

REFLECTION

Why do we suffer? The problem of suffering seems to implicate God. The argument usually is framed this way: Because God allows horrific suffering, then God (if there is a God) is either not all-good, not all-powerful or not all-knowing. Job is a perfect foil to poor responses to this problem, the chief being that you suffer because you deserve it. We know that Job is righteous and does not deserve to suffer as he does. We also know that the chaos in Job's life is caused by a kind of bet between Satan and God.

By Jesus' day, Satan had emerged as the Prince of Darkness, with his minions harassing humans on every level, physically, mentally and spiritually. Given the breadth of Satan's attack, the lines that we would draw between spiritual evil and physical sickness were far more blurred. So when the Gospel reading today says that Jesus "cured many who were sick...and drove out many demons," we should see these healings as neither completely identical in kind nor entirely different. The Lord conquers evil on every level, and the physical, moral and spiritual interpenetrate one another.

But, what about suffering—there are some partial answers. We know that everything not-God is, by definition, vulnerable (even angels, as Satan proves). We also know that without the possibility of moral evil no one would have free will of any significance. However, in the end God also tells Job that there are no good (that is, complete) human answers to the problem. The mystery of suffering remains an enigma.

Perhaps what the Scriptures reveal to us is that while suffering cannot be solved, it can be skillfully addressed. Blaming the victim ("You deserved it") or trivializing suffering ("Just praise God") only makes things worse. Real engagement leans into the pain with compassion and love, walks with the other with gentle faith in our Lord, who entered human suffering deeply and personally. *American Magazine—Feb 2012*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Week of February 5, 2012

Theme: Let us preach the good news to all!

Question for Adults: If you were going to pray for healing for any reason, what would it be? What needs to be healed in our world and society?



Question for Children: What can you do to help your friends and classmates know more about Jesus?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Ps 132:6-10; Mk 6:53-56
- Tues. 1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30; Ps 84:3-5,10-11; Mk 7:1-13
- Wed. 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6,30-31,39-40; Mk 7:14-23
- Thurs. 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4,35-37,40; Mk 7:24-30
- Fri. 1 Kgs 11:39-32,12:19; Ps 81:10-15; Mk 7:31-37
- Sat. 1 Kgs 12:26-32,13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7,19-22; Mk 8:1-10
- Sun. Lv 13:1-2,44-46; Ps 32:1-2,5,11; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 2/6—7:00 AM--- Intentions of Cecilia & Jesus Delgado
- Tues. 2/7—7:00 AM -----Albert Knott, R.I.P.
- Wed. 2/8—8:15 AM ----- Notre Dame Students & Staff
- Thurs 2/9 —7:00 AM ----- Intentions of Carolina Cornejo
- Fri. 2/10—7:00 AM ----- Members of St. Joseph Parish
- Sat. 2/11—8:15 AM ----- Sotera Quinto Cardozo, R.I.P.
- Sat. 2/11—5:00 PM----- Anita Cerro, R.I.P.
- Sun. 2/12—7:00 AM----- Members of St. Joseph Church
- Sun. 2/12—8:30 AM----- Vocations
- Sun. 2/12—10:00 AM----- Peace
- Sun. 2/12—12:00 PM ----- Vocations
- Sun. 2/12— 5:00 PM ---- Misa en Español - Por Vocaciones

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Report for Sunday, January 29, 2012:

Our Sunday Offering:	\$12,583
Average Weekly Expenses:	\$12,500
July thru Jan 2012 Budgeted Income:	\$363,768
July thru Jan 2012 Actual Income:	\$324,609

Thank you for your generous offering. May your love and sacrifices be greatly rewarded.

FAITH FORMATION

Registration for the 2012-2013 Faith Formation year will start in March. All Sacrament preparation classes are two years with 1st Communion starting at 1st grade and Confirmation starting at 7th grade. Any questions, please contact the office.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group is for Confirmation age teens (13 yrs - 18yrs) building a relationship with Jesus. If interested, come by or bring a friend. We'd love to meet you!

“He cured many who were sick with various diseases...” Mark 1:34

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL NEWS



Notre Dame School is now accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. Forms are available in the school office. You need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records, and a letter from your parish. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices. For more information, call the school office at 447-1460, office hours: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday.

Notre Dame School presents “Year of the Dragon” **Casino Night** in the St. Joseph Parish Center on Friday, Feb 10th at 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and raffle prizes! Tickets available in the School Office 707-447-1460. Cost: \$20 Casino Tickets \$40 Texas Hold'em Tickets Questions: Please call Eddy or Diana Ponce 707-469-0119.

LENTEN FRIDAY SOUP SUPPERS

Once again we will be having our Lenten Friday Soup Suppers beginning February 24. We will be taking sign-ups in the Narthex the weekends of February 4 & 5 and February 11 & 12. If you would like to bring a crockpot of non-meat soup on one Friday during Lent, please stop by and sign-up. We encourage all Parish Ministry groups to consider taking one week to do soup as a group project. And, please, even if you can't bring soup, plan to join us for a delicious Lenten meal. Stations of the Cross will follow at 7 pm in the Chapel.



MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

We are glad to announce that we are ready to start the marriage preparation courses for engaged couples at St. Joseph's Parish, as instructed by the Diocese. A Marriage and Family life committee was formed at our parish and they have worked hard for a whole year, in consultation with the diocese to put together this Program.

Attendance of the Marriage Vocation Program will gain you authentic knowledge of the Catholic understanding of God's intention for marriage, the family and children. Therefore any one who is searching for a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage is invited, including married people, blessed singles and young people who are just considering the vocation of Marriage. The classes we begin February 28th and run for 8 weeks meeting every Tuesday at 7pm, the cost for each student is \$25 for materials. Everyone who successfully completes the course will receive a certificate.

SPRING TEA



Coming soon—St. Joseph's Second Annual Spring Tea. Please save the date—April 28th. More information will follow as the date gets closer.

PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Parishioners may bring old palm leaves and place them in the marked basket in the Narthex. They will be burned and used for Ash Wednesday.



DIOCESEAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION—WORLD DAY of the SICK Bishop Jaime Soto will preside at the annual celebration of **World Day of the Sick** for the diocese on **Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at 10:00 am** at the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento**. This liturgy will include blessing of assembly with water from Shrine of Lourdes, sacramental Anointing of the Sick and celebration of the Eucharist.

The sick, their families, caregivers and those who minister to them are invited and encouraged to attend this beautiful celebration.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2012 Annual Catholic Appeal will take place on the weekend of February 11/12. Through our support, we can assure that many vital social service programs continue to assist tens of thousands of people in need, assist with the formation of diocesan seminarians, and provide need-based tuition assistance to families desiring a Catholic school education for their children. Please prayerfully consider what you can give.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

Are you with us? Jesus is inviting you to enter into His joy by sharing in His Word and blessings at our annual weekend retreat. Join us at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center on the weekend of Feb 17-19, 2012. Register by calling Marilyn Sponzo at (707) 449-4805 or Miriam Roberts at (707) 447-5310. You can also visit the Center at: www.passionists.org/christtheking.

FOOD LOCKER



The monthly Food Drive for St. Mary's Food Locker is next weekend (February 11-12). Food items needed include: boxed cereals, individual packaged instant oatmeal, canned soups, canned chili and peanut butter.

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