

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 17 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
 Marriage Prep: 11:30 - Benincasa
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement
- 18 Monday - office closed**
 Communion Service: 9am
 Facilities Committee: 7pm - Benincasa
- 19 Tuesday**
 Mass: 9am
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm
- 20 Wednesday**
 Communion Service: 9am
- 21 Thursday**
 Mass: 9am
 RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
 Choir: 7pm - Church
- 22 Friday**
 School Mass: 9am
- 23 Saturday**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement
- 24 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
 Marriage Prep: 11:30 - Benincasa
 Social Justice: 11:30 - Benincasa Basement
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

*Readings for January 24th
 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10
 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
 Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

PRAYERS

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Ray Barnes | James McNamara |
| Luis Batayola | George Nemeth |
| Joe Byrne | Mary Roberts |
| Kay De Ambrosio | Effie Rohner |
| Evan Dubicki | Evelyn Stetz |
| Bob Flakus | Don Sullivan |
| Martha Harris | Chris Young |
| Frank Martin | |

PRAYERS

on my pets, but I learned a lot about how to help another die—even if it is a cat. The same presence and touch are just what we need as we are making the journey—and just what I hope I can offer others.

Victoria

..... *A Word from Victoria*

Close to nineteen years ago, when my children were 10 and 7, we adopted two abandoned kittens. They were both shades of orange, so we named them Spice (because he was a lighter color) and Mandarin (because he was a much darker orange). They were very sweet, always sleeping side-by-side, and always willing to sit on our laps. Almost every day these past nineteen years, they would both sit in my lap as I prayed in the early morning.

About six months ago, Spice was growing weaker and weaker and it became more and more difficult for him to walk. It took us a while to figure out that he had been using the living room rugs as his litter box. One day he lost bladder control. I took him to the vet, and he was put to sleep. I stayed with him and petted him and talked to him during his final 20 minutes as he died.

Last week, his twin brother, who had been growing weaker and having difficulty walking, also died. The day began as usual. I got up at 5:15, took Mandarin off the bed with me and went to shower. After showering, I fed him. I went to the basement for something, and when I came up I found him lying on the entryway rug, meowing. I went and sat by him to see what was the matter. As I sat there, his bladder emptied. I carried him upstairs to the litter box. He hobbled out and had difficulty walking. I put a towel down for him to lie on, but he continued to walk across the room. I put another towel down. When it was clear he was not going to lie down, I wrapped him in the towel and sat with him in a rocking chair. I just held him. He cried out periodically.

I told him he had been a great cat and how much we loved him. I told him it was okay if he died, and that his brother was waiting for him. I even told him that God would welcome him. After about 45 minutes, he endured his death throes and arched several times. Then he settled down and died in my arms.

It was an amazing experience. I don't know how I knew that he was dying. I just picked him up and rocked him.

Mandarin has been part of our lives for many years. His absence is evident every moment—I get up and he is not with me waiting to be fed, I begin my going-to-bed ritual but no longer need to clean his litter box, the small basket that was placed to keep him from tearing up the carpet is no longer needed, he is not waiting at the door when we come home, I sit down to pray and he is not in my lap.

I am very sad that he has died and I miss him greatly, but I feel so fortunate that I was at home when Mandarin began to die. I am grateful that I somehow sensed that something was different, and that I picked him up, held him, and was with him as he died.

After Spice died, I realized that I could never participate in any physician-assisted suicide. It was so traumatic to put a cat to sleep, even though he was clearly suffering, that I could not imagine being responsible for the death of a person. I am so grateful that Mandarin chose his own path and that I was able to be with him.

It may seem odd to be writing a whole column (< cont'd)

Announcements

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools week begins Sunday January 31st and we would like to invite our Parish Community and guests for coffee and brownies after the 10:30 Mass as a kick off to the school open house. The reception will be in the Church basement. Our older students will be leading school tours from 12:00 to 2:00. Catholic Schools Week is a very exciting and fun filled time for the students and more details about the events planned for the week will be included in the next bulletin.

Rebuilding homes in New Orleans

St. Catherine is sending a group of parishioners down to New Orleans this spring to rebuild homes with the St. Bernard Project. Parishioner Sr. Judy is now working with this group in NOLA. This is a program operating in the areas hardest hit by the hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 100% of the homes were rendered uninhabitable and few have been rebuilt. Trip dates are May 1-8. We don't start work until the 3rd so if you are school parent working on the auction you can fly down on the 2nd and meet the group. Check out the parish web site for more information including pictures and links to the St. Bernard Project Web site. Contact Shannon Fleming Bray with questions.

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. However this month it has been moved to the 4th Sunday. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 24th after the 10:30 mass. Call Shannon Fleming Bray for details. 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 the does justice. information and registration.

Christian Initiation for Children

If your school-age child is interested in being baptized or in joining the Catholic Church, please contact Victoria at the parish office. The first four sessions will be at 3:10 on Wednesday, January 13; Tuesday, January 19; Monday, January 15; and Monday, February 1.

Marriage Preparation

Our series for engaged couples begins on Sunday, January 17 after the 10:30am mass in the Benincasa Center; lunch is provided. If you planning to get married in the next year, this is a good time to participate in the series. Call Victoria at the parish office to register.

Parish Stewardship

January 10, 2010

Collection Total: \$8,980.20

Facilities Committee

We are looking for new members for the facilities committee. If you are interested in helping to oversee and maintain our facilities and/or to develop a long-range maintenance plan, please come to the committee meeting on Monday, January 18 at 7pm in the Benincasa Center or contact Victoria at the parish office.

Volleyball Sign-Up

Volleyball sign-up begins now through Feb 20. Forms are at the doors of the church.

Spirituality on Tap for Young Adults (20s & 30s)

Getting a Life: How to Find Your True Vocation

January 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm Seattle University

(Campion Ballroom). How do we discover what our gifts are, and where to best use them? What is "vocation," and how do we discover it? What are some strategies for faith-filled decision-making? What can we learn from the setbacks that always seem to follow opportunities? For more information or to RSVP, email magis-rsvp@seattleu.edu or visit www.seattleu.edu/magis

Bishop Blanchet High School Jazz

Do you enjoy live big band music? Join us for an evening of dancing and entertainment with music performed by Bishop Blanchet High School's Jazz Band and Jazz Choir. Saturday, January 23, 2010, 7-10pm. Ernie Rose Activities Center, Bishop Blanchet High School, 8200 Wallingford Ave. North, Seattle. Tickets: \$25 adults/\$5 Students/ \$175 for Table of 8. Get tickets at the door or order tickets in advance by calling the Bishop Blanchet Activities Office at 206-527-7704. All proceeds from this popular annual event underwrite travel expenses for the students to attend the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. For more info, go to www.bishopblanchet.org and click on calendar for January 23.

..... *Youth Ministry*

Sr. High Youth: Youth Group is on 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. We are reinventing the Youth Group schedule now to include separate gatherings for 9th/10th graders and 11th/12th graders. Are you interested in checking it out? Contact Shannon for details.