



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

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

In Residence:

Fr. Victor Brown, O.P.
Fr. James Burke, O.P.
Fr. Austin Green, O.P.
Fr. Ronald Henery, 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@holyroaryparish.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3600 Travis Street
Houston, TX 77002

RELIGIOUS ED. CENTER

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

XXVII SUNDAY - FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY:

OCTOBER 5, 2008

On this Sunday, with the regular Liturgy and Readings of the XXVII Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate in our Parish the Feast of the Holy Rosary, with special songs and prayers to Mary. The Feast is anticipated from Tuesday, October 7, the traditional Feast Day of the Holy Rosary. On this day we implore God's Blessings for our Parish and for all of God's People under Mary's patronage. Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us.

SECOND COLLECTION: Will be taken this Sunday at all Masses for the support of our Seminarians studying to be trained as Priests and Brothers in the Southern Dominican Province. All the funds received will be sent to our Provincial Headquarters in New Orleans for this purpose. The collection is taken on this day, the Feast of the Patroness of our Parish, Our Lady of the Rosary. It is also called "More Dominicans Campaign." It is taken in all our Dominican parishes in the South. May God bless you for your continuous generosity to Holy Rosary Parish and the Dominicans.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Charles Plunkett, Kathleen McEvoy, Louise Bering, Denise Akeroyd Scanlin, Mary Willoughby, Marion Spiers, Nancy McDonough, Neil Hanson, Ursel Lange, Brian and Virginia Geaslin, Alma Luna, Bonnie St. Julian and the Friars of Holy Rosary. Please remember in your prayers, James St. Julian, Jr., a parishioner, who died recently.

ALTAR FLOWERS were donated by Andrea Liptak and Jacob Pustojovsky who were married on Saturday, October 4th. Please remember them in your prayers.

COFFEE AFTER MASS will be served today, October 5th, in the Parish Hall, Room 200. All are welcome. Please join your fellow parishioners for some social moments.

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEAS ARE BACK! - HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING ... for October 8th Enchiladas/verde sauce, beans, rice, ice cream, coffee and tea, will be served on Wednesday, after the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Parish Hall, Room 200. Welcome. And as a reminder the lunches will be \$4.00 this year due to food cost increases, and there will be no take-outs.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Octoberfest has been canceled due to hurricane damage.

THE KYRIE ELEISON will be sung to the music of Mass VIII (commonly known as the *Missa de Angelis*) beginning today and until Advent. The music is printed in the music sheet today with instructions to help you take part in the singing. After today, you may refer to the Adoremus Hymnal, number 210 for the music. Please join heartily in the singing.

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION FOR PARENTS: The next Baptism Preparation Session for registered parents of Holy Rosary Parish, presented by Fr. Isidore Vicente, O.P., will be next Saturday, October 11th, 10:00—11:30 a.m. in the library of the parish office building. Please call the parish office, 713-529-4854 ext. 101, to register with the secretary.

"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). October 12th topic, "*Many are called, but few are chosen.*"

MARKET DAY will be held on Sunday, November 2nd. Donations to the market can be brought to the Parish Office Building, room 200, after the morning Masses on October 12th, 19th, and 26th. On Tuesdays, October 14th, 21st and 28th, they can be delivered to the Religious Education Building in the parking lot between Berry and Holman Streets on Milam from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We are looking for jewelry, art, toys, men's accessories, ladies accessories, religious articles, holiday decorations, home furnishings, antiques and collectibles, small appliances, and books, CDs, VCRs and tapes. No clothing, please. Thank you for your generosity in donating some of your treasures to make this event a success. Proceeds for the sale are used for parish needs.

SUPPER AND SUBSTANCE: Married couples of the Parish don't miss Holy Rosary's first Supper and Substance program to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, October 25th at 6:30 p.m. The elements of this program are (1) a social hour, (2) a lovely meal, and (3) a talk on some practical aspect of marriage or raising children. The speakers at the first program will be Joe and Cathy Garcia-Prats, parents of 10 children and authors of "Good Families Don't Just Happen." The cost will be \$25 per couple, which includes a tasty Italian dinner and the presentation. Seating is limited, so register soon. To register or for more information, see invitation fliers in the vestibule or call Martha at 713-721-7387 or send an email to holyrosarysns@live.com. So register, mark your calendars, get a babysitter if you need one, and join us for a lovely night on October 25th.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL needs volunteers to make Home Visits and to assist in storm cleanup for the elderly and homebound who have been affected by the devastating effects of Hurricane Ike. If you would like to assist the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in this effort, please contact Pura Santangelo at 713-741-8234 x 105 or pura.santangelo@svdphouston.org.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH- HOPE AND TRUST IN LIFE.

STEPANIE DE QUINZANIS, T.O.P., Sister and Virgin, (1457-1530)

“Lord, you made Blessed Stephanie a sharer in the passion of Christ...” (Prayer on her feast day)

The historical sources indicate that Blessed Stephanie was a stigmatic, that is, a person who has received the spiritual gift of the marks of Christ's passion on her body together with a share in the physical suffering that he endured during his passion. This share may be greater or less, depending on the gift of God to each individual, and the marks may be visible or invisible. For example, St. Catherine of Siena had the visible stigmata in her hands, feet and side; but at her earnest prayer, God made these marks invisible to human sight, although the stigmata remained on her body together with the physical pain caused by them.

Blessed Stephanie was born in Soncino near Brescia, northern Italy, in 1457 of parents who were devout Catholics. It was her good fortune to be brought up amidst a family and group of friends who had a strong faith and who perseveringly practiced this faith. This was not only 'good luck' but also was a part of God's plan for her life.

Early trained to live a holy life, Stephanie responded in a spirit of true faith, hope and love of our Lord. It seems that even as a very young girl, about seven, she kept the Church fasts and added some of her own. She also did acts of penance, though our sources do not specify what these were. At this age she also made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; though of course these were private vows made between herself and God, and not known to others until later in her life. She was inspired to make these vows because she had been favored by a visit from our Lord together with many Dominican saints. He gave her a splendid ring as a token of her espousal to Him. We do not know if the ring was visible to others or only visible to Stephanie, but we do know that it served as a constant reminder of her spiritual union with Christ, a permanent sign of His presence with her even in the midst of her other activities.

Stephanie had a particular bond of love and affection for her father who was himself a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic and who used attend regular meetings of his third Order community at the Dominican Priory near Brescia. When Stephanie was about 12 years old he began to take his daughter with him to these meetings, and he also made arrangements with the Dominican friars that she should be instructed in the catechism so as to prepare her to receive the sacraments, especially confession and holy communion. The Dominican priest who instructed Stephanie was Blessed Matthew Carreri; he was also the priest-director for the community of Tertiaries (Third Order Dominicans) to which her father belonged. You might wonder, dear reader, why a girl who had received visions from our Lord and made vows to him would need to learn the catechism? The reply is that God does not bypass our nature; we are not angels but men and women of flesh and blood. Stephanie had to study the catechism and by the activities of her own intellect and will acquire a deeper and more detailed knowledge of the truths of the Catholic faith. She already had a deep faith and love of Christ, and her own study helped to increase in her that faith and love, making her more receptive to God's graces.

For about two years these visits of Stephanie and her father to the Dominicans continued. He would attend the Third Order meeting and then Stephanie was instructed by Blessed Matthew. During this period, Blessed Matthew realized that this young woman he was instructing was particularly favored by God and in addition to being her teacher he also became her spiritual director, to the mutual edification of both teacher and pupil. When Stephanie was fourteen, Blessed Matthew became very ill and died, but previous to his death he had told her that she would be his 'spiritual heiress.' She did not understand what he meant by this. But not long after his death, Blessed Matthew appeared to her and immediately she felt a piercing pain in her hands, feet, and especially her heart. She then realized that what she had inherited from him was a share in our Lord's passion and she was what today we call a 'stigmatic.' Whether the marks of Christ's passion in her were visible, e.g., such as those of the Franciscan stigmatic, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, who died in 1968, or were invisible, the sources do not say. From that time on, however, she made the passion of Christ her almost constant meditation, uniting her pain with that of Christ. Accompanying this was a spiritual aridity which lasted for forty years, that is, a felling that Christ was absent in her life even though her faith and hope and love of him remained strong in her. This seems similar to what Mother Teresa of Calcutta experienced and which is described by her spiritual director in the book entitled, "Mother Teresa, Come be my Light." For Stephanie, her stigmata reminded her of Christ's presence despite the interior aridity felt by her senses.

Stephanie received the Dominican habit as a member of the Third Order, following the example of her father. She probably was still in her teens when this happened. It should be noted that her father with his strong Catholic faith was a decisive influence in his daughter's life. Her bond of affection with her father as a young girl afforded a strong support to enable her natural womanly affections to grow and come to full bloom. Besides this, her father's strong faith helped in the development of her own faith, giving an example on which she could pattern her own faith and to which the Lord added many supernatural gifts. It could be said that among the greatest gifts God gave to Stephanie was that of a loving father.

As a young woman of deep prayer and love of Christ she attracted other like-minded women and founded a community of Dominican Third Order sisters in her native town of Soncino. The sisters lived a community life of prayer and sharing of material goods, while a good part of their time during the day was spent in caring for the material and spiritual needs of others. Stephanie came to be regarded as a woman of deep prayer and wisdom. Many people came to consult her and ask her intercessory prayers, among them were St. Angela Merici, as well as Blessed Augustine of Biella, O.P. and Blessed Osanna of Mantua, T.O.P.

According to the historical sources, the life of Blessed Stephanie was lived in a constant awareness of God's presence, despite her aridity of spiritual 'feelings.' Contemporaries attest to visions and ecstasies, the knowledge of which only came to light many years after they happened. She regularly kept a strict fast, and used instruments of penance to curb her flesh. Her great devotions were to the Blessed Sacrament and to our Lord's passion. It seems she was given the gift of infused knowledge concerning the truths of faith; she also demonstrated the ability to read hearts and to foretell some future events. It is narrated that once, to overcome a violent temptation against purity, she threw herself on a cart-load of thorn branches, at the same time praying to St. Thomas Aquinas. She arose exhausted, and as had happened to St. Thomas, angels came and girded her with a cord tied tightly around her waist to guard against future temptations.

At the age of 73 in the year 1570, Stephanie died in the convent she had founded, having foretold the date of her death and place of burial. Her tomb became a place of pilgrimage and she was given the title "Blessed" by popular acclamation and not by any canonical process. The Order of Preachers observes her feast day on the 3rd of January.

References:

St. Dominic's Family, by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, TAN pub., 1983, p. 251 sq.

Supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours, O.P., editor D. Wright, O.P., Chicago IL, 1991

Article prepared by Father Austin Green, O.P.