

REFLECTION



I remember as a child looking at gruesome pictures of the crucified Jesus in our family Bible. I was very disturbed by them, but I found comfort in thinking that since Jesus was God he didn't feel the suffering in the same way we would. I also knew that he was unique and thought that what happened to him would not happen to anybody else. The Gospel, however, makes very clear that what Jesus underwent as a rejected prophet can, indeed, be asked of any of his disciples. In addition, it portrays for us how to prepare for and

how to endure suffering that comes from following in his footsteps.

Luke, more than the other Evangelists, emphasizes Jesus' role as prophet and interprets the death of Jesus as rejection of his prophetic teaching and actions. Like all prophets, Jesus is lauded by those lifted up by his good news, but those whose privileged position is threatened by him seek to silence and kill him. In the passion narrative, we see Jesus facing deadly opposition and struggling one final time to discern what is the way to obediently bring his prophetic mission to completion. He prepares his disciples for his own death, instructing them at the Last Supper and modeling for them how they are to act as they continue his prophetic mission.

At Gethsemane, Jesus is kneeling upright, not prostrate on the ground, as Matthew and Mark portray him. He is in agony, or agony, which connotes intense struggle, like an athlete, straining every muscle, sweating profusely. He can see what will be the consequences if he stays the course. He still has an option to retreat over the Mount of Olives and into the Judean desert. As at other turning points in his life, like his baptism and transfiguration, he feels God's reassuring presence with him, strengthening him for what lies ahead.

Once again he chooses to be obedient to the prophetic mission entrusted to him, even if the cost is his life. It is in this sense that Paul speaks of Jesus as "obedient even unto death." It is not obedience to a father who wills his son to die—for what parent would ever wish such a fate on a child? Rather, Jesus' obedience is to divine love for all humanity and to the prophetic mission to release all who are bound by sin and suffering, bringing jubilee freedom to all. It is a costly love that impels him.

At the Last Supper Jesus interprets his impending death, saying to his disciples, "This is my body given for you." In Luke, this gift is not one act that is thought to atone for sins, but rather a lifelong self-surrender in service to the least. It is manifest in acts of healing and forgiveness right up until Jesus' last moments, when his final words are a prayer for God to forgive his executioners and of entrusting himself peacefully into God's hands (using Psalm 31), in contrast to the anguished cry of abandonment of the Markan Jesus (using Psalm 22).

As followers of such a prophet, our own obedience is modeled on his. First, prophetic obedience is enacted by turning one's ear to God morning after morning, to hear how to speak a rousing word to the weary, as Isaiah says. It also entails remembering, as Jesus said at the Last Supper—making present again his bold words and freeing actions of healing and forgiveness. As servant leaders it also means going, like the Galilean women, to the places of death, keeping watch in solidarity with the crucified peoples of our world and continuing to protest the machinery of death, even as we ourselves risk falling victim to it.

- America Magazine, March 2010

PARISH KITCHEN



We welcome our new Parish Kitchen. The last phase of the parish complex as envisioned by Fr. Vincent O'Reilly has been completed. Congratulations to all on the new kitchen and the converted office space. Special thanks to those who volunteered and contributed to the kitchen campaign. We now have a completed facility where a

variety of parish functions and celebrations can take place. Open house visitation will follow sometime after Easter. Details will be provided in the coming weeks.

OUTREACH PROJECTS THANKS

Last weekend's Paper Product Drive to benefit Vacaville's Opportunity House Homeless Shelter was a wonderful outpouring of care and concern for our community's homeless. Thank you to all who contributed to the drive to support the shelter with paper and plastic products for the upcoming months. Over 480 rolls of Toilet Paper, 126 rolls of Paper Towels, 740 Napkins, 205 boxes of Kitchen and Yard Trash Bags, 2076 Food Handling Gloves, 13 boxes of Plastic Wrap/Foil Wrap, 2006 Zip Lock freezer bags, 1588 sandwich bags, 1045 paper cups, two large bags of towels & washcloths and other miscellaneous items were delivered to the shelter. Thank you for your generous support and prayers for our area's homeless and the continued success of the shelter's efforts to assist them.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 29: Mass at 7:00 AM and 12:15 PM

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation/Penance Service - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 30: Mass at 7:00 AM & 12:15 PM

Wednesday, March 31: Mass at 8:15 AM & 12:15 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00-5:30 PM

THE SACRED TRIDUUM (No Morning Masses)

Holy Thursday - April 1: Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 PM
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 PM following Mass

Good Friday - April 2: Prayer Around the Cross with the Seven Last Words of Jesus - 12:00 Noon

Quiet Prayer - 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Stations of the Cross - 2:00 PM

Passion, Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion - 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil Liturgy - April 3: Mass 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday - April 4: Masses - 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Way of the Cross - The 10th Annual Way of the Cross will take place in downtown Sacramento on April 2, Good Friday, at 9:00 AM in Crocker Park (at the corner of N & 3rd) and ending at 11:15 on the steps of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (11th & K). The Way of the Cross - a traditional Catholic procession recalling the suffering and death

of Jesus Christ - includes Gospel readings, choral music, and readings. This tradition takes place in the heart of the city, where so many bear their crosses daily, and very often dreadfully alone. All are invited to join in this procession, organized by the lay Catholic movement Communion and Liberation. For more information, please contact Matthew Cooling at (916) 267-3071.

Busy Person's Retreat will be April 16, 2010. These retreats take place from 9:00 until Noon at the Christian Brother's Mont La Salle Novitiate (off Highway 29 on Redwood Road), Napa, California. Retreat Director is Brother Richard Moratto, F.S.C.

2010 Census - An accurate count of our local population will help ensure that our community receives its fair share of federal funding for health care, education, roads, etc. Please take a few minutes to complete the census form which was mailed to you and send it back by April 15th.

The Widowed Persons Association of California Vacaville meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Vacaville McBride Senior Center at 2:00 PM. The Widowed Persons Association is a nonprofit nondenominational community service organization dedicated to helping widowed people overcome their grief and learn to live and laugh again. Social activities include dinners, potlucks, breakfasts, happy hour, and more. For more information, call 448-0666.

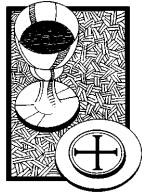
Napa Valley Catholic Men's Conference - come join fellow Catholic men for the Fifth Annual Napa Valley Conference. We all know the challenges of being a Catholic man in the modern world—you need support from your brothers in faith. On Saturday, April 17, we will be convening at St. Apollinaris Church, Napa. To register or for more information, please call (415) 387-2324 ext 103 or visit www.ignatius.com/catholicmen/.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3,13-14; Jn 12:1-11
 Tues. Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-4,5-6,15,17; Jn 13:21-33,36-38
 Wed. Is 50:4-9; Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34; Mt 26:14-25
 Thurs. Ex 12:1-8,11-14; Ps 116:12-13,15-16,17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
 Fri. Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25; Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
 Sat. Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17,18-28; Is 12:2-3,4,5-6; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12
 Sun. Acts 10:34,37-43; Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23; Col 3:1-4; Lk 24:13-35

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation: Faith Formation Spring break continues through April 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, April 1 for OCIC and the week of April 5th for the other classes.



Pre-registration for next year will be offered to those children already attending Faith Formation. Forms will be distributed in classes.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held during 10AM & 12PM Masses on Sunday, April 25 and 10AM on May 2. Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, May 12 at 7PM. Please mark your calendars. If you have questions, please contact the office.

SPECIAL THANKS



Thank you to Dave and Aurora Haworth for supplying the palms for Palm Sunday. Thanks also to the Notre Dame School 8th Grade for a job well done in preparing the palms.

Memorial Easter Lilies- Flowers will adorn our church during the Easter Season this year. Please consider purchasing an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. Names of loved ones and donors will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$20. Please Return this form to the Parish Office with your payment no later than **Monday 3/29**.



In Memory Of: _____

Donor Name: _____

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM----- Int. of Matsumiya Family
 Mon. 12:15 PM-----
 Tues. 7:00 AM -----Eileen Riehl, R.I.P.
 Tues. 12:15 PM -----Int. of T & B Families
 Wed. 8:15 AM -----Johnie Owings, R.I.P.
 Wed. 12:15 PM-----
 Thurs. ----- NO MASS
 Fri. 7:00 AM ----- NO MASS
 Sat. 8:15 AM ----- NO MASS
 Easter Vigil 8:00 PM ----- Deceased Members of the Parish
 Sun. 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8:30 AM ----- Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 10:00 AM -----World Peace
 Sun. 12:00 PM -----Vocations to the Priesthood