

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## 28 FEBRUARY 2010

“From the cloud came a voice that said,  
‘This is My chosen Son; listen to Him.’”

Luke 9: 35



The Transfiguration, Fra Angelico

### FIRST READING

“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so ... shall your descendants be.”  
Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

### PSALM

Wait for the Lord with courage.

Psalms 27

### SECOND READING

Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven.

Philippians 3: 17-4: 1

### GOSPEL

While He was praying His face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white.

Luke 9: 28-36

## CALENDAR

### MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MON-FRI</b>	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
<b>MON-FRI</b>	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
<b>SAT</b>	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
<b>28 FEB</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
<b>01 MAR</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	RCIA
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
<b>02 MAR</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Catechism
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Catechism
	07:30 PM	Lenten Talk (Fr. Stevens)
<b>03 MAR</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
	07:00 PM	CCD Confirmation Class
<b>04 MAR</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
	06:30 PM	ICF Dinner and Meeting
<b>05 MAR</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	
<b>06 MAR</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	
	10:00 AM	Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Meeting
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
	03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Confessions (parish priest)

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS

WEEK OF 28 FEB - 06 MAR

<b>SAT</b>	<b>05:00 PM</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Masses</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>MON</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Shirley Fennell
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	Mary and Bill Widmer
<b>TUE</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Anthony Zele
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Kaatje Simpson
<b>WED</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Mary Gage
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Gertrude Sullivan
<b>THU</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Michael Klaus
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Valerie Contreras
<b>FRI</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Sally Corley
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	The Personeni and Pollano families
<b>SAT</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	† Lino Baiata

### FAST AND ABSTINENCE

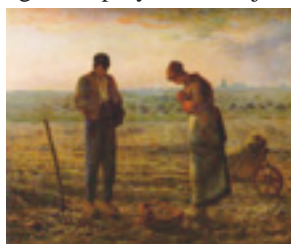
The observance of a **fast** is to take only a single full meal during the course of the day, typically after **03:00 PM**. To maintain strength, one or two smaller meals may also be taken, if together they do not equal another full meal. The fast binds on all those ages 18-60.

The observance of **abstinence** is to refrain from eating any meat. Abstinence binds on all those ages 14 and older.

**Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of both **fast and abstinence**. All **Fridays** in Lent are observed as days of **abstinence**.

### THE ANGELUS FOR LENT

As the Nativity bells ring at noon, the Angelus is prayed. Come join fellow parishioners on **Tuesdays** at **12:00 PM**. Sanctify your day as you recall how the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Let us prepare to embrace His Passion and Cross, for without the Passion there would never have been a Resurrection.



The Angelus, Jean-Francois Millet



### PARISH OFFERINGS

	WEEK OF	
	<b>13-14 FEB</b>	
TOTAL: \$		<b>11,121</b>
Annual Appeal Progress: \$		
2010 Annual Appeal Goal: \$		<b>(coming soon)</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

**03 MAR (Wednesday):**

**SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL (1858-1955)**

Born in 1858 into a prominent Philadelphia family, Katharine became imbued with love for God and neighbor. She took an avid interest in the material and spiritual well-being of black and native Americans. From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, she dedicated her life and a fortune of 20 million dollars to this work. In 1894, Mother Drexel took part in opening the first mission school for Indians, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1915 she also founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At her death there were more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country.

**04 MAR (Thursday):**

**SAINT CASIMIR OF POLAND (1458-1484)**

Casimir was a 15th-century Polish prince, third in line for the throne. He lived a highly disciplined, often severe, life: sleeping on the ground, spending a great part of each night in prayer, and dedicating himself to lifelong celibacy (even under pressure to marry the daughter of the emperor). He had a great devotion to Mary, supported the poor, and lived a virtuous life amid the disolute court.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have **Stations of the Cross** every **Friday** during **Lent**, following the **05:30 PM** Mass. Please join us.



## FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Some of our students at Nativity School and in our CCD Program will be receiving their **First Communion** or **Confirmation** soon. First Communion will be celebrated on **07 April 2010** and Confirmation will be celebrated on **18 April 2010** with **Bishop Ignatius Wang**. Please pray for these students as they take this next step in their lives as Catholics.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:

**MON: 09:00 AM**

**WED: 11:00 AM**

**FRI: 06:00 AM, 02:00 PM**

Please call **650/269-7794** for more information or to sign up.



# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

## HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

**SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2010**

**07:00 PM** *Shroud of Turin* Talk with Deacon Peloso

**THURSDAY, 01 APRIL 2010 (HOLY THURSDAY)**

**07:30 PM** Mass (*one Mass only*)

**FRIDAY, 02 APRIL 2010 (GOOD FRIDAY)**

**12:00 PM** Stations of the Cross

**12:30 -02:00 PM** Reflections with Fr. Kevin Gaffey

**02:00 PM** Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**07:00 PM** Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY, 03 APRIL 2010 (HOLY SATURDAY)**

**10:00 AM -12:00 PM** Reconciliation (Opus Dei priest)

**02:00-04:00 PM** Reconciliation (parish priest)

**08:00 PM** Easter Vigil

(*no other Masses*)

**SUNDAY, 04 APRIL 2010 (EASTER SUNDAY)**

**08:00 AM** Mass

**09:30 AM** Mass

**11:30 AM** Mass

(*no 05:00 PM Mass*)

**MONDAY, 05 APRIL 2010**

**09:00 AM** Mass (*one Mass only*)

# MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

During Lent, if you would like to pray with fellow Nativity parishioners as part of the nationwide **40 Days for Life** prayer vigil praying for an end to abortion, the **Respect Life Group** is scheduling people for **Saturday, 20 March** and **Thursday, 25 March 2010**, the **Feast of the Annunciation**. See [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) for more information. The prayer vigil will occur on public property near an abortion clinic in San Mateo between **07:00 AM** and **07:00 PM**. There will be a minimum of 2 people per hour. Please call **Eileen** at **650/799-4722** to sign up for hourly time slots and more information.

## CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

Our Nativity rosary prayer group continues to pray to end the culture of death. All are invited to come! We pray two rosaries together and offer up a fast each week. We meet at **06:00 PM** in the church each **Tuesday** evening.

*Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact  
the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008),  
the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191) or  
Community Pregnancy Center (650/ 964-8093).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please welcome the newest members of our Christian community:

- **Augustine Xavier** son of **Matt** and **Monica Hendricks**
- **Oliver Alan** son of **Matt** and **Erika Palmer**



May these children and their families grow in holiness daily in response to their baptismal calling.

Nativity welcomes our newest parishioners:

- **Linda** and **Charles Mobraten** (*Tyler, Marla*)
- **Janine** and **Kevin Olivero** (*Rachel, Alexis, Toni, Gianni*)



*The Transfiguration, Titian*

## LENTEN TALKS AT NATIVITY

*"Reflections on the Mysteries of Faith"*: **Fr. Gladstone Stevens** will be the second of five Lenten talks on Tuesday evenings at **07:30 PM** in the Church. The topic this week will be: *Sin*. Fr. Stevens received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Marquette University. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville and has been with the Society of St. Sulpice since 2002. For six years he taught Systematic Theology and Philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He now serves as Vice-Rector and Academic Dean at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park.

## REGISTER WITH THE PARISH

We welcome all visitors and invite those who are considering coming home to the Catholic Church to register. Church attendance alone does not make you or your family registered members. To register online, please go to [www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org) and fill out the Parish Registration Form. To obtain one in the mail, please call the rectory office **650/323-7914** during regular business hours.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### RETRouvaille

Marriage help -- Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment and misery in their marriage. This program can help you, too. For confidential information or to register for the April 2010 program beginning with the weekend of **23-25 April 2010**, call **415/893-1005** or email [sf@retroca.com](mailto:sf@retroca.com), or visit [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

### CATHOLIC WEBSITES

**Virtue Media** ([www.virtuemedia.org](http://www.virtuemedia.org)) and **Catholics Come Home** ([www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)). These websites contain information on the Catholic Church, scripture references, and videos. They have information for lapsed Catholics considering returning to the church or for non-Catholics looking into the faith.

### CLOTHING URGENTLY NEEDED

The **Clothing Distribution Center** at **St. Anthony's Church** is in great need of gently-used jackets, sweaters, and shirts for men. If you have any of these that you can donate please drop your donations off behind the Dining Room at St. Anthony's **Monday** through **Saturday** between **09:00 AM** and **04:00 PM**. 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. We can only accept clothing. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

### VOCATION RETREAT

The **Sisters of Nazareth** will be having a vocation retreat day for young women on **Sunday, 14 March 2010** from **09:00 AM - 02:30 PM** at Nazareth House, 245 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903. For more information call **Sr. Fintan** at **310/216-8170** or **Sr. Linda** at **415-479-8282**.

### WALK FOR INDIA'S MISSING GIRLS

In the last century, more than 50 million Indian girls have been killed either before or soon after they were born. In some regions of India there are only 500 women to every 1000 men. On **Saturday, 06 March 2010**, San Franciscans will join in the **Global Walk for India's Missing Girls**. This is a peaceful march to protest female feticide and infanticide, and to remember the victims of this holocaust. Other walks will take place in Delhi, Mumbai, Pondicherry, Kuwait, Dublin, Melbourne, and Ontario in an effort to bring worldwide attention to this horror, and to help save India's girls. The Walk begins at **11:00 AM** in front of the Conservatory of Flowers at 100 John F. Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park, and will proceed to the Indian Embassy, 540 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco. For more information email: [walkindiasf@gmail.com](mailto:walkindiasf@gmail.com).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Spiritual Care Service** at **Stanford Hospital** is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to patients and families. Volunteers must be willing to commit to two hours a week for a year and attend 5 evenings of training. The training program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto on five Monday evenings: **22 February** and **01, 08, 15, 22 March 2010, 07:00-09:00 PM**. If you are interested in volunteering, please request an application by call the Spiritual Care Service office at **650/723-5101** or email [gollingsworth@stanfordmed.org](mailto:gollingsworth@stanfordmed.org). Remember to leave your name, phone number, church affiliation and email address.

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*You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.*



Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI  
for **LENT 2010**

*“The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ” (cf. Rm 3, 21-22)*

(cont'd.)

## **Justice and Sedaqah**

At the heart of the wisdom of Israel, we find a profound link between faith in God who “lifts the needy from the ash heap” (Ps 113,7) and justice towards one’s neighbor. The Hebrew word itself that indicates the virtue of justice, *sedaqah*, expresses this well. *Sedaqah*, in fact, signifies on the one hand full acceptance of the will of the God of Israel; on the other hand, equity in relation to one’s neighbour (cf. Ex 20, 12-17), especially the poor, the stranger, the orphan and the widow (cf. Dt 10, 18-19). But the two meanings are linked because giving to the poor for the Israelite is none other than restoring what is owed to God, who had pity on the misery of His people. It was not by chance that the gift to Moses of the tablets of the Law on Mount Sinai took place after the crossing of the Red Sea. Listening to the Law presupposes faith in God who first “heard the cry” of His people and “came down to deliver them out of hand of the Egyptians” (cf. Ex 3,8). God is attentive to the cry of the poor and in return asks to be listened to: He asks for justice towards the poor (cf. Sir 4,4-5, 8-9), the stranger (cf. Ex 22,20), the slave (cf. Dt 15, 12-18). In order to enter into justice, it is thus necessary to leave that illusion of self-sufficiency, the profound state of closure, which is the very origin of injustice. In other words, what is needed is an even deeper “exodus” than that accomplished by God with Moses, a liberation of the heart, which the Law on its own is powerless to realize. Does man have any hope of justice then?

## **Christ, the Justice of God**

The Christian Good News responds positively to man’s thirst for justice, as Saint Paul affirms in the Letter to the Romans: “But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from law ... the justice of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith” (3, 21-25). What then is the justice of Christ? Above all, it is the justice that comes from grace, where it is not man who makes amends, heals himself and others. The fact that “expiation” flows from the “blood” of Christ signifies that it is not man’s sacrifices that free him from the weight of his faults, but the loving act of God who opens Himself in the extreme, even to the point of bearing in Himself the “curse” due to man so as to give in return the “blessing” due to God (cf. Gal 3, 13-14). But this raises an immediate objection: what kind of justice is this where the just man dies for the guilty and the guilty receives in return the blessing due to the just one? Would this not mean that each one receives the contrary of his “due”? In reality, here we discover divine justice, which is so profoundly different from its human counterpart. God has paid for us the price of the exchange in His Son, a price that is truly exorbitant. Before the justice of the Cross, man may rebel for this reveals how man is not a self-sufficient being, but in need of Another in order to realize himself fully. Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one’s own need – the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship. So we understand how faith is altogether different from a natural, good-feeling, obvious fact: humility is required to accept that I need Another to free me from “what is mine,” to give me gratuitously “what is His.” This happens especially in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Thanks to Christ’s action, we may enter into the “greatest” justice, which is that of love (cf. Rm 13, 8-10), the justice that recognises itself in every case more a debtor than a creditor, because it has received more than could ever have been expected. Strengthened by this very experience, the Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love.

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent culminates in the Paschal Triduum, in which this year, too, we shall celebrate divine justice – the fullness of charity, gift, salvation. May this penitential season be for every Christian a time of authentic conversion and intense knowledge of the mystery of Christ, who came to fulfill every justice. With these sentiments, I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

*From the Vatican, 30 October 2009*

## **THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Each month His Holiness Benedict XVI asks for general and missionary prayer intentions.

For **February 2010**, the Holy Father’s prayer intentions are:

**General:** For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.



**Missionary:** That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

## RENOUNCE SIN AND TEMPTATION

The Lenten season is a particularly good time to reflect on our fallen nature, and to prepare ourselves as fully as we can for the salvation Jesus bought for us with His Blood on the cross.

How well do you understand what the Church has taught for generations about "sin"?  
How thoroughly do you prepare yourself for the sacrament of Confession (do you take advantage of this wonderful, reconciling sacrament regularly)?

The 1962 version of "My Sunday Missal" contains some valuable information on these topics. We are reprinting key sections from the back of that missal here for your personal reflection.



## PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

Examination of Conscience:

### My Duties to God

Neglecting morning or evening prayers • superstitious practices • consulting fortune tellers • receiving sacraments sacrilegiously • against Faith by willful doubts concerning any article of the Creed or by reading or circulating irreligious books • against Hope by despair, murmuring or presuming on God's Mercy • against Charity by wilfully rebellious thoughts against God or His Law or by omitting good works through fear of others • irreverence towards God, His Name, His Church • cursing or swearing • false, unlawful or unnecessary oaths • breaking lawful vows • neglecting Mass on Sundays or Holy Days, or performing unrequired servile work.

### My Duties to My Neighbor

Insulting or neglecting parents • failing to send children to religious schools when possible • bad example • neglect of home, trade, professional or civil service duties • ignoring the spiritual and corporal works of mercy • any violent act • causing hard feeling • revenge • refusing reconciliation • inducing others to sin • stealing • possession of ill-gotten goods • cheating • culpable delay in paying lawful debts • lying • perjury • fraud • slander • failure to support my Church.

### My Duties to Myself

Obstinacy • sloth • desiring or yielding to sensuality, impurity, gluttony, drunkenness • rage, envy, impatience, jealousy • failure to fast or abstain • failure to make my Easter Duty • waste of time, money, or talents.

"O My God, grant me light to be truly sorry for my sins.  
To think that I have offended Thee after being forgiven so many times!  
I lay the rest of my life at Thy feet.

How much more there is to come, I know not,  
but long or short, let it atone for my past.

Mary, my mother, help me to make a good confession."



## REFLECTIONS

### ON THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### FIRST READING: GENESIS 15

Many of us have had the difficult experience of having to pack up and move on, leaving our homes and friends behind. We can imagine how Abram, later known as Abraham, might have felt when God called him to journey to a new and unfamiliar land. Despite his doubts and questions, Abram "put his faith in the Lord." He gave up everything, including his pagan gods, and accepted God's promise of countless descendants.

The covenant between God and Abraham was sealed in a special ceremony of sacrifice. The smoke and flame in that ceremony represent the presence of God moving between the broken animal halves. This is a sign that neither Abram, who stays with the sacrificial animals, nor God, whose presence is signaled, will break the covenant.

#### SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3

Today's second reading reminds us that as Christians sharing in God's life we are already citizens of heaven. Neither our earthly homes nor our physical bodies are lasting. But one day our bodies will be transformed and become like the glorified body of the risen Jesus. This is the great and final hope of every Christian.

#### GOSPEL: LUKE 9

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see your best friend transformed, or turned into his or her glorified self, right before your eyes? That's the kind of experience Peter, James, and John have in today's gospel. While they are up on a mountain with Jesus, they have a splendid vision of him in his glorified body. They see him talking with Moses and Elijah, two long-dead figures from the Old Testament. Moses represents the Law, while Elijah represents the prophets. In Jesus, both find the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation.