



# 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. 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@holyrosharyparish.org*

## MAILING ADDRESS

*3600 Travis Street  
Houston, TX 77002*

## RELIGIOUS ED. CENTER

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

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 3, 2008

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Kathleen McEvoy, Louise Bering, Denise Akeroyd Scanlin, Edward Rutkowski, Mary Willoughby, James Fisher, Marion Spiers, Nancy McDonough, Earley Magnuson, Neil Hanson, Ursel Lange, Brian and Virginia Geaslin, Alma Luna, Bonnie and James St. Julian and the Friars of Holy Rosary.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** - Flowers are in memory of Dr. Michael Donovan and Dennis Donovan. Please remember them and the donor in your prayers.

**COFFEE AFTER MASS** will be served today, August 3rd, in the Parish Hall, Room 200. All are welcome. Please join your fellow parishioners for some social moments. As a special treat, while you are at coffee, the **Special Events Committee** will be showing a video of the outdoor **Marian Procession and Mass** that was celebrated in the late afternoon on Mother's Day.

**WHAT'S COOKING:** Just a reminder that Wednesday lunches will return on the first Wednesday in September. The price of the lunches will be increased to \$4.00 this year.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION FOR PARENTS:** The next session for parents will be Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the library of the Parish Office Building, Room 106. This Baptism preparation session, given by Father Isidore Vicente, O.P., is for parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish only. Please call the office to register, 713-529-4854 ext. 101.

**CATECHISTS NEEDED:** Our religious instruction classes for children have enjoyed an increase in attendance in the past couple of years and a few of our beloved catechists will not be able to return for the upcoming catechetical year. If you are a confirmed Catholic who would enjoy passing on the richness of our faith to the next generation of Catholics, please contact the parish. We are in need of your assistance and would love to have you share your particular gifts and talents with the children of Holy Rosary. Please contact Marisa Mendoza through the parish office. May God the Holy Spirit breathe His gifts upon you and inspire you to share so that more children can come to know Him, Love Him and serve Him. Please call the office at 713-529-4854 ext.101 or email Marisa Mendoza at star123marisa@yahoo.com with your name the phone number.

**THE HOLY ROSARY PLAYGROUP** will not meet at the church in the month of August. Instead, we will have off-campus play-dates and family gatherings around town. Please Contact Mollie Ullrich for more information at 281-693-5892.

**"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). August 10th topic, *"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."*

**CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND IRS** - "Due to recent changes in the tax laws, beginning with contributions made in 2007 forward, parishioners (those who itemize their tax returns) will no longer be able to deduct contributions to the parish **unless they maintain a bank record or written contribution statement from the parish.** If you want to ensure deductibility of your contributions to the parish, **please use a check, direct deposit from you bank account, or your parish envelopes.** Cancelled checks and other bank records are sufficient documentation. **The parish cannot track cash contributions that are not in parish envelopes."** **There are green parish envelope information forms in the vestibule of the church, please fill this form out if you have a change in address, phone number, etc. or if you DO NOT want to receive envelopes, this is for registered parishioners only. If you didn't pick up your 2008 envelopes you will not receive envelopes for 2009, however, you will still be registered.**

**WELCOME** - Fr. Ronald Henery, O.P., who is on Limited Service (what the Southern Dominicans call retirement) has been assigned to Holy Rosary Priory for his residence..

**THE 2008 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE MASS** honoring Golden (50th) and Silver (25th) Anniversary marriages for couples with weddings in 1958 or 1983 will be held on Sunday, September 21 at 3 p.m. at the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will be the presider. Whether or not couples attend the ceremony, they are eligible to receive a special certificate signed by the Cardinal. Couples wishing to participate are asked to please call the parish at 713-529-4854 ext. 101 and register their name, address, home telephone number and wedding date with the secretary. **Deadline for registration is Friday, August 15, 2008,** for submission of names. Soon after receiving the couples' names, the archdiocesan Office of Family Life Ministry will send registered couples a letter with detailed information about the Mass. They will then have the opportunity to R.S.V.P.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - If we believe, Jesus will give us all the food we need for our marriage. Some upcoming weekend dates are September 5-7 and October 10-12. Contact Brian and Tina Little at 281-485-5648 for more information.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL** in Conroe will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary as a school and we are looking for all alumni, students and employees. If you are an ex-alumni please call Martha C. Byrd, 936-756-8186, Secretary, Sacred Heart Church, Conroe, Texas.

## 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 for told 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