

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Second Sunday of Lent March 8, 2009

If God is for us, who can be against us?
—Romans 8:31b

What I can do during Lent? By Abouna Labib Kobti, Pastor

In today's Gospel, Elijah and Moses were conversing with Jesus on the Mountain; in St. Matthew's version they were conversing about Jesus' death. Let us imagine for a moment what they were really saying. They were telling Jesus that as prophets of the Old Testament they had experienced preaching to the people, but preaching did not change the people. The devil preaches better with his evil ways than a prophet. He insinuates all kinds of things that can attract people to do evil. Moses remembered how much he was mistreated by his own people and Elijah had to escape from persecution. Jesus spoke about doing miracles and in this way he may let people see and change their ways, they see the power of God. They told him that not even miracles can do something for the people. Moses spoke of daily miracles to the Hebrews and still they did not convert. The devil was more astute and creates ways to divert their intentions and creates false gods and attracts them to prodigies and superstitions. Then Jesus spoke about the good example that his life can give. People will see and they will follow; a good example impresses lives. They found that the devil invaded the whole world with things that divert from God: pornography and media that speaks only about the thieves, the hatred, the violence and the wars; our schools like our homes become places where children learn how to disobey, to look for self interest, to fight and to betray. Good examples are rarely mentioned. The devil was always winning more and more in this world.

Then Jesus said "the only way to win over the evil and to destroy the kingdom of Satan is to offer myself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. The only way is to use the devil's weapon of destruction and change it into salvation. It needs a will of love and only LOVE can do it. The only way to scare Satan and bring back people to my Father is to offer my life for the sake of Love". In fact we read in today's Second reading by St. Paul, Romans 8:31-32, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He (God) who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with him?"

In the first reading from Genesis 22, we read that the Angel said to Abraham: "Do not lay your hand on the boy...do not do the least thing to him (Isaac) I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son". Last week we read that God said: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed..." Genesis 9:8-15. This covenant of God is made universal through Jesus who abolished all kinds of sacrifices and offered himself as the one only sacrifice. Through the death of Jesus for us we won the battle against the devil and we became God's children for eternity. Satan was defeated and for ever through the LOVE of Jesus.

I am called then during Lent to think of ways on how I can share God's love. Mass is important, it is the renewal of this sacrifice for the Love of Christ, do not miss it. Fasting is important but more important is to stop doing anything that can hurt God's love, people or yourself. You gain nothing by looking only to please yourself with self interest or pleasures. Your fasting should be given to the needy and the poor. Be the smiling person in your world, and let them find God through you and praise God with you.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

..."How much we can learn from the great saint, St. Paul of Tarsus, who once said, "I am weak but it is in my weakness that I am strong." St. Paul knew from his own personal experience that it is only when we honestly confess our weakness, our lack of faith, and our failures to love and live the moral life, its only then that the Spirit of God has a pathway into our hearts so that He can mold us into great men and women of faith. Those who think themselves strong by natural abilities or accomplishments are never open to the gift of strength, real strength that only God can give. Those who think themselves strong will never really be strong. It is only to those who kneel down in faith, who know that they are weak, it is only to them that real faith and strength are given". Homily June 29, 2008 - Fr. Alberto Tamayo

<p align="center">Staff</p> <p>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</p>	<p align="center"><u>This Week's Parish</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Events</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Tue., Mar 10rd</u> Legion of Mary, Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm Brazilian Liturgy Ctttee Mtg, Sacristy, 7-9:30pm</p> <p align="center">Communion & Liberation, Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm</p> <p align="center"><u>Wed., Mar 11th —</u> Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm International Food Festival, Scanlan Hall, 7pm</p> <p align="center"><u>Fri., Mar 13th —</u> Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 pm</p> <p align="center">Sat., Mar 14th— Burmese Mass, 10 AM Easter Preparation 10am-9pm, Scanlan Hall</p> <p align="center">Bible Study & Prayer Group Alma Via, 7 pm. <u>Campus Ministry</u> Thursday 7:00 PM at Burk Hall 252</p>	<p align="center">MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p align="center">Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM</p> <p align="center">Sunday 8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian; 10:00 AM English 11:45 AM Arabic; 8:00 PM English</p> <p align="center">Weekdays: 8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.); 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)</p> <p align="center">Holy Days: 8:30 AM & 8:00 PM</p> <p align="center">First Saturdays: 10:00 AM Burmese</p> <p align="center">First Fridays: 8:30 AM; 7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM</p> <p>Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Par- ents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.</p> <p>Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.</p> <p>Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office re- garding a visit for anointing.</p> <p>Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.</p>
<p>For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, they have the "Children Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps</p> <p>For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM Arabic Youth groups, Fridays 6:30 PM Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM Burmese Youth group, Sundays 2:00 PM SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus)</p> <p>For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM Couple For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM Legion of Mary, Communion Liberation, Perpetual Novena, Sto. Nino, Prince of Peace and Friday adorations</p> <p>Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday</p>		

Regular Activities

Parish Council Liturgy Committee Legion of Mary Communion & Liberation Charismatic groups for different ethnics	To Be Announced As Announced Tuesday, 6:30 PM Tuesday, 7:30 PM See schedule	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
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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

* During Lent, **The Holy Land Museum & the Exhibit of The Holy Shroud are opened** Monday through Friday 9:30 AM—4:30 PM.

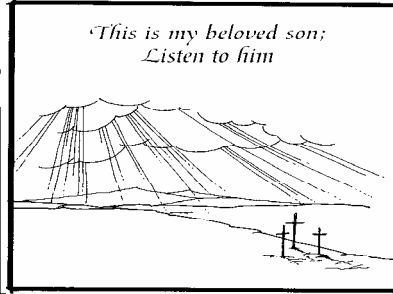
*We will have the **Stations of the Cross** instead of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Mass will be celebrated immediately after. Everyone is invited. Please note that we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7 pm every Friday during Lent. Come and join us!

***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.

* Try to decide to **come mass during LENT**, It is the time that the Lord is calling you to repent, and renewal



* **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.

***International Food Festival.** Volunteers are needed for this year's International Food Festival. Planning meetings had already started. 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.

*Jesus brings new life, and He can bring a new exciting life into our marriage. Plan to enrich your marriage by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Go to sf.lovemoredeeply.org or call Paul & Yvonne at 650-366-7093. **Next SF-WWWME Weekend: May 1-3 San Mateo**

MASS INTENTIONS

March 8—14, 2009

03/08 Sun 10:00am Trevor Roberts†
8:00pm People of STM
03/09 Mon 8:30am Carroll Ann Lobret†
03/10 Tue 5:30pm Agnes Simont† & lvg family
03/11 Wed 8:30 am Margaret (Peggy) Rosen Heim†
03/12Thu 5:30pm Joan Carew†
03/13 Fri 8:30am Lina Chao (thanksgiving)
03/14 Sat 8:30am Jordan Apolonio†
5:00pm Lolie Pakanna†

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 03/01/09:

\$6,248.64

Tithing: \$1,042.75

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 use 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