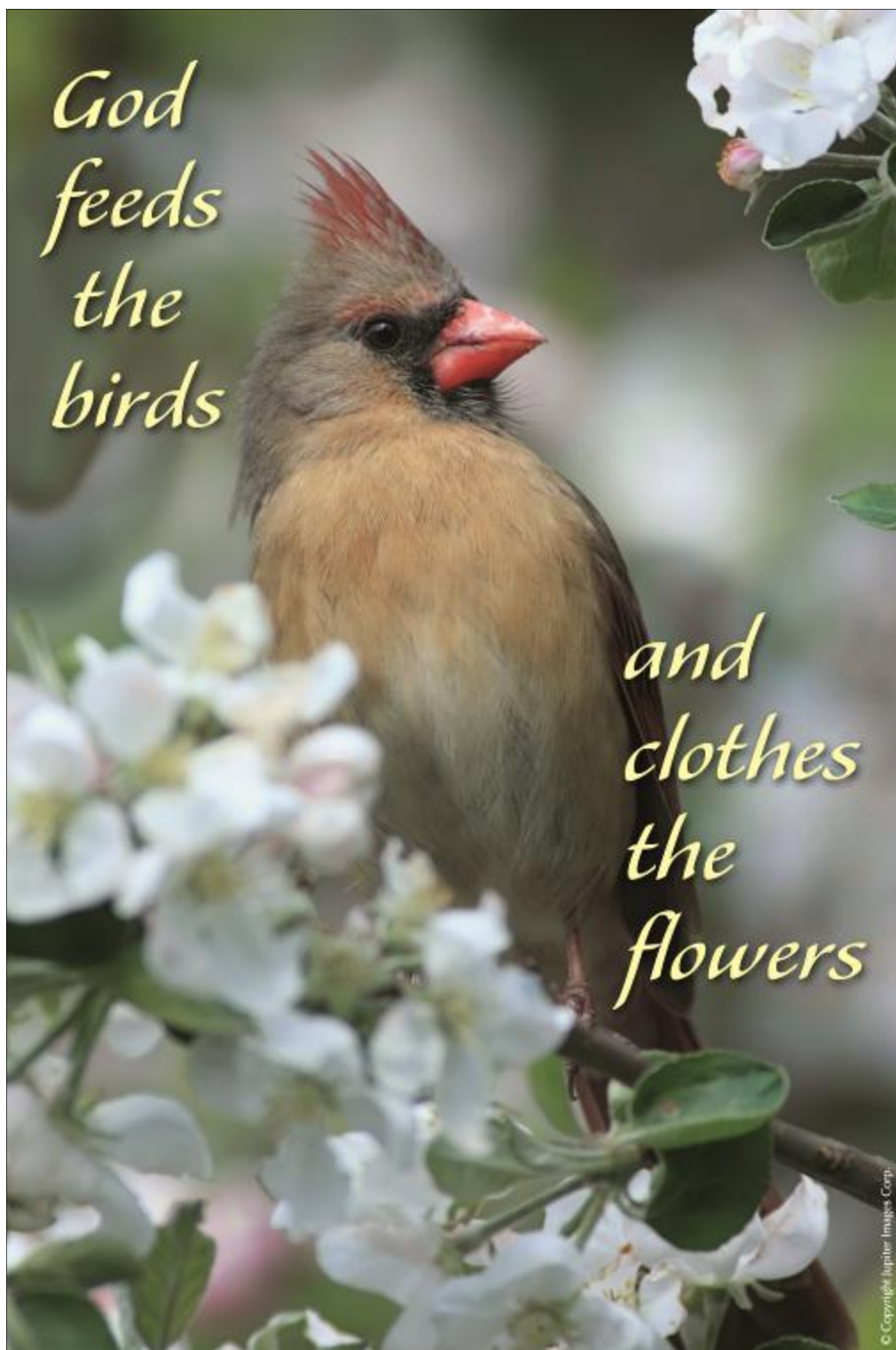


Saint Mary Parish

Established 1865 - Evanston, Illinois

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 27, 2011



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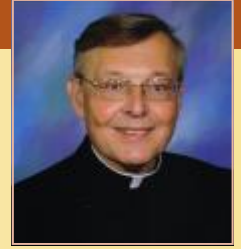
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LIVING OUR FAITH



Dear People of God,

"*What Makes Us Catholic*" is a marvelous book by Dr. Thomas Groome. I started reading it recently and am fascinated by Groome's ability to connect the mystery of God and our lived experience as it relates to the Catholic Church. He also raises the questions: What does it mean to be a Catholic Christian today? What identifies us?

Let me share with you this opening story from the Preface (xii-xiii).

Kevin paused pensively after a quaff of beer. I knew there was something on his mind, so I waited. Finally he said, "Yeh know something? When the hospital asked for religious preference, I automatically put down Catholic. Then I wondered what that means for me, if anything anymore."

"Why did you put it down?" I probed. "You could've ticked off "no preference" or just skipped that part of the form."

"Aw gawd," he drawled in his Boston brogue. "I could never do that. And what if something went wrong during d'operation?"

"But you were only having your appendix out," I reminded him.

"Yeah, but yeh never know," he said with a sage expression, "yeh never know!"

Kevin was reared in a traditional Boston Irish-Catholic family — a bit of a redundancy. His parents likely had never missed Sunday Mass, barring serious illness. Though they didn't agree with everything the Pope said, to them he was "The Holy Father," spoken of with reverence. To Kevin, insofar as he bothered to comment, the current pope was — to quote verbatim — "for the birds." Kevin didn't just disagree with the Pope on church matters, however — he ignored him. A Boston College MBA graduate, he was a rising young star at a major company and had long ceased attending church, "never darkenin' the door," as he happily admitted "not since Granny's funeral."

"Well," I interjected after another pause, "you often say you've left the church. And every faith community should have a well-marked exit sign, leaving members free to leave — and free to stay, whichever they choose. So what's the big deal?"

"Ah, but it's not that simple," Kevin said with an air of explaining things to me. "Yeh see, I didn't feel I'd lied on that form. It felt right to put down Catholic. That's what I am. But then, it should mean something for me. But what . . . ?" and he trailed off again. Before changing the subject, Kevin offered, "Maybe ye should write a book about that — what it means to be Catholic, even after yeh've left the church."

This tremendous book attempts to engage the Kevins — people steeped in Catholicism but no longer "practicing." At the same time, Groome's book is for anyone who is presently connected with their Faith Community and wants to walk the journey further with the Lord.

Toward the end of the Preface, Groome states:

Though catholic is usually taken to mean "universal," this was more Aristotle's use of the term than how early Christians understood it. Ignatius of Antioch, the first on record to call the Church catholic (circa 107), had inclusion in mind more than universal. Inclusion, in fact, is closer to the roots of catholic; katha holos literally means "gathering in the whole," or more colloquially, "all are welcome."

Today's column is dedicated to Groome's work because we are launching next week our Lenten Reflection Groups. Karie Ferrell and I have trained a team of Facilitators to lead small groups. This begins the week of March 7 and is a marvelous opportunity to reflect upon our Lenten Gospels and connect the Word of God to our everyday lives. Please sign up and encourage a neighbor (especially someone who has left the Faith Community) to join with you.

Any questions? Please give one of us a call at the Parish Center (847 864-0333).

On the Lenten journey with you,

Fr. Greg

The peace that only comes from God

In December and January, there were advertisements on TV that used the words:

“If you’re longing to fill an emptiness and seeking a way home, we invite you to experience the peace that only comes from God.”

The words in three of today’s readings are different, but the sentiment is the same. Isaiah tells us that God will “never forget you.” In Psalm 62 we hear, “only in God is my soul at rest” and Matthew’s Gospel proclaims, “Your heavenly father knows what you need.”

As the *Catholics Come Home* ads ended, there arose stories from people who had been away from the Catholic faith. They told of a continuous feeling of emptiness and longing that disappeared when they returned to the Sacramental life of the church, receiving Eucharist and reconciling with God through the Sacrament of Penance. There is such wisdom in their stories and we can all learn from their experiences.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most healing experiences and can offer to all Catholics the sense of peace and calm that may be missing in our daily lives. Through the Sacrament we connect with God’s love and forgiveness in an almost tangible way. The feelings are the same for people of all ages. In fact, young children who make their First Reconciliation in preparation for First Holy Communion also tell how Reconciliation feels like “a warm hug” from God.

At Saint Mary’s, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 4 to 4:30 p.m. During Lent, Saint Mary’s will have a Reconciliation Service on Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. Make an appointment to meet God in this Sacrament and receive the “peace that only comes from God.”

If you have been putting off going to confession because you’re not sure what you’d say or how to prepare, we have a great resource for you. For your copy of A Guide to the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, visit www.stmaryparish-evanston.org or call the parish office at 847 864-0333.

Diversity Mass and Celebration

Saturday, March 5

5 p.m. Mass followed by Pot Luck dinner

Come and celebrate the diversity of Saint Mary’s Faith Community. We invite you to share a dish that represents your culture, but if you choose not to, please come anyway! For details, call Paula Haynes at 847 424-9518.

Sponsored by Saint Mary’s Peace and Justice Committee



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LITURGICAL MINISTERS for Saturday - Sunday, March 5 and 6

	5 p.m.	8 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
Presider	Fr. Greg	Fr. Tony	Fr. Tony	Fr. Ken	<i>Haitian Mass</i> Fr. Paul
Homilist	Fr. Greg	Fr. Tony	Fr. Tony	Fr. Tony	Fr. Paul
Greeters					
North East	Joan Joyner Jerry Rosemond	Elaine Pollak Jerre Michelin	Betsy Brentz Crystal LeRoy	Katherine Wong	
Altar Servers					
	Alexander Novi John Carr Ana Salamone		Amy Zamy Nickie Zamy Mitchell Rivera	Henry Clark Eleanor Clark Laura Tataille	
Lectors					
	Vince Gerasole David Onofrey	Sally Dempsey Maura Canavan	Kyla Davis Cheryl Davis	Gil Bailey Dan Clark	
Eucharistic Ministers					
	Laurie Lorenzini Ann Murray Linda Novi Delores Rosemond Bill Cummings	Mary DuCharme Nancy Fuller Enrique Reymondo Marie Reymondo Elisa Sanchez	Mike Borman Jane Colleton Theresa Forman Alex Hauser Linda Hauser	A.G. Anglum Jean Boisson Lea Filipek Yvonne Joseph Vicky Kirksey	
Eucharistic Adoration					
	Exposition: TBA 2 to 6 p.m. TBA 3 to 4 p.m. TBA		4 to 5 p.m. TBA 5 to 6 p.m. TBA Reposition: TBA		

SACRAMENTS

MASS SCHEDULE. Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. (Thursday is a Communion Service). Holy Days: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday: Saturday vigil - 5 p.m.; Sunday - 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION. Every Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. or as announced in the Bulletin.

REGISTRATION. Saint Mary's welcomes new parishioners. Please call 847 864-0333 for an appointment with the pastor.

BAPTISM. Our parish community is pleased to help your family prepare for your child's baptism. Baptisms are scheduled for the third Sunday of every month at 12:15 p.m., except during Lent. Membership in the parish is a prerequisite. Parents are encouraged to prepare themselves for this Sacrament by attending a preparation meeting, which is held in advance of the Baptism. Please call the parish office for more information and to register for the meeting.

MARRIAGE. Arrangements should be made with the parish at least four months prior to the wedding date.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA). Adults or teenagers interested in becoming a Catholic and receiving the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation) should call 847 864-0333, ext. 15.

MINISTERS OF CARE. Saint Mary's ministers of care are available to bring Holy Communion to those who are homebound, in the hospital or in a nursing home. To arrange a visit, call the parish office at 847 864-0333.

RECONCILIATION. Saturday from 4 to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Make time for yourself and others

Enrich your faith life

Nourish one another

Join one of our

Lenten Reflection Groups

Lent starts a week from Wednesday!

Find the group that's right for YOU.

Sign Up in the Gathering Space after Mass

February 26/27 & March 5/6

Visit the Friday Club

Friday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

In the Parish Center Living Room

Attendance is growing at the Friday Club. We had a great time at our last get-together — sharing our thoughts and watching *The Story of Us*. Pizza and popcorn were flowing, along with the laughs and friendship we shared in the Parish Center living room.

The next Friday Club is March 25 — the group decided to see *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a wonderful movie starring Diane Lane as a woman who makes a new beginning after her divorce. So please try to stop by at 6:30 p.m. and join us! Don't be shy — you can just share the warm company of others at a free movie! And if you would like to suggest doing something else — we're up for it! We discussed bowling, Ravinia, some summer fun things to do! Please call Pam Menaker at 847 251-4877 or email her at psm228@gmail.com if you would like be a part of a new tradition at Saint Mary's.



Chicago Catholic Men's Conference
 Saturday, March 19, 2011
 Chicago Marriott Oak Brook,
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Keynote Speaker:
 Chris Godfrey
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 New York Giants in 1987



Registration information available at:
www.catholicmenofchicago.org or 312-534-5288

MUSIC MINISTRY

Think you need to read music
to be in Saint Mary's choir?

by Annell Sampson-Jones

Hello Everyone,

My name is Annell Sampson-Jones. I have been a member of the Contemporary Choir for about eight years. I love to sing God's praises; for me it is just another way to pray. I do not know how to read music, it looks like a foreign language to me. I make mistakes until I get the rhythm of what I am singing into my head. If you have been singing along with us on Sunday, you already know a lot of the music.

I sang to God just like most of you do from my pew seat. One Sunday, Dianne Fox issued a call for people to join the choir. After Mass, I came forward and asked if I could join.

The wonderful joy of our choirs is that the members who can read music are very patient with those of us who cannot. Please don't be intimidated by how well we sound on Sunday morning. We practice to achieve the correct blend of our voices to achieve the beautiful hymns we sing and you hear. When we start a new piece, we may sound awful, but with more and more practice, we sound better and better. Finally, one Sunday morning you hear how our practice has paid off.

We meet twice on month on Wednesday evenings. Having you join us would be wonderful. You will be among friends and share the beautiful gift of singing. Practice with us as we perfect our songs of praise for the living God. Maybe you will consider becoming a permanent member. I hope to see you the next time we meet!

It's not too late to take part in Open Rehearsal Month with Saint Mary's music ministry. For details, see the parish website or contact Dianne Fox, Director of Music & Liturgy at 847 864-0333.

Pray for the sick

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, including: **Charlotte Humlick** and **Carrie Swearingen**.

In sympathy

Please remember in your prayers those who have recently died, including:

Rose Herriges

mother of Dr. Thomas Herriges

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 26

5:00 † Jerry C. Ryan

Sunday, February 27

8:00 † Bernice Burton

9:30 † James R. Dillon, M.D.

11:00 † William E. O'Neil, Jr.

Monday, February 28

8:00 † Esther Briehl

Tuesday, March 1

8:00 † Bernice Burton

Wednesday, March 2

8:00 † James R. Dillon, M.D.

Thursday, March 3 (Communion Service)

8:00 † Genevieve Grogam

Friday, March 4

8:00 † Bernice Burton

Saturday, March 5

8:00 † Catherine & Bert Hann

5:00 For our parishioners

Sunday, March 6

8:00 † Bradley Burton

9:30 † Betty Jean Wise

11:00 † Catherine and Bert Hann

Mass intentions may be reserved at the parish office for a donation of \$10. Dates are available through December 2011.

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thursday	St. Katharine Drexel
Friday	St. Casimir; First Friday; World Day of Prayer
Saturday	Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Readings for the Week

Monday	Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday	Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday	Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Mk 10:32-45
Thursday	Sir 42:15-25; Mk 10:46-52
Friday	Sir 44:1, 9-13; Mk 11:11-26
Saturday	Sir 51:12c-20; Mk 11:27-33
Sunday	Dt 11:18, 26-28, 32; Ps 31; Rom 3:21-25, 28; Mt 7:21-27

RESPECT LIFE

Pornography, the quiet plague,
a quintessential Respect Life issue

(Part 2 of 3) The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops warns that pornography is the foremost addiction in the world today due to its pervasiveness and its growing level of acceptability in our culture. <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/houckpamphlet.pdf> By addiction is meant: "a psychological addiction to, or dependence upon, pornography, theoretically characterized by obsessive viewing, reading, and thinking about pornography and sexual themes to the detriment of other areas of one's life."

Sam and Beth Meier, consultants to the Archdiocese of Kansas City's ministry of hope and recovery for pornography addicts, describe its devastating effects on marriage:

Pornography before marriage can be considered "virtual promiscuity" According to the researcher C.G. Roller, sexual addiction involves an enhanced need for the mood-altering neurochemicals from sexual behavior, which target the same neuropathways that alcohol and cocaine use target. What often begins as occasional use of pornography can quickly escalate into an insatiable habit that reduces others to objects for selfish pleasure. The physiological connection that occurs is incredibly powerful, although many young people rationalize that no one is getting hurt, or they believe that these temptations will stop after marriage. Sadly, virtual promiscuity before marriage often becomes virtual adultery in marriage, and in many cases, the struggle progresses to actual adultery. As the cycle with pornography ... continues, more and more graphic forms of pornography and even sexual contact outside of marriage are sought for the same level of "intoxication." <http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday/2010/families-meier.pdf>

The damage goes far beyond marriage.

How can we expect our young people to practice chastity when they are bombarded daily with messages that tell them to do otherwise? This violates the sexual latency of children and promotes teen/college-age promiscuity, resulting in out-of-wedlock/crisis pregnancies and the spread of STDs at epidemic levels.

Next week: Help and Hope.



Congratulations to Saint Mary's Confirmation class of 2011

Thirteen parishioners were confirmed on Friday, February 18 by Bishop George Rassas. (From left) Caroline Brentz, Matthew Auston, Mary Loftus, John Brugliera, Alec Auston, Eleanor Clark, Rob Colgate, Mary Bauer, Bryan Brannon, Natasha Schmeling, Jeff Noel, Barbara Acacia, catechist Victor Gomez and John Michael Van Treeck.

Schedule your Life Line screening for March 14 at Saint Mary's

Saint Mary Parish is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Two weeks from now, Life Line Screening, — a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings — will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on Monday, March 14. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your health is in your hands, so call 1 888 653-6441 for more information or to pre-register.



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