

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION!

Jesus “saw” the crowds in a way that others did not. Jesus looked at the people and saw the poor in spirit, the mournful, the meek, as blessed. It is blessing that makes all these different people the same; all are blessed by God. This is our deepest identity—a people God has freely, generously, and readily blessed. Our following Jesus is a response to blessing. In our society, when asked about ourselves, we tend to respond with what we do—I’m an accountant, a teacher, a student, a mother, a father. Yet, what is most important about us is who we are, blessed by God. *As I hear these Beatitudes today, I sense Jesus challenging me to follow him.*

Question for Youth:

If my neighborhood lived according to the Beatitudes, what kind of a difference would it make?

MASSSES

Sat., Feb. 2nd, 5:00 PM- +Genevieve

Paquette & +Dodie Beecroft

Sun., Feb. 3rd, 9:00 AM- +Justin Linn &

+Julian Amodei

Sun., Feb. 3rd, 6:00 PM- People of the Parish

Mon., Feb. 4th, 9:00 AM- Communion Service

Tues., Feb. 5th, 9:00 AM- Communion Service

Wed., Feb. 6th, 9:00 AM- People of the Parish

Wed., Feb. 6th, 6:00 PM- People of the Parish

Thurs., Feb. 7th, 9:00 AM- Intentions of

Sally Arbogast, Miles Hunt & Cynthia Stiedel

Fri., Feb. 8th, 9:00 AM- Intentions of Louise

Kalshan & Hank Gentry

Weekly Offerings**Last Weekend**

Plate: \$3,577.00

Other Income: \$2,268.00

Total: \$5,845.00

Budgeted Expenses: \$6,103.00

God Bless You for Your Support!

**Ash Wednesday
& Lent**

Feb. 6th marks the beginning of our Lenten season. Our schedule is as follows:

9:00 AM- Mass with Distribution of Ashes

12:15 PM- Distribution of Ashes

2:30 PM- Faith Formation Children

Distribution of Ashes/all welcome

6:00 PM Spanish Mass with Distribution of Ashes

Please note that abstinence (from meat) and fasting (limited to a single food meal) are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, which are universal days of fast and abstinence. The law of abstinence and fasting binds those who have completed their 14th year until those who are beginning their 60th year. Please note that the Church does not require that the faithful injure their health or be wanting in the necessary strength for daily work. However, we have to sacrifice something during Lent, imitating Christ who sacrificed himself for our salvation. Besides abstinence and fasting the Church invites us to make efforts at reconciliation with one another, be concerned for the salvation of one's neighbor, intercede to the saints and the practice of charity “*which covers a multitude of sins.*” (1 Pet 4:8).

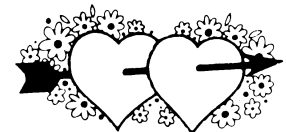
The Blessing of Throats

Blessing of Throats will be given this Sunday after all the Masses. This ancient practice is celebrated on this day in honor of St. Blase. Everyone, Catholic or not, is invited to receive this special blessing: “Through the intercession of St. Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

**Valentine's
Brunch**

All men of the parish and their sweethearts

are invited to the annual Men's Club brunch on Sun., Feb. 10th, 10:30 AM at the Brambles Restaurant. Cost per person: \$21. Please use the sign-up sheet near the church entrance if you plan to attend.



Pastor's Corner – The liturgical month of February starts with the Ash Wednesday, marking not only the beginning of Lent but giving us a sense of repenting, of coming back home, to be once again with God. Each Friday of Lent at 6:00pm we are invited to walk with Christ on the Via Dolorosa, The Stations of the Cross. Once our souls are nurtured, immediately after the Stations everyone is invited to the parish hall to nurture our bodies as well, with a simple meal of soup and salad. Of course we will be breaking bread and I am going to bake bread for everyone! Please make this Lenten season special by attending the Stations or/and come daily to the Mass.

During the Lenten season let's pay attention to our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; make this holy season a special time of reconciliation with one another and with God. As a community we will pray and accompany all those who are to become Catholics and receive the sacraments on Easter Vigil. For whatever reason, I see Lent as a mountain with all of us climbing together; the peak of Easter and of the Resurrection will give us the strength to make it all the way to the top. Until we reach there, may we help, encourage, and love each other on the way.

Bishop's Letter

Our Bishop Richard Garcia wrote a letter in regards to the Feb. 5 primary election. This letter can be found at the entrance of our church in both English and Spanish. He directs our attention on two resources, *Faithful Citizenship* (prepared by US Conference of Catholic Bishops) and *Overview of February 2008 Ballot Propositions and Church Teachings* (prepared by California Catholic Conference.) Both of these documents can be found on our website as well, www.santarosaparish.org.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent



6:00 PM- Stations of the Cross
 6:30 PM- Lenten Meal of Soup,
 Salad & Bread
 7:30 PM- Stations of the Cross
 (Spanish)

Divine Mercy Sunday

There is great interest in celebrating the Divine Mercy Sunday in our parish (March 30). Our parishioner, Kate Duffy, invites anyone interested to help and participate in planning this celebration. They will meet on Tues., Feb. 6th, at 6 PM, rm. #4



Pray for ... Mary Collins, Cornelia Carey, Laverne Fisher, Kathleen Harms, Richard Macedo, Kelly Martinez, Katherine McMicking, Betty Fiscalini, Jim Adams, Glen Graham, Mary Lennan, Laura Edwards, Linda Hotchkiss, Michele Krohn, Jim Greathouse, Elie Crettol, Steve Richardson, Tommye Brennan, Don Schwarzkopf, Timothy Maschler, Michelle Moran, Sandy Stevens, Kellie Mackin, Fr. Scott Hill, Robert Brennan, Gladys Kearns, Charlotte Greathouse, Betty Williams, Louis Fiscalini, Bob Lennan, Edward Sullivan.

Bible Study

This coming Wednesday we will not have the Bible Study, since it is Ash Wednesday. Our next sessions will be on Wednesdays, Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Mar. 5, and Mar. 12, all at 6:30pm in the hall. The theme for all these four sessions is "The Passion, Crucifixion and Death of Christ in the gospel of John." Participants are invited to read in advance John 18.

Fasting by St. John Chrysostom

"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor man, take pity on him.

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice.

Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.

Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip.

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.

For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers and sisters?

May He who came to the world to save sinners, strengthen us to complete the fast with humility, have mercy on us and save us."

