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Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2006

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

-- Jeremiah 31:33

What is the glory of God?

By Fr. Labib Kobti

It has been a long winter this year in Bay Area. We've had rains most everyday in March, although March-April gives evidence to the contrary, it is springtime. It is the time for planting, when flowers call to us about their beds, and we get a glimpse of the beautiful colors of the spring flowers.

Liturgically, it is the time in which Jesus will tell us about his eminent death. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father, save me from this hour. But it is for this purpose that I came to this hour ... Now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" He said this indicating the kind of death he would die". Today's Gospel: John 12:20-33

But the amazing thing of all that Jesus says is his call to his Father: "Father, glorify your name". Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again". The people heard it and said an Angel had talked to him.

What is that glory of God that Jesus speaks about?

I can imagine that glory could be a birth of a child, a graduation, a wedding, a good job, a great success on something...For God, that glory is the death of His Son. Jesus will say, "The hour has come for the Son to be glorified...I am troubled now...Father, save me from this hour!"

The glory of God is the return of his creature to the right way of life; it is the forgiveness that God will impart; it is the opening of a new chapter of peace and love; it is destroying death the enemy of humanity; it is the opening of the tombs and the giving of new life; it is offering heaven and eternity for the one time fallen humanity; it is the joy that is given to all creation redeemed and saved; it is a great hug from God to his beloved humans. "Because God had so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Jn 3: 15.

The Glory of God is the Redemption through Jesus Christ who will bring back the world to its initial purity before the sin of Adam and Eve. All the Old Testament and the meditation of the Jewish people concentrate on the coming of the Messiah who will redeem them and bring them to glory. This glory had been manifested in Jesus Christ, all the Bible and all the Prophets speak about this end of time that Jesus begins with his death and Resurrection.

"The days will come, say the Lord, in Jeremiah the Prophet 31:31-34 on the first reading, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand and led them forth from the land of Egypt...I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts...". This new law had been the Glory that God gave it to the world through Jesus Christ. It is the law that LOVE is the only truth that triumphs over everything. Love triumphed even over death through the sacrifice of the Son.

So no more eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, no more the laws of old times, the only law is love: Love to the ultimate sacrifice as Jesus did. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruits..." we read in today's Gospel.



Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Apr 3—
Bible Study & Prayer Group, Chapel, 7:30 pm

Tues., Apr 4 —
Legion of Mary, 7:00 pm
Scanlan Hall

Fri. Apr 7 —
Abstinence
AACC Youth Group
Group, Chapel,
6:30 pm

Live Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m., Church, Soup Supper to follow.

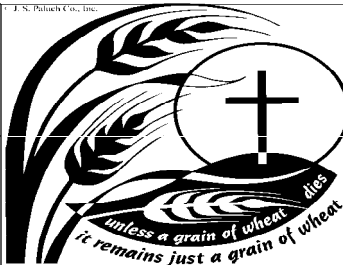
Wed. Apr 12—
Penitential Service, 7 pm, Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Apr 2— Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: **St. Isidore** Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: **St. Vincent Ferrer** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: **St. John Baptist de la Salle; First Friday, Abstinence** Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Apr 9— Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 -- 15:47 [15:1-39]

Full Plate Program: Thanks 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 bag of rice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned ham (or other canned meat, 1 plastic bottle of cooking oil. No glass items. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



***Friday April 7th**, we will have (as in the past) our **Live Stations of the cross** (played by our Parishioners) with slides on the very places in Jerusalem where each Station actually happened. Everyone is invited.

*Everyone is called to go to confession for Easter time. As a reminder our **Reconciliation Service** is on **Wednesday- April 12 from 7:00 PM**. Our children at school went to confession on Friday March 31, they gave us the good example. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for our Holy Week schedule.

*We thank everyone who come to **the Stations of the Cross** and bring the Lenten **soup** for after the devotion. A wonderful gathering of people from different ethnicities!

*As in the past, we welcome **donations for the flowers of Good Friday and Easter**. They may be made in honor and/or in memory of a beloved friend/family member; names of those honored & donors will be acknowledged on Easter Sunday. If you already made cash donations toward Good Friday or Easter flowers, but did not give us your name, pls. let us know so we can acknowledge you and thank you for your generosity.

*Our Web Minister, Claudia Deveau has put up **WebPages** of the weekly bulletin, the Campus ministry at SF State University, on Angelo Zawaydeh the 19 year old soldier who died in Iraq, info on our Ethnic groups' activities, the Legion of Mary, & the Monday Bible Study. Please try to subscribe to our website at **www.STMCHURCH.com**

MASS INTENTIONS

April 2— April 8, 2006

04/2	Sun	10:00 am	People of STM
		8:00 pm	Kathleen Osborne†
04/3	Mon	8:30 am	Maureen Persley†
04/4	Tue	5:30 pm	For souls in Purgatory
04/5	Wed	8:30 am	Laura & Mario Biagini†
04/6	Thur	5:30 pm	Vincent Du Luc†
04/7	Fri	8:30 am	Irene & Russell De Haven†
4/08	Sat	8:30	Wilfrido Macias†
04/8	Sat	5:00 pm	Joseph Samiere & family†

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

*We are trying to find a good home for a **Lanier 5365 copier with sorter**. Please call the office if you could use it or know of someone who can. It works fine, (just needs new supplies, and some tweaking from the experts to keep it working happily). More info is available at the office.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

*Weekly meetings to share experiences and faith! Every **Monday** from **6:15pm-7pm** Rosa Parks F at the Student Center, SFSU. For more information contact Sr. Sibelle, at 650-994-6919.

OTHERS

***Pauline Books & Media** is hosting a **Grand Opening** week on **April 22nd-29th** at their new location: 2640 Broadway, Redwood City (off El Camino Real, just a block from Cal-Train). Celebrations will include music, refreshments, door prizes, & much more! Hours: 10am-6pm; Mon-Sat). Parking is available. Plan to drop in! Tel 650-369-4230.

***Retrouvaille, a program for troubled marriages** will be held on June 2-4 in Burlingame. Presented by 3 couples & 1 priest. **The program brings communication, reconciliation, forgiveness and hope**. Call Pat & Tony Fernandez on (415) 893-1005 or Ed & Peg Gleason (415) 221-4269. More info can be found at www.Retrouvaille.org



All the sick people in our parish especially Brian D'Arcy, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, & Dino Rulloda. 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 and for Milagros Kanapi.

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 the weekend of 3/26/06 was **\$5,263**



Actual Construction Money in Bank **\$116,459**

Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall.

Thank you!

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