



live  the
faith

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously

Pastor's Message:

This Year's Theme: "Duc in Altum!"

Fr. Mark Wagner (Pages 2 & 3)

Going Deeper into Stewardship

Rose Lamont (Pages 4 & 5)

Parish Events Calendar

(Page 7)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

a Stewardship Parish

Volume 2, Issue 1 January & February 2014

This Year's Theme:

By Fr. Mark Wagner, *Pastor*

My prayer and sincere wish for the New Year is that each of you might experience the deep joy and peace that I have found in my Catholic faith! Sometimes there are difficulties which are like storms on the surface of the sea, yet there is always a deep peace and joy below the waves.

As pastor, I know that I am supposed to be a Good Shepherd who leads each of you to “restful waters” (Psalm 23). Last year was the “Year of Faith,” and this year at St. Joseph’s Parish we will work on leading each other deeper into the faith. Jesus told Peter: “Go into the Deep” (“Duc in Altum”). Jesus wanted Peter to go take his boat out into deeper waters (Luke 5:4 - see page 6).

When I look back at my life and ask myself what really helped me to have a deeper faith, I see faces. I see the people like my parents who brought me to church at Presentation Parish in Stockton. I see my gentle, diminutive catechism teacher, Mini Infelis, who taught us to love the rosary. I see the faces of the men who led the rosary at parish meetings. I see the faces of my parish priests, Father Willie Ryan and Father Conrad Gruber, who showed me fatherly concern and good example. We lead each other to faith! We lead each other to deeper joy and peace.

Pope Francis is our chief shepherd who leads us to a deeper, interior joy. He warns us of the dangers of consumerism and the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures: “Whenever our interior



Fr. Mark with Fr. Francis, Brian Zarka and Brian Devereaux participating in last year's 40 Days for Life.

life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades...” (The Joy of the Gospel, #2)

Unfortunately, in our country, consumerism and materialism have lessened our interest in the things of God. Our values are evident in the way we spend our time and our money.

In a typical week, the average American spends approximately 38 hours per week watching TV. Teens spend 53 hours per week using electronic devices. But the average American spends only 1 hour, 38 minutes per week on religious and/or volunteer activities (includes travel time)!

In one year, Americans spend \$72 billion on soft drinks, \$71 billion on iPhones, \$65 billion on lottery tickets, and \$10 billion on Super Bowl activities and merchandise! But

"Duc in Altum!"

the total amount given by Americans to all of their churches and missionaries is less than \$80 billion!

In his spiritual poetry, St. John of the Cross used quaint rural imagery to describe the distractions of the material things of this world. He said that worldly things are like a noisy "herd" of animals which we chase after or run away from. We get herded away from our true happiness! He said that a person who enters into the spiritual life is like a shepherd who frees himself from this drudgery of following the herd and goes down into a deep, romantic wine cellar where he experiences love and happiness: "Some



Fr. Mark serving wine and talking with Ron & Rose Lamont at the volunteer appreciation dinner (11/4/2013).

have more and others have less of this herd, and they follow until having entered into the interior wine cellar to drink, all transformed in love, they lose it entirely...

Thus the soul now feels free

of all the childish likes and dislikes she pursued; and she can say: 'I lost the herd that I was following.'" (Spiritual Canticle, stanza 26)

But St. John of the Cross says that ironically, it is when we let go of created things that we find even more joy in them: "Those whose joy is unpossessive of things rejoice in them all as though they possessed them all."

Our parish statistics indicate that 72% of our registered parishioners do not actually attend Mass regularly on Sundays. Of course some Catholics do not attend Mass because of poor health, but others have simply lost interest. According to national surveys results, most Catholics who stopped attending Mass did not stop because they were upset by something or someone in the church. Usually they just became more interested in other things. Most of them say that they would probably return if invited. That's where we come in! We must invite them!

How can we be less materialistic and more deeply spiritual? It is by attraction. When we see the joy in the faces of people like Pope Francis, we feel called to something deeper.

And each of us should be leaders who call each other to go deeper. The words "Duc In Altum" were used by Jesus to tell Peter to "Lead into the Deep." The Latin word "Duc" means "lead." It is related to the word "Duke" which is an old word for "leader." So Jesus was telling Peter to be a leader who guides the boat into deeper waters to bring up more fish. The Latin word "Altum" means "deep" but it can also be taken to mean "higher up." It is a word that refers to "deep" waters but also suggests "high" waters. Jesus is saying that by going deeper, we can raise others to spiritual heights!

Fr. Mark

Visit Fr. Mark's blog...
www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html



Going Deeper

By Rose Lamont, St. Joseph's
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

What do I have to say about Stewardship and “Duc in Altum,” our new parish theme of going deeper in our faith? Let me tell you something I recently learned about the commandments that will deepen my faith. With a small group of people, I’ve been studying the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Last week we were studying the chapter on the third commandment: “Keep holy the Lord’s day.” Ok, I thought, this will be an easy chapter because this is a simple commandment that tells us not to work on Sundays, and I do that, don’t I? What else is there? Much more, I discovered.

This is what caught my attention as I read the chapter; this has deepened my understanding of keeping holy the Lord’s day. “God’s rest on the seventh day was his contemplative gaze enjoying the good of creation, especially its crown in man and woman. It was not a matter of divine inactivity, but rather the deeper ‘work of contemplation and the restful act of loving us.’” (cf. CCC, nos. 2184-2185, p. 363)

This statement has deepened my understanding of the third commandment;

that it means much more than “not working on Sunday.” I have learned that, if I want to more fully and deeply observe the third commandment, I need to spend time in prayer, contemplation and the restful act of loving God and those around me. The summit of our prayer as Catholics is the celebration of the Eucharist. The US Catechism for Adults says this about our participation at Mass: “The more we meditate upon what we are doing, the more we will worship in spirit and truth and benefit from the grace that flows from the Eucharist. We will grow in our

*Worship and love of
God and neighbor are
at the heart of Christian
stewardship.*

love and worship of God as well as in respect and love for one another.” (p. 365) This is what I want my Sundays to be about, rather than simply “not

working.” I am grateful to God for this conversion of heart that He has worked in me.

Worship and love of God and neighbor are at the heart of Christian stewardship. After all, God gave us these talents and gifts... everything...to build up the Body of Christ and to bring others to the faith, to engage in acts of mercy. As I go deeper in my understanding of keeping holy the Lord’s day, I will grow in my faith, also a gift from

into Stewardship

God. And I am reminded of God's promise that I am strengthened in all things through Him who empowers me. (See Phil 4:13)

What are these things that I want to do? I want to gratefully give back to God out of the abundance of all He has given me. With the help of God's grace, I can do this by serving the Body of Christ in doing what God puts before me, by using my gifts to seek the good of others, by following Christ. This grace is built more strongly into my life as I grow in understanding of His commandments, and, in this case, of the third commandment. This strengthening of God's love and grace in my life will make me a better steward of His gifts.

If we just live our lives and give God what's left, there may be nothing there! No time for prayer, no space to serve and no money to give. That's why we need a payback plan that puts God first. Ask yourself:

- **What percent of your time will you devote to prayer? How will you spend it?**
- **What percent of time will you set aside for service? How will you use your talents?**
- **What percent of your income will you set aside for the church and for the needy? How will you allocate that money?**

Take a look at your calendar for the past year. And your checkbook, too. Is it evident from these everyday records that you're putting God first? At the beginning of this new year make it a New Year's resolution to find a way to show your gratitude for the many gifts God has entrusted to you, His loyal steward.



Clockwise from top: Fr. Mark and Modesto Mayor hold up the total number of cans gathered for the Guinness world record attempt at this past year's parish festival. Fr. Mark gathers with volunteers at the volunteer appreciation dinner, St. Joseph's float in the diocesan Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration and parade.

Duc in Altum! Put out into the Deep! Luke 5:1-11*

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, He asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but



at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Him.



*Translation from the New American Bible
(<http://www.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>)

Visit the link below or scan QR code
to watch Fr. Robert Barron's video
commentary on this scripture...



[www.wordonfire.org/WOF-TV/Commentaries-New/
Pier-Giorgio-Frassati-A-commentary-by-Fr-Barron.aspx](http://www.wordonfire.org/WOF-TV/Commentaries-New/Pier-Giorgio-Frassati-A-commentary-by-Fr-Barron.aspx)

St. Joseph's Events Calendar

January Events

January 13

Adult Singles Ministry Tap Your Faith with Fr. Ernesto

Join us at the new UNOs on Dale Rd from 6-8:30pm. St. Joseph's Adult Singles Ministry is a safe place where single and single-again adults can connect with God and others through social, spiritual and service activities. Visit: adultsinglesministry.eventbrite.com:

January 22

St. Joseph's Young Adults ¡YA! Movie Night

Come join us at 7pm in the JPII Center, Room 2 as we gather to watch an inspiring movie and discuss how what we saw applies to our own lives. There will be free popcorn and drinks in addition to lots of other young adults! Visit: stjoesy.weebly.com/.

January 25

Every year St. Joseph's takes several buses to participate in the Walk for Life West Coast. St. Joseph's Respect Life Committee coordinates this effort and will be taking sign-ups on the plaza after Masses in January. Don't miss out!



Walk for Life West Coast

Knights of Columbus Crab Feed



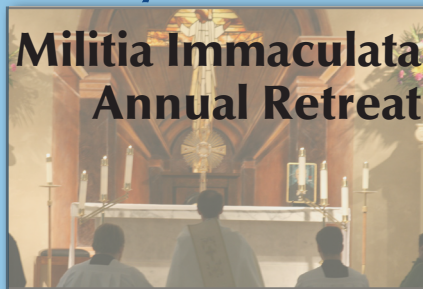
Please join the Knights of Columbus for their annual crab feed on **January 25** in the parish hall. If you go on the walk and don't feel like cooking come to the crab feed. Tickets are \$40, will be presale only, and available for purchase at the parish office.

February Events

February 1

Join us for our 9th annual Marian retreat. It will be a day of reflection, prayer, Adoration, Benediction and Consecration to Our Lady. Don't miss it! The day begins with Mass at 8am followed

Militia Immaculata Annual Retreat



by the retreat in Fr. O'Hare Hall. As the date approaches visit our parish website: www.stjmod.com or contact the parish office for more information and to register.

February 22

A Biblical Walk through the Mass

Do you want to get more out of the Mass? Or better yet do you want to give more of yourself to God at Mass? Come to the JPII Center Room 6 1-6:30pm and be inspired by the depth of the Mass. Lite refreshments will be provided.

Lent 2014

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Mass Times:

7am, 8am, 9:30am, 12noon (Latin),
5:45pm (church), 6pm (hall),
7:30pm (Español)

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent

8:45am, 6:30pm (Español),
7:30pm (all in the church)

*To stay connected with all
that is going on at St. Joseph's
like us on Facebook:*



www.facebook.com/stjmod



St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1813 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95355

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
MODESTO, CA
PERMIT #144

EXCITING NEW MINISTRY AT ST. JOSEPH'S...

Mary Our Mother MOM's Group



Do you ever feel like you can use a helping hand or some time to yourself? Would you like to meet other moms in our parish? Then **Mary Our Mother, MOM's group** is the right fit for you! Please join this fun and new ministry as we embark on a journey of fellowship.

Our Mission Statement:

We strive to provide an environment where moms of all ages can be nurtured and strengthened in their Catholic faith guided by Mary Our Mother, to Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. Through the Sacramental life of the Church, we pray to accept the gift of grace given to live out our vocations and state in life, according to God's will for us individually. We are Catholic Mothers committed to family, motherhood and service to our community. We meet monthly for support, friendship and the affirmation of our role as Catholic Mothers. Our fellowship opportunities include: Monthly meetings, Playgroups, Meals for Moms, Scripture Study, Mom's Night Out and Children's Activities.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." – Proverbs 22:6

Upcoming Events...

Please RSVP for all events on our Facebook Page or to MaryOurMotherSTJ@gmail.com

January 8 at 6:30pm, JPPII Center Room 2 New Year's Kickoff Event!

MOM's group presents a financial literacy advisor to talk to us about budgeting. So if saving money or budgeting are on your New Year's resolution list, don't miss this.

This meeting is open to couples, since most of our meetings are moms only this is an exception.

January 17 MOMs Night Out!

7pm at Tasty Thai

1401 Coffee Road, Modesto

January 22 10am Funworks Playdate

4307 Coffee Road, Modesto

January 29 9:15am Bible Study at St.

Joseph's JPPII Center Room 5



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY OF FAMILIES

Scan this image with your smart phone and go directly to St. Joseph's web page to view upcoming events and the latest blogs.

Visit: www.getscanlife.com for a free QR Scanner



www.facebook.com/stjmod

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sundays: 7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am, 12noon, 1:30pm (Español), 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30am Sunday Mass

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am

CONFESSION

Monday through Thursday 5-5:30pm

Fridays 6:30-7:30pm during Holy Hour

Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

Homebound please call 551-4973 for a priest to visit you by appointment.

Our Parish Mission:

To Evangelize God's People Beginning with the Gift of the Holy Eucharist.

www.stjmod.com
(209)551-4973