

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED!4th Sunday of Lent[2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23](#)[Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6](#)[Ephesians 2:4-10](#)[John 3:14-21](#)

At the time of the Reformation, Catholic practice appeared to endorse the notion that one could attain salvation through one's own efforts. So many rosaries, so many novenas, so many Masses, and a final anointing at the moment of death – and one was assured a place in heaven, even if one's life had been largely unprincipled.

Luther's condemnation of this practice set off five centuries of debate over the relationship between faith, good works (including participation in the sacraments), and salvation. This debate was largely resolved in a 1983 declaration penned by Lutherans and Catholics together. This declaration finds an echo in our readings this week.

“Even when we were still dead in our transgressions,” Paul notes, “God ...brought us to life with Christ, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens” God saves, then, through a gratuitous act of mercy. We do nothing to merit salvation, and we can do nothing to entice God into granting it. It is an unwarranted gift of loving communion that God offers – even in the midst of our transgressions – “because of the great love he has for us.”

Our part is to receive the gift that God offers and to enter freely into loving covenant with God. This response is called faith: “Whoever believes in [Christ Jesus] will not be condemned.”

Faith is not so much an intellectual assent to dogma, then, but a personal commitment to following Jesus in grateful and loving discipleship. I can't live a life that is unprincipled, therefore, and profess to have faith. I can't be miserly and claim to believe.

God frees us from whatever binds us and offers us new life. We accept this free gift and then attempt to use this freedom in loving imitation of Christ. Good works, therefore, are integral to a disciple's journey. They are an expression of one's love for God and evidence that one has indeed embraced God's gracious offer of covenant.

We are saved by grace, that is, God's gratuitous and unbounded love. It is our task to let this love penetrate our entire beings so that our lives reflect the truth that “we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works.”

Stephen J. Sauer, S.J.
Pastor

Holy Week Schedule 2009

Holy Thursday, April 9

Confessions: 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10

Confessions: 10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross: Noon
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3:00 p.m. (*veneration of the cross*)

Holy Saturday, April 11

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 7:30 p.m.

4th Annual Harry Tompson 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).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! We ask you to please donate brand-new gifts, valued at \$25 and above, in their original packaging. Suggestions: gift certificates to restaurants or popular places of business, coffee-table books, crystal, china, jewelry or anything you would love winning at the Lucky Stars Table. Throughout March, boxes will be placed in the back of church for your donations. Please contact Julie Vanderbrook at 504-442-2622 for any additional 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 church office.

Sunday, March 22 Second Collection

The Second Collection this week (**March 22**) is for the **CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND**. *Please be generous.* Catholic Relief Services is also marked on your envelopes; this second collection has been delayed until **March 29**.

PRESIDER SCHEDULE**Saturday, March 21**

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

Sunday, March 22

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

9:30 a.m. Fr. Stephen Sauer, S.J.

11:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Osterle, S.J.

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

Saturday, March 28

4:00 p.m. Fr. Thomas P. Greene, S.J.

Sunday, March 29

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

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

Please contact the parish office if you would like to add someone to our prayer list.

WEDDING BANNS**March 20, 2009**

Karina Loya & Adam McCrossen

March 21, 2009

Catherine Porteus & Ryan Martiny

March 28, 2009

Michelle Lynch & Daniel Wedge, III

MASS INTENTIONS**Tuesday, March 24**

7:30 a.m. Thomas Schafer

Noon Sr. Carmelo Parisi, RSCJ

Wednesday, March 25

7:30 a.m. Beverly Martinez

Noon Warren Henry, Sr.

Thursday, March 26

7:30 a.m. Mike and Hope Read

Noon Frank Castillo

Friday, March 27

7:30 a.m. Madeline DiGerolamo

Noon Apatini Family

Saturday, March 28

4:00 p.m. Bryan Patrick Bennen, the Burke
 Family, and the Vanderbrook
 Family

Sunday, March 29

8:00 a.m. Kurtis Briley

7:30 p.m. Sandra Bourg, Joseph Bertucci
 and Lucille Yenni

PARISH SOCIAL/DINNER

Please contact the church office if you are interested in hosting the monthly social and dinner. This will be held on **Sunday, March 29** following the 7:30 p.m. Mass.