**Mass Intentions**

***March 11, 2012– Third Sunday of Lent***

 **8:00A.M. +** Brandon Landau by Priscilla Moy

 **9:30A.M.** + Michael, Harold & Uncle George Young by Lin & Michele

 **+** Tracey A. Gannon by Darlene Chan-Lowe

***MON. March 12th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.**

***TUE. March 13th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.** Virginia Zeitner by Sister Caritas

***WED. March 14th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M. +** Fred Roti—4th Anniversary by Marion

 + Pour Souls in Purgatory

***THU. March 15th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M.**  + Philip Rizza by Lucille Salerno

***FRI. March 16th Lenten Weekday***

**8:00A.M.**

***SAT. March 17th St. Patrick, Bishop***

 **8:00A.M.**

 **5:00 P.M. Friends and Parishioners of St. Therese**

**From the Desk of Fr. Francis**

 **Greetings of Christ’s Peace and Joy! Hope you all had a blessed week.**

###  How does the new regulation of the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) affect us?

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### The recent debate on the HHS mandate is a very important issue that concerns us all, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. This mandate is especially troublesome to Catholics because it is against our beliefs on the sanctity of life and the freedom of conscience. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the following “six things” that we all should be informed of:

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### Six Things Everyone Should Know About the HHS Mandate

1. The mandate does not exempt Catholic charities, schools, universities, or hospitals.

2. The mandate forces these institutions and others, against their conscience, to pay for things they consider immoral.

3. The mandate forces coverage of sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs and devices as well as contraception.

4. Catholics of all political persuasions are unified in their opposition to the mandate.

5. Many other religious and secular people and groups have spoken out strongly against the mandate.

6. The federal mandate is much stricter than existing state mandates.

Speaking on this concern, Cardinal Francis George in an article entitled: ***“What******are you going to give up this Lent?”*** on the *Catholic New World* dated on Feb. 26, 2012 wrote: “What will happen if the HHS regulations are not rescinded? A Catholic institution, so far as I can see right now, will have one of four choices: 1) secularize itself, breaking its connection to the church, her moral and social teachings and the oversight of its ministry by the local bishop. This is a form of theft. It means the church will not be permitted to have an institutional voice in public life. 2) Pay exorbitant annual fines to avoid paying for insurance policies that cover abortifacient drugs, artificial contraception and sterilization. This is not economically sustainable. 3) Sell the institution to a non-Catholic group or to a local government. 4) Close down.”

Apparently, none of the above stated options are feasible solutions. Then one might be wondering: what can we do about it? There are at least three things that we can do in order to help the concerned authorities to find peaceful and just solutions to this debate. First of all, let us keep this intention in our prayers; secondly, let us keep ourselves informed about this serious and dangerous Mandate; thirdly, let us make our voices heard whenever possible. As the debate continues to unfold, you will hear more from me about it and we will hear more from our Bishops.

 ***Peace~***

***Fr. Francis***

 **Renewing our lives in Christ…**

**Can Saying the Rosary Renew our Lives in Christ?**

The Rosary is made up of two things: ***mental prayer and vocal prayer***. In the Holy Rosary, mental prayer is none other than meditation of the chief mysteries of the life, death and glory of Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Vocal prayer consists in saying twenty decades of The Hail Mary, each decade headed by an Our Father, while at the same time meditating on and contemplating the twenty principal virtues which Jesus and Mary practiced in the twenty mysteries of The Holy Rosary. So the Rosary is a blessed blending of mental and vocal prayer by which we honor and learn to imitate the mysteries and the virtues of the life, death, passion and glory of Jesus and Mary. For through the Holy Rosary:

** Sinners are forgiven;**

 **Souls that thirst are refreshed;**

 **Those who are fettered have their bonds broken;**

 **Those who weep find happiness;**

 **Those who are tempted find peace;**

 **The poor find help;**

 **Religious are reformed;**

 **Those who are ignorant are instructed;**

 **The living learn to overcome pride;**

 **The dead (The Holy Souls) have their pains eased by suffrages.**

The Holy Rosary is the root and storehouse of countless blessings. (From ‘The Secret of the Rosary,’ St. Louis De Montfort)

We, as auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary of St. Therese Parish, recite the rosary to renew our lives in Christ and, in doing so, we have received bountiful graces, blessings and indulgences through it.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please let Jennifer Chan, Edy Gunawan or Rose Lau know.

 ***By Rose Lau ~ Legion of Mary***

  **♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

 **March 11, 2012 -Third Sunday of Lent**

    **PROCESSIONAL: #388 - THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS**

    **OFFERTORY: #387 – HEAR US, ALMIGHTY LORD**

       **COMMUNION: # 399 – DEEP WITHIN**

    **Meditation Song: Panis Angelicus (soloist: Kimberly Chin + Choir)**

    **RECESSIONAL: #626 – THERE’S A WIDENESS IN GOD’S MERCY**

***News and Events***

**Second Collection this weekend, March 10th &11th for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** This supports Catholic organizations that provide food, shelter, medical care, catechesis, and companionship for the lonely in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. Your donations help to restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously!

**Monday, March 12th at 7pm Liturgy Meeting**

**The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed:**

***Abstinence*** from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years & 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. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

 ***During Lent***, the Church encourages attendance at daily Mass, self-imposed times of fasting, and generosity to local, national, and worldwide programs of sharing.

**Operation Rice Bowl 2012** We are participating in this excellent Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services.  ***Please take a Rice Bowl for the Lenten Season—you can pick one up at the church entrance table. It is a great way of giving during Lent!***

**YAM *(Young Adult Ministry)* YAM** is busy planning and during Lent, we are going to focus on service.

On **Saturday, April 14th from 9 am - 12 pm**  We are giving back to the community!  CASL has two events that morning - a tea for the elderly and a legal clinic. Volunteers who speak Mandarin, Cantonese or are lawyers will be assigned to the clinic & our other volunteers will be able to serve a tea to the elderly.

During these months, we are going to ask that all YAM members get Virtus training!  We want to connect more with our youth to keep them involved as they become teens and young adults. To help with that, we are planning a Saturday Summer Camp.  It should be an amazing opportunity for all involved. If you have questions, please talk to Anne or email her at: annechoate@gmail.com

**Come, Prepare for the Holiest Week of the Year!** On March 31st a ***RETREAT DAY*** will be held here at St. Therese. It will begin at 9:45 A.M. with coffee and gathering. At 10:00 A.M., WE WILL BEGIN our time of preparation, reflection, sharing and prayer. Lunch will be served. We will end our time together at 2:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to participate in the Communal Reconciliation Service immediately following the retreat. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can prepare materials and lunch.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION—March 17th**

**Please pray for the following students as they prepare for their**

 **First Reconciliation:**

**Zachary Chen Cameran Moy**

**Jacob Fong Jodi Moy**

**Halsted Barton Kaci Moy**

**Campbell Culen Tristan Novak**

**Anya Haynes John Plebanski**

**Olivia McDonald Soleil Reyes**

***Hospitality Schedule for March 18, 2012***

**GREETERS: John Moy, Teresa Moy, Jean Ng**

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS: CCD Children Pancake Breakfast!**

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 **Cause for Hope: *Human Suffering***

***Issue****:*

When we look around us, we can find human suffering; it’s tangible, almost tactile in a way. We see the homeless sleeping outdoors without shelter, going hungry, and trying to seek refuge from the blistering cold. We encounter those who are sad, depressed, and experiencing personal or financial hardship. We know those who are suffering from illness, disease, or disability. And if we just watch the news or read the paper, we’ll find a larger assortment of human ailments: mostly victims – victims of natural disasters, violence, and other tragedies. Yet it doesn’t end there. Yes, we’ve thought about suffering on a local level, but what about the national, even global atmosphere. Of course, it’s hard to fathom that millions of people around the world are suffering from poverty and abuse, lacking the means to live a healthy, productive life. Sadly, though, that’s the reality. While we sometimes take for granted all that we have, others are living without basic and essential needs (e.g., clean water, food, medicine). So what does all this mean to us? Why is there suffering? How can we better understand human suffering and come to terms with its damaging effects? Could there be a redemptive power to it?

***Response****:*

In *Salvifici Doloris* (on the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering), Pope John Paul II says:

The witnesses of the cross and resurrection were convinced that "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God [65] … to share in the sufferings of Christ is, at the same time, to suffer for the kingdom of God. In the eyes of the just God, before His judgment, those who share in the suffering of Christ become worthy of this kingdom. Through their sufferings, in a certain sense they repay the infinite price of the passion and death of Christ, which became the price of our Redemption. Christ has led us into this kingdom through His suffering. And also through suffering those surrounded by the mystery of Christ's Redemption became mature enough to enter this kingdom.

On the one hand, we’ll always feel sad when we see suffering, when innocent lives are lost. But on the other hand, we have to know our human limitations. That is, we’re not always going to like what happens to us or what God has planned. We’ll never completely understand His intentions, His will. But do we still accept, trusting in Christ? Will we bear our crosses and follow Him?

 **- Christian Shiu**

"*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*”

Galatians 2:20

**Weekly Offering:**

Collection for March 4, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $1,817

Sunday Loose $ 239 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $71,362

Total Collection $2,056 July1-To -Present (Budget): $70,200

Weekly Budget: $1,950 % of Budget Attained: 101%

Please consider giving one hour of your weekly salary as your contribution.

***May God bless your generosity! Thank You!***

**2012—Updated**

*“****Renew Our Lives in Christ****”*

 ***Stations of the Cross***

**Fridays at 7:00P.M. in Church preceded by dinner in the Community Room at 6:00 P.M.**

 ***Sharing on Biblical Conversion Stories***

 **Fridays at 7:45P.M. following the Stations of the Cross in the Community Room**

 ***Service***

 **SISTERHOUSE.** On the late afternoon of Sunday, March 25th members of St. Therese parish are again going to SISTERHOUSE. Sisterhouse is a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Women participating in a continuing rehabilitation program reside there. Their goal is health and healing. Our members will teach the women simple meal preparation and cooking techniques of Chinese cooking. If you are free and would like to help, contact George Lee or Sister Caritas.

 **RCIA**

 \*Scrutiny Rites will be celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent.

 **CCD**

\*Reconciliation will take place on Sunday, March 11th after the 9:30A.M. Mass.

**\***Children willserve a *Pancake Breakfast* to all parishioners on Sunday March 18th

**SCHOOL**

\* Reconciliation for 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders on Wednesday, March 21st, 8:40 A.M.

 \* Reconciliation for 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders on Friday, March 23rd at 8:40 A.M.

 ***\*Living Stations of the Cross*—**Thursday, April 5th at 1:00 P.M.

 and on Friday, April 6th at 3:00 P.M.

 ***First Reconciliation***

 For CCD and School students will take place on Saturday, March 17th at 10:00am.

***March Mandarin Mass***

 Will be on Sunday March 25th at 11:00 A. M. followed by a Lenten presentation in Mandarin in the Community Room.

 ***Parish Retreat and Communal Reconciliation***

March 31st from 10:00A.M. to 2:30P.M. in the Community Room followed by Reconciliation (optional) in Church.

 ***April Cantonese Mass***

 Will be on April 1st at the 9:30A.M. Mass with Fr. Nick Nguyen.

**REPENT, AND BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS!**

**Please remember in your prayers those who are**

**ill, hospitalized, and homebound...**

Sarah Phillips Marie Balestri Carmella Scanlon

Natasha Chang Lucille Iasillo Carmen (Rails) Balestri

Baby Dominic Vittori Dominic Barbaro Winnie So

Barbara McElroy Barb Davis Rose Perez

Ramona Zavala Ken Barber Nicholas Tobar

Michael Howley Lauren Mandel Ruth Barone

Bernie Presto YoYo Damico Dolly Roti

Lina Andriacchi Baby Jessa Piotrowski Sister Noel Devine

Su Zhen Liao Fr. Walter Johnson, MM Fr. Anthony Chen

Sister Elizabeth Lee John Galvin Michele Young

Manuel Gore Debbie Thome Wu Wai Hing

Shirley A. Bills Roseann Gurgone Elaine Sin

Lan Ying Yee

If you wish to add a name or remove your name from this list, please call the parish office.

**ST. PATRICK and ST. JOSEPH**

**This week we approach the feasts of two important Saints. Both are well known though, some facts we do not know. Both saints are great examples even for us today.**

**St Patrick is celebrated with much love and attention on March 17th. He was born in Briton and at about 16 years of age was captured by early Irish peoples and made a slave being forced to tend sheep as a herder. During this time he grew in faith and prayer. Some years later he was able to escape and return to his family. In a vision he saw and heard voices of Irish people calling him to return to Ireland. After studying for the priesthood and being ordained he returned to Ireland and became a bishop.**

**Patrick converted many people using the shamrock as a symbol for the Trinity. He became the Patron Saint of Ireland even though he was not born there. We honor him this week.**

**The second great saint is St. Joseph, the husband of Mary. All that we know about Joseph is what we read in the scripture. No where do we have any words Joseph spoke. We hear of his concern for Mary and his protection and care for Jesus. We know he was a carpenter and taught Jesus that skill. Jesus was known as the carpenter’s son. We do not see Joseph in Jesus’ public life so tradition says he was probably dead by the time Jesus started to teach. It is Joseph whose family was related to David, the great king and psalm writer.**

**We honor Joseph for his faithfulness to God’s will and actions. We honor him as the father of the Holy Family. We know of his care for Mary. No doubt Joseph taught Jesus important things about being a Jewish man. Perhaps Jesus’ attitude toward women was formulated by watching and learning from Joseph. Joseph is called a “*just*” man. He is the patron of workers. He is prayed to for the grace of a “happy death” and is the patron and protector of the universal Church. His quiet, simple , faithful way is what we imitate just as we imitate the zeal and teaching of St. Patrick. “*St. Patrick and St. Joseph, pray for us.”***

  **~ Sister Caritas**