

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

31 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
 Catholic Schools Open House: 11:30 - School
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

1 Monday

Communion Service: 9am
 Pastoral Council: 7pm - Benincasa
 St. Vincent de Paul: 7pm - Benincasa

2 Tuesday

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

3 Wednesday

Communion Service: 9am
 School Commission: 7pm - Benincasa

4 Thursday

Mass: 9am
 RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
 Choir: 7pm - Church

5 Friday

Mass: 9am

6 Saturday

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 Whole Community Gathering: 6pm - Victoria Hall
 AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement

7 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

*Readings for February 7th
 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

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*

"If I speak in the tongues of human beings and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. . . . If I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. . . ." These words are very familiar to us. We have probably heard them at many weddings. They were written, however, not for a wedding couple, but for the Christian community.

These last several weeks, we have been hearing sections of Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Paul is addressing the division in the community. They are having a difficult time acknowledging the variety of gifts without creating a hierarchy of superior - inferior in gifts and among persons. Today's familiar reading is Paul's antidote to the problem. His point is that the greatest gift is nothing compared to the gift of love.

The reality is that a community thrives precisely because of the diversity of gifts. As Paul humorously writes in the passage we heard last week, using the human body as an analogy for the community: "If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?"

It often happens that a person may feel that their gift is inferior because it is not the same as someone else's gift. It also happens that a person is excluded because others think their gift is not important. Paul believes that all the gifts, just as all the parts of the body, are essential to the working of the body.

This reality is so clear in our community. Our community works smoothly because of the generous sharing of the variety of gifts. Everyone brings a different gift. All gifts are necessary. We have a lot going on in both the parish and school. It takes the gifts of many to make things happen. Happily, many step forward to use their gifts in a variety of ways.

Even more important, as Paul makes clear, is the gift of love. It is the "still more excellent way." After his ode to love, Paul gives very explicit directions for the living of this more excellent way: "love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful..."

This is the gift of our community as a whole. Many who walk into our church or our school comment on the feeling of welcome and love in our community. This is not to say that we are perfect in love, but that in the midst of our many activities and projects, in our relationships, we care for one another, respect each other, honor and receive the gifts of all.

May we continue to live in this "more excellent way," in the way of love.

Victoria

Announcements

Whole Community Gathering

Saturday, February 6 after the 5pm mass. Fr. Peter Bryne, SJ, will speak on Walking with Jesus in his suffering and death. Dinner is provided immediately following mass. Fr. Peter will lead the adult session. There will be separate sessions for grades K-4 (lead by Kathleen Lofstedt) and grades 1-5 (lead by Shannon Fleming Bray). Babysitting available for children age 2-4. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church. Please sign-up early to assist in our planning. Questions, call or email Victoria at the parish office.

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. 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.

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 May 1-8. 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. 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. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 21st 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 that does justice.

Sacramental Preparation

Congratulations to the 24 children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 12! Preparation for First Eucharist will begin on March 7, 2010. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Benincasa Center. Contact Crystal Koory for more details.

Priory Spirituality Center Program

"Stumbling toward God" - Sat, February 6, 9:15 - 3:00. Register by prior Friday. \$50. Bring a sack lunch, paper and pencil for writing. More at www.stplacid.org

Parish Stewardship

January 24, 2010

Collection Total: \$5,717.00

Greeters and Ushers

We are preparing to welcome people who may come to our community after seeing the TV ads for Catholics Come Home. We are looking for additional greeters and ushers. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or are currently serving in this ministry, please attend a brief meeting after the 5pm Mass on January 30, or after the 8:30 or 10:30 masses on February 7. If you cannot attend any of these meetings, please contact Victoria to indicate your interest.

Palms needed

Please bring last year's palms so that we can burn them for ashes on Ash Wednesday. We need them by February 14 at the latest.

Catechesis Of Mt.Carmel Scapular

St. Catherine Lay Carmelites will conduct a presentation on aspects of Carmelite Spirituality, including the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, on Sunday, February 7th at 9:30am in the Benincasa Center. This is an opportunity to learn about one of the Church's most treasured sacramentals, along with an 800 year tradition.

Marriage Encounter

Valentine's Day is coming soon. Need a special gift for your spouse? Why not take them away for a special weekend of communication, reflection and time away from your hectic schedule. Upcoming Weekends: Seattle, Feb. 26-28 & Mt Vernon, April 30 thru May 2. For more info contact Rory and Dawn Myers, 206-772-2344, seattlewwme@yahoo.com, or see our website at www.SeattleWWME.org.

A Faith Sharing Retreat for Women

February 5-7, 2010 at Palisades Retreat Center: <http://www.seattlearch.org/Palisades>. Often we see apparent obstacles on our path and we come up with some very good reasons and "excuses" for not moving forward. We have a tendency to wait for just the right time and right circumstance which, in fact, may never come. So, unfortunately, we let opportunities and life pass us by. But God is the one leading and calling us forward, despite all obstacles, despite the rain. Since God is the one in charge, and nothing is impossible with God, we need to trust God more and keep moving forward, learning to "Dance in the Rain."