

The Gospel for Ash Wednesday gives us good advice on how we are to act during Lent. Jesus speaks of the three main disciplines of the season: giving alms, praying and fasting. All of these spiritual activities, Jesus teaches us, are to be done without any desire for recognition by others. The point is not that we should only pray alone and not in community, for example, but that we should not pray in order to be seen as holy. The same is true of fasting and works of charity; they do not need to be hidden but they are to be done out of love of God and neighbor, not in order to be seen by others. This is just another way Jesus is telling us not to perform religious acts for public recognition. We don't wear the ashes to proclaim our holiness but to acknowledge that we are a community of sinners in need of repentance and renewal.

From Ashes to the Font

The call to continuing conversion reflected in these readings is also the message of the ashes. We move through Lent from ashes to the baptismal font. We dirty our faces on Ash Wednesday and are cleansed in the waters of the font. More profoundly, we embrace the need to die to sin and selfishness at the beginning of Lent so that we can come to fuller life in the Risen One at Easter. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). We remember that we are baptized. We remember that we are people on a journey of conversion ("Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel"). We remember that we are members of the body of Christ (and that smudge on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too). Renewing our sense of who we really are before God is the core of the Lenten experience. It is so easy to forget, and thus we fall into habits of sin, ways of thinking and living that are contrary to God's will. In this we are like the Ninevites in the story of Jonah. It was "their wickedness" that caused God to send Jonah to preach to them. Jonah resisted that mission and found himself in deep water. Rescued by a large fish, Jonah finally did God's bidding and began to preach in Nineveh. His preaching obviously fell on open ears and hearts, for in one day he prompted the conversion of the whole city. From the very beginning of Lent, God's word calls us to conversion. If we open our ears and hearts to that word, we will be like the Ninevites not only in their sinfulness but also in their conversion to the Lord. That, simply put, is the point of Ash Wednesday!

Excerpt from *Catholic Update*, February 2004



This Dateline is printed for our parish by Copy Plus 667-1786
Contact them for your printing needs



Santa Rosa Dateline

The Weekly Newsletter of the Roman Catholic Communities of Arima, Aripo, Cumaca, and Valencia

Vol. 09 Issue # 12

6th Sun of O. Time

14 February 2010

Psalter Wk 2 Yr. 3/C

Carnival Sunday

PARISH PRIESTS
Msgr. Christian Pereira
Fr. Rudy Mohammed
Deacon Rev Kester De Verteuil

OFFICE HOURS

FR. RUDY MOHAMMED:

AVAILABLE ON
TUESDAYS AND
FRIDAYS
10.00AM - NOON

MSGR. CHRISTIAN

TUESDAYS AND
THURSDAYS
2.00 PM—5.00 PM
SATURDAYS
9.00 AM—11.30 AM

THE PSRS

MONDAYS & SATURDAYS
9.00AM - 12NOON AND
TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS
9.00AM - 5.30PM
FRIDAYS
9.00AM - 4.00PM

OUR BOOKSHOP IS OPEN

FROM 10AM - 6PM
TESDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND
AT WEEKEND MASSES
TEL: 290-2339
737-8806

WELCOME TO LENT OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER Ash Wednesday 17th February

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the signing of ashes on the heads of the faithful, as a sign of repentance, and the symbol of finality — death.

The Lenten Season speaks to the Community at three levels:

- The Baptised
- It speaks to them through **REPENTANCE** ... in seeking forgiveness of sin
- Those becoming Catholics by Baptism or
 - Reception.
- It speaks to them through **REBIRTH** ... born again of water and the Spirit.



Our Lenten practice in our parish should manifest these three aspects.

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Santa Rosa R.C. Church, Woodford Street, Arima.

Tel.: 868-667-3658; 290-2336; Fax: (868) 664-2712;

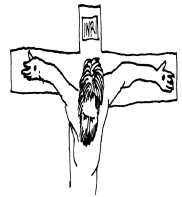
Email: santarosatt@gmail.com Parish Website www.santarosatt.org

The Precious Blood Prayer Group began 2010 with some changes in their leadership. This is the oldest prayer Group in our parish and among the very first Prayer groups to be established in our archdiocese. The group continues to meet every Thursday at the Holy Cross Chapel and among their many ministries the regular prayer and discernment ministry every Wednesday at the Santa Rosa Church is one of their great services to the parish. The members usually have Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Cross Chapel every Friday except the First Friday when they meet in the Santa Rosa Adoration from 7.00 p.m.

One of the long standing members, **Mr. Paul Bousignac**, was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for ministry in the Malabar Parish and the wider archdiocese.

There is a women's arm, a Music Ministry, a Men's Ministry and a Prison Ministry among their many other activities.

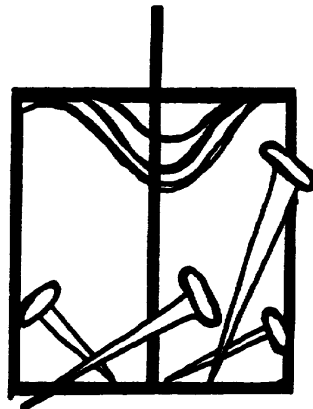
Ms. Eusebia Garcia is the new leader and with her the core members include: Mr. Horace Kistow, Ms. Brenda Mahabir, Ms. Brenda Chaumette, Mrs. Claudette Lee Ha and Mr. Courtney Auguste. The Financial Steward is Mrs. Jackie Gaspard. These members are supported by a group of elders who have been long standing members.



We Crucify HIM

The world famous Passion Play by Freddie Kissoon will be staged at the St. Therese's Church, Valencia, on the 1st Sunday of Lent, 21st February, 2010 at 6.00 p.m..

All Catechists, Altar Servers Executive and persons involved in leading our Way of the Cross every Friday are specially invited to make the trip to Valencia next Sunday afternoon.



The Grief Support Team

Please note that the second meeting for 2010 is Monday 22nd February at 6.00 p.m.

All parishioners who have lost a loved one or a dear person are welcome to attend this meeting. More details will be given in the weekend announcements.

Calling Parishioners to service...

Parishioners are encouraged to recommend persons to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMOEs] ... Such Persons MUST be in full communion with the Catholic Church and practicing members, who have a basic understanding of their Catholic Faith. They must be committed to serving and growing in faith, service and knowledge. Persons should complete an application form and submit it with a recommendation.

Arima R C School's P T As

Congratulations to **Arima Girls R C School** on the formation of the P T A after an absence of nearly thirty (30) years. The Manager and members of Parish office Staff extend our best wishes to The President, **Mr. Kurt Meyer**, The Principal, Mrs. Elicia Russell-Caldon and all the officers and members of this organization best wishes for a productive term. The **Arima Boys' R C School** has been served by a P.T.A for quite a long time and we look forward to ongoing collaboration among our Catholic Schools as we implement the plans for this "Year of the Catholic Family"

All LAY MINISTERS and all
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Are invited to their special retreat evening
Thursday 18 March 6.00 - 9.00 p.m. El Patio

Retreat Director: Fr. (Dr.) Arnold Francis

Lecturer at Regional Seminary
Parish Priest at Bourg Mulatresse

YOUTHS—ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Confirmation Candidates, Altar servers, St. Therese Youth, Santa Rosa Youth, St. Vincent de Paul Youth ... all unattached youth. **Tuesday 22nd February to Thursday 25th February** with Fr. Peter Hill. **6.00—8.00 p.m. each evening...**

Santa Rosa Lenten Mission Prayer 2010

Please use this prayer often- before meetings, after the Prayer of the Faithful on Sundays, as part of family or personal prayer, with the homebound, or in school, etc.

God, Our Father, we offer you praise and thanksgiving for all the many gifts you have given us through Jesus, Your son. We thank you especially for the gift of our Lenten Parish Mission.

Loving and gracious God, quiet our minds and hearts, that we may be open to the gift of your truth. Grant that our Mission may be:

- a Time of grace for all,
- a Time of growth for the young,
- a Time of refreshment for the old
- a Time of renewal for families,
- a Time of healing for the broken,
- a Time of joy for the sorrowing,
- a Time of challenge for the complacent,
- a Time of forgiveness for the sinner,
- a Time of strength for the holy,
- a Time of homecoming for those who have been away.

Grant, most Loving God that our Mission may bring down your richest blessings on each and every member of our Parish community – Family Santa Rosa.

We pray through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, in the name of Jesus Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

RCIA

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21
The Rite of Enrolment

Scrutinies

First Scrutiny: March 6 & 7
Second Scrutiny: March 13 & 14
Third Scrutiny: March 20 & 21

Tuesday 30 March (Holy Week)
Morning Recollection ending with
midday mass at 12 noon.



RETREATS

CUMACA - Holy Rosary Community: Lenten Mission
Friday 26th—Sunday 28th February. Closing mass at 10.30 a.m.

VALENCIA: “Catholic Family, become what you are called to be”
Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 March at 7.00 p.m.
St. Therese R.C. Church

SANTA ROSA:

The entire Family Santa Rosa is invited to the Lenten Mission
Monday 22—Thursday 25 March

7.00 p.m. each night - Santa Rosa Church
Theme: “Santa Rosa Family, become what you are”

Fr. Kevin MacDonald , C.Ss.R., is our special preacher. He is a Redemptorist priest from Woburn, Massachusetts, U.S.A. who has worked as a parish priest in Dominica, New York, Redemptorist community in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross will be celebrated on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11.45 a.m. at Santa Rosa Church and on Fridays at 7.00 p.m. from Santa Rosa Church up Calvary Hill to Holy Cross Chapel. We begin on Friday 19th February. The various groups leading the prayers are as follows:

February 19 — R.C.I.A.

February 26—Santa Rosa Youth Group

March 5— Legion of Mary

March 12—Confirmation Candidates

March 19— E.M.O.E's & Lay Ministers

March 26—Family Life Unit & People of Praise



The Easter Choir for Santa Rosa 2010

We look forward to having all Choirs serving in Santa Rosa and Valencia sing for the entire Easter Triduum 2010. In this *Year of the Family*, the music family of Santa Rosa is invited to come together to prepare for and to celebrate the greatest feast of our Church: Holy Thursday is 7.30 p.m.; Good Friday is 5.30 p.m. and Gloria Saturday is 7.30 p.m.

Rehearsals will be in El Patio on all the **Mondays of Lent** (except 22nd March) at 6.30 p.m. and Tuesday 30th March at a time to be finalized by the Musicians and Choir members.

The requirement is:

Responsorial Psalms for: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the seven Psalms for Gloria Saturday.

The Exultet and the Litany of Saints (Gloria Saturday)

The Meditation Hymns for Holy Thursday (*Year of the Priest*) and Gloria Saturday

The Proper of the Mass on Holy Thursday and Gloria Saturday

The Common of the Mass

Let us all support and encourage this effort as we continue to build our family!!



LECTIO DIVINA - THE PRACTICE OF SACRED READING

Lectio Divina is an ancient Latin expression meaning "Sacred Reading". It is a method of meditative reading which goes back to the 5th Century of our church.

It is done in three stages –

1. A slow contemplative praying of the Scripture,
2. a period of meditation which leads to
3. Prayer.

Many people read the text to get the message it contains and once they get the message the text has achieved its purpose. In Lectio Divina, the text speaks to the imagination. We recognize our lives and the lives of others. Each one of us is a story of grace but also a story of sin. We recognize ourselves in the great men and women of the Bible but we also recognize ourselves in the bad characters and find that we want to give up these attitudes. This leads us to prayers of thanksgiving, repentance and petition.

Lectio Divina is taught and practiced with the Church's Sunday Lectionary. We begin to read the Sunday Gospel text from the Monday before. By the time we hear the Gospel on a Sunday; we have already read the text many times during the preceding week so that the Gospel has become part of us. It has become a means of union with God.

It is best practiced in the presence of others where we experience ourselves in communion with all humanity. We dialogue between the written Word and our experience. It becomes the Word of God spoken to us today.

Everyone, catechists, Retired Persons, Interested persons, young persons.. Not so young persons.. You are all invited and welcome to spend some time with the Scripture and each other from Thursday 18th February 2010 at 10.30a.m. Bring your Bible..and come!!