

FIRST READING

Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you.

Joshua 5: 9-12

PSALM

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be ever in my mouth.

Psalms 34

SECOND READING

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

GOSPEL

This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32



Return of the Prodigal Son, Clément Louis Marie Anne Belle

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT


14 MARCH 2010

While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion.

Luke 15: 20

CALENDAR

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| MON-FRI | 07:10 AM | Morning Prayer |
| MON-FRI | 05:10 PM | Evening Prayer |
| SAT | 07:40 AM | Morning Prayer |
| 14 MAR | (Sunday) | |
| | 07:30 PM | Holy Hour for Priests |
| 15 MAR | (Monday) | |
| | 09:00 AM | Bible Group |
| | 07:30 PM | RCIA |
| | 07:30 PM | Legion of Mary |
| 16 MAR | (Tuesday) | |
| | 09:30 AM | Bible Study: Catechism |
| | 06:00 PM | Cenacles of Life Rosary |
| | 07:30 PM | Bible Study: Catechism |
| | 07:30 PM | Lenten Talk (Fr. Stevens) |
| 17 MAR | (Wednesday) | |
| | 01:00 PM | Infant Jesus of Prague Society |
| | 07:30 PM | Opus Dei Men's Group |
| 18 MAR | (Thursday) | |
| | 11:00 AM | The Thursday Group |
| | 06:00 PM | Perpetual Help Novena |
| | 07:30 PM | Altar Society |
| 19 MAR | (Friday) |  |
| | 10:00 AM | First Reconciliation |
| | 06:00 PM | Stations of the Cross |
| 20 MAR | (Saturday) | |
| | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Confessions (Opus Dei priest) |
| | 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM | Confessions (parish priest) |

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS

WEEK OF 14 - 20 MAR

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| SAT | 05:00 PM | Priest's intentions |
| SUN | Masses | Priest's intentions |
| MON | 07:30 AM | † Roland Cannavo |
| | 05:30 PM | Anna Bieniaszewska |
| TUE | 07:30 AM | † Virginia and John Conway |
| | 05:30 PM | † Joseph Wynne |
| WED | 07:30 AM | The Fetter family |
| | 05:30 PM | † Gladys and Roy Hubbard |
| THU | 07:30 AM | † Anthony Zele |
| | 05:30 PM | Benefactors of the parish |
| FRI | 07:30 AM | † Irene Turner |
| | 05:30 PM | Wilma Lenz |
| SAT | 08:00 AM | † Dr. Jack O'Brien |

2nd

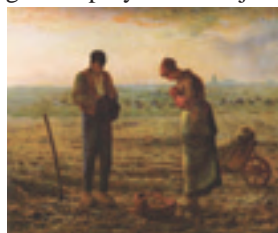


SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a **second collection** at all Masses next week for **Catholic Relief Services**.

THE ANGELUS FOR LENT

As the Nativity bells ring at noon, the Angelus is prayed. Come join fellow parishioners on **Tuesdays** at **12:00 PM**. Sanctify your day as you recall how the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Let us prepare to embrace His Passion and Cross, for without the Passion there would never have been a Resurrection.



The Angelus, Jean-Francois Millet



PARISH OFFERINGS

WEEK OF
27-28 FEB

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL: \$ | 10,653 |
| Annual Appeal Progress: \$ | |
| 2010 Annual Appeal Goal: \$ | (coming soon) |

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

17 MAR (Wednesday):

SAINT PATRICK OF IRELAND, Bishop (385-461)



Patrick was probably the son of a Roman-British official. At 16, he was captured by raiders and taken to pagan Ireland to tend sheep. He escaped from slavery, studied for the priesthood in Britain, and was ordained. He was consecrated a bishop around **432** and was returned to Ireland. He raised the standards of scholarship and tirelessly preached the Gospel despite the opposition of chieftains and Druids whom he is said to have overcome by miraculous means. He converted most of the island to the faith, and of course is now revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

FATHERS:

Pray to **St. Joseph**. Ask for his intercession and help. He understands the particular concerns, burdens and obligations of fathers, and he is ready and well able to intercede with our blessed Lord to send you the graces and strength you need in this most noble of callings. Do not hesitate to ask for his assistance.

19 MAR (Friday):

SAINT JOSEPH, Husband of the Virgin Mary

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” One, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness. By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

“In him the Old Testament finds its fitting close. He brought the noble line of patriarchs and prophets to its promised fulfillment. What the divine good had offered as a promise to them, Joseph held in his arms.”



St. Bernadine of Siena

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

STEM CELLS AND CLONING

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. (Fr. Tad) will present **Sunday, 21 March 2010, at 07:00 PM** in the **O’Hare Center** on the topic of *The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning*. Fr. Tad is Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC). As an undergraduate, Fr. Tad earned degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology, and chemistry, and did laboratory research on hormonal regulation of the immune response. He earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University, where he focused on cloning genes for neurotransmitter transporters which are expressed in the brain. He also worked for several years as a molecular biologist at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. During his 5 years studying in Rome, Fr. Tad did advanced work in dogmatic theology and in bioethics. He has testified before state legislatures during deliberations over embryonic stem cell research, and has appeared on CNN, ABC, NPR, and EWTN. Please join us! Refreshments will be served. Please contact **Eileen** at **650/799-4722** for more information. RSVPs appreciated.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

During Lent, if you would like to pray with fellow Nativity parishioners as part of the nationwide **40 Days for Life** prayer vigil praying for an end to abortion, the **Respect Life Group** is scheduling people for **Saturday, 20 March** and **Thursday, 25 March 2010, the Feast of the Annunciation**. See www.40daysforlife.com for more information. The prayer vigil will occur on public property near an abortion clinic in San Mateo between **07:00 AM** and **07:00 PM**. There will be a minimum of 2 people per hour. Please call **Eileen** at **650/799-4722** to sign up for hourly time slots and more information.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:

SAT: 06:00 PM

Please call **650/269-7794** for more information or to sign up.



INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE SOCIETY

On **Wednesday, 17 March 2010 at 01:00 PM**, our **Infant Jesus of Prague Prayer Society** will meet for prayer before the Infant Jesus Shrine. We extend an invitation to all as *“God, our Father, sent your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, to call all the scattered peoples...to gather us safely that we may rest in you and rise again to serve you in love...”* (**Liturgy of the Hours Prayer**)

Our Lenten way leads us to the Victory in Christ Jesus. Let us prepare through prayer, actions, and witness.

As we continue our Forty Days of Lent, **Eileen**, from **40 Days for Life**, will join us in prayer and will speak of ways we can keep our constant vigil for life.

Our 24-hour Infant Jesus Prayer Line is open to receive all prayer requests and thanksgivings. **650/323-9333** or write to: pray2infantjesus@aol.com. *“I called to the Lord in my distress; He answered and freed me.”* (Ps. 118:5)

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008), the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191) or Community Pregnancy Center (650/ 964-8093).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please welcome the newest member of our Christian community:



- **Lucina Ann** daughter of **Ronald and Michele Conway**

May this family grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

Nativity welcomes our newest parishioners:



- **Carmen and Rick Oldano**
- **Mary Lou and Randall Allen (Randall, Claire)**
- **Jennifer and James Mangano (Sophia)**
- **Robert Robertson**
- **Hunter Dreidame**

NATIVITY ALTAR SOCIETY

The **Altar Society** will be meeting on **Thursday** evening, **18 March 2010** at **07:30 PM** in the **O'Hare Center**. This is a very important pre-Holy Week / pre-Easter organizing meeting. For information contact **Linda Potter, 650/366-3737** or **sunnynco@sbcglobal.net**.

ON-GOING COLLECTION OF CHILDRENS BOOKS

Samaritan House Medical Clinic in San Mateo is collecting children's books to use in the literacy program they have set up. Nativity is now a drop-off point for collecting new or used children's books for this program. There is a blue bag in the **O'Hare Center** (next to the TV) where they can be dropped off on Sundays or you may bring them to the rectory during the week.

LENTEN TALKS AT NATIVITY

"*Reflections on the Mysteries of Faith*": **Fr. Gladstone Stevens** will be giving the fourth of five Lenten talks this Tuesday evening at **07:30 PM** in the Church. The topic this week will be *Resurrection*. Fr. Stevens received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Marquette University. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville and has been with the Society of St. Sulpice since 2002. For six years he taught Systematic Theology and Philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He now serves as Vice-Rector and Academic Dean at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend there will be a second collection for **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**. This collection helps to fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. CRS is always one of the first organizations in the world to provide aid during natural disasters, such as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. Please be charitable in next week's Catholic Relief Services Collection. Visit **www.usccb.org/nationalcollections** to learn more about the programs and projects supported by the Catholic Relief Services collection.

Checks for all special collections should be made out to the **Church of the Nativity**. In the memo line write the appropriate reference for your donation, for example: *Catholic Relief Services*.

IN THE COMMUNITY

OPEN HOUSE: CYO SUMMER CAMP

CYO Camp, the premier Catholic Camp, will be hosting an open house on **10 April 2010** from **10:00 AM - 03:00 PM**. Come learn more about this awe-inspiring Catholic community that enables campers to experience a positive, meaningful and challenging summer adventure. The open house will include a barbeque lunch and tour opportunities, as well as swimming, canoeing, archery, hikes, and arts and crafts. **CYO Camp and Retreat Center** is located at 2136 Bohemian Highway, Occidental, CA 95465.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Spiritual Care Service** at **Stanford Hospital** is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to patients and families. Volunteers must be willing to commit to two hours a week for a year and attend 5 evenings of training. The training program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto on five Monday evenings: **22 February** and **01, 08, 15, 22 March 2010, 07:00-09:00 PM**. If you are interested in volunteering, please request an application by call the Spiritual Care Service office at **650/723-5101** or email **ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org**. Remember to leave your name, phone number, church affiliation and email address.

SPEAKER SERIES AT ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

On **24 March 2010** at **07:00 PM** in Olier Hall, **Fr. James McKearney** will speak on *The Spirituality of the Priesthood*. This is the fourth of four lectures held during the Year for Priests running June 2009-June 2010. **www.stpatricksseminary.org > Speaker Series** or call **650/289-3321**. **\$10** per session. St. Patrick's Seminary is located at 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park.

RE-DISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille (pronounced *retro-vi* with a long *i*) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. **Retrouvaille** is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **23-25 April 2010**, call **415/893-1005** or email: **sf@retroca.com** or visit the web site at **www.helpourmarriage.com**.

You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness Benedict XVI** asks for general and missionary prayer intentions.

For **March 2010**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

General: That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.



Missionary: That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER *CARITAS IN VERITATE* OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF BENEDICT XVI (cont'd.)

51. (cont'd.) In order to protect nature, it is not enough to intervene with economic incentives or deterrents; not even an apposite education is sufficient. These are important steps, but the decisive issue is the overall moral tenor of society. If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves. The book of nature is one and indivisible: it takes in not only the environment but also life, sexuality, marriage, the family, social relations: in a word, integral human development. Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other. Herein lies a grave contradiction in our mentality and practice today: one which demeans the person, disrupts the environment and damages society.

52. Truth, and the love which it reveals, cannot be produced: they can only be received as a gift. Their ultimate source is not, and cannot be, mankind, but only God, who is himself Truth and Love. This principle is extremely important for society and for development, since neither can be a purely human product; the vocation to development on the part of individuals and peoples is not based simply on human choice, but is an intrinsic part of a plan that is prior to us and constitutes for all of us a duty to be freely accepted. That which is prior to us and constitutes us — subsistent Love and Truth — shows us what goodness is, and in what our true happiness consists. It shows us the road to true development.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE COOPERATION OF THE HUMAN FAMILY

53. One of the deepest forms of poverty a person can experience is isolation. If we look closely at other kinds of poverty, including material forms, we see that they are born from isolation, from not being loved or from difficulties in being able to love. Poverty is often produced by a rejection of God's love, by man's basic and tragic tendency to close in on himself, thinking himself to be self-sufficient or merely an insignificant and ephemeral fact, a "stranger" in a random universe. Man is alienated when he is alone, when he is detached from reality, when he stops thinking and believing in a foundation. All of humanity is alienated when too much trust is placed in merely human projects, ideologies and false utopias. Today humanity appears much more interactive than in the past: this shared sense of being close to one another must be transformed into true communion. The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side.

Pope Paul VI noted that "the world is in trouble because of the lack of thinking". He was making an observation, but also expressing a wish: a new trajectory of thinking is needed in order to arrive at a better understanding of the implications of our being one family; interaction among the peoples of the world calls us to embark upon this new trajectory, so that integration can signify solidarity[129] rather than marginalization. Thinking of this kind requires a deeper critical evaluation of the category of relation. This is a task that cannot be undertaken by the social sciences alone, insofar as the contribution of disciplines such as metaphysics and theology is needed if man's transcendent dignity is to be properly understood.

(continued next week)

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The well-known legend of the shamrock connects it definitely to St. Patrick and his teaching. Preaching in the open air on the doctrine of the Trinity, he is said to have illustrated the existence of the Three in One by plucking a shamrock from the grass growing at his feet and showing it to his congregation. The trefoil, being a sacred plant among the Druids, and three being a mystical number in the Celtic religion, it is probable that St. Patrick must have been aware of the significance of his illustration.

2. Although the stories of Saint Patrick driving all the snakes out of Ireland are widespread, it should be noted that there have never been any snakes in Ireland. As an island surrounded by salt water, Ireland didn't exist at the time the prehistoric predecessors of snakes would have wandered over from the mainland of Europe. (P.S., New Zealand doesn't have any snakes, either: same reason).

3. While the "wearing of the green" is popular on Saint Patrick's Day, in many communities (like the Polish) it is customary to wear white and red on Saint Joseph's Day (19 March).

4. Saint Joseph's feast day is the day on which the first cliff swallows return to their roosts in San Juan Capistrano (back from their winter vacations in Argentina).

Legend has it that the swallows took refuge in the Mission San Juan Capistrano from an irate innkeeper who destroyed their muddy nests. The swallows return to the old ruined church each spring knowing they will be protected within the mission's walls. In fact, the city has taken their safety seriously, passing an ordinance against destroying their nests.

So-called "scout swallows" precede the main flock each year by a few days but the majority of the small birds usually arrive on the 19th and begin rebuilding the mud nests that cling to the ruins of the old stone church and throughout the Capistrano Valley.

DID YOU KNOW?

The forty days of Lent does not include Sundays, which is why the number of calendar days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday is 46, inclusive.



HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2010

07:00 PM *Shroud of Turin* Talk with Deacon Peloso

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2010

07:30 PM Penance Service

THURSDAY, 01 APRIL 2010 (HOLY THURSDAY)

07:30 PM Mass (*one Mass only*)

FRIDAY, 02 APRIL 2010 (GOOD FRIDAY)

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross

12:30 -02:00 PM Reflections with Fr. Kevin Gaffey

02:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

07:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, 03 APRIL 2010 (HOLY SATURDAY)

10:00 AM -12:00 PM Reconciliation

02:00-04:00 PM Reconciliation

08:00 PM Easter Vigil

(*no other Masses*)

SUNDAY, 04 APRIL 2010 (EASTER SUNDAY)

08:00 AM Mass

09:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass

(*no 05:00 PM Mass*)

MONDAY, 05 APRIL 2010

09:00 AM Mass (*one Mass only*)

