



Holy Rosary Parish



3600 Travis Street - Houston, Texas 77002

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil - Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. (Latin)
11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
3:15 p.m. (Vietnamese)
5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. (Vietnamese)

Time Out Room may be used

Sunday during
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses
in the Parish Center

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

12:05 p.m.
5:15 p.m.

ROSARY

Recited weekdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. at 4:45 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays 15 minutes before
all weekday Masses

EVENING PRAYER

Weekdays after
5:15 p.m. Mass in Sacristy

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Fridays 12:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Benediction 5:05 p.m.

PRIESTS ON STAFF

Fr. Joseph Konkel, O.P. Ext. 107
Pastor
Fr. Juan Torres, O.P. Ext. 103
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Isidore Vicente, O.P. Ext. 104
Parochial Vicar

Adjunct Staff

Fr. William Brenda, O.P. Ext. 102
Fr. Albert Moraczewski, O.P.
Ext. 102

In Residence:

Fr. James Burke, O.P.
Fr. Austin Green, O.P.
Priory 713-526-6322

PARISH OFFICE

First Floor Parish Center
(entrance in courtyard) Rm.100
3617 Milam Street
Office hours:
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Phone 713-529-4854
Fax 713-522-3967

Extensions:

101 - Parish Secretary
105 - Director of Music
108 - Parish Bookkeeper
109 - Special Projects Secretary
110 - Wedding Coordinator

E-mail:
office@holYROsaryparish.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3600 Travis Street
Houston, TX 77002

RELIGIOUS ED. CENTER

3535 Louisiana Street
713-526-4389
Marisa Mendoza, D.R.E.

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

March 30, 2008

GOOD FRIDAY'S collection for the *Holy Land* amounted to \$5,110.06. Thank you for your generosity.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION, normally celebrated on March 25th, has been moved by the Vatican to **Monday, March 31st** because it occurred within the Octave of Easter. Please pray on this special day for the protection of the unborn from the moment of conception.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & CONVALESCENT Louise Bering, Denise Akeroyd Scanlin, Mary Willoughby, Marion Spiers, Robert Webster, Virginia Geaslin, Diana Rutkowski, Earley Magnuson, Fr. Albert Moraczewski, O.P. and the Friars of Holy Rosary.

FACE TO FACE CONFESSIONS - Fr. Austin Green will be available to hear face to face confessions at 11:30 a.m. to noon before the weekday noon Mass on **First Friday, April 4**, and **First Saturday, April 5**, in the confessional before the Blessed Mother's altar.

FIRST FRIDAY is **April 4**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 12:05 pm Mass and will conclude with the Benediction before the 5:15 pm Mass.

FIRST SATURDAY is **April 5**. Fatima Devotions will be prayed at 11:30 am before the 12:05 Mass. All are invited to attend.

COFFEE AFTER MASS will not be served today, **March 30th**, in the Parish Hall, Room 200. Coffee will return next Sunday, April 6th.

HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING ... NO WEDNESDAY LUNCH on **April 2nd**. The luncheon will resume next Wednesday, April 9th, after the 12:05 Mass.

APRIL 2, 2008 - The offices will be closed on Wednesday, April 2nd to enable the staff to attend the dedication of the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

THE KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11023's monthly meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 5**, with the social hour beginning at 9 a.m. and the business meeting beginning at 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Religious Education Center on Louisiana & Berry Street.

HOLY ROSARY PLAYGROUP will meet in the Religious Education Building from 10:00-11:30 each **First and Third Thursday of the month, April 3rd and 17th** are the next dates to meet. Please bring a light snack for your family. Call Mollie Ullrich with any questions at 281-693-5892.

DO YOU NEED YOUR 2007 ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT? - Please call the parish office, 713-529-4854 ext. 109 or drop by during parish office hours, Monday - Friday, 9:30 - 4:30. We will mail your statement if requested.

"CATHOLIC LIFE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE": A 15-minute radio program, hosted by Fr. Austin Green, O.P., is aired every Sunday morning at 5:30a.m. (KWWJ-AM, 1360, Baytown) & 6:45 a.m. (KYOK-AM, 1140, Conroe). April 6th topic, *Our Redeemer lives!*.

RAFFLE: Help support our Dominicans! The Gala Committee will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses in support of the Dominican priests and brothers. First prize is an Hermès sterling silver necklace and matching bracelet, second prize is a fabulous trip to Costa Rica for one week, Club Del Mar Condo, with \$1,000. air fare, and third prize is a Hammaoam "Botamir" Persian Rug, size 4' x 2" X 2' x2". Tickets cost \$25 a piece, or 5 chances for \$100. Purchase tickets from a committee member and see our raffle display outside in front of church. Thanks for your support!

SOUTHERN DOMINICAN GALA: The 2008 Southern Dominican Gala, which will honor the *Archdiocesan Catholic Chaplain Corps.*, is fast upon us, and the Gala Committee would like to extend an invitation to all our parishioners here at Holy Rosary. This year's Gala will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th at the Houstonian**, and will include a silent auction, dinner, live music and dancing. Funds raised by the Gala are used right here for the building projects at Holy Rosary parish; also in support of the education of Dominican Seminarians, as well as for the care of our elderly Dominican priests and brothers. Ticket costs range from \$200 to \$1,000 for individuals, and from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for tables of ten. If you are interested in receiving an invitation, contact Carole in the parish office at 713-529-4854 ext. 109 **before April 29th**. The Gala Committee hopes to see you there in support of our very worthy cause!

THE LIGHT WEIGHT, founded by Suzanne Fowler, is a Bible study/video series without weigh-ins that gets you healthy physically and spiritually. March 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jerabeck Athletic Center, Room 201 at the University of St. Thomas. For more information, please contact Josh Teel at 570-406-2498.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER KONKEL: The International Order of Preachers (commonly known as Dominican Friars) was established 792 years ago in 1216 A.D. I like to think that we are beginning our second 792 years of service to the Church and to the world. I personally do not expect to be around for all those years, but I (with my brothers) am going to try to manage as many years as possible. Please pray that there will be more Dominicans in future years. In the next months some of you may receive solicitations from the 1216 Campaign of the Southern Dominican Province. Eventually there will be some brochures in the vestibule of the church if you wish to make a contribution to the Province. I thank the Lord for the wonderful parishioners and friends here at Holy Rosary. We are a blessed parish.

JOHN JOSEPH LATASTE, O.P., Priest, Founder (1832-1869)

“Once we lived in a prison, now it is a castle...”

On September 14, 1864, John Joseph Lataste, a Dominican priest, 32 years old, ordained less than a year, arrived at the gate of a women’s prison at 4:30 a.m. The location was Cadillac, a French town some miles east of Bordeaux. The prison itself was an old castle, once the town’s pride and now the town’s shame for it had been converted into a penitentiary for long-term offenders. Besides the regular prison guards, and the prison chaplain, there was a group of religious Sisters, Daughters of Wisdom, who had been called upon to assist the prison staff and help meet the spiritual needs of the prisoners. It was these sisters who had asked the local Dominican community for a priest to give a retreat at the prison. The priest arrived so early because time for conferences had to be taken from the prisoners’ sleep time, not their work time.

In the darkness the heavy gate opened and the priest went to the chapel for his first conference. He viewed a sea of heads covered with blue-gray kerchiefs bowed so that no faces were visible. Were they sleeping or praying? He would soon find out. The chapel was packed, 380 of the 400 inmates were there. The priest, though he had some misgivings, was well prepared. He began, “My dearest sisters, do you understand why I address you this way? Actually, who are you for me? If you left here the finger of shame would be pointed at you. It is unjust and cruel, I know but unfortunately that is the case. And I, a priest, come to you freely, I extend my hands to you and say ‘My dearest sisters?’ You may ask, why are you so dear to me? I tell you I am a minister of God who loves you regardless of your mistakes, with a love that is not known here on earth, the love of a God who pursues you with his love, and who in the moment I am speaking to you is already in your hearts...”

He goes on to draw a parallel with the lives of contemplative nuns. They, too, remain within the four walls of the convent. The difference is that they do it for love of God and are deeply happy. The priest continues with the examples of Mary Magdalene, the penitent woman who washed Christ’s feet with her tears. He also notices the heads begin to rise, some smiling, some with tears, yet he realizes that God is touching their hearts. He realized this especially the last night of the three day retreat when he had all night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He expected two women to adore, taking turns about every hour. Instead, 200 prisoners came to adore for the first half of the night, then were replaced by the other 200 for the second half of the night, having arranged it among themselves. It stirred him to ponder God’s grace at work in them and how he might help them.

Fr. Lataste’s family came from Cadillac, the same town as the prison. They were a happy family with five children and caring parents. The mother was a devout Catholic and had the children baptized and instructed in the faith, though the father was an agnostic. Young Alcide, later John Joseph in religion, early on wanted to be a priest but in high school the father changed him from a seminary course to a business course, and the young man was content to train for a government post in the tax assessor’s office. He was posted to a nearby town where he met a 16 year-old girl, Cecile, and they became engaged. Alcide’s family did not approve of the girl’s family, and his father arranged to have Alcide sent to a tax office in a distant town of Pau, effectively breaking the three month engagement, and also he reminded Alcide that he could not yet support a wife. Alcide and Cecile continued to correspond but he prayed to Our Lady, asking her to help him and to give a sign if he should plan for marriage. The sign came less than two years later when the girl died. In the meantime, Alcide had become interested in the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul, in their apostolate of teaching the faith to young people and in helping the poor. Outside of his work at the tax office, this work with the Conferences appealed to his heart and to it he gave all his spare time. Yet he was still not satisfied with his life and the thought of the priesthood returned to him. At one point he heard a sermon by Pere Lacordaire, the famous Dominican preacher, so he wrote to him, asking for a copy of the Dominican rule of life. Lacordaire answered by saying that the Dominican rule and constitutions were a big tome and Alcide would do better to read Lacordaire’s biography of St. Dominic. Alcide did so and then applied for entrance to the Dominicans. He was accepted and entered on November 4, 1857, at the age of 25. He received his formation at St. Maximin, the Dominican Priory near Marseilles which also was known for devotion to Mary Magdalene and which housed her shrine. Here the former Alcide, now John Joseph, developed a great devotion to Mary Magdalene, identifying her with Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha. Here, too, he was ordained in 1863 at the age of 31.

From the beginning of his priestly ministry, John Joseph was an effective preacher, especially able to speak to the hearts of young people and inspire them with thoughts of a priestly or religious vocation. In 1864 he gave the retreat to prisoners, which changed their lives and his. That retreat set him wondering about how to help the women prisoners after they were released, for many fell back into their former bad habits. He conceived the idea of founding a religious institute composed of both ordinary women and those who had been released from prison. He wrote a booklet called “Rehabilitated Women”, had 3,000 copies published and distributed to bishops and other religious authorities and this stirred up interest. In 1866 he was joined by a Charity sister, Sister Henri Lacordaire Berthier, who became the co-foundress of the projected institute. It was to be called Bethany after the house of Martha and her sister, Mary (Magdalene) - symbols of the active and contemplative penitent life lived under one roof. In 1867 the first two postulants entered and began formation. That year Fr. John Joseph requested and received from the Dominicans two years to complete his foundation of Bethany. He wrote a Rule and in September, 1868, he came to Bethany to stay, in December he came very ill, and in March, 1869, he died at the age of 36, with the words “Mary, Mother of Mercy” on his lips. Immediately after Fr. Lataste’s death the bishop of Besancon approved Bethany as a diocesan institute for it then had 20 members. In 1888 it was formally affiliated with the Order of Preachers. The cause for Fr. Lataste’s canonization had been begun in the diocese of Besancon. In the 1990’s Bethany had 14 houses in 7 countries, plus a congregation for men, the Brothers of Bethany, established in the United States in 1985.

References:

- Hope Beyond Hope, by Sr. Emmanuelle-Marie, O.P., New City Press, 1988 (the story of the Dominican Sisters of Bethany)
 - The Heart of Pere Lataste, by John Oliver, private printing, 1990
 - Modern Saints, their lives & faces, by Ann Ball, TAN pub., 1986, Book 2
- Written by Fr. Austin Green, O.P.