



live  the  
faith

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously

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**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

*a Stewardship Parish*

Volume 2, Issue 2 March & April 2014

## Duc in Altum:

By Fr. Mark Wagner, *Pastor*

On April 27 Pope John Paul II will be canonized a saint! Many of us can say that we have a friend in heaven because we saw him or watched him on television during his visits to 129 countries. For almost all of us, we think of him as our “holy father” who was pope for most of our lives. He was the second longest-serving pope in history, having served as pope for almost

27 years, from 1978 until 2005 when he died of Parkinson’s disease. He has already begun doing miracles from heaven, including the two miracles which were required as part of his canonization process: one miracle for his beatification (the

cure of a French nun from Parkinson’s disease) and another for his canonization (the cure of a Costa Rican woman from a cerebral aneurism). These two miracles were certified as medically “inexplicable” by a panel of scientists.

One of most remarkable things about Blessed John Paul II was that he canonized 483 new saints. He also beatified 1340 people, more than the sum of all of his predecessors since Pope Sixtus V (1585–1590), who established the modern beatification procedure which requires

certified miracles. This helps us to understand that miracles are possible! And it is possible to be a saint!

This year at St. Joseph’s we are emphasizing the fact that each one of us can become a saint. We remember that in the year 2000 Pope John Paul II spoke often of “going deeper” (“Duc in Altum”). He often spoke about the story from



*Fr. Mark meeting soon to be Saint John Paul II.*

the Gospel of Luke (5:1-11) which tells what happened when Jesus called the first Pope, Simon Peter, to follow Him:

“While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God...

He saw two boats there alongside the

lake... Getting into one

of the boats, the one belonging to Simon... he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.”

This beautiful passage is not just about what happened 2000 years ago. It is about what is still happening today and what can happen in our own lives. There are still crowds of people who hunger for the word of God. Many people, including you and I, are looking for some meaning in our lives and are “pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God.” Jesus still wants to preach the word of God. He

# Going Deeper into Prayer

still wants us to teach us from the “Barque of Peter”, which is the Catholic Church. He still invites us to enter into the deep waters and cast our nets so that we can continue his work of “catching men.”

But we cannot convince other people to love Jesus and to be close to Him unless we do so ourselves. We cannot give what we haven't got. We need to go deeper into the life of prayer. This means making time for prayer. Because of our busy lives we often say that it is hard to find the time to pray. But we have to make time! We have to make a conscious decision to set aside time for a daily “appointment” with Jesus. We can also make a place for prayer: a special place to kneel or a “prayer chair” in front of a Cross, a statue or a picture on a little “altar.” Throughout our lives we need to get better at praying. Little children learn the basic prayers by memory. As adults we need to find things that help us to learn new ways of praying and meditating: a prayer book, rosary beads, a Bible. Every day we need to be like those crowds who were “pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God.” We also need to be like St. Peter who let Jesus get into his boat. Sometimes we keep Jesus out of our lives because we are afraid that Jesus will change things. But we will never get anywhere if we don't let Him in!

Peter was afraid at first. He said: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.” But Jesus re-assured him: “Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men.” In the same way we should not be afraid. We can become saints and

then we will be able to attract people around us so that they will get away from bad things and come back to Jesus, the church and the sacraments: our children, grandchildren, parents, relatives and friends.

Praying is not the only thing we need to do to be holy. We also need to serve the needs of others and to let go of some of what we have and give to the needy and to the church. Last year was the Year of Faith, and we learned that to “Live the Faith” we must pray gratefully, serve responsibly and give generously. We must love God, love others, and love the church.

In the Year 2000 I was in Rome for the World Youth Day (I was younger then!) and I heard Pope John Paul tell us about these things that we must do be holy: “Young people of every continent, do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace. To succeed in this demanding project of life, continue to listen to His Word, draw strength from the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance. The Lord wants you to be intrepid apostles of his Gospel and builders of a new humanity”.

*Fr. Mark*

Visit Fr. Mark's blog...  
[www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-  
blog.html](http://www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html)



## Practicals for Prayer

*How can you go deeper into prayer this Lent?*

You may have heard before of the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. So what is prayer? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: “Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for Him,” (CCC 2560). Prayer is an essential element of Lent and to our lives. So how do we incorporate prayer into our already busy lives? Sometimes we can get overwhelmed and think we need to spend 4 hours in prayer like a nun in a convent, in order for God to love us. Sometimes we might not feel worthy enough, how can God love a sinner like me? Sometimes we say that we are going to pray and push it off until later, but then we get too tired or we forget and then later turns into tomorrow and tomorrow turns to next week. We just never get started. Becoming an intentional disciple involves having a prayer life and having a prayer life means forming a habit of praying. So instead of trying to do 4 hours just start a habit of praying daily for 5-10 minutes right when you wake up (don’t push it off until later). And God loves you right now as you are reading this as much as he will ever love you, because His love is constant and eternal. His love and mercy is stronger than any of your sins, we just to trust in His divine mercy - go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So this Lent go deeper into prayer - start to form a good habit, become an intentional disciple and be prepared to see how your life will change. To the right are some ways to help...

### ST. JOSEPH’S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Jesus said: “Could you not keep watch for one hour?” (Mark 14:37) This Lent consider signing up for a Holy Hour with our perpetual adoration chapel. To sign up please contact David & Monica at 527-4920. If you can’t do an hour at least stop by on your way to work or on your way home for 10-20 minutes. Stop by the parish office to get the code to let you in the door. You will receive many blessings from Our Lord!

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Will you offer God an extra hour for Lent this year? How about participating in the “40 Days for Life” effort? Modesto is joining with the National 40 days for life in synchronized prayer vigils, outside abortion clinics from Ash Wednesday, March 5, to Palm Sunday, April 13, everyday from 7am-7pm. Please consider joining our life-saving vigil, at the clinic on 2030 Coffee Rd. For more information please contact Erin O’Roark at [paws4christ@gmail.com](mailto:paws4christ@gmail.com).

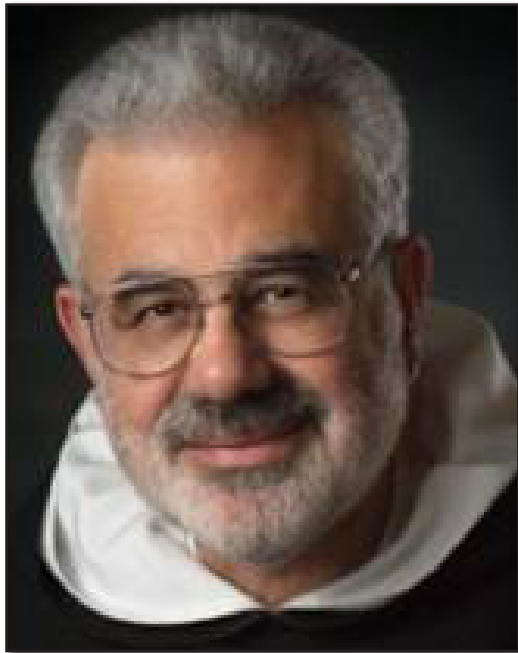
**For more on prayer, for example, how to pray the rosary and other Catholic devotions, visit:**

[www.ewtn.com/devotionals/prayer\\_saint.asp](http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/prayer_saint.asp)

# St. Joseph's Lenten Mission 2014

## March 9-11

*with Fr. Vincent Serpa, OP*



Theme:

**Duc in Altum:**  
*Being More Deeply Converted!*

**March 9 at 7pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall**

**March 10 at 7pm in the church**

**March 11 at 7pm in the church**

Born in Hayward, California, Fr. Vincent Serpa, entered the Dominican Novitiate for the U.S. western province of the Dominican Order. Ordained in 1968, he spent three years doing radio work in San Francisco while still in school. Since then he has served in Dominican parishes in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland, Oregon.

From 1992 to 2000 he served as novice master in Oakland. In September of that year he joined the staff at Catholic Answers as chaplain and staff apologist. He particularly enjoys answering questions on the "Ask an Apologist" forum and producing his daily "Catholic Answers Minute."



**To find out more and to hear  
Fr. Serpa on the radio, visit:**  
[www.catholic.com/profiles/fr-vincent-serpa-op](http://www.catholic.com/profiles/fr-vincent-serpa-op)

# St. Joseph's Events Calendar

## March Events

**Saturday, March 8**

**Mass & Anointing of the Sick  
10am in the church**

Those who are ill, friends and caretakers and those wishing to pray for those who are sick are invited to attend this special Mass of Anointing.



**March 18**

**Lenten Bible Study: Conversion  
7pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall**

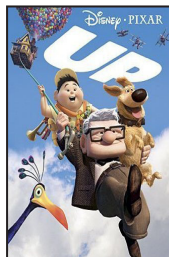
Join us this Lent for our four week long bible study focusing on conversion. We will be using a resource from Fr. Robert Barron (Word on Fire). Fr. Barron discusses in a series of talks on DVD biblical stories of conversion. There also will be study and reflection questions in small groups. If you would like to purchase the study guide they are \$12 each. It is not too late to join.

## April Events

**Saturday, April 5**

**FREE Parish Movie Night  
7pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall**

Bring your family and friends to see the acclaimed animated movie "Up" on the big screen in the hall. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Bring cookies to share.



**April 17-20**

**Easter Triduum**

*See page 7 for details.*

*In May don't forget to join us for our...*

**Annual Blessings Breakfast on Saturday, May 3 from 8-11am in Fr. O'Hare Hall.** Come enjoy a **FREE** pancake breakfast provided by St. Joseph's Development Committee and be greeted by parish leadership. On display will be artwork created by our school-aged parishioners as they describe what blessing God has provided for them. Music will be provided by our Children's Cherubim Choir.

## LENTEN PARISH LIFE

### Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent - 8:45am, 6:30pm  
(Español), 7:30pm (all in the church)

### Lenten Mission:

**March 9-11 7pm in the church**

Fr. Vincent Serpa

(see page 5 for more details).

### LENTEN DINNERS *Knights of Columbus*

**Fish Fries** Fridays, March 7, 14, 21, & 28

Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 age 12 and under

**Soup Dinner** Friday, March 22 Cost \$5

### Parish Lenten Penance Service:

**Wednesday, April 9, 7pm in the church**



Visit our Lent page:  
[www.stjmod.com/lent](http://www.stjmod.com/lent)



## 2014 EASTER TRIDUUM

### **Holy Thursday - April 17th**

Tenebrae, 8am;  
Holy Thursday Concert, 6pm;  
Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper,  
7:30pm *Español in hall,*  
*English in church*

### **Good Friday - April 18th**

*No confessions today*  
Modesto Walk for Life, 8am  
*Begins at East Ridge Community Church*  
*(SE corner of Oakdale & Briggsmore);*  
Tenebrae, 8am;  
Modesto Walk for Life  
Prayer Service, 10am;  
Live Stations of the Cross, 12noon;  
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion,  
Veneration of the Cross and Holy  
Communion, 1:30pm;  
Our Lady of Sorrows – *Español*, 6pm  
Prayer around the Crosses, 7:30pm



Walk for Life Modesto  
8am, Good Friday



Live Stations of the Cross  
12Noon, Good Friday

### **Holy Saturday - April 19th** *No confessions today*

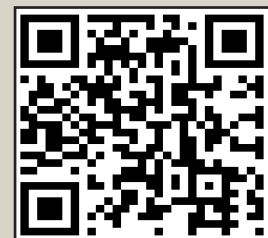
Tenebrae, 8am; Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30pm Blessing of Paschal Fire; Easter  
Baptisms and Mass, *Español in the Fr. O'Hare Hall, English in the Church*

### **Easter Sunday - April 20th**

Masses: 6am, 7:30am, 9am,  
10:30am church, 10:30am hall,  
12noon, 1:30pm (*Español*), and  
5:30pm



Easter Sunrise  
Mass 6am



Visit our Easter page:  
[www.stjmod.com/easter](http://www.stjmod.com/easter)



St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
1813 Oakdale Road  
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## EXCITING NEW MINISTRY AT ST. JOSEPH'S...

### St. Joseph's Adult Singles Ministry



St. Joseph's new Adult Singles Ministry is a safe place for single (never married, dating, single parent) and single-again (divorced, annulled, widowed, separated) adults to connect with God and others through social, spiritual and service activities.

According to the US Census Bureau, 48% of all US adults 18 and older are either widowed, divorced, separated or never married but less than 20% attend church on a regular basis. Recent research revealed that more than one-third of singles did not feel they were treated equal to parishioners who are in conventional family structures. The survey also found that older people are more keenly aware of their single status and at times feel "isolated, alone and lonely". Nearly half of our parish family feels more valued outside rather than inside the church. The beauty of our catholic faith is that we are one body. All created and loved equally in the eyes of our Lord. Therefore, if you or someone you know is single or single-again, come and experience a ministry devoted to the greatest single, Jesus Christ.

#### Upcoming Events...

**Wednesday, March 12 "Tap Your Faith" at Uno's on Dale Rd at 6pm**

**Monday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day at PWexford's Pub on McHenry at 6pm!**

**Wednesday, April 9 "Tap Your Faith" at Uno's on Dale Rd at 6pm**

**Sunday, April 20 Easter Brunch at Surla's Restaurant at 1pm**

We also are planning a Lenten service project in April. Please sign-up online for these and view our other events at [www.adultsinglesministry.eventbrite.com](http://www.adultsinglesministry.eventbrite.com) or email Don at [daspito@yahoo.com](mailto:daspito@yahoo.com).



### 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](http://www.getscanlife.com) for a free QR Scanner



[www.facebook.com/stjmod](http://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](http://www.stjmod.com)  
(209)551-4973