

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2009

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon** 7AM Kevin Hutchinson
9AM Ealyssa Pepeto - *living*
- Tue** 7AM James McArdle
9AM Sr. Veronica Gannon
- Wed** 7AM Joseph & Joanna Calleja
9AM Kevin Hutchinson
- Thu** 7AM Lawrence Alessandria
9AM Fallen Police & Families
- Fri** 7AM Special Intention - *living*
9AM Liz Martin
- Sat** 7AM Unbelievers
9AM Special Intention - *living*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Marco Balistreri, MaryAnn Bellia, Bertha, Beverly, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Msgr. Bruce Dreier, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Philip Hansen, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Michelle Hufford, Eleanor Jean, Joseph, Germaine Khohaying, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Grace Lawrence, Frank Lucas, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Marie Palleschi, Mark Piatti, Joe Popovich, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Paul Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, Camilla Wolfe.

MARRIAGE FOR LIFE

Engaged couples are invited to view marriage as Sacrament of our Church. The Archdiocesan-approved program focuses on viewing marriage as: A lifelong commitment; A journey of love and renewal; A relationship that includes Christ; and An integral part of our Church. Upcoming programs are held at St. Mary's Cathedral in SF. Both dates must be attended from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Dates are Saturdays May 2nd and 9th; July 18th and 25th; Sept. 12 & 19th. Call 664-8108 or e-mail: daura@ccwear.com.

NATURE'S LESSONS

Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.

--St. Bernard of Clairvaux

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- MON** Life in Christ Series today – 9:30am Hall
- TUE** Scripture Class – Parish Hall – 9:30am
- WED** Parish School of Religion (PSR) Classes

God bless these children

who will receive

their First Holy Communion today, April 26.

Taylor Arnold
Adrian Batmale
Mia Bonkowski
Nina Cinelli
Jackson Crawford
Destiny Hale
Kamaleinani Kaleikini
Colin Kelly

Taylor Leslie
Sophie Lizarraga
Ryley Lorenz
Scott Matthews
Kai Reinhard
Taylor Rhoads
Isabel Talke
Lauren Winters



BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST

Throughout the Easter season, all three of the Sunday readings are taken from the New Testament—the Christian Scriptures. Together they explore what it means to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the One who fulfilled the prophecies of the Jewish Scriptures.

Today's selections refer to our human weakness, yet they emphasize the forgiveness and peace that are available to those who put their faith in "Jesus Christ the righteous one". In the Acts of the Apostles Peter invites everyone to "repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away". The First Letter of John calls Jesus Christ "expiation for our sins". Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus greets the disciples with "Peace" and urges them to preach "repentance, for the forgiveness of sins".

SAINT SEBASTIAN'S BIBLE CAMP

Bible Camp is planned for the week of August 10-15th from 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm here at St. Sebastian's. Activities include Scripture study, catechesis, Eucharistic Adoration, along with related crafts, games, music, and snack time. The week will conclude with Mass and BBQ for all. To pre-register or for more information, please contact Marian Previtali at 479-5316 or Celeste Chapman at 789-9627.

Pink Pre-registration forms may be found in the pews; when completed, they may be placed in the collection basket during Mass.

JOIN YOUNG AT HEART'S "UP ON THE ROOF" TOUR

Wednesday May 20

Bus leaves St. Sebastian's at 9am and returns at 5pm.

We'll visit St. Francis Hotel, Crocker Rooftop Park on Wells Fargo Bank, Yerba Buena Gardens, (Carousel available if you wish to ride it), Hines Building Rooftop Garden, Embarcadero Center 1, Fairmont Hotel Rooftop Garden.

Midway through the tour, lunch will be at Pompei's Gardens. Deadline for reservation or refund is May 13. Call Rosellen 461-9003 or Barbara at 461-2735.

YOUNG AT HEART MEETING

The next meeting will be held in our Parish Hall on Tue. May 5th at 11:45am. There will be the "Serve Yourself" Buffet of sandwiches, salad and cookies for a nominal fee of \$5/person. Non members: \$7.50.

Entertainment by Bacich School First Graders. Call Rosellen at 461-9003 or Barbara at 461-2735.

HEALTHY WORSHIP

Recent medical studies revealed that people who attend church at least weekly have longer life expectancies and fewer complications from illnesses or surgeries than non-churchgoers! Going to church itself doesn't protect us from health crises, but it does help us cope with them.

PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

**Our New Parish Website
www.sebastian94904.com**

AFTER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD...

After He rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to *many* people, and we are told in the Gospels that they frequently did not recognize Him at first. These two men in today's Gospel at first did not recognize Jesus, but they *did* have the wonderful experience of talking with Him and *listening* to Him as they walked for seven miles to Emmaus. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" they said. It was only in the breaking of the bread that their eyes were opened! Whereupon He vanished from their sight!

Why? What does this mean?

Perhaps Jesus was teaching them, and us, that we are not to look for Him anymore as the man with the beard who looked the way He used to look. No. He is teaching us all that after His resurrection, He will be with us in a new way. He has left us the Sacraments! He has sent us His Spirit. Last week, we heard how He instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, on Easter Sunday, so that sins could be forgiven all over the world. Today, we hear how we are to recognize Him at Mass, "in the breaking of the bread". The risen Lord Jesus is here! Our hearts are burning within *us*, because it's *true!*

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY CONCERT

Winifred Baker Chorale and Orchestra conducted by Craig Singleton, Friday, May 1 at 8pm at St. Raphael's Church on 5th Avenue in San Rafael.

Information: 482-3579.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The "Beginning Experience Weekend" is designed to be a time of closure on past and renewed hope for the future. Those who come should be beyond the initial feelings of anger and despair which usually follow the loss of a loved one. They should be at a point of wanting a new beginning and ready to work to make that desire a reality. The weekends scheduled are held on Friday through Sunday on May 1-3 or Oct. 23-25th. For information, call Ward at 821-3390 or Helen at 388-9651.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Twelve Apostles had been with Jesus during the last three years of his life, so, if anyone was close to him, it was the Twelve.

Yet, in today's Gospel, He stood in their midst, "but they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost." They had yet to understand about the Resurrection and to realize that the risen Jesus would always be with them—but in a new way.

"He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." The Scriptures were familiar, perhaps, to many people—even though the printing press would not be invented for 1500 years—yet people cannot *understand* the Sacred Scriptures without the light of the Holy Spirit! So Jesus would send his Spirit to enlighten them—to open their minds. We will celebrate that event on Pentecost, May 31. Interestingly, the first book ever printed was the Gutenberg *Catholic Bible*, containing the books that the Catholic Church has treasured from the time of the Apostles. The Church was guided, of course, by the Holy Spirit in recognizing which writings were divinely inspired and which were not. Just as Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" Jesus guides the Church even today in understanding the Scriptures. And the Scriptures, that is, the Bible, came from the Church, with the New Testament Gospels and letters being written under the guidance of that Spirit sent to us by Jesus.

And we, like the Apostles, need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to understand the inspired Word of God which we hear in the Bible and which is proclaimed every day in the Mass. We need the grace of Baptism, we also need the Sacrament of Confirmation with the fullness of gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit. We need to have our minds opened to understand the truth.

It's sad to think that there are thousands of Christian denominations which are not in communion with the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ. Whatever truths these Christians know about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, came through the Catholic Church. Sadly, many Christians use a bible that lacks a good number of the inspired books which the Catholic Church carefully preserved for 1500 years, until Protestants, on their own authority, removed them from the Bible. So, there are many people today who have been taught by teachers who lack the fullness of the truth because they do not possess all the books of the Bible along with the teaching authority of the Church, and even within the Catholic Church, there are many people un-familiar with the Scriptures because they do not regularly attend Mass, or who, because they have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation have not yet had their minds opened to understand the Scriptures. Saint Jerome, who translated the original books of the Bible into Latin, the language of the time, said that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Let us, then, strive to know Him.