

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US.

— Romans 5:8

LIVING WATERS

The scrutinies occur today and during the next two Sundays. We, and the church, look closely at ourselves to see how we are following the Lord. How thirsty are we for the living waters offered by Jesus? Does each of us realize the Lord is the way, the truth and the life? Do we, do you, witness to his place? Our faith is based on this witness, and on that of our ancestors who have been touched and nourished by the risen Lord. We sponsor and encourage each other in our faith. Lord, help us!

Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2001OCP

PENANCE SERVICE

The season of Lent is a time of preparation leading to a solemn celebration of the Sacred Triduum. This preparation should include the Sacrament of Penance, for everyone. 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 bilingual Lenten Penance Liturgy this Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00p.m.** After prayer and reflection, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Please try to attend.

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 the first 2 Mondays of March. After the Stations, we will enjoy a soup supper** in our parish hall. If you would like to share 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.

...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.

— FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT —

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

- 1) **Have I ever found myself looking down on someone who is desperately in need; not realizing that he is proof that *'the works of God might be visible through him?'***
- 2) **Do I find myself so blind in my piety that I cannot see Christ among others?**

2008 CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

One Human Family Caring for those in Need

In more than 99 countries worldwide, CRS focuses on improving the lives of those in need by working with local communities and partners overseas. Please give to the collection for the Catholic Relief Services — you will be reaching out to our Universal Church.

SPIRITUAL READINGS

If your soul is longing for deeper union with God, you might want to check out a weekly eight-part series of articles which started in the Tidings on February 8th. The first article, "*Finding God in All Things*" written by Fr. Jim Clarke (Feb. 8th edition) was followed by "*Practice Doesn't Always Make Perfect*" by Michael Downing (Feb. 15th edition). These are available online at www.the-tidings.com or you may pick up a Tidings newspaper on your way out of church each weekend.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, March 9th, 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

A scary thought...what if you or one of your family members needed blood and there was none available? Let us help one another to avoid any possibility of this happening! Please consider donating blood at our blood drive which will take place on March 9th in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. This drive is sponsored by our Parish Nursing Ministry program and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. **If you can give blood, you are encouraged to make an appointment after the Sunday Masses this weekend or after the Saturday evening Masses next weekend.** More information about the drive will be available in the bulletin next weekend. Thank you for your help!

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 catechumens 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.