



Being on the receiving end of “I told you so” is painful. There are gut emotions of resentment mixed in with disappointment with ourselves and our errors, and maybe also hooking into the hope that we can return the retort later. I’ll be right next time. I’ll get you back.

When I hear the tough words of the Scripture, how “the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy” (2 Chronicles 36:16), other conflicting emotions hit home. I’m glad that’s not me. Yet I wonder if my smugness or arrogance has reached the level of those who are judged by God.

Such Scripture readings hit us where we are vulnerable. Here is the place we may also find the most stunning realization of who God is. John reminds us the Son entered the world not to condemn, but to save. In the stark story of Judah’s downfall, where they came to the “no remedy” stage, the judgment was the utter destruction of their homes, their lives, and their Temple.

And yet later, even after being captive in Babylon, these people God cared for were allowed to rebuild.

God’s judgments are not from resentment or hurt feelings or a desire to punish. God’s warnings are to wake us up. 2 Chronicles tells us that “The Lord...sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling-place.” But they didn’t listen; they mocked the messengers.

How far will God go to bring us back? The Son of God would rather suffer in our place than see us fall. What are *we* asked to let go of in order to turn and see Christ?



Today's Readings

2 Chr 36:14–16,
19–23
Eph 2:4–10
Jn 3:14–21

“I told you so.” The temptation to say it is rooted in our human ego, in our wanting to be right, in our wanting others to recognize we are right, and in that part of us that is capable of enjoying someone else’s downfall, maybe because it makes us look bigger.

Liguori

PUBLICATIONS

© 2009 Liguori Publications
Liguori, MO 63057-9999

DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org

St. Stephen Catholic Church

Pastor: Rev. Fr. John Casey, SAC

Deacon: Carlos Frias (817-307-8332)

Office - 1802 Bethel Road

Weatherford TX 76086

817-596-9585

Fax 817-613-0808

Office Hours - Monday through Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory - 1904 Bethel Road

817-596-9586

Web Page - www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop - Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM

Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM

Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House - 817-599-8423

Pro Shop - 817-599-8431

Pastoral Assistant—

Sister Mildred Gordon, SHSp.
817-596-9587

Director of Religious Education—

Jeanette Houle-817-613-8008
doschicas@att.net

Secretary - Dorothy Mendolia

Accountant - Ron Westendorf

Parish Interfaith Ecumenical

Representative—

LaVerne Cardwell 817-594-3805

Choir Director - Dave Mees

817-596-5097

Parish Pastoral Council President—

Chuck Schabow 817-599-6644

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM + Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) + 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 21	6:00 PM	Our Community	Lenten Weekday
Sunday	March 22	8:00 AM	Charles Milliken	4th Sunday of Lent
		10:45 AM	Our Youth	4th Sunday of Lent
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	4º Domingo de Cuaresma
Monday	March 23	8:45 AM	Faithful Departed	Memorial of St. Toribio de Mogrovejo.
Tuesday	March 24	8:45 AM	Communion Service	Lenten Weekday
Wednesday	March 25	11:00 AM	Our Youth	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
Thursday	March 26	8:45 AM	Irma Fuhrmann, RIP	Lenten Weekday
Friday	March 27	8:45 AM	In Thanksgiving	Lenten Weekday
Saturday	March 28	6:00 PM	Eugene Gueda, RIP	Lenten Weekday
Sunday	March 29	8:00 AM	Fr. Michael McCormack	5th Sunday of Lent
		10:45 AM	Our Community	5th Sunday of Lent
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	5º Domingo de Cuaresma

Marriage - six months notice required - please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** - seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera - three month notice required - girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* - please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins - Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event - notices may be e-mailed - deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday - your cooperation is greatly appreciated - Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTION

March 14-15

\$9,230.00

SECOND COLLECTION

March 21-22

Catholic Relief Services

The Faith of the Church

Though Baptism is our first call to conversion, the call continues throughout our lives. The work of conversion is not simply a human effort, but through the Holy Spirit we are drawn and moved by grace to respond to the love of God who first loved us. (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1427, 1428)

Questions of the Week

We can either walk in the light, or we can follow the comfortable darkness of "business as usual." The light beckons. The choice is ours. How will we respond, and what will be the consequences?

4th Sunday of Lent

God loves the world so much and blesses us with the gift of his son, Jesus. How do you receive and share this gift of love?
(John 3:14-21)

4º Domingo de Cuaresma

Tanto amó Dios al mundo que le dio su Hijo Unico. ¿Qué podemos darle en retorno?
(Juan 3:14-21)

Visit us at www.FaithFirst.com

(click on "Faith First for Families," click on "Gospel Reflections")
and share today's Gospel reading as a family.

LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH SCHEDULE

Come join us for Soup & Sandwiches from 5:30-6:30 PM
followed by Stations of the Cross
March 27—Mission Group
April 3—Youth Group

PENANCE SERVICE

Please note there will be a few extra priests here at St. Stephen on **Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 PM** for a Penance Service.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. There will be **NO Religious Education** classes or breakfast on **Sunday, March 22**. Classes will resume on **Sunday, March 29**. *Have a blessed Spring Break everyone!*

60+ will meet at 11 AM for Mass followed by a Covered Dish Luncheon on **Wednesday, March 25**.

A **GARAGE SALE** will be held in the St. Stephen parking lot **Saturday, April 4 from 8 AM to 3 PM**. This sale is to help raise money for Max Mucino, a youth member of our Parish, who was selected to tour the United States this summer with the world class Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. If you have anything that you would like to donate to help Max, it will be greatly appreciated. Please call 817-694-6612 if you need someone to pick up items.

ST. STEPHEN FAMILY PICNIC Mark your calendars! The annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 7, 2009**. The picnic will be held at St. Stephen and will include a BBQ dinner, bingo, sports, games for the kids and waterslides! We need lots of volunteers to help this event run smoothly. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karin Portillo at 817-599-8242 or klpintx@hotmail.com.

Game On!

A 4-inning softball game is being organized for the picnic. The challenge: Youth vs. Adults. We already have several adults signed up and a few from the youth group. Let's get this game going! Signup sheets will be out in the lobby or e-mail Karin Portillo at klpintx@hotmail.com.

Pastoral Council. Are you a good listener? Are you able to listen to the hopes and dreams of your fellow parishioners for the future of this parish? Are you willing to spend time in prayer so as to listen to our loving God as God speaks to you of what God's hopes and dreams are for the future of this community?

This council will not be an action council. It is to be an advisory council. Members are needed who will be willing to pray and discern together. Are you willing to grow in your ability to share your faith in dialogue with fellow parishioners about what God's desire for this community of faith might be? Are you willing to prayerfully envision what God has in mind for this community and assist Fr. in articulating that vision to the parish? Give your name to the Church Office. Do you know someone else in this community who has these gifts? Please ask fellow parishioners whom you think have the qualities needed for this ministry if they are willing to serve. Then forward their name to the Church Office.

There will be a discernment process and training will be provided for the new council. Please give this ministry your prayerful consideration. Also keep in your prayers the accomplishment of this effort. Joe Rodriguez will be here for an **Informational meeting Monday, March 30, 7 PM**.

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00
Monthly Interest Payment—\$7,600.00
Total Contributions to Date—\$84,903.59
Interest Paid to Date—\$79,938.38

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The weekends help allow the participants to put closure on the past, and to create a new beginning in the present. The next Beginning Experience weekend will be **May 15-17, 2009** in Dallas at the Catholic Conference and Formation Center. The following weekend will be **August 21-23, 2009** in Fort Worth at the Catholic Renewal Center. For more information, please call metro (972) 601-4091 or email the Dallas Fort Worth Beginning Experience Team at dfwbe@hotmail.com.

"HELP WANTED"

Couples on Friday afternoon, 1-4 PM
for Parker County Jail Ministry.

Wages: Countless Blessings
and a good deposit in your Heavenly account.
Contact: Paul or Barb Claffey at 817-220-2681.

TEEN CORNER

YOUTH GROUP: Wednesday, March 25. Everyone will meet in the clubhouse ballroom at **6 PM for pizza and immediate start of class**. We will make our way to the church so that all teens, young adults, and adults will have an opportunity for reconciliation during our annual Lenten Penance Service. Don't be late . . . pizza at 6 sharp!

YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY: Interested in joining a group of teens and young adults who share their musical talents with the Lord? Practice is held weekly. We are currently seeking a percussionist, guitarists, and vocalists. Please contact Hilary Maitlen at 817-771-8573 or Jeanette Houle at doshcias@art.net or 817-613-8008.

LENTEN LOCK-IN: Mark your calendars for Friday, April 3. More information to follow.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All activities held at Bethel Road)

Monday, March 23

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Tuesday, March 24

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Library)
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus (Clubhouse)

Wednesday, March 25

11:00 AM Mass followed by 60+ Covered Dish Luncheon
6:00 PM Youth Group (Clubhouse Ballroom)
6:30 PM Penance Service

Thursday, March 26

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
6:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study (Room 4)
6:00 PM Spanish Children Choir Practice (Room 1 & 2)
7:00 PM Spanish Adult Choir Practice (Room 1 & 2)
7:00 PM Hora Española Santa

Friday, March 27

5:30 PM Lenten Soup & Sandwich
followed by Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 28

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Spanish

March 22, 2009

Dear Padre

When did we become Catholic?



I know the word *catholic* means “universal,” but when did we start using it as a Church?

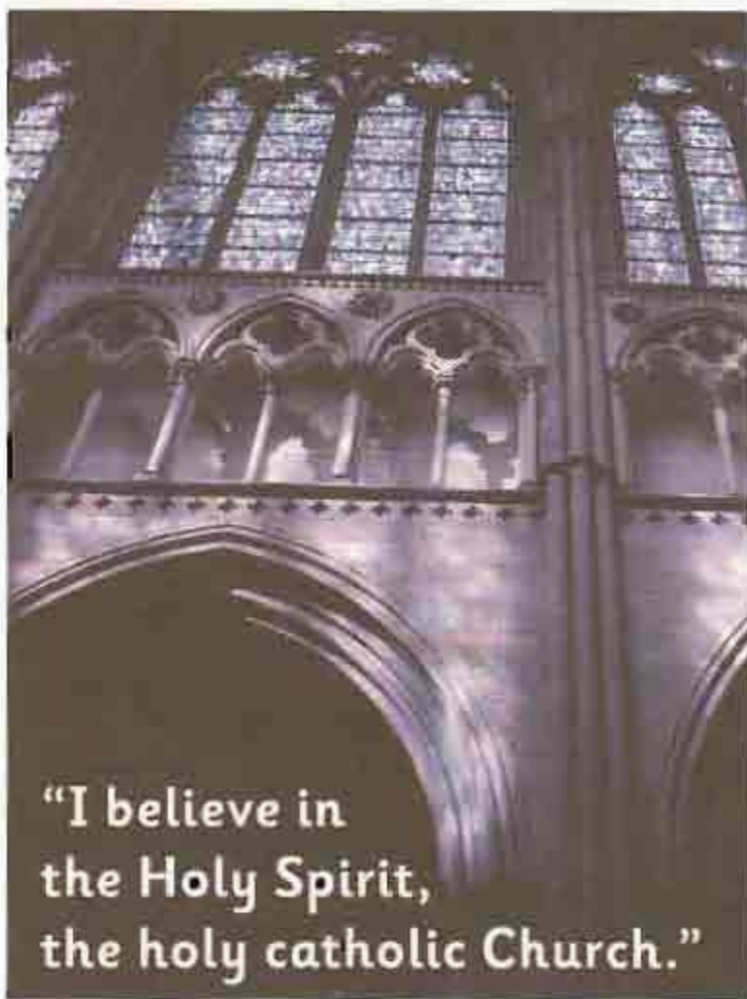
Emmett

Dear Emmett,

The word *catholic* has been used almost from the beginning of our history as a Church. Saint Ignatius of Antioch (AD 37–107) used the word to express the way the Church reaches out to everyone. *Catholic* was also used in the second century in the Apostles' Creed: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church.” The fourth-century Nicene Creed described the Church as “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” Note that in both creeds the word *catholic* begins with a lowercase letter *c* because it's describing what the Church is—it's not naming the religion.

The Catholic Church recognizes papal primacy, and during the Reformation some of the reformers who didn't believe in papal primacy wanted to distinguish their ecclesiastical communities from the catholic community. That's why today *Catholic* refers to Christians who profess a continued tradition of faith and worship and who hold to the apostolic succession of bishops and priests from the time of Christ himself.

Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.



“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church.”

PHOTO: GOM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>March 23</p> <p>Lenten Weekday</p> <p>Is 65:17–21</p> <p>Jn 4:43–54</p>	<p>March 24</p> <p>Lenten Weekday</p> <p>Ez 47:1–9, 12</p> <p>Jn 5:1–16</p>	<p>March 25</p> <p>Annunciation of the Lord</p> <p>Is 7:10–14; 8:10</p> <p>Heb 10:4–10</p> <p>Lk 1:26–38</p>	<p>March 26</p> <p>Lenten Weekday</p> <p>Ex 32:7–14</p> <p>Jn 5:31–47</p>	<p>March 27</p> <p>Lenten Weekday</p> <p>Wis 2:1a, 12–22</p> <p>Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30</p>	<p>March 28</p> <p>Lenten Weekday</p> <p>Jer 11:18–20</p> <p>Jn 7:40–53</p>	<p>March 29</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Jer 31:31–34</p> <p>Heb 5:7–9</p> <p>Jn 12:20–33</p>

