

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2015

Holy Family Catholic Church



Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.

Mailing Address: P O Box 482
Van Alstyne TX, 75495
Parish Office: 903-482-6322
For a Priest: 972-542-4667
Website: www.holyfamily-vanalstyne.org

Mass Schedule
Sunday: 9:00 am - English Mass
12:00 pm - Spanish Mass
Thursday: 9:00 am - Daily Mass

ESTABLISHED IN 1980 • 919 SPENCE RD., VAN ALSTYNE, TX. 75495

Baptism

Baptisms in English: 2nd Sunday of each month
 Baptisms in Spanish: 1st Sunday of each month

Pre Baptismal Class Registration: Registration required by the Sunday before class begins. Classes are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Parents:** Bring copy of child's birth certificate. Both parents must attend class. **Godparents:** Must be practicing Catholics. Copy of marriage certificate through the Catholic church. Both godparents must attend class. **As a courtesy, please do not bring children to class.**

First Communion

April 11, 2015 Saturday 10:00 am

Confirmation:

March 24, 2015 Tuesday 7:00 pm

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish.

Reconciliation/Confession

Immediately following the 1st Mass

Marriage/Wedding

Both must be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to planned Wedding date.

Holy Orders/Priesthood

Talk to your Parish priest or call Father James Swift, C.M., Rector of Vocations of the Diocese of Dallas at 214-379-2860.

Prayer Request

Elaine Clark	Tommie Rosenthal	Arnie Clark
Ann Lageose	Brooklyn Schulze	Corinne Lageose
Bernadine Dill	Steve Sanchez	Toby Mills
Karen Elliot	Jack Tyler	Zachary Fejeran
Bob Jungman	Julia Baker	Catherine Casterline
Anonymous	Theresa Powell	Jim Colvin
John E. Deibel	Jill Latino	Pam Deleo
Alicia Chavez		Wyatt Ruben Bailey

Offering

Attendance:	February 15, 2015	479
Offerings:	February 15, 2015	\$ 2,536.48
Building Fund:	February 15, 2015	\$ 1,128.50

Festival de Primavera #3

SE NECESITAN ARTICULOS PARA RIFA!!!
Donaciones monetarias para una tarjeta Visa, tarjetas de regalo Ejemplo: (restaurante, de comestibles, gasolina, Itunes, Amazon, tiquetes para el cine, comida rapida) estas seran puestas en una canasta para un articulo de rifa. espartando que tenga un valor de \$500. Un IPad, Lap Top or cualquier otro aparato de tecnologia se agradecera infinitamente. Por favor habla con alguien para quien trabajos y pide si les gustaria hacer una donacion para la RIFA Diane Durbin 214-213-1483 o Janis Hicks 903-482-6322.

Belinda Schult: SUBASTA SILENCIOSA Coordina-dora de las canastas: 469-207-4169 Esta solicitando articulos para las canastas como: Legos, Cuidado para perritos, diversion de verano, articulos de belleza, noche de peliculas, cafe y chocolate, disney, articulos para parrilla/barbacoa.

Mary Pereyra: Articulos de arte: Tu pasatiempos sera un buen ayuda para nuestro festival. Haz algo, donalo. tu talento a la mesa de arte. habla con Mary al 951-258-8164 la proxima junta sera el Miercoles, 25 de Febrero. Se necesita una persona que se encargue de la musica . Grupo o individual. Asiste el miercoles 25 de Febrero a las 6:30 P.M.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 22

8:30 am Rosary
 9:00 am Mass
 10:15-11:30 am Faith Formation Pre K-5th
 12:00 pm Spanish Mass
 1:30-2:45 pm Faith Formation 6th-Confirmation

Monday, February 23

9:00 am Rosary

Tuesday, February 24

Wednesday February 25

6:30 pm spring Fest Meeting

Thursday, February 26

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Youth Choir Practice
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class

Friday, February 27

Saturday, February 28

11:00 am Quince
 1:00 pm Quince

Spring Fest # 3

RAFFLE ITEMS ARE NEEDED!!

Monetary Donations for a Visa Card, Gift Cards
Example: (Restaurant, Grocery, Gasoline, I Tunes, Amazon, Movie Tickets, Fast Food) they will be placed in a basket for a Raffle item, hopefully worth \$500. An I Pad, Lap Top or any popular Tech item would be greatly appreciate, please contact anyone you work for to request donations for the RAFFLE Diane Durbin 214-213-1483 or Janis Hicks 903-482-6322

Belinda Schult: SILENT AUCTION Basket Coordinator: 469-207-4169 Request items to go in Selected Baskets: Lego- Pet Care- Summer Fun -Beauty Items-Movie Night- Coffee and Chocolate- Disney-BBQ/Grilling Items

Mary Pereyra: Craft Items: Your Hobby will be an Asset to our Festival. Make, Donate, your talent to the CRAFT Fair Table contact: Mary at 951-258-8164. Next Meeting 6:30 pm Wednesday February 25th. Need a person to handle getting Music Groups/Individuals. Come Wednesday February 25th 6:30pm

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2015 - "Make your hearts firm" (James 5:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us" (1 Jn 4:19). He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.

When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalization of indifference.

Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love (cf. Gal 5:6). But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1. "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor 12:26) – The Church

The love of God breaks through that fatal withdrawal into ourselves which is indifference. The Church offers us this love of God by her teaching and especially by her witness. But we can only bear witness to what we ourselves have experienced. Christians are those who let God clothe them with goodness and mercy, with Christ, so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others. This is clearly seen in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with its rite of the washing of feet. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he came to realize that Jesus does not wish to be just an example of how we should wash one another's feet. Only those who have first allowed Jesus to wash their own feet can then offer this service to others. Only they have "a part" with him (Jn 13:8) and thus can serve others.

Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26).

The Church is the *communio sanctorum* not only because of her saints, but also because she is a communion in holy things: the love of God revealed to us in Christ and all his gifts. Among these gifts there is also the response of those who let themselves be touched by this love. In this communion of saints, in this sharing in holy things, no one possesses anything alone, but shares everything with others. And since we are united in God, we can do something for those who are far distant, those whom we could never reach on our own, because with them and for them, we ask God that all of us may be open to his plan of salvation.

2. "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9) – Parishes and Communities

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give?

body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors (Lk 16:19-31)?

In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfillment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: "I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls" (Letter 254, July 14, 1897).

We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart. In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8). In each of our neighbors, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity.

Dear brothers and sisters, how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!

3. "Make your hearts firm!" (James 5:8) – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The 24 Hours for the Lord initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer.

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favorable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: "Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum": Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you.

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had something to say about that maxim, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.” (Matt 5:38-42)

You might well say — if that is the Gospel, we are not Christian, or in the words of G. K. Chesterton, “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.”

Many of us, bishops, priests and laity have been guilty of preaching, teaching and reading the Gospel selectively...sometimes glossing over the uncomfortable portions like the quoted passage from Matthew in which Jesus clearly calls his disciples to go beyond the Law of Reciprocity, treat others well so they will treat you well, and beyond the Talion Law of tit-for-tat.

Are we then to stand aside and let evil run rampant? Of course not. But, our response must be measured, just and tempered with mercy, not instantaneous, massive retaliation intended to destroy.

A measured response may include the limited use of force but always in conjunction with diplomacy and other efforts. With regard to the use of force against ISIS in Iraq, Pope Francis cautioned, “In reaffirming that it is licit, while always respecting international law, to stop an unjust aggressor, I wish to reiterate that the problem cannot be resolved solely through a military response.”

Let us pray for people around the world — including our enemies and especially for our leaders— that God our Heavenly Father will touch our hearts and minds so that someday we can know peace in the world.

¿Ojo por ojo y diente por diente?

En su Sermón de la Montaña, Jesús tenía algo que decir acerca de esta máxima, “Ustedes han oído que se dijo: ‘Ojo por ojo y diente por diente.’ Pero yo les digo que no hagan frente al que les hace mal. Al contrario, si alguien te da una bofetada en la mejilla derecha, preséntale también la otra. Al que quiere hacerte un juicio para quitarte la túnica, déjale también el manto; y si te exige que lo acompañes un kilómetro, camina dos con él” (Mt 5,38-42).

Bien podría decirse — si ese es el Evangelio, mejor no somos Cristianos, o en las palabras de G.K. Chesterton, “El ideal Cristiano no ha fallado cada vez que ha sido probado. Se ha visto que es difícil y no lo han querido probar.”

Muchos de nosotros, obispos, sacerdotes y laicos hemos sido culpables de predicar, enseñar y leer el Evangelio selectivamente... a veces pasando por alto las porciones incómodas como el citado pasaje del evangelio de San Mateo en el que Jesús llama claramente a sus discípulos a ir más allá de la Ley de la Reciprocidad — tratar a los demás bien para que ellos también te traten bien, yendo más allá de la Ley del Talión de golpe por golpe.

¿Vamos entonces a mantenernos al margen? Por supuesto que no. Sin embargo, nuestra respuesta debe ser medida, justa y templada con misericordia, no una represalia instantánea, masiva destinada a destruir.

Una respuesta medida puede incluir el uso limitado de la fuerza, pero siempre en conjunción con la diplomacia y otros esfuerzos. Con respecto al uso de la fuerza contra ISIS en Irak, advirtió el Papa Francisco, “Reiterando que es lícito detener al agresor injusto, aunque respetando siempre el derecho internacional, quiero recordar también que no podemos confiar la resolución del problema a la mera respuesta militar.”

Oremos por las personas alrededor del mundo — incluyendo nuestros enemigos y especialmente nuestros líderes — que Dios nuestro Padre Celestial toque nuestros corazones y mentes para que algún día podamos conocer la paz en el mundo.

Pastoral Guide Regarding Fast & Abstinence

by Catholics During the Season of Lent

General Canon law says that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Good Friday and Ash Wednesday are the major days for fasting and abstinence from meat. In summary, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consommé, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are not forbidden. (Clearly, soups with meat particles may not be served.) Also, it is permissible to use margarine and lard.

Information Page

Holy Family Quasi-Parish

020915

Date: Sept 18, 2011

Janis Hicks 903-744-7999

Transmission Date / Time Tuesday 12:00pm

Special Instructions