

THE CROSS

3rd Sunday of Lent

[Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17](#)

[Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:22-25](#)

[John 2:13-25](#)

Paul discovered that preaching the crucified Christ caused great consternation. It was “a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.” Every preacher since Paul has had the same experience. The cross confounds.

Why the cross? Why did it happen? Why was it necessary?

Throughout the centuries attempts have been made to “explain” the cross. Most prominent of these is the theory of Anselm of Canterbury, which emerged in the 11th century and has dominated Christian thinking ever since.

Anselm, basing his theory on medieval judicial practice, suggested that sin, in upsetting the order of the universe, dishonored God. Consequently, someone had to pay the price in order to restore God’s honor. Since God’s honor was infinite, however, only the ultimate price of the death of an infinitely innocent person would be adequate. Christ’s death was deemed necessary, therefore, because it alone could meet such a criterion.

As logical and neat as this theory is, it remains highly problematic. It raises serious questions about the nature of God. If God is truly merciful and compassionate, for instance, why would a penalty be necessary? Couldn’t God simply forgive? Is the divine honor so fragile or so ferocious that it demands blood?

The fact of the matter is that no theory can ever explain the cross. It will remain forever a mystery. Instead of trying to explain it, therefore, we would do better simply to contemplate it.

To behold the cross is to behold an act of love that has never been surpassed. As we behold it, it stares back at us, not in a menacing way, but as a declaration of God’s foolishly extravagant love: “See what I will do for you. See how precious you are to me.”

The cross is proof that God will do *anything* in order to win us back. God will empty himself of all dignity, cede all power, and forego all privilege. He will place himself in our hands and allow himself to be degraded and humiliated – all so that we might know the depth of his love and the fierceness of his desire to be with us.

Truly, the cross confounds.

Stephen J. Sauer, S.J.
Pastor

St. Joseph's Altar & Mass

The parish St. Joseph is now located in the right side altar. All are invited to place on the altar petitions and special tokens of remembrance (pictures, letters, mementoes). On **March 19**, the altar will be blessed during the Noon Mass. Following the Mass, traditional St. Joseph Day Altar fare will be served in Lenexa Hall.

7th Annual Good Shepherd School Golf Tournament - THIS MONDAY!

This 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.

Married Couples Retreat

Spend quality time enriching your marriage at the Willwoods Married Couples Retreat at St. Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center **March 21 - 22**. Suggested donation is \$185. For more information, please contact Jason Angelette (504) 830-3716 or visit www.willwoods.org.

4th Annual Harry Thompson Center Gala & Auction

Saturday, April 4, 2009

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Jesuit High School Commons

Cost: \$50.00 per person

***For ticket information please contact Suzette Herpich (296-6698)
or Indie McKay (430-4935) for further details.***

"Lucky Stars"

Through the wonderful generosity of our sponsors last year, and the subsequent success of the "Lucky Stars" table, we are proud to announce it will be returning to the HTC Gala this year! Please donate brand-new gifts, valued at \$25 and above, in their original packaging to be placed in boxes at the back of church throughout the month of March. Please contact Julie Vanderbrook at 504-442-2622 for any information.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

March 27 is the deadline for registering to participate in the Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration, which will take place at St. Philip Neri Church on Sunday, **June 28, 2009**. To register, please contact the parish office.

Experience Scripture

The Archdiocesan Spirituality Center is offering a week of directed prayer from Sunday, March 22 to Saturday, March 28. The experience involves 30 minutes of daily personal prayer and a daily 45 minute spiritual direction session. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

Sunday, March 15 Second Collection

The Second Collection this week (**March 15**) is for the Good Shepherd School. *Please be generous.* Next week, (**March 22**) the second collection will be for the **CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND**. To avoid any confusion, a second collection for Catholic Relief Services (also marked March 22 on your envelopes) will be delayed until **March 29**.

PRESIDER SCHEDULE**Saturday, March 14**

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

Sunday, March 15

8:00 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

9:30 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

11:00 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

7:30 p.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

Saturday, March 21

4:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

Sunday, March 22

8:00 a.m. Fr. Fran Pistorius, S.J.

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WEDDING BANNES**March 20, 2009**

Karina Loya & Adam McCrossen

March 21, 2009

Catherine Porteus & Ryan Martiny

March 28, 2009

Michelle Lynch & Daniel Wedge, III

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
 Lauren Read
 Wescoat Sandlin
 Steve Schmedtje
 Betty Smith
 Jim Taylor
 Jim Washington
 Allison Webb
 Justin Webb
 Whitney Welsh
 Keri White
 Gerald A. Wilson

MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday, March 14**4:00 p.m. Madeline DiGerolamo, Ruth Fuller,
Robert Salvador Gilberti, Robert
Jennings, Calvin Vonderhaar**Sunday, March 15**8:00 a.m. Morel Miller Elmer, Jr.
7:30 p.m. Sandra Bourg, Deceased members of
Sigma Alpha Kappa Fraternity, Rende
Family, Georgianna Stockel, Lucille
Yenni**Tuesday, March 17**7:30 a.m. Gwen Cooney Melancon
Noon Judy and Dick Burke**Wednesday, March 18**7:30 a.m. Jane Terry
Noon Tommy and Eileen Enright**Thursday, March 19**7:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph
Noon Special Intention**Friday, March 20**7:30 a.m. Lynn Combe
Noon Nell Mabry**Saturday, March 21**4:00 p.m. Apatini Family, Joseph Bertucci, Joan
Keegan, Taylor Naquin,
Jerome A. Sauer**Sunday, March 22**8:00 a.m. Christopher Schneider
7:30 p.m. Sandra Bourg, William Gambel,
Jeanne Perret, Mehmet & Nedime Rende
& Family, Lucille Yenni**Lost & Found**

If you left something in a pew or found something in
 the church, please contact the church office. We may
 have your item!