

March 19, 2006

Third Sunday of Lent

I, the LORD, am your God ... You shall not have other gods besides me.

—Exodus 20:2a, 3



The season of Lent is a time of preparation leading to a solemn celebration of the Sacred Triduum. This preparation would include the Sacrament of Penance, for those who wish. Most properly, this matter of reconciliation should be taken care of before Holy Week begins. In compliance with this recommendation, we urge you to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. We will have our **Lenten Penance Liturgy next Saturday, March 25th at 3:30 p.m.** After prayer and reflection on the scriptures, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Please try to attend.

YOU ARE INVITED

Please join us on the next four Monday evenings—March 20, 27, April 3 and 10 at 5:30p.m. for the Stations of the Cross. After the Stations, we gather in the parish hall for a soup supper. This is a special season to share prayer and food with fellow parishioners. In the interest of ecology, please bring your own cup, bowl and spoon to the soup suppers.

At each of the soup suppers, there will be a basket available to collect hygiene items (*toothbrushes, tooth paste, deodorant, soap, etc.*) to give to Catholic Charities. We will also take up a *free-will offering* which will be given to various charities such as Catholic Relief Service, Catholic Charities, Seamless Garment Network, Sisters of Lesotho and Heifer International.

If you cannot attend the soup suppers but would like to make a donation toward these worthy causes, you may take it to the parish office located in the Rectory.

FIRST SCRUTINY — 7:00A.M. MASS TODAY

This Lenten ceremony has repentance as its theme. It renews the entire community along with the catechumens who are being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Let us pray for our own conversion as well as that of those who prepare for entrance into the Church.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION INITIATIVE

PETITION SIGNING—TODAY

The **PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW AND CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE** will require an abortionist to notify at least one parent of an under-18-year-old girl at least 48 hours before aborting the girl's baby. This initiative, Proposition 73, was the first of eight propositions placed on the Special Election ballot of Nov. 2005. Although all of the propositions were defeated in that election, Prop 73 received the most YES votes and lost by the smallest margin. Because of the close vote, supporters of Prop 73 plan to put the Parents' Right to Know and Child Protection initiative back on the ballot for November 2006. By passing this initiative, we can help protect young girls from older sexual predators who can now use secret abortions to cover up their crimes. Since it will require several hundred thousand signatures to put the initiative on the November ballot, we will be gathering signatures after all the Masses this weekend and continuing on the weekends of March 25/26 and April 1/2. You must be a registered voter in L.A. County to sign a petition.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

EASTER BASKET PROJECT

We will be filling Easter baskets for homeless and needy children on **Sat. Apr. 8th**. We invite anyone who would like to help with this project to **meet in St. Matthew's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to go to the L.B. Catholic Charities office on 14th St.**

We will finish this fun and worthy project before noon. Information: Claire — 597-4030.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

Scheduled for March 30th – April 2nd at the Anaheim Convention Center, this Congress features hundreds of noted theologians, musicians and religious educators speaking about Catholic teaching and contemporary issues. For more information, please go online www.RECongress.org.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Please join us TODAY after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Our organization meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month in Room #1 of the Education Building.

MARCH 26 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 (32B)

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21