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## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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**First Sunday of Lent**

**March 1, 2009**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths.

—Psalm 25:4

### Let the Power of Christ Beat Temptation

The First Sunday of Lent always presents the temptation of the Lord. This makes sense because the Lord fasted for 40 days, rebuffed the temptations of the devil and then began His public ministry. We spend forty days fasting, in self denial, forty days doing everything we can to come closer to God so we also can do the work of the Kingdom. Usually on this Sunday we hear about three different temptations the Lord endured: turn rocks into bread, demand that your Father work a miracle to save you, and trade His love for all the power of the world. We don't come upon these this year because they are in the *Gospels of Matthew and Luke*. Today's reading is from the *Gospel of Mark*. Mark just states that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days, was confronted with temptations, beat off the devil and then began his mission. Temptations are always there and are difficult to overcome. As I often say, the day we feel that we are no longer subject to temptation, we really should take our pulse because we will probably be dead.

Temptations are difficult to overcome. It is so easy for us to say to others, "Just say no," but it is difficult when we are the ones who are tempted. The complex aspect of temptations is that they all contain an element of attractiveness, an element of good. All of God's creation contains beauty. We human beings pervert that beauty and turn something that is good into bad. For example, the human body is beautiful; pornography is a perversion of the beauty. Another, example, there are wonderful medications to help people who suffer from anxiety attacks, depression, etc. The same medications is used by addicts to destroy their lives and the lives of those around them. In the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of the *Book of Revelation*, the visionary John is shown the great harlot of Babylon who was drunk with the blood of saints and the martyrs of Jesus. When the visionary saw her he marveled. She was amazing to behold. The harlot was pagan Rome with all its splendor and glory. It was marvelous, but it was still evil. By the time of the Lord, Rome was a moral cess pool, the center of all that was wrong in the worship of the world.

All sin is attractive, if it weren't attractive we wouldn't be tempted by it. When someone says, "If it feels good, do it," what they are saying is that sin is acceptable as long as you are getting selfish pleasure from it. That is the way of the world. That is not the way of Jesus. Nor can it be our way. Jesus is the conqueror of sin. But the battle was not a simple task. Jesus was tempted to save His own life and to give up and not go along with the Father's plan. But His love for the Father and His love for us were more powerful than anything the devil or the world could muster up.

He beat off temptation, and then told us: "entrust your pain, your temptation and even your sin to me. I have conquered and will continue to conquer evil." When we choose Christ, the devil really doesn't stand a chance. In the Battle for the Kingdom, Jesus fights with us, finding a way for us to win, even though we are weak and often sinful.

God refuses to give up on us. Even when evil makes inroads into our lives. "See I have set my bow in the skies as a sign that I will never destroy my people." That was the promise made to seal the covenant with Noah after the flood. The bow, by the way, is the rainbow. For people of faith, the rainbow is not just a beautiful natural occurrence. It is a sign of our hope in God. When we are overwhelmed with our own human weakness, our own continual sinfulness, the rainbow reminds us: God refuses to give up on us. We can't give up on ourselves. Look at the rainbow. God is the Compassionate, the Merciful One.

The 40 days of Lent are really about loving Jesus. We spend this time looking for ways to grow in our love for our Savior. We fight off temptation with Him. We give Him our sins in confession. We unite ourselves to Him through the Eucharist and all forms of prayer. We do everything possible to allow His grace into our lives. And we recognize, as the praise and worship song goes, "His grace is enough for us."

On this First Sunday of Lent we pray that for the courage to live Christocentric lives, lives which are Christ centered. With Him in the center of our lives, nothing that the world throws at us will defeat us. He is the conqueror of temptation. He is the Victor over sin.

—father joseph pellegrino, c/o jspaluch co., inc.

**Celebrating the Year of St. Paul**

*Pray without ceasing.*

“Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever” -1COR. 12:31, 13:1-3

*Compiled by Rev. Father Emmanuel Ayo Efodigbue, MSP*

**Staff**

**Pastor: Church & School**

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**Parochial Vicar:**

Fr Andrew Johnson

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

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**RCIA & Music:**

**Suzanne Hockel**

(415) 826-6834

**STM School:**

**Principal, Joe Elsbernd**

(415) 337-0100

**This Week's Parish**

**Events**

**Tue., Mar 3rd**

**Legion of Mary,**

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Brazilian Liturgy Ctttee Mtg,

Sacristy, 7-9:30pm

**Communion & Liberation,**

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

**Wed., Mar 4th —**

**Brazilian Choir Practice,** Church 7pm

International Food Festival, Scanlan

Hall, 7pm

**Fri., Mar 6th —**

**Stations of the Cross,** Church, 7 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

Mass, 8pm

**Sat., Mar 7th—**

**Burmese Mass, 10 AM**

**Easter Preparation 10am-9pm,**

Scanlan Hall

**Bible Study & Prayer Group**

Alma Via, 7 pm.

**Campus Ministry,**

Mass at Cesar Chavez Student

**BEAUTY IN FORGIVENESS**  
**Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.**

- Jean P. F. Richter



**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.

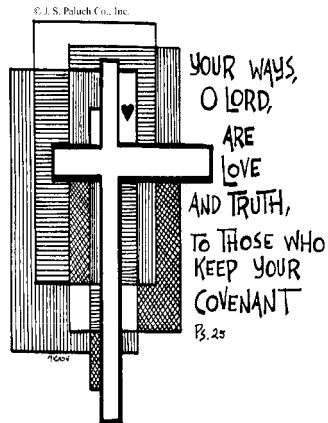
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

**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.



**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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

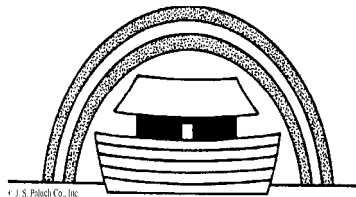
**\*First Friday.** This coming Friday, will be the first Friday of the month. We will have the Stations of the Cross instead of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Mass will be celebrated immediately after. Everyone is invited. Please note that we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7 pm every Friday during Lent. Come and join us!

**\*Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** Please remember our lay ministry retreat this Saturday, March 6, from 1-6PM. Check with your respective Mass coordinators for details.

**\*Feast of St. Joseph.** There will be a special Mass at 8pm on March 19th to observe the feast of St. Joseph.

**\*Fill St. Patrick and St. Joseph Table.** We would like to mark the feast of St. Patrick (March 17) and St. Joseph (March 19) this year with a joint observance on March 21. This will be a potluck dinner, so please bring a favorite dish to share. Let us all take a break from Lent on this one March Saturday, March 21st and come together to honor St. Patrick, our beloved city's patron saint, and St. Joseph, every family's model of moral strength and quiet authority.

**\*Abstinence.** Please be reminded that every Friday of Lent everyone 14 years or older is bound to abstain from meat. In the spirit of penance, give up that steak & give \$ to the poor.



I will Establish my Covenant with You

**\*International Food Festival.** Volunteers are needed for this year's International Food Festival. Planning meetings will start soon. Please call the office for meeting times and other information if you can help. Your assistance and participation in this event will be very much appreciated. Hope to hear from you soon.

**\*QoP Donation.** Please print up a coupon from our website before going to have your taxes done by H&R Block and hand it to your tax preparer and \$25 will be donated to our Queen of Peace Foundation. Q of P Foundation was set up to help people in need. Every little bit helps and this will mean a lot to those we help. Any H&R Block office will take the coupon, but one of our parishioners, Robert Archer works at 5109 Mission Street at Geneva and would be more than happy to serve you. His phone number: 415 334 4362 ext. 229.

**\*Worldwide Marriage Encounter.** As we prepare for Lent let us think about ways to change our hearts and enrich our Sacrament of marriage. Take time now to build a stronger sacrament. To find out about a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, go to [sf.lovemoredeeply.org](http://sf.lovemoredeeply.org) or call Paul & Yvonne at (650) 366-7093. Next WWME Weekend: May 1-3, San Mateo.

## MASS INTENTIONS

March 1—7, 2009

- 03/01 Sun 10:00am Father Barry Freynet  
8:00pm People of STM
- 03/02 Mon 8:30am Laura & Mario Biagini†
- 03/03 Tue 5:30pm Abby de Jesus†
- 03/04 Wed 8:30 am Gener Alejandro†
- 03/05 Thu 5:30pm Irene & Russell de Haven†
- 03/06 Fri 8:30am Sylvia Moreno†  
8:00pm Sara & Collin F.-Noguera (hlg)
- 03/07 Sat 8:30am Father Frank Keane†  
5:00pm Ramiro Apolonio†

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



### 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 Allan Patrick Lubiano, Annie Rendon and Naimeh Danfoura.

## Weekly Offering



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**Weekend of 02/22/09:**

**\$4,159.37**

**AAA: \$570.00**

**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](mailto:stmchurch@aol.com)