

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

15 Monday—Holiday—Office Closed

Communion Service: 9am

16 Tuesday

Mass: 9am
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm

17 Ash Wednesday

Mass: 9am & 7pm
RCIA: 8pm

18 Thursday

Mass: 9am
First Eucharist Parent Mtg: 7pm - Ben. Basement
Choir: 7pm - Church

19 Friday

Mass: 9am

20 Saturday

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
Mass: 5pm
AA Meeting: 7pm - Benincasa Basement

21 First Sunday of Lent

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa
Social Justice: 11:30 - Benincasa Basement
Marriage Prep: 11:30 - Benincasa
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

Readings for February 21st

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

PRAYERS

Ray Barnes
Luis Batayola
Joe Byrne
Kay De Ambrosio
Evan Dubicki
Bob Flakus
Martha Harris
Frank Martin

James McNamara
George Nemeth
Mary Roberts
Effie Rohner
Evelyn Stetz
Don Sullivan
Chris Young

PRAYERS

..... *A Word from Victoria*

How can we possibly think that the poor are blessed? That those who are hungry are blessed? That those who are hated are blessed?

Do we really believe that the people of Haiti are blessed now? That the homeless, the mourning, the hungry, the despised are blessed?

The very presence of great suffering challenges our belief in a good God, yet in today's gospel, Jesus seems to be turning that very question on its head. There has long been a stream of thought—evident in the scriptures, in our Puritan heritage, and even today—that says that those who follow God's way will be blessed with material and tangible benefit. The corollary was also thought to be true—that those who suffered had not been faithful to God.

If we really spend time pondering this question, we will come to see how quickly that belief is contradicted in our own experience. There are many good people who suffer from natural calamities, from physical illness, from economic downturns, and more. When we are faced with great suffering in our own lives, we resist believing that this suffering is a result of our failure to follow in the ways of God. (It may sometimes be that what we suffer is a consequence of a choice we have made, but that is a question for another column.)

Today we hear Luke's version of the beatitudes. Luke's beatitudes are stark and immediate, and they include a matching list of woes. "Blessed are you who are poor... Blessed are you who are hungry now... Woe to you who are rich...Woe to you who are full now..."

In both Matthew and Luke, the beatitudes contain a reversal. Those who find themselves among the poor and hungry will be rich and full. Those who find themselves among the rich and full will be poor and hungry. This would be good news to those who are currently suffering, but bad news to those who are currently comfortable.

I would guess that most of us find ourselves most of the time on the rich and comfortable side of the equation. It is not that we do not experience any suffering, it is that we generally live comfortable lives. Today's woes may be cause for concern.

Jeremiah, in today's first reading, provides us with some help in our dilemma. His distinction between blessed and cursed is based not on the mere fact of rich and poor, but on our hearts. "Cursed is the one who trusts in mere mortals and makes mere flesh their strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord...Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord." We will experience blessings and suffering in our lives. The challenge is to trust in the Lord in all times. It is easy to place our trust in our very blessings rather than the Lord, and easy to fail to trust when times are difficult.

Only when we are firmly planted in the Lord will we be able to weather all the seasons and experiences of our lives and look to a future of lasting blessing in lasting life with God.

Victoria

Announcements

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

Mass at 9am and 7pm.

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

First Eucharist Parent Meeting

If you have a child wishing to receive First Eucharist this spring, there will be a mandatory parents only meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00pm in the Benincasa Center Basement Room. First Eucharist is typically for children in the 2nd grade who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Classes will start on Sunday, March 7 and the celebration is planned for May 8. Contact Crystal Koory for more information.

Jr. High Summer Service Trip

All youth currently in the 6-8th grade are invited to participate. We are headed up to Bellingham to work with the AGAPE Service Project run by students from Western Washington University. The Program runs from Sunday-Friday and included various activities around Migrant Farmworker education and service. We will work at a foodbank, spend a day in the life of a farmworker, serve at a migrant camp and much more. If you are interested please contact Shannon Fleming Bray.

Social Justice

If you are interested in Social Justice or learning more about it please join the Social Justice Committee every 3rd Sunday of the Month. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 21st after the 10:30 mass. The Social Justice groups works to educate the parish about issues of social justice, as well as advocate for change, and engage in the gospel call towards a faith that does justice. Contact Shannon Fleming Bray with questions.

Sr. High Youth

Youth Group is happening and all students in the 9-12th grades are welcome! You can find the schedule on on the Sr. High Youth Group page of the parish web site.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gameworks: Friday, 2/19 - RSVP by Monday the 15th

FoodFast Retreat: 5PM-Fri, 2/26 - 5PM-Sat, 2/27. Join us for a 24 hour overnight in the gym with kids from several local parishes. Contact Shannon with questions.

Greeters and Ushers

Greeters and Ushers: We are forming a core of greeters and ushers to help in welcoming people at the weekend masses. Parents and children, teens, single adults, couples are invited to join this ministry. You would be scheduled about once a month. If you are interested in serving as an usher or greeter, please contact Victoria.

Parish Stewardship

February 7, 2010

Collection Total: \$16,117.00

Pilgrimage/Tour To Greece

A special invitation is being extended to parishioners at St. Catherine Parish to join members of St. Patrick Parish on a tour to Greece and Turkey this summer, June 24-July 3, 2010. We will journey to some of the most important sites in the life of St. Paul and of our early church. Highlights include: Athens, Corinth, Mycenae, and a 4-Day Greek Island Cruise to Ephesus, Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini. The cost (which includes airfare, hotels, cruise and most meals) is \$3,095 plus \$495 in taxes, and payment is due to Peter's Way by March 10, 2010. If you are interested in joining, please contact Laura Ash at (425) 347-6727.

Ignatian Spirituality Center Novena of Grace

FREE OUR HEARTS: A Nine-Day Preached Lenten Retreat March 4-12, 2010. Weekdays at 12 noon – Seattle U Chapel of St. Ignatius or at 7 pm – St. Joseph Church on Capitol Hill. Saturday at 1:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Church (PLEASE NOTE: this is the only service on Saturday) Sunday at 1:00 p.m. – Seattle U Chapel or at 5:30 p.m. – St. Joseph Church. Visit www.ignatiancenter.org for a version of the Novena booklet to pray at home.

Ignatian Spirituality Center Lenten Book Series

Held at the Recovery Cafe. Purchase a copy of *My Life with the Saints* by James Martin, SJ and join us Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for a lively discussion. Please RSVP to Carolyn Hickman: carolyn@ignatiancenter.org.

Spirituality on Tap + Potluck

DIVING INTO THE MYSTERY: Feb. 18th, 6:45-8:45pm. Gather for an exploration into how we journey in our interior life. Our evening will include time for quiet reflection and sharing of practical tools that help us become more aware of what in our daily lives contains the potential to bring depth to our experience. For young adults aged 21-35ish. Location: St. Patrick Parish Social Hall, 702 Broadway East. More at: ignatiancenter.org.

Peace Process Presentation

"Finding Hope Amid the Rubble of the Israel/Palestine Peace Process: What is the role and responsibility of Americans?" a presentation by Dr. Jeff Halper at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 8900 35th Ave. NE, on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7:00PM. Dr. Halper is a renowned Israeli-American peace and human rights activist, author, acclaimed speaker, and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize nominee.