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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2012

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Isaiah announced the word of the Lord: “[S]ee, I am doing something new!” (Isaiah 43:19). And what was this new thing? A promise for a people who “did not call upon me” and “grew weary of me” (43:22); a promise of forgiveness. “It is I, I, who wipe out . . . your offenses; / your sins I remember no more” (43:25).

Paul told the Corinthians—and tells us—that Jesus is God’s “yes,” and that all God’s promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Does that include God’s promise to forgive sins? Mark gives the answer when he relates how some people lowered a paralytic through a hole in the roof, seeking a cure.

As far as we can tell, no one requested forgiving the man’s sins. But that’s what Jesus did, exactly as Isaiah had announced. Then, lest anyone doubt his authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus said, “[P]ick up your mat, and go home” (Mark 2:11). The man “rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away” (2:12).

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! (Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25)

Psalm — Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you (Psalm 41).

Second Reading — God has given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment (2 Corinthians 1:18-22).

Gospel — They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this” (Mark 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectioary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
 Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15



MON	2/20	7:30 AM	SCS Eucharistic Ministers
TUE	2/21	7:30 AM	Laureano Rosete
WED	2/22	8:00 AM	Elvira Asuncion
		9:00	Ireneo Asuncion & Ireneo Estoesta
		12:10 PM	Alfred Rebello
		6:00	St. Catherine Lectors
		7:30	Choir Members
THU	2/23	7:30 AM	Rose Delchini
FRI	2/24	7:30 AM	Cliff Abbey
SAT	2/25	7:30 AM	St. Catherine Ushers
		4:30 PM	Justin Jorgensen
SUN	2/26	8:30	Marcy Chambers & Audrey Cota
		10:30	McLoughlin, Curtin, Dugan & Lancaster Families
		(Spanish) 12:30 PM	People of the Parish

Our Weekly Offering		February 12, 2012	
Weekly Offering	\$	4,339.00	
Parish Maintenance	\$	1,281.00	
Education	\$	40.00	
Souper Bowl	\$	808.00	
Your continued support of your parish is greatly appreciated. Thank you!			

**The Parish Office will be closed
Monday, February 20, 2012
In observance of
President's Day**



ASH WEDNESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE
February 22, 2012	
8:00 AM - Mass with Ashes	
9:00 AM - School Mass with Ashes	
12:10 PM - Prayer Service with Ashes	
6:00 PM - Faith Formation Mass with Ashes	
7:30 PM - Bi-Lingual Mass with Ashes	

Knights of Columbus Annual Membership Drive

This weekend, Grand Knight - Martin Magee, will be giving a short membership invitation at each Mass. For additional information, please contact Marty Magee at (925) 228-6460.

	In your charity please pray for The repose of the soul of
	<i>Angelo Gardella</i>
	Who entered into the Presence of our Lord.

BAGS for St. Vincent de Paul

THANK YOU! We asked and you came through! We have plenty of plastic bags for the time being. Now we need PAPER BAGS. Thank you from the members of St. Vincent de Paul.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

You are invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl

This Lent, our Faith Community will be joining millions of Catholics across the country by participating in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl. Your family is invited to pick up a Rice Bowl packet after Masses this weekend and join in this simple, yet powerful Lenten practice. CRS' Rice Bowl invites us to pray with our families and Faith Communities, fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, learn about our brothers and sisters around the world, and give sacrificial contributions to help those in need. Visit orb.crs.org for additional resources to use at home.



ALTAR SERVER/MINISTERS TRAINING

To those needing Altar Server Training and to those who need to complete a portion of the training, please mark your calendars. Fr. Leo has scheduled the following dates:

- *Saturday, Feb. 25, 9:30 - 10:30 AM - Liturgy of the Eucharist
- * Sunday, March 4, 8:30 AM - Commissioning
- * Saturday, Feb. 25, 11:00 AM, Extra-Ordinary Ministers Trng.

If you want to serve, it is imperative that you attend training

BISHOP'S APPEAL

This year's goal for our Parish is **\$16,619.17**. Funds collected are used for programs in our Diocese: Pastoral Ministries & Services, Religious Ed & Formation, Clergy Formation & Support, Support for Catholic Schools & Parishes in Need, Assisting Local Parishes. Please be generous with your donations.

ATTENTION: Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22. We ask our active Parish EM's to the sick, rest homes, homebound, hospitals, & VA to plan on bringing Blessed Ashes to your patients on Ash Wednesday. Your container of Blessed Ashes & Prayer Options will be in the Sanctuary for your pickup at any Mass time during the day. *Sr. Moira, Ministry of Care*

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 am

This comforting Sacrament for the Baptized who are ill, facing surgery, or have any infirmities, will be celebrated on 3-10-12 at 10 am here at our church. YLI is providing a reception in the Parish Hall following the Mass.

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone Encourages Signature Gathering Effort

The Bishops of California have endorsed two state initiatives for the November ballot.

*The first is a matter central to our Catholic Life; the Parental Notification Initiative. This would require a doctor to notify parents 48 hours prior to performing an abortion on their minor daughter.

*The second is a strong Catholic Priority; the SAFE California Initiative, which would replace the use of the Death Penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Inform yourselves about these initiatives and support them by signing the petitions and helping to gather other signatures as well. See www.oak4life.org.

St. Catherine School - Around the Corner

There are many events that go on throughout the year, but the biggest event is the St. Catherine School Auction. This event is being held on March 31, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord. Tickets are being sold after all Masses. Please join us for this very important and joyous occasion. Raffle tickets are also on sale.



Thank you again for referring friends and family to our school. We are now enrolling for the 2011-12 Pre-school and K-8 school year.

The Italian Catholic Federation Presents Family Night Out - Pasta, Bingo and 50/50 Raffle

Come and enjoy! Dinner & games will be held in the Parish Hall. Costs: Dinner tickets are \$10.00 for everyone over the age of 12, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12.. Bingo and Raffle tickets available at the event. Costs: Bingo \$5.00 per 5 game packet; 50/50 Raffle \$2.00 per ticket, \$5.00 for 6 tickets. For dinner tickets, contact Maria Catenese-Helberg (925) 228-0848.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

		PRESIDENTS DAY	
<u>Monday, 2/20</u>	8:30 AM	PC	Parish Office Closed
	7:00 PM	PC	Finance Committee Meeting
<u>Tuesday, 2/21</u>	12:45 PM	CH	School Choir Practice
	2:00 PM	CH	3rd Grade Mass Practice
	3:15 PM	PC	St. Vincent de Paul Food Distribution
	6:00 PM	CH	Vox Dei Choir Practice
	6:45 PM	PC	R.C.I.A. Mardi Gras Celebration
	7:00 PM	PH	YLI Meeting
<u>Wednesday, 2/22</u>	ASH WEDNESDAY		
	See Mass schedule Opposite Page		
	7:30 PM	CH	Choir Practice
<u>Thursday, 2/23</u>	12:00 PM	CH	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 PM	CH	Vox Dei/Cantate Choir Practice
	6:00 PM	PH	School Jr. High Science Faire
	6:30 PM	SC	Parish Communications Comm. Mtg.
	7:00 PM	CH	Lector/Scripture Study
<u>Friday, 2/24</u>	12:00 PM	CH	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 PM	PH	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	CH	Stations of the Cross
	8:00 PM	CH	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
	9:00 PM	CH	Holy Hour and Benediction
<u>Saturday, 2/25</u>	9:30 AM	CH	Altar Servers Training
	11:00 AM	CH	Extra-Ordinary Ministers Training
	3:00 PM	CH	Reconciliation
<u>Sunday, 2/26</u>	9:30 AM	PH	Hospitality ~ Guadalupe Society

PC = Parish Center ~ PH = Parish Hall ~ CH = Church ~ RC = Rectory

From the Desk of the Parochial Administrator **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

Everyone knows how important it is to have "connections" if we wish to obtain an audience with certain important personages, to enlist their help for some project, or in certain cases, obtain a possible position for one of our relatives. A father or an uncle will bide his time and wait for a favorable opportunity to put his "case" before the person of importance, so that the desired favor is granted. These human considerations in our social conditions are quite prevalent, and without the help of such "patrons", many would not get the help needed or the position desired.

In the Gospel reading this weekend, it shows us how some individuals come to Christ and experience His saving power only through the instrumentality of others. Of himself the paralytic could not approach Jesus. He needed others to carry him to Jesus, for he was paralyzed and unable to walk. But even when four persons were found to carry him, a new obstacle presented itself - which at first seemed insurmountable. The crowds were so great that no one could get anywhere near the door, let alone entering the house where Jesus was. Yet, "where there's a will, there's a way". Undaunted, a solution was found. So great was the desire of the paralyzed man to come to Jesus and experience his power, that he begged them to find a way - even if it meant letting him down through the roof from above, (a thing easily done in the thatched roofs of Palestine). And that is exactly what they did. It showed real ingenuity, and it manifested strong faith in Jesus of Nazareth. That faith pleased the Lord, and He granted their request. He conferred on the man a cure of both body and soul.

In the spiritual realm, there are many who would like to come to Christ, either in faith for the first time, or in genuine conversion of heart - turning away from sinful ways. But they need someone to help them make that step. Some are lacking in courage, others do not know how to go about it. How often a newly baptized person testifies after his or her conversion that he or she would gladly have come into Church long before, but no one had invited him or her to do so. None of his or her Catholic friends made any least suggestion to accompany them for some special service such as Christmas Midnight Mass, Holy Week Service, Easter Liturgy or a Parish Mission. Some have simply drifted away from the Church through neglect and now find it hard to return, fearing the confessional, and not knowing what to do to become once more a practicing Catholic. All that is needed, at times, is an encouraging word or a helping hand, so that they make their peace once more with the Lord. A kind word, a word of advice, accompanied by earnest prayer, will go a long way in bringing a lost sheep back to the arms of the good Shepherd.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

SOUP SUPPER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us on Friday nights during Lent. Beginning at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall, a simple soup supper, prepared by individuals or church ministry groups, is served to all who attend. Stations of the Cross will follow in the church at 7:00 pm. If you or your group would like to prepare soup for one of these Fridays, please call Bob Jimison at 768-1128.

The Knights of Columbus "40 Cans for Lent" Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "40" can for Lent" Food Drive. We are challenging our Parish to bring in 1 can a day during the 40 days of Lent. The food collected will be distributed to local food pantries. Barrels will be located in the vestibule of the church.

Any questions, call Martin Magee at (925) 228-6460.