



First Sunday of Lent

ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

3955 ORANGE AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90807 | 562-424-8595 | STBARNABASLB.ORG

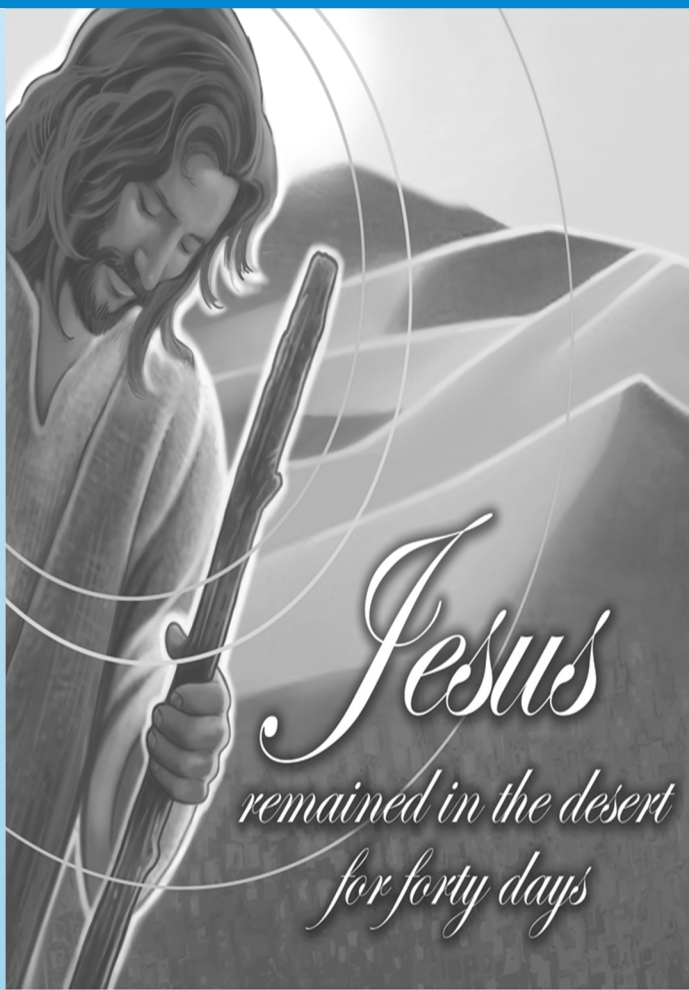
PARISH OFFICE:
OFFICE # 562-424-8595
FAX # 562-595-7875

OFFICE EMAIL:
church@stbarnabaslb.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon-Fri: 8:30am-7:00pm
Sat: 9:00am-4:30pm
Sun: 9:00am-2:00pm

REV. ANTONY GASPAR | REV. JOSEPH BAI | DN. CARLITO DE LOS REYES
PASTOR ASSOC. PASTOR PERMANENT DEACON

Business Manager: Melissa Ray
Office Manager: Olivia Baylen



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Good News!

February 18

Like Noah being prepared to navigate the Flood, so the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. Why was he sent there? Did he need to learn something he didn't know? Did he lack something he needed? Jesus as God didn't lack anything, of course, but he needed time to pray, reflect, and prepare for his mission. He also wanted to set an example to follow. Another Scripture says he went into the desert to be tempted by the devil. That time of spiritual combat was helpful for him.

We also need to go through trials and crises to grow both in our spiritual lives and human maturity. We each have had our desert where we are challenged to our core and stretched beyond our limits. Perhaps it was a crisis such as a health, employment, or relational issue. But it doesn't always have to be such a dramatic event. It can be as simple and constant as the prolonged embracing of daily challenges in a manner that leads to life. We probably look back and see these as some of our best times—if we truly encountered ourselves and our Lord.

The key is in peaceful acceptance, looking for what good can be learned from these inconveniences. In every cross there is a resurrection; in every storm a rainbow assures us of God's presence and victory. It tells us that clouds and storms will not lead to total death, but rather to a purified rebirth, growth, and newfound life and strength. He has promised us this.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

CONFESSIONS:

1st Friday of the Month
7:15am-7:50am

Saturday
3:30pm-4:30pm

INFANT BAPTISMS:

4th Sunday of the Month:
2:30pm (must pre-register)

WEDDINGS: (6 Months Prior)
Email: church@stbarnabaslb.org

ANNOINTING OF SICK:
(Call Parish Office)

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 8:00am | 5:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:45am
12:30pm | 5:30pm

Monday-Friday 8:00am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

(1st Friday of the Month)

Adoration: 8:30am-7:00pm | Mass: 7:30pm

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA:

Every Wednesday (Novena after Mass)

Rosary: 6:15pm | Mass: 6:30pm

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MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the Catholic Community of St. Barnabas Parish, are a people formed by Christ, called in Baptism and united in the Eucharist; we continue the mission of the Church in the world through Prayer, Apostolic Works, Evangelization, and Christian Stewardship."

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

ADORATION COORDINATORS	Charito Salas: (562) 490-9853 Myra Magbitang: (310) 749-0785
ALTAR SERVERS	Sylvia Gaytan: (562) 477-2143
BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR YOUTH	Joe Fletes (310) 480-4696
BULLETIN TEAM/SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE	Email: church@stbarnabaslb.org
CENACLE MARIAN MOVEMENT	Annie Pallivathukal: (562) 492-9587
COUPLES FOR CHRIST	Roy/Faye Rivera: (562) 424-5366
DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE	Alvino/Carmen Jauregui: (562) 336-1079
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	Samanth Christi: (562) 521-4040 Church Jim Supancheck: (562) 424-3599 The Sick
FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION	Dr. Gene Lowther: (562) 427-1386
FINANCE COUNCIL	Espi Garcia: (562) 426-6897
HOLY NAME SOCIETY	Bob Frazier: (562) 843-5824
INFANT BAPTISM	Email: baptism@stbarnabaslb.org
I.T. RESOURCE TEAM	David Ameho (562) 253-3644
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (Council #3449)	Jun Tadique (562) 331-6156
KNIT/CROCHET MINISTRY	Erica Murphy: 562-221-5196
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION	Robert Kalowes: (562) 225-1946
LECTORS	Marina Cuico: (562) 254-8133
LEGION OF MARY	Barbara Florida (562) 423-1278
LITURGICAL MUSIC COORDINATOR	Ella Lagos: (562) 313-6891
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA	Dn. Carlito de los Reyes: (562) 423-4140
OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE MINISTRY	Tricia J: (303) 803-0287
PASTORAL COUNCIL	Darrell Stewart: (562) 424-8982
PLANNING & BUILDING TEAM	Sean Farragher: (562) 533-6444
PROJECT ACHIEVE MINISTRY	Michelle Gustilo-Smithson: (310) 344-7862
RCIA / ADULT SACRAMENTAL PREP	Religious Ed Office: (562) 988-6855
RESPECT LIFE	Robert Kalowes: (562) 426-3781
ROSARY MINISTRY	Paula Strickland: (562) 424-4853 Mabel Felix: (562) 852-7116
SACRISTANS	Geraldine Johnston: (562) 498-8187
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN & YOUTH	Samanth Christi: (562) 521-4040
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	Robert Kalowes: (562) 225-1946
USHERS & GREETERS	Darrell Stewart: (562) 424-8982
WEDDING COORDINATOR	Deb Ryan: (562) 209-2458
YOUTH MINISTRY	Religious Ed Office: (562) 988-6855
WELCOME HOME MINISTRY	Lisa Johnson: (562) 760-8138 Karen Miller: (562) 756-4144
WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT TEAM	Email: church@stbarnabaslb.org

FINANCIAL BLESSINGSWeekly
Contribution:**\$9,926.06**Faith-Direct
Bi-Weekly
Contribution:**\$ 2,246.76**

Period: 1/16 - 1/31

Thank you for your prayerful giving. Your generosity supports the operations of our Parish Community.

Father Bai's cell phone is for
**Emergencies Only, such as
anointing of the sick/Last Rites.
(English/Chinese)**
after office hours: (818) 613-8933
revjoseph.bai@la-archdiocese.org

**Monthly Flower Donors for
Tabernacle & Blessed Mother:****Deli Marrujo**

Feb. 13– Feb. 24, 2018

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Please join us in reciting the **Rosary** every morning (Mon-Sat) at 7:35am before daily Mass. It's a beautiful and spiritual way to start your day.

Every day following weekday Mass, we invite you to join us for the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**. Prayers usually start approximately 5-10 minutes after Mass (around 8:40am). If you can't join us, you can join the Divine Mercy on EWTN television channel at noon.

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL**Office: (562) 424-7476****Fax (562) 981-3351**3980 Marron Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807Principal: Jennifer Kellam
stbarnabas_jkellam@yahoo.com
www.school.stbarnabaslb.org**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
& CONFIRMATION****Office: (562) 988-6855**

1130 Marshall Place

Long Beach, CA 90807

(Office located upstairs of Parish Center)

Email: RE@stbarnabaslb.org

Rel Ed Coordinator: Juan 562-341-7772

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 2/19 President's Day -Parish office /school closed
- 2/23 Stations of the Cross & Fish Fry pg 4
- 2/24 Rosary Ministry Mtg. 1pm Parish Center
- 2/26 Project Achieve Mtg. 7pm Parish Center
- 3/2 1st Fri. Adoration 8:30-5:15pm pg 7
- 3/3 Legion of Mary Breakfast pg 5
- 3/15 -18 Religious Education Conference pg 5
- 3/18 Girl Scout Sunday at 9am Mass
- 3/22 Lenten Penance Service pg 6
- 3/24 Guest Speaker: Paul Kim pg 6

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 19th

9:00 am- Carolina Boyd; Dr. Remie Javier; +Cornelius Shea

Tuesday, February 20th

8:00 am- +Maria Trinh; +Peter Trinh; +Dominic Trinh

Wednesday, February 21st

8:00 am- Religious Ed Volunteers

6:30 pm- Francis Baylen

Thursday, February 22nd

8:00 am- Liturgy Planning Committee

Friday, February 23rd

8:00 am- SBS Students & their Families

6:00 pm- Chris & Michelle Smithson

Saturday, February 24th

8:00 am- The Thorp Family; Pack 32 Scouts

5:00 pm- +David Nichols; +Richard Nichols; +Gontram Fillio; +Marichu Estacio

Sunday, February 25th

7:30 am- +Danilo Ortega Badiola; +Margarita & +Santiago Abando; +Carol Ann Chamber; +Ann Marsh

9:00 am- Marion Lanzana; +Lamberto Hizon

10:45 am- Elenita A. Barnes; +Alfredo Ruizo Domael

12:30 pm- Agyn Atienza

5:30 pm- The Rebolo Family

**Book your Mass Intentions in person, at the Parish Office. (+indicates deceased)*

PRAY FOR THE SICK

The following names have been recently added:

Razell Guevara, Barbara Adame, Dawnell Collier, Brandon Stott, Frank Florida, Richard Van Vooren, Ryan Lansigan, Melanie Souberon, Lenora Ross, Andres Capitulo, Maribel Capil, Serena Encinas, Antonio Montuya, Julie Druillard, Resanti Olivares, Debbie Miller, Aida Valerio, Norma Chavez, Dr. James Mayo, Edward Morris, Michael Bourque, Marie, Joyce Berman, Mary Patricia Vanderhoff, David Papell, Kristin Moralejo, Adela Perez, Lynda Mendola

Please pray for them and others already included in the **Prayer Intention Book**, which is presented at each Mass. Call the Office to be added to the Bulletin list. You may also write your own prayer intentions in the Prayer Intention Book, that is available before each Saturday and Sunday Mass, located on a stand at the main entrance of the Church.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God's covenant with Noah when he was delivered from the flood (Genesis 9:8-15).

Psalms — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Gospel — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:12-15).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election;

Rite of Calling the Candidates to

Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending

Monday: Presidents' Day; Julian Calendar Lent

Wednesday: St. Peter Damian

Thursday: Chair of St. Peter the Apostle;

Washington's Birthday

Friday: St. Polycarp; Abstinence



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LENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If you would like to be a part of the Stations of the Cross Re-Enactment, please contact the Parish Office with your contact info or email directly to: church@stbarnabaslb.org. Practices should begin soon!

• FEB 16 - MARCH 23 - EVERY FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 5:30 PM

In order to meaningfully observe the season of Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday, at 5:30pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm. Please make an attempt to participate in these Lenten worship activities.

Below is the schedule for the Stations of the Cross. If you would like to participate, please contact the persons below. This is a wonderful chance to really involve yourself in Lenten activities.

• LENTEN FISH FRY 6:00 - 8:30

DATE	MINISTRY	CONTACT
FEB. 16TH	DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE	CARMEN J.
FEB. 23RD	ROSARY MINISTRY	MABEL F.
MAR. 2ND	HOLY NAME SOCIETY	BOB F.
MAR. 9TH	LEGION OF MARY	BARBARA F.
MAR. 16TH	FIL-AM ASSOCIATION	GENE L.
MAR. 23RD	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	ANTHONY

Needed from each Ministry:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (2) Candle Bearers | Start promptly at 5:30pm |
| (1) Cross Bearer | Keep it to 30 Min. |
| (1) Reader | Mass begins at 6:00pm |



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Hosted by:
Knights of Columbus
#3449

Lenten Fish Fry Nights:

6:00pm - 8:30pm / Parish Hall

2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23

PRICES:

\$10 / ADULTS \$8 / SENIORS

\$7 / KIDS

\$1 / DRINKS OR DESSERTS



FAITH DIRECT ONLINE E-GIVING



Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help your parish save money by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent! Enrolling

with Faith Direct will provide St. Barnabas with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season!

Visit www.faithdirect.net
and/or call 1-866-507-8757.
Use our church code: CA794

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family! God Bless You,
Fr. Antony Gaspar, Fr. Joseph Bai & Staff



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PARISH NEWS & MORE

TOGETHER IN MISSION

Archbishop Gomez invites every Catholic to make their annual commitment to **Together in Mission**.



Last year, **140 PARISH DONORS** helped us raise **\$42,216.70** of our **\$54,300** goal.



This year's theme of *Let Us Love* reminds us that our gifts to **Together in Mission** are an active demonstration of our faith and love for those in our Archdiocese who need our support. We invite all families, those who have given in the past, and those who have never made a gift to prayerfully consider to make a commitment to this year's campaign. Your gifts will go a long way to helping our parish reach our **2018 PARISH GOAL** of **\$69,407.00**.

If you have not made a gift in the past to **Together in Mission**, we invite you to make a pledge of **\$100.00 payable over 10 months** in honor of the 25th anniversary of the appeal. Your gift will serve as a generous act to join the community of people continuing to work to serve the poor in our Archdiocese.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHILDREN LECTORS

Looking for interested children in becoming Lectors for the 5:30pm Mass. Please call Marina at 562-254-8133 if you are interested. We would love to have the kids involved in Mass!

CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

The Parish will **AUTOMATICALLY MAIL OUT** contribution letters to parishioners who contributed \$500 or more for 2017. If you still would like a copy of your contributions of less than that amount, please email the Parish Office with your request, at: church@stbarnabaslb.org and provide your full name and address.

A REMINDER

Monday, February 19 is President's Day. The parish office and the parish school will be closed.



PARISH MINISTRIES

NEED LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Looking to serve in a rewarding Ministry? We are in need of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Please contact the following people for more information:

Lectors—Call Marina: 562-254-8133

Eucharistic Ministers—Call Sam: 562-521-4040

Download a volunteer form from our Church website.

ROSARY MINISTRY

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, February 24th at 1pm** at the Parish Center/Fireside Room. Contact Paula at 562-424-4853 or Mabel at 562-852-7116 for more info. All are welcome!

LEGION OF MARY

Auxiliary Members and those interested in joining the Legion of Mary are invited to the **Legionary Auxiliary Function Thanksgiving Breakfast on Saturday, March 3, 2018 (after the 8:00 AM mass)** at the Parish Hall. The event will include Legion Prayers, Fellowship and Breakfast. Please RSVP to: Barbara Florida (562) 423-1278; Helen Cajayon (562) 290-2019

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Wedding Anniversaries:

Frank & Julie Atienza 2/16 (40yrs)

Martin & Carolina Boyd 2/19 (18yrs)

Robert & Melissa Ray 2/28

New/Re-Registered Parishioners:

Gerry Yoshida & Marilu Mandapat



Celebrating your Wedding Anniversary?

Email us Names, year you're celebrating, along with your Wedding Anniversary date to: church@stbarnabaslb.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

LOS ANGELES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS 2018

DATES: March 15, 2018 (Youth Day)
& March 16-18, 2018

2018 Youth Day Theme:

"Dare to Believe"

Theme: "Rise Up!" /

"¡Levántate!" / "Hãy Đứng Lên!"

Held at the Anaheim
Convention Center in California
Visit: recongress.org





HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY 3/29:

7:30-8:30 am - Rosary & Morning Prayer
 7:00 pm - Mass of the Last Supper
 8:30 pm - Eucharistic Procession & Prayer Vigil
 11:50 pm - Night prayer & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

GOOD FRIDAY 3/30:

7:30-8:30 am - Rosary & Morning Prayer
 11:30 am - Stations of the Cross
 12:00 Noon - Good Friday Liturgy
 5:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy
 7:00 pm - Re-enactment of Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY 3/31:

7:30-8:30 am - Rosary & Morning Prayer
 3:30 pm - NO CONFESSIONS
 7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY 4/1:

Mass Times: 7:30 am; 9:00 am; 10:45 am; 12:30 pm.
 *NO 5:30 PM MASS

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Confirmation Students/Parents:
 Monday, March 12th - 7pm

Religious Ed. 1st Communion Students/Parents:
 Tuesday, March 13th - 7pm



Parish-Wide:

Thursday, March 22nd - 7pm.
 Many Priests will be available to hear Confessions. Please plan to attend this service.

St. Barnabas School (3rd-8th Grade Students/Parents)
 Thurs. March 22, 2018 9:30- 11:45AM

PROJECT ACHIEVE NEWS

PROJECT ACHIEVE MINISTRY – Feeding The Homeless

Our next meeting is MONDAY, 2/26/18 at 7pm in the MUSIC ROOM in the Parish Center.

Meetings are typically the 4th Monday of every month.

New members are always welcome!

Any questions, please contact Ministry Coordinator: Michelle Gustilo-Smithson, cell: 310.344.7862.

PARISH-WIDE NEW PILLOW/PILLOW CASE DRIVE

As you are aware, the Project Achieve Ministry at St. Barnabas cooks and serves meals for 60 shelter residents, 6 times a month.

Over time, many items at the shelter become worn down from use and repeated washing. This Easter, we are looking to help the shelter in an additional way, by donating NEW pillows and pillow cases for our friends at Project Achieve.



If your family is interested in donating either item, our goal is to collect the following before Easter. (This is a great mini service project for your children to pick out an item from a local store/do so as a family)

- 60 NEW Pillows (standard size, white in color please)
- 60 NEW Pillow Cases (standard size please, neutral colors preferred: white, tan, gray, but any color is appreciated)

Ministry members will be collecting these items at the LUNCH BENCHES across from the school office from 8am-1:30pm on:

*****Sunday, March 11th*****

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ministry Coordinator: Michelle Smithson (cell: 310.344.7862).

God Bless You For Your Heart To Help Those In Need!

SAVE THE DATE

Guest Speaker Series: PAUL KIM on Saturday, March 24th

Adult Talk: 10am-11am

Kids Talk (6th-8th Graders): 11:30am-12:30pm

More details to follow...

ST. BARNABAS SCHOOL NEWS

St. Barnabas School Presents our
Annual Spring Event 2018 and Aladdin Jr.
Support Our Sports on Friday, April 27th
& Dinner Theater on Saturday, April 28th

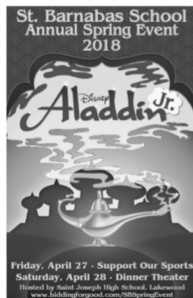
Venue: Saint Joseph High School, Lakewood

PLAYBILL ADS and SPONSORSHIP TABLES for our dinner theater on Saturday night, April 28th are now available for purchase!

Perhaps you own a small business or work for a company who could sponsor a table? Consider supporting Spring Event by purchasing a table at our dinner theater. It's a fun night out and great way to support the school.

If you are a small business owner, or you know someone who owns their own law firm, accounting office, restaurant, tutoring service, hair salon, etc. (think uncle, sister, grandpa), we would love to feature their ad in our colorful playbill. Rates range from just \$100 for a business card size to \$500 for a full-page ad.

Contact Maggie Gisel at
maggie.gisel@gmail.com
 for further information.



CATHOLIC BASEBALL LEAGUE

St. Barnabas Parish Catholic Baseball League has co-ed programs available to all children ages 4-12.

- Stress Free / No Pressure environment.
- The primary objective is to learn the game of baseball while having **GO BRAVES FUN!**
- Players are able to play with friends and classmates of our Parish
- Players get to experience success while developing skills used throughout life.



Practices are starting soon. The season will begin in March. Registrations will begin very soon, so please be on the lookout. If you are interested and would like to receive information, please contact Joe Fletes at SBB BravesBaseball@gmail.com.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

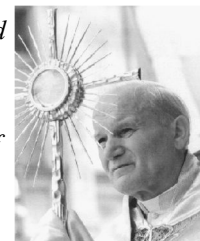
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Friday, March 2nd, 2018 – 8:30 AM to 5:15 PM

Would you like to enrich your heart and soul with an hour devoted to our Blessed Lord in Eucharistic Adoration? It is a rich and refreshing experience of deep prayer and spiritual guidance.

Come join us for meditative prayer before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament on the First Friday of the month, March 2, starting after the 8:00 am Mass until 5:15 pm.

We invite our parishioners to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament and pray for an increase in vocations and your own personal intentions.

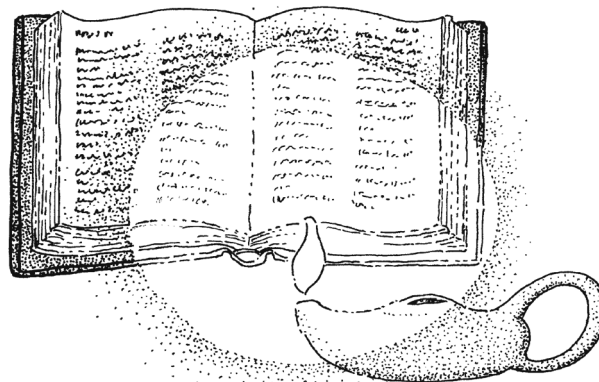
"The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic worship. Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith... May our adoration never cease." –
 Saint John Paul II



SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN

Did You Know?

Thousands of children play games online with their friends and other gamers, but these forums are ripe with bullying, which can have serious negative effects on bullying victims. Cyber bullying can often be particularly cruel, since the bully targets victims from behind a keyboard, and his or her identity may remain hidden. Always be aware of what games your children are playing, and whom they are connecting with online. Talk to them about cyber bullying and what to do if someone is targeting them. For a copy of the complete VIRTUS® article "Preventing Cyber Bullying in Online Gaming, Part 2" visit www.archla.org/protecting.



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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Holy Father usually marks the solemn opening of the Lenten fast with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday evening. He walks from the Benedictine monastery, San Anselmo, down the Aventine hill to the Dominican monastery of Santa Sabina. This very old tradition was revived by Pope John XXIII in the late 1950s. Have you ever wondered who gives the pope his ashes? It's the cardinal who has been given the "title" of the church of Santa Sabina. The pope's homily at this Mass states his theme for Lent.

Santa Sabina dates from the fifth century, and is one of the most beautiful churches in Rome. One of the panels on its main doors features the Crucifixion, a scene not normally depicted in art until much later. In the year 1219 the pope gave the church to Saint Dominic for his new religious order, the "Order of Preachers," commonly called the Dominicans, and it remains their world headquarters to this day. That pope, Honorius III, was a member of the Savelli family, and this church was their personal family chapel. Sabina was a wealthy Roman lady who became a Christian and was martyred, and whose home became a place of prayer. Later, the church built on that spot was dedicated to her memory.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

HOLY HUMOR

Little Jonnie was coming home from church one Sunday morning with his mother. His mother noticed he had a very serious look on his face.

"What's on your mind, Jonnie?" she asked.

"Is it true what Father said about us all coming from dust and turning back to dust?"

"Yes, it is, Jonnie," she said. "Why do you ask?"

"Well, when we get home," he answered, "You better look under my bed, because someone's either comin' or goin'!"

THE BOOK OF CATHOLIC JOKES, by Deacon Tom Sheridan published by ACTA Publications, Chicago,



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Dear Padre

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Why won't the priest hear my confession right before Mass?

Theoretically, any time is a good time for penitents to reconcile and renew their relationship with the Lord! In practice, the priest's refusal to hear your confession immediately before presiding at Mass may be as much for your benefit as his. In his preoccupation with last-minute details of leading the assembly, he may think: "*How can I be more attentive to this individual and to a worthy celebration of the sacrament of penance without delaying Mass?*" He might also be reacting to a penitent's mechanical understanding of the sacrament that fosters a scrupulous practice of devotional confessions—that is, confessing only minor sins in preparation for Communion.

Anyone who is conscious of serious sin is not to "receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess" (*Code of Canon Law*, 916). In this case, the person makes a sincere act of contrition, including a resolution to confess as soon as possible. "The Eucharist is not ordered to the forgiveness of mortal sins—that is proper to the sacrament of Reconciliation" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1395). Nevertheless, "the Eucharist strengthens our charity...and this living charity wipes away venial sins [and] the Eucharist preserves us from future mortal sins" (CCC 1394–95).

Catholics in a state of grace show respect for the dignity of the Eucharist, but trying to confess grave sins to a priest right before Mass may lessen the dignity given to one sacrament over another if the celebration of the sacrament of penance is rushed or the celebration of Mass begins late. —Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

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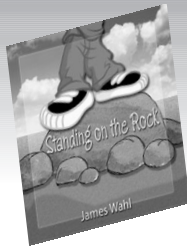
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