



## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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[www.stmchurch.com](http://www.stmchurch.com) Fourth Sunday  
of Lent

March 22, 2009

***God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.***

- John 3:17

In today's gospel selection, Jesus continues his discussion with Nicodemus on the subject of baptism. It is important to note this because there is no explicit mention of baptism in this passage. This does not mean that the author has somehow lost his train of thought. What it does mean is that, though the water ritual of baptism is important, what really matters is the quality of faith on the part of the one who is being baptized.

Jesus gives us the wonderful good news that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." We are included in that world, and it should be most comforting to hear that we are loved by the One who is most capable of loving. But we must also notice that the liberating effect of that divine love will be available to us only to the degree that we believe. "Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned." It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that we understand what this believing means in our daily lives.

Life Implications, it is tempting to think that believing in Christ means simply that we affirm the creed, or that we agree that Jesus existed and worked miracles and died and rose from the dead. To accept these truths is important but this is not what is meant by "believing" in this passage. In fact, one can sincerely affirm all these facts theoretically and still live very selfishly. To believe in the One who was "lifted up" means nothing less than to make his self-offering part of our own lives through daily concern for others; it means to live unselfishly. This is the only kind of faith that will give us eternal life. Most of us were baptized as infants with no conscious awareness of what was happening. Our sponsors promised, in our names, that we renounced Satan and affirmed Christ. It was hoped that our sponsors and others will explain all that to us when we became old enough to understand the very serious commitment made for us. Unfortunately, we usually expect our sponsors to do little more than to remember our birthdays...and often less than that.

The simple fact is that those baptized as infants must "claim" their own baptisms, as it were, as soon as they are old enough to do so, which usually means in early adulthood. The sacrament of baptism is not magic, and its graces become fully operative in our lives only to the extent that we accept and live the promises made years ago in our names.

When we promise to renounce Satan, we are declaring our firm resolution to eliminate from our lives the "big lie" of Satan, namely, that we can achieve happiness by thinking only of ourselves. And when we commit ourselves to Christ, we firmly resolve to follow his example of unselfish, thoughtful concern for others. When we are thus "lifted up" like Jesus on the cross of love, we can be sure that we will also be "raised up" with him in the victory of resurrection. Some may think that this takes all the fun out of life, but in reality the people who love in this way are the only truly happy people in the world. But we won't know that until we try it!

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

**Celebrating the Year of St. Paul**

**Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible**

"...by grace we are saved, "we are in a saved state." Not merely "we are being saved," but we "are passed from death unto life". Salvation is to the Christian not a thing to be waited for here after, but already realized. The St. Paul's feeling, and in order to make the Ephesians feel that *grace* from first to last is the sole source of salvation;" let's raised us up together--with Christ. The "raising up" presupposes previous quickening of Jesus in the tomb, and of us in the grave of our sins. Made us sit together--with Christ, namely, in His ascension. Believers are bodily in heaven in point of right, and virtually so in spirit..."*Brown, Fausset, Jamieson*

<p align="center"><b>Staff</b> <b>Pastor: Church &amp; School</b> Msgr: Labib Kobti <b>Parochial Vicar:</b> Fr Andrew Johnson <b>Priest Brazilian Community</b> Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141 <b>Deacon:</b> Khaled Abu Shaer <b>Admin Assistant:</b> Elvira Garcia <b>Receptionist:</b> Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF <b>Campus Ministry:</b> <i>Verbum Dei</i> Sisters Sr. Su Fern Khoo VDMF (415) 573-9062 <b>RCIC:</b> <b>Kathy Sanford</b> 650) 738-0646 <b>RCIA &amp; Music:</b> <b>Suzanne Hockel</b> (415) 826-6834 <b>STM School:</b> <b>Principal, Joe Elsbernd</b> (415) 337-0100</p>	<b>This Week's Parish</b>		<b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
	<b>Events</b>		<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian 10:00 AM English 11:45 AM Arabic; 8:00 PM English
	<b>Tue., Mar 24th</b>	<b>Legion of Mary,</b> Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm	<b>Weekdays:</b> 8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.); 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)
	<b>Communion &amp; Liberation,</b> <i>Scanlan Hall 8:00 pm</i>	<b>Wed., Mar 25th —</b>	<b>Holy Days:</b> 8:30 AM & 8:00 PM
	<b>Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm</b> Baptism preparation class , <i>Scanlan Hall 6:30 PM</i>	<b>Thur., Mar 26th</b>	<b>First Saturdays:</b> 10:00 AM Burmese
	<b>Feast of St. Joseph. Special Mass at</b> 8pm	<b>Fri., Mar 27th —</b>	<b>First Fridays:</b> 8:30 AM; <b>7:00 PM</b> Exposition of the Blessed Followed by Mass for healing at <b>8:00 PM</b>
	<b>Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 pm</b>	<b>Sat., Mar 28th—</b>	<b>Sacrament of Baptism (infants):</b> Par- ents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.
	<b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Group</b> Alma Via, 7 pm.	<b>Campus Ministry</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b> Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.
	<i>Regular meeting: Thur 7:00pm at Burk Hall 252</i>	<i>Busy Student Retreat - Preparation for Easter,</i> <i>for more info contact Sr. Su</i>	<b>Sacrament of Matrimony:</b> Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.
	<p><b>For Children and Youth:</b> 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, we have the "Children Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps</p> <p><b>For Adults:</b> English Charismatic group. Sundays 6:00 PM; young adults group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 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><b>For Families:</b> Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary, Communion Liberation, Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adorations</p> <p align="center"><b>Holy Land Museum &amp; Shroud of Turin Exhibit</b> <b>Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday</b></p>		<b>Communion to the homebound and the ill:</b> Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.
		<b>Anointing of the Sick:</b> Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.	
		<b>Funeral arrangements:</b> Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.	

**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

**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.



\*During Lent, the **Holy Land Museum & the Exhibit of The Holy Shroud** are open Monday through Friday 9:30 AM—4:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come check these out, it will be time well spent.

\*Please note that **Wednesday, March 25, is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.** It is not a holy day of obligation, but what better way to celebrate this Feast than with attendance at Mass? Our regularly scheduled Mass on that day is at 8:30 AM. We hope to see you then.

\*Please extend to **Father Yousef Keikati (aka Father Joseph)** the classic STM Church family 'red carpet' welcome. He is so generously helping out at our parish until August. Introduce yourself and make him feel like a part of our family that he is.



\* Please note that we will pray the **Stations of the Cross** at 7 pm every Friday during Lent.

Join us as we follow Christ's last moments as a mortal human being, the son of God suffering as no other human being has suffered.

\***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.*



\***Call to Service.** During Lent we prepare for the Lord's resurrection. It's a great time to start serving as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Choir, Usher or Hospitality Member. We'll provide the training and best of all, we'll work around your schedule. To sign up or learn more, please pick up a Call to Service form after Mass.

\***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. Robert Archer, one of our parishioners 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 have 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS March 22—28, 2009**

- 03/22 Sun 10:00am People of STM  
8:00pm Catalina Varas de Valdest
- 03/23 Mon 8:30am Raul Santos
- 03/24 Tue 5:30pm Sara & Collin F. Noguera(hlg)
- 03/25 Wed 8:30 am All Souls in Purgatory
- 03/26 Thu 5:30pm Emerenciana Perez†
- 03/27 Fri 8:30am Sara & Collin F. Noguera
- 03/28 Sat 8:30am Lina Chao (thanksgiving)  
5:00pm Iniego Marbi†

*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 Fer

nando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosaura 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 03/22/09: \$ 3,961.37**

**Second Collection: \$ 1,017.63**



**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) \_\_\_\_\_ I want to 5 the  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ 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)