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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 5, 2012

THE GOOD NEWS

Today's readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First, Job complains that his nights drag on endlessly. Then, worse yet, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; / they come to an end without hope" (Job 7:6). Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the "good news" that Paul found so compelling that "an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many people as possible, "to save at least some" (9:22).

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of his hand. "The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons" (Mark 1:33-34)). Our woes and demons are as real as Job's, and Jesus is our savior.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Job spoke, saying: I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me (Job 7:1-4, 6-7).

Psalms — Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted (Psalm 147).

Second Reading — I have become all things to all, to save at least some (1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23).

Gospel — Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases (Mark 1:29-39).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10
 Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32; 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Mass Intentions



MON	2/6	7:30	Antonio Copiaco
TUE	2/7	7:30	Petrus & Hendrika DeGraef
WED	2/8	8:00	Thelma Evangelista
THU	2/9	7:30	Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall
FRI	2/10	7:30	Napoleon Constantine Velasco
SAT	2/11	7:30	Int. Cassie Dizon & Ted Dizon
		4:30 PM	Margaret O'Rando
SUN	2/12	8:30	Thomas Sr., Eva, Thomas Jr. & Mike Hernandez
		10:30	Deceased & Living Sisters of SPRSI Council #112
		(Spanish) 12:30 PM	Dolores & Joe Cardenas John & Julia Polina

SUNDAY OFFERING



January 29, 2012

Weekly Offering	\$ 4,536.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 19.00
Education	\$ 15.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,889.00

January Online Giving 2012

Weekly Offering	\$ 3,500.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 670.00
Education	\$ 345.00
Building Fund	\$ 230.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 375.00

Your continued support of your parish is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Souper Bowl Sunday

After Masses today, the Youth Group will be standing outside the doors to the church holding bowls to collect money for the Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank.



Please be generous with your donations to support this wonderful resource which helps feed many people in our county.



SPECIAL OFFERING

Please make a note that next weekend St. Catherine of Siena will have a second collection for the **PARISH MAINTENANCE**.



Monthly Speaker Series

Join us Monday, February 6 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to hear a talk presented by Professor Patrick Downey of St. Mary's College. Professor Downey will be giving a talk on the liturgical role of the laity with a special look at the function of the altar server. For more information, please contact Pauline Porter at (925) 228-2230 x 30.



In Memoriam

In your charity please pray for
The repose of the soul of

Gregoria Jimenez

Who entered into the
Presence of our Lord.

The Call to Stewardship

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of sharing in its blessings."

Valentine's Day Babysitting

The Youth Group will be providing babysitting at the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall on Sun. Feb. 12 & Tues. Feb. 14 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm for parents who want to go to dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day. Donation is \$10 for one child or \$20 for two or more children. For more information, contact Deacon Dave at 413-9240.

2011 PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2011 Record of Contribution letters are now available at the Parish Office for pickup. Please come by the office M-F from 8:30 - 12:30 and 1:30 to 5pm to pick them up or Call 228-2230 x 0.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CRAB FEED

February 11, 2012

6:00 PM - Parish Hall

Tickets are \$45.00 per person. Contact Jim Kelly at 372-6357 for tickets.



WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Feb. 11, 2012, 10:00 AM

Cathedral of Christ the Light

For the sick of the Diocese of Oakland and their caregivers, the Order of Malta in the Diocese will host the Fourth Annual Diocesan World Day of the Sick on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 10:00 am in the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. The principal celebrant will be Bishop Salvatore Cordileone, Bishop of Oakland. Parking, including handicapped spaces, will be free of charge in the Cathedral's underground garage on 21st St. for the first 200 cars arriving.

Bay Area Social Justice Forum: "People of Hope Agents for Change"

Join other concerned people of faith from Parishes and Schools throughout the Bay Area for the 2nd Annual Bay Area Social Justice Forum, Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The conference is sponsored by the Holy Names University, Diocese of Oakland's Office for Life and Justice.

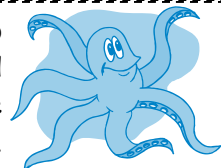
Workshop topics include: Human Trafficking, Immigration, Restorative Justice, Muslim-Christian Dialogue, Water Security, Death Penalty, Affordable Housing, and many more. The Forum will be held at Holy Names University at 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. To learn more and register for the forum, go to www.hnu.edu.

ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY UPDATE

On January 10, 2012 the work to install the automatic gate to the cemetery was completed. The cemetery will be open from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily. You will no longer need to get a key from the Police Department or the Parish Office to gain access to the cemetery.

St. Catherine School - Around the Corner

Thank you to those of you who attended our Open House. We loved having the Parishioners wander the halls admiring the children's work. The school has never looked so great!



St. Catherine School will be selling tickets for our Annual School Auction following all Masses. The auction is our largest fundraiser and pays for new textbooks, library items, new desks, updated technology and more. The auction is always a great affair, featuring fine food, wine, dancing, and of course - great auction items and raffles. This year the theme is **Under the Sea**. There will be brightly colored coral reef decorations and probably some sea food to go with it. Come and join the fun!

2012 Bishop's Appeal

The Bishop's Appeal invites every Catholic in our Diocese to join together and make a difference in the lives of thousands. Each year, appeal donations help us to provide operating grants for parishes and inner city schools in need. Please consider making a generous donation.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 2/6

6:30 PM	PH	Speaker Series
7:00 PM	PC	Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM	PC	Knights of Columbus Officer's Mtg.

Tuesday, 2/7

12:45 PM	CH	School Choir Practice
3:15 PM	PC	St. Vincent de Paul Food Distribution
6:00 PM	CH	Vox Dei/Cantate Choir Practice
6:45 PM	PC	R.C.I.A. Class
7:00 PM	PH	YLI Meeting

Wednesday, 2/8

6:00 PM	CH/PH	Faith Formation ~ Grades K-8
7:30 PM	CH	Choir Practice

Thursday, 2/9

6:00 PM	CH	Vox Dei/Cantate Choir Practice
7:00 PM	CH	Lector/Scripture Study
7:00 PM	PH	Columbian Ladies Meeting
7:00 PM	PH	Knights of Columbus Meeting

Friday, 2/10

12:00 PM	CH	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
6:00 PM	PH	Set up K of C Crab Feed

Saturday, 2/11

7:30 AM	PH	Set Up K of C Crab Feed
1:00 PM	CH	Convalidation
3:00 PM	CH	Reconciliation
6:00 PM	PH	Knights of Columbus Crab Feed

Sunday, 2/12

9:30 AM	PH	Hospitality ~ Columbian Ladies
6:00 PM	PH	Youth Grp Valentine's Babysitting

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

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

Men of all stations in life have recognized the value and need of prayer. Mahatma Ghandi of India for one, President Chiang Kai-Shek in his day spent an entire night in prayer and begged priests and people to do so, in order that a devastating typhoon would veer away from his country. And not to forget Martin Luther King on the night before the Montgomery event.

Christ was the Son of God, yet as true man He expressed a positive need of often communing with the Father. In the Bible we read of Jesus, how after working far into the night encouraging, praying over people, and curing them, rose early the next morning to pray. The late hours spent in giving Himself brought with it the need of rest and sleep. Yet, He did not neglect to pray. Though He often prayed with others in the Temple's services, at times He preferred seclusion in order to commune more effectively with the Father. From prayer He derived the strength He needed for His gigantic task of effectively opposing the forces of evil and establishing the reign of God in human hearts - so often shallow and fickle. Prayer for Him was like multi-vitamins.

The work given to each one to do is important, but, it must be reinforced to uphold us in our daily undertakings. From prayer and communion with God we derive strength, courage, and new insights that impel us to go on. In quiet prayer, one becomes more aware of God's presence and the power of His Spirit. Taking some time daily for silent prayer is by no means time lost. Many professional and business people do this regularly, not to mention the myriads of day-laborers who experience the great benefit of regular prayer.

Why have many lost the art of praying, even those whose call in life demands that they spend time in prayer? Is it perhaps the great amount of time spent on shallow reading matter, TV shows and movies, internet access and computers? Without the practice of communing with God, the habit will never be formed and life remains mediocre. Even the pagan monks are well known for their stress on prayer. Should the followers of Christ not follow the example of their Master? The prayer Jesus taught us is the best guideline for any and all prayer. Take time to pray. It is the way to God's heart.

Fr. Leo A. Asuncion

