

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2017

Calendar

Saturday, April 1st

4:00pm Vigil Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Vincent Boudreaux Jr, Anthony J. Cartozzo, Sister Josephine Cusimano DC, Emma & Louise Grunwald, Richard Harper, Joy Nalty Hodges, Sister Claire Mulé DC, Christopher J. Vanderbrook, the Egers & Jeanfreau Families, and the Intentions of Albert Brown

Sunday, April 2nd

8:00am Mass All parishioners

10:30am Mass Paul Haygood, Lester & Ethel Heidingsfelder, Earl LeCorgne, Joy Nalty Hodges, Ronald & Pauline Marchessault, Deacon Paul A. Nalty, Miriam Ogden, the Cassard Family, the Derbes Family, the Mercante & Youngblood Families, and the Vaughn Family

Monday, April 3rd

6:30am Mass Vincent Boudreaux, Jr

Tuesday, April 4th

St Isidore, bishop and doctor of the Church

6:30am Mass The Boudreaux & Bergeron Families

10:30am "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" (@ St Henry's)

4:45pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass William Allen

Wednesday, April 5th

St Vincent Ferrer, priest

6:30am Mass Brother Michael Langlois, OSB

5:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:00pm Rosary (@ Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Thursday, April 6th

6:30am Mass Mary Wendt

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

9:30am "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" (St Stephen Rectory)

Friday, April 7th

St John Baptist de la Salle, priest (pictured)

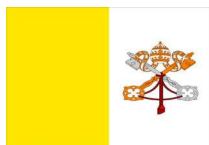
6:30am Mass Jack Landry

6:00pm Stations of the Cross (@ St Henry Church)

6:30pm Fish-Fry (@ Blessed Pauline Center)

Saturday, April 8th

10:00am Rosary (@ Church of St Henry)



The Sanctuary Light in the church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of the Right Reverend Patrick Regan, OSB.

The Sanctuary Light in the chapel will burn this week for the Intentions of the Pope.



Mass Setting

The Mass setting for the Season of Lent is the Gregorian *Missa jubilate Deo*, found on the Pew Card.



Banns of Matrimony

Paige Johnson & William Kery



Abby Ruiz & Mark Caponegro

Lay-Ministers Schedule for April 9th

4:00 pm

Lector: Judith Simon & Brian Plauché

Eucharistic Ministers: Hunter Harris III, Angela Villanueva, and Sandra Westfall

8:00 am

Lector: J.C. Paciera & Liz Rareshide

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Tufton, Jeff Vinson, and David Wojciechowski

10:30 am

Lector: Douglas Kariker & Deacon R. Eason

Eucharistic Ministers: Christine Cooper, Deacon Richard Eason, Kenneth Moran, Jane Nalty, and Mark Surprenant



Sharing Our Faith, Securing Our Future
Restoration of St Stephen Church

Here we go! Many of you will have heard last weekend that the Archdiocesan Finance Council has given permission for us to commence restoration work. Trapolin-Peer Architects and Donahue Favret Contractors are preparing the documentation for the necessary city and state permits now and expect that work will begin early to mid-May.

The work on the exterior (roofing and mortar/masonry repairs and water proofing) will be the first steps, followed by interior repairs and upgrades. Everyone is excited to see this long planned project finally begin!

All liturgies in St Stephen Church will continue as currently scheduled in the initial phase, while the focus of work is the exterior of the building. We will keep you posted as to progress and will try as much as possible to let you know ahead of time when to expect temporary changes.

We are still in need of pledges and donations to completely fund the project. If you have already set up a pledge, please begin pledge payments as soon possible as every dollar that we have for the project will reduce our overall interest on the bridge loan that the Archdiocese will provide. If you need assistance setting up regular or one-time donations, please contact Dianne Caverly in the rectory office.

Collection Report	March 19th	July 1st-Mar 19th
Total Collections	\$8,254.00	\$273,279.48
Budget	<u>\$6,684.69</u>	<u>\$254,018.22</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,569.31	\$19,261.26
Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations		
Restoration Fund		\$7,672.98
Clarion Herald		\$50.00
Catholic Charities		\$135.00

The Monthly Prayer-Request for Priests

April

1 st	The Rev. Luke Hungdung Nguyen*
2 nd	The Rev. Bartholomew Chukwuma*
3 rd	The Rev. Jongkwon Choi
4 th	The Rev. Martin J. Gleeson, OP
5 th	The Rev. Mbotela Kasele, FMH
6 th	The Rev. Francis X. Pitorius, SJ*
7 th	The Rev. Augustine Appiah*
8 th	The Rev. Kyle J. Sanders*
9 th	His Holiness Pope Francis
10 th	The Rev. Laudy Merilan, OMI
11 th	The Rev. Earl Muller, SJ
12 th	The Rev. Anthony Hien Nguyen
13 th	The Rev. Joseph de Water*
14 th	The Rev. Mark Lomax*
15 th	The Rev. Stephen Smith
16 th	The Rev. Lich Nguyen*
17 th	The Rev. Louis A. Poché, SJ*
18 th	The Rev. Msgr. Arthur Calkins*
19 th	The Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Giroir*
20 th	The Rev. Edward J. Lauden*
21 st	The Rev. Msgr. James R. Dixon*
22 nd	The Rev. Minh Cong Phan*
23 rd	The Rev. Chris Zavackis
24 th	The Rev. Michael Nam Hoang Nguyen
25 th	The Rev. Gregory Usselman, LC
26 th	His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
27 th	Seminarian Thien Nguyen
28 th	The Rev. Gregory Ross, OCD
29 th	The Rev. Msgr. Henry J. Bugler, VF
30 th	The Rev. Sam Anthony Morello, OCD

* birthday

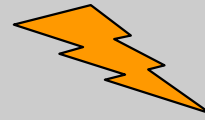
† deceased

Courtesy of The APRP Apostolate



Lightning Apologetics

by Phillip Bellini, DRE



Are We Saved by Faith Alone?

After having several discussions on this matter within the past few weeks I decided write about this important doctrine. I hope it helps many of you in your discussions with family members or friends who have left the faith for those denominations that hold to the “Sola Fide” (Faith Alone) doctrine and maybe trying to persuade you that we are saved by faith alone. God bless you.

Many Christians believe that a person is saved, or justified, by faith and faith alone. All a person has to do is “accept Jesus Christ into their hearts as their personal Lord and Savior,” and that’s it – they’re saved. According to this belief, good works play no role whatsoever in a person’s salvation. This belief is known as Sola Fide, or Faith Alone. Catholic Christians, however, believe that both faith and works are necessary components of a person’s salvation. Who’s right? Let’s look at this situation from three perspectives: logical, scriptural and historical.

The Logical Perspective. Sola Fide believers say that there is nothing we can do – no work, no act – in order to be saved. Jesus did all that was needed to be done for us through His Death and Resurrection on the Cross. Over and over again it will be said that we can do nothing to “add to” Jesus’ finished work on the Cross. After all, John 19:30 has Jesus saying “It is finished.” Jesus’ last words: “*It is finished.*” Sola Fide believers interpret those words to mean that Jesus was saying that the *work of salvation is finished*. “I have done all that can be done for your salvation.” Jesus is essentially saying, “nothing else is needed.” The work of salvation is done...it’s over...it’s completed...all that needs to be done has been done...period.

How then am I saved? If the work of salvation was completed on the Cross some 2000 years ago, then how is it that someone was “saved” by answering an altar call this past Sunday?! Think about that. How could anyone have been saved this past Sunday, or two weeks ago, or a month ago, or a year or ten or fifty years ago, if the work of salvation was completed 2000 years ago? To illustrate this point, let’s say that as of yesterday you had never believed in Christ. You never accepted Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior. You have never been born again. Would you consider yourself “saved”? The Sola Fide believer will say, “No, you would not be saved because you have not believed in Jesus. But, if today just one day later, you answered an altar call and said a sinner’s prayer and accepted Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior and were born again, would you then be considered “saved”? The Sola Fide believer will say, “Yes, you would be saved.”

How can this be? What is the difference between your being “unsaved” yesterday and your being saved today? Was it something you did that saved you? “No, of course not,” the Sola Fide believer says, “you can do nothing that counts towards your salvation.” Well then, it had to be something Jesus did for you today that He had not done for you yesterday. But that can’t be because Jesus’ work was finished 2000 years ago. “It is finished.” This is the dilemma: If the differences between being unsaved yesterday and being saved today could not have been due to something that you did, yet, on the other hand, Jesus didn’t do anything new for you today that He had not already done for you yesterday, how then are you saved?

Here is where the logic of Sola Fide breaks down. The correct answer, the Catholic answer, the Scriptural answer, and the logical answer, is that you were saved both by something Jesus did and by something you did in coöperation with God’s grace. You were indeed **redeemed** by Jesus’ death on the Cross 2000 years ago *and* by the fact that you finally believed it and acted upon that belief by the grace of God. The problem is Sola Fide has no room for such an answer. It is blasphemy! It is by faith alone that you are saved. You can do nothing to contribute in any way to your own salvation.

What’s the difference? One cannot argue the fact that the only *difference* between being unsaved yesterday and being saved today is something you did – not something that Jesus did for you today that He had not done for you as of yesterday. Again, according to the Sola Fide adherents, Jesus work was finished 2000 years ago.

Now, Sola Fide folks will say that believing in Jesus – having faith in Jesus – is not a work, it is simply an act of faith. It is indeed an *act* of faith. An *act*. Think about that. “So,” they will say, “a person is indeed saved today by Jesus’ death on the Cross 2000 years ago, but the benefits of Jesus’ atonement are not applied to us until such time as we come to have faith in Christ.” Well, whether you want to admit that the *act* of believing is a work or not, you simply cannot get around the fact that the only difference between a person being unsaved one day, and being saved the next, is not something new that Jesus did – He wasn’t re-crucified – rather it is something new that the person did. So to claim that there is nothing one can do that contributes to one’s salvation is a logical absurdity when one considers that Jesus died for all men, yet not all men are saved. They are redeemed and only potentially saved. Which means, the only possible difference between the saved and the unsaved is that the saved **did** something that the unsaved did not do. Next week, the scriptural perspective...

Pray for the Sick

Ron Behler, Corey Behler, William Brown, Ray & Zetta Burkart, Gary Callahan, Jeanne García, Mary Gremillion, Jolleen Jackson, Leddie Lopez, Louise Martin, Dilia Martínez, Dilia Miller, Sophie Rodríguez, the Reverend Father George Weber CM, and William Youngblood.

We have the Stations of the Cross (*Via Crucis*) every Friday during Lent at the Church of St Henry, at 6:00 pm, followed by a Fish-fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, at the Blessed Pauline Center, 4219 Constance Street.

At all Masses this week-end, we will have the Sisters of St Elizabeth Convent, in Belarus, offering “handmade religious articles and souvenirs” for purchase.

A message from Becky Brocato: “All the organizers of the 2017 St Joseph Altar would like to thank all the parishioners, friends, and families that came to help in any way to make this year's altar a success. There was help in every area this year and we were so happy to have everyone involved. Thank you to people who helped to make the cookies, fig pieces, *pignolatti*, casseroles, in the kitchen, serving lines, set-up, clean-up, frying the fish, and being in the church to give bags out and sell candles. Bravo!”

This Saturday, April 8th, a “Life in the Spirit Seminar” will be presented at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, 1307 Louisiana Avenue. Registration begins at 8:30 am, with the seminar from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided, and the suggested donation is \$25. Please telephone 529-1636 for details.

Pray for the Dead

Shelley Baptiste, Sister Josephine Cusimano DC, Hunter Harris Jr, Joy Nalty Hodges, Sister Suzanne Kullowitch SCC, Sister Claire Mulé DC, Gertrude Petit, the Right Reverend Patrick Regan OSB, and Mary Tortorich.

Pray for Our Armed-services

Lt Junior Grade, USN, Neil P. Chatelain; LT John Tortorich; and LT Kate Tortorich.



News

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass of the Roman Rite, the “Tridentine” (Latin) Mass, will be offered again at St Stephen Church on Sunday, April 30th (**Second Sunday after Easter**), at 12:30 pm.

