



SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

1300 Junipero Serra Blvd.
(off Brotherhood Way)
San Francisco, CA 94132-2913
Office: (415) 452-9634
Fax: (415) 452-9653
www.stmchurch.com

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 22, 2009

It is I, I who wipe out, for my own sake,
your offenses; your sins I remember no more.
— Isaiah 43:25

Healing Forgiveness

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the second chapter of the *Gospel of Mark*. After the extensive healings of the first chapter--the man with the unclean spirit, Peter's mother in law, the many people who crowded Jesus looking for some sort of cure, and even the healing of a leper--we come upon this wonderful story of the paralytic and his friends. The story is a lot deeper than a miracle story, it is a story of healing forgiveness, the power of the Lord, and the power of Christian friends.

We are all acquainted with the story. We've heard it over and over again. Jesus is in a house, crowded with people He is teaching, including some scribes, and crowded with people looking for healing. Four friends want to bring their paralyzed buddy to the Lord, but they can't get near the door. So, they climb up onto the roof, haul the poor guy up, then pull apart the roof making a hole right over where Jesus was. This is hard for us to imagine in the United States, but if you ever traveled to the rural areas of the world you would find that many people still live in homes with mud and thatch roofs. I once saw a goat tethered to a roof eating the growing grass. It would be relatively easy for four grown men to tear a hole in a thatched roof even a hole big enough for them to lower their friend. Jesus' response to the incident is to commend the friends for their faith and then to forgive the paralytic. When the scribes complain that only God can forgive, Jesus notes that according to Isaiah a sign of the Messiah would be that sins would be forgiven and that, among other healings, the lame would walk. The man is forgiven and healed. He leaves carrying his mat.

I want to focus in today on this poor man and on his friends, and on the Healing Messiah. First of all, the paralytic. In the ancient world paralysis was seen as resulting from sin. We now know that this is not true, at least not directly. Indirectly, all evil, all sickness and suffering, is due to man's allowing evil into his world. The innocent and the guilty suffer the effects of sin.

In the case of this healing, the man is paralyzed by sin. And so are we all. Sin can exercise such force over us that we feel incapable of movement. A person's self worth can be so torn down, that the person feels incapable of approaching healing. "How can I go to confession?" someone asks. "I've destroyed a life, destroyed a marriage, destroyed my family?" Many times a person will say, "I want forgiveness, but I just can't get up the courage to seek it. I can't control temptations. I probably will sin again." When we feel that way, and at times all of us do feel that way, we are paralyzed by sin. We need healing. Physical healing, perhaps. Spiritual healing, certainly. In fact, if we were lowered before the Lord and He offered us a choice: physical healing or spiritual healing, I feel certain we would all take the latter.

But He doesn't offer the man in the Gospel a choice. He gives him both physical and spiritual healing. Why? Because He is God's Love come down to earth. He loves the man too much to allow him to continue suffering both spiritually and physically. He loves us too much to allow us to stay in pain. The sacrament of reconciliation, the sacrament of penance is the sacrament of joy, the joy of healing received. The scribes couldn't understand how Jesus could forgive and heal because they refused to expose themselves to the presence of God's Love on earth. We are not doubters like the scribes. We are believers, believers in the power of Love, the Power of His Love.

-Father Joseph Pellegrino, jspaluch co.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

“St. Paul further proclaimed that the Lord stood by him and gave him strength so that through him, the message, the Good News of the Gospel, may be fully proclaimed to the Gentiles. To secure Paul's mission, the Lord rescued him from the lion's mouth and every evil attack that became obstacles to the Divine Will.”

-Homily of St. Peter and St Paul : *The Catholic Doors Ministry . June 29 2008*

Staff

Pastor: Church & School

Msgr: Labib Kobti

Parochial Vicar:

Fr Andrew Johnson

Priest Brazilian Community

Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141

Deacon:

Khaled Abu Shaer

Admin Assistant:

Elvira Garcia

Receptionist:

Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF

Campus Ministry:

Verbum Dei Sisters,

(650) 994-6919

RCIC:

Kathy Sanford

650) 738-0646

RCIA & Music:

Suzanne Hockel

(415) 826-6834

STM School:

Principal, Joe Elsbernd

(415) 337-0100

This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., Feb 24th

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

Wed., Feb. 25th —

Ash Wednesday

Masses: 8:30 AM

12 Noon (SFSU) & 8 PM

Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm

Fri. Feb. 27th —

Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 pm

(No Sto. Nino novena during Lent.)

Sat., Feb. 28th—

Young Adults Meeting

Chapel, 2—5 pm

Bible Study & Prayer Group

Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry,

Mass at Cesar Chavez Student

Center, Rosa Parks A-C, SFSU

With Bishop William Justice,

Reconciliation 11:10am, Mass @12

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM;

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

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March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Bible Study & Prayer
AACC Youth Group
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
Prince of Peace
FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Last Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

Enrich your faith, tune in to 24-hour 1260 AM, Immaculate Heart Radio

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 container of 100% juice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned meat, 1 bag of rice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

MASS INTENTIONS
February 22th —28th, 2009

02/22 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00 pm Roger Agcaoili †
02/23 Mon 8:30am Raul Santos†
02/24 Tue 5:30 pm Fr. Patrick Keaney†
02/25 Wed 8:30 am Agnes Grace Simon† & lvg family
02/26Thu 5:30pm Pepito Paraiso†
02/27 Fri 8:30 am Rose Mercier & family
02/28 Sat 8:30 am Ethan Nikolas de Leon†
5:00 pm Souls in Purgatory †

Please call the office to schedule your Mass.
Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



***Ash Wednesday. This Wednesday, February 25.** Our Masses will be at 8:30 AM and 8 PM. Everyone is invited to come.

***Ash Wednesday. Auxiliary Bishop William Justice** will celebrate Mass and distribute ashes at the Cesar Chavez Student Center, Rosa Parks A-C in the SFSU campus. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered from 11:10 to 11:50 AM, and Mass will be at 12:00. It is STM Campus Ministry and SFSU's great honor and joy to host our beloved auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco for the first time. It shows the love of the Archdiocese for the work on Campus. **All are invited to mark this important event with us,** and to spread the word in the University. Thanks.

***Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** Please mark your calendars for our lay ministry retreat Saturday, March 6, from 1-6PM. Details to follow.

***Stations.** Come and pray the Stations of the Cross with us every Friday at 7 PM during this season of Lent. Please note there will be no Sto. Nino novenas during Lent.

In preparation for Lent:

***Abstinence:** Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on **ASH WEDNESDAY, the FRIDAYS of Lent and GOOD FRIDAY.**

***Fast.** Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is also bound to fast on **ASH WEDNESDAY and GOOD FRIDAY.** On these two days, the law of fast allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as it does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

***QoP Donation.** Print up a coupon from our website when you go to have your taxes done by H&R Block for a \$25 donation to our Queen of Peace Foundation. Q of P Foundation was set up to help people in need. Any H&R Block office will take the coupon, but parishioner Robert Archer's office is at 5109 Mission Street at Geneva, phone: 415 334 4362 ext. 229.

All the sick people in our parish, especially Linda Biagini, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauro Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Suazon, Rhona Palencia and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish.

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of 02/15/09:
\$5,107.96
Thank you
for your generosity!



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____
Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.
Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com