

St. Mary's Basilica
A Catholic Faith Community
Franciscan Friars

Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

RECTOR AND PASTOR

Fr. Vincent J. Mesi, O.F.M.
602-354-2072

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Alonso de Blas, O.F.M.
602-354-2070

PARISH MANAGER

Jerome Doris
602-354-2069

**CHRISTIAN
FORMATION**

Sr. Anthony Poerio, IBVM
602-354-2068

MUSIC MINISTRY

Gordon Stevenson
602-354-2061

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Camela Barraza
602-354-2100

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Tom and Linda Raimundo
Renee Poston

PARISH CENTER

231 North Third Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
602-354-2100

FAX 602-354-2060

www.stmarysbasilica.org

**PARISH CENTER
HOURS**

Weekdays
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

BASILICA HOURS

Monday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays 12:05 p.m.
Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.
Sundays
9:00 am and 11 a.m.
Holy Days
12:05 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 4 to 5 p.m.
or by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF
MARRIAGE**

Minimum of six months
preparation
602-354-2100

**SACRAMENT OF
BAPTISM**

Celebrated monthly
During Mass
602-354-2068

**SACRAMENT OF
THE SICK**

Please contact the parish
for a priest.
602-354-2072

HOLY HOUR

Thursdays
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 pm

**VIA ASSISI GIFT
SHOP**

Dee Pennartz
Manager
602-271-0042
Wednesdays - Fridays
9:30 am. to 3:00 pm
Saturdays
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sundays
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parish Mission Statement

As children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized. Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ. Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Mary's Basilica,

Welcome to our liturgical no-man's-land: we've just finished celebrating the Christmas season (put away the whites), we've got a couple of Sundays in Ordinary Time (so we can dust off those green vestments from two months' retirement), and before you know it we're getting into our penitential purples with Ash Wednesday's formal beginning of Lent. Thank goodness that it'll last 40 days so we can stop bobbing around and settle in for a serious project—following Jesus on his final push to complete his Father's wishes.

It was not, you can be sure, on Jesus' personal agenda that he undergo suffering and ignominious death on a cross. As opposed to the Church's majority opinion that Adam's sin was a felicitous event (in that it brought about the sending of a Redeemer who was directly from God—his Son), so that they called it a “happy fault,” “O felix culpa,” we Franciscans followed the teaching of Blessed John Duns Scotus, O.F.M. He taught that it was unthinkable that a sin should be the motive for the coming of Jesus. The Father's plan had always included the sending of his Son to us...after all, our humanity is not the source for Jesus the man. His pre-planned humanity is the template, the design, for ours! Adam and Eve were not created so as to introduce Jesus into the human family. Adam and Eve were created human in accord with God's ever-planned involvement with mankind; Jesus was the pattern for their humanity. They weren't originals—they were copies! They just appeared on the scene before the original showed up.

When he did appear, you can be sure it was Jesus' agenda to carry out his loving Father's plans, whatever that entailed. And, because of Adam's unhappy fault, the coming of the Christ would not be a victory parade, leading his faithful followers home to heaven. There was no parade. We had not been faithful to our call. We followed our instincts and acted selfishly and sinfully towards one another. Jesus would have to go into sinful, dangerous places to seek out the lost sheep of his Father's flock. As a good shepherd, he would lay down his life for the safety of his sheep. What his Father wished was that none of us be lost, but that Jesus gather us up and lead us home, regardless of how far any of us had strayed. This is why he becomes obedient, emptying himself of all glory, going so far as to accept death, even the worst kind of death, so he could reach down to the lowest rung of humanity and offer it salvation. Think of St. Dismas, the “good thief,” and the answer he got when he asked for a good thought from Jesus on the cross next to his.

Instead of getting to lead us in a glorious parade of saints, of ever-faithful followers, with confetti and streamers, Jesus will lead us on a cross-carrying climb to his redeeming death on that hill, with a bleeding body and a crown of thorns. If that was what he had to undergo to free us from our sins and bring us back to the Father, so be it! “Not my will, but thine be done” is his prayer in the Garden, starting the culmination of our salvation. You've already heard me recommend Climb the Hill with Jesus as a companion for the forty days of Lent. Don't forget Barren Earth to New Growth as a commentary for the culminating last three days, the Triduum. God bless our every effort to join Jesus and grow, through suffering into new life, into the fullness of our pattern, our brother, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love,
Fr. Alonso

WE ARE CALLED- WE ARE CHOSEN
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psychologists tell us that essential to a healthy personality and good community life is a sense of mission, purpose or vocation. Today's scriptures are about "call". Do we have a purpose in life, a goal, a commitment to make our lives meaningful? In our society, some of the problems that are evident such as drugs or alcohol addiction are usually part of lives that have no sense of purpose and wander into what they think will bring ways of escapism. A sense of purpose is vital, even on a humanistic level. However, as baptized Catholic Christians we are called to a deeper level as the People of God.

So profound is the life we share "in Christ" that anything which threatens to divide us strikes at the heart of our Christian vocation. The theological concept of vocation is for all believers, rightly understanding that the model for discipleship as seen in the gospels applies to all men and women who are baptized. Catholics understand that in speaking of a vocation, *all* are called-not just ordained ministers and religious, to contribute as disciples and followers of Jesus in proclaiming the gospel, given our own particular gifts and abilities and the circumstances of our lives.

If for any reason, we do not think that we are called, we can be inspired in today's scripture by the call of Jesus to the fisherman. While we might shy away, because we don't think that we have the skills, or the ability, or the intelligence, or the "know how", today we are called to "think again". There's a phrase that you have probably hear many times over, "alone, I may not be able to do it, but Jesus and I can do all things". These chosen fishermen were probably good at fishing, but a vocation or call to spread the "Good News" was not exactly their "thing". They were being called, chosen by Jesus to do the work of the kingdom, just like we are at baptism. We are chosen by God to leave all to follow Jesus. We must claim at least an interior disposition that is a prerequisite of all Christian disciples. It is an issue of our priorities in life that set a willingness to participate in the mission to which we have been called.

I'm sure you have responded in your lives to what you thought could be a call of God. There were no spectacular lights, no bells, and no startling apparitions. Life simply offers us some options. We pray and act in the best way we know how. Sometimes it doesn't turn out in the way *we* thought it would. Maybe it offers a new challenge that we didn't expect. One thing we can be sure of, the hand of God is there. Different from our expectations, it may turn out to be the most life-changing, direction-turning event of our lives. Conversion and the call of God are intimately connected. Jesus invites a radical change in life and perspective. He sometimes calls us for a complete reordering of our life and priorities. Are we being called to make our lives authentically meaningful?

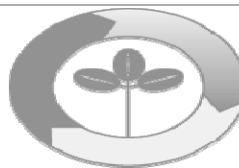


Wedding Seminar

Interested in getting married at St. Mary's Basilica?

Join us on **Wednesday, January 30th at 6:30 pm.** We will offer information, go over our policies and requirements. This seminar is required for weddings at the Basilica. This informative meeting will help you in making your wedding a memorable and liturgically beautiful Sacrament.

**Please call the parish office to register.
602-354-2100**



**Phoenix
NATURAL FAMILY
PLANNING
CENTER**

An Intro./Overview of Natural Family Planning is to be given at **The Diocesan Pastoral Center on Thursday, February 21st at 7:00 pm.**

N.F.P. is about effective and healthy family planning that respects Catholic teaching. Classes are open to married couples, couples preparing for marriage and all who want to learn more about Catholic teaching about moral and married sexuality. Complete course of instruction to learn N.F.P. methods are also offered.

For a complete class schedule and to register please visit the website at phnfp.org or call 602-225-0636.

It's Mardi Gras Time!!!



Get your tickets today for
Mardi Gras 2008,
And join us on Tuesday,
February 5th at 6:30p.m.
in the Social Hall
For this joyful jamboree!

Tickets are \$20
and
are available in the
Via Assisi Gift Shop.

*Delicious
Mexican Food!!!*

Great Music!!!!

*And lots of fun
with family and
friends!!!!*



The Season for Nonviolence

**The Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 E. Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale**

All are invited to observe the Season for Nonviolence with us. The Season for Nonviolence is 64 days in length --beginning with the anniversary of the assassination of Gandhi on January 30 and ending with the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4th. It is a time to deepen our understanding and practice of nonviolence.

January 30, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Opening Liturgy- Presider, Fr. Vernon Meyer
and Renee Morgan Brooks, vocalist

January 30, Wednesday, 7:30pm

Concert-Healing Music from Around the
World with Anton Mizerad, tabla, harmonica, &
keyboard, Michael Mandrell, Celtic guitarist, Tracy
Rae, singer & songwriter.

Donations appreciated.

For information: 480-948-7460, ext. 157 or

www.thecasa.org



*National Exhibition of the St. John's Bible
“Parish Docent Tour”*

Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 2:30 PM

In the 8th Century, near what are now Scotland and England, Benedictine monastic scribes created a Bible that today is one of the longest surviving monumental manuscripts in the Western world.

Nearly 1,300 years later, renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson approached the Benedictine monks of Saint John's University and Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, with his life-long dream: to create the first handwritten, illuminated bible commissioned since the invention of the printing press. The Saint John's Bible uses ancient materials and techniques to create a contemporary masterpiece that brings the Word of God to life for the contemporary world.

*If you are interested joining
the parish on this tour please
call 602.354.2100.*



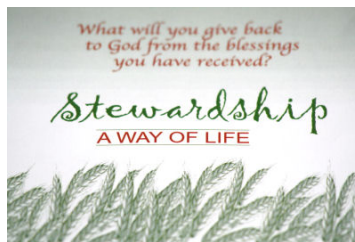


**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
NOW!!!!!!**

Lent is soon coming!!

**St. Mary's Basilica
Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule
Wednesday, February 6th 2008
Noon and 5:15 pm**

**Check the Bulletin next week for all our
Lenten Devotions.**



Weekly Offering

January 20, 2008

was \$ 6,905.59

Thank you very much!!!

All too often, stewardship is presented only with the Church support or the funding of other charities as the goal. This is too limiting. Stewardship also involves time and talent.

“For your heart will always be where your riches are.” (Matthew 6:21)



**CDA
Stewardship Prayer**

Thank you for Your blessings,
Lord, in our lives today and
throughout the year.

We ask that You bless and
assist those in our diocese who
need our prayers because we
are all *One Family in Christ*.

Help us to become more like
Jesus in sharing the gifts that
you have given us.

We ask this through Christ
our Lord. Amen.



**CALLED TO PROCLAIM
THE GOOD NEWS**

We proclaim the Good News that Jesus dies with us each time we die through failure, suffering, or despair. Through the power of his marvelous Resurrection, he gathers us and lifts us up out of the trials of this life and we are renewed and re-formed.

We are a graced, chosen and gifted people, called to share our dyings and risings with others, that they may come to believe in the resurrection And the life.

Strengthen us to live in holiness that we might bring your wonderful light into our world. Give us the courage to share our stories, our Good News with those who seek the light. Abide with us as we journey in faith, anticipating the fountain of living waters and the table of living bread.



The annual Charity and Development Appeal (CDA) is this weekend. The CDA provides vital support to more than 70 charitable, spiritual and educational programs and organizations throughout the Diocese.

CDA provides support for our seminarians and priests. We see the fruits of CDA in our parish through trained catechists, deacons and resources for our parish staff and volunteers provided by the Diocese. Thousands of children have access to Catholic education through the efforts of CDA.

Our parish goal is 100% participation and \$53,882.00. Please prayerfully discern your support for our *One Family in Christ*. Financial gifts and prayer commitments can be made online at www.diocesephoenix.org/cda or you may complete a donor card, available in the pews and in the back of the church. Please consider a commitment to prayer for those in need. Thank you for your support of the Charity and Development Appeal.

What's Happening At St. Mary's

Monday, January 28th

Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center
Adult Confirmation Class	6:30 pm	Parish Center

Tuesday, January 29th

Pastoral Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Parish Center
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Wednesday, January 30th

Wedding Seminar	6:30 pm	Parish Center
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Thursday, January 31st

Memorial of St. John Bosco	Noon	Basilica
Holy Hour	11:00 a. & 5:00 pm	Basilica
No Choir Practice		
Diocesan Restructuring Meeting	7:00 pm	St. Theresa Parish

Saturday, February 2nd

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Sunday, February 3rd

Feast of St. Blasé		
Blessing of the Throats	After All Masses	Basilica

Monday, February 4th

Count Team	6:30 pm	Parish Center
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Tuesday, February 5th

Mardi Gras Party	6:30 pm	Social Hall
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Wednesday, February 6th—Day of Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday Masses	Noon and 5:15 pm	Basilica
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Thursday, February 7th

Holy Hour	11:00 a. & 5:00 pm	Basilica
Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Choir Loft

Sunday, February 10th

Rite of Election	9:00 am Mass	Basilica
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10
Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19
Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17
Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29
Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17
Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4
Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40

Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the LORD will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

Second Reading — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

Gospel — Jesus taught the crowds from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

The pantry is in need of some non-perishable food items such as Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Soups and Vegetables, etc.

If you would like to send a money donation please mail to:
St. Vincent de Paul
231 N. 3rd St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Aldo Angulo (*Deceased*)

Sunday 9:00 a.m.
People of St. Mary's

Sunday 11:00 a.m.
William P. Mahoney (*Deceased*)

Monday 12:05 p.m.
Margaret Ellen Sweeney (*Deceased*)

Tuesday 12:05 p.m.
Reginald Batt (*Deceased*)

Wednesday 12:05 p.m.
The health of Dr. Ron Paul

Thursday 12:05 p.m.
Charles Vincent (*Deceased*)

Friday 12:05 p.m.
George and Redetta Donaldson (*Living*)

Sanctuary Candles
In Memory of

Gyp & Matthew Scott
&
Joel E. Scott



Join us for
Respect
Life Rosary
After the
Noon Mass
**February
1, 2008**

