

# FOUR EVANGELISTS LOOK DOWN

Seen in the photo is one of the four pendentives (the triangular pieces of vaulting at the top of the

p i e r s supporting the dome) in the Cathedral, showing a rendering of St Mark. All four evangelists are featured in the f o u r pendentives—M a t t h e w , Mark, Luke and John. Painted in bright colors, they will tower over the altar, some 60 feet

above the floor, when the Cathedral is complete. This black and white photo does not do justice to these paintings. Like the other artwork in the Cathedral, the images are being done by



EverGreene Studios of New York.

This week the Cathedral project will reach a significant milestone. The artwork on the walls and ceiling will be completed and the scaffolding (inside and outside) will be taken down. Work will then begin on the floor—putting in the Baptism font, B l e s s e d

Sacrament chapel, side chapels and main altar, and replacing the floor itself. The project is on schedule to be completed by November 20 of this year, when we plan to reopen the Cathedral.

## POPE JOHN PAUL II PRAYER CARDS



Next week, May 15 (Pentecost Sunday), the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will have a limited number of Pope John Paul II commemorative cards available for parishioners.

On the back of the card is a chronology of Pope John Paul's life and special dates of his ordination,

appointments, and election to the Holy See. In addition, a prayer of intercession that asks for his prayers and patronage is included.

## MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE TODAY

This weekend, the Sacramento Life Center will be holding its annual Mother's Day Rose Sale. Single, long-stemmed roses, individually packaged will be sold for \$5.00 after all Masses this weekend. Please consider honoring a mother and celebrating the sanctity of life by purchasing a rose this weekend.

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

## THANKS AND PRAISE AT THE BEGINNING

*Reverend Lawrence E. Mick*

Well, we've been presenting these three minute teachings for a few weeks now, so it must be time for a short quiz. Can you remember the meaning of the word "Eucharist"? If your memory is sharp, you may recall that it comes from a Greek word meaning thanksgiving. When we gather for Eucharist, we gather to give God thanks and praise.

Two of the components of the entrance rites at the beginning of Mass reflect those themes of thanksgiving and praise. Those two elements are the Penitential Rite and the Glory to God.

### The Penitential Rite

It is easy to misunderstand the purpose of the Penitential Rite at Mass. Most people realize that it is not intended to be a replacement for the sacrament of penance. It is also not intended to be a time for us all to feel terrible about our sinfulness. That would not help us to enter into a spirit of celebration as we begin the Mass.

We do acknowledge our sinfulness, of course, but we do so in light of the wonder of God's forgiveness. It is God's mercy that enables us to stand in God's presence and share in the worship of Christ. None of us really deserve to be here, but the emphasis is less on our sins than it is on God's merciful love. We are here because God has forgiven our sins. We are here because of God's

grace poured out in our lives. We do not deserve this gift, but we rejoice in God's goodness and love.

Thus the Penitential Rite serves to remind us of a basic reason we have to give thanks to God. The emphasis is on the reconciliation Christ has won for us rather than on our sins. Listen, for example, to the language of the missal for the invocations for the third form of the Penitential Rite:

You were sent to heal the contrite;  
You came to call sinners;  
You plead for us at the right hand of the Father  
You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom;  
You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness,  
You will come in glory with salvation for your people;  
You came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father;  
You heal the wounds of sin and division;

and on and on—always focusing on Christ and on God's forgiveness. This gives us good reason to give God thanks.

### The Sprinkling Rite

Sometimes we replace the Penitential Rite with the Sprinkling Rite. This ritual action reminds us of our baptism, which freed us from the power of sin and made us God's adopted children. This rite, too, leads us to express our gratitude to God for forgiveness and for new life.

### The Glory to God

After the Penitential Rite or the Sprinkling Rite, on most Sundays we take time to praise God with the ancient hymn known as the Gloria. This is a song of almost pure praise of God, with only two general requests for God to have mercy on us and hear our prayer. It reminds us of the wonder of God and the privilege it is for us to come into God's presence. Like the Penitential Rite, the Gloria leads us to give God thanks and praise.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MON 5/9/2005** Easter Weekday

7:00 am: All Souls  
12:00 noon: Albert Ogbah +

**TUES 5/10/2005** Bl. Damien of Moloka'i

7:00 am: All Souls  
12:00 noon: All Souls

**WED 5/11/2005** Easter Weekday

7:00 am: All Souls  
12:00 Noon: Barbara Macko +

**THURS 5/12/2005** Sts. Nereus, Achilleus, and Pancras

7:00 am: All Souls  
12:00 noon: Daisy Maciel, S.I.

**FRI 5/13/2005** St. Matthias, apostle

7:00 am: Maria Elena Gutierrez, S.I.  
12:00 Noon: Michael Bibby, S.I.

## SEXUALLY ABUSED THERAPY GROUPS

Sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento, 12-week therapy groups are open to any person sexually abused by any religious authority of any denomination. The independent groups are facilitated by Cherie Coddington, LCSW (447-2853 and Keith Miller, LCSW (731-7270). Please contact either therapist directly for further information.