Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 7, 2019

Calendar

Saturday, April 6th
4:00pm Vigil Jim Baldwin, Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Vincent Boudreaux Jr, Gwendolyn Dwyer, Virginia R. Ernst, Mr & Mrs John Gourrier, and Vetter Amadeo Taylor

Sunday, April 7th
8:00am Mass All parishioners
10:30am Mass James Baldwin, Micaela "Kell" Bennett, Joy Nalty Hodges, and Deacon Paul A. Nalty
5:00pm Mass A Special Intention

Monday, April 8th
6:30am Mass Jack Landry

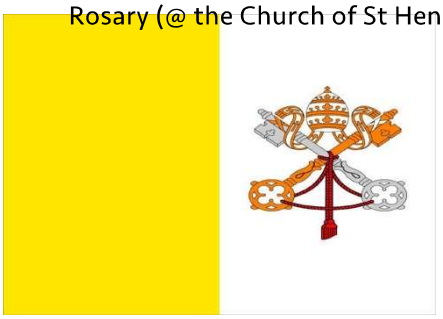
Tuesday, April 9th
6:30am Mass Bergeron & Boudreaux Families
4:45pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Mass Christopher Joseph Vanderbrook

Wednesday, April 10th
6:30am Mass The Rev Monsignor Henry Engelbrecht
5:00pm Confession (@ St Stephen Church)
6:00pm Rosary (@ Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Thursday, April 11th
St Stanislaus, bishop and martyr
6:30am Mass Veronica Stankewicz
7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 12th
6:30am Mass Joseph Schmidt
9:00am School Mass
6:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 13th
St Martin I, Pope and martyr (pictured)
10:00am Rosary (@ the Church of St Henry)



The Sanctuary Light in the church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of William Allen.

The Sanctuary Light in the chapel will burn this week for the Intentions of the Pope.

Mass Setting

The Mass setting for Lent is the Gregorian *Missa jubilate Deo*, which is found on the pew card.

♫

Banns of Matrimony

Christina Marie Kazibutowski & Thomas Austin Bilinski
Christina Raquel Bruno & Jonathan Henry Uhle
Peyton LaPlace Shall & Steven Andrew Martiny
Ellen Margaret Landry & Michael Patrick Minaldi

Lay-minister Schedule
FOR APRIL 14TH

4:00 pm
Lector: Jennifer Wise
Eucharistic Ministers: Artie Baehr, Hunter Harris III, and Anthony Mumphrey

8:00 am
Lector: Linda Tufton
Eucharistic Ministers: Nicholas Barras, Dana D'Anzi, and Virginia Guise

10:30 am
Lector: Mark Surprenant
Eucharistic Ministers: Christine Cooper, Deacon Richard Eason, Robin Felber (loft), Jane Nalty, Angela Villanueva, and Sandra Westfall (lead)

"Recently, we heard one of the most beloved stories in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. Reconciliation is a prominent theme. Seeing the younger son returning to him, the son who left the family and squandered his inheritance, the compassionate father runs to embrace him. Jesus offers us a vision of a loving God who is merciful and forgiving when we, through our own sinfulness, leave His presence, and then through repentance, return to Him. The remainder of the Lenten season offers us an opportunity to reflect on God's compassion and our need for reconciliation. Consider celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and experience God's loving embrace and forgiveness."

Collection Report	March 24th	July 1st-March 24th
Total Collections	$6,709.00	$278,844.00
Budget	$7,097.31	$276,795.09
Surplus/(Deficit)	**($388.31)**	**$2,048.91**
Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations		
Restoration Fund		$20,798.70
Catholic Charities		$100.00
Clarion Herald		$20.00

The Monthly Prayer-Request for Priests

April

1st	The Rev. Luke Hungdung Nguyen*
2nd	The Rev. Bartholomew Chukwuma*
3rd	The Rev. Dominic Colangelo, OP
4th	The Rev. Francis Q. Bui, SDD*
5th	The Rev. Jongkwon Choi
6th	The Rev. Martin J. Gleeson, OP*
7th	The Rev. John Hung Tran, SDD
8th	The Rev. Kyle Sanders*
9th	The Rev. Donald McMahon, OMI*
10th	Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
11th	The Rev. Christopher Zavackis
12th	The Rev. William J. O'Donnell*
13th	The Rev. Joseph de Water*
14th	The Rev. Mark Lomax*
15th	The Rev. Edward Owusu-Ansah
16th	The Rev. Lich Nguyen*
17th	The Rev. William Scott Daniels, OP
18th	The Rev. Msgr. Arthur Calkins*
19th	The Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Giroir*
20th	The Rev. Edward J. Lauden*
21st	The Rev. Msgr. James R. Dixon*
22nd	The Rev. Minh Cong Phan*
23rd	The Rev. Dieu Van Tran, SDD
24th	The Rev. Gregory Ross, OCD
25th	The Rev. Michael Nam Hoang Nguyen
26th	The Rev. Lance Campo*
27th	The Rev. H.L. Brignac, Jr
28th	The Rev. Garrett O'Brien
29th	The Rev. Kenneth Allen
30th	Pope Francis

* birthday

† deceased

Courtesy of The APRP Apostolate

by Phillip Bellini, DRE

The Meaning of Death

Sacred Scripture is unrelenting in its emphasis on the passing character of this life. There is a realism about death in the Bible. It runs counter to the philosophy on unbelief which either denies or ignores the fact that our stay on earth is only a short prelude to eternal life after death. However, we must immediately make a qualification. The Scriptures show a marvelous development of doctrine about life after death from the Old Testament to the New and within both Testaments an ever going clarity of Divine Revelation on the meaning, the purpose of death, and, above all, on the sequel to death which is what mortal life is all about, namely eternity. I thought this a good topic for Lent.

First, the Biblical Meaning of Death

We have already seen that in the earliest chapters of Genesis, the presence of death is explained simply and unapologetically as the result of sin. Had there been no sin there would be no death. What may be called the instinctive view of death as a punishment is confirmed by the account of the Fall. We believe that had our first parents not sinned, the penalty of dissolution between body and soul would not have followed either on them or their descendants. There are seven books, as you know, in the Catholic Bible that had been accepted by Christians until the sixteenth century that were dropped by the Protestant reformers. The Jews dropped those books at the end of the first century of the Christian era. Thus, in the book of Wisdom we are told God did not make death. He originally made man immortal. Death entered the world only because of the envy of the devil and the disobedience of Adam and Eve and, beyond them, of their progeny. Thus, from the opening to the closing pages of the Bible, death is a constant reminder of the presence of sin in the world. So clearly are sin and death associated that the one becomes a norm and condition for the other. Those who do evil are on the road to death. Proverbs 11:19, "As virtue leads to life so he who pursues evil does so to his death." On saying this, however, we must immediately distinguish between the earlier and later Old Testament teaching and, with emphasis, we've got to distinguish between the books that are in the Catholic Bible and those that are absent from the Protestant Scriptures and the Jewish Torah.

The problem, of course, is the mystery of the death of the just. If death is the punishment for evil doing, why do good people suffer and die? The godless man is virtually dead and may be said to have made a pact with death. Both statements are in the Old Testament. But what about the innocent? It seems that God allows the just to die in the same way as the wicked. Frankly, He does. As you know, this was Job's dilemma, and, poor Job, he never resolved it. Speaking of God, Job says, "Both the innocent and the wicked He (God) destroys." Then he dares to complain, and he speaks from the heart for all humanity. He says, "I will speak from the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God, 'Do not put in the wrong. Let me know why you oppose me even though you know I am not wicked and that none can deliver me out of your hand,'"

If all there is to man's life is to end in death, alright, then the wicked suffer and they are justly punished, but pray tell, what about the good? Without struggling with this mystery, the coming of Christ, who is God in a human nature, and His death on the cross become meaningless. As the Old Testament revelation grew, it promised liberation from death through the goodness and mercy of God. Isaiah foretells, "He will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces," Isaiah 25:8. "Indeed the time will come when the just who sleep in the grave will return to life." Still the Old Testament, quote Isaiah, "Your dead shall live. Their corpses shall rise. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust."

With the coming of Christ, death took on a meaning it never had before. God himself became a mortal man in order that by His death we might live. Because Christ was truly human, He dreaded the prospect of dying and, especially, the humiliating and excruciating death He foresaw. Yet, He willingly chose to die in order, as we are told, to fulfill the Scriptures so that by His death we might be saved.

Triumph Over Death

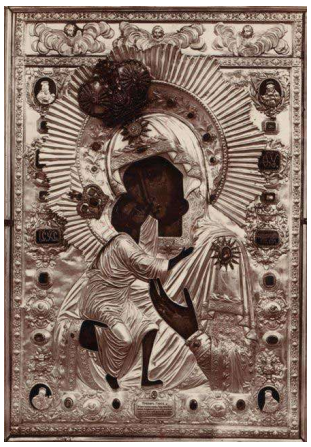
By coming into the world, Christ did more than merely redeem us by His death. He also conquered death as He proved by His Resurrection. Because of Him, death takes on a meaning it could otherwise never have had. As head of the New Israel, Jesus made us sharers in His death and enable us to die with Him, not only in body but in everything that belongs to space and time. We are to die to sin (Romans 6:11), to the old man (Romans 6:6), to the flesh (I Peter 3:18), and, especially, we are to die to all the passing elements of this world (Colossians 2:20). One of my favorite definitions of sanctity: a person who has died to all the passing elements of this world. How many never learn the lesson. The New Testament, as we have said more than once, is the New Covenant. It is, therefore, a sacred agreement or contract between God and us. He makes the promise, but we must fulfill His condition.

Pray for the Sick

M.B. Baker, Corey Behler, Ron Behler, Lois Boboa, Ray & Zetta Burkart, Gary Callahan, Chris Anthony Carraby, Minh Van Dang, the Reverend Joseph de Water, Warren J. Ferrand, Joyce Griener, Leighton Jaliva, Michele Jeanfreau, Pete & Margaret Lessentine, Norman McGary, Charles "Chuck" Margavio, Beola Martin, Allan Melancon, June Morest, Dan Nugent, Beverly Hymel Rafferty, Marilyn & Kenneth Roman, Frederick Henry Taylor, Jerry Toups, and Joseph Viola Jr

Pray for the Dead

The Reverend Harry J. Adams, Brother Jeffrey Calligan FSC, the Most Reverend Dominic Carmon SVD, Richard Clark, Gwendolyn Dwyer, the Reverend Monsignor Henry H. Engelbrecht, James Gibson, Yolanda Holman, Jerrye Louise Baehr Martin, Armando Medina, Lorraine Polito, Thaïs St Julien, Juan Carlos San Miguel, Sister Mary Ellen Seo DC, Vetter Amadeo Taylor, Alvin Thymes, Angela Westbrook, Richard Williford, David Wojciechowski, and "Joe."



News

The Monthly Food Pantry Request for "Love Thy Neighbor" (a project of our Society of St Vincent de Paul) for April is canned-corn.

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The Knights of Columbus, de la Salle Council 3411, will continue hosting a Fish Fry on April 12th, following the 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross in St Stephen Church. The Fish Fry will take place at the Blessed Pauline Center, 4219 Constance Street. The price is $9.00 *per* plate; $6.00 for children.

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Our schedule for the Sacred Pascal Triduum at St Stephen Church is as follows: On Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper (April 19th), we will offer the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm. On the Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday), we will have the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 pm. The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (April 20th) will commence at 8:00 pm. On Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, we will have Mass at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.

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"Rachel's Vineyard Treat: For Those Hurting from Abortion or Miscarriage" will be held from April 26th to 28th. The Priest Facilitator is the Reverend Robert Cavalier. The cost is $190 *per* person, but financial assistance is available. For further information, please contact one of the facilitators, Pam Richard (at 460-9360 or richj504@bellsouth.net) or Donna Scheuermann (at 258-9183 or donnas@1791.com).

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