



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
February 20—February 26
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Benjamin Brown; Marlene Morris; Ralph A. Plaideau; Barbara Rush; Houston E. Walker
5:30 p.m. Father Victor Celio; Stephen Luccioni; Leona O'Dwyer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Ernest J. Cappel; Judith B. Casey; Jane O. Chatelain; Claudia Darden; Katie Hebert; Joseph Maselli; Norma McClellan; Richard McCloskey, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Sr.; Hilda Yacaucci
11:00 a.m. Father Van Constant; Barbara Rush
5:30 p.m. Alice Cohen; Father Stanley Klores; Leona O'Dwyer; Hilton & Mary Toups; Mark A. Toups

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Father Van Constant; Katie Hebert; Dr. & Nancy Minyard; Conchetta G. Salvaggio

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 11:30 a.m. Father Victor Celio; Edward O'Dwyer
12:00 p.m. Father Stanley Klores; Elisabeth Robert

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Father Stanley Klores; Stephen Losee; Dr. & Nancy Minyard

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 11:30 a.m. Father Victor Celio; Edward O'Dwyer; John H. Schroder, Jr.
12:00 p.m. Loretta Dousan; Father Stanley Klores; Elisabeth Robert

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Eric G. Hansen; Stephen Losee

GREGORIAN 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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

The Living Flame of the Sanctuary Light
In Memory of Joseph Maselli
Votive Candles at the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary
In Memory of Barry Brechtel
Votive Candles at the Altar of the Sacred Heart
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Mull, Sr.

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

After the Sunday morning Masses, the Claddaugh Group hosts coffee and pastries in the Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Everyone is invited.

SUNDAY OFFERING—February 14, 2010

First Collection \$ 6,373
Second Collection* \$ 1,352

* Catholic Charities

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION

Copies of the Magnificat Lenten Companion are available in the vestibule for all parishioners. Please take one per person. This ever popular guide to Lent with inspiring reflections, compelling essays, devotions and meditations for the Way of the Cross is a valuable and spiritual gift to aid us during the holy season of Lent.

SPECIAL LENTEN SERIES AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Father Stanley Klores will present a special Lenten series titled *The History of the Mass*. The talk will take place every Sunday during Lent between the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. (10:30a.m.—10:55a.m.)

SAINT PATRICK'S RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Saint Patrick's Respect Life Group, led by Father Klores, will pray a rosary in front of Louisiana's largest abortion facility, on the corner of Ridgelake Drive and 20th Street in Metairie, **Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.** Everyone is invited!

MAGNIFICAT—INVITES YOU TO A BREAKFAST

The Metairie Chapter of *Magnificat* invites everyone to a breakfast, Thursday, February 25, 2010; 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (noon) Jefferson Orleans South, 2536 Edenborn Ave., Metairie 70002
The Reverend Stanley Klores, speaker
Reservations: \$20.00. There will be no tickets issued, please check in at door. For reservations send a check made out to *Magnificat Metairie* to: Jane Margavio, 1005 Maryland Ave, Kenner LA 70062.

ORGAN CONCERT—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Dr. Marijim Thoene will present a program of organ music at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. All are invited.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE**For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free**

March 19—21, 2010

Pontchartrain Center, Kenner, LA
Saturday, March 20—Archbishop Aymond will offer Mass; Deacon Alex Jones, Johnnette Benkovic and Father Richard McAlear, OMI will be featured speakers on the theme **"For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free."** Teen Workshop on Friday and Saturday. For more information: Catholic Charismatic Renewal: 504-828-1368 or register online at: www.cerno.org. Everyone is cordially invited.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH TO SPONSOR A ST JOSEPH'S ALTAR

St. Patrick's Church will sponsor a St. Joseph's Altar at Ozanam Inn on March 19, 2010. Monetary donations are now being accepted to defray the cost of building an altar dedicated to St. Joseph on his special feast day. This beautiful tradition, dating back to when many Sicilians arrived in New Orleans at the end of the nineteenth century, is a special devotion to St. Joseph in fulfillment of promises made and favors granted.

Please make your check payable to St. Patrick's Church, specifying that it is for the St. Joseph Altar. We will soon be asking for volunteers to assist in the preparation of the altar. For more information, please call the rectory at 525-4413.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Randall Cashio; S. Michael Cashio, Jr.; Mary Ann Ciravolo; Tony Clesi; Colleen Collet; L Darcy; R.J. DeBlanc; R.F. DeBlanc; Al Duroncelto; Bryan Evans; Robert Evans; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Marie Gattuso; A.P. Gaudet, Jr.; Bob Held; Howard Henriques; Milton J. Hock, Jr.; Karen Ibraheim; Joan Kimball; Belinda Lazaro; Stephen Losee; Mary A. McKay; Sally Ann Main; Maudie Megeson; Connor W. Naquin; Joan C. O'Brien; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J.Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; M. Schuss; Joseph M. Sonne; Pierre Stouse; Stephanie Summers

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Ash Wednesday makes one's faith very visible and public. Not offensively -- but also not easy to miss -- the sign of our faith shows up in the office, at school, on buses and subways, in lines at the grocery store, or at the gas station. This small symbol of the cross of ashes on our foreheads expresses an important truth: Faith doesn't happen only at church, but lives among us, in public, every day.

The Scripture texts for the liturgy of Ash Wednesday do not only remind us of sin and death; they are a loud call to overcome sin, to be converted to Christ and the Gospel and to prepare for the new life of Easter.

Today -- the liturgy tells us -- is the "acceptable time" for our reconciliation with God. Reconciliation is a gratuitous gift of God. Reconciliation must involve everyone: individuals, families, nations and peoples.

When we speak of the world as reconciled to God, we are speaking not only of individuals but also of every community: families, communities, clans, tribes, nations and states. In his providence, God made covenant after covenant with the human family: the covenant with our first parents in the Garden of Eden; the covenant with Noah after the Flood and the covenant with Abraham. In the Book of Joshua we learn about the covenant made with Israel, when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in the land of Egypt. And God has now made the final and definitive covenant with all of humanity in Jesus Christ, who reconciled individual men and women -- as well as entire nations -- to God by his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist, we celebrate the mystery of our redemption and full reconciliation with God. It is through his passion, death and resurrection that Jesus has saved the world. Before receiving the body and blood of the Lord, we show that we are at peace with one another. The Eucharist is celebrated by a reconciled community. When the celebration is ended, we are sent out to spread this peace and message of reconciliation to others.

Because we have been entrusted with this message of reconciliation, we are "ambassadors for Christ" (5:20). The mission that we have been given is one of high rank. It is a mission that ennobles us. Because we have been called to be ambassadors, we have to be true and loyal to the one we represent. An ambassador is known by his or her credentials. Ambassadors must give credible proof that they have been sent. As ambassadors of Christ we too must give proof of our mission. And the greatest proof is our own fidelity to the Christian way of life.

If we are reconciled with God, with ourselves and with others, and if we in turn foster Christ's reconciliation in society, we can make a convincing claim to be ambassadors of the Prince of Peace. Just as God took the initiative in sending his son to reconcile the world, so he expects us to take the initiative to restore harmony to a broken world and an often-divided Church.

Can we apply this Christian vision, this wonderful mission of reconciliation, to our own situations? Can we put it into practice among family, friends and community members and try over and over again when we fail? It is very sad when grudges are carried for long periods of time, when people refuse to speak together, when the joy of attending reunions or celebrations is denied someone, perhaps for a misdemeanor that occurred long ago and whose circumstances are practically forgotten!

Benedict XVI's 2010 Lenten message, the Church presents us

with the spiritual context of the Lenten Season. This year, the Pope's message takes up the great theme of justice, beginning from St. Paul's affirmation: "The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ" [cf. Romans 3:21-22]. Conversion to Christ gives people the strength to break the bonds of selfishness and work for justice in the world. The Pope's message is above all a challenge to our willingness to entrust ourselves to God and to believe in him.

Benedict XVI reminds us that what we need most cannot be guaranteed to us by law. "In order to live life to the full, something more intimate is necessary that can be granted only as a gift: We could say that man lives by that love which only God can communicate since He created the human person in His image and likeness. Material goods are certainly useful and required -- indeed Jesus Himself was concerned to heal the sick, feed the crowds that followed Him and surely condemns the indifference that even today forces hundreds of millions into death through lack of food, water and medicine -- yet 'distributive' justice does not render to the human being the totality of his 'due'. Just as man needs bread, so does man have even more need of God."

The Holy Father says: "Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need -- the need of others and God, the need of his forgiveness and his friendship."

In these words -- charity, solidarity, fraternity -- lie the key to a true understanding of the responsibility of Christians in the world. Solidarity or charity implies the responsibility to defend and protect the universal dignity of any human being anywhere in the world under any circumstances.

Lent is the opportune time to examine our pieties and devotions, and to ask if our lives are truly animated by Gospel justice and charity that find their fullest expression in the Eucharistic banquet.

During this season we are invited to establish or rebuild our pieties and devotions: more focused prayer, more frequent celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; praying the ancient devotion of the Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross). We cannot choose a piety or devotion out of fear -- and woe to those who choose such out of fear and claim they do it out of religion!

In celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are also showing that we are aware that we belong to the Church. There is a triple dimension to confessing our sins. First a confession of praise: we praise God for all the good things that we see in our life. Second, there is a confession of sin: We acknowledge in all simplicity, and with sorrow, our failings. Third, there is a confession of faith: we put our trust in God who has sent his Son to overcome sin. Our theme song for Lent is not "We Shall Overcome," but rather, "God, in Christ, Will Overcome in Us" -- if we allow Him to do so.

*Father Thomas Rosica, CSB
Zenit*

SECOND COLLECTION—FEBRUARY 27-28, 2010

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken, next weekend, February 27-28, 2010. Many parishes in this region, where Catholics are a minority, struggle to provide proper places to worship and pastoral care. On behalf of these struggling parishes please be generous to the special collection next weekend.