



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@holyroaryparish.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3600 Travis Street
Houston, TX 77002

RELIGIOUS ED. CENTER

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 6, 2008

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY - Bishops Fund for Latin America. Proceeds from this collection are distributed to dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, seminaries, and other Catholic institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to assist in the formation of priests, religious, lay ministers, missionaries, pastoral workers, catechists, and youth ministers. This fund assists Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in faith but lacking in material resources. Sharing is caring.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & CONVALESCENT - Being a prayerful community we are anxious to pray for all who are ill. Names of parishioners' will remain on the list for three months and may be extended as needed in serious cases. If you wish to have prayers for yourself or a loved one placed on the sick and convalescent announcement in the bulletin, please contact the parish office, 713-529-4854 ext. 101. If the person you wish to have placed on the prayer list is not a parishioner their name will be placed for one month on the list. Also, at every Eucharist we pray for all who are in need, whether mentioned by name or not.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in celebration for this Most Holy time of year. *Christ is the light.*

COFFEE AFTER MASS will be served today, January 6th, in the Parish Hall, Room 200. All are welcome. Please join your fellow parishioners for some social moments.

HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING ... for January 9th, Red Beans w/rice, green salad, cornbread, dessert, coffee and tea, will be served on Wednesday, after the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Parish Hall, Room 200. Welcome.

Please note that there will be no take-outs available for Wednesday lunches until further notice.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR REGISTERED PARISHIONERS - A statement of your contributions for the year 2007 will be available upon request after the 18th of January, please call 713-529-4854 ext.109 and leave a message. Thank you. A contribution statement for NON-PARISHIONERS can not be verified for your contributions for the tax year unless it is a donation of \$250.00 or more.

2008 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES - If you have not picked up your 2008 envelopes they will be in the vestibule of the church, ready for you. If you do not find your envelopes, please fill out the information sheet provided and the office will contact you and see that you receive your 2008 envelopes. If you in a prior year had requested that you did not wish to receive envelopes but wished to remain a parishioner and would give loose checks instead of using envelopes then in the next year you didn't receive your envelopes for that particular year the reason being is that in the computer you are still listed as not wanting envelopes that is why it is very important to let the office no of your change in how you wish to contribute, in other words envelopes or no envelopes.

2008 HOLY ROSARY CALENDARS - Calendars are now available in the office during office hours, Monday - Friday, 9:30 - 4:30. There will also be a limited number of calendars in the vestibule along with the 2008 envelopes for you to pickup.

DID YOU FORGET? - We have in the parish office 2007 Christmas ornaments and one prize from the St. Nicholas' Day celebration that have not been picked up. These ornaments and prize will be available during parish office business hours and also they will be placed in room 200 of the parish hall on this Sunday. Please pickup your ornaments.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS -- Begins this Sunday, January 6, 2008. Classes will be each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Library, room 106. Please call the office for more information.

PARISH LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have a wonderful parish library but have not been able to have it open on Sundays since our volunteer librarian moved out of state last September. Please consider volunteering time with fellow parishioners to keep this resource available to our parish community. We would like to have a meeting of volunteers as soon as possible. Please call the office 713-529-4854 ext. 101 for more information.

"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). January 13th topic, Baptism of Jesus, *Christ, the penitent for our sins.*

AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY - You have a life, a home, responsibilities - but you feel called to serve God in Church ministry? What should you do? Aquinas Institute of Theology can help you find the answer. For more information, visit www.ai.edu/aquinas@home or call 1-800-977-3869.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO OUR PARISH: Renee Barbella, Deborah Burbank-Emvula, Manuel and Ana Cevallos, Monica Jean Chambers, Steve and Cathy Cox, Mark Fury, and Elvia and Fernando Morales.

WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED: Tanis Tseng McAuliffe, *Don Bosco* Don Dinh-Tuan Nguyen, *John John* Dinh-Huy Nguyen, *Peter Peter* Dinh-Phung Nguyen, *Clare of Assisi* Audrey Haly Nguyen, Sebastian Manuel Cevallos, and Louis Alexander Boivin.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER KONKEL: On behalf of all the Dominican Friars at Holy Rosary Priory, may I presume to thank all our generous parishioners and friends who have blessed us with wonderful gifts and surprises during the holiday season. I know that my mother and father would not be pleased with my not writing special thank you notes to everyone (They did not rear me to be negligent.), but I must admit that I am overwhelmed with all that is waiting to be done now that the holiday season is past. Many thanks for your gifts.

JEROME SAVONAROLA, O.P., Priest, Reformer (1452-1498)

This Dominican friar has been a controversial figure for five centuries, venerated as a saint by some and condemned as an ecclesiastical rebel by others. St. Catherine de Ricci, O.P., fifty years after his death, had a great veneration for him, convinced that his intercession had cured her of a serious illness. On the other hand, the Protestant Reformers of the 16th century held him up as the first precursor of the Protestant Reformation. This brief article is only meant to acquaint you with a great preacher who loved the Church but who also had his faults; it is not meant to settle the controversy.

He was born in Ferrara, Italy, in 1452, grandson of a distinguished physician, and in his youth he received the education that pointed him toward taking up the profession of a physician. Yet he was naturally inclined toward literature, especially poetry, and religion. The moral corruption on civil society, and also of the Church, distressed him. Even so, his family and friends were surprised when he entered the novitiate of the Dominicans in 1475 at the age of 23. He finished his studies and was ordained in 1482, being assigned to the priory of San Marco in Florence where during four years he preached in its church and wherever else he was invited. During this time the prophetic note began to sound in his sermons, that is, the Church would soon be terribly chastised and then renewed. In 1486 he was assigned to a priory in Lombardy, Northern Italy, and preached there for four years.

In 1490 he was recalled to San Marco at the insistence of Lorenzo dei Medici (The Magnificent). Although Florence was nominally a republic ruled by a Signory, a group of elected magistrates, the real ruler of the city was Lorenzo because of his wealth and his influence. He was also the patron of the priory of San Marco, having contributed much money to its rebuilding, and consequently could influence the Dominican superiors of Savonarola to get him reassigned to Florence. Lorenzo must have liked what Savonarola had to say.

In 1491 Savonarola was elected prior of San Marco and from that time on his influence on both Church and State grew steadily. He attacked the vices of the Florentines; he also criticized the Medici family and its rule of the city, so that Lorenzo was moved to remark, "We have brought a stranger into our city." But the "stranger" did not defer to his priory's patron and continued his strong preaching. The result was that by 1495 he was practically the ruler of the city from his pulpit, that is, a moral rule and not a directly political rule. He was aided in this by political events.

In 1492 Lorenzo dei Medici died, leaving his son Piero as ruler of the family and of the Florentine state. But his rule was limited to two years because in 1494 the French and their king, Charles VIII, had invaded Milan and then continued on until they reached the gates of Florence. Piero and his family together with many influential citizens fled the city, leaving Savonarola as its de facto ruler since all the citizens looked to him for guidance at this perilous time.

His position was enhanced by the fact that he was not vicar-general of the new reformed Dominican Tuscan congregation. In 1493 he had campaigned for a congregation separate from the mother-province of Lombardy and the Pope, Alexander VI, had granted this request, setting up Florence, Fiesole, Prato and Pisa as a separate congregation with Savonarola as its vicar-general. Savonarola's preaching had brought many new recruits to his priory, and this no doubt helped to obtain for him the independent congregation.

When the French entered the city, Savonarola and the citizens received them with friendship and supported them. He saw the invasion of the French as God's chastisement of Church and State in Italy which he had predicted; the French were "the sword of God." This put him in opposition to the Pope who had formed a League with Milan, Naples, Venice and the Holy Roman Empire to resist the French invasion. Savonarola kept Florence faithful to the French and his influence only increased. People crowded the Duomo, the cathedral, to hear him and a great wave of rigorous moral reform swept the city. In 1495 there was the first "burning of the vanities" in which a great bonfire was made of ornaments, costly clothes and similar 'vanities.' Savonarola was more and more convinced that he was a prophet called by God to reform the Church and that from Florence, as from "the watchtower of Italy", the reform was to spread through all Italy and then through all Christendom. On July 21, 1495, he received a courteous letter from the Pope requesting him to come to Rome to explain the messages he had received from God. He replied that he was too ill and 'it was not God's will for him to come now', but he was sending a book that explained his messages. In September the Pope sent a brief condemning his claim to divine messages, forbidding him to preach, and requesting an investigation by the Dominican provincial of Lombardy. Savonarola agreed to submit, but said he never claimed divine inspiration and was always orthodox. He stopped preaching, but at the pleading of the Florentines the Pope allowed him to begin preaching again in Lent, 1496, but warned him to stay away from politics. By this time the French had withdrawn to Northern Italy.

In the fall of 1496 economic and political affairs in Florence were not going well and in November the Pope sent a brief which joined Savonarola's congregation to that of Rome, thus removing him as vicar-general. Savonarola and his community published a manifesto refusing to obey the Pope because his order was 'against the interests of religion.' Savonarola continued as vicar-general and, though suspended from preaching, continued to preach. In May, 1497, the Pope excommunicated him. Savonarola replied with an open letter to all Christians denying the validity of his excommunication, but he stopped preaching and in October wrote the Pope asking for pardon but without submission on any particular point. In Lent, 1498 he began preaching again but stopped when the Signory of Florence begged him to. Then he sent a letter to all Christian rulers calling for a General Council and the deposition of Pope Alexander VI.

In May a Franciscan challenged Savonarola to an ordeal by fire, to prove his orthodoxy by a miracle, but on the appointed day the challenger did not show up and the ordeal was cancelled. The gathered crowd rioted, and Savonarola sought protection with the Signory. That body decided on a trial for Savonarola and his two faithful friar companions. It began as a civil trial, but later two judges came from the Roman curia and they convicted the trio of heresy, schism and contempt of the Holy See. They were hanged in the public square of Florence, then the dead bodies were cut down and burned, with their ashes thrown in the Arno River. Many historical questions remain about these events.

Despite his faults, Savonarola was a great preacher of noble ideals who loved the Church but who, it seems, misinterpreted his own prophecy about her.

References:

- New Catholic Encyclopedia, ed. 1966, vol.12
- St. Dominic's Family, by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, TAN pub., 1983
- Prepared by Father Austin Green, O.P.