

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Lent



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Lenten Schedule
See Back Page

MARCH
11
2018

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.

John 3:16

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Alpha is coming!

What is Alpha?

Alpha is ten interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith. Sessions will be held on Wednesday nights beginning April 11 – help us get the word out!

This practical introduction to Christian faith offers adults an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, stress-free setting. Over 19 million people around the world have experienced Alpha. Each session includes a meal, a short talk and discussion in a small group from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at OLA. Child care will be available.

Who is Alpha for?

- Those who have given up on church
- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Those who are new to the Christian faith
- Those wanting to grow in understanding and faith

Register today!

Come to the patio this weekend, April 1 and April 8. Or visit the parish website at www.olaclaremont.org/alpha. Those interested in helping host Alpha sessions will find information on the same web page.



Alpha

This beginning experience helps seekers of truth find their way through Christ.

Come to the patio table this weekend to learn more about Alpha coming to OLA.

OLA Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Assumption welcomes all people to grow in the Catholic faith as we celebrate our diverse community, nurture the Gospel message, and exemplify our love of Christ by serving others.

Bright new faces at OLA...

This month OLA has welcomed three new members of our parish staff. Greg Andrews brings his many gifts to our community in two capacities – he is the new leader of



Greg Andrews

the music ensemble at the teen Mass at 5 p.m. *and* he is working in the areas of technology, social media and communications in the office.

Our two new receptionists in the parish office are Rose Diaz and Melly Grigolla. Both are bilingual with the flexibility and friendliness we have come to value in our active faith community.



The ministry of first impressions – You will find the beautiful smiles of Rose and Melly at the reception window in the parish office.

Around OLA³

Our Lady of the Assumption Church – Directory on Page 9

Liturgical events

Visit www.olaclaremont.org for a complete guide to our Lenten programs and events, including the Stations of the Cross.

See also Back Page

Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Friday in Lent from 7 a.m. (after the 6:30 p.m. Mass) until 5:30 p.m. in the Reflection Room.

OLA Community Reconciliation is Tuesday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

Meetings

Leadership Night begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, in the auditorium, followed by a meeting of the OLA Pastoral Council.

Parish office closed

The parish office will be closed Monday, March 19, for a staff Lenten retreat. You may still call (909) 626-3596 to reach a priest in an emergency. Please pray for our staff as they gather for prayer and reflection on a Lenten theme in preparation for our celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

Highlights

See Back Page for Lent

Our St. Joseph Table this Sunday in the auditorium from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. offers a delight to eye and appetite with Easter treats, fresh *canoli* and Italian sausage sandwiches to enjoy on-the-spot or take home.

Last chance to register for the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim coming March 16-18.

See Page 5

Take advantage of several ways to WIN by returning your Fiesta raffle tickets by March 18.

See Page 7

Sign up for a free workshop about living the principles of *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis.

See Page 6

community life

Drop anchor at K of C Fish Fry
Friday, March 16, 5 to 7 p.m.



- Mac n Cheese Bowl, \$4**
- Clam Chowder Bowl, \$6**
- 1-Piece Fish/2 Sides, \$6**
- 2-Piece Fish/2 Sides, \$8**
- 3-Piece Fish/2 Sides, \$10**
- 8-Piece Family/10 sides, \$25**

Sides (sold separately) are

Cole Slaw, \$1 – Mac n Cheese, \$3 – Fries, \$2
Extra Piece Fish, \$2 – Coffee/Punch, Free
Drinks are Soda/Water, \$1 – Beer/Wine, \$2

You will not be disappointed!

Final date is March 23

WOW dinner night out

OLA's **W**idows **O**r **W**idowers and other singles will be meeting for dinner on Thursday, March 22, at 5 p.m. at Fu Lin Chinese Restaurant, 9645 Central Ave, Montclair. Easy parking and entrance are behind the building.

Come and treat yourself to an evening out. Enjoy friendly company and a delicious meal (individual checks). Bring a friend! Newcomers are always welcome.

Fu Lin has requested a reservation to better serve the group. Please reserve a seat by calling Jo Pearing at (909) 626-0489 or Jean O'Donnell at (909) 624-3392 by Wednesday, March 21.

MONDAY, March 12

Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

6:30am

5:30pm

TUESDAY, March 13

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

6:30am

5:30pm

WEDNESDAY, March 14

*Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;
Jn 5:17-30*

6:30am †Mark Bortsheller

5:30pm

THURSDAY, March 15

Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

6:30am †Cecilia Cuc Tran

5:30pm †Marie Chavez,
Sarita Comyns 99th Birthday

FRIDAY, March 16

*Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23;
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*

6:30am Marie LeBlanc

5:30pm

SATURDAY, March 17

St. Patrick

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

8:00am

4:00pm †Matt McDonagh

†Elsie Shane

5:30pm †Peter Khanh & Cecilia Cuc,

†Doris S.K. Morishita

SUNDAY, March 18

5th Sunday of Lent

*Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9;
Jn 12:20-33 Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn
11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]*

7:00am Valentino Garcia-Reveles

9:00am †Fabio Reyes,

†Antonio Alvarez

†Aunts of Alvarez

11:00am †Jerry Eugene Perry

†Christine Donahue

1:00pm Vanesa Hernandez,
Esther Rojas, Edaid Rojas

3:00pm People of the Parish

5:00pm †Martha Trollman

7:00pm

†Deceased

**CULTURE
PROJECT**

It is not too late to invest in our 2018 Mission Trip! You may purchase \$25 "shares" at the Parish Office or at OlaClaremont.org by selecting the "Donate Now" tab.

OLA Teen Ministry

Sunday, March 11 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us tonight for dinner and an evening with the Culture Project Missionaries. Tonight will be about sexual integrity and our call to love. All high school teens are welcome!

Sunday, March 18 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a Sunday Funday, Dinner and Movie Night! Tonight's film: *The Prince of Egypt!*

Every Tuesday – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Join the Heights Youth Ministry at Sanctuary Coffee, 994 W. Foothill Blvd., in Claremont, for *Caffeine and Catholicism*. Join us for a FREE drink and time together as a community.

Teresa Arredondo, Youth Ministry Coordinator
tarredondo@olacclaremont.org
(909) 626-3596, ext. 4215

**Young
Adult
Ministry**

We invite each young adult age 18 to 35 to grow spiritually, form authentic friendships and have fun through our social, educational and prayer nights together. We'll be more than happy to see you at our weekly meetings from 7 to 9 p.m. NOTE: Convalescent home visits are arranged

every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as a service project. Join our *Young Adults of OLA* Facebook group. Or e-mail youngadultsola@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 14 Bible study in Room 17 at OLA at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 8 Eucharistic Adoration with OLA teens

Thursday, April 12 Field event at 7 p.m. at Holy Name of Mary

Scrutinies...

Tell people they will face a scrutiny before they can join your community, and they will probably say “Thanks, but no thanks.” Boldly, our Church expects not one but three scrutinies of the catechumens before their baptism at Easter.

Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance. When people from another spiritual background seek Baptism in the Catholic Church, they do so by stages. First we accept them into the Order of Catechumens. Then as they complete their catechetical formation, we enroll them among the Elect, or those chosen for Baptism. This rite of election generally coincides with the beginning of Lent. Three times during Lent the Church prays the scrutinies to encourage a spirit of repentance among those who seek a worthy celebration of Baptism.

For those already baptized, the scrutinies invite us to embrace the same spirit of self-searching and repentance. The scrutinies remind us of the seriousness of our Christian life and inspire us to turn from evil and pursue good. They enliven the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter.

A Biblical Walk with Mary

St. Madeleine's Parish invites OLA to join them in a bi-monthly study of Mary in Scripture on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration is free, but the study set of books costs \$25. Forms may be found at the OLA parish office and in the case attached to the auditorium wall in the OLA patio area. Bring your bible and catechism, if you have them.

For registration or information, you may also call St. Madeleine's office at (909) 629-9495.

March 11 and March 25

April 15 and April 22

Mary 6 and May 27

June 10 and June 24

In Conference Room A



Please take a slip of paper with the name of a Catechumen preparing for Baptism and pray for them. The basket may be found just inside the church at the north exit to the parking lot.

Text by Paul Turner

YOU should be here! **Religious Ed Congress** **March 16-18**

The 60th annual Religious Education Congress in Anaheim is set for March 16-18, 2018. Youth Day is March 15.

Admission includes...

- Choice of 300 workshops on a variety of topics of interest to educators and all Catholics
- Exhibits by Catholic vendors and organizations
- Fourteen liturgies in a variety of cultures/languages/styles
- Exhibits by local artists that capture the sense of God's Boundless Mercy
- Free lunchtime and evening concerts by popular artists

Visit www.RECongress.org to register or visit our Faith Formation Center for assistance..

Adult Awareness Classes (VIRTUS)

Keeping the Promise Alive, the re-certification course of 1-1/2 hours for adult awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse, will be offered:

Thursday, March 22

7 p.m., Room 15

Contact Magali Amezcua at (909) 626-3596, ext. 4211, for more information.

Fingerprinting for adult volunteers and staff at OLA will be available **Wednesday, April 25**, from noon to 7:20 p.m. Please call the parish office to make an appointment at (909) 626-3596.



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Forty Days for Life

You may join the peaceful prayer group that gathers outside the Planned Parenthood Clinic during *40 Days for Life* from now until March 25. Location is Garey Ave. just south of I-10. A leader will be present every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thousands will participate in a National Campaign to Protect the Dignity of Life from Conception to Natural Death. For additional information, contact Terry Moore at (909) 297-9302.

Feeding the hungry poor

OLA's Outreach Ministry has been supplying up to two monthly meals to needy families in the Claremont and Pomona area. These are Sunday afternoon meals we provide along with some fellowship time with the guests we feed. If you would like to receive alerts about how you may assist, send an email to Tony Soto at tonysotosales@gmail.com. Tony is one of the *Laudato Si* speakers on March 24.

Credit union for parishioners

Parishioners are eligible to join United Catholics Federal Credit Union, a full service credit union that offers on-line banking, home loans, car loans and personal lines of credit. Auto loan rates are as low as 1.99% APR Thinking and Home Equity Lines of Credit as low as 3.75% APR. Call United Catholics FCU at (626) 974-4447 or apply online at www.unitedcatholicscfu.org.

Prayer Requests

For our sick and suffering...

Recent: Berta Barrera, Carol Brunasso, Margaret Ann Goodrich, Doris Maldonado and Ronald Reynoso

Previously: Delia Caldera, Anna Ruano Gomez, Jerry Hale, Jose Luis Ortega, Arthur H. Osborne, Alicia Pimental, Maryann Rambo, Tomasa Reyes, Angelica Maria and Luis Antonio Rios, Soledad Sarmiento, Mary Brunasso Smith, Mark Stagner, Monica Stephenson, Sylvia Stephens, Tess Turla, and Wendy Villegas

For our beloved deceased...

No one this week.

Laudato Si

A letter to the world from Pope Francis

*I am convinced that we can make a difference...
Now is the time for courageous action and
strategies aimed at implementing a "culture of
care" and "an integrated approach to combat-
ing poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded,
and at the same time protecting nature.*

—Pope Francis

Workshop is March 24

Renew your commitment to the principles of *Laudato Si* Saturday, March 24, at a workshop co-hosted by OLA JustAct Ministry and Pilgrim Place in Claremont. The workshop is free from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., including three speakers in the morning, lunch, and three speakers in the afternoon.

Laudato Si (2015) is the landmark encyclical by Pope Francis calling upon all nations to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and unite for environmental justice.

The March 24 workshop will focus on ways we can convert our lives and our actions into an effective advocacy for the earth and for the poor.

Nancy Mintie

Uncommon Good: Building healthy families, communities and planet

Linda and Joe Michon

How Fair Trade is a simple and effective way to respond to Laudato Si

Daniel Cole & Mary Tawadros

Volunteers of America

Dan Mancayo & Andrew Durban

Home Energy Savings

Tony Soto and Isabel Morales

*Sumner Meals Program
and Pomona Shelter Meal*

Penny Vienna

Our food choices and the environment

Free registration is available at the parish website: www.olaclaremont.org or you may contact Penny at pvienna@aol.com.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Parish Offertory Collection | |
| Weekend of March 3-4 | \$27,351 |
| Online | \$ 3,223 |
| Total | \$30,574 |
| Budget | \$27,613 |
| Over budget | \$ 2,961 |

Fiesta 2018

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OUR 2018 FIESTA THEME... *All Around the World!*

WIN-WIN Fiesta Raffle Prizes:

1. Cash prize of \$10,000
2. One-year Family Membership at The Claremont Club
3. \$500 Disneyland Gift Card

PLEASE pick up your Fiesta Raffle Tickets!

Parishioners are asked to pick up their Fiesta raffle tickets at the parish office because we cannot mail them this year. Everyone who returns \$100 in paid raffle tickets by March 18 qualifies to receive an additional 10 free tickets. They will also be entered into our First Early Bird Drawing for \$150.

Sponsorships

Lend your name and support to preparations for Fiesta with a sponsorship available online at the parish website:

www.olaclaremont.org

Sponsorships help defray our expenses and provide a large portion of our profit. At the same time, you can promote your business to the 15,000+ visitors on Mother's Day Weekend, May 11, 12 & 13.

Donors

We are grateful for donations which help lower our overhead expenses. Donate 16-oz. bottled water, "name brand" cans of soda and paper goods. Email us or specifications.

Together in Mission

Support our Catholic brothers and sisters

Fr. Ted Gabrielli of Dolores Mission in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, gave eloquent testimony about how lives – even whole communities – are being transformed by our support of his parish and others like it. through *Together in Mission*.

For 25 years, this program has helped stabilize the Catholic presence in economically deprived areas of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Fully 100 percent of your donation is assigned to 80 Catholic parishes and 65 schools that would not remain open otherwise.

This year's theme of *Let Us Love* celebrates *Together in Mission* as an active demonstration of our love for our Catholic brothers and sisters in need. We invite all families – those who have given in the past, and those who have never made a gift – to prayerfully consider a commitment to this year's campaign. Your gifts will go a long way to helping us reach our 2018 PARISH GOAL of \$139,202. Watch our progress on posters around the campus.



Contact Us

If you would like to join our 2018 Fiesta Committee or communicate your ideas to the chairs, you may email

olachurchfiesta@gmail.com

or call the Fiesta Message Center at (909) 626-3596, ext. 4319.

Visit our website at www.olaclaremont.org for

general Fiesta information, including sponsorships and suggestions for donors.

8 Comunidad Habla Hispana

Esta semana

Miércoles, 14 de Marzo

Grupo de Dios (Oración)

4 p.m. en el Salón Reflexión

Grupo de Oración Reunión de

Coro y Lideres

6pm en el Salón 11

Jueves, 15 de Marzo

Cristo Vive (Oración)

7p.m. en la iglesia

Viernes, 16 de Marzo

Hola Ángeles (Jóvenes)

7 p.m. en el Salón

de Jóvenes (Junction)

Encuentro Matrimonial

7 p.m. en el convento

Coro

7 p.m. en el Salón 15

Grupo Camino de Fe

(Jóvenes Adultos)

7 p.m. Salón Felician

(Biblioteca)

Bodas

Se requiere un mínimo de seis meses de anticipación. Favor de comunicarse a la oficina parroquial.

Quinceañeras

Celebraciones comunitarias cada segundo sábado del mes a las 12 p.m. o una bendición durante la Misa dominical.

Favor de comunicarse a la oficina parroquial con un mínimo de tres meses de anticipación.

Bautizos

Cada segundo sábado del mes a las 10 a.m. Se requiere una orientación y una clase de preparación. Favor de comunicarse a la oficina parroquial.

Vivamos la Palabra de Dios

Andrea ha hecho todo lo que sus padres le advirtieron no hacer y ha mentado para encubrirlo. Pero como es imposible guardar un secreto en un pueblo pequeño, ella ha dejado de hablar con la gente. Cuando sus vecinos siguieron “fastidiándola” se fue “para siempre” y le dijo a sus padres que ya ella “no tenía familia”. Ocho meses después, sin dinero y desolada, se arriesgó a ver a su padre en la calle. Segura de que él la condenaría, ella quiso cambiar de camino, pero ya era tarde.

“¡Hola Andrea! ¿Cómo has estado? Andrea no podía contener las lágrimas al escuchar las palabras que le dirigía su padre: “Cariño, a tu mamá y a mí nos encantaría que volvieras a casa”.

¿Cómo se habrán sentido los israelitas al saber que tenían la libertad de volver a su tierra después de su exilio? Sin condiciones. Todas las deudas perdonadas. Un nuevo comienzo. Si podemos imaginarnos la alegría y la gratitud de ellos, tal vez pudiéramos entender mejor el don inmenso que se nos ha dado en el bautismo. La misericordia de Dios nos da el valor para abandonar los exilios que nos hemos impuesto a nosotros mismos y así regresar a casa.

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Unidos en Misión

El Padre Ted Gabrielli de Misión Dolores invitó a todos los católicos a hacer su compromiso anual con la Campaña Unidos en Misión del 2018. Este año, se le ha pedido a nuestra parroquia que recaude la **META PARROQUIAL 2018 \$139,202**. Si usted y su familia no han tenido la oportunidad de hacer su promesa, le pido que llene una tarjeta de compromiso que se encuentra en las bancas, o haga su promesa en línea visitando archla.org/give. Sus regalos a Unidos en Misión aseguran que cada católico viviendo en la Arquidiócesis tenga una parroquia para celebrar su fe y acceso a una educación escolar católica. Estás viviendo tu fe a través de tus acciones cuando apoyas a Unidos en Misión. Gracias de antemano por su generosidad.

¡Pase por sus boletos de la Fiesta a la oficina parroquial!

Se les pide, amablemente, a los feligreses que pasen por sus boletos de la rifa para la Fiesta a la oficina parroquial. Esta año no podremos mandarlos por correo.

A la persona que devuelva \$100 en boletos de rifa pagados antes del 18 de marzo, califica para recibir 10 boletos gratis adicionales. También se inscribirán en nuestro primer sorteo de \$150.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

435 Berkeley Avenue – Claremont, CA 91711

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Bulletin deadline is **Sunday** for the following weekend. Bring copy to the parish office or email bulletin@olaclaremont.org.

Interested in the Catholic Church? We invite you to one of our Inquiry sessions. Call Kathy Steighner at 626-3596, ext. 4221, for more information.

Baptisms Brochures about the Sacrament of Baptism are available at the display case on the patio, or the parish and Faith Formation offices. Please call 4-6 weeks before the date of Baptism. For English Baptisms, please contact the parish office at 626-3596, ext. 0. For Spanish Baptisms, please contact Magali Amezcua at 626-3596, ext. 4211

Weddings Congratulations! Please call the parish office at least six months ahead for preparation, scheduling, and an appointment with a priest. Weddings are scheduled Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. Visit the display case on the patio for more information.

Anointing of the Sick Please call the parish office day or night.

Hospital/Home Visits For distribution of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office.

Funeral Arrangements Please contact the parish office for help with services and special needs.

Stephen Ministry This one-on-one care-giving ministry at OLA is available upon request to those seeking emotional and spiritual support through a life challenge such as loss of a job, personal illness, separation or divorce, illness or the death of a loved one. Please call 626-3596, ext. 4332 to leave a confidential message.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Hotline One-time emergency assistance for individuals and families. Call (909) 626-3596, ext. 4333, to leave a message. Your call will be returned by a volunteer case manager.

Sunday Mass Schedule

7:00 a.m. Traditional cantor-led song
9:00 a.m. Contemporary ensemble
11:00 a.m. Contemporary ensemble
1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass
3:00 p.m. Vietnamese Mass
5:00 p.m. Teen/Contemporary
7:00 p.m. Cantor-led song

Saturday Vigil Masses

4:00 p.m. Cantor-led song
5:30 p.m. Contemporary ensemble
or cantor-led song

Weekday Mass Schedule

6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. Saturday

Saturday Confessions

9:00 – 10 a.m. English/Spanish
3:00 – 3:45 p.m. English/Spanish
6:30 p.m. English

*Note: Vietnamese confessions
Sundays from 2:30 to 2:50 p.m.*

How to Reach Us

Parish Office (909) 626-3596

Fax (909) 624-3680

Website: www.olaclaremont.org

email Address: reception@olaclaremont.org

Parish Office Hours

Open 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday,

Open Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Open Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Lunch break from 12:30 to 1 p.m.)

Faith Formation and Religious Education

Faith Formation Center (909) 624-1360

Victor Hernandez, Director of Faith Formation (x4213)

Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

OLA Catholic School

611 W. Bonita Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Tel. (909) 626-7135 Fax (909) 398-1395

Principal Bernadette Boyle

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Website: www.ola-ca.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Charles J. Ramirez, Pastor

Rev. Ron Clark, Associate Pastor

Rev. Thuan Nguyen, Associate Pastor

Rev. Chris Troxell, Associate Pastor

Deacon Jim and Karen Allgaier

Deacon Joe and Rita Domond

Deacon Bob and Kathy Steighner

Deacon John and Joyce Tullius

Deacon Art and Nadine Escovedo, retired

Neomi Torres, Director of Parish Administration (x4203)

Victor Hernandez, Director of Faith Formation (x4213)

Dcn. Bob Steighner, Liturgy Coordinator (x4234)

Dcn. Jim Allgaier, Outreach/Stewardship Coord. (x4216)

Teresa Arredondo, Youth Ministry Coordinator (x4215)

Mary Muñoz, Coordinator of Music Ministry (x4263)

Kathy Steighner, Christian Initiation Coordinator (x4221)

Jean McKenna, Communications Coordinator (x4217)

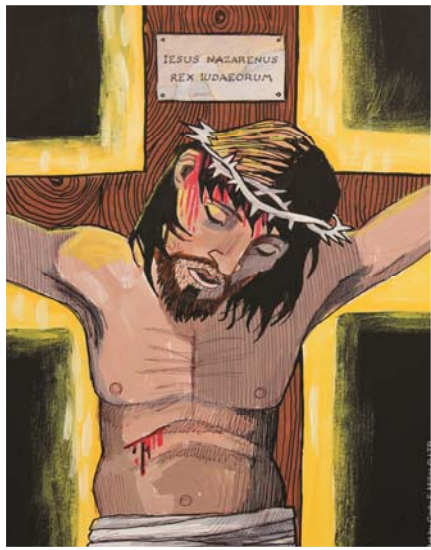
Bing Macavinta, Bookkeeper (x4232)

Katy Salisbury, Administrative Assistant (x4268)

Greg Andrews, Communications (x4231)

Roberto Roman, Spanish Choir

Dong Le, Vietnamese Choir



Fourth Sunday of Lent

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Some might be surprised at the uplifting tone of the prayers and readings in today's Mass. We pray in the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice, Jerusalem," and in the Prayer over the Gifts, note that it is "with joy" that we place the offerings. It may not be widely understood that Lent has a joyful aspect. The readings provide the reason for our rejoicing. In the First Reading, we see that the Lord has compassion on his people, and in the Second Reading, that God is "rich in mercy." St. Paul's words to the Ephesians underscore that all we have is a gift from God. "By grace you have been saved," he says. Our grace comes to us entirely without our merit. Just as the Lord sent messengers to his people while they were unfaithful, he provides us with grace even while we are in sin. That grace has made us alive in Christ. In John's account of the Gospel, we are told why God is compassionate and merciful to us. It is because he loves us. He "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" so that all who believe may have eternal life. With this knowledge, how could we live anything but joyful lives? How might you acknowledge your joy in Christ?

– © Text/Art: Liturgy Training Publications

Lent by the week...

Friday Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the Reflection Room every Friday during Lent, except Good Friday, from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Fish Fry: March 16

A traditional menu is offered by Knights of Columbus on Fridays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 in the auditorium from 5 to 7 p.m. Prices are \$6/small, \$8/medium, \$10/large portions. Proceeds benefit charitable works of the Knights.

See Page 3

Stations of the Cross: March 16

7:15 p.m. in church, led by the Knights of Columbus

Divine Office (15 minutes)

This traditional prayer, also known as Liturgy of the Hours, is based on the Psalms. The group gathers Monday through Friday at 6 a.m. before the 6:30 Mass and after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Don't forget to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent!

From Msgr. Doug Raun

Our Lenten Mission Prayer

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Apart from You, I can have no true happiness, in this world or the next.

I confess that I have done evil, and have separated myself from You. With all my heart, I repent of my sins. I place all my faith in You, who have died for love of me. I surrender all my life for You, who lives as my Risen Lord.

I promise to learn what You have taught, and to live what I shall learn. I accept the Catholic Church as Your family, and her teachings as Your own. Help me to live in Your grace, and in hope of heaven, until I see You face to face. Amen.

Use the internet for spiritual renewal

There is a wealth of resources at our fingertips to enrich your spiritual renewal during Lent, Sign up for Matthew Kelly's program available at www.bestlentever.com or Bishop Robert Barron's weekly reflection at www.DailyCatholicGospel.com. You might want to try the three-minute retreat at www.loyolapress.com with a soothing musical background. You can sign up for a free email subscription or download the mobile application for this retreat. Another good choice is that of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – www.usccb.org – offering a Lenten calendar and a link to Operation Rice Bowl for Catholic Relief Services.

All links may be found on the parish website:

www.olaclaremont.org.