



Forgiveness of Sins

Isaiah announced the word of the Lord: “[S]ee, I am doing something new!” (Isaiah 43:19). And what was this new thing? A promise for a people who “did not call upon me” and “grew weary of me” (43:22); a promise of forgiveness. “It is I, I, who wipe out . . . your offenses; / your sins I remember no more” (43:25).

Paul told the Corinthians—and tells us—that Jesus is God’s “yes,” and that all God’s promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Does that include God’s promise to forgive sins? Mark gives the answer when he relates how some people lowered a paralytic through a hole in the roof, seeking a cure.

As far as we can tell, no one requested forgiving the man’s sins. But that’s what Jesus did, exactly as Isaiah had announced. Then, lest anyone doubt his authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus said, “[P]ick up your mat, and go home” (Mark 2:11). The man “rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away” (2:12).

Readings and Saints for the Week

(Feb. 20-26)

- Monday: (President’s Day) Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday: (St. Peter Damian; Mardi Gras); Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
- Wednesday: (Ash Wednesday) J1 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:16-18
- Thursday: (St. Polycarp) Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
- Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Parish Offerings

Plate Collection (Feb. 12): \$3,254.00

Thank You for Your Support!

Ash Wednesday and Lent

February 22- On this special day of fast and abstinence we will have a 9:00 am Mass and a 6:30 pm (bilingual) Mass.



Stations of the Cross and Soup Dinners— On Fridays of Lent at 6:00 pm we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross (English) followed by a Lenten Meal of soup, salad and bread in the hall. At 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross in Spanish will be recited. Make this Lent special by attending.



Eucharistic Adoration— Every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Fast and Abstinence-

Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years and older.

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal a day. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Men’s Club News

All men of the parish are invited to the dinner/meeting this Tues., Feb. 21st, at 6:00 pm in the hall. Steve Soto and his crew will be preparing chicken polenta stew. There is a sign-up sheet near the church entrance.

“Keeping a Holy Lent”

A Lenten reflection for catechists, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, hospitality ministers, choir member and laity. Sat., Feb. 25th, 9:00 am-noon at St. Theodore’s Church in Gonzales. Pre-registration is required. To register, or for more information, call Sr. Pauline Thomas at (831) 675-3647 ext. 7 or paulineeliz@gmail.com

Weekly Mass Intentions

(Feb. 18-24)



<u>Sat., 5:00 pm-</u>	Int. Lauren & Jube Russell
	Int. Maryann Wigler
<u>Sun., 9:00 am-</u>	†Molly Rankin
	†Jody Morales
<u>Sun., 6:00 pm-</u>	People of the Parish
<u>Mon., 9:00 am-</u>	Communion Service
<u>Tues., 9:00 am-</u>	Communion Service
<u>Wed. 9:00 am-</u>	Int. Leigh Lockett
<u>Wed., 6:30 pm-</u>	People of the Parish
<u>Thurs., 9:00 am-</u>	Int. Mark Thomsen
	†Jody Morales
	†Richard Macedo
<u>Fri., 9:00 am-</u>	†Jody Morales

AMA Update

There is still time to make a pledge to the Annual Ministries Appeal. So far only 22 out of 350 registered households in our parish have pledged a total of \$4,970.00. We still have a ways to go to meet our diocesan goal of \$15,600.00. Please consider making a pledge, not matter how small.

THANK YOU bulletin advertisers. This week we give a special “thanks” to **Breen Realty, Inc.** Be sure to patronize the businesses that advertise with us (most are parishioners) and tell them where you saw their ad!

Dear Santa Rosa Parishioners...
 Thank you for your most generous response to our ministry *Cross Catholic Outreach* during my weekend visit on Nov. 12-13, 2011. Your donations of \$4,315.00 will have a direct impact in the lives of the poorest of the poor. May the Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support! ~Fr. Raul Perez

Want to Be Part of the Choir?

We are looking for additional choir members: young and older, female, and especially male voices. Practices are weekly, generally on Monday evenings, but can be flexible to choir members’ needs. Let us express our prayers joyfully in song! Contact Vicky at 927-4816.



The Origin of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday entered the calendar in the early sixth century when the desire arose to have forty actual days of fasting before Easter. Sundays were never fast days, so to get to forty, one had to add four days to the six weeks of Lent. In the Christian lands along the Rhine River the devotional practice of imposing ashes arose as people imitated what they heard in Bible passages such as 2 Samuel 13:19, Ezekiel 27:30, Job 2:12, and Jonah 3:6. What was once a private devotion came to be practiced publicly in the eighth century, and by the year 1000 it was commonplace in many celebrations at the beginning of Lent. The distribution of ashes was formally added to the Missal at Rome in the thirteenth century and this ancient symbol of repentance is now widely used among most Christian denominations at the beginning of Lent.

Prison Ministry

“When I was in prison, did you come to visit me?” In Matt:25 Jesus asks us, very directly, to visit the imprisoned. The Church offers this opportunity at our local state prison, California Men’s Colony (CMC) on Hwy. 1 in SLO. Fr. John Farao, OFM., is the Catholic chaplain who ministers at the two chapels on the grounds and is very much in need of additional volunteers to supervise the programs offered in the ministry. One to eight visits per month will help. Call Tony Farao at 712-5785 for more information.

Pray for the sick... Timothy Maschler, Fr. Scott Hill, Charlotte Greathouse, Denise Scarberry, Maria Celedon, Laverne Fisher, Cherrie Waterman, Mary West, Robert Brennan, Kathleen Ashlock, Gerard Silva, Alex Martinez, Ron Federico, Mel Wigler, Lynn Brown, Lisa Terhorst, Rita Reardon, Floyd Cusumano, Bill Stoner, Fran Stoner, Bert Radecki, Mark Thomsen, Aaron Dickey and Tom Bader, Heidi Norton, Maryann Wigler.