

Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2016

The Lord fills the hungry
with good things!

Guest Column

Jesus Gives Us a Glimpse of Abundance

In her later years, my mother lived on a lake in Wisconsin, not far from our home. There, our daughters learned to swim and fish. One day, when our younger daughter was about eight, we went to the end of the pier to fish quietly. She had learned to cast her rod after a fashion and was happily doing that when I looked out to where I expected to see the bobber on her line and realized it wasn't there.

Just as I started to ask about it, she gave a little yell as her line suddenly took off and she grabbed her rod to hang on. She saw the foot-long bass jump out of the water a little distance away and her eyes widened. With some help, she got the fish to the pier, where my husband netted it. The amazement of a child who had never caught more than small fish was evident, and she proudly helped clean it for the evening meal.

I can only imagine what the apostles, who were seasoned fishermen, felt that day on the Sea of Galilee, the subject of today's Gospel. Likely it was amazement at this stranger who apparently knew more about fishing than they did, but there was also a glimpse of an abundance they didn't know was possible and a sense that Jesus meant life for them. Peter drops to his knees, suddenly aware of his doubts and sins. Jesus simply tells him not to be afraid, shows him what he can do with God's help, and waits for him to follow.

Let's approach the life God calls us to with the same amazement and humility.

– Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Mass for the Intentions Week

February 6 – 13, 2016

	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Feb. 6	5 p.m. Carmelo & Francine Tringali †	Frank & Rita Caramagno
Sunday, Feb. 7	8 a.m. Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
	9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving	Diane Marin
	11 a.m. Josefa F. Marcelino †	Reynaldo & Erlinda Gauna
	12:30 p.m. Marie-Rose Sery †	Diane Adou
	6 p.m. St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
Monday, Feb. 8	8 a.m. Souls in Purgatory	Rosa Jaramillo
Tuesday, Feb. 9	8 a.m. Juana Juat †	Estela Manila
Wednesday, Feb. 10	8 a.m. Jose Barce †	Alice Barce & Family
	7:30 p.m. St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
Thursday, Feb. 11	5 p.m. Juana Juat †	Alice Barce & Family
Friday, Feb. 12	8 a.m. Jesus V. Marcelino †	Reynaldo & Erlinda Gauna
Saturday, Feb. 13	8 a.m. Souls in Purgatory	Leticia Mendosa-Sobel
	5 p.m. Jose Pereira †	Victoria Gregorio

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (96)	\$2,328
Loose Donations	<u>1,085</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$3,413
Parish Charities	\$1,841

This Week: Ash Wednesday

Please remember St. John's in your will.

Ash Wednesday Masses

Lent starts early this year – next Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Ash Wednesday Masses at St. John's will be at 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Blessed ashes will be distributed at each Mass.



Message of Stewardship

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do *I* hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am *I* prepared to answer, "Here I am. Send *me*."

Time-Saver

Save time, using our Electronic Fund Transfer program, to make your church offerings on either a weekly or monthly basis. For details, call 232-5659 or visit our parish office.

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

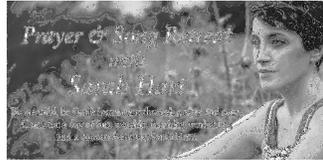
Crisostomo & Virginia Alday, Jade Austin, Evelyn Baker, Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Barbara Brendlinger, Robert Britto, Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger, Betty Cooper, Ernesto P. Cruz, Pablo de la Vega, Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas, Philomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Andy Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan, Donna Heuken, Frances, Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Helen Holloway, Tamaya Hunt, Pat Jeffrey, Ann Jones, Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Marian & Michael Luoma, Nancy McVey, Philip Moore, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Victoria Payless, Linda Schneider, Salvador Tejero, James Vaughn, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Jan Williamson, Masaru Yokoi.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

Prayer & Song Retreat

On Saturday, April 30, a retreat exclusively for the youth will take place at St. John's. The day will contain inspiring workshops from multiple speakers, a youth Mass and a concert open to all audiences.

The main speaker is Grammy-nominated and L.A. Youth Day 2016 speaker Sarah Hart, who will also give



a concert that is open to the public. In order to make this a successful event, we need your help. All proceeds will be distributed between our Youth Choir and the Youth Ministry/Confirmation program.

Help us fulfill our goal of attending L.A. Youth Day 2017. To become a sponsor contact Andy Gutierrez andyg@sjtbc.us or visit www.prayerandsongretreat.org

Rice Bowl Fights Hunger

Join our parish community – and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-changing Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl.



Pick up your family's rice bowl from the table at the church exit, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app!

Remember, what you give up for Lent changes lives.

Last year, St. John's raised \$2,319. As a diocese, we raised nearly \$217,000, which was the largest amount we have ever collected, and a \$39,000 increase over 2014.

These funds are not only assisting people who are struggling to survive in other parts of our world, but are also alleviating hunger in our own backyard. One-fourth of your donations last year were kept locally and a portion was awarded to organizations that work to end hunger in our diocese. Distributions to Rice Bowl recipients in the Oakland Diocese, including St. Vincent de Paul, totaled \$17,650.

Words from Laudato Si' (Excerpt from Pope's Encyclical)

A correct relationship with the created world demands that we not weaken this social dimension of openness to others, much less the transcendent dimension of our openness to the "Thou" of God.

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.

Otherwise, it would be nothing more than romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb, locking us into a stifling immanence. – (§119)

Bible Camp June 20-24

Save the dates, June 20-24, for St. John the Baptist's 15th annual Vacation Bible Day Camp.

The committee is meeting to decide this year's exciting new theme.

Campers will experience original and inspiring music, drama, team-building games, animals, tasty treats, service projects, surprise guests and Bible adventures brought to life.

Your kids won't want to miss this exciting adventure. Mark your calendar today! Registration forms and registration information coming soon.

Register for Pilgrimages

Throughout the Jubilee of Mercy, pilgrimages to Christ the Light Cathedral and the Holy Door in the Oakland Diocese will be offered. To inquire or register as a group or individual,, go to jubileeofmercy-eb.org/page/pilgrimage, or contact Denise Kogler at 271-1935, dkogler@ctlcathedral.org

St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys Ave., corner of Lexington
Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850
Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays
11:30 a.m. Feb. 9: Dina McFarland
Development Director of ARF
12:30 p.m.: Lunch

Mini-Retreats at Chapel

Divine Mercy Chapel will conduct three consecutive Saturday night mini-retreats on the three major themes of Lent.



The mini-retreats will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the chapel (11152 San Pablo Ave.), next door to St. John's Church.

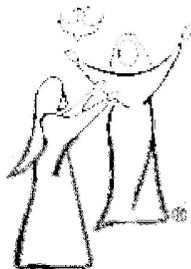
Themes will be:

- Feb. 13: Prayer
- Feb. 20: Fasting
- Feb. 27: Almsgiving

The services will be bilingual (English and Spanish). Everyone is welcome.

Magnificat Speaker

Magnificat Ministry for Catholic Women will hold its March prayer breakfast from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 12 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord.



Speaker will be Denise Bossert, a well-known author and syndicated columnist. She is the daughter of a Protestant minister, and will share her story of conversion to Catholicism.

Reservations are \$28; \$35 after March 5.

Please go to www.magnificatsoti.org for information or reservations. Call 925-788-7762.

Valentine's Day Event

Need plans for Valentine's day? San Damiano Retreat Center will host a Valentine's Day Dinner and Movie Fundraiser.

The event will be open to singles and couples. Cost will be \$50 per person. For more information about the event, contact Kateri Kautai at 925-837-9141, ext. 315 or katerik@sandamiano.org.

Tai Chi Classes on Tuesday

Tai chi classes for older adults (55+) are conducted Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 10:30, at St. John's Community Center, 6500 Gladys Ave.

Contact Jan Duckart at 237-3808 on Tuesdays only; otherwise at 527-2850.



SHARING GOD'S MERCY

2016 BISHOP'S APPEAL

Campaign Kicks Off

The 2016 Bishop's Appeal begins this weekend and will continue throughout February. To incorporate the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, the title of this year's Appeal is "Sharing God's Mercy."

We would like to thank all the parishioners who have given to the Bishop's Appeal in the past, as well as those who also gave, and continue to give, to the capital campaign. You should have received information and materials in the mail this past week. More information on the Appeal can be found by visiting www.oakdiocese.org/giving.

We would also like to inform you that **Bishop Michael C. Barber will be attending a special reception at St. Callistus parish in El Sobrante at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2**, to speak about this year's Bishop's Appeal.

The bishop will have the opportunity to speak about how the Appeal is vital to the ministries of the diocese and the Church and how it is different, but equally important as the capital campaign.

Light food and beverages will be served at 6:30 p.m. and Bishop Barber will begin speaking around 7 p.m. All parishioners are invited!

This will give you an opportunity to learn more about the ministries at the diocese and ask questions. So please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend. Please RSVP to Phil Toups by calling 628-2156 or emailing him at ptoups@guidanceingiving.com

Thank you!

Pope: Perform Works of Mercy During Lent

Lent is a time of conversion and a time to deepen one's faith, demonstrating and sharing it through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Pope Francis said.

"Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins Feb. 10 for Latin-rite Catholics.

Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming strangers, offering instruction, giving comfort - "on such things will we be judged," the pope wrote in the message.

Particularly during the Year of Mercy, he said, Catholics are called to recognize their own need for God's mercy, the greatness of God's love seen in the death and resurrection of Christ and the obligation to assist others by communicating God's love and mercy through words and deeds.

"The root of all sin" is thinking that one is god, something often expressed in a total preoccupation

for accumulating money and power, the pope wrote. And just as individuals can be tempted to think they have no need of God, social and political systems can run the same risk, ignoring both God and the real needs of human beings.

"Love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness," Pope Francis wrote. It is the only response to the longings "that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches."

"The danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor," he said, "the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is hell."

But through acts of mercy and charity, "by touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering," he wrote, "sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need."

Young Adult Retreat

A young adult retreat (18-35) will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the Notre Dame de Namur Campus in Belmont.

Theme will be *Seeking God's Dream for Me*.

Please RSVP by Feb. 29. Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/GodsDream>

For more information, contact Sister Lisa, DC at srllaguna@doc1633.org or 650-949-8890 or Bro. Chris, FSC at brochrisfsc@dlsi.org or 310-849-1061.

Religious Discernment

Women: Have you ever thought about becoming a Sister? Single Catholic women ages 18-40 are invited to a prayerful and reflective *Religious Vocation Discernment Weekend Retreat* with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, March 4-6 in the Los Altos Hills.

For reservations and more information contact Sister Lisa Laguna, D.C., 650/949-8890, or email srllaguna@doc1633.org www.Daughters-Of-Charity.com/retreats/

Marriage Enrichment

Flowers will fade and chocolates will disappear, so do something special this Valentine's Day that will last through the year.

St. Agnes Parish in Concord and Worldwide Marriage Encounter cordially invite you to enrich your marriage with an afternoon presentation and workshop based on "Love Never Ends," by Dr. Frank W. Nelson at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

After the presentation, participants will be able to attend Mass and renew their marriage vows. Advanced registration is required. To register, please email mikerhodawwme@yahoo.com.

Mother-Daughter Retreat

Young women of high school age are invited to gather to spend special time with their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other significant women in their lives at Carondelet High School's annual Mother-Daughter Retreat Sunday, Feb. 21.

The \$24 per person ticket includes the retreat and brunch. To purchase tickets, visit www.carondelet.net.