

January 20, 2008

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

www.sjvnm.org

Friends in Christ,

Greetings and Peace.

Today, and all through the week, the Church sadly remembers the 1973 Supreme Court decision allowing the practice of abortion. The result of this decision has been the premature deaths of over 40,000,000 people (1,000,000 in 2007).

Friends, we must continue to pray very much for the end to the holocaust against the unborn. We must pray very much that pregnant moms choose life. We must pray very much for the conversion of doctors and nurses who perform abortions. We must pray very much for the conversion of politicians and lawmakers and lawyers who support abortion. Too, we must get more involved in the works of the pro-life movement.

Tomorrow night, Monday night, Archbishop Michael Sheehan will celebrate a very special pro-life Mass at the Basilica Cathedral in Santa Fe. The Mass begins at 7PM. You are very much encouraged to attend. More information is available in the S.T.A. bulletin. Friends, remember this: GOD IS PRO-LIFE. And if God is pro-life, those who are pro-abortion oppose God. We must pray very much that those who are pro-abortion experience a powerful change of mind and heart.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield

POT LUCK

February 3rd, 12:10PM

Read more on Page 3



Defending Our Faith – A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

Is there a Biblical Basis for the Rosary? Part 2

We previously discussed the Hail Mary as a Biblically based prayer except for the last line: “Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.”

Most Protestants reject all intercessory prayer including this portion of the rosary. These protesters believe this teaching denies 1 Tim. 2:5: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.” It is truly unfortunate that they ignore the teaching of Paul in the previous four verses.(1) In these four verses Paul instructs all Christians to pray for each other, meaning such prayer cannot interfere with Jesus as our mediator. In these verses Paul tells us in Tim. 2:13... “that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men...This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.” (2)

St. John follows up with this teaching by noting that intercessory prayer also applies to the saints in heaven... who, as Revelation 5:8 reveals, intercede for us by offering our prayers to God: “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and with Golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”(3)

The other prayers for the most part are also biblically based. The “Our Father” aka the Lord’s Prayer is noted in Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. The Glory Be, though not specifically in the Bible is a true prayer of praise to God in which all Christians can join.

The closing prayer of the rosary is the “Hail Holy Queen”. This beautiful prayer was composed at the end of the 11th century in praise of the Mother of God. Unfortunately, those who do not believe that Mary is the Mother of God will probably not accept this beautiful prayer but could accept much of the balance.

“Between the introductory prayers and the concluding prayer is the meat of the rosary: the decades, ...each composed of ten Hail Mary’s ...bracketed between an Our Father and a Glory be.”(4) Each decade is dedicated to a mystery regarding Jesus’ life or his Mother’s. A mystery is nothing more than a truth of the faith, and not something “mysterious.”(5)

We must understand that the rosary is a prayer that requires meditation. When we pray each decade of the rosary, we meditate on the mystery associated to that decade. To pray the rosary without meditation is to skip the very essence of this prayer. This is what critics of the rosary apparently don’t know. What they see and hear is a repetitious set of prayers without much meaning. After all, did not Jesus forbid meaningless repetition in Matt.6:7?(6)

We who pray the rosary know the scriptural basis on which we should meditate. We meditate on the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries, all of which are scriptural. We meditate on the early life of Jesus in the Joyful mysteries; on the earthly mission of Jesus in the Luminous mysteries; on Christ’s sufferings from the agony in the Garden to His crucifixion in the Sorrowful mysteries; and the Glorious mysteries of His Resurrection to the Crowning His Mother Queen of Heaven and earth.

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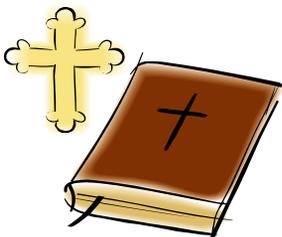
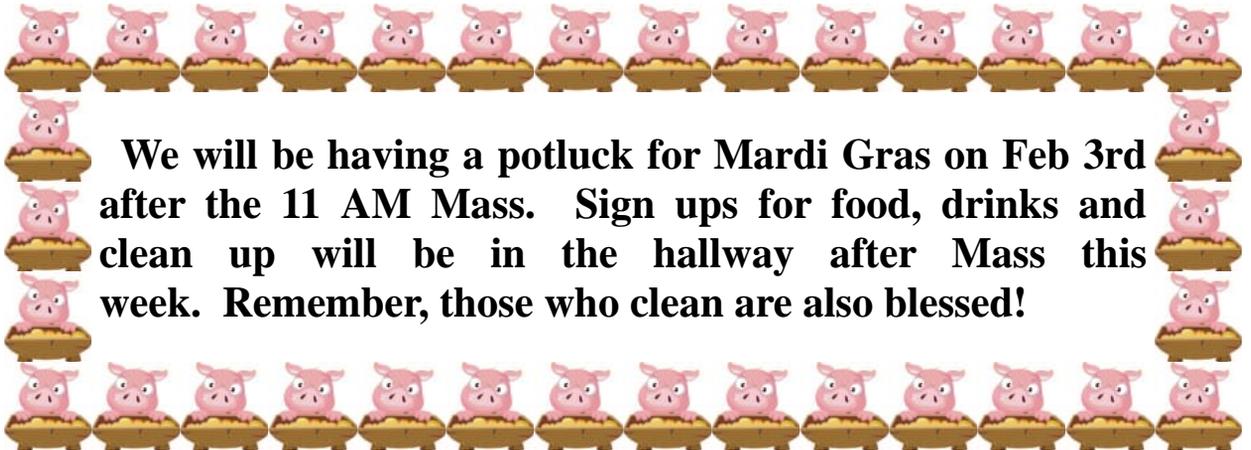
Once one understands the scriptural basis on which each mystery is based, the meaningless repetition of Matt.6:7 can no longer apply. Once our Protestant brothers and sisters understand that the meditations are the essence of the rosary, many of them very happily pray the rosary.

What this process shows us Catholics is this: arguing with a non-Catholic about our beliefs is counter-productive. If Catholics know what they are talking about, doors can be opened that can help these Christians better understand our Catholic faith and beliefs. I've learned that many Protestants, once they understand the meditations are the essence of the rosary, take it up as a devotion. "Both Catholics and non-Catholics, as they learn more about the rosary and make more frequent use of it, come to see how its meditations bring to mind the sweet fragrance not only of the Mother of God, but of Christ himself.(7)

Please---know your faith so you can spread it to friends and family who may be looking for answers about Catholicism. **PEACE**

bb

- (1) The Essential Catholic Survival Guide, p 136
- (2) ibid-136
- (3) ibid-136
- (4) ibid-137
- (5) ibid-137
- (6) ibid-138
- (7) ibid-139



Holy Rosary	
Sunday	7:40AM
Sunday	10:40AM
Holy Mass	
Sunday	8:00AM
Sunday	11:00AM

Volunteer Schedule	January 20, 2008		January 27, 2008	
	8:00AM	11:00AM	8:00AM	11:00AM
Ushers	Karl Lucero James Dory	Tony Quinones Frank Charles	Tom Anderson John Dory	James Sandoval Carl Beyer
EM of Holy Communion	Jeremy McClellan	Marie Lombardo	David Crawford	Anna Marie H.
Rosary Leader	Evelyn Romero	Bill McCarty	Catherine Uhrich	Rochelle Quinones
Altar Servers	Amanda Vigil Gary Vigil	Jaeson Chavez Jordon Juarez	Sergio Guillen Ian Burnside	Domenica Chavez Rocky Peyton
Readers	April McClellan James Dory	Vicky Howell Joanna Dunn	Jose Guillen Raquel Torres	Bill McCarty Pam McCarty

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Parish Website www.sjvnm.org

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