it in the collection basket.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Ree Alario; D. J. Ales; Harold Berrigan, Jr.; Michael Brassett; Lillian Capozzi; Margie Case; Michelle Catalanatto; Tony Clesi; Jim Clynych; Celestine Cook; John Copes; Jackie Dabdoub; Grace Daigle; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Regina Dillon; The Dunlap Family; Joseph Ebberman; Donald Faust, Jr.; Mildred Flynn; Anette Folse; Joseph French; John G. Fulcher; Frank Hemelt; Marie Herty; Marilyn Kitto; Zivana Kovacevich; Brenda Lawson; Carrie LeBoef; Albert Leonhard; Betty Leonard; Alton Lewis; Glenda Liuzza; Dorothy Luquet; Reverend Val A. McInnes, O.P.; Irene Mackenroth; Carol Mallette; Colin McInnis; Joseph Morales; Gerald L. Moran, Jr.; Madeleine Nicoladis; Suzanne Nogues; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Robert Plaskas; J. Van Provosty; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Charlene Taranto; Ashley Turkington; Eleanor Mary Wells

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

POP EXCESS

By the editors of the National Catholic Register

A look at recent headlines points to something we should all give up, not just for Lent, but for good: the excesses of pop culture. The Boston terrorist scare of Jan. 31 ironically sums up the predicament we find ourselves in. When police started to notice that electronic circuit boards had been placed in visible — and vulnerable — areas of Boston, they stopped traffic, evacuated some buildings and blocked sidewalks while they investigated. The devices could have been disguised bombs, strategically placed to cause death and mayhem. As it turned out, the circuit boards were light-up toys that a major American entertainment corporation put up for publicity. Each one depicted a cartoon character making an obscene gesture at passersby. Forgive us if we're not breathing a sigh of relief. Yes, we are glad it turned out that no one was trying to bomb Boston... The incident was filled with telling irony... the Boston police took the threat of cultural smut as seriously as we should all be taking it every day.

An entertainment media unmoored from morality and uninhibited by any shame is as big a threat to our country, morally, as terrorism is, militarily. Which means it's a bigger threat, because it threatens our souls. Consider other recent headlines: The Internet made pornography pervasive. Cell-phone technology has now made it worse. In early February, Florida parents were outraged that cell phones they bought at Wal-Mart for their children were delivering pornographic images. Now, Telus, a major cellular carrier in Canada, is making pornography available nationwide. Our first duty is to opt out of the aspects of pop culture that have become so debased.

Dinesh D'Souza enraged many commentators with his new book, *The Enemy Within*, which makes the incendiary claim that the "cultural left" was responsible for 9/11. We believe his premise makes a good point — but that it should be applied to a much wider group than the author singles out. D'Souza says he doesn't just mean the left wing of the Democratic Party when he says the "cultural left." "The cultural left also includes a few Republicans, notably those who adopt a left-wing stance on foreign policy and social issues," he writes. "Moreover, the cultural left includes organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women, People for the American Way, Planned Parenthood, Human Rights Watch, and moveon.org." "In faulting the cultural left," he writes, "I am saying that the cultural left and its allies in Congress, the media, Hollywood, the nonprofit sector and the universities are the primary cause of the volcano of anger toward America that is erupting from the Islamic world." We see his point that when we export ugly aspects of U.S. culture, we enrage people overseas. Pope John Paul II said the same thing in his prophetic World Peace Day Message of 2001.

But it is too pat to single out just one group of people in America for blame. Anyone who has bought, received, watched, looked at or listened to it is complicit. Hollywood made it. We funded it. We should stop. Even that isn't enough. There's another reason the arts have become a cesspool: Call it a sin of omission by Catholics. For decades, the Church in America has been marked by dissent. Catholic filmmakers, novelists and artists have been here all along — but their products have become morally indistinguishable from the culture's. But that's starting to change...

WHAT KIND OF DEMOCRACY LEADS TO SECULARIZATION?

In his February 13 talk at the Library of Congress -- titled "What Kind of Democracy Leads to Secularization?" -- Cardinal Francis George, O.M.L., Archbishop of Chicago, weighed in against both legal and cultural expressions of secularism that marginalize the importance of religion in society.

It is, the cardinal said, "an issue of great importance for our life together in a democratic republic." Religion "can remain a necessary and legitimate actor in our affairs," he added. "The secular must provide legitimate ground for religion" in society, Cardinal George said. "When the secular is legitimized without freedom of religion, persecution of religion becomes inevitable." He noted his own remarks could be minimized. "If I were to present an argument on its own philosophical, rational terms, it would be seen as religious, because of the speaker," he said.

Cardinal George took aim at the Supreme Court. "Their jurisprudence is admittedly incoherent," going back 50 years to when Justice Felix Frankfurter was on the bench, he said. The cardinal cited as one example the 1971 ruling in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, which dealt with Pennsylvania and Rhode Island laws on government aid to religious schools. Eight-member majorities of the high court, in each of the two questions before it in the case, ruled against government aid, calling it "an excessive government entanglement with religion."

But the cardinal noted that many European nations, "most Canadian provinces and even the Baathist regime in Saddam Hussein's Iraq" -- which, he acknowledged, was not a democracy -- "have given money to the parents so their children can attend Catholic schools" without those nations' fortunes being put at risk. "Incoherent and unpredictable law has resulted in self-censorship," Cardinal George added, noting on the day before Valentine's Day that some have even banned Valentine's Day cards to avoid any possible entanglement between government and religion.

Cardinal George said a "radical secularist" society would resemble Soviet-era Russia by "limiting freedom of religion to the freedom of private conscience and worship." "In the United States, the primary danger to democracy comes not from religion, but from philosophical secularism," Cardinal George said, adding that some of the wounds have been self-inflicted. Jews embraced secularism, he said, to show that one "did not have to be Christian to be American," and, likewise, Catholics embraced secularism to prove one "did not have to be Protestant to be American." But matters have been carried too far, the cardinal said, "when a preacher can be tried in Scandinavia ..., and even in Chicago, for saying that the Bible says homosexual activity is immoral."

Cardinal George said another danger can manifest itself when "democracy doesn't remove religion, but democracy replaces religion: 'The homeland deserves our love.'" At times, he said, "it can be replaced by asserting that the mission takes on a religion dimension."

Alexis de Tocqueville, whose travels in the United States in 1831 resulted in the widely quoted book "Democracy in America," "loved this country but was afraid for its future," Cardinal George said. The French writer wondered whether democratic ideals would "be undermined by the same forces that give democracy its rise."

"What kind of democracy promotes freedom? Ours, if it becomes totally free," Cardinal George said. "What kind of democracy destroys freedom? Ours, if it becomes totally secularized."