1ST SUNDAY
OF LENT
March 1, 2020

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

“Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.”

St. Dominic’s is a Catholic Parish Inspired by Dominican Spirituality Igniting the Faith for the Salvation of Souls

Mass Intentions

Sun 03/01  7:30 am (B) Michi Aman Sanderson
          9:00 am (D) Jim Lemos
          10:45 am (T) John & Josepbine McAfee
          12:30 pm (T) Nancy & Gavin McAllister
          5:00 pm (T) People of the Parish

Mon 03/02  6:45 am (H) Lydia Leveriza
          8:15 am (B) Consuelo Ingle

Tues 03/03 6:45 am (T) Rose Ursua
          8:15 am (H) Frank Franning

Wed 03/04  6:45 am (T) Allan & Analyn Mendoza
          8:15 am (H) Hildegard Melander

Thurs 03/05 6:45 am (D) Jim Guinasso
           8:15 am (D) Fr. Victor Cavalli, O.P.

Fri 03/06  6:45 am (D) Leila Rilloraza Garcia
           8:15 am (H) Ulrich Von Innes

Sat 03/07  8:15 am (D) Teodora Rodriguez
           5:00 pm (D) Adeline Turajski

Sun 03/08  7:30 am (D) Epifanio Sunpayco
           9:00 am (D) Maria Alves
           10:45 am (T) Lobo Family
           12:30 pm (T) Antonio & Antonia Gomez
           5:00 pm (T) People of the Parish

Legend:  (D) Deceased  (H) Health
        (A) Anniversary  (B) Birthday  (T) Thanksgiving

475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510
(707) 747-7220  www.stdombenicia.org
@stdombenicia #stdominicsbenicia

RCIA Retreat

Candidates & Sponsors

Mardi Gras
What, me? Penance?

Truth be told, we have some bizarre images of penance. They run the gamut from the childishly insipid to a sort of spiritual masochism. In the latter extreme, God becomes the ultimate voyeur-sadist: enjoying human suffering, particularly if it is self-inflicted. Consequently, Lent becomes a whole season of ecclesiastically endorsed, self-inflicted misery to make God happy. (As if there is not enough suffering in the world to make any sadist squeal with delight.) I think not.

Properly understood, penance is a response to a frustrating reality in human life. St. Paul puts it simply: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.” (Romans 7:19) Everyone suffers from this to one degree or another. “In everyone, the weeds of sin will still be mixed with the good wheat of the Gospel until the end of time.” (CCC #827) This is not pessimistic; it is simply a statement of the reality of our broken human nature.

Anyone with a green thumb (like Fr. David) will tell you that weeding is hard, constant, often frustrating work. However, it is necessary for a garden to thrive. It is easy to spot the difference between someone who takes care of a patch of ground and someone who does not. But weeds pop up even in the most highly manicured garden. Weeds have a mind-boggling ability to survive our best efforts to eradicate them. Doesn’t that sound like sin in our life?

So like any garden, we need to be weeded. We need to remove those things in our lives that prevent us from thriving. It may be painful at the moment, but the results are more than worth it. Some sins/weeds are easy: we pull them up and they are gone. Others have highly developed “root systems” that make them particularly pernicious, addictions being the most extreme systemic evil. These are the ones that need penance.

The experience of Christians (and others) throughout history recommends three preeminent penitential tools to help us in our weeding task: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They work closely together to help us recognize and break the hold of sin in our life and the life of the community.

Prayer is more than coming to Mass on Sunday, saying an occasional rosary and reciting prayers by rote. Prayer is meant to be, in short, the foretaste of heaven, of the Beatific Vision! If our prayer life is more like a checklist to avoid Hell than an ever-deepening relationship with the One inviting us to Heaven, we are missing the point! The source of true prayer is love, not fear. Authentic prayer moves us away from fear into love. “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18) Again, it is God’s initiative and we respond: “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

Fasting is another powerful tool in our arsenal. It quickly strips us of the illusion that we do not need anyone or anything outside of ourselves. (Maybe that is why it is so unpopular as a spiritual practice these days.) It reminds us of our radical dependence on God’s grace not only for our spiritual lives, but for our existence as well. On the purely physical level, it reminds us what it feels like to be hungry, if only for a few hours. We can choose this, others cannot. Fasting also helps us recognize and purify our desires.

Almsgiving is a synonym for what we call “charity” in our day. “What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?” (1 Cor. 4:7) As we acknowledge how much we have received, how good God and others have been to us, it is much easier to be generous to others. The practice of almsgiving helps meet the real needs of others; we are invited to imitate God who freely and generously gave to us.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are three powerful ways of practicing penance. Penance is not meant to punish us, but to help us thrive, even if it is painful at the moment. By doing penance, by weeding our garden as it were, we prepare ourselves to experience eternal life. The best reward any gardener receives is seeing the garden in a glorious full bloom and bearing fruit. It is what makes all the hard work worthwhile. Let’s “do” Lent in this spirit!
Please pray for the recovery of the sick listed in our Book of Intentions and the following:

Sister Mary Angela, OP  Max Capurro
Alma Johnson          Alice Louie
Jean Greer            George Louie
Sara Smith            Albert Horvath
Joe Bosso             Tim Wade
Dana Joy              Bessie Sharp
Lydia Leveriza        Jane Gasper
Gladys Haddad

Please remember the following recently deceased (and their families) in your prayers:

Joseph Hurst, Teresa “Tess” Porter,
Leroy Howell, Jim Guinasso, Eileen Novoa,
James Lemos, Maria Alves, Connie Cavalieri,
Shirley Go, Tony Donato, Barbara Piepho,
Jin Chul Kim, Jose Maria Miramontes,
Michael Powell, Andrew Koper

Sick or remembrances will be listed for a period of 3 months

~ Ministries ~
Adoration Ministry: adoration@stdombenicia.org
Altar Servers: altarservers@stdombenicia.org
American Heritage Girls: AHG@stdombenicia.org
Catholics Returning Home: comehome@stdombenicia.org
Consolation Ministry: consolation@stdombenicia.org
Dominican Laity: domlaity@stdombenicia.org
Donut Ministry: donuts@stdombenicia.org
Eucharistic Ministers: emhc@stdombenicia.org
GIFT (Growing In Faith Together): gift@stdombenicia.org
Guadalupana: guadalupana@stdombenicia.org
Knights of Columbus: beniciaknights@gmail.com
Lazarus Ministry: lazarus@stdombenicia.org
Lectors: lectors@stdombenicia.org
Men’s Faith & Fellowship: mensfaith@stdombenicia.org
Music Ministry: fortiz@stdombenicia.org
Prayer Line: prayers@stdombenicia.org
RCIA: RCIA@stdombenicia.org
Respect Life: respectlife@stdombenicia.org
Seven Sorrows Rosary: 7sorrows@stdombenicia.org
St. Dominic Cemetery: lew6@comcast.net
St. Vincent de Paul: SVDP@stdombenicia.org

166th Parish Anniversary & St. Patrick’s Dinner
March 14th
Get tickets today!
Tickets on sale at all Masses!
Looking for volunteers for this one day event
please contact Joe Thurin at jmt1687@yahoo.com

6-Week Grief Support Series
Meets Saturday’s,
March 7th - April 4th
at 11:00 am
In the Ministry Center Aquinas Room
Blessed are those who mourn:
they shall be comforted. (MT 5:4)
For more information contact Joanne Flanagan
Email: consolation@stdombenicia.org
http://www.stdombenicia.org/grief-support/

Visit Vina with Fr. David
Monday, March 9th
Carpooling
9:00 am sharp
Bring a bag lunch

R. C. I. A.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
A Journey in Faith
Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and what the Catholic Church offers us? St. Dominic Catholic Church in Benicia has a great and welcoming faith community.
Inquirers Meeting
Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 pm
Ministry Center Aquinas Room
Please support the following businesses owned by members of our parish community. Their contributions each week underwrite our Parish Bulletin. Thank you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A &amp; S Chem Dry, Anthony &amp; Shelly Trevino</th>
<th>Healthy Options Vending</th>
<th>Passalacqua Funeral Chapel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Serving St. Dominic’s Parish for over 20 years! (707) 748-7726</td>
<td>Break room services, coffee &amp; vending. (707) 750-3835, Tery or Shane Carnahan</td>
<td>John Passalacqua/Greg Silva, Directors (707) 745-3130</td>
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<th>Reyes Electric Co. &amp; Design LIC#32877</th>
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<td>Angels to your rescue! Returns/ QB (707) 745-1040</td>
<td>Dorothy Doscher (707) 334-3776</td>
<td>Residential/ Commercial (707) 747-6818</td>
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<th>Law Offices of Randal M. Barnum</th>
<th>Sac’s Tasty Hot Dogs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury Lease Returns, Tony &amp; Rita Nino (510) 235-1500</td>
<td>Employment, Personal Injury Litigation (707) 745-3747 Se Habla Español</td>
<td>George &amp; Karolyn Maichel (707) 642-2442, 2445 Springs Rd, Vallejo</td>
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<th>Law Offices of Thomas R. Healy</th>
<th>George Schandelmier Landscaping</th>
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<td>Amy Pappas, Owner/Stylist (707) 745-4409, 814 First St.</td>
<td>Willis/Trusts/Estate Planning/General Practice (707) 553-7360</td>
<td>georgeschandelmierjrlandscaping.com (707) 554-2722</td>
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<th>Care Network, LLC</th>
<th>Vincent R. Maher, The Maher Law Group</th>
<th>Shutters and More</th>
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<tr>
<td>Home Care Services/Placement Referral (707) 747-2720, Carmen Haban</td>
<td>Certified Specialist Criminal Law (707) 427-2800, 724 Texas St, Fairfield</td>
<td>Bill Simpson, Parishioner (707) 746-8187</td>
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<th>Crane Station, Inc.</th>
<th>James M. McVeigh</th>
<th>Teresa Stone- Notary Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rex Sevilla – Crane and Electrical Services (800) 891-3888</td>
<td>Certified Public Accountant (707) 746-5604</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tstone@stdombenicia.org">tstone@stdombenicia.org</a> (707) 330-0773</td>
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<th>Eagle Vines Realty-American Canyon</th>
<th>Minuteman Press</th>
<th>Touch of Faith Catholic Gift Shop</th>
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<tr>
<td>(707) 373-3139, Ron Banasik Broker/Owner (707) 333-9656, Lisa Guerrero Agent</td>
<td>Copy, Print, Posters &amp; Banners (707) 647-1000, 812 Tennessee St, Vallejo</td>
<td>725 Jefferson St. Fairfield, CA (707) 425-3393, M-F 10-4</td>
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<th>Furniture Service &amp; Repair</th>
<th>Mr. Lawn Landscape Service</th>
<th>Tuolumne Street Auto Repair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie H. White, Design/Shopworking (707) 746-0169</td>
<td>Landscaping, Maintenance &amp; Installation (707) 747-5273</td>
<td>John McLaughlin, Parishioner (707) 648-3434</td>
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<th>David Galligan, REALTOR Berkshire Hathaway HS Drysdale Properties</th>
<th>Napoli Pizza and Pasta</th>
<th>Up2Code Plumbing</th>
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<th>Hamann Real Estate, 513 First Street</th>
<th>Old Capital Lockshop</th>
<th>Warring &amp; Assoc. Realtors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tim and Jeannie Hamann/Broker-Owners (707) 246-6567 DRE01348061</td>
<td>Automotive Lock Specialist (707) 745-5244</td>
<td>Bill/Diane Brokers/Owners, 829 First St. (707) 746-6990</td>
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<th>Olson Realty, Inc.</th>
<th>Water Heaters Express- Robert Gurulé</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen McInerney Olson/Broker (707) 745-3602</td>
<td>Water Heater Repair and Installation (707) 334-6567</td>
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**Parish Office Hours**

Monday & Saturday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 am (Closed 12:00 - 1:00 pm for Lunch)
Sunday: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Bulletin Advertising, Ministry Events, Scheduling & Promotion please email: ltelepak@stdombenicia.org**
Eucharistic Adoration
Current Needs

Wednesday 5:00 am
(Weekly or alternating weeks)
Call Dennis Hirth @ (707) 747-9609

Wednesday 9:00 am
(Weekly or alternating weeks)
Call Lydia Pasco @ (707) 656-5109

Wednesday 10:00 am
(Weekly or alternating weeks)
Call Siane Peters @ (707) 771-0549

Wednesday 11:00 am
(Weekly or alternating weeks)
Call Diane Dawes @ (925) 963-5373

Sunday 6:00 am or 7:00 am
(1st, 2nd, 5th weeks)
Call John Elizalde @ (707) 567-5515

Sunday 10:00 am
(2nd & 4th weeks)
Call Siane Peters @ (707) 771-0549

Sunday 7:00 pm
(Weekly or alternating weeks)
Call Antonia Gomez @ (707) 567-0658

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Hours:
Daily Hours: Open to the public 7:00 am – 8:00 pm in the Adoration Chapel
Scheduled Adorer Hours Only: 8:00 pm – 7:00 am in the Adoration Chapel
Parish-wide Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays 8:00-9:00 pm in the Church

If you have questions about Eucharistic Adoration, please contact Shirley Cortez @ (707) 208-2004 or Joji Holzwarth @ (707) 704-8779.
TWO FREE SERVICES
FOR YOU
You can use these
tools to help the
Dominicans or
St. Dominic’s!

Don’t have a Will?
Visit FreeWill.com/opwest
to create one.
Protect your loved ones and assets by using this
secure online tool to easily create a last will and
testament. Most people finish in about 20 minutes.

Age 70 1/2?
Visit FreeWill.com/qcd/opwest
to make a gift from your IRA.
This simple online tool will help you complete the
right form for a Qualified Charitable Distribution to
the Dominicans or your parish, which can help you
meet your Required Minimum Distribution.

FreeWill.com/opwest

Dominican Friars
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

WE’RE PLEASED TO OFFER THESE TOOLS FOR FREE, NO GIFTS TO THE FRIARS ARE REQUIRED.