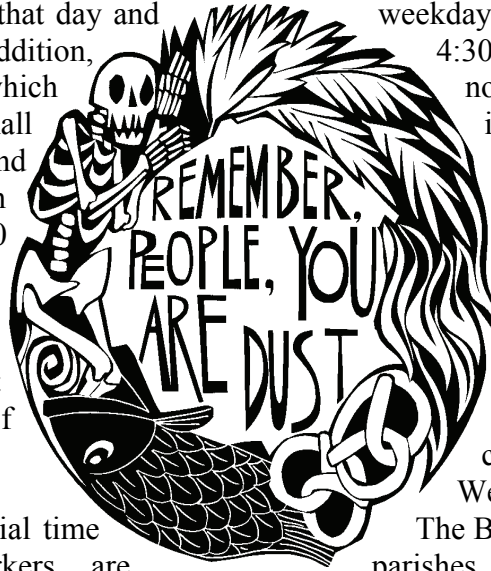


LENT IS HERE ALREADY!

This **Wednesday, February 6**, is Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent when Catholics begin a new cycle of conversion with the ancient practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Catholics are required to abstain from meat on that day and on all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, Catholics are required to fast (which means one meal and two small snacks) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Masses on Ash Wednesday are at 12:10 pm, 5:10 pm and 7:00 pm in Spanish. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses that day. Ashes will also be distributed between Masses at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm with a brief Scripture service.

As well as fasting, Lent is a special time of prayer. Downtown workers are encouraged to take advantage of our Masses at 12:10 pm each weekday and 5:10 pm each weekday except Friday. A priest is available for Confessions before the 12.10 pm Mass every day. We will have Stations



of the Cross Fridays following the 12:10 pm Mass in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish. We also encourage you to visit the Blessed Sacrament during the week. We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every weekday following the 12:10 pm Mass until 4:30 pm. Take a break from the rush and noise of city life and spend some time in prayer in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

We should also remember the importance of almsgiving during Lent. “The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance ... an expression of Lenten conversion,” says Bishop William Weigand in his pastoral letter for Lent. The Bishop urges Catholics to give to their parishes in the spirit of stewardship, and to donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal which is taking place this Sunday in all the parishes of the diocese.

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS TODAY

All Chinese Catholics and friends are cordially invited to our Annual Chinese New Year Mass to be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph Madera (retired bishop) today at 3:00 pm (February 3, 2008) in the Cathedral. A celebratory dinner will take place at the May Flower Restaurant at 6:00 pm this evening. Those who wish to participate in the New Year’s dinner are requested to contact **Barbara Yip at 396-9783 or Gloria Fong at 442-7181.**

CATHEDRAL YOUTH RETREAT

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will have its very first Youth Retreat on **Saturday, March 1, 2008** from 1pm-9pm. It will be held in the Lower Level of the Cathedral in Mercy Memorial Hall and the theme of the Retreat will be “God is Love”. All youth from the ages of 13-17 are invited to attend. Events will include games, youth speakers, group discussions, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, and will conclude with dinner. For more information please contact **Fr. Nicholas Ho in the Rectory at (916) 444-3070.**

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

Please join the St. Thomas More Society for our regular “Second Wednesday Noon Mass” followed by lunch on

Wednesday, Feb 13, at the Newman Center at Cal-State Sacramento--5900 Newman Court, off “H” Street. Ample parking is available, both in front of and behind the building. Retired Bishop Francis Quinn will preside at Mass. The scripture readings for the day (Wednesday of the First Week in Lent) may be accessed at: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/021308.shtml>

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The Cathedral Parish will begin Adult Confirmation Classes on **Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm** in the Lower Level for those who for whatever reason have never been confirmed. The Bishop extends this invitation each year providing that candidates have prior instruction. The Adult Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on May 3, 2008.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION | JAN. 26-27, 2008

Our collection last week was **\$11,344.72**. We wish to thank all those who made this collection possible. Our goal is to reach \$14,000 per week due to the high upkeep of the Cathedral. The motive for this generosity is thankfulness for God’s goodness to us — an attitude of gratitude!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

FEBRUARY 2-3

For the past 17 years, your generous support of the Annual Catholic Appeal has sustained countless endeavors that assist local people in need. As our Diocese of Sacramento continues to grow, the pressure placed upon our social service ministries becomes more intense. The needs are urgent and deserve the involvement of each and every one of us. These needs remain the central focus of the Appeal. In addition, the demand for priests and new parishes also escalates. 25% of this year's Appeal will help finance the training of seminarians from our own parishes and to help establish new parishes that will serve the spiritual needs of our people in growing areas. As you consider your level of participation this year, think about the current situation. 25% of your gift or pledge will be returned to the Cathedral Parish. Please be as generous as you are able. God's return to you will be even more generous.



RITE OF ELECTION NEXT SUNDAY

SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 2008 — 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 2008 — 3:00 PM AND 7:15 PM

In the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), "Inquirers" enter the Catechumenate through the **Rite of Acceptance** held a minimum of four times a year in the Cathedral. As Catechumens, they receive formal instruction and formation in our faith. The **Rite of Election** brings to an end the period of the Catechumenate and inaugurates the Period of Purification. The act of election by Bishop Weigand is a proclamation of admission to the reception of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), and is a significant turning point in the Catechumenate process. The rite celebrates the transition in the life of the catechumen from one who is seeking to one who is ready to stand firm in a commitment. The election is the announcement that the community has discerned that the catechumen is indeed ready to celebrate the Easter Sacraments. The word "election" is not used as if we are voting in representative form of government like our own. **Sacramental "election" is focused on what God has**

done and is doing in these people's lives. It is a public announcement that we, the Cathedral Parish, have seen God at work in them, and that they are ready to enter into the covenant relationship established through the sacraments. Since only a bishop may confer this election, each of the some 106 parishes in the Sacramento Diocese sends its catechumens to the Cathedral during one of the three designated Rites of Election.

Cathedral Windows Schedule

January 15/16	Three north windows delivered.
January 22/23	Scaffolding erected on north side.
January 23	Old windows removed on north side.
January 25-31	Refurbishment of sashes.
February 1-6	New north windows installed.
February 7/8	Scaffolding removed.

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



MON 2/4/2008

12:10 p.m. Robert & Mary Lou Lipold +
5:10 p.m. Remedios Ferrer S.I.

TUES 2/5/2008

ST. AGATHA

12:10 p.m. Robert & Mary Lou Lipold +
5:10 p.m. Winifred Owens +

WED 2/6/2008

ASH WEDNESDAY

10:00 am: Ashes distributed

12:10 pm: Timothy Myres
3:00 pm: Ashes distributed

5:10 pm: David Waco +
7:00 pm: Mass in Spanish

THURS 2/7/2008

12:10 am: Matt Harris S.I.
5:10 pm: Ana Maria Ionescu +

FRI 2/8/2008

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

12:10 p.m. Mao Family

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAY

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!