

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

March 18, 2012 Fourth Sunday of Lent

(209) 551-4973 Fax: (209) 551-3213 Visit our website:

www.stjmod.com

Holy Eucharist

Sunday Mass:

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

Daily Mass:

8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am Traditional Latin Mass, Fridays at Noon

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:

Chapel access code available in office

Children's Services: Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Sunday Mass 10:30am

Stations of the Cross & Confessions
Fridays during Lent 6:30pm (Español)
7:30pm (English)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm Homebound please call 551-4973 for a priest to visit you by appointment.

Clergy:

Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor
Fr. Benny Kottarathil , Assoc Pastor
Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinero, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop



My scooter with pear blossoms in front of the rectory—a fine day for riding!

Three weeks ago I gave a Lenten mission at St. Patrick's parish in Ripon. It was at the height of the **almond blossoms**—indeed, it was the very weekend of the Ripon Almond Blossom Festival. For five days I drove to the parish of my good friend, Fr. Peter — through magical tunnels of pinkish-white blossoms, with blooming branches arching above me on both sides of the narrow country roads.

For the next two weeks our Valley was awash in blossoms of every type—almond, pear, apple, peach, plum, and nectarine. The weather that accompanies our blossoms is up and down—warmly inviting breezes one day, and sharply cold winds the next. The weather is **Lenten Weather**—high highs and low lows. We embark on these 40 days

in search of God, who dwells within us. We fast and pray and give alms so as to find God in the still secret places of our souls. Fasting is difficult (remember take lots of deep breaths) and dedicated prayer will take significant bites out of our schedules. We have to rearrange significant areas of our daily routines—we have to surrender some comfortable habits for a greater good—if we are to get even a glimpse of Christ's loving presence within our hearts. Just about now, halfway through Lent, we feel like we are running out of steam.

In this often trying pilgrimage of Lent, I thank God for the blossoms. They shine with hope. Their freshly fluttering innocence manifests God's promise to "make all things new." Reading the newspaper every morning seems like watching a train wreck in slow motion, or the gradual but inexorable collapse of a noble edifice. It seems like whole sections of our culture are caving in every few weeks—how can we regain what the aggressive forces of secularism are destroying week by week? And yet, just a drive in the country at blossom time restores my spirits. As discouraging as things become, God will always bring about a Springtime of blossoms and sunshine. Let's enjoy this magnificent Springtime God has given us, and move briskly through our Lenten pilgrimage!

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

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Se Habla Español	Alex x103
Accounting	Barbara x108
Adult Ed & Bible Studies.	Michael x203
Altar Servers	. Svetlana x200
Audio / Video	Jeremy x213
Becoming Catholic, RCIA	Stacy x211
Buildings & Grounds	Susie x201
Bulletin & Website	Jeremy x213
Child Ed & Sacraments	Debbie x205
Choirs & Cantors	Svetlana x200
Events & Activities	Susie x201
Faith & Life Magazine	Michael x203
Giving to St. Joseph's	Tammy x207
Parish Lending Library	x208
Parish Ministries	Tammy x207
Parish Registration	Donna x102
Room Reservations	Rosario x110
Volunteering	Tammy x207
Youth Ministry	Nathan x206

80 Readings 03/19-03/25 (2)

Monday:

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday:

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday:

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday:

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; In 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

12pm Latin Mass:

III Kings 17:17-24; Jn. 11:1-45

Saturday:

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday:

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

9am Mass Latin: Passion Sunday

Heb. 9:11-15; Jn. 8:46-59

Sacraments

Q Our Mass Intentions 20

Sunday, March 18 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)						
7:30a	Manuel Borges Victoria	1:30p	Margot Carrasquilla and Aurelio & Josefina Ramirez			
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	3:00p	Catalina Sibayan			
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Brian Koblentz			
12:00p	William Clarence Armell	7:30p	Robert Gutierrez			
Monday, March 19 (St. Joseph's Feast Day)						
8:00a	Julia Rieker and Joe Barratt	5:45p	Laura Ruelas, Joe Mendes and Blaine Matthew Harker			
Tuesday, March 20						
8:00a	Charles C. Bush and Gwen Roy	5:45p	Matthew Bruno and Jim Radcliffe			
Wednesday, March 21						
8:00a	Vergie Willian and Jim Trevillyan	5:45p	Joe R. Fernandes and Lupe Suniga			
Thursday, March 22						
8:00a	George Cunha and Bill Vermillion	5:45p	Sara Terra and Maria Machado			
Friday, March 23						
8:00a	Rosanna Hollander and John Caratti	5:45p	Nenna Giulitto and Ann Brazil			
Saturday, March 24						
8:00a	Alexander Gundersen and Bea Fugett	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass			
Sunday, March 25 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)						
7:30a	Ayou Elya	1:30p	Johnnie K. Sablan and Elisa Santiago			
9:00a	Leo Cusenza	5:30p	Danny Vele			
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Tony Ortez			
12:00p	Tony & Connie Esteves					

"Stewardship: Sharing These Gifts in Love of God and Neighbor" March 18, 2012—The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Midway through our Lenten preparation for Easter the readings remind us of the grace and mercy God bestows on those who believe in Him. The people of Israel became ungrateful over time, no longer recognizing God as the source of goodness. Without God's wisdom and mercy to share with the nations they were easily conquered and taken captive. Jesus, in His teaching, revealed that those who believe in the Son of the Father have eternal life and live in the light of truth. May we recognize the mercy of God through grace and become light for the world.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Please consider joining our Life Saving Vigil at the clinic on 2030 Coffee Road for an hour or more. The vigils are held every week during Lent outside abortion clinics from 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday and 2pm to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. 5,045 children have been saved from abortion, and these are only the ones we know about. For more information, please contact Stephanie Pizzirulli, DC. (209) 484-7233 or molthenchiro@gmail.com.

ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus Once a Week! Please see the schedule outside the Chapel for hours needing adorers. Contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up one of these hours.



CR This Week SO

Sunday, March 18, 2012

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent, in the church: 8:45am (English), 6:30pm (Spanish) 7:30pm (English)

EASTER LILIES FOR SALE

Boy Scout Troop 49 will be selling Easter Lilies on 3/24, 3/25, 3/31 & 4/1 in the Plaza between Masses. Plants are \$10.00 each. Proceeds are used by each participating boy to help pay for summer camp.



Parish Life

LEGION OF MARY

Auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary are invited to attend the annual ceremony of the Modesto Curia to be held at St. Mary's Church in Oakdale. Join us Sunday, March 25 at 3pm. The ACIES is the central function of the Legion of Mary wherein members express their union with Mary and consecrate themselves to her. A reception will be held in the

church hall immediately following this dedication.

ST. JOSEPH'S BOOKSTORE

The Book Store will be open from 6:00-7:00 before the Lenten Mission, Monday the 26th & Tues the 27th. We have lots of new books and statues to celebrate the Easter season.



WALK FOR LIFE RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please join our entire Catholic and Pro-Life community on Good Friday, April 6th at 8am. Meet at Eastridge Community Church on the corner of Oakdale and Briggsmore, Modesto. We will sing and pray as we walk 4 miles (2 hours) through Modesto passing the abortion clinic on Coffee Rd. The walk will conclude at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at approximately 10am. We pray that you are able to join us and will help promote this vital event. Please bring your entire family and friends. Make and bring a Pro-Life sign and wear comfortable shoes. We walk rain or shine. For more information visit:

www.WalkForLifeModesto.webs.com or call:

Nicole Menezes at 209-642-6336



ST. JOSEPH'S LIBRARY SALE

We need your used books for our book sale in April 29. Please drop off any donations to the library or the Parish office. Thank You!

ST. JOSEPH'S JOB OPENINGS

1. Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds:

Full time, generous benefit package. Must have experience and be computer literate

2. Administrative Assistant:

Part-time, no benefits. Must have experience and be computer literate. Complete descriptions and applications are in the parish office.

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Pay your bills online? Call the parish office at 551-4973 to find out about online offertory gifts, instead of writing checks.

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മ PSR Update രു

Parish School of Religion 551-4973, ext. 217 E-mail: psr@stjmod.com

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION **PARENT MEETINGS**

March 22, at 7pm in the Hall Mandatory First Holy Communion Parent Meeting for all parents whose children are receiving First Holy Communion at the English Masses or the Latin Mass on May 19 and 20.

April 16 at 7pm rooms #6, 7 and 8 in the Hall Mandatory First Holy Communion Parent Meeting for all parents whose children are receiving First Holy Communion at the Spanish Mass on May 20.

ATTENTION ALL C2 STUDENTS

C2 students are to attend the Parish Lenten Mission on March 27th at 6:30pm in the church.

> There will be NO CLASS for C2 students on March 29th.



PSR Students, please bring cereal this month for St. Vincent De Paul. Thanks for your kindness and stewardship,

especially during this Lenten Season!

∞ RCIA ∝

Inquiry classes are for people who want to learn more about Catholicism, but aren't necessarily sure they want to become Catholic. The RCIA process is also for Catholics who have not yet completed their sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion. To start the process: call Stacy Phillips at 541-8903 to make an appointment.

Religious Education

THE COLLECTS...

God so loved the world that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate to save humanity from eternal death. This same God who gave life to all creation calls us constantly to Himself. Especially during Lent, a time of



atonement and spiritual renewal, we are called to surrender to Him, who is Love. That we come in humble supplication to the cross and fully partake of its fruit is our highest endeavor. This holy time of Lent, like the spiritual life of all those who are His friends, plunders us into a valley of darkness and at times of desolation, yet it is in this place of solitude that we encounter ourselves before God, and are able to offer Him the small fruits of our daily crosses. He, our merciful Father, gathers our gifts and receives them with tender affection, and in turn fills us with His grace. "How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate! ... The fruit of this tree is not death,... This tree does not cast us out of paradise, but opens the way for our return "(from a sermon by St. Theodore the Studite). Let us hasten to embrace this sacred time with courage and perseverance, trusting always in the Good Lord. And like St. Therese of Lisieux exclaim, "I do not fear trials sent by Jesus, for even in the most bitter suffering we can see that it is His loving hand that causes it." We can trust that He wills only what is best for us and only that which will bring us closer to Him.

Fourth Week of Lent Collect:

Let us pray: O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ച്ച Militia Immaculata രു



ΜI CALENDAR March 25— OF EVENTS

Join us and learn more about the Militia of the Immaculata!

Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary during the 12 noon Mass. Join us for refreshments

Fr. O'Hare Hall.

April 14— Monthly Meetings for the Prayer and Spanish Villages, following 8am Mass in Rm. #5, JPII bldg. Speaker: Fr. Benny.

immediately following in April 15—Family Village Monthly mtg. after 9am Mass in the Hall. Speaker: Fr. Benny

ച Video Resource ര





Scan the QR code to watch Fr. Pontifex's daily 2 X 40 video for a Lenten meditation or search "pontifex333" on youtube.

20 Youth Ministry (2)

Upcoming LifeNights:

3/18: Nailed – A loving God vs. the Reality of suffering.

3/25: St. Joseph's Lenten Mission

4/1: Stations of the Cross

4/8: No Life Night-Happy Easter!

All high school teens are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a friend! See you there!

World Youth Day Cookbooks

Looking for some Lenten food recipes? These books have 200 pages full of favorite recipes and ideas from Parishioners here at St. Joseph's. Contents range from appetizers, salads, and bread to candies, cookies, and beverages. Each book is \$15.00 and proceeds go towards WYD Rio 2013.



Confirmation Retreats
Confirmation 1-Saturday, April 14
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost \$30.00
Confirmation 2-Saturday, April 28
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Cost \$30.00

Retreats are mandatory for junior high students and will be held at St. Joseph's in the Fr. O'Hare hall. Both retreats will be led by the youth ministry department and 'Victory' peer ministry team. There will be small groups, talks, confession, skits, games, and food. We look forward to seeing you all there! Extra permission slips are available in the parish office. Please turn them in by April 1.

Coming Spring Break 2012

You've heard of 'Where's Waldo?' but what about 'Where's Nathan?' From April 10-13 Nathan Steingrebe will be at a different restaurant each day for his lunch hour. He will post a picture with a clue to where he is on his Facebook page. Any teen that figures out where he is and meets him within the designated time will win a free lunch with him. Be sure to 'friend' him on Facebook and let the games begin!



Contact Us! Nathan Steingrebe C. 209.247.7863 W. 551-4973, ext. 206 Nathan@stjmod.com Katie Steffanic W. 551-4973, ext.223 Ksteffanic@stjmod.com

Save the Date: Steubenville San Diego July 27-29

Open to all high school teens, graduating 8th grade through 12th grade in high school.
Guest speakers and musicians this year include Ike Ndolo,
Fr. Michael Schmitz, Matt Smith, Jackie Francois and Righteous B!!

There are 30 spots available. Cost is \$150.00. Fundraising and payment options are available.

For more information contact the youth ministry department.



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Nicole Colindres

Profiles in Stewardship

by Debbie Greco

When unbaptized children over age 7 enter PSR they are placed in our 2-year RCIC or (RCIT if they are teens) classes. This Easter we have 18 children and teens who will be receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. For the past three years Nicole Colindres has been a catechist for these special students. Nicole is eminently qualified as she, her husband Richard, and daughter Bianca went through our RCIA/RCIC and were initiated into the Catholic Church here at St. Joseph's during the 2004 Easter Vigil. At the same Mass their son Julian, age 6, and not yet at the age of reason requiring classes, was also baptized. St. Peter tells us "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10. The waters of baptism were scarcely dry when Nicole began sharing her gift of faith in our PSR program. For two years Nicole was assisted by her daughter, Bianca, and together they shared their own joyful experience of receiving the sacraments, the excitement of choosing a patron saint, adoring Jesus in the Adoration Chapel for the first time. This year, she is being assisted by Julian, now a Confirmation 2 student. Julian is in the boys' class which was wonderfully taught by our beloved Danny Vele, who passed away last October. Danny left mighty big shoes to fill but Nicole, without hesitation immediately said yes when asked to take over the class and help those boys persevere in faith. Nicole's saying yes to God is a beautiful example of stewardship and a blessing to our parish.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this morning by the Live Stations of the Cross Team

Parish Stewardship—a way of life

Lenten reflections
"The ABC's of Mother Teresa"

Always have the courage to say sorry.

Be kind, be compassionate.

Control your judgments.

Don't let yourself get discouraged.

Every minute is precious—don't waste your time.

Find out what is nice in each other.

Give until it hurts.

Have deep respect for each other.

If you really want to love God, love one another.

Just do small things with great love.

Keep your heart clean.

Learn to pray, love to pray, and pray often.

Make time for each other in your family.

Never tell lies.

Only believe you are precious to Him (God).

Put love in whatever you do.

Quite a lot of people have forgotten what love is....so begin to give the joy of loving.

Refrain from prejudice.

Smile at each other.

Take the trouble to listen.

Use your talents for the glory of God.

Very often, we look but we don't see. Let us look AND see.

When humiliation comes, accept it and offer it.

eXcuse rather than accuse.

You must learn to forgive.

Zeal is a second name for love.

www.motherteresa.org Mother Teresa Center

New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??

Call the Center for Lay Apostolates

551-4973, ext. 207

From our Holy Father in Rome

BENEDICT XVI FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday, 26 February 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this First Sunday of Lent we meet Jesus who, after receiving Baptism from John the Baptist in the River Jordan (Mk 1:9), is subjected to temptation in



the wilderness (Mk 1:12-13). St. Mark's concise narrative lacks the details we read in the other two Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The wilderness referred to has various meanings. It can indicate the state of abandonment and loneliness, the "place" of human weakness, devoid of support and safety, where temptation grows stronger.

However, it can also indicate a place of refuge and shelter — as it

was for the People of Israel who had escaped from slavery in Egypt — where it is possible to experience God's presence in a special way. Jesus "was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan" (Mk 1:13). St Leo the Great comments that "The Lord wanted to suffer the attack of the tempter in order to defend us with his help and to instruct us with his example (*Tractatus XXXIX,3 De ieiunio quadragesimae*: CCL 138/A, Turnholti 1973, 214-215). What can this episode teach us? As we read in the book *The Imitation of Christ*, "There is no man wholly free from temptations so long as he lives... but by endurance and true humility we are made stronger than all our enemies" (*Liber* I, C. XIII, Vatican City 1982, 37), endurance and the humility of following the Lord every day, learning not to build our lives outside him or as though he did not exist, but in him and with him, for he is the source of true life.

The temptation to remove God, to arrange things within us and in the world by ourselves, relying on our own abilities, has always been present in human history.

Jesus proclaims that "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15), he announces that in him something new happens: God turns to the human being in an unexpected way, with a unique, tangible closeness, full of love; God is incarnate and enters the human world to take sin upon himself, to conquer evil and usher men and women into the world of God.

However, this proclamation is accompanied by the request to measure up to such a great gift. In fact Jesus adds: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). It is an invitation to have faith in God and to convert all our actions and thoughts to goodness, every day. The season of Lent is a favourable moment for renewing and reinforcing our relationship with God, through daily prayer, acts of penance and works of brotherly charity.

Let us fervently beg Mary Most Holy to accompany us on our Lenten journey with her protection and to help us to impress the words of Jesus Christ in our hearts and in our lives so as to convert to him. In addition, I entrust to your prayers the week of Spiritual Exercises which I shall begin this evening with my co-workers in the Roman Curia.



In the Diocese

CHRISM MASS

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Annunciation,
March 29 at 6pm



"WOMEN & SPIRIT"

is an exhibit currently displayed at the California Museum of History in Sacramento. It tells the story of American Catholic Sisters whose courage and passion for justice shaped our nation's social and cultural landscape.

In celebration of the diocese's Jubilee Year, the Vicar for Women Religious is organizing a pilgrimage to the exhibit on **Saturday, March 31, 2012.**

The cost of \$30.00 per person covers round trip bus fare, a box lunch, and museum admission. Reservations required.

To access the registration form go to: www.stocktondiocese.org/DiocesanEvents

SCHOOL SECRETARY POSITION CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dynamic individual sought to supervise, implement and coordinate school policies and procedures related to the front office and daily operation of the school– including student attendance and clerical duties for administrative needs. Experience in school office work is preferred. Send application, letter of intent and letters of recommendation to Principal, Central Catholic High School, 200 S. Carpenter Rd, Modesto, CA 95351 (209) 524-9611, open until filled.

Página 8 - St. Joseph's Modesto CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP) Por Debbie Greco



Nicole Colindres

Cuando niños mayores de 7 años que

no han sido bautizados entran al PSR (Escuela Parroquial de Religión) son colocados en las clases del RCIC o (RCIT para adolescentes). Para esta Pascua tenemos 18 que recibirán los sacramentos del Bautismo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación. Por los últimos tres años Nicole Colindres ha sido la catequista para estos estudiantes. Nicole eminentemente está calificada ya que ella, su esposo Richard, y su hija Bianca asistieron al RCIA y RCIC siendo iniciados como miembros de la Iglesia Católica aquí en St. Joseph's durante la Vigilia Pascual del 2004. En la misma misa su hijo, Julián, de 6 años también fue bautizado. San Pedro nos dice "Que cada uno ponga al servicio de los demás el carisma que ha recibido, y de este modo serán buenos administradores de los diversos dones de Dios" 1 Pe 4:10. En cuanto Nicole fue bautizada comenzó a compartir su don de fe en nuestro programa de PSR. Por dos años su hija Bianca fue su asistente y juntas compartieron su propia experiencia de haber recibido los sacramentos, la emoción de haber escogido a su santo patrono, y la adoración al Santísimo Sacramento por vez primera. Este año le ayuda Julián, que ahora está en segundo año de confirmación. Julián está en la clase que era de Danny Vele, quien falleció en octubre. Denny dejó zapatos muy grandes para llenar pero Nicole inmediatamente aceptó cuando le preguntaron si podía ella tomar esa clase y ayudar a esos niños a perseverar en la fe. El sí de Nicole es un hermoso ejemplo de corresponsabilidad v una bendición para nuestra parroquia.

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español! DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Joseph Illo

Hace tres semanas que di una Misión Cuaresmal en la parroquia de St. Patrick en Ripon. Esto fue durante la temporada de los capullos de almendra—por supuesto, esto fue durante el fin de semana del Festival de los Capullos de Almendra en Ripon. Por cinco días viajé a la parroquia de mi buen amigo Padre Peter– pasando por túneles mágicos de capullos blancos y rosados, con racimos llenos de flores arqueándose por encima de mi en ambos lados de los estrechos caminos campestres.

Por las próximas dos semanas nuestro valle se encontraba repleto de capullos de toda clase— almendra, pera, manzana, durazno, ciruela y melocotón. El clima que acompaña a los capullos fluctúa —un día tiene brizas cálidas que invitan, y el próximo tiene vientos fríos. El clima es el Clima Cuaresmal— con altos y bajos. Nos embarcamos en estos 40 días buscando a Dios, quien vive en nosotros. Ayunamos,



Mi motocicleta con capullos de buen día para montar.

rezamos y damos limosna para encontrar a Dios en lugares todavía secretos de nuestras almas. El ayuno es difícil (acuérdense de tomar varios respiros profundos) y el tiempo dedicado a la oración tomará bastante de nuestro horario. Tenemos que arreglar bastantes áreas de nuestra diaria rutina—debemos de rendir varios de nuestros cómodos hábitos por el bien—si queremos tener aunque sea un poco de la amorosa presencia de Cristo en nuestros corazones. Ya por este tiempo, a mitad de la Cuaresma, sentimos que se nos está acabando el ánimo.

En este difícil peregrinaje Cuaresmal, pera en frente de la rectoría—un doy Gracias a Dios por los capullos. Ellos brillan con esperanza. Su fresco, inocente aleteo manifiesta la promesa de

Dios de "hacer todas las cosas nuevas." El leer el periódico cada mañana es como ver un choque de tren en cámara lenta, o la gradual e inexorable caída de un noble edificio. Parece que grandes secciones de nuestra cultura se derrumban cada pocas semanas—¿Cómo podemos recuperar lo que las agresivas fuerzas del secularismo destruyen semana tras semana? Y todavía, solo un viaje por el campo durante la temporada de los capullos restaura mi espíritu. Así las cosas se vuelvan mas desanimadas, Dios siempre traerá una Primavera de capullos y de sol resplandeciente. ¡Gocemos de esta magnifica Primavera que Dios nos ha dado, y movámonos apresuradamente por nuestro peregrinaje Cuaresmal!

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

BENEDICTO XVI PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Domingo 26 de febrero de 2012

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

En este primer domingo de Cuaresma encontramos a Jesús, quien, tras haber recibido el bautismo en el río Jordán por Juan el Bautista (Mc1, 9), sufre la tentación en el desierto (Mc1, 12-13). La narración de san Marcos es concisa, carente de los detalles que leemos en los otros dos evangelios de Mateo y de



Lucas. El desierto del que se habla tiene varios significados. Puede indicar el estado de abandono y de soledad, el «lugar» de la debilidad del hombre donde no existen apoyos ni seguridades, donde la tentación se hace más fuerte. Pero puede también indicar un lugar de refugio y de amparo —como lo fue para el pueblo de Israel en fuga de la esclavitud egipcia— en el que se puede experimentar de modo particular la

presencia de Dios. Jesús «se quedó en el desierto cuarenta días, siendo tentado por Satanás» (*Mc* 1, 13). San León Magno comenta que «el Señor quiso sufrir el ataque del tentador para defendernos con su ayuda y para instruirnos con su ejemplo» (*Tractatus* XXXIX, 3 *De ieiunio quadragesimae*: ccl 138/a, Turnholti 1973, 214-215).

¿Qué puede enseñarnos este episodio? Como leemos en el libro de la *Imitación de Cristo*, «el hombre jamás está del todo exento de las tentaciones mientras vive... pero es con la paciencia y con la verdadera humildad como nos haremos más fuertes que cualquier enemigo» (*Liber I*, c. XIII, Ciudad del Vaticano 1982, 37); con la paciencia y la humildad de seguir cada día al Señor, aprendemos a construir nuestra vida no fuera de Él y como si no existiera, sino en Él y con Él, porque es la fuente de la vida verdadera. La tentación de suprimir a Dios, de poner orden solos en uno mismo y en el mundo contando exclusivamente con las propias capacidades, está siempre presente en la historia del hombre.

Jesús proclama que «se ha cumplido el tiempo y está cerca el reino de Dios» (*Mc* 1, 15), anuncia que en Él sucede algo nuevo: Dios se dirige al hombre de forma insospechada, con una cercanía única y concreta, llena de amor; Dios se encarna y entra en el mundo del hombre para cargar con el pecado, para vencer el mal y volver a llevar al hombre al mundo de Dios. Pero este anuncio se acompaña de la petición de corresponder a un don tan grande. Jesús, en efecto, añade: «convertíos y creed en el Evangelio» (*Mc* 1, 15); es la invitación a tener fe en Dios y a convertir cada día nuestra vida a su voluntad, orientando hacia el bien cada una de nuestras acciones y pensamientos. El tiempo de Cuaresma es el momento propicio para renovar y fortalecer nuestra relación con Dios a través de la oración diaria, los gestos de penitencia, las obras de caridad fraterna.

Supliquemos con fervor a María santísima que acompañe nuestro camino cuaresmal con su protección y nos ayude a imprimir en nuestro corazón y en nuestra vida las palabras de Jesucristo para convertirnos a Él. Encomiendo, además, a vuestra oración la semana de ejercicios espirituales que esta tarde iniciaré con mis colaboradores de la Curia romana.

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XVII Retiro de Parejas

24 y 25 de Marzo de 8:00am-5:00pm Centro Comunitario de St. Stanislaus "Nada mas perfecto que el Amor"

La Renovación Carismática Católica los invita al retiro y fortalezca su matrimonio. Para más información llame a Francisco Ochoa al (209) 735-0523.



IESTE RETIRO ES GRATIS!

REUNIONES PARA PADRES DE FAMILIA PARA LA PRIMERA COMUNION

22 de marzo a las 7pm en el Hall Reunión obligatoria para padres de familia de los niños que van a hacer su Primera Comunión en las Misas en inglés y Latín el 19 y 20 de mayo.

16 de abril a las 7pm en los salones 6, 7 and 8 en el Hall Reunión obligatoria para padres de familia de los niños que van a hacer su Primera Comunión en la Misa en español el 20 de mayo.

ATENCION ESTUDIANTES DE C2 El 27 de marzo deberán ir a la Misión de Cuaresma en la iglesia a las 6:30pm.

NO habrá clase el 29 de marzo para los estudiantes de C2.

PROGRAMA DE CALFRESH

Si usted tiene un ingreso limitado, puede ser elegible para CalFresh (anteriormente Cupones de alimentos), incluso si se le ha negado en el pasado. Caridades Católicas puede ayudarle a aplicar. Ofrecemos ayuda confidencial. Para más información llame a Caridades Católicas 593-6124.

La Iniciativa de Salud de Niños ofrece cobertura médica para los niños elegibles sin seguro médico u indocumentados en el condado de Stanislaus. Si su hijo no tiene seguro, Caridades Católicas le ayudará a solicitar y renovar la elegibilidad para Medi-Cal, Healthy Families o programas de Kaiser.

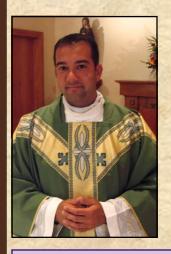
MONDAY, MARCH 19TH FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH



Join us for the 5:45pm daily Mass to celebrate our patron St. Joseph. At the end of the Mass we will conclude our St. Joseph Novena and have a potluck in the plaza.

Come revitalize your faith...

LENTEN MISSION



THE SECRET TO HOLINESS:

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIVES AND **TEACHINGS OF BL. JOHN PAUL II &** POPE BENEDICT XVI

with Fr. Jay Mello

SAVE THE DATES: MARCH 25 - 28

2012 BMA: We are almost there! With everyone's participation we will make it!

Ron Cook, Norma Rodriguez and John Gorman

\$ 193,000 Goal: \$ 193,000 with 1,000 families participating \$143,000 719 families as of 3/11/12 participating Thank you from your 2012 BMA Chairs:

Question: What if I lost my

envelope?

Answer: That is okay! We have more envelopes in the vestibule of the church and in the parish office. We will even mail them to you.

> Question: What if my gift is small? Does it really matter?

Answer: Your gift of participation can never be too small. Every gift matters!