



Nativity News

Quarterly Newsletter - February 2010

Nativity Of Our Lady Catholic Church 221 Daly Avenue, San Luis Obispo

God Calling

from the Pastor's Desk

In our upcoming Whole Community Catechesis we get the opportunity to reflect on how God calls each of us. The really important thing to know in all of this is that God does call each of us uniquely and directly. I suppose it would be easier in this day and age if we got a text message, voice mail or email message, but for some reason God doesn't seem to be using those things. I suspect He is still working on getting the right geek in heaven to handle those things. We need a patron saint for techies.

Seriously, however, God does call us to follow him—each of us in a unique way. Each is called to be a unique version of His love. Each of us does that differently. Each of us gets a call.

The difficulty for many of us is to believe God actually is calling us. Since He doesn't always use the obvious methods, how do we hear the call? How do we know it is God? Since the call, if we hear it, always seems more than we are capable of, how do we follow?

Two of the biggest obstacles to God's call if we are truly listening for it are a sense of unworthiness and fear. God's response to the unworthiness is simply: "Get over it; it is not even an issue for me." No one is worthy, but all are called. God's response to fear as the scriptures tell us is: "Fear is useless; what is needed is trust."

Sometimes the best way to hear God is not to look for answers, but to look for the right questions that allow God to draw the response of love from us. Let's look at some questions. We will start with the obvious.

Have you ever felt God was calling you to something? What were the circumstances of that call? Have you ever felt you were being "netted" by God? At what moments has God seemed most real in your life? Those moments might be births, deaths, marriages, job losses or changes, accidents. Can you remember a time when your faith became your own; not simply what you grew up with? Have your children been instrumental in hearing the voice of God and God's love? What has been a God moment for you? When did you feel overwhelmed and find God?

God's call can be for many things. It can be to trust when nothing seems trustworthy. It can be to a vocation in life. It can be to a life-changing experience. It can be to stillness and quiet. It can be to prayer. It can be to generosity. It can be to action. The point is that God is always calling. Hopefully, we are listening.



**Ash
Wednesday**

February 17th

Mass Schedule

9:00am & 5:30pm

continued on page 2

God Calling continued from page 1

I encourage you as we approach our Lenten season, to use our Whole Community Catechesis as the spark for your Lenten journey. The journey might be as simple as reflecting on what God might be calling us to each day. Maybe we can make the weekly contemplative prayer time our Lenten practice. If we can't do it on the Wednesday time, make another time. God is always in!

Jesus went into the desert for forty days and listened. The Father was free to speak and ask the right questions. He could face the temptations and respond with the Father's response. And then, He could start the journey doing what God called Him to do—the journey to death and resurrection.

May you have a blessed Lenten journey—quietly listening for the call of God! May you hear His voice and know His love and may that give you the courage to follow!

Fr. Mike

*All Women Invited
to
February's First Friday Mass & Women's Spirituality Gathering
Friday, February 5, 2010
Mass at 9:00am followed by Brunch & Presentation*



"Friends Who Touch Our Souls - Women's Bible Study"

Janet Leach and Karen Biezad, Nativity parishioners, will share their experiences of Women's Bible Study and encourage you to gather with your friends to read and reflect on the scriptures. Their presentation will give you some simple and helpful tips to nurture your friendships, grow in your faith and be together in prayer and support for one another.

Come and enjoy this uplifting and inspirational morning!

The Power of Prayer by AnnE Lorenzen

Our teens who attend Youth Group and/or Confirmation preparation enjoyed, recently, a catechesis on Prayer; we spent time reflecting on the myriad types of prayer and their power and efficacy. As a continuation of that conversation, and as an example for the teens of how a parish community's prayers can impact the teens' lives, we are asking that you—our Nativity community—remember these teens in some form of regular prayer throughout the Lenten Season.

We will be posting their pictures and names on the bulletin board in the weeks to come so that you may be on the lookout for them around the church, and so that you may put an image in your mind and heart along with your prayers for them. Our culture is not supportive of these young people insofar as matters of character, virtue, and Faith are concerned. Thoughtful, focused prayer, however, is more than supportive; it can be healing, transforming, and saving.

February Events

Thursday, February 4th

Lenten Retreat with Terry Hershey
"The Power of Pause - Becoming More
by Doing Less" 7:00pm in the church
Presented by Diocese of Monterey
Catechetical Ministries Department

Friday, February 5th

First Friday Mass & Women's
Spirituality Ministry
Mass at 9am followed by
brunch and presentation

Fish Fry Dinner 4:30pm - 7:00pm
Come and enjoy a great dinner
with family and friends!

Saturday, February 6th

Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:00pm Prayer Knit/Crochet Circle

Sunday, February 7th

Whole Community Catechesis
9:00am Brunch followed
by Scripture Readings & Reflections
presented by Patty Miller & Greg Wilhelm

Monday, February 8th

Valentine's Tea for Widows
1:30pm Parish Hall
Please RSVP to Mary or Donna at the
parish office

Saturday, February 13th

Married Couples Gathering
7:00pm Parish Hall

Friday, February 19th

Fish Fry Dinner 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Friday, February 26th

Fish Fry Dinner 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Sunday, February 28th

Rite of Continuing Conversion
Sacramental Prep Children
11:00am Mass

An Early Valentine's Gift

We enjoy so much the Gift of their presence in our parish community that we are celebrating them again!

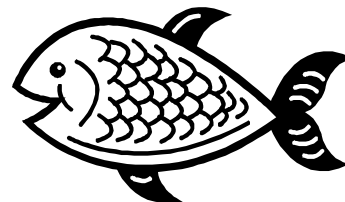
It is with great pleasure that we invite our parish widows to gather with us in the Hall for some Tea and "womanship" on Monday, February 8th at 1:30pm. Think of it as an early—and interactive—Valentine's card from the Nativity community. Our last Whole Community Catechesis—during which several of our widows spoke publicly—moved many of us into profound places of new understanding and awareness.

One of the by-products of the pre-gatherings prior to Whole Community was an unexpected comfort and delight that the ladies found in each other's presence—the result of which was an expressed desire to spend time together again soon. We would love to fulfill that desire and so we have confided in Father Mike, and we are grateful that he has encouraged us to move forward in planning the Tea.

So, if you are one of our Wonder-Full Widows we would appreciate deeply your affirmative RSVP as soon as you are able. We will be calling you, we promise—or please call Mary or Donna at the office (544-2357) so that we may reserve your seat of honor.

If you know of one of our widows who may not see this invitation—or if you know of a recent move of which we may not be aware—please pass along the information here or call us to alert us. We would love to make this a lovely, memorable, and just plain fun gathering—our ladies deserve nothing less.

Fish Fry during LENT



Beginning Friday, February 19th and each Friday during Lent our parish will be hosting the Lenten Fish Fry Dinners.

Dinners include an entree of hand-breaded cod and/or shrimp, french fries, homemade cole slaw and all the fixings. We also will have an assortment of delicious desserts at our bake sale!

The Fish Fry Dinners are always a welcoming and fun atmosphere along with a great sense of community spirit. So come and enjoy!

- Lower Prices
- Friendly Atmosphere
- Great Food
- Superb Service



Fish Fry Dates:

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2

Nativity Silent Prayer Vigil
for your
Lenten Journey

Every Wednesday
12:15pm - 12:45pm
in the church

God's Call to Silence (to Silent Prayer)

Step away from the busyness of your life to rest
awhile with the Lord and experience His presence.

Be still, and know that I am God. - Psalm 46:10



Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church
221 Daly Avenue
San Luis Obispo CA 93405

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Luis Obispo, CA
Permit No. 116



Operation Rice Bowl

As part of our parish's observance of Lent, we will ask parishioners to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, a program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. For more information, see upcoming parish bulletins, or call Mary or Donna at the parish office.