

Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church

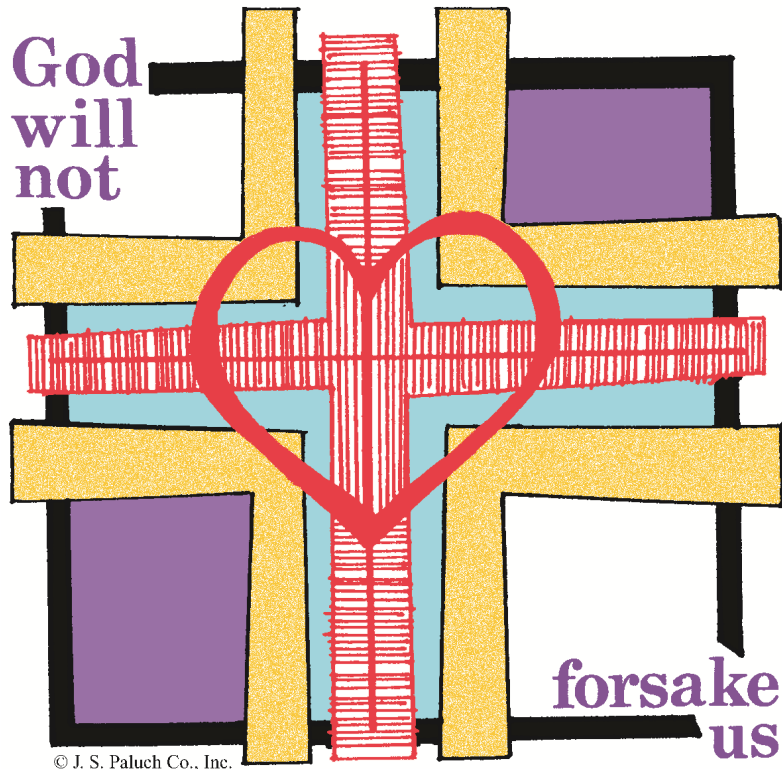
1000 North Jefferson Avenue, Goldsboro NC 27530-3141

919-734-5033

Rev. Alex Gonzalez, Pastor

Deacon Webster James

March 13, 2016—Fifth Sunday of Lent



EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Fin de Semana</u>
Saturday Vigil	
5:00PM English	Sábado ~ 5:00 PM En Inglés
7:00PM Spanish	Sábado ~ 7:00 PM En Español
Sunday	
10:00 AM English	Domingo ~ 10:00 AM En Inglés
1:00 PM Spanish	Domingo ~ 1:00 PM En Español

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Días de Semana</u>
9:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	lunes, martes, miércoles, viernes
7:00 PM	Jueves en Español
No 9 AM Mass on Thursday	
No hay Misa los jueves a las 9 AM	

Holy Days check inside Bulletin
Revise dentro del Boletín que se entrega en las Misas

First Friday Adoration begins after morning Mass
and ends with Benediction at 9:30 PM.
Todos los viernes primero de mes de 10:00 AM Adoración
al Santísimo a 9:30 PM.

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

New members may register by calling the parish
office (weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM).

BIENVENIDOS LOS NUEVOS MIEMBROS

Para registrarse hablar con Elvira Ponce
o llamar a la oficina

Mission Statement

Saint Mary is a diverse Catholic community working
together to live the Gospel, grow in faith through the
Eucharist, and share our gifts in service to others.

Misión de la Parroquia

La parroquia de Santa María es una comunidad
católica y diversa que trabaja unida para vivir el
evangelio, crecer en fe por la Eucaristía y compartir
nuestros talentos en servicio a otros.

**PARISH DIRECTORY
CHURCH**

Office (Oficina): 919 734-5033
 FAX: 919 580-0730
 E-Mail:
office@saintmarygoldsboro.org
 web: www.saintmarygoldsboro.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Alex Gonzalez, Pastor.....ext. 27
 Deacon Webster A. James.....ext. 29
 Director of Faith Formation
 Mrs. Carole Sears.....ext. 34
 Liturgy Coordinator
 Mrs. Debbie Gambella,
 Parish Secretary.....ext. 10
 Mrs. Kathy Hennessy,
 Parish Secretary.....ext. 26
 Mrs. Tracey Davis,
 Parish Bookkeeper.....ext. 28
 Mrs. Vicki Ellis,
 Choir Director, 10:00 AM
 Mr. Philip Eubanks, Organist
 Mr. Mike Nault, Organist & Choir
 Director, 5:00 PM
 Mr. Van Tran, Sacristan

SCHOOL

Office: 919 735-1931
 FAX: 919 735-1917
 E-Mail:
lynnmagoon@smsgoldsboro.org
annemariiegambella@smsgoldsboro.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Mrs. Lynn Magoon,
 Principal.....ext. 22
 Mrs. Anne Marie Gambella,
 Admn. Assistant.....ext. 11

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Mr. Harold Jones,
 Supervisor.....ext. 31
 Mr. Larry Jones,
 Assistant.....ext. 31

PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Harold Breindel, Vice-Chair Gene Seward, Secretary Sharon Thomas
 Finance Council Chair John Heeden, John Beatty, Pat Emery, Lonnie Fissori, Anne Hurrey, Paula Long, Carlos Morales-Barrientos, Phyllis Radford, Donna Stevenson.

The Parish Advisory Council meets August through May. Our next meeting will be April 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the JPII Conf. Room. All parishioners are invited to attend.

**Mass Intentions and Readings
for March 12 to March 20**

Sat.3/12	Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalms 7:2-3, 9bc-12; John 7:40-53 5:00PM John Vincent Wolfe, dec. by Henri & Marianne Andrews 7:00PM Pro Populo
Sun.3/13	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalms 126:1-6; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11 10:00AM Lenore Kuczynski, dec. by Kuczynski Family 1:00PM Jocelyn Carrasquillo, dec. by Carrasquillo Family
Mon.3/14	Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Psalms 23:1-6; John 8:12-20 9:00AM Thu Thi Nguyen Vu, dec. by Thi Dieu Nguyen
Tue.3/15	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalms 102:2-3, 16-21; John 8:21-30 9:00AM Mac Stewart, dec. by Jaime Stewart Ginn
Wed.3/16	Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42 9:00AM Joanne F. Garneau, dec. by Father Alex
Thu.3/17	Genesis 17:3-9; Psalms 105:4-9; John 8:51-59 7:00PM Natalia Resto La Santa de Saez, dec. by Deacon & Mrs. James
Fri.3/18	Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalms 18:2-7; John 10:31-42 9:00AM Ann Dziarnowski, dec. by Donald & Lynn Magoon
Sat.3/ 19	2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a 5:00PM In Honor of Mariah & Mike by Budine Family 7:00PM Pro Populo
Sun.3/20	Luke 19:28-40 (procession); Isaiah50:4-7; Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 -- 23:56 [23:1-49] 10:00AM Henry F. Labrecque, Jr., dec. by Effie Labrecque 1:00PM Daniel Didden, dec. by George & Marianne West

Sacramental Life

Baptism

Preparation is required before *scheduling* the time and date for a child's Baptism.

Marriage

Contact the Deacon *six months in advance* of the ceremony.

Sacrament of the Sick

If you wish to receive the sacrament of the sick during a prolonged illness or before surgery, please call the office.

Communion

If you wish to receive communion from a Eucharistic Minister due to illness, age, or handicap, please call the office. These visits are made after the Mass has been celebrated.

Penance and Reconciliation

Saturday ~ 4-4:40PM and by appointment.

Altar Flowers

Please, remember to send in your envelope for Easter Flowers. It is through the generosity of our Parishioners that we enjoy the beautiful display of Easter Lilies and other flowers.

The Sanctuary Lamps

The Church Lamp will be lit In Loving Memory of **Cecilia Woods** by Marilyn Maloney.

The Chapel Lamp is available and you may call the Parish Office to arrange for the Sanctuary Lamps in Memory of or Honor of a person or event.

Community Faith Event...

Tuesday, March 15th in the Auditorium. We will have a 4PM session for those who can not attend in the evening and a session at 6:30pm. Students in our first and second year Confirmation classes, middle school and high school Faith Formation students must attend with one parent.

Easter Flowers...

The beautiful display of flowers on our altar for Easter is always so joyous...please, remember to complete your Easter Flower envelope and donation before Easter. This helps off set the cost of the flowers and is a way to remember or honor loved ones. Thank you.

Holy Hour for Year of Mercy...

Join us on Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm in the Chapel for an hour of adoration.

Palm Sunday...

Palm Sunday Liturgies:

Saturday, March 19, 5:00 pm (Palm Sunday Vigil with solemn entrance)

Sunday, March 20:
10:00 am in English
1:00 pm in Spanish

Palm Sunday procession (on Sunday only) begins promptly—please arrive at least 15 minutes early!

Scrip...

The next scrip order is going in on **Tuesday, March 15th**. If you want to place a scrip order you must have the order in the Parish Office by 8:15am the morning of March 15th.

Offertory Report

February 28: \$7,390.95
\$7,750.00
(\$ 359.05)

Family Life Center: \$1,646.20

Second Collection March 20:
Priests' Retirement & Welfare

Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 13 –fifth Sunday of Lent

* Rosary for Life	Church	before 10:00am Mass
* Faith Formation MS & HS	Classrooms	11:15am to 12:45pm
* Faith Formation K to 5th	Classrooms	11:30am to 12:30pm
* Respect Life Meeting	Parish House	after 10:00am Mass
* RCIA	Lounge	after 10:00am Masses
* Spanish Language Choir Practice	Church	after 1:00pm Mass

Monday, March 14

* Finance Council Meeting	JP II Conference Room	5:30pm
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Tuesday, March 15

* Community Faith Event	Auditorium	4:00pm and 6:30pm
* Perpetual Novena	Chapel	6:45pm
* Legion of Mary	Library	7:00pm

Wednesday, March 16

* 27:17 Fellowship (Men's Group)	5 Star Restaurant	7:00am
* Youth Night	Parish House	5:30pm
* Holy Hour for Year of Mercy	Chapel	6:00pm
* Bible Study	6th grade classroom	7:00pm

Thursday, March 17

* "High Nooners" Bookclub	Parish Office	noon
* 10:00am Choir Practice	Lounge	7:00pm

Friday, March 18

* School Liturgy	Church	9:00am
* Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible	Library	10:00am
* Lenten Soup & Bread Meal	Cafeteria	6:00pm
* Spanish Choir Practice	Lounge	6:00pm
* Stations of the Cross	Church	7:00pm

Saturday, March 19

* 5:00pm Choir Practice	Church	4:30pm
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Sunday, March 20-Palm Sunday

* RCIA	Lounge	after 10:00am Mass
* Faith Formation MS & HS	classrooms	11:15am to 12:45pm
* Faith Formation K to 5th grade	classrooms	11:30am to 12:30pm
* Spanish Language Choir Practice	Church	after 1:00pm Mass

United Way Presents Check...

Steve Parr (right), Executive Director of United Way of Wayne County, presents Ray Urban, Board President of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul a 2016 Community Initiatives Grant for \$10,000 as an investment in their local program.





In our thoughts and prayers:

Pray for the intentions of those in nursing facilities, the homebound, the chronically ill, and those who are critically ill.

Please remember in a special way the following parishioners who have requested your prayers:

Santiago Acevedo, Robert Ames, Dolores & Gary Barton, Jesse Brickhouse, Marco Castaneda, Judy Cordeiro, Andrea Cruz, Maria del Socorro Cruz, Lee & Sarah Davis, Marjorie Dixon, Mary Lindsey Edwards, Elaine Evans, John-Alex Gonzalez, Jr., Gustavo Gonzalez, Agnes Harris, Mary Hayman, Rogisides Jaimenes, Joan Jones, Laura Jones, Snag Kanan, Dianne Kendall, Bertha Kish, Chuck Kirk, Erma Lawrence, Denise Lewis, Dorothy Lewis, Pat Marguglio, T J Mendoza, Billie Myers, Wilbert & Mary Perry, Brandon Quinn, Benjamin Raposa, Ben Rodriguez, Sr., Angela Scalia, Natalie Ulrey, Azeneth Viafara, Richard Wagner.

If you would like your name included in the Prayers for the Sick in the Bulletin please contact our coordinators for "Prayers for the Sick", Gloria at 919-734-3810 or Barbara at 919-751-0024.

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage...

Must be cancelled. Sorry, but we are unable to secure hotel rooms for April for the pilgrimage we wanted to make to Emmetsburgh, MD. Colleges in the area are having various activities in April and May.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Three years ago, as we made the shift in the Eucharistic Prayer from "Benedict" to "Francis," we named a "treasure" in our tradition. From apostolic times, the Church has sent disciples on mission with a mandate to proclaim the gospel. Paul and Barnabas and Timothy come to mind as men invested with responsibility for community and mission. First we see bishops, "overseers," good men appointed by the acclaim of their people, the center of leadership, of prayer, of word and sacrament. Their territories were small initially, small enough to get everyone into one room and for the bishop to know everyone's name.

In time, men were appointed to function as a council of advisers, "elders," or presbyters. That isn't a comment on chronological age, rather it indicates the maturity of their wisdom and faith. Before long, and only when the bishop was absent, some of these men "stood in" for him to do what bishops usually did: preaching, presiding at Eucharist. The deacons had a strong and visible role in liturgy and service, especially in the care of the poor, but were gradually overshadowed by the new importance of the presbyter. As the Roman Empire first tottered and then collapsed completely by 476, bishops increasingly became civil servants to maintain order and dispense justice. Conferences and duties summoned bishops away from their home posts, and presbyters were entrusted with the sacramental and preaching duties, even though at one time runners were sent out from the bishop's Mass to bring fragments of the host to drop into chalices as a sign of the church's unity around its bishop.

--Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Project Rachel...

There are prayer cards available for those who may have experienced the pain of abortion (men and women) at the entrances to the Church. Please, take one.

Diocese of Raleigh

www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Project Rachel...

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat April 29-May 1, 2016. The weekend retreat, for both women and men, will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at projectrachel@nc.rr.com or call (919) 852-1021. The cost is \$125 for lodging at Avila Retreat Center, meals and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, some assistance is available. Registration deadline is April 15, 2016. - See more at: <http://dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/communications/centralized-mail#sthash.aRn73T0z.dpuf>

Ignited By Truth - Save the Dates!

Speaker Series Friday Evening, April 22, 2016 Jeff Cavins, Founder of The Great Adventure Bible Studies, Music by Dana Catherine, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Cary Full Conference February 24-25, 2017 Raleigh Convention Center, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Vigil Mass Celebrant and Homilist "Bringing to light the truth of the teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting in all hearts a love for the Faith" www.IgnitedByTruth.org - See more at: <http://dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/communications/centralized-mail#sthash.JfiROM7s.dpuf>

Happy Feast Day...

Two very special Feast Days take place this week:

St. Patrick, March 17th
St. Joseph, March 19th

St. Patrick and St. Joseph pray for us.



Saint Mary School Corner

Keeping Spirit and Faith in Education

The week at Saint Mary School:

- Monday, March 13th is the end of our third quarter.
- Thursday, March 17th Happy St. Patrick's Day.
- Thursday, March 17th the 7th grade has the Bake Sale.
- Friday, March 18th School Liturgy at 9AM in the Church.

Scrubbles... get a clean car and help raise funds for SMS. Go to Scrubbles touch-Free Car Wash at 2111 E. Ash Street and when you buy a was enter the **code 123456** before buying the wash and Saint Mary will get \$1.

TYM Upcoming Events...

- Tuesday, March 15th TYM members are to meet at the Parish House at 5:30pm for a meal and then they will attend the Parish Community Event at 6:30pm
- Wednesday, March 16th the regular Wednesday night meeting will start at 5:30pm.
- Saturday, April 2nd the TYM will have a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. All proceeds will go toward the Mission Trip this July.
- Saturday, April 30th the TYM will host a BBQ Dinner...watch for the sale of tickets after Masses in March.

Can you give approximately two hours a month?

I you can we need you to help us keep our Church clean. All we are asking is that you dust the pews, window sills, piano, organ, etc. We could use about 74 people who can give a few hours a month during office hours to perform these services for our parish. Call the parish office at 919-734-5033 ext. 10 or 26 if you can help.

Respect Life



Celebration of Life...

The sacredness and dignity of life is rooted in God, in whose image we are created. To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for life, is a task entrusted to us all. Let us offer to God our prayers and petitions for this wondrous gift.

Lord God, you breathed life into your creation. We recognize the greatness of your gift and pray that we may have the courage to protect life in all its stages, and respond generously to those lived that are in need.

Breath of Life hear us.

Almighty God, the hearts of the powerful are in your hands; bestow your wisdom upon our leaders, that they may govern wisely and justly, championing your gift of life and dignity in all of human kind.

Hope of the oppressed, hear us.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you care for your people. Grant that we, your sons and daughters, may be a source of nourishment for our children.

God of our mothers and fathers, hear us.

Lord God, you are the source of all life, in your goodness, protect the unborn and calm the fears of anxious parents. Watch over and guide them, that they may bring their child into this world safely and in good health.

O Fountain of Life, hear us.

Lord God, your kindness is from old, console those who mourn the loss of a child, we place them in your care and ask for strength, for healing and for love. Show them your great mercy.

God of compassion and mercy, hear us.

~USCCB



A donation has been made to St. Mary Catholic Church in Loving Memory of **Cecilia Woods** by Marilyn Maloney.

A donation has been made to St. Mary Catholic Church in Loving Memory of **Leo Taswell** by Neil Carter.

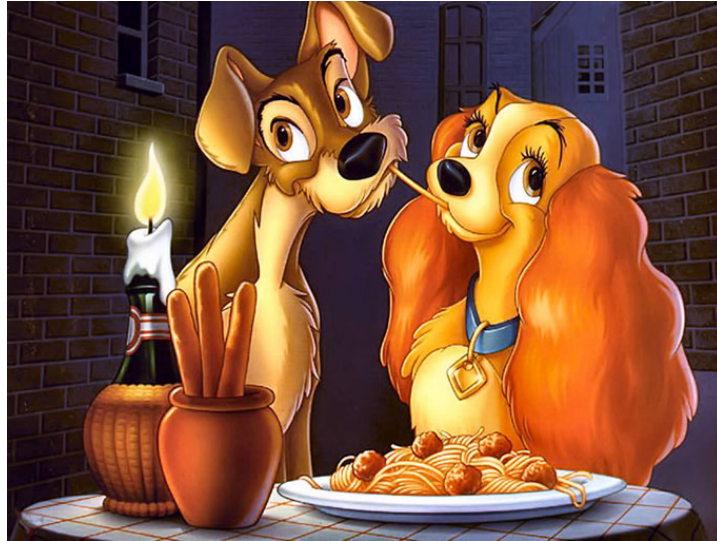


Congratulations to **Robert Timothy Fine** son of Steven and Jessica Fine who was baptized here on January 10, 2016.

Congratulations to **Asher Morgan Ingram** Daughter of Alvin and Tiffany Ingram, who was baptized here on January 10, 2016.

Welcome to our Parish Family Congratulations to **Brian Nicholas Julich**, who made a Profession of Faith here on January 10, 2016.

Spaghetti Supper



Saturday, April 2nd

Hosted by our teens to raise funds for their Mission Trip this summer.

Spaghetti will be served in the Cafeteria of the school from 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Cost: a Donation

Desserts & Coffee available for \$1.00 each
Eat in or Take Out Available.

Join us for *"La Bella Notte"*.

Parish Community

Faith Event

**Join us on Tuesday, March 15th
for a talk on the Year of Mercy.**

Our Presenter:

Msgr. Joseph Ntuwa

Where: St Mary School Auditorium

Time: 4:00pm and 6:30pm

Choose a time that is good for you.

Each presentation will be one hour.

All Parishioners are invited to attend!

**Confirmation, Confirmation Prep., Middle School
and upper Communion Students are
required to attend one of the presentations
with a parent.**

Directorio

Padre John Alexander Gonzalez
919 734-5033 ext. 27

Bautismos—Elvira Ponce 919-252-0768

Sacramentos

Bautismo: Asistir a la preparación, padres y padrinos y fijar la fecha con el sacerdote.

Confesión: Sábados de 4:00pm a 4:40pm

Para enfermos en el hospital o en casa comuníquese con la parroquia.

Unción de los Enfermos: Si usted quiere recibir el sacramento por enfermedad u operación favor de comunicármolo.

Comunión para enfermos: Si tiene algún familiar en el hospital o en casa que desee recibir la comunión comuníquese con la parroquia.

Matrimonios: Iniciar la preparación con seis meses de anticipación.

Platicas Pre-Bautismales

Requisitos:

- * Asistir a las pláticas, padres y padrinos.
- * Traer copia del acta de nacimiento del niño (a).
- * Traer copia del acta de matrimonio de los padrinos.
- * Llenar una solicitud por niño.
- * Estar registrados o registrarse en la parroquia.

Confirmaciones

- * Estar bautizado.
- * Haber hecho la primera comunión.
- * Ser mayor de 15 años.

Presentaciones

Requisitos:

- * Solicitarla 2 meses antes.
- * Estar bautizado (a).
- * Donación
- * Se hacen en la Misa del sábado o Domingo

XV Años

Si cumples y/o deseas celebrar tus XV años en los primeros 6 meses del año te invitamos a inscribirte para la preparación:

Requisitos:

- * Estar bautizada

- * Haber hecho la primera Comunión
- * Inscribirse con 4 meses de anticipación con María la coordinadora.
- * Asistir a la preparación
- * Donación
- * Llevarse un volante de información y seguir las reglas.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Artisanos preparan alfombras de flores y plumas de quetzal en Guatemala para las fiestas de esta semana santa. Grupos de fieles practican su papel de personaje judío o romano para los vía crucis en México, Texas, Chicago y tantos lugares más. Fraternidades penitenciales están preparándose espiritualmente para cargar con imágenes sagradas y pesadas por calles españolas. Muchos más están preparando sus maletas para irse a la playa o las montañas donde, probablemente, nunca recordaran el nombre de Jesús.

Estos últimos se perderán las liturgias más significativas de nuestra fe cristiana; ritos llenos de movimiento desde afuera de la Iglesia hasta adentro. Están llenos de símbolos que nos llaman a la verdad de la existencia cristiana y humana: somos personas paradójicas. Comenzamos entre los hosannas del Domingo de Ramos, pasamos por las dolorosas imágenes del Viernes Santo y terminamos entre juegos de oscuridad, fuego y agua en la Vigilia Pascual. Muchas veces honramos al Señor y tantas veces lo negamos, pero él nunca deja de llamarnos. En fin nos recuerda que la condición humana es sagrada y profana a la vez.

--Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

**Año Jubilar de la Misericordia
13 de marzo de 2016****Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma**

Otra de tantas coincidencias sucede otra vez, el primer Ángelus que rezó el Papa Francisco fue en la fecha en la última vez que se proclamó la historia del Evangelio de hoy, el encuentro de Jesús con la mujer adulta . . . En ese entonces el Papa Francisco dijo que "la actitud de Jesús es sorprendente". "No escuchamos palabras de condenación o

desprecio, solo palabras de amor, de misericordia, una invitación a la conversión: 'Tampoco yo te condeno' " (Juan 8:11). El Papa Francisco continua diciendo: "el rostro de Dios es el de un padre misericordioso, que siempre tiene paciencia. ¿Han pensado en la paciencia de Dios, la paciencia que tiene con cada uno de nosotros? Ésa es su misericordia. Siempre tiene paciencia, paciencia con nosotros, nos comprende, nos espera, no se cansa de perdonarnos si sabemos volver a él con el corazón contrito" (Papa Francisco, Rezo del Ángelus del 17 de marzo de 2013). Las parroquias que están preparando a catecúmenos pueden proclamar la historia de Lázaro cuando vuelve a la vida. Refiriéndose a Lázaro y a todos aquellos que "se despertaron" de la "muerte" del pecado, Jesús define la "misión de misericordia" de la comunidad: "Desátelo y déjenlo ir" (Juan 11:44).

--Peter Scagnelli, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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Evento Comunitario de Fe de la Parroquia...

Evento Comunitario de Fe de la Parroquia Acompañemos el martes, 15 de marzo para una presentación en el Año de la Misericordia.

Nuestro orador: Msgr. Joseph Ntuwa

Dónde: Auditorio del Colegio Saint Mary

Hora: A las 4:00pm y 6:30pm

Esta charla tendrá una duración de una hora. Todos los parroquianos están invitados a asistir! Los estudiantes de Confirmación, preparación para la Confirmación, escuela media y los estudiantes para la Comunión deberán asistir con uno de sus padres.

"Permitamos que Dios llene nuestros corazones con Su bondad y misericordia"
- Papa Francisco

Lecturas De La Semana

Lunes: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Salmos 23 (22):1-6; Juan 8:12-20

Martes: Números 21:4-9; Salmos 102 (101):2-3, 16-21; Juan 8:21-30

Miércoles: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52-56; Juan 8:31-42

Jueves: Génesis 17:3-9; Salmos 105 (104):4-9; Juan 8:51-59

Viernes: Jer 20:10-13; Sal 18 (17):2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Sábado: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Salmos 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Romanos 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mateo 1:16, 18-21, 24a o Lucas 2:41-51a

Domingo: Lucas 19:28-40 (procesión); Isaías 50:4-7; Salmos 22 (23):8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Filipenses 2:6-11; Lucas 22:14 -- 23:56 [23:1-49]

REGLONES RECTOS

"Dios escribe derecho en renglones torcidos", dice el refrán. El testimonio contundente de san Pablo, cuando nos dice que todo es basura fuera del conocer a Cristo y experimentar la fuerza de su Resurrección, es un mensaje bien directo y claro -aunque Dios sabe que Pablo anduvo por una senda bien torcida antes de recibir la luz cegadora del Señor.

Isaías nos recuerda que los grandes milagros del pasado no son nada en comparación con la nueva creación que Dios va a realizar. "¿No lo notan?" nos pregunta el profeta, como si todavía anduviéramos perdidos por nuestras sendas torcidas.

Y no hay renglón más derecho que la línea que conecta la intensa miseria de una

mujer pecadora con la misericordia de Dios que se muestra en la persona de Jesús. ¡Eso sí que son Buenas Nuevas!"

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NO PEQUES MÁS

Durante la Cuaresma nos hemos esforzados por arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados y faltas y por seguir más de cerca a Jesús. Aquí en la historia de la mujer sorprendida en adulterio, vemos a Jesús que perdona a la mujer, salvándola de una horrible muerte a pedradas y diciéndole que no vuelva a pecar. Todo esto es una novedad, una que trae algo que la Ley no había permitido: el perdón. Desde luego uno ya no podría seguir pecando si se estuviera muerto, estando atrapados en nuestros pecados por siempre. Pero Jesús introduce las acciones del perdón y la reconciliación.

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