Choice

“If you choose you can keep the commandments,” Sirach tells us. God “has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand” (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today’s reading from Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.

Parish Offerings
Plate Collection (Feb. 8-9): $3,365.00

God Bless You for Your Support!

PANCAKE FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST
Sun., Feb. 23rd, 9:30-11:30 am; Parish Hall

Enjoy a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and milk.
Tickets may be purchased at the door.
This is a fundraiser for our Youth Confirmation Retreat.

Parent Meeting
There will be a mandatory meeting for parents whose children are making their First Reconciliation this year. Please meet in the church at 6:00 pm this coming Thurs., Feb. 20th.

Library Highlights for February
The parish library honors Black History Month with books and dvds. Sister Thea Bowman was a remarkable person and her story is well told in the book, Thea’s Song: The Life of Thea Bowman. The book is available on the cart along with other selections.

Annual Ministry Appeal
“Growing in Faith”

The Annual Ministry Appeal throughout diocese our has begun. This appeal provides you the opportunity to support the ministries of the Diocese of Monterey. By sharing your gift of treasure in this Appeal, you enable our Diocesan church to participate in Jesus’ invitation to assist others in growing in their faith. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to this year’s AMA. Information and donation envelopes are on the tables near the church entrance.

Calling All Men
Join us for an evening of fellowship, and a great meal on Tues., Feb. 18th, 6:00 pm in the parish hall. We need to know how much food to prepare, so please sign up on the list near the church front doors. All men of the parish are invited.

Ash Wednesday
February 26
♦ 9:00 am– Mass with Distribution of Ashes
♦ 2:30 pm– Children’s Service with Distribution of Ashes
♦ 6:00 pm– Spanish Mass with Distribution of Ashes

PRAY FOR... Irene Hammond, Gale Keenan, Matt Van Scyoc, Martinez Family, Silva Family, Alice Blankenship, Bob & Evelyn Morales, Barbara Schofield, Kami Tersini, Rosanna Opperman, Louis Mikklesen, Dennis Rightmer, Mike Mulligan, Jeff Lachance, Terry Whisler, Steven Kensrue.