

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 19, 2009

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	7AM	Elias Haddad, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Elizabeth Ward, <i>living</i>
Tue	7AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
	9AM	Lera & Daini Family
Wed	7AM	Special Intention
	9AM	Souls in Purgatory
Thu	7AM	Bud & Emma, Alice, & Lorri
	9AM	John, <i>living</i>
Fri	7AM	Ruth Wess
	9AM	Melania & Tom Sullivan
Sat	7AM	Grace Lawrence
	9AM	Ed Buel, <i>living</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Ken Anderson, Sally Arango, Marco Balistreri, MaryAnn Bellia, Bertha, Beverly, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Msgr. Bruce Dreier, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Philip Hansen, Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Michelle Hufford, Joseph, Germaine Khohayting, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, M. Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Marie Palleschi, Mark Piatti, Joe Popovich, Dr. August T. Rossano, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Paul Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, William Wharton, Sibeal Whitty, & Camilla Wolfe.

STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

Last weekend's collection	\$ 4372.
Weekly goal	\$ 5200.
Weekly average	\$ 4532.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Assessed Goal:	\$ 65,200.
Received:	\$ 53,806.

Donor(s) *this* week: Mr. & Mrs. David Previtali,
and Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Westmiller

135 Families have given, out of 501 registered.
We are counting on you!
Please do your fair share
for our parish and the archdiocese.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon Parish Hall: Painters begin painting.

PARISH IMPROVEMENT NEWS

At long last, arrangements have been made for the church to receive a long-needed new roof and to be painted—inside and outside!

Painting will begin down in the Parish Hall on Monday, July 20, and the roofers will begin setting up a scaffold around the church on the first Monday of August.

While the old roofing material is being removed, we will celebrate our daily morning Masses down in the Hall, trusting that those of you who attend daily Mass will understand the need for us to make these adjustments. For a few weeks, parking will also be affected alongside the church, but since school is out, we should still have ample parking.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Thank you, to all who responded to the survey which was in the pews the last two Sundays concerning the planning of an enjoyable, community-building fundraising event sometime in September.

The response was more than we'd expected, which indicates a real interest and desire for involvement from so many of you.

The Parish Council will be considering all of your remarks and suggestions, and we hope to announce our plans in the near future. We're sure that the parish will be blessed.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin
Benefit of the Free Dining Room

"Pennies from Heaven"

Annual Fundraising Dinner & Live Auction
Saturday, August 29, 6:00pm
at St. Hilary Church, Tiburon

for information:
Christine Paquette 454-3303 x12



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REFLECTIONS ON THE PRIESTHOOD
FROM THE SCRIPTURES AND THE EARLY FATHERS



Next Saturday, July 25, 2009 here at St. Sebastian Church
10:00 - 11:30am Choral Divine Liturgy, Byzantine Catholic Rite
11:30 - 12:30 Brunch
12:30 - 3:00pm Conference: *"Reflections on the Priesthood"*

Celebrant & Presenter:
Fr. David Anderson, Pastor
St. Peter Eastern Catholic Church, Ukiah

Advance Registration appreciated
Questions? 454-0979
haeuser@sbcglobal.net

Free event — donations accepted with gratitude
Join us for all — or part! — of this fascinating and beautiful day

**Our Holy Father invites us to rediscover the meaning of
priesthood in 2009, "The Year of the Priest"**

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD



"Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish

your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the LORD."

Jeremiah 23:1-4

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Psalms 23:1

"When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."

Mark 6:34

AN EDUCATION IN BEING HUMAN
from an article by Christopher West

The body has a "nuptial meaning" because it reveals man and woman's call to become a gift for one another, a gift fully realized in their "one flesh" union. The body also has a "generative meaning" that (God willing) brings a "third" into the world through their communion. In this way, marriage constitutes a "primordial sacrament" understood as a sign that truly communicates the mystery of God's Trinitarian life and love to husband and wife—and through them to their children, and through the family to the whole world.

ST. PATRICK'S THRIFT SHOP

in downtown Larkspur can use your help!

They need volunteers to staff the shop.
Can you spare 3 or 4 hours a month, or more?

The shop is open 10-4 Tuesday—Friday,
and 12-4 on Saturday.

Weekday shifts are 3 hours,
4 hours on Saturdays.

You choose your shifts.

No retail experience is necessary.

Call Lorraine Urban 924-1357.

ORGAN CONCERT BY FR. PAUL PERRY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 12:30PM

Fr. Paul will play music of Bach, Aylward, Purvis, Rheinberger, Messiaen, Rachmaninoff, & others.

All are welcome. No admission charge.

The program, with commentary,
will last about one hour.

PRAYING WITH THE BIBLE

by Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

from *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* www.hprweb.com

At the Roman Synod on the Bible in October 2008, which I covered for *HPR*, the most common topic mentioned was the need to recommend “Lectio Divina” as a pious practice among the faithful. You have probably seen the phrase mentioned in recent articles about the synod.

“Lectio Divina” (LD) literally translated means “divine reading.” What it really means is praying with the Bible by selecting a passage and meditating on it. It can be done alone by an individual and it can also be done in a small prayer group. LD has a long history of being practiced in monasteries by monks, especially the Benedictines. The bishops of the world, represented by those in Rome, are now recommending this practice to the faithful.

One problem with this is that many Catholics do not have a Bible. One of the proposals at the synod was that bishops should try to get a Bible into the hands of every Catholic. Almost everyone has a rosary—why not also a Bible, which contains the Word of God which is a love letter addressed to each one?

The practice of “Lectio Divina” is not complicated. In its most simple form it involves four steps. The first step is to select a short passage from the Bible as the basis of the time of prayer. As an example, let us take the beautiful account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-35. At the synod this text was quoted more often than any other. The two disciples are downcast because of the death of Jesus and are walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, about seven miles away. Jesus joins them on the road and asks them what they are talking about. They tell him about the death of Jesus and the claim of some women that he is now alive. St. Luke says that Jesus then explains to them how the Scriptures of the Old Testament predicted that that would happen. When they reach Emmaus he joins them for a meal and they recognize him in “the breaking of the bread.” Then he disappears from their sight. This is a wonderful account of reflecting on the Bible. I have often wished that the disciples had a modern recorder to capture for us Jesus’ own explanation of the Bible since, as the infinite Word of God, he is the author.

The chosen text should be read slowly twice. The next step is to meditate on the passage by examining each phrase and sentence in order to clarify the meaning of each word. Here also one can apply the passage to oneself and consider if one’s own life is in conformity with the truth expressed. The third step is to pray in one’s own words and respond to what God is saying to me in this part of the Bible.

The fourth step is to contemplate the mystery being considered. Here it helps to try to visualize the word or event contained in the Bible and to wonder at the beauty and truth and love of God contained it. Because St. Luke gives us so many details in the Emmaus event, it is easy to do it in this particular case because it is so concrete. The “Lectio Divina” concludes by praying the “Our Father” slowly and with attention to the meaning of the words.

St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, added a few points to the LD in his famous book of “Spiritual Exercises,” which was composed in the first half of the sixteenth century. The saint recommends making an act of the presence of God before selecting a passage to pray with. He also suggests visualizing the scene, for example in this case, the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the two disciples, the time of day, and so forth. In order to get some practical result from the prayer, St. Ignatius recommends asking for some favor as the result of the prayer, for example, an increase of faith or hope or love or any other virtue that will bring a person closer to God.

The Carmelite spirituality promoted by St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila is very similar to what is said above.

It would be a great plus for the Church if many Catholics would heed the call of the Pope and the bishops to seek closer union with the Word of God in the words of the Bible by taking up the religious practice of “Lectio Divina.” This must always be done, however, under the guidance of the Magisterium of the Church. After all, the Church came first and it is the Church that produced the New Testament and recognized the Old Testament as inspired. It is her book and she is the only authentic interpreter.