



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
 March 3—March 9
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

- 4:00 p.m. Alba "Ree" Alario; Boudreaux-Leson-Terrebbonne-Trapp Families; Nydia V. Kinler; Jack Lingenfelter; Sandra Martin Marlene Morris
- 5:30 p.m. Father Van Constant; James R. Cresson; Toni Ragas; Dr. Alfred E. Ramires, Jr.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Michael K. Abboud; Nellie Aguirre; Todd Broggi; Roberta Wynne Bruley; Marlene Tessitore Cascio; Jane O'Brien Chatelain; Father Van Constant; John M. Coogan; Betty Dale; Tim Dauterive; Bryan Foley; Charles Gegg; Kelly Granier; Joseph & Louisa Grisaro; Stephanie Maria Grisaro; Jeremy Guidry; Morille Guidry, Jr.; Ethel O. Hayes; Dane Hitt; Jim Hitt; Jimmy Hitt; Penny Hitt; Wilbur & Mae Hollier; Laura M. Messina; Peter F. & Rose C. Messina; Simon G. Messina; Fred Ogle; Nancy Ogle; Frank Pistocchi; Dr. Alfred E. Ramirez, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Joe Tonsmeire; Bruce & Allie Wells & Eleanor Mary
- 11:00 a.m. Nolan-Lambert Families; Gabrielle Murphy; Aurelia Rodriguez; Robert Warren Sabate; Alfred Joseph Saulny, Jr.
- 5:30 p.m. Nidia V. Kinler; Father Stanley Klores

MONDAY, MARCH 5

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Father Van Constant; Eula Estay; Nidia V. Kinler; Mary Peters

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

- 11:30 a.m. Mary Guzzardi Cammarata
- 12:00 p.m. Cammarata-Guzzardi Families; Father Van Constant; Angelina Gattuso; Nidia V. Kinler; Dr. Alfred E. Ramirez, Jr.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Father Van Constant; Theresa H. Johnson; Nidia V. Kinler; Stephen Andrew Losee; Della LeCompte Springman

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

- 11:30 a.m. Family of Deborah Howell; Eugene Johnson
- 12:00 p.m. Father Van Constant; Nidia V. Kinler; Maselli Families; Dr. Alfred E. Ramirez, Jr.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Father Van Constant; Nidia V. Kinler; Dr. Alfred E. Ramirez, Jr.

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

Second Sunday in Lent

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

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

SUNDAY OFFERING—February 25, 2007

First Collection \$ 10,788

Second Collection* \$ 2,683

* Restoration and Maintenance

DR. JAMES JACOBS

We welcome Dr. James Jacobs, Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame Seminary as he begins his first of a three part Lenten series, *Foundation of the Spiritual Life, A Transcendental Meditation.*

LENTEN SCHEDULE

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

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

Between the 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m. Sunday Masses

Dr. James Jacobs, Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame Seminary. The theme: *Foundation of the Spiritual Life, A Transcendental Meditation.*

SECOND COLLECTION—MARCH 3 AND 4, 2007

Love is the only light is the theme for the 2007 Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, now working in 28 countries to build the pastoral capacity of the Church. Donations support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation, an the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media. Please be generous.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY—PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

Saturday, March 17, 2007

Pontifical High Mass at 11:30 A.M.

Archbishop Alfred Hughes, Celebrant

Reception in the rectory following the Mass

Everyone is invited

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.

504-569-1401; 800-536-7786; www.vaticanmosaics.com

Thirty-seven mosaic artworks from the Vatican Mosaic Studio, replications of prominent artwork.

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

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

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 Brasset; 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; Mercedes Sunseri; Charlene Taranto; Ashley Turkington; Eleanor Mary Wells

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FORGIVENESS IS NOT A FEELING

September 11, 2005 was a very memorable Sunday for priests. Liturgically, it was the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. For a priest preparing a homily, it was quite a challenge. You could not ignore the fact that it was the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country; and you could not escape the fact that the readings were about forgiveness. This was not an accident or a mere coincidence. God speaks to us in the liturgy; God speaks to us through circumstances.

Why forgiveness can seem impossible

Why was it so hard to think about preaching forgiveness on this day? Why was it so hard to consider forgiving our enemies? It was difficult because we tend to think of forgiveness as a feeling. If I am asked to forgive I think I am being asked to conjure up, or pretend to have, good feelings toward someone who has harmed me. If conceived in this way, forgiveness seems impossible even to consider. How could I tell people to have warm feelings and good wishes toward the terrorist who attacked us and killed so many innocent people, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends? How can I take Jesus Christ seriously when he seems to ask something that seems impossible? If forgiveness is a feeling then there is a temptation to despair of ever being able to forgive, and then there is the possibility of drifting away from the way, the truth, and the life which is Jesus Christ

Forgiveness begins with a judgment

Forgiveness does not begin with feelings, it begins with a judgment. A true judgment begins with the fact that God is the ultimate judge of the living and the dead. The truth regarding those terrorists, and anyone else who has hurt me, is that I have no say in their final destiny. Their salvation is between them and God the Father. Only the Father knows the offender's heart; and only the offender can use his freedom to accept or reject God's Fatherhood. I don't know how much responsibility belongs to the person himself and how much belongs to the person's culture or environment; only God knows. I do not know if there is anything in the depth of the person's being which can still repent of sin and respond to mercy and embrace the truth; only God knows. Forgiveness begins when I say to God the Father, "Into your hands, O Lord, I commend their spirit. You are justice. You are mercy. I trust in you."

Our concern is the truth

I can spend a lot of time and effort hating the terrorist or bearing a grudge against those who have hurt me, but this does absolutely nothing to harm my persecutors, it only harms me. No amount of hatred on my part will do anything to affect the offender's destiny in any way. Before God, before our ultimate destiny, I am not the judge. In fact, I am not even the jury. God will not consult me, for only he, in his infinite wisdom, can see into the depths of the infinite and so often twisted human heart.

In regard to forgiveness, our concern is not feelings, our concern is the truth. Feelings will not set us free, but will often enslave us. Jesus tells us that the truth will set us free. When I accept the fact that the destiny of those who have trespassed against me is in the hands of God, and when I trust God the Father, I am free from the prison of hate and resentment in which my feelings can entrap me. When I harbor resentment, I allow the original offense to continue to spread and poison. When I recognize the truth that to God, and only God, belongs ultimate judgment, the original offense no longer has the power to infect and spread. Redemption can begin, my life can continue.

Forgiveness does not mean that there may not be legal or personal consequences of sinful actions. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's.

As we consider forgiving those who attacked and killed so many on 9/11, we have the same difficult questions as Peter had, "How many times must I forgive?" Put in another way, "What is the limit of forgiveness?" Let us remember that we, like Peter, are in the Presence of Christ who tells us that forgiveness must be limitless. Forgiveness will always be possible as long as I remember that at the center of the cosmos and of history is God the Father, and I allow myself to judge all of reality based upon this fact. Without awareness of this fact, on the other hand, forgiveness will never be possible.

Forgiveness is based not on feelings, but on this fact. May awareness of this truth set all of us free.

Father Richard Veras

Father Veras is a teacher, writer and contributor to MAGNIFICAT.

ST. PATRICK'S OF NEW ORLEANS 1833-1958

Commemorative Essays for the 125th Anniversary

A reprinting of this commemorative book of essays is now available for sale in the vestibule of the church; by contacting an usher; or from the rectory office. The book, first printed in 1958, has been deemed worthy of a second printing and is offered for sale by St. Patrick's Church.

Monsignor Henry C. Bezou, pastor of St. Patrick's during the 125th anniversary, wanted not only a chronological history of St. Patrick's parish but also a telling of the multiple forces that had an influence on the origins and early history of the church. Some of the contributors to the issue were: **Father Thomas T. McAvoy, C.S.C.**, archivist and head of the department of history at the University of Notre Dame; **Father Earl F. Niehaus, S.M.**, professor at Notre Dame Seminary; **John C. Chase**, cartoonist, author and acknowledged expert on the history of New Orleans; **Dr. Joseph G. Tregle, Jr.**, of the department of history of Loyola University of the South and former editor of *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*; **Dagmar LeBreton** member emeritus of the faculty of Newcomb College; **Samuel Wilson, Jr.**, founder and past president of the Louisiana Landmarks Society and lecturer in the college of architecture at Tulane University; **Roger Baudier, K.S.G.**, Official Chronicler of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; **Father Edward F. Murphy, S.S.J.**, dean of philosophy and religion departments at Xavier University; and **Father Francis J. Burkley**, musician in residence at St. Patrick's. **Monsignor Bezou** contributed an essay about the magnificent Sacred Vessels of the church, also the history of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The essays were edited by **Charles "Pie" Dufour** a distinguished editorial columnist, lecturer, historian and author.

The commemorative essays are easily read histories of St. Patrick's Church, compiled by a very capable and knowledgeable group, making it an excellent addition to any library. The price is \$30.