

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 17, 2008

“CHRIST JESUS . . . DESTROYED DEATH AND BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL

— 2 Timothy 1:10b

CHOOSE CHRIST

God approaches each of us and we are changed. Abram responds with new purpose. He leaves his home, his family and everything to follow where the Lord leads him. Peter, James and John get a glimpse of the Lord Jesus as divine. This glimmer becomes a foretaste of the resurrection. Jesus calls us to stand up and not be afraid so we can take part in the good news. We can go forward with Jesus as he overcomes death and shares with his followers divine life and immortality. Easter is all of that—can we, can you, follow him?

Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2001OCP

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

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 on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00p.m. After prayer and reflection on the scriptures, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Please try to attend.

ATTENTION LECTORS, SERVERS AND MINISTERS

Please call in your non-availability dates for the months of March and April by this Monday, February 18th. Please e-mail your dates to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 and leave a message.

...LENTEN REFLECTIONS...

You are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. The readings for next week are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

— THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT —

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

- 1) *Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, “Give me a drink.” What is Jesus saying to me and how will I respond?*
- 2) *How am I like the Samaritan woman who believed in Jesus and shared her faith with others?*

RCIA LENTEN CEREMONIES

In a special way the Gospels of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent call all Christians to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and to respond to God’s call to holiness more fully. Our catechumens who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist participate in this endeavor, and the Church provides simple rites, known as Scrutinies, which are intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. Let us join with them in these ceremonies as we too do penance during this Lenten season.

ACCW MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 28, 10am.—1:30p.m.
St. Barnabas Church, 3955 Orange Ave. L.B.
Registration fee—\$10.00 (includes lunch)
If interested, please call Estelle
at 562.439.2561 before Feb. 21.

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women’s purpose, under the patronage of Our Lady Queen of Angels, is to educate in spirituality and leadership, to enable, support and empower Catholic women to better serve the Church and community, and to serve as a link between the women in the parish and the Cardinal Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishops, the offices of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center and their programs and resources.

Every Catholic woman, through her parish, is a member. There is no formal membership and there are no dues nor fund raising.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPERS

Please join us for the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m. **this Monday evening and each Monday of Lent.** Afterwards, we will have a soup supper in our parish hall. **Are you willing to make your favorite soup?** Please call Linda at 562.493.9898 to help. A free-will offering taken at the dinner will be given to Catholic Charities, Manna Meals and First Congregational Church Homeless program.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

Scheduled for February 28—March 2nd will focus on the theme “Lift Your Gaze...See Anew.” Over the weekend participants will enjoy morning praise workshops, evening liturgies and a variety of prayer experiences with internationally renowned leaders in the areas of liturgical music and worship. For more information or to register you may call the R.E. Congress info line at 213.637.7348 or visit www.RECongress.org.