

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. MARY'S IS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO WITNESS CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

From the Pastor— (*From In Conversation with God*)

Helping the spiritual and material good of others.

Mankind has never been so eager to be free, to throw far away all forms of oppression and slavery. Christ appears in today's Gospel as the only true liberator. Four friends bring a paralytic whom they are eager to see rid of a disease that keeps him on a stretcher. After strenuous effort to carry him to Jesus, they listen to these words addressed by our Lord to their friend: *My son, your sins are forgiven.* It is unlikely that they expected to hear this lets us see that the worst of all oppressions— the most tragic of all slaveries from which man can suffer— is sin. It is not just one evil among the many other evils that afflict creatures, but the gravest, the only thing that is evil in absolute terms.

The men carrying the paralytic understand that Jesus has given their incapacitated friend the greatest good— freedom from his own sins. And we cannot forget what a great contribution to the common good it is to do everything possible to exile sin from the world. On many occasions the greatest favor, the greatest good we can do to a friend, to a brother, to parents, to children, is to help them see the beauty of divine mercy in the sacrament of penance. It is good for the family, for the church, for the whole of humanity, even though here on earth very few know about it.

Christ frees from sin with His divine power: *Who can forgive sins except God?* It was for this that He came on earth: *God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.* After forgiving the paralytic his sins, Jesus also cured his physical infirmity. The man must have understood in that very instant that his great good fortune that day had been the first cure: to have felt his soul pierced through and through by divine mercy, and be able to look at Jesus with a clean heart.

The paralytic was healed body and soul. And his friends are an example for us today of how we should help others— through our friendship mainly, cooperating in apostolic initiatives, and fostering the food of society with all the means at our disposal: working for the common good, for a decent life and culture, offering positive solutions when faced with evil. We should do this in our own professional circumstances as well as in any other environment in which we happen to be involved it is here that we can cooperate in the building up of good and avoid cooperation in anything that is evil.

A large family, for instance, with its many demands and sacrifices, always brings about more happiness than another family which— out of pure selfishness— sought its well-being in a little bit more of material comfort. This joy that other people sense is also a way of cooperating in the good: at times it is the most fruitful one. Mary the Virgin, who goes *cum festinatione*— in haste— to help her cousin, teaches us always to seek, to cooperate in the good, so that Jesus her son, through His grace, may continue to work miracles on earth for the good of all men and women.

Come downstairs after Mass for coffee & donuts

UNDERSTANDING MASS:Genuflections/At Communion: Those who choose to genuflect are counseled to use caution and be aware of those behind them who may be surprised when they genuflect. It is important that the Communion procession be dignified, and should never be rushed.

POPE BENEDICT: Benedict XVI encouraged parish communities and families to be the nourishing soil in which vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life can sprout, and he recommended three concrete means for fostering vocations: Scripture, prayer and Eucharist.

He clarified that the task of fostering vocations is to "provide helpful guidance and direction along the way." "Central to this," the Pontiff said, "should be love of God's word nourished by a growing familiarity with sacred Scripture, and attentive and unceasing prayer, both personal and in community; this will make it possible to hear God's call amid all the voices of daily life. But above all, the Eucharist should be the heart of every vocational journey: it is here that the love of God touches us in Christ's sacrifice, the perfect expression of love, and it is here that we learn ever anew how to live according to the 'high standard' of God's love. Scripture, prayer and the Eucharist are the precious treasure enabling us to grasp the beauty of a life spent fully in service of the Kingdom."

The Pope's message presented the vocation as a response to divine love. "We are loved by God even 'before' we come into existence," the Holy Father stated. "Moved solely by his unconditional love, he created us 'not ... out of existing things,' to bring us into full communion with Him. [...]"

"With these images," he reflected, "the Saint of Hippo seeks to describe the ineffable mystery of his encounter with God, with God's love that transforms all of life. It is a love that is limitless and that precedes us, sustains us and calls us along the path of life, a love rooted in an absolutely free gift of God."

"Every specific vocation is in fact born of the initiative of God," Benedict continued. "It is a gift of the Love of God! He is the One who takes the 'first step,' and not because he has found something good in us, but because of the presence of his own love 'poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.'"

Yet, the Holy Father said, "the appealing beauty of this divine love, which precedes and accompanies us, needs to be proclaimed ever anew, especially to younger generations." "This divine love," he said, "is the hidden impulse, the motivation which never fails, even in the most difficult circumstances."

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE *John 11:27*
"Yes, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who hast come into the world."

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2012

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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| Monday, Feb. 20 | (Weekday) |
| 6:30 pm | Confessions |
| 7:00 pm MASS | †George Simonis/Kubishta |
| 6:00 pm-12:00am | Adoration |
| Tuesday, Feb. 21 | Saint Peter Damian |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | Fr. Clemens/Kubishta |
| 7:00 pm | RCIA |
| 7:00 pm | KnightLife |
| 12:00 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Wednesday, Feb. 22 | ASH WEDNESDAY |
| 7:00 am MASS | Conversion of all Hearts |
| 5:30 pm | Confessions |
| 6:00 pm MASS | Souls in Purgatory |
| 6:00 pm | RE Classes attend Ash Wednesday Mass |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Thursday, Feb. 23 | (Lenten Weekday) |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | †Paul Russell/Brandhagen |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Friday, Feb. 24 | (Lenten Weekday) |
| 5:45 am | Men's Bible Study |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | Christine Wilkens/Harris |
| 4:30 pm | Men's Conference registration begins |
| 5:00 pm | Soup Supper/Stations |
| 12:01 am-10:00 am | Adoration |
| Saturday, Feb. 25 | Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 7:00 am | Men's Conference resumes |
| 3:30 pm | Confession |
| 5:00 pm MASS | †Joan Schlegel/Sprenger |
| Sunday, Feb. 26 | 1st Sunday of Lent |
| 8:00 am | Holy Hour |
| 9:00 am | Confession |
| 10:00 am MASS | For the Popes Intentions |
| 11:30 am SP MASS | For the Parish |

ADORATION: We are looking for a person to spend one hour with our Lord at **2 pm on Tuesday and 9, 10 am and midnight on Wednesday.** "For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them." Call Karla at 276-3615.

PRO-LIFE: We are asking everyone to help fight to keep our religious freedoms that are being threatened by our government and organization within our country. Please contact our representative from Oregon to let them know Catholics are not going to be silent on HR 1179, S 1467. Rep Greg Walden at 202-225-6730 or 541-264-2400 Senator Jeff Merkley at 202224-3753 or www.merkley.senate.gov/contact/ Senator Ron Wyden at 202-224-5244 or www.wyden.senate.gov/contact Catholic and Pro-Lifers are strongly encouraged to contact Komen supporting their original decision. You may email them at news@komen.org or contact them at www.komen.org/Contact.aspx. Please do your part in speaking up for our Catholic faith and for the unborn.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE : Thank you so much for supporting some of our McKay families during the Christmas season. Because of your generosity we were able to help more families this year. Christmas was a little brighter for more children.

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER: Sacred heart church in Athena will hold a pancake dinner on Tuesday February 21 from 5-7 pm. The menu includes: Pancakes, ham, scrambled eggs and beverage. The dinner is free, donations are welcome for the benefit of the Pregnancy Care Center.

Our new e-mail address is saintmary@qwestoffice.net

Altar Servers for Feb. 24-25

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| 5:00 pm | Nolan & Grant Kennedy/Connor Bell |
| 10:00 am | Sam Miller/Carson Moore/Walker Hoolehan |
| 11:30 am | Jonathan Lopez |

We have several projects that need financing. We like to build a ramp to the basement which many have wanted for years. The cost of this project will be \$28,000. Our Diocesan Appeal is set at \$25,900. Please be as generous as possible to both projects.

BOOK OF MONTH: The book *Mother Teresa of Calcutta* by Monsignor Leo Maasburg gives us such great insight into this very human and very holy saint. In it, he not only shows us why Mother Teresa was a saint, but points the way for us also to become saints: become people of prayer. In this person portrait of the beloved nun, he presents fifty amazing stories about her that most people have never heard, wonderful and delightful stories about miracles, small and great, that he was privileged to experience at Mother Teresa's side. Stories of how, without a penny to her name, she started an orphanage in Spain and at the same time saved a declining railroad company from ruin, and so many more. They all tell of her limitless trust in God's love, of the way the power of faith can move mountains, and of hope that can never die. Every family should have this book to read.

We Would Like To Welcome You To Our Parish Family

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out your name and address below. We would love to add you to our Parish Family. Please visit us at the Parish Office or mail this form to us or place it in the collection basket.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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