

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
March 5, 2017

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis

The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus help us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that “we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (1 Tim 6:7). We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls “father,” as a sign that he belongs to God’s people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: “During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.” In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life’s evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: “They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them.” Countering the rich man’s objections, he adds: “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.”

The rich man’s real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God’s word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbor. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God’s word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is a favorable season for our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all

the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favor the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share in the full the joy of Easter.

Pope Francis

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthing 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and all Men!

MASS INTENTIONS Mach 4 - 10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Adeline Laranjo

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Leslie R. Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Sylvia Cordle

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. + Roman Kubalski

Thursday 9:00 a.m. Rebeca Olsen

Friday 8:00 a.m. + Andrew Luella & Marc

All Friday’s of LENT we have Soup at 6:30 p.m. and pray together the Stations of the Cross afterwards.

THANK YOU!

The Men’s Club for the wonderful celebration of the Mardi Gras Parish Party, last Fat Tuesday, you worked very hard and thanks to all of you for your presence.

We enjoyed the party!!!

Stewardship of Treasury
Report Sunday February 25 & 26, 2017
Total Plate \$ 1,046.00
EFT \$ 637.00
TOTAL \$ 1,693.00

Second Collection for Maintenance was \$503.00

Thank You and God bless you!

Meet Young Catholic Families
The Second Sunday of the Month at 10am is pre-School Gospel. 11am. Young Family Social!

Every FRIDAY of LENT the day of
ABSTINENCE in the Church!!!

It is our Christian responsibility to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent as a form of penance.
Retrouvaille

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: 1. Romance, 2. Disillusionment, 3. Misery, and 4. Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages then end in divorce never making it to the 4th Stage of Awakening to Joy. Don’t give up without learning about and experiencing the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage is in the throes of Disillusionment or Misery, please contact **Retrouvaille**. For confidential information or to register for the next program beginning with a Weekend in **May 2017**, call: 831.479.1260 or email: Monterey@RetroCA.com or visit the website: www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Women’s Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 7-8 p.m., in the Community Center.
Next meeting Wednesday March 22nd.
Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time; get to know our faith and each other better so that we can better serve the needs of our community. Please contact Ruth McCormick ruthmcc@flash.net to get on our email list or ask any questions.