

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

Calendar

Saturday, March 28th

4:00pm Vigil Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Vincent Boudreaux Jr, Ruthann Fleury, Mr & Mrs John Gourrier, Lottie Bel Paciera, and Vetter Amadeo Taylor

Sunday, March 29th

8:00am Mass For all parishioners

10:30am Mass Hugh Francis Caverly, Barry Fox, Justin & Evelyn Griener, Joy Nalty Hodges, Deacon Paul Nalty, and the Intentions of Mary Fazekas May

5:00pm Mass A Special Intention

Monday, March 30th

6:30am Mass Joseph Bruno

Tuesday, March 31st

6:30am Mass Lynne Paulina

4:45pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass The Boudreaux & Bergeron Families

Wednesday, April 1st

6:30am Mass Victims of the Novel Coronavirus

6:00pm Rosary (@ Good Counsel) is cancelled

Thursday, April 2nd

St Francis of Paola, hermit

6:30am Mass Melissa Burmeister

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 3rd

6:30am Mass William Allen

6:00pm Stations of the Cross (@ St Stephen's)

6:30pm Latin Cancelled

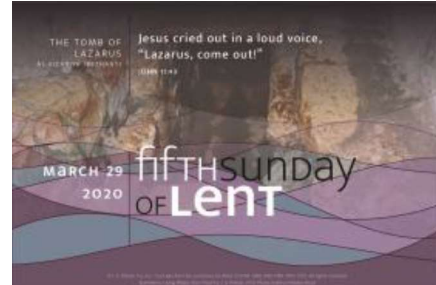
Saturday, April 4th

St Isidore, bishop and doctor of the Church

10:00am Rosary (@ St Henry's) is cancelled

The Sanctuary Lamp in St Stephen Church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of Vetter Amadeo Taylor.

The Sanctuary Lamp in the rectory 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

Nuptials are suspended for the time being.

Layminister Schedule FOR MARCH 29TH

4:00 pm

Lector: NA

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NA

8:00 am

Lector: NA

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NA

10:30 am

Lector: NA

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: NA

Apostolates & Volunteer Groups

Altar Society

Cindy Gainsburgh, @ 899-2637

CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine)

Phillip Bellini, @ 227-3795

Center of Jesus the Lord (Charismatic)

The Center, @ 529-1636

The Good Shepherd Choir

Brian Morgan, @ 227-3793

Event Planning

Rhetory Office, @ 899-1378

Friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Barbara Fortier, @ barbaraf13@aol.com

Friends of St Henry

Alfred Hagdorn, @ 891-3410

Knights of Columbus

Patrick Guisz, @ 812-6941

Life Apostolate

Kathy Fayard, @ 905-7676

Mass Volunteers

Brian Plauché, @ 289-6799

Phillip Bellini, @ 227-3793

Rhetory Volunteers

Ivy Rohr, @ 227-3792

Society of St Vincent de Paul

Laura Finnegan, @ 899-1378

March

1 st	The Reverend Father James Carter, SJ
2 nd	The Reverend Francis Ferrié
3 rd	The Reverend Pedro Felix Nuñez
4 th	The Reverend Patrick Wattigny
5 th	The Reverend Father Thomas T. Pham, CSSR
6 th	The Reverend Father Leo Nicoll, SJ
7 th	The Reverend Douglas Brougher
8 th	The Reverend Father Scott O'Brien, OP
9 th	The Reverend James Jeanfreau, Jr
10 th	The Reverend Father Eduardo J. Gabriel, OP
11 th	The Reverend Father Frank Reale, SJ
12 th	The Reverend Father Etido Jerome, SSJ
13 th	The Reverend Daniel Darmanin
14 th	The Reverend Bac-Hai Viet Tran
15 th	The Reverend Father Randall S. Gibbens, SJ
16 th	The Reverend Father Michael Burke, OP
17 th	The Reverend Denzil Perera
18 th	The Reverend Father Earl Muller, SJ
19 th	The Reverend Jeffrey Montz
20 th	The Reverend Patrick Collum
21 st	The Reverend Kenneth Allen
22 nd	The Reverend Father Gregory Ross, OCD
23 rd	The Reverend Father David Begany, SSJ
24 th	The Reverend Salvador Galvez
25 th	The Reverend Paul Clark
26 th	The Reverend Robustiano Morgia
27 th	The Reverend Garrett M. O'Brien
28 th	The Reverend Monsignor Christopher H. Nalty
29 th	Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
30 th	Pope Francis
31 st	The Reverend Michael J. Schneller

† deceased

Collection Report	March 8 th	July 1 st -March 8 th
Total Collections	\$6,073.00	\$162,340.00
Budget	<u>\$7,480.00</u>	<u>\$179,520.00</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1,407.00)	(\$17,180.00)
Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations		
Restoration Fund		\$797.11
Our Lady of Good Counsel Building Fund		\$5.00



by Phillip Bellini, DRE

For the Love of “Pete”

As if there was a case that was desperation itself, like a man floating out to sea in a boat without a motor or oars, this was Peter. He ought to be Patron of people who hit rock bottom and somehow bounced back.

Take a minute and think about Holy Thursday night. Jesus was in the Garden of Olives (Gethsemane) and He is kneeling against a rock and saw the entire next day of the Passion He Himself would suffer. He saw all of the reparation that must be done. He saw the Crown of Thorns and the cruel Cross. He saw the scourges, the spittle and the spear that would pierce His most Sacred Heart. He shuddered because He seemed to feel them then, right there in the Garden. His nerves grew taut and His blood pushed through His pores and His sweat became as drops of blood, running down upon the ground. It was the agony of anticipation. When trouble is expected, you and I can anticipate that the problem coming might not be so bad. With Jesus, not so. He saw exactly what was coming! That would cause more agony than not knowing.

While this was happening what was Peter doing a few yards away? Sleeping! Christ asked him to watch and pray, and Peter certainly had meant to, but his vigil and prayers turned out to be a deep sleep! And to think he had just come from the Last Supper! At the Last Supper Peter said (Peter never missed a chance to come front and center and make a speech, but so often his courage was empty boasting and swagger), “Lord, though all these should leave you, I will not. I will stay with you even to prison, yes, even to death!” Jesus said, “Peter, by the time the cock crows twice you will deny me three times.” All Peter could do would be to look at Jesus with wounded disbelief. We all know the story of Peter’s threefold denial. “I don’t even know the man” he would respond to those who recognized him. Yet Peter said once, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” What a change! After Peter heard the cock crow twice, he remembered what Jesus told him and went off and wept bitterly.

Poor Peter. But dare we be so patronizing? Are we not also followers of Christ? Have we not too, and not once but after, participated at the Last Supper at the Communion rail? And do we not, every time we commit a serious sin, go over to His enemies? Do we not, though His blood-stained Face is before us, cry out, “I don’t know the man!”

There was another apostle that night who boasted that he did not know Jesus Christ yet knew Him so well in fact that he could identify Him in the dark, or at least in a ring of torches. And that is what Judas proceeded to do. But when it was done, then in those few terrible hours afterwards, his thirty pieces of silver did not seem to be the treasure he had thought they would be. So, with remorse driving him like a bayonet prodding his back, Judas rushed back to the temple, flung the coins on the floor and shouted, “I have betrayed innocent blood.” So, Judas slithered away, disillusioned, picked up a horse’s halter in despair and headed out of the city toward where the trees arch high over the Kedron brook. The pity of it, for there was so much in favor of Judas! He was sorry for his crime. He confessed he had done great wrong to an innocent man. He had made restitution by giving back his ill-gotten goods. But the repentance of Judas lacked one precious ingredient. Strangely, he had no hope. He could only see his sin. He could not see the greater white light of God’s mercy which could so easily absorb it. If, instead of flinging his rope across the branch of a tree, he had thrown himself around the foot of the Tree of the Cross! If he had only come back like Peter!

For what was essentially the difference between these apostles? Not sin, for both had committed that. Not the seriousness of the offense, for both were gravely guilty. Not sorrow for their conduct, for both were sorry for what they had done, and yet Peter is St Peter and is in Heaven. Judas? Let not man be his judge, but if one was saved and one was lost, it’s consoling to know that it was not because Peter was always faithful. He was not. He got into Heaven by humbly knocking at the door of God’s forgiveness and trusting that it would be opened. Think about it: If on Good Friday afternoon Judas had only met Mary! She would have taken him by the hand and brought him to where that nailed hands of Christ were still dripping His Precious Blood, still dropping on the ground. Forgiveness and Heaven would have been his for the asking! It is pride that turns man’s heart into a self-centered knot that cannot look beyond the self ever for help. Why did Jesus choose to die such a death, hanging so high upon a Cross, so conspicuous upon a hill, except that down the centuries to come, all might SEE Him, and go to Him and ask for pardon? Why are His arms nailed outstretched, except as a symbol of perpetual welcome to all sinners who come out of the swamp of sin but eager to take hold once more of the solid cross?

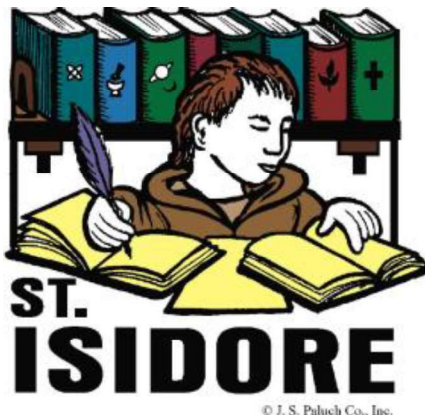
The moral is that both Peter and Judas hit bottom, but Peter bounced back! A little humility, a little hope, a little confidence in the great mercy of God – that was the real difference between Peter and Judas! After the example of Peter, it is consoling to know that anyone can come back! Any man or woman. Not fallen angels – they never fared so well. They never had the chance. Even though they sinned not by low sensuality but by towering pride, they only got justice for they were given the availability to see the consequences of their sine. But man, in the Garden of Eden had no sooner sinned when God drew back the angry “fist” of His justices and instead reached out to man the soft-opened hand of His mercy! He did this by sending His own Son. That Son at His birth in the Christmas crib gave Himself to us as our spiritual Food; at death, He gave us Himself as our ransom; and for all eternity in Heaven He gives Himself to us as our reward! IS THIS NOT A GOD TO LOVE AND TO TRUST? So if your heart is ever broken from sin; when the gutters of conscience are clogged with slushy guilt, or from betrayal in love when you have met your own Judas and his brazen hypocritical kiss; from some family tragedy whose dark memory still overshadows your life like a black circling vulture – then where can you go but to God? Your heart is broken but be like a child who sobbingly runs to his father with a broken toy and says, “Fix it, Daddy.” But your Father is God! He made your heart in the first place! He who made it can surely mend it. So be like St Peter and turn to your Father in Heaven, humbly, confidently and you will find pardon if you need it, peace if you seek it, and that inner radiant joy that only those know on whose heart is carved, “In God, we trust!”

Pray for the Sick

Ron Behler, John Bellini Jr, Lois Boboa, Anthony Burns, Bob Carmichael, Dottie Caywood, Kevin Caywood, Beverly Couch, Brandy Cruz, Carmen Scorro Cruz, Isabel de Mejia, Warren J. Ferrand, David Forly, Joyce Griener, Hunter Harris III, James Havicius, Jeff Heyen, Janet Hopkins, Jaylynn Jackson, Terry Kelly, Louis McHenry, Chuck Margavio, Beola Martin, Dan Nugent, Louis Reese, Mehmet Rende, John Slattery, Ella Sorrel, Frederick H. Taylor Sr, and Jerry Troups.

Pray for the Dead

Lucille Brinz, Rick Brown, Hugh Francis Caverly, Sister M. Dymphna Corkell RSM, Ruthann Fleury, Lilian Maden Gamble, Sister Mary Louise Happich DC, Jerrye Louise Baehr Martin, Leslie T. Martinez, Armando Medina, Mary June Morest, Juan Carlos San Miguel, Sister Mary Ellen Seo DC, Vetter Amadeo Taylor, and Suzanne Wallace.



News

The Monthly Food Pantry Request for "Love Thy Neighbor" (a project of our Society of St Vincent de Paul) for March is canned green-beans. For the month of April, the request will be for canned corn.

In the future, please consider patronizing our advertisers on the reverse of the Bulletin: It is through their generosity that our Bulletin is made possible!

In a letter to clergy, Religious, and laity dated March 16, 2020, the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, decreed that, because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, "public Mass cannot be celebrated. Priests may celebrate Mass privately. Wednesday night confessions scheduled for the upcoming three Wednesdays are cancelled. Stations of the Cross and any other gatherings for prayer must also be cancelled.... Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us."

