

Season of Loyalty Tests

Lent
w e r e

“God put Abraham to the test.” This test seems bizarre coming from the God we know is a God of love. People of Abraham’s time thought that they lived on after death through their children. Abraham and Sarah were asked to give up Isaac, their guarantee of living on after death.

The point of this story is that Abraham had his faith in God tested in a way that almost no one else is ever tested. He was willing to be so loyal to God that he would willingly offer to God his only son and his very existence. Was Abraham perfect? Hardly. Genesis is replete with Abraham’s sins. Despite this, in the end, God knew the depth of Abraham’s loyalty.

We test ourselves during Lent, but these tests are nothing compared to that of Abraham. Abraham’s son was not taken, but we should not miss the comparison that Lent gives us. God’s loyalty to us is such that He did give us the life of His only Son. Do we measure up? What is the depth of our loyalty to God? Can we, will we, go to the cross?

The point of Lent is to make tests and temptations for ourselves. It is not necessarily God who will measure us by our success or failure. We are called to measure ourselves. Like any good retreat, our Lenten retreat is designed to force us to face ourselves. What do we discover about ourselves in the temptations that are given to us and in the ones we create for ourselves? Although our Lenten practices are not severe, it is reported that most Catholics will not keep what little is asked of them. We are asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent. This is hardly sacrificial, but can we do it? Will we do this? How will I do on this very simple test? Will I pass my loyalty test?

excerpt from “The Priest” magazine

SECOND COLLECTION MARCH 22

The Diocesan Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services will taken up on March 22. This collection helps build the Church’s international social ministry by funding five agencies: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Migration and Refugee Services, Social Development and World Peace, and the Holy Father Relief Fund. Catholic Relief Services was cited for its outstanding support during the tsunami crisis. In addition, a portion of the Catholic Relief Services collection will be allocated for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA (SCSO) FEATURES BACH’S MAGNIFICAT, MASS IN G AT MONDAVI

The great 18th century German composer Johann Sebastian Bach is often referred to as the “Patron Saint for Church Musicians”. Bach believed that music was second only to the Gospel itself and that music should be written for the glory of God and the recreation of the human spirit. The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra and conductor Donald Kendrick open their Spring 2009 season with “Bach’s Birthday Celebration” on Sunday, March 22 at 7 PM in the UC Davis Mondavi Center. The March 22 program, featuring a large chorus, orchestra and 4 soloists, will include a timely performance of Bach’s jubilant *Magnificat* (Canticle of Mary and the Angel Gabriel) celebrating the feast of the Annunciation (March 25). The Mass in G Major and excerpts from the St. John Passion and the Ascension Cantata will also be performed. We urge you to join us for this celebration of Bach’s music guaranteed to uplift your spirits and add value and meaning to your Lenten Journey. Tickets: \$40/\$30 General Students 50% discount. Group (10+)-\$5 Discount Mondavi Box Office: 1-866-754-2787 For more information, visit sacramentochoral.com

LENTEN MISSION AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN FOLSOM

St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom will host a Lenten Mission presented by Reverend John H. Hampsch, C.M.F. a member of the Claretian Missionaries on March 23, 24, and 25. Fr. Hampsch has served as seminary professor and rector, retreat master, college professor, and Cursillo director. Offered twice each day at 8:15 am and 7:00 pm, the talks begin with Mass and then continue with Mountain Moving Faith and Faith of Belief. St. John the Baptist is located at 307 Montrose Drive in Folsom.

MERCY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mercy General Hospital is a non-profit, volunteer group, which provides Services to patients, families, other visitors, and staff at Mercy General Hospital in East Sacramento. There is a great need right now for volunteers to assist in various Services, from the Gift Shop, Information Desk, Surgery Waiting Area, Emergency Room and more. No prior experience is necessary and the Guild will provide any training you need. If you have as little as four hours a month to give and you would like to make a positive contribution to the community with your spare time, please call Vivian Buletti at (916) 731-7131 for more information and an application. The work at the hospital is rewarding and fulfilling and you will meet and work with a great many wonderful people. You will be happy you called. Mercy Hospital has provided Volunteers a voucher toward the cost of lunch or dinner after their shifts. Mercy General Hospital would like to thank all of the Volunteers who responded to our request. Again we need to invite men and women to help us out to care for the sick in so many ways.

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

The Vocations Committee asks: Are you searching for happiness, fulfillment in your life? Spend some time with the Lord—ask Him what He has planned just for you.

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

4TH ANNUAL EASTER RAFFLE

Sister Jenny announces the 4th Annual Easter Raffle to benefit all the Religious Education Programs here at the Cathedral. Tickets on sale now for only \$1.00 purchase tickets in the vestibule every Sunday after mass or ask any of the many religious education students. Some of the prizes include a Blu-Ray DVD player, bikes, laptop, wine baskets, entertainment baskets, family and baby baskets. Support our local Religious Education programs and buy some tickets. We have over 500 children in religious education classes throughout the week.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION (MAR 1)

Our collection last week was \$9,317.42. We wish to thank all those who made this collection possible. Because of the high upkeep costs at the Cathedral, our goal is to reach \$14,000 per week. To achieve this goal we encourage parishioners to donate one hour's pay per week to the parish or 3% of income. The motive for this generosity is thankfulness for God's goodness to us - an attitude of gratitude!

LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to come every Friday of Lent at 12:45 p.m. for the Stations of the Cross, in English. Also, Deacon Don DeHaven will have a painting of the Divine Mercy from Poland and bless those present with a relic of St. Faustina. Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:00 p.m. every Friday of Lent.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The Cathedral Parish will begin Adult Confirmation Classes on Tuesday March 17 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 by Bishop Soto on May 30, 2009, the eve of Pentecost.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS NEEDED

With over 500 students in Religious Education Classes, many teachers from our Cathedral Parish are required to provide instruction. Would you be willing to spend a couple of hours during the week to pass on your faith and knowledge? There is no better way to practice evangelization than to teach the young. Training and materials provided. Your generous time will not go unrewarded. Call Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

SACRAMENTO CATHOLIC FORUM

The Sacramento Catholic Forum (formally the Catholic Breakfast Club), will be meeting for lunch on March 20 at the Radisson, 500 Leisure Lane, 11:30 registration and 12:00 lunch. For \$25.00, preregister online at www.catholicbreakfastclub.org or mail your

check to P.O. Box 254848, Sacramento, CA, 95865 to be received by March 16th. Tickets at the door are \$30.00. The topic for this forum will be "St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: Christ the Bridegroom." In her newest talk, with this year devoted to St. Paul, international speaker Katrina J. Zeno returns to Sacramento to unpack Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Specializing in the "theology of the body," marriage, and passing on of the faith, Katrina will take us through Paul's journey from "merit to mercy to marriage" and break open its application. This talk should prove to be informative and exciting.

LENTEN READING SUGGESTION

A Book of Prayers: To the Heavens from the Stars by Chuck Spinner. The book has quotes from 110 celebrities and famous historical figures on the significance and power of prayer. The book highlights both religion and history and illustrates that athletes, entertainers, and government officials can and do provide positive models for prayer in one's life. See <http://abookofprayers.com> for details on the book.



CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

- MON 3/9/2009 (FRANCES OF ROME) LENTEN WEEKDAY**
 12:10 p.m.: Tom Mardenga +
 5:10 p.m.: Felipa Corrales +
- TUES 3/10/2009 LENTEN WEEKDAY**
 12:10 p.m.: In Thanksgiving Juan Galdamez
 5:10 p.m.: Rayn Lumagui +
- WED 3/11/2009 LENTEN WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Lisa Smile, S.I.
 5:10 p.m.: Lilia Calica -Sardena +
- THURS 3/12/2009 LENTEN WEEKDAY**
 12:10 p.m.: Eugene Hines +
 5:10 p.m.: In Thanksgiving
- FRI 3/13/2009 LENTEN WEEKDAY**
 12:10 p.m.: Maria Inciong, S.I.

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY WEEK

AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

GIFT SHOP HOURS

MON-FRI 11AM-2PM, CLOSED SATURDAY
 SUNDAY 10AM-2PM

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!