

Third Sunday
of Lent

March 3, 2013

“I will give you a new Spirit,”
says the Lord.

God Is Merciful, But He Expects Us To Improve

The short parable in the Gospel this week tells of the fig tree that was given opportunities of every kind to produce fruit, but it failed to do so. Simply put, “The Lord is kind and merciful,” but He expects us not to take His mercy for granted. With the help of His kindness, He expects us to grow in goodness and holiness. We are to produce good works. God didn’t create us just to take up space in this world. He wants more from us than that. He wants us to trust Him, to love Him and to do good for others.

One of the ways God manifests His kindness and mercy to us is in calling us to repentance and renewal during this holy season of Lent. In the book of Revelation, Jesus says: “Whoever is dear to me I will reprove and chastise. Be earnest about it, therefore. Repent! Here I stand, knocking at the door. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with me.” This assumes that we all have room for improvement. God asks that of us, and He also gives us the help we need to be better. That is kindness to us. The fact that he challenges us to change comes from his love as a caring parent.

The conversation Jesus had about the tragic events mentioned at the beginning of today’s Gospel is interesting. Sometimes people think that when something bad happens to someone, it’s God’s punishment. Jesus says that’s not always true. We can’t think, “Well, if nothing bad is happening to me, it must be because I am so good.” He tells us we all need to repent, i.e., to work to be better than we are. This season of Lent keeps reminding us of our need to grow in holiness and goodness. We are never good enough to remain complacent. We can all do a better job even when God is comforting us, forgiving us, healing us, encouraging us or correcting us; we still can always do better. God didn’t create us just to take up space in this world. Let us strive in the remaining weeks of Lent to show some improvement – to work to be better than we are.

Fr. Gabriel Wankar
Priest-in-Residence

Mass Intentions for the Week

March 2 – 9, 2013

	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, March 2	5 p.m. Delia Zuniga †	Pajuleras Family
Sunday, March 3	8 a.m. Luis Torres †	Ann Torres
	9:30 a.m. Queen Sanders †	Lorraine Allen
	11 a.m. Deceased Blair Family Members †	Blair Family
	12:30 p.m. Eugenio Artiaga †	Reyline Artiaga
	6 p.m. St. John's Parishioners	Brazilian Community
Monday, March 4	8 a.m. Personal Intentions	Jean Coppock
Tuesday, March 5	8 a.m. Paula Liu – Good Health	Mary Huang
Wednesday, March 6	8 a.m. Mark McEntire †	Eulalia McEntire
Thursday, March 7	8 a.m. Adriana Arancibia	Nieves Lopez
Friday, March 8	8 a.m. Blessed Mother's Intentions	Elaine Le Crom
Saturday, March 9	8 a.m. St. John's Parishioners	St. John the Baptist Parish
	5 p.m. Jim Rapella †	Rapella Family
	7 p.m. Jaime Smith †	Rebecca Manrique

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (141)	\$3,313
Loose Donations	<u>1,591</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$4,904

Next Weekend: Catholic Relief Services

Please remember St. John's in your will.

Next Weekend: Catholic Relief

The second collection next weekend will be for Catholic Relief Services.

Through your generosity, thousands of young women may never have to suffer the horror of being sold for other people's use, and parishes throughout the country can continue to help refugees seeking peaceful lives.

Youth Ministry Breakfast Sale

St. John's Youth Ministry is holding a Breakfast Sale this Sunday, March 3, in the Fr. John Maxwell Conference Room.

Breakfast items will be sold after the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses.

Please stop by the Conference Room for something to eat and drink.

As always, thank you for supporting this important parish ministry.

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Crisostomo & Virginia Alday, Jade Austin, Evelyn Baker, Stella Baptista, Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Marta Belanger, Barbara Brendlinger, Robert Britto, Genevieve Callegari, Lena Cardella, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Jennette Cleadenger, Ernesto P. Cruz, Deloris Davis, Ann Gerletti, Philomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Ruben Gutierrez, Frances Haynes, Helen Holloway, Mary Huang, Pat & Ray Jeffre, Addie Kasari, Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Marian Luoma, Alvina Lyons, Al Marty, Nancy McVey, Philip Moore, Victoria Payless, Linda Schneider, Jack Sudall, Salvador Tejero, Anna Verbanac, Gladys Wilson and Helene Wulbern.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

Message of Stewardship

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

It's Not Too Late to Pledge to the Bishop's Appeal

Thank You!

On behalf of all individuals serving in diocesan ministry, as well as the people benefiting from these services, Archbishop Brunett thanks all who have made a pledge or gift to the 2013 Bishop's Appeal. The ministries and programs funded by the Appeal touch people of every age and stage of life in our diocese – all made possible because of your faithful stewardship. Please know how much your gift is appreciated.

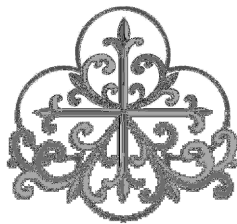
If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the Bishop's Appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, it isn't too late. Please complete the pledge card you received in the mail or the commitment envelope found in the pew and place it in the collection basket at Mass. It is only through the participation of all that we will be able to reach both our parish goal and our overall diocesan goal.

As you make your decision about the 2013 Bishop's Appeal, please consider a gift that truly reflects all the blessings you have received from God and your willingness to support the work of your parish and diocese.

It's not too late ...

To view the Bishop's Appeal video, to make a gift on-line or for more information, please visit:

www.oakdiocese.org.



Faithful Stewards in the Year of Faith

Bishop's Appeal 2013

Ministry Focus

Evangelization & Catechesis

Diocesan pastoral ministries and services provide an opportunity for parish communities and individuals to more fully live lives of faith. Especially in this Year of Faith, the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is focused on providing programs and services that will provide opportunities for education and renewal.

These include programs in support of life and justice issues, marriage and family, marriage preparation, and liturgy and worship. Youth and young adult ministry programs as well as an extensive CYO program involve thousands of youths each year. Additionally, various ethnic and minority ministries and ethnic pastoral and cultural centers serve the rich and diverse community that makes up the Church of Oakland.

Your gifts last year helped provide marriage preparation classes for more than 700 couples, supported an anniversary Mass for more than 900 people at the cathedral and gave thousands of junior high and high school students the opportunity to experience the exciting "Ignite" program and other major youth gatherings throughout the year.

Gifts to the 2013 *Bishop's Appeal – Faithful Stewards in the Year of Faith* will be used to continue these services that support our youth and engage our people in the daily life of the Church.

Lenten Recollection Saturday

St. Joseph's San Lorenzo Ruiz Community will hold a Lenten recollection from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. next Saturday, March 9, at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Pinole.

Speaker will be Msgr. Fred Bitanga. He will talk about religious devotions, ethnic traditions, Catholic identity and cultural roots.

Activities will start with 8 a.m. Mass, followed by a continental breakfast and the morning talk.

Registration fee is \$10 a person. For more info, please call the parish center at 741-4900.

Lenten Retreat at St. Callistus

St. Callistus Parish in El Sobrante will conduct a parish Lenten retreat at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, March 4 through 6.

Guest priest Fr. David George will preach the retreat. He is the founder-director of St. Aloysius Institute of Technology in India and holds a doctorate in political science, along with several educational achievements.

There will be Benediction each night, and a healing service on Wednesday evening.

All are welcome.

Deadline for Youth Rally

St. John's Youth Ministry invites all teens to the Youth Day 2013 Ignite Pure Explosion on Saturday, March 16, at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland.



This will be a day of inspiration, faith, fun and friends for high school-aged teens.

It will bring teens together so they can see they are part of a life-giving, dynamic Church.

Presenter Fr. Dave Pivonka is an international speaker, author and retreat master. Archbishop Brunett will preside at the afternoon Mass.

Payment of \$25 a child and the registration, due by March 4, can be dropped off at the parish office. For more info, e-mail Catheryn at catjumsal@yahoo.com or call her at 404-219-3435.

Soup Luncheon Thursday

Our parish's soup luncheon for March will be one week earlier than normal.

Please reserve next Thursday, March 7, at the Community Center. Soup will be served from noon to 1 p.m., or until it runs out.

This month's soup will be Navy Bean..

Don't forget to bring your soup bowl, coffee cup and spoon. Lunch includes soup, coffee and tea, Acme bread and dessert, all for only \$3.

Helping Children in Lesotho

This week we focus our prayers, fasting and almsgiving on Lesotho in southern Africa, where many children lack access to quality education.

Only 73% of the primary school-age children are enrolled.



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

10 a.m. March 5:

Dorothy Bolt demonstrating tissue paper flowers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Special Events at St. John's

- Sunday, March 3: Youth Ministry Breakfast Sale, 9-11:30 a.m. in Conference Room
- Thursday, March 7: Parish Soup Luncheon, noon to 1 p.m., Community Center, \$3.
- Saturday, March 9: Lenten Mini-Retreat, 9 to 11 p.m. in chapel.
- Friday mornings during Lent: Stations of the Cross following 8 a.m. Mass
- Friday, March 8 & 22: Solemn Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Lenten Devotions

We are having special devotions at St. John's on Friday evenings leading up to Good Friday.

On two more Fridays (March 8 & 22), we will conduct Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction, at 7:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m. Friday, March 15, the Salesian Mystery Players will give a dramatic multi-media depiction of Our Lord's Passion and Death. Written and directed by a Franciscan friar, the performance by high school students will be in the tradition of the medieval Mystery Plays.



Lenten Mini-Retreats at Chapel

St. John's Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel is conducting Lenten mini-retreats on one more Saturday night, from 9 to 11 p.m.

- March 9 Topic: Almsgiving

There will be Scripture readings, reflections and prayers, in both English and Spanish.

Fr. Andrew To Give Retreat March 23



Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Amritharaj, a popular speaker, retreat master and author who teaches at St. Patrick's Seminary and has visited our parish several times, will lead a Lenten retreat from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. The program will be conducted in the church, followed by confessions.

Church Decorators Retiring

Dear Parishioners of St John's:

Our decorating team (Corinne Drymon, Liz Boggess and Susan Bitner), would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to decorate and create a warm and friendly, "church environment" for the past six-plus years.

We are announcing our retirement. This Easter will be the last event we will be decorating. It's time to give someone else the opportunity to share their creative ideas with our community.

If you're interested in this endeavor, please contact Fr. Thuong.

– St. John's Environment Committee

Come and Adore Jesus

You are encouraged to sign up to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for an hour a week in St. John's Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel.

The chapel is silent for reflective prayer, except for specified times for community prayers:

Every-Day Community Prayers

3 p.m.: Divine Mercy Chaplet

9 p.m.: Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

10 p.m.: Spanish Prayers (except Sunday)

Once-a-Week Community Prayers

Monday Noon: Carmelite prayers

Tuesday Noon: Holy Face Devotion

Wednesday 6:15 p.m.: Perpetual Help Devotion

Wednesday 7-9 p.m.: Spanish Prayers

Thursday 6:15 p.m.: Santo Niño Devotion

Friday 6:15 p.m.: Sacred Heart Devotion

Saturday 11 p.m.-3 a.m.: Spanish Prayers

Magnificat Breakfast Saturday

Women of the Oakland Diocese are invited to join Magnificat at its March Prayer Breakfast, 9:30 to 12:30 on Saturday, March 9, at the Crowne Plaza in Concord.

Guest speaker will be Melanie Pritchard, a well-known author, speaker and blogger.

Reservations are \$35 per person. For more info or to register, go to www.magnificatsoti.org.

Westminster Organist at Cathedral

Organist James O'Donnell will appear in concert at Christ the Light Cathedral at 8 p.m. next Wednesday evening, March 7.

O'Donnell is the organist and master of choristers at Westminster, where he directs the Abbey's music. He also directs the Westminster Abbey choir in its concerts, broadcasts, recordings and tours. Tickets are \$10 general admission/\$30 premium setting (which include "Meet the Artist" reception). Online tickets re available at odonnellorganrecital.eventbrite.com.

Memorial for Prenatal Losses

A memorial service for prenatal losses will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at Holy Spirit Newman Hall (at 2700 Dwight Way) in Berkeley.

If you or a loved one has suffered the loss of a baby to stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion, you are invited to this healing memorial service. Fellowship and refreshments will follow.

For more information, please contact Roberta Gannon at 601-6805 or rlgannon@pacbell.net.

'40 Days for Life'

Christians throughout the San Francisco Bay Area are invited to participate in the international "40 Days for Life" effort through March 24.

In addition to 40 days of peaceful prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, please consider volunteering to pray at Planned Parenthood office, 1650 Valencia St. in San Francisco during these 40 days.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ron Konopaski at 415-668-9800, 360-460-9194 or konopaski@yahoo.com.

Help Charities, See A's

Volunteer to sell concessions at the A's games – including those against the Giants, Yankees and Cardinals – and help raise money for Catholic Charities of the East Bay's programs and services.

Mandatory training is Saturday, March 16, at the Oakland Coliseum.

Please contact Carol Louisell at clouisell@cceb.org or 768-3142.