

From Fr. John:

Saint John Mary Vianney and Confession

One of the greatest gifts, if not the greatest gift, you can give to yourself and others this Christmas is to make a GOOD confession. Blessed are those who mourn for sin and the suffering it causes- look at what we did- we took the loveliest life ever and smashed it on The Cross. Do you mourn your sin? Read and believe what St. John Vianney says and run to the mercy found in confession:

In France, at the time of the Curé of Ars, confession was no more easy or frequent than in our own day, since the upheaval caused by the revolution had long inhibited the practice of religion. Yet he sought in every way, by his preaching and his powers of persuasion, to help his parishioners to rediscover the meaning and beauty of the sacrament of Penance, presenting it as an inherent demand of the Eucharistic presence. He thus created a “*virtuous*” circle. By spending long hours in church before the tabernacle, he inspired the faithful to imitate him by coming to visit Jesus with the knowledge that their parish priest would be there, ready to listen and offer forgiveness. Later, the growing numbers of penitents from all over France would keep him in the confessional for up to sixteen hours a day. It was said that Ars had become “a great hospital of souls”. His first biographer relates that “the grace he obtained [for the conversion of sinners] was so powerful that it would pursue them, not leaving them a moment of peace!”. The saintly Curé reflected something of the same idea when he said: “It is not the sinner who returns to God to beg his forgiveness, but God himself who runs after the sinner and makes him return to him”. “This good Saviour is so filled with love that he seeks us everywhere”.

We priests should feel that the following words, which he put on the lips of Christ, are meant for each of us personally: “I will charge my ministers to proclaim to sinners that I am ever ready to welcome them, that my mercy is infinite”. From Saint John Mary Vianney we can learn to put our unflinching trust in the sacrament of Penance, to set it once more at the centre of our pastoral concerns, and to take up the “dialogue of salvation” which it entails. The Curé of Ars dealt with different penitents in different ways. Those who came to his confessional drawn by a deep and humble longing for God’s forgiveness found in him the encouragement to plunge into the “flood of divine mercy” which sweeps everything away by its vehemence. If someone was troubled by the thought of his own frailty and inconstancy, and fearful of sinning again, the Curé would unveil the mystery of God’s love in these beautiful and touching words: “The good Lord knows everything. Even before you confess, he already knows that you will sin again, yet he still forgives you. How great is the love of our God: he *even forces himself to forget the future*, so that he can grant us his forgiveness!”. But to those who made a lukewarm and rather indifferent confession of sin, he clearly demonstrated by his own tears of pain how “abominable” this attitude was: “I weep because you don’t weep”, he would say. “If only the Lord were not so good! *But he is so good!* One would have to be a brute to treat so good a Father this way!”. He awakened repentance in the hearts of the lukewarm by forcing them to see God’s own pain at their sins reflected in the face of the priest who was their confessor. To those who, on the other hand, came to him already desirous of and suited to a deeper spiritual life, he flung open the abyss of God’s love, explaining the untold beauty of living in union with him and dwelling in his presence: “Everything in God’s sight, everything with God, everything to please God... How beautiful it is!”. And he taught them to pray: “My God, grant me the grace to love you as much as I possibly can”.



Looking for a Christmas gift—Fr. John’s new book - “More of You Through Prayer” would be a perfect gift and can be purchased at the Parish Center for \$11.00. The Parish Center is opened Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 14, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

+Blanche Bonneville
(The Hansons)

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

+Ann Cecilian
(Patty Rubich)

Thursday, December 17, 2009

+Blanche Bonneville
(Ardene Hatfield)

Friday, December 18, 2009

+Ann Cecilian
(Cecelia Halseth)

Saturday, December 19, 2009

5:00 PM-Jonathan Granbury
(Mary Gigliotti)

Sunday, December 20, 2009

8:30 AM- People of the Parish
10:30 AM-+Robert Gattman
(Ketty Gattman)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation
9:00 AM-Bible Study
12:00 NN-Parish Christmas Party
6:00 PM-Jr & Sr High mtg-SR

Monday, December 14, 2009

10:00 AM-Bible Study-SR
1:00 PM-Bible Study-SR

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

9:00 AM- Prayer Chain mtg-SR
7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 6
7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

7:00 PM-RCIA-SR

Thursday, December 17, 2009

10:00 PM-Winter Memorial Mass
7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Saturday, December 19, 2009

9:00 AM-Choir Practice-CH



St. Joseph Christmas Party: The LOOP Group and KOC invite everyone to the annual Christmas Party on

December 13th following the 10:30 AM Mass. Enjoy your community with wreaths, crafts, music, songs, snacks and Santa pictures too. Festivities until 3:00 PM. Come join in the family fun.

Care Ministry

The Prayer Chain will meet

Tuesday, December 15th from 9:00-10ish in the Social Room. Anyone from the parish is invited to attend and join us as we pray for those who are ill and have requested prayer support. We will continue our new book *Let in the Light* -facing hard stuff with hope. Don't forget to bring your appreciation book also. If you are new to the parish and would like to join us, please come we share books well.

Winter Memorial Mass - We invite everyone who has suffered the loss of a family member or friend to join us in our Winter Memorial Mass especially dedicated to his or her memory. The Memorial Mass will be on Thursday, December 17th at 10:00AM. There will be a sign up sheet as you come in the door to write the names of those for whom you wish the Mass said. You are invited to continue this community gathering and join together for fellowship and refreshments following Mass. **No 8:00AM Mass on Thursday, December 17th.**

E-Mail prayer chain – for those who would like to pray for others. We have a chain and if you would like to join just send a note to Sharron at relnsall@msn.com.

When she sends you a prayer request you just have to say a prayer for the person. It's simple and easy. Happy praying!

We have an older widow who is lonely and would love it if someone gave her calls on a regular basis to see how she is doing. If anyone is willing to do this please call me, Becky at 503-761-8710. If you are aware of anyone in the parish who could use calls also let me know.

Bulletin Articles: We will be putting out a bulletin for December 25th. All articles must be at the Parish Center by Monday, December 20th no later than 9:00 AM or email them to claws58@comcast.net.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 8,895.13

Over/Under: + 1,863.13

Advent Reconciliation Services

St. Rita Church
December 15th at 7:00 PM

St. Therese Church
December 16th at 7:00 PM
St. Peter Church
December 15 & 17 at 7:00 PM

St. Henry Church
December 21st at 7:00 PM

Youth Group Schedule

Fleece Frenzy

How many hats, scarves and blankets can be made in 2 hours. Come join us as we help PROJECT KEEP WARM

WHEN: Sunday, December 13th

TIME: 6:30-8:30 pm

WHO: Jr & Sr High Youth

SEWING MACHINES NEEDED

Questions: Call Janet at 503-761-8710 x 110.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 PM - Nativity Mass

8:00 PM - Candlelight Mass

11:15 PM - Caroling

12:00 Midnight - Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25th

9:00 AM - Mass

Coffee and Donuts: We are need of volunteers to serve Coffee and Donuts after the 8:30 AM Masses in January. If you are able to help there will be a sign up book available in the Social Room after the Masses on December 20th.