

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Fr. Vince Mesi, O.F.M.

Associate Pastor

Fr. Alonso de Blas, O.F.M.

Parish Manager

Jerome Doris

Christian Formation Director

Sr. Anthony Poerio, I.B.V.M

Music Director

Gordon Stevenson

Administrative Assistant

Camela Barraza

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Saturday
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Weekday's 12:00 p.m.
Holydays Noon and 5:15 p.m.

Civic Holidays
7:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Holy Hour, Thursday
11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Basilica
231 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Phone
602.354.2100

Fax
602.354.2060

Website
Stmarysbasilica.org

Parish Center Hours
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2007

St. Mary's Basilica

A Catholic Faith Community

Franciscan Friars



Parish Mission Statement

As Children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized.

Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ.

Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.

Third Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends,

Peace and all Good!

All over the world, during these next three Sundays, those who are to be initiated into the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are going to come before their communities and be prayed over by the Church—the *whole* Church. And, all over the world those who gather around the elect, to pray for them and to pray over them, will be reminded of their own Baptism and unique status before God that it gives them.

Because of this world wide phenomenon during these three weeks, there is a choice to be made regarding the readings for this Sunday and for the following two. Because we do have elect in our parish preparing for the Easter sacraments, we will be hearing the readings from Cycle A. These readings featuring three beautiful gospel stories from St. John's Gospel, focus our attention on the call of Baptism: The Samaritan Woman and Christ, "the living water" of Baptism, The Man Born Blind and Christ who heals the "blindness" of lack of faith and The Raising of Lazarus and Christ who gives "eternal life" beginning in Baptism and ending in heaven forever.

Below, you will find the gospel for Year C. Even though you will not hear this gospel at Mass today, I have asked one of our pastoral council members to give a reflection on it: "The Parable of the Fig Tree." (Luke 13:1-9)

And Jesus told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

Greetings!

In reflecting on this gospel parable, we hear once again how Jesus' love for us is so great that it saves anyone, even the sinner. In Jesus' parable of the fig tree, the owner cites that the tree has not born fruit for three years and decides to direct the gardener to cut it down. We then see how the gardener pleads with the owner to let him cultivate the soil around it and give it one more year to see if it will bear fruit. Then, if it does not, the gardener says to cut it down.

In our lives we see how the gardener reflects God's mercy for us and how God gives us that extra chance to repent and come back to God. We should ask ourselves: How is God calling us to repent? Do we hear God's call to repentance? Will we end up "bearing fruit" after being given another chance or end up being 'cut down'?

The more we listen to God's challenge to turn away from sin, the more fruit we will bear and we will be saved. As individuals we are no one, with God's grace and love we are someone. With this in mind let us all strive to be someone who always includes God in our lives and who returns to God through repentance and conversion of heart.

During this Lenten journey, let us pray that God will give us the wisdom to acknowledge God's call to turn away from sin and for the courage to live a life that is faithful to the gospel.

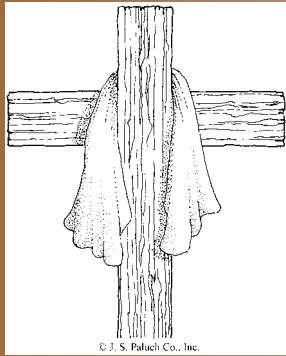
Your Brother,

Michael Castillo

St. Mary's Pastoral Council member

March 11, 2007

Lenten Devotions At St. Mary's Basilica



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Feast of St. Joseph

Monday, March 19th

5:15 Solemn Mass

6:30 pm Italian Dinner

Weekdays of Lent

Noon Mass

Tuesdays of Lent

Taize Prayer Around the
Cross

6:30 p.m. in the Basilica

Wednesdays of Lent

“The Spirit of Vatican II” Soup and Study Sessions

6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

Thursdays of Lent

Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Basilica

Fridays of Lent

Stations of the Cross

5:15 p.m. in the Basilica

WHAT DO YOU THIRST FOR?

Living in a desert we have all probably experienced thirst at one time or another. As the weather begins to warm, the homeless make a steady trip to the water cooler in our back parking lot. For a brief time it gives them a bit of relief from the thirst that comes from the dryness and heat of the upcoming months. Water is a necessary part of our everyday living. Thirsts and its many aspects is likewise a part of our lives. Our Lenten journey like those in the RCIA reminds all of us of the powerful symbol of God's activity. Water is a sign of life or death as the case may be. It is a symbol of liberation and passage from death to life. In today's gospel Jesus drank from the Samaritan woman's vessel, a real violation for a Jew yet the message that is conveyed is clear. We are invited to cast aside any idols of our authentic worship of God, and welcome all, the outcasts, the strangers and the sinners.

Which of the two persons in today's Gospel were really thirsting? Possibly Jesus was thirsty since he had been traveling, but the Samaritan woman probably was the one with the greater thirsts. She was the lowest of the low in society, she was hated by everyone, she was an outcast's outcast! She was made to believe that she was worthless. But this Jew, Jesus, offered her acceptance, dignity, compassion, a way out, and a way in. He drank from her bucket. By this encounter with her, Jesus welcomed the lost and included the sinner, the outsider.

In our journey this Lent, maybe it would be good for us to reflect on what we thirst for. Do we sometimes thirst for the wrong things...better jobs, nicer homes, more friends, longer vacations, bigger TV's, newer cars or whatever? Not that these things are bad in themselves but do they really quench our thirsts? Today as we celebrate the first of the three scrutiny Sundays, we are asked to name the social and personal sin that keeps us from an intimate relationship with God. We are asked to completely turn away from sin to the One who offers living water through the refreshing waters of our baptism.

Today's Word is powerful for our community and for ourselves. There are still many excluded people in our communities and in our lives who thirst. Our hierarchical structure excludes, our parish structures exclude, our governments exclude, and our personal relationships are often exclusive. The gospel invites us to cast aside any idols and scrutinize the areas of elusion, sin and idolatry and ask Christ the liberator to help us to offer that vessel of water that truly quenches thirst!

“The Lord secures justice...”



Come, Celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph

March 19, 2007

Solemn Mass at 5:15 p.m.

Festive Italian Dinner and St. Joseph’s Table

Joseph was a wise man and a carpenter. He was chosen by God to be the spouse of Mary and he was devout. In Matthew’s Gospel when an angel tells him in a dream about the child, he immediately does “as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.” Workers in the 19th century felt especially drawn to St. Joseph. His steadfastness, simplicity and understanding of the great mystery of Jesus’ birth make him an example to all of us. St. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church and he is the patron of Italy. Everyone is invited to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph with a beautiful Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by a lovely Italian dinner. We will also have the traditional “St. Joseph’s Table” filled with lots of home baked goodies for sale! All the proceeds from the St. Joseph’s table will be donated to the St. Mary’s Organ Fund. St. Joseph, pray for us!

**Pilgrimage to
Italia!**

Fr. Vince Will lead a
Joy filled Pilgrimage to Italy And Sicily!!!

Papal Audience / Mass at Tomb of St. Francis

September 7th –26th, 2007

\$4500.00 (Double Occupancy)

There are still some spaces left for
any one wishing to go on this
spiritual journey !

For more information, please call
Fr. Vince Mesi, O.F.M.
602.354.2072
vmesi@yahoo.com



**The Spirit of Vatican II
Soup & Study**



All are welcome to join this educational/
spiritual opportunity to “enrich your Lent!”

***“Soup and Study” The Spirit of Vatican II
This week:***

“The Constitution on Divine Revelation”

Wednesday evenings,

March 14, 21 and 28th.

**6:00 p.m. Soup / 6:30 p.m. Study
in the Social Hall**

Given by Fr. Vince and Sr. Anthony
Please call Sr. Anthony at 602-354-2068 for
more information.

A New Parish Pictorial Directory

It’s that time again!

With all of our new parishioners, why wouldn’t we do
an updated Parish Pictorial Directory?

We are still making appointments! If you would like to
have your picture taken for the Pictorial Directory,
please call **1-800-883-1438 ext. 7821.**

Remember, this is our parish family album.
Without you it will be incomplete!

“...and the rights of all the oppressed.”

STEWARDSHIP



Weekly Offering

March 4, 2007

was \$8,615.19

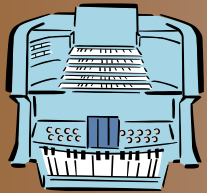
Thank you!

Jesus said: “Give and it will be given to you.” (Luke 6:38) I remind you that if Jesus said it, you can believe it. You can count on it.

Let us Pray: Lord, keep reminding us that it is in giving that we receive the greatest joys you have for us. In Christ’s name, Amen.

**Let us pray for our Catechumens
and Candidates**

In the vestibule, we have photos of these special people, and an opportunity for you to pick a name from the basket and to pray for this brother or sister during these next very important weeks in their preparation for the Easter Vigil. Thank you for your participation and support for these future members of our community.



**St. Mary’s Basilica
Concert Series**

(To aid the Basilica Organ Project)

Saturday, March 24, 2007

7:30 p.m. in the Basilica

*The combined Choirs of Loyola
Marymount University
Los Angeles, California*

Present

A Concert of Sacred Music

*Mozart, Tallis, Palestrina
and many more.*

Free Admission

(a free will offering will be taken up)

So far over \$6,000 has been raised
for the Organ Fund.

This amount was raised through the
sponsored Organ Marathon, when

Gordon Stevenson, the Basilica
Organist made history by playing an
improvisation for six hours non-stop.

Many thanks for your contributions
and support of our project.

Lent

What are Our Thirsts?

*Our thirsts are many and of different
natures depending on where we are in
our journey. It could be for friendship, for
security, for a happy family, for good health.*

*The story is told of a cripple who suffered from
constant pain in his back and his bones. Then
one day he suffers a new pain: a mental pain
resulting from his meditation on Jesus’
crucifixion. This led him to realize that Jesus’
greatest pain was mental. In spite of having
loved so much, healed so many, and given
himself so totally, many people didn’t know
Jesus, didn’t care about him, didn’t follow him.
On the surface, Jesus’ life and his death seemed
almost useless –a failure! But that didn’t stop
him from saving us. Perhaps his thirst was no
quenched by dealing with those who rejected
him but it was quenched by doing the will of his
Father.*

St. Mary's Basilica

What's Happening At St. Mary's

Monday, March 12th

Olan Mills Parish Directory Pictures	3:00 pm	Parish Center
Adult/Teen Confirmation Class	6:30 pm	Social Hall
4th Sunday of Lent Lector's Practice	6:30 pm	Basilica
Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center

Tuesday, March 13th

Olan Mills Parish Directory Pictures	3:00 pm	Parish Center
Taize Prayer	6:30 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	6:30 pm	Social Hall

Wednesday, March 14th

Olan Mills Parish Directory Pictures	3:00 pm	Parish Center
Vatican II Soup & Study	6:00 p.m.	Social Hall

Thursday, March 15th

Holy Hour	11:00 am & 5:00 p.m.	Basilica
Olan Mills Parish Directory Pictures	3:00 pm	Parish Center
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft

Friday, March 16th

Stations of the Cross	5:15 pm	Basilica
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Monday, March 19th

Solemnity of St. Joseph	5:15 pm	Basilica
Feast of St. Joseph Italian Dinner	6:00 pm	Social Hall

Tuesday, March 20th

Finance Council Meeting	Noon	Parish Center
Taize Prayer	6:30 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Parish Center

Wednesday, March 21st

Vatican II Soup & Study	6:00 pm	Social Hall
5th Sunday of Lent Lector's Practice	6:30 pm	Basilica

Thursday, March 22nd

Holy Hour	11:00 am & 5:00 p.m.	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft

Friday, March 23rd

Stations of the Cross	5:15 pm	Basilica
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Saturday, March 24th

Ministry of Care Meeting	9:00 am	Parish Center
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Monday, March 26th

Adult/Teen Confirmation Class	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt. 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14

Readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading —	<i>1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.</i>
Psalm —	<i>Psalm 23.</i>
Second Reading —	<i>Ephesians 5:8-14.</i>
Gospel —	<i>John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].</i>

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Fr. E. J. Fitzpatrick
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	People of St. Mary's
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Stephanie Hoffman
Monday 12:05 p.m.	Roch Schwab
Tuesday 12:05 p.m.	Vivian Phillips
Wednesday 12:05 p.m.	John Peters
Thursday 12:05 p.m.	Shirley Klump
Friday 12:05 p.m.	Miles Bell

Would you like to visit the sick?

Please call Dick and Sherri Grant (602-395-9699)

“ I was sick and you visited me.” MT 25: 36

Sanctuary Candles

In memory of

Patrick Cooney

