

JUST SAY YES!
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25](#)

[Psalm 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14](#)

[2 Corinthians 1:18-22](#)

[Mark 2:1-12](#)

God's one desire is that we experience fullness of life, both here and forever. There is much that frustrates this desire, some of it of human making. But God is persistent, and our readings this week speak to God's focus and determination.

God does not dwell on our past, Isaiah announces, but always looks forward, trying to invite us – perhaps even pull us – toward “something new.” Christ did not waffle between yes and no, according to St. Paul, but his response in word and deed was always a resounding “yes.” In the gospel Jesus liberates a paralytic man and orders him to “Rise, pick up your mat, and go home!”

God wants to set us free so that we can all “go home.” This home, of course, is the dwelling we actually begin to construct each time we allow ourselves to say yes to God. Too often, however, God is more eager to lead us to life in abundance than we are to receive it. We hesitate. We fear. We hold back. Like Adam and Eve, we prefer our own plans, our own devices, and our own strategies to those of God.

Lent is a time when we traditionally focus on “giving up.” However, if saying “no” to something does not lead us to say “yes” to God, then our sacrifice is of little value. It is an act of self-indulgence or perhaps of self-discipline with no spiritual consequence.

Let us pick Lenten observances, then, that open us to the fullness of life that God wants to give. Let us live this Lent in a way that helps us to build the City of God for which we are all destined.

Instead of giving up chocolate or Coke or alcohol during these forty days, for example, let us give up gossip or criticism and dedicate ourselves to blessing others with praise. Let us give up wasted hours on the internet or in front of the television and spend that time with someone in need of attention and love. Let us forego an extra pleasure or indulgence and donate the money saved to someone who is without.

In each of these cases, saying “no” is an occasion for saying “yes.” And God wants nothing more than for us to say yes.

Stephen J. Sauer, S.J.
Pastor

MARDI GRAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 22: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (No 7:30 p.m. Mass due to parade)

Monday, February 23: 7:30 a.m. (No Noon Mass or Confessions)

Mardi Gras Day, February 24: Church & Office Closed (No Masses or Confessions)

Ash Wednesday, February 25: 7:30 a.m., Noon & 5:15 p.m.

Ashes will also be distributed at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. following Liturgies of the Word.

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

On Tuesday, **March 10**, the parish will sponsor a **Lenten Day of Reflection** at Manresa Retreat House in Convent, Louisiana. The retreat will be led by Fr. Sauer for both men and women. A chartered bus, with a capacity of 48 persons, will depart from Immaculate Conception at 8:30 AM and will return by 4:30 PM. An offering of \$40 is requested to cover the cost of food and travel, but no one will be excluded for inability to pay. Please call Mary Kay Zahn (376-5095) if you are interested.

St. Joseph's Altar & Mass

The parish St. Joseph altar will be erected on **March 12** at the side altar of St. Joseph and St. Ann and will remain in place until the feast of St. Joseph on **March 19**. Parishoners are invited to place petitions and special tokens of remembrance at the altar throughout the week. On **March 19, following the Noon Mass**, lunch will be served in Lenex Hall.

7th Annual Good Shepherd School Golf Tournament

Monday, March 16, Stonebridge Golf Club of New Orleans in Gretna will host this annual tournament. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a tee time of 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend a great day of golf with food from New Orleans' finest restaurants, a fabulous auction and a post-tournament cocktail party. For more information or to register, please call David Nusloch at (504) 598-9399. The Good Shepherd School provides an excellent, tuition-free education in a safe and loving environment to at-risk children in grades K-7th who come from families living in poverty.

4th Annual Harry Thompson Center Gala & Auction

Saturday, April 4, the Student Commons of Jesuit High School will be the venue for this year's Gala, "Harry Thompson Center Goes to the Academy Awards". This Gala and Auction are the primary fund raiser for the homeless center and provides almost a third of the funds required for operating expenses. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Gala, please contact Suzette Herpich (296-6698) or Indie McKay (430-4935) for further details.

March Social & Dinner

Sunday, March 29, following the 7:30 p.m. Mass will be the monthly Social and Dinner in Lenex Hall. If you are interested in hosting this event, please contact Cathy DeMatteo at (504) 339-6886. We would like to thank the Carriere, DeMatteo and Schiaffino families for hosting the February Social and Dinner. It was a lovely evening and enjoyed by all. Thank You!

PRESIDER SCHEDULE**Saturday, February 21**

4:00 p.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

Sunday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.
 9:30 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.
 11:00 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.
 No 7:30 p.m. Mass due to parades.

Saturday, February 28

4:00 p.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.
 9:30 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.
 11:00 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.
 7:30 p.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, February 8: \$6,957.00

2nd Collection: Catholic Charities \$1,689.00

Sunday, February 15: \$6,688.00

PRAYER LIST

Anne Accardo
 Lourdes Armbruster
 Sea Barry
 Musette Mary Buckley
 Ed Burks
 Kelsey Favrot
 Rosealie Foster
 Gina Gauthreaux
 Maggie Hebert
 Juliann Kiefer
 Tara Stoulig Monistere
 Beverly Morris
 Karen Oxmann
 Darlene Peters
 Desmond Peters
 Marie Pizzuto
 Wescoat Sandlin
 Betty Smith
 Jim Taylor
 Justin Webb
 Whitney Welsh
 Keri White

WEDDING BANNS**February 28, 2009**

Katie Gonsoulin & Adam Pelliccio

March 7, 2009

Nina Singh & Kristen Radcliff

Melissa Montz & Daniel Donahoe

MASS INTENTIONS**Tuesday, February 17**

7:30 a.m. Martha Nell Dewhirst
 Noon Calvin Vonderhaar

Wednesday, February 18

7:30 a.m. Robert Jennings
 Noon John Edward Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Thursday, February 19

7:30 a.m. Sandra Bourg
 Noon Jerome Sauer

Friday, February 20

7:30 a.m. Charles Wall
 Noon Gwen Cooney Melancon

Saturday, February 21

4:00 p.m. Edward DeVerges, Joseph
 Michael Dewhirst, Jane
 Drennan, Suzette Guillot,
 Rudolph P. Hamaker, Mark J.
 Vincent

Sunday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Fr. David Brown, S.J.

*Mass intentions for February 22, 7:30 p.m. Mass have been transferred
 to Sunday, March 15, due to the Mardi Gras schedule.*

Thursday, February 26

7:30 a.m. Tom Tomeny
 Noon Loyola N. Baxley

Friday, February 27

7:30 a.m. Morel Miller Elmer, Jr.
 Noon Joseph J. Dewhirst

Saturday, February 28

4:00 p.m. E.J. Caruso, Nell Morris
 Dewhirst, Tommy & Eileen
 Enright, John Fitzpatrick, Jr.,
 Jerome Sauer, Jane Terry

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of Sigma
 Alpha Kappa Fraternity
 7:30 p.m. Recuperation of Lynn Combe,
 Robert S. Gilberti, Nell Mabry,
 Jerome Sauer, Mark J.
 Vincent, Lucille Yenni

Lenton Mission

St. Katharine Drexel Parish (formerly Holy Ghost Church - 2015 Louisiana Ave.) is sponsoring a Lenton Mission on Ash Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week. Mass and prayer, led by Fr. Chuck Andrus, S.S.J., will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. Please call (504) 891-3172 for further details.