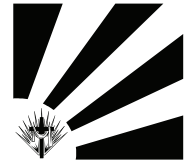




VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2008

Month of February

WORD: *Blessed are they who trust and bow to the will of the Father.*

READINGS

- Feb 3** Zep 2:3, 3:12-13
Ps 146:6-10
1Cor 1:26-31
Mt 5: 1-12a
- Feb 10** Gen 2:7-9, 3: 1-7
Ps 51: 3-6, 12-13, 17
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4: 1-11
- Feb 17** Gen 12: 1-4a
Ps 33: 4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Tim 1:8b-10
Mt 17: 1-9
- Feb 24** Ex 17: 3-7
Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9
Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8
Jn 4:5-42

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Listen to the voice of God in your quiet time. Go to a quiet place to seek the Lord.*
2. *Be a compassionate shepherd to your flock so that no one will be snatched from My protecting hands.*
3. *Continue to humble yourself and be a living example of God's love by reaching out to your brothers and sisters at home, work place, and community.*
4. *Make real our poverty alleviation program to encompass all areas in the lives of our disciples.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Observe what is right, do what is just for salvation is about to come and justice is about to be revealed.*
2. *Do not grow weary; continue to stand on your faith and focus your works in Me.*

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL):

"Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord." (1 Cor 1:31)

REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

The first Sunday in February prepares us for Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of Christ's total abandonment to the Father's Will. At the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays down the disposition or "Be Attitudes" of those who are to inherit the Kingdom and His way of living for his entire life. In trusting and subservient to the will of the Father, He become of "Moral Norm". Our thoughts, words and deeds are to be judge and evaluated based on Jesus' teachings. Salvation depends on one's attitude to Jesus..." (CFC par.796, CBCP).

The second week is the First Sunday of Lent. Men were created from dust, elevated to almost like angels, meant to be good and immortal; succumbs to the wiles of the evil one. The psalmist begs for mercy and compassion for the evil done in God's sight. Many evil is done by those who are selfish, ignorant, culpably uninformed, and proud. Sin enters when we "...**put the Lord, your God to the test.**" (Mat.4:7) Paul exhorts us to bear the hardship that comes when we are Christ's disciples. We are called to holiness and this journey begins anew everyday when we begin to see some fault of our own, some egotism, some self-pity, something we haven't given up or admitted to ourselves. We need to persistent and ask for God's grace and mercy to lead up on our holy journey.

The Third week shows that Abram's absolute obedience to God, went into a strange land directed by God. God made a promise to make him great, and provide and protect him and his descendents. The psalmist urges us to trust in God's word, knowing that the LORD'S eyes are upon the reverent, upon those who hope for his gracious help. Paul encourages us to bear our share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. God saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to His own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus. Jesus' transfiguration further proves His Sonship with our mighty God. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." God's own voice pronounces that Jesus is the third person of the bless Trinity. "Rise, and do not be afraid." Jesus tells us to take courage and be strong to go forward yoked to him.

The third Sunday of Lent gives us the symbol of water, a precious resource for all living things. And our theme for this week goes beyond our need for water and reminds us to demonstrate our discipleship in Christ when we serve as vessels for the salvation of others. As he did the Samaritan woman, Jesus invites us to drink of the Spirit, the only source that will never run dry; the deeper we drink from this well, the more abundantly it flows and the greater our capacity to drink from it. Like Moses, we are constantly being asked to be the vessels for this living water, to "...**strike the rock so the water will flow from it for the people to drink.**" (Ex.17:5).

In our sometimes misguided zeal, we grit our teeth and charge on, working, instead of letting go and surrendering to God, which is also an attitude of faith and an evidence of our trust. The true Christian attitude does not consist solely in loving God, as in knowing and accepting the love of God. **"Love, then consists in this: not that we have loved God but that he has loved us**

.....Continued in page 2



Valentine's Day

This month of February, we celebrate Valentine's Day and start observing Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 6. Very timely and appropriate for it is a celebration of Love, the kind of love that our Lord has given us through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son whom He had given to all mankind for their deliverance from sins.



and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins." (1John 4:10) Then we can truly live St Paul's message: *"Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."* (1 Cor 1:31).

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Why is purple used during the Lenten season?

The color purple symbolizes both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. It is also the color of royalty, and anticipates, through the suffering and death of Jesus, the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

What is Lent?

Lent originated during the early days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter. During this time, the faithful rededicated themselves and converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection when Christians are given the chance to review their lives and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. It is also a time for sabbaticals to be restored to faith.



PRAISE



First of all, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who take time during the week to practice and attend the Friday Praise and Worships. The amount of dedication it takes to be present and utilize the gifts that the Lord gives us is a true testament to our conviction in our faith and love for God.

Each encounter, the Lord calls members to our community not only to become members of our beloved group of worshippers but also to become instrumental (no pun intended) in the delivery of God's message to His people. As it says in the song "Heal our Land" – If My people, will humble themselves... and pray... I will hear from heaven..." We have prayed and the Lord has heard. Our praise group grows with each encounter with the instrumentalists that we have been praying for. Thank you to all who participates and know that there is nothing impossible for God.

To all who remembers when I first joined and started playing the piano – I would like to say thank you for bearing with me as I learned how to play with chords. Many of you know that I had all of maybe 2 months total of piano lessons as a child and the rest of the time, I just played like how a child would play – struggling through notes and timing. I would like to extend special thanks to the people who helped me through the learning time and encouraged me to continue – Tito Pepe and Tito Mario. I truly believe that my music development was one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit after my LSS and to this day, I am awed and amazed by this

Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry:

- ◆ Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update Intercessory ministry heads for answered prayers. You may please make/update prayer requests through a link in the website or e-mail ministry heads: Denny & Nina Custodio at

dennyc1220@cox.net.

IDLC:

- ◆ To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training for Ministries offered by local parishes.

Please check the Diocese website for training Schedule

<http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

Secretariat

- ◆ Please wear your community I.D. If you do not have one contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail:

evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

- ◆ Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer with the community thru an article (350 words max).

E-mail to eunex@aol.com.

Teachings

Feb 8 - Youth Teaching

ME 6, SPE 2 teachings during reunion: check with class shepherds for detail.

Discipling Groups I, II, III: continued discipling: check with respective disciplers

Give something up and/or do something extra during Lent

Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for forty days. Thus, during Lent we are to imitate Jesus' withdrawal by making sacrifices. We must not forget that the Lenten season is our time of fasting, prayer, temptation and repentance. Moreover, the sacrifices we make is a way for us to give thanks to Jesus and repay Him for all He has done for us.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of January 2008

To be reported next month

See Treasury Logbook for details-available at Registration Area or see Treasury Ministry Heads Pedro & Cita Rivera

Thank you for your generosity!

Catholic Humor

Amen: The only prayer that every knows.

Incense: Holy smoke

Jesuits: The group of priest that help sport athletes find colleges

The Didache Series in the 21st Century

The Didache [DID-uh-kay] Series

Didache was the Lord's Teaching through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations in the first century.

Didache Series in the Twenty-first century is expanded; better defined, more illustrated and fitting for to-days world. Drawing references from the Sacred Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, the lives of the saints, the Fathers of the Church, the General Directory for Catechesis, and the teaching of Vatican II as witnessed by the pontificate of John Paul II; these books are real authority on their respective subjects.

In essence The Didache Series is a one source teaching of the Roman Catholic Church inclusive of the Holy Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium of the Church. The four-volumes set, constitute the complete course on Didache, with full complementary readings from all possible references, was formally released in mid 2006. It consists of four separate books: Introduction to Catholicism, Understanding The Scriptures, The History of The Church and Our Moral Life in Christ. All four volumes received there respective Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur between 2002 to 2006 from the Archdiocese of Chicago.



BLD Phoenix Community Calendar 2008

February 8-10 - Singles Encounter #2
May 16-18 - Life in the Spirit Seminar #6
June 6-8 - Marriage Encounter #8
July 25-27 - Youth Encounter #4
October 3-5 - Life in the Spirit Seminar #7

My New Year's Resolution...

It is never too late to establish one's New Year's Resolution. In fact, what resolutions we have for the new year should be reviewed within the year and evaluate whether we have followed them or we should add some more. Here's a few resolutions that we might consider having for ourselves:

- ◆ - Do my chores
 - ◆ - Help my parents & siblings
 - ◆ - Save money
- Katlind Bautista Mk 10 Phoenix
- ◆ I have only 2 new years resolutions. Here they are:
I would like to be successful and get straight a's.
- Alanah Mk 10 Phoenix
- ◆ to get better grades
 - ◆ get out more
 - ◆ make new friends
 - ◆ do my chores
 - ◆ and to listen more
- Christina Asante Mk 10 Phoenix

The Enslaving Duck

John and Jane was spending the summer in Grandma's farm. One day John was playing with his sling shot at the edge of the pond, hoping to test out his skill with any birds that was around. He found nothing, he went back to the house. As he walked closer to the house, something moved in the tall grass. His heart pounds with anticipation. He pull out his sling shot, put a round pebble in it and aimed.

Out came the duck, he stretched his arm holding the pebble and let go the stone.

Quack, Quack ... the duck yelled and lay dead.

John was happy, running closer to claim his trophy. "Oh God, he yield quietly. It is grandma's pet duck. Hurry let me burry it," he thought to himself and started digging a hole and covered it with dirt.

Walking back to the house, Jane came to greet him. "John shoot something lately?" *continue next column...*

BIRTHDAYS

2 - Crosby Cortez
13 - Maria Korte (YE 1)
17 - Art David (ME 6)
24 - Venus Fuentes(ME 7)

ANNIVERSARIES -none on record-

www.BLDPhoenix.com

ASH WEDNESDAY 2008

February 6, 2008

Since Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, it naturally is also beginning to recover a baptismal focus. One hint of this is the second formula that is offered for the imposition of ashes: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." Though it doesn't explicitly mention Baptism, it recalls our baptismal promises to reject sin and profess our faith. It is a clear call to conversion, to that movement away from sin and toward Christ that we have to embrace over and over again through our lives.

As the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey that marks the season. As the catechumens enter the final stage of their preparation for the Easter sacraments, we are all called to walk with them so that we will be prepared to renew our baptismal promises when Easter arrives.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast (one regular meal, two light ones), and of abstaining from meat. Fridays of Lent are days of abstaining from eating meat and is a common gesture of penance.

Please check with your local parishes with the times for Distribution of Ashes on Feb. 6. Some, if not all, parishes will also be collecting your palms from last year on Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday as these palms will be burned and its ashes will be used for Ash Wednesday.

Ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday

"Remember that you are but dust. From dust you came and to dust you shall return," are the words that accompany the ashes that are put on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are used to remind us that we are indeed created from dust and to dust we shall return. Ashes are also a sign of humility before God. It symbolizes the mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. By receiving ashes, we are put in a position to realize the consequences of sin.

.. Continued the Enslaving Duck..

John knew what Jane is talking about. "Don't tell Grandma!" he pleaded. Jane said "OK, if you do the dishes and clean my room" "O...K...!" John agreed. A week passed, Jane was adding more chores everyday. John was miserable. He decided to tell Grandma. Grandma said:" Silly boy, I saw you with the duck, and I know Jane was making you miserable. I wonder when will you stop being **a slave to your own sin** by coming to me and telling me the truth. "

God sees us when we sin. We are too proud to submit to God's Love and confess. We enslave

**Feb 25 - Filipino Sunday Mass at 5 pm
at Our Lady of the Valley**