

Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017

Calendar

Saturday, March 18th

4:00pm Vigil Joan Brou Agosta, Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Vincent Boudreaux Jr, Anthony J. Cartozzo, Joy Nalty Hodges, Vetter Amadeo Taylor, Sister Margaret Brou DC, Christopher Joseph Vanderbrook, and Patricia H. Virgadamo

Sunday, March 19th

8:00am Mass All parishioners

10:30am Mass Paul Haygood, Lester & Ethel Heidingsfelder, Earl LeCorgne, Joy Nalty Hodges, Ronald & Pauline Marchessault, Deacon Paul A. Nalty, Miriam Ogden, the Cassard Family, the Derbes Family, the Mercante & Youngblood Families, and the Vaughn Family

Monday, March 20th

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30am Mass Joséphine Champagne Bourgeois

Tuesday, March 21st

6:30am Mass The Boudreaux & Bergeron Families

10:30am "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" (@ St Henry's)

4:45pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass William Allen

Wednesday, March 22nd

6:30am Mass Emma Templet

5:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:00pm Rosary (@ Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Thursday, March 23rd

St Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop

6:30am Mass Mary Wendt

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

9:30am "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" (St Stephen Rectory)

Friday, March 24th

Blessed Oscar Romero, bishop and martyr

6:30am Mass A Special Intention

6:00pm Stations of the Cross (@ St Stephen's)

6:30pm Fish-Fry is cancelled

Saturday, March 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord (pictured)

10:00am Rosary (@ Church of St Henry)



The Sanctuary Light in the church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of Gertrude Petit.

The Sanctuary Light in the chapel will burn this week for the Intentions of the Pope.



Mass Setting

The Mass setting for the Season of Lent is the Gregorian *Missa jubilate Deo*, found on the Pew Card.



Banns of Matrimony

Paige Johnson & William Kery



Abby Ruiz & Mark Caponegro

Lay-Ministers Schedule for March 26th

4:00 pm

Lector: Sheila LaFluer

Eucharistic Ministers: Artie Baehr, Hunter Harris III, and Hilda Heidingsfelder

8:00 am

Lector: Alexis Doroski

Eucharistic Ministers: Rebecca Stahr, Linda Tufton, and Jeff Vinson

10:30 am

Lector: Stephen Murphy

Eucharistic Ministers: Christine Cooper, Deacon Richard Eason, Laura Finnegan, Maxine Fox, and Sandra Westfall



Sharing Our Faith, Securing Our Future

Restoration of St Stephen Church

Everyone who has sent in a pledge card or one-time donation to the Restoration Campaign should have received an acknowledgement from Monsignor Nalty. **If you have NOT received such a letter, please contact Dianne Caverly in the rectory office as soon as possible.** We want every donor to know how much we value your participation in the plan to restore our beautiful St Stephen Church!

What next? In this period just before final approval to proceed from the Archdiocese, we must focus on building up our cash on hand. The Archdiocese has wisely set specific goals (50% of the total project) that we must achieve before we may begin construction. We are very close to this goal, so no donation is too small. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider how you can help!

So if I have pledged, when should I start payments? As soon as you are able! We now have special pledge payment envelopes on the tables in church; we ask you always to write "Pledge payment" on the memorandum line in your check. And if you choose cash, do not forget to put your name on, or inside of, the envelope so that we can properly credit the payment to your pledge. If you need assistance setting up regular or one-time donations *via* credit card, please contact Mrs Caverly in the rectory office.

Collection Report	March 5th	July 1st-March 5th
Total Collections	\$9,233.00	\$258,937.48
Budget	<u>\$6,684.69</u>	<u>\$240,648.84</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2,548.31	\$18,288.64
Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations		
Restoration Fund		\$7,269.84
Clarion Herald		\$7.00

The Monthly Prayer-Request for Priests

March

1 st	The Rev. Sam Anthony Morello, OCD
2 nd	Seminarian Thien Nguyen
3 rd	The Rev. Kenneth Allen
4 th	The Rev. Luis E. Henao*
5 th	The Rev. F. William Huete, SJ*
6 th	The Rev. Thomas M. McCann*
7 th	The Rev. Victor Brown, OP
8 th	The Rev. Kyle V. Dave*
9 th	His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
10 th	The Rev. Joseph de Water
11 th	The Rev. José Roel Lungay*
12 th	The Rev. Charles J. Caluda*
13 th	The Rev. Damian Hinojosa*
14 th	The Rev. Paul A. Clark
15 th	The Rev. Victor Cohea*
16 th	The Rev. Martin J. Gleeson, OP
17 th	The Rev. Kyle J. Sanders*
18 th	The Rev. Peter P. Finney III*
19 th	The Rev. Gregory Heslip, LC
20 th	The Rev. Paul S. Hart
21 st	The Right Rev. Patrick Regan, OSB†
22 nd	The Rev. Anthony McGinn, SJ*
23 rd	The Rev. Simon C. Kim*
24 th	The Rev. Colin Vincent Braud
25 th	The Rev. Bernard Son Hong Pham, SDD*
26 th	The Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Lipps*
27 th	His Holiness Pope Francis
28 th	The Rev. John Dominic Sims, OP*
29 th	The Rev. Vinh Dinh Luu, JCL*
30 th	The Rev. Charles Whitney Dussouy*
31 st	The Rev. Joseph Duc Dzien

* birthday

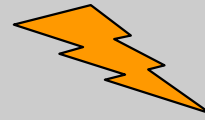
† deceased

Courtesy of The APRP Apostolate



Lightning Apologetics

by Phillip Bellini, DRE



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE—Part III

Let's go over a few objections to the Sacrament of Penance and try to answer them.

1. Confession is difficult and humiliating.

What if it is? Unforgiven sin is also difficult, humiliating—and dangerous. The incidental shame in confessing sin is part of our repentance, and it is negligible in comparison to the essential evil of sin. If a person finds Confession difficult he can offer his humiliation to God as a part of his atonement.

However, the difficulty of confessing sins is exaggerated. Every day in offices, stores, night-clubs, and factories people confide their moral failures to other people in a far more detailed manner than that required by Confession. Confession answers a deep-seated need in human nature. People need to share their worries and troubles and secrets with others. This is especially true of sin, which many times weigh heavily on a person's conscience. The act of confessing guilt carries its own relief; this is an elementary fact of psychology. Is Confession so really difficult? Is not the difficulty and humiliation greatly exaggerated? Is it not better to confess our sin's to a duly appointed representative of Christ and to receive pardon, than to carry them about with us as unforgiven and ugly secrets which disturb our consciences?

2. Confession is psychologically harmful.

Absolutely false. The act of confessing is completely beneficial. Psychiatry makes extensive use of the technique of confessing. Psychiatry, with its technique of exploring the moral backgrounds of a person's life kind of makes me smile because these techniques have been used by the Church for centuries. Penance is a Sacrament which is endowed with the power and grace of Christ.

3. Why should I confess my sins to another man?

Catholics are willing to confess their sins to a priest – another man, it is true – because they know that Christ gave priests the power to forgive sins. Christ made Penance the ordinary means of removing sin, and he is in the confessional because Christ. When Catholics approach the confessional, they seek to receive from Christ in virtue of his sacred office. They are human. They are interested in the power which he has by Holy Orders. No Pope or any priest invented Confession. It is the invention of Christ! In hearing Confessions the priest adds immense value to human souls. He performs this duty knowing that he is administering one of the great Sacraments



sin. The priest in the confessional is a representative of Christ placed there – not because of his own preferences, but because he is entirely human, but they are not interested in his benefit from the priestly power which the confessor possesses from Christ to absolve from sin through the Sacrament of Confession, which is a part of the Sacrament of Penance, is performing a sacred Christ-given duty which is of immense value to human souls. He performs this duty gladly despite the physical inconveniences because he realizes that he is administering one of the great Sacraments of Christ.

4. The priest is as human as any other person. How can he forgive sins?

Yes, the priest is human. He is subject to the frailties and short-comings of human nature. However, this is not the point. His power to forgive sins does not come from his human nature. It comes from the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The confessor's power is derived from Christ, not from his own resources. He can only use this power for others, but he cannot use it for himself. He cannot absolve himself. He, too, is liable to sin. In seeking forgiveness he must go to another priest for absolution. Priests go to confession just like the laity. If one is in mortal sin, then a person must go to Confession first before receiving the Sacrament of Penance.

5. When I want to be forgiven I'll tell my sins directly to God. I'll go into the privacy of my room, close the door and talk to God alone. Or, when I want to be forgiven, I'll go to a mountain top and ask God to forgive me. I don't need a priest!

Such sentiments would be all very well if Christ had not instituted the Sacrament of Penance. But unfortunately for the objection, Christ decided to use the Apostles as the ordinary instruments of forgiveness. He did not mention the closed room or the mountain top, but He did say to His Apostles: "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them." The person who by-passes a means of forgiveness instituted by Christ in favor of some means which he has improvised for himself is guilty of presumption. It is dangerous to ignore the means of forgiveness established by Christ in favor of some uncertain way which we may decide upon. This sentiment about the closed room and the mountain top is a good example of religious egotism. Translate the fine sounding phrases, and the following presumption appears: "I prefer my own way of seeking God's forgiveness to the way established by Christ!" That is absurd.

We believe that perfect contrition – sorrow of heart for sin which springs from a love of God – will remit sin without the actual reception of the Sacrament, but it must contain at least implicitly the intention of receiving the Sacrament. Sorrow of heart must always accompany the confession of sin. Confessions without sorrow will not remove sin.

Contrition is part of the Sacrament of Penance, not the whole of it. When possible, confession is also necessary. The necessary sorrow for sin – symbolized by the closed room and the mountain top often mentioned in such objections – is necessary in order to have sins forgiven. When Confession is impossible, contrition suffices as an extraordinary means of forgiveness. When Confession is possible, the way of Christ MUST be used – not our own private and convenient preferences. We may not despise any one of the seven sacramental jewels which Our Lord left in the world.

Pray for the Sick

Ron Behler, Corey Behler, William Brown, Ray & Zetta Burkart, Gary Callahan, Jeanne García, Mary Gremillion, Jolleen Jackson, Leddie Lopez, Louise Martin, Dilia Miller, and William Youngblood.

We will have a Second Collection this week-end, for the St Stephen Restoration Fund. Next week-end, we will have another Second Collection, for the Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC).

We have the Stations of the Cross (*Via Crucis*) every Friday during Lent at the Church of St Henry, at 6:00 pm, followed by a Fish-Fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, at the Blessed Pauline Center, 4219 Constance Street. (This Friday, March 24th, however, the Stations will be held at St Stephen Church, and the Fry will be cancelled.)

The Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, March 19th, falls on a Sunday this year. Liturgically, the feast is transferred to the Monday, but we will have our traditional St Joseph Altar this Sunday, at St Stephen Church, where it will be blessed during the 10:30 am Mass. Meals will be served today from 11:30 am, and will continue throughout the day.

On Saturday, April 8th, Woman's New Life Center will host their annual Born to Run 5K to benefit WNLC's goal of providing support for women and their unborn babies. Please telephone 496-0212 for details.

Pray for the Dead

Shelley Baptiste, Hunter Harris Jr, Joy Nalty Hodges, Sister Suzanne Kullowitch SCC, Sister Claire Mulé DC, Gertrude Petit, and the Right Reverend Patrick Regan OSB.

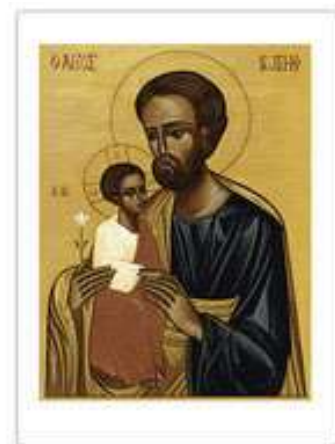
Pray for Our Armed-services

Lt Junior Grade, USN, Neil P. Chatelain; LT John Tortorich; and LT Kate Tortorich.



News

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass of the Roman Rite, the "Tridentine" (Latin) Mass, will be offered again at St Stephen Church next Sunday, March 26th (**Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare***), at 12:30 pm. The Reverend Denzil Perera will be the celebrant.



St Joseph.