



**Fifth Sunday
Of Lent**
March 21, 2010

May we all remain one in Christ!

Thus says the Lord
Remember not the events of the past.
The things of long ago consider not.
See, I am doing something new!
Now it begins. Do you not perceive it?

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Love Is the Key To Our Lives

Friends,

What does love look like? St. Augustine said that love has the hands to help others. Love has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. Love has eyes to see misery and want. And love has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

I like that quotation, and it made me think about love in my life. It is so easy to say: "I love you." However, love is demanding, and you have to pay a price for love. St. Paul reminds us about the demands of love. "Love is kind and patient; never jealous, boastful, proud or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that other do. Love rejoices in the truth but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting. Love never fails." (1 Cor. 13)

Love is the key to all of the teachings of Jesus. He summed up all of the hundreds laws of the Bible into two precepts. "You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, with all your mind and with all your being, and you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Love is what makes the world go round. Love is the glue that keeps us together here at St. John's. Love pushes us to be a positive force in our neighborhood, in our church and in our world. Lent is a perfect time to ask ourselves: "How can I improve my love-life?"

Peace,
Fr. John Maxwell

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column and all of Father John's previous columns are available on our parish Web site. Just go to www.SaintJohnTheBaptistChurch.org and click on the picture of the church.

Mass for the Intentions Week

March 20 – 27, 2010

		Intention	Requested By
Saturday, March 20	5 p.m.	Claire Gorin †	Ruth Vietti
Sunday, March 21	8 a.m.	Esther Loreto Tatom†	Joe Lewis
	9:30 a.m.	Kennedex Cayetano †	Mr. & Mrs. Kay Cayetano
	11 a.m.	Raphael Offiah †	Mike Anibogu & Family
	12:30 p.m.	Ponciana Leoligao †	Reyline Artiaga
Monday, March 22	6 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Brazilian Community
	8 a.m.	Maynita Gehring †	Al & Katie Carlson
Tuesday, March 23	7 p.m.	Marie Brown †	Theresa Kee
	8 a.m.	Jack Patrick & Family †	Helen Stubbs
Wednesday, March 24	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
	8 a.m.	Leonor F. Tiongson †	Mom & Dad
Thursday, March 25	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
	8 a.m.	Encarnacion & Marcelo Cruz †	Menci Ferreros
Friday, March 26	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
	8 a.m.	St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
Saturday, March 27	7 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
	8 a.m.	Calzon Family †	Maria Davenport
	5 p.m.	Harvey Aldal †	Mary Aldal



Madden Shiells

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (173)	\$3,525
Loose Donations	<u>1,488</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$5,013

Bishops' Overseas Appeal \$950

Next Weekend: Church in Eastern Europe

Please remember your parish in your will.

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Josephine Abbissinio, Dorothy Alexander, Evelyn Baker, George Blair, Barbara Brendlinger, Elizabeth Brown, Jeffrey Chavez, Isabella Kristine Cruz, Deloris Davis, Lou Encalada, Louise Encalada, Narte Estrellas, Michael Fleming, Emilio Gallegos, Ann Gerletti, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Joe Gressel, Betty Harrell, Frances Haynes, Steve Jeffre, Marsha Lightfoot, Maria Impang Lozada, Eric Lubrano, Fr. John Maxwell, Deanie McGowan, Evelyn & John Miché, Lolita Parafina, Stephen Pellingra, Evelyn Phillips, Dina Pieroni, Leola Richardson, Sr. Mary Soong, Amy Stymer and Marilyn Sutton.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

Message of Stewardship

In today's second reading, St. Paul says, "For His sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

Next Weekend: Eastern Europe

Next weekend, we will take up a second collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. The Church in this region continues to have great needs for its essential pastoral work.

Sign Up for Foot-Washing

We are encouraging everyone to participate in the foot-washing ceremony that will be held during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1.



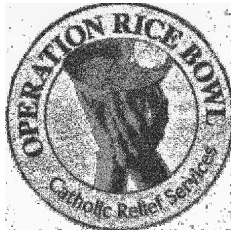
Foot Washing

This act symbolizes our service to one another. Please sign up on the sheets at the church exits.

Rice Bowl – Wise Investment

In northern Ethiopia where drought is very common, Ato Teklu Hagdu lives with his wife and eight children struggling to survive.

Often he had to leave his family to search for work in other areas. Catholic Relief Services helped build a water system in his village and gave farmers training in irrigation, tools, seeds and other help to improve harvests.



Today Ato is feeding his family, expanding his farm and saving money for the future, which will help him get through the dry seasons. He feels more in control of his life.

We will collect your donations during Holy Week. Half your contributions will go to Catholic Relief Services, and other half to our Sister Parish in Haiti. Visit orb.crs.org for more information.

Good Friday at Livermore Lab

“Why Are Haitians So Poor?” is the theme of this year's Good Friday service of worship and witness at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab.

A worship service at 7 a.m. will be followed by a procession to the gate and acts of witness. A community gathering will follow.

For information, please call 655-1162 or 654-4983, or see www.epicala.org.

Beginning Experience

A weekend retreat for widowed, separated and divorced will be held April 16-18 at Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park. Call Cathy at (408) 263-3718 or see www.beginningexperience.org.

Mandarin Mass Change

Our monthly Mandarin Mass will now be celebrated at 2 p.m. (instead of 3 p.m.) in the church on the fourth Sunday of each month.

This change was made to accommodate the celebrant, Fr. Peter Chen.

A potluck meal follows the Masses in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Lulu Hsia at 708-7109.

Decorators Need Succulents

Do you have succulents in your garden that you don't want or may need thinning?

St. John's Decorating Committee is looking for a variety, in particular, Hens and Chicks. They can be dropped off at the church office or by calling Susan Bitner at 236-1250 or Liz Boggess at 232-4002 for pickup.

Priests Looking for a Cook

Yan can cook. Can you?

The priests of our church are looking for a part-time cook. They eat at 6 p.m., and the job is Monday through Friday – dinner only. There is no need to serve the food or clean up. For details, call Mary Asuncion at 232-5659.

Italian Federation Celebration

The Richmond Branch 154 of the Italian Catholic Federation will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a 3 p.m. Mass, followed by a pasta and roast beef dinner on Saturday, April 10 at the Galileo Club, at 371 S. 23rd St.

For reservations, at \$20, call Walter Costa at (925) 370-3737. Cutoff date is April 5.

Please Park in School Lots

Please use the school parking lots on San Pablo Avenue and Kearney Street when attending services at St. John's.

The Bank of the West Plaza at the corner of Madison and San Pablo is reserved for the shopping center's customers and tenants.

Join Us for Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 28

Processions before 5 p.m. Saturday Mass, and 9:30, 11 and 12: 30 Sunday Masses.

Penance Service Monday, March 29

7 p.m. – Mass

7:30 p.m. – Penance Service

(Penance Services will also be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Jerome's and 7 p.m. Wednesday at St. David's.)

Holy Thursday – April 1

7:30 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday – April 2

Noon – Sacred Music

12:15 p.m. – The Lord's Passion

3 p.m. – Brazilian Good Friday Service

Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 3

9 p.m. Saturday

(Blessing of the Holy Fire and Pascal Candle, Prophecies: Light and Darkness, Baptisms and Confirmation, Mass of the Resurrection)

Easter Sunday – April 4

8 a.m. Mass – Cantor and Piano

9:30 a.m. Mass – Children's Choir

11 a.m. Mass – Adult Choir

12:30 p.m. Mass – International Choir

6 p.m. – Brazilian Mass & Reception

Rehearsals for Easter Triduum

Rehearsal sessions will be held in church for everyone who has a liturgical role in our Easter Triduum services:

Holy Thursday practice – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 28.

Good Friday practice – 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 28

Easter Vigil practice – 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30.

If you will be a lector, minister of Holy Communion, intercessor, altar server or have another role in one of these services, you need to attend.

Lenten Services

8 a.m. Mass – Monday through Saturday

8:30 a.m. on Fridays – Stations of the Cross

7 p.m. Mass – Monday through Friday

Lenten Abstinence

As a penitential practice during Lent, all Catholics who are 14 years or older are obliged to refrain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. Parents are encouraged to see that children who are not bound by the obligation to abstain from meat are led to appreciate an authentic sense of penance.

Lenten Fast

In addition to abstinence, fasting is to be observed by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 on Good Friday. One full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Youth Ministry Famine

St. John's Youth Ministry is participating in the 30-hour Famine, a "lock-in" fast on April 2-3 in the Community Center that will give members the opportunity to walk in the shoes of the hungry and homeless and deepen their own faith.

We strongly urge your support of our youth's efforts by sponsoring a youth member's fast and offering them your encouragement.

For more information, please call Fr. Bart at 232-5659.

St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys St., corner of Lexington

Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850

Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays

Noon Tuesday, March 23:

"Getting to Know Each Other Better"

A member activity

Church School at 9:30 Mass

Did you know that we have a “Church School” in the kindergarten classroom for your 3- to 5-year-old child during the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday?

There is no charge for the students.

This is an excellent way for your child to make new friends and learn about Jesus at their level.

Fr. John strongly encourages families to attend Mass. The 9:30 Mass, which runs at the same time, is geared to grade-school children, so this is a great opportunity to get all your children involved in church.

Just bring your child to the kindergarten classroom this Sunday and register!

Remember, “Faith is caught, not taught” (Sr. Angela).

For further information, call Pam Vincent at 233-6486 or 507-8694.

Making Christ Better Known

If you are CYO parents, you have probably become familiar with the names of many Catholic schools and parishes in our diocese. For some, it is much harder to meet the expense of providing a good Catholic education than it is for us here in St. John’s.

As Catholics, these are our schools and parishes, too. You can help support them and make Christ better known in the East Bay by contributing to the Bishop’s Appeal.

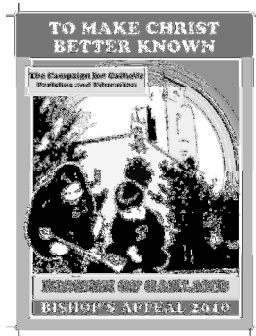
Your gift will help all Catholics in the East Bay to know Christ better, including our poorest neighbors.

Thus far this year, St. John’s parishioners have contributed \$13,666, which is 54% of our goal.

Triduum Retreat, April 1-4

Enter into the silence and ritual of the Triduum with a retreat April 1 to 4 (5 p.m. Thursday to noon Sunday) at the Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Ave. in San Rafael.

Facilitated by a Dominican preaching team. For details, please call (415) 457-7727.



YLI Spring Salad Bar

Mother of Perpetual Help, Institute No 159, will hold its annual Spring Salad Bar Luncheon at noon on Thursday, April 8, at St. Jerome’s Rohan Hall. This luncheon will benefit students of St. Jerome’s and St. John’s schools.

Tickets are \$12 per person. Reservations are necessary, as there will be assigned seating.

Call Annette Bishop at 526-9742, June Felker at 524-9872 or Eleanor Roure at 526-4174. There will be door and raffle prizes. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Paid reservations deadline is Monday, April 5.

Catholic Men’s Conference

Join fellow Catholic men for the fifth annual Napa Valley Catholic Men’s Conference.

We all know the challenges of being a Catholic man in the modern world – you need support from your brothers in faith.

The conference will be Saturday, April 17, at St. Apollinaris Church in Napa, featuring talks by some of today’s top Catholic leaders.

Space is limited, so register early by going to www.ignatius.com/catholicmen or by calling (415) 387-2324 ext. 103.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Married couples who desire to deepen and enrich their lives are invited to the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on May 14-16.

The program is designed to deepen and enrich the joys that a husband and wife share together, whether married for a short time or many years.

To register or for more information, please call Joe & Sue at (925) 680-7767 or go to www.rekindleyourmarriage.org.

Candlelight Vigil, March 21

Join the Fr. Bill O’Donnell Social Justice Committee for a candlelight vigil marking the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 21 on the steps of St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St. in Berkeley.

For more information, please call 499-0537. Bring a candle.