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Third Sunday of Lent March 19, 2006

I, the LORD, am your God . . .
You shall not have other gods besides me.

-- Exodus 20:2a, 3



Why is the church so involved?

By Fr. Andrew Johnson

Teenagers frequently are amazing with some of the ideas they come up with. They are not distracted by the virtual sea of information we adults accumulate in our journey of life. One of them asked me a very pointed question: Why does the Catholic Church take positions on issues that cause it so much criticism and abuse? This youngster loved the Church and it really bothered him to see it involved in controversy from the media, politicians and "experts" from other faiths or from those of no faith. At times it almost seems that anyone can say anything against the Church and get away with it. Why do we make ourselves so vulnerable? Maybe we should loosen up a bit and people might give us some slack? Perhaps he was thinking about celibacy, birth control, abortion, stem cell research that kills human embryos, divorces, homosexuals, married priests, women priests, people living together without the benefit of marriage. If we gave all these a pass would we not solve the sex scandals, bring many people back to the Church and bring in a lot of new people as well?

I told him that the Church has been under attack both from within and without for two thousand years and it just keeps growing in size and influence around the world. It would have gone out of business a long time ago if the Holy Spirit had not been guiding it. Everything the Church says and does is to help each one of us save our soul and enjoy eternal life and happiness in the next life. When we stop getting shot at, we will know it is the end of time in this world. Christ tried to warn us that we would suffer abuse verbally and physically for our faith. **Thank God we are standing for something. We cannot give in to what is popular or politically correct.** Our popular culture tells us that there is no right or wrong: everything is relative. The Church has the audacity to insist that there is good and evil in the world; there are standards of right and wrong; and that we will all be held accountable to God for everything we have said and done in this world.

Let us pray for our church, especially during Lent. Let us ask God to keep our church as a place where people can find the true teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Parish Events

**Mon. Mar 20 —
St. Joseph**

Bible Study & Prayer
Group, Chapel,
7:30 pm

**Tues. Mar 21—
Legion of Mary,
7p.m. Scanlan Hall**

**Thurs. Mar 23—
Girl Scouts, 7:00 pm
Scanlan Hall**

**Fri. Mar 24 —
Abstinence**

AACC Youth Group
Group, Chapel,
6:30 pm

**Stations of the
Cross, 7:00 p.m.,
Church, Soup Sup-
per to follow; Movie
after the supper will
be about Our Lady
of Lourdes**

**Sat. Mar 25 —
Annunciation of
our Lord**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Mar 19—Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Monday: **St Joseph** 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: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt. 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: **St. Toribio de Mogrovejo** Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: **Abstinence** Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: **Annunciation of the Lord** Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Mar 26—2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Full Plate Program: Thank you for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 box of cereal, 1 can of stew or chili, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items. Thanks.

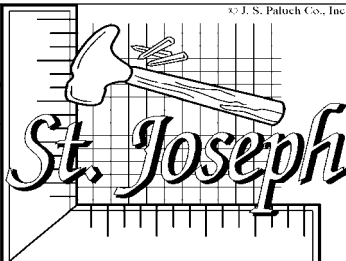
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Today **Brother Fred Buerman OSB** will preach as our mission co-op speaker at all the Masses. He will be available to visit with anyone interested after Mass. Brother is the Director of Hand of Help, whose mission is to mentor young adults for service domestically and internationally. A second collection will be taken, envelopes from the mission office will be provided. Let's welcome Brother Fred & pray for Hand of Help!

*Some families like to have the **Old Easter Candle** at home. It has been lighted in the church for two years during Easter time and for every Baptism and Funeral. In an effort to help us raise funds, as do many churches, we would like to offer the current Easter Candle (**which will be replaced by a new one at the Easter Vigil**) to the person/family who would like to give to the church a bit of a generous offering for it. Please call the office if you are interested. This Candle (with no stand) will be given on Good Friday to the person/family who would give the best offering to the church. Thanks for your support.

*Special thanks to **Paul A Schwartzbart** for sharing his experiences **Thursday, 3/16**, to Claudia Devaux, Maria Alcalde & to all who helped make the sharing happen, & successful! To them who came and supported this Ecumenical & Interfaith event, **thanks**. We count on your support of our efforts to promote Ecumenical & Interfaith dialogue.

*We thank everyone who come to **the Stations of the Cross** and bring the Lenten soup after the ceremony. It is really a great occasion where many people of different ethnicities come together as one family.



*Today is the **feastday of St. Joseph**, the patron of fathers, of families and of all workers. Pls. say a special prayer of thanksgiving for & to St. Joseph on this-his special day.

*Our golf tournament will be on **May 1, 2006 at Crystal Springs Golf Course** in Burlingame. Prices will be: \$195/player, \$550 for a twosome with sponsorship, \$1,000 for a foursome with sponsorship. Please call the office for more details.

*Fr. Andrew and Fr. Labib are taking a group of 20 people to **Rome** to represent St. Thomas More at the Elevation of Archbishop William Levada to Cardinal and at the Mass with the Pope. The group will bring a banner: "**St. Thomas More, From San Francisco, California to Rome**". They will leave March 22nd and return on March 29th.

STM ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL

***Enrollment applications** are still accepted for kindergarten through 8th grade. Please call the office to make an appointment to pick up an application form or come to the school office during school hours. Pls. spread the word among friends and family who may be interested.

THE FAST & ABSTINENCE LAW

*Everyone 14 years and older is obliged to **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent & Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, everyone 18 years old & older but under the age of sixty is also bound to **fast** (only one full meal), drinking liquids is permitted.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 19—Mar 25, 2006

03/19 Sun	10:00 am	People of STM
	8:00 pm	Josephine Weber, Sp. Int.
03/20 Mon	8:30 am	Laura & Mario Biagini †
03/21 Tue	5:30 pm	Irene & Russell De Haven †
03/22 Wed	8:30 am	Maura Storant †
03/23 Thur	5:30 pm	Ann & Robert Porche, Sp. Int.
03/24 Fri	8:30 am	Seamus Hayes †
03/25 Sat	8:30 am	Gemma Manrique†
	5:00 pm	Virgilio & Maria Chan

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the mass you offer is preferred.



All the sick people in our parish especially Romy Fernandez, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Marietta Pili and Michael Karney, Majida

Totah. Let us also pray for those who are terminally ill as well as for those who are victims of addiction and those with mental illness. We also pray for **all the deceased members** of our parish especially Dina Fazio.

Pls. give us names of the sick in your family, and your beloved departed; names will be changed as needed.

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

Your offerings on Sunday, **March 12, 2006**

\$3,511



Actual Construction Money in Bank **\$114,404**

Please continue to support our fund. We need to repair the Sky-light, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall.

Thank you!