

## A modern parable

A young man graduated from school with a new job that didn't start for three months. While he waited, he sat around the house.

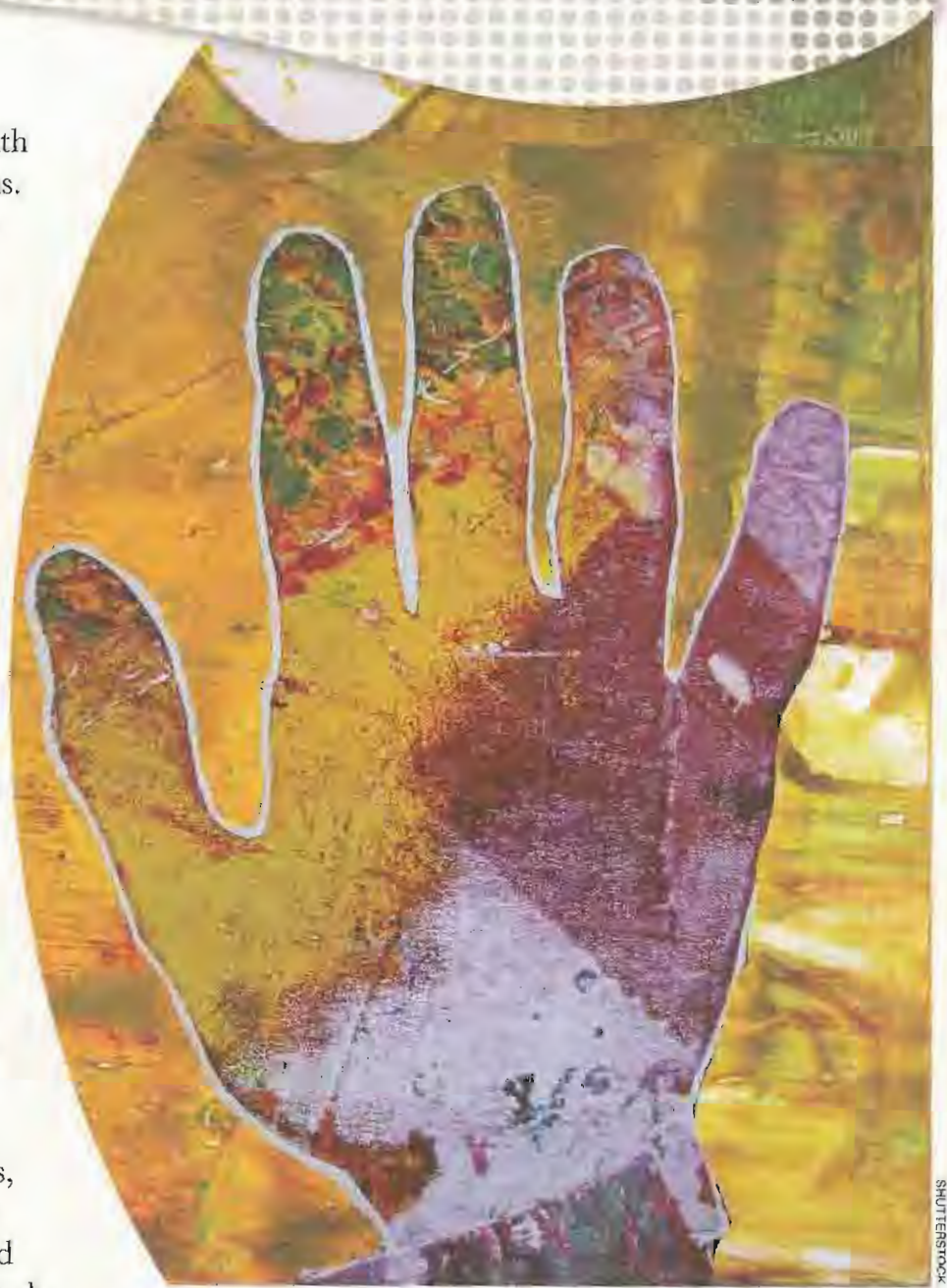
This did not sit well with the young man's mother, so she found him work with a contractor from church. The contractor took the young man to three duplexes and said, "Get several gallons of white paint. Do all three buildings. Then I'll show you where the next jobs will be." The young man began painting the first house white. He thought it strange that his boss would want all three houses painted white. He also thought it strange that his boss would want him to paint over aluminum siding. But he painted anyway.

The boss came to the job site two days later, saw the young man painting the yellow siding, and said, "I think you misunderstood me. I wanted the *trim* on all three houses painted white." The boss added, "We don't paint over aluminum siding." The young man felt foolish.

When the young man's father heard this, he asked, "If you thought it was strange to paint that house, why didn't you ask?" And the young man replied, "I didn't want to look foolish."

The boss didn't fire the young man. He paid him for the hours. He told the young man to paint only the trim on the other two houses, and the young man did.

The young man learned what Isaiah meant when he wrote, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a



dimly burning wick he will not quench" (42:3). He knew what mercy and grace felt like.

That summer I met someone who was truly Christlike.

DAN FINUCANE

[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)



### Today's Readings

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11  
Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9  
Mk 1:7-11

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# 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	January 10	6:00 PM	Our Community	<i>Weekday</i>
Sunday	January 11	8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
		10:45 AM	Peace	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>El Bautismo del Señor</i>
Monday	January 12	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
Tuesday	January 13	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Memorial of St. Hilary, bishop and doctor of the church</i>
Wednesday	January 14	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
Thursday	January 15	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
Friday	January 16	8:45 AM	Our Community	<i>Weekday</i>
Saturday	January 17	6:00 PM	Stephen Porter	<i>Memorial of St. Anthony, abbot</i>
Sunday	January 18	8:00 AM	Peace	<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Youth	<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	Ricardo Ramirez	<i>2º Domingo Ordinario</i>

**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 January 3-4

(Please refer to next week's  
bulletin for  
Collection Totals)

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend  
Are in Appreciation  
For All the Ladies Who  
Work to Keep  
Our Church Beautiful All Year*

**Baptism of the Lord: National Vocation Awareness Week**  
This is National Vocation Awareness Week. Delight in God's call to you in baptism. What grace do you need to strengthen your commitment? Remember, God has set you as a covenant to the people. (Isaiah 42:1-4)

**Bautismo del Señor: Semana Nacional de Vocaciones**  
Esta es la semana Nacional de Vocaciones. Goza del regalo de tu bautismo; reza por y con aquellas personas que están llamadas a cumplir sus promesas bautismales como sacerdotes, hermanos o hermanas religiosas. Anima a alguien que conoces a que considere una vida al servicio de la Iglesia. (Hechos 10:34-38)

## PRIESTS RETREAT

Please note that Fr. John will join the priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth at Monserrat for a retreat beginning **Monday, January 12—Thursday, January 15.**

## Respect Life Mass

Please join Bishop Vann for a Special Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral **Friday, January 16 at 7 PM.**

**SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY**  
**January 17-18—**  
**Catholic Charities, USA Office in Puerto Rico**  
**January 24-25—Church in Latin America**

**PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION**  
**Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00**  
**Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00**  
**Total Contributions to Date—\$65,806.59**  
**Interest Paid to Date—\$59,219.31**

**2009 COLLECTION ENVELOPES.** Please pick up your envelopes in the Church Foyer. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box for 2009, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

**LUNCH BUNCH.** Please join us on **Wednesday, January 14,** 11:30 AM, for lunch at Pasta Fina located at 807 South Main St. Questions call Bette Binzer at 817-599-0454 or Betty Mendenhall at 817-596-0259.

**BLOOD DRIVE.** The next blood drive is **Monday, January 26,** in the Holy Spirit Center from **3:30-7:30.** In the past parishioners were very generous. Donors need to bring photo ID and a list of medications. **Please note the drive starts 30 minutes earlier than last time. The sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer behind the grocery basket. Thank you for your generosity.**

**DONACION DE SANGRE** - Habra una coleccion de sangre el Lunes, 26 de Enero de 2009, en el Holy Spirit Center desde las 3:30 p.m. hasta las 7:30 p.m. En el pasado, nuestra congregacion ha sido muy generosa y esperamos que nuevamente recuerden a aquellos menos afortunados. Por favor traiga un documento con su foto y la lista de medicamentos que toma. Los donantes deben ser mayores de 17 anos. Gracias nuevamente por su gran generosidad.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT—KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE.** Next session at St. Stephen is scheduled on **Tuesday, January 13** at 6 :30 PM.

**CENTER OF HOPE—Happy New Year!!** It is our turn again! St. Stephen will be serving at the **Center of Hope February 2-5.** Please do your part to help. Donating food, serving food ,or both! Whatever you can do is always very helpful and very much appreciated. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Church Foyer at all Masses this weekend. **Thank you!** For questions, call Norma Gonzales at 817-596-4876.

On **January 17 and 18** we will be taking up a second collection for the Catholic Charities USA office in Puerto Rico (Cáritas de Puerto Rico). Cáritas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit outreach of the Catholic Church, and your donations make an enormous difference in the lives of the people living there.

El **17 y 18 de enero,** llevaremos a cabo una colecta para la oficina de Catholic Charities USA en Puerto Rico (Cáritas de Puerto Rico). Cáritas es una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) de la Iglesia Católica, y sus donativos hacen una gran diferencia en las vidas de los puertorriqueños más necesitados.

**REVISING OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** with guidelines from the **Diocese of Fort Worth.** Please take time to read the special booklet in this week's bulletin. It explains the **WHY, WHAT, HOW, AND WHO** of a **Parish Council.** Parish councils can act as the "wisdom community" of the parish where people learn to be stewards of the gifts of God and to listen to the needs of all. Through the process of consultation, the parish council contributes to the building up of the faith community and can be an adventure in shared responsibility, like the communities of the first Christians that took action as a body. The above process requires prayer, study, dialogue, discipline, determination and time. We, the church, have the opportunities to share our wisdom in order that the best decisions are reached. *If you did not get a booklet last weekend, please pick up a copy in the Church Foyer.*

**REVISIONES DE NUESTRO CONSEJO PASTORAL** con **directivas de la Diocesis de Fort Worth.** Por favor recoja una copia del folleto en el Foyer de la Iglesia. Este explica el **POR QUE, COMO, QUIEN, Y QUE de un Consejo Pastoral.** Los consejos pastorales pueden actuar como la "sabiduria de la comunidad" en donde los miembros aprenden a ser administradores de los dones de Dios y a escuchar a las necesidades de los feligreses. Por medio del proceso de consulta, los concejos pastorales ayudan a alimentar la fe de la comunidad y pueden ser una experiencia en responsabilidad compartida, tal como las comunidades de los primeros Cristianos que tomaban decisiones como un solo cuerpo. Este proceso requiere oracion, estudio, dialogo, disciplina, determinacion y tiempo. Nosotros, la iglesia, tenemos las oportunidades de compartir nuestro conocimiento y sabiduria con el objeto de lograr las mejores decisiones.

**Fin se Semana Vocacional:** Si tienes alguna inquietud sobre la vida religiosa o el sacerdocio, estas invitado a participar en un fin de semana vocacional el 23-25 de enero, 2009 en el Catholic Renewal Center, Ft. Worth. Se presentaran temas vocacionales para ayudar a discernir el llamado y habrá religiosas y religiosos, sacerdotes con los cuales podrás compartir y platicar. Inscríbete llamando a la Hna. Elvira Mata, medp 817 560-3300 Ext. 273, Hna. Yolanda Cruz, SSMN Ext. 114, o Padre Kyle Walterscheid Ext. 110. Fecha limite de inscripción 12 de Enero, 2009. Para jóvenes solteros entre los 18-35 años.

**TEEN CORNER**

**PURE REALITY RALLY: LAST CHANCE—MONEY DUE TODAY!** Contact Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872, Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net), or stop by Religious Education Office after Mass.

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

**Sunday, January 11**  
9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)  
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)  
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (Room 3)  
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)  
**Monday, January 12**  
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72  
7:00 PM RCIA  
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion  
7:30 PM Rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**Tuesday, January 13**  
9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)  
7:15 PM Knights of Columbus  
**Wednesday, January 14**  
11:30 AM Lunch Bunch (meet at Pasta Fina on South Main)  
6:00 PM Youth Group  
6:30 PM Choir Practice  
6:45 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
**Thursday, January 15**  
10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)  
**Saturday, January 17**  
7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Spanish

# Dear Padre

## Is purgatory real?



Is there really a purgatory after death? I've suffered so much in this life. Isn't that enough?

Weary

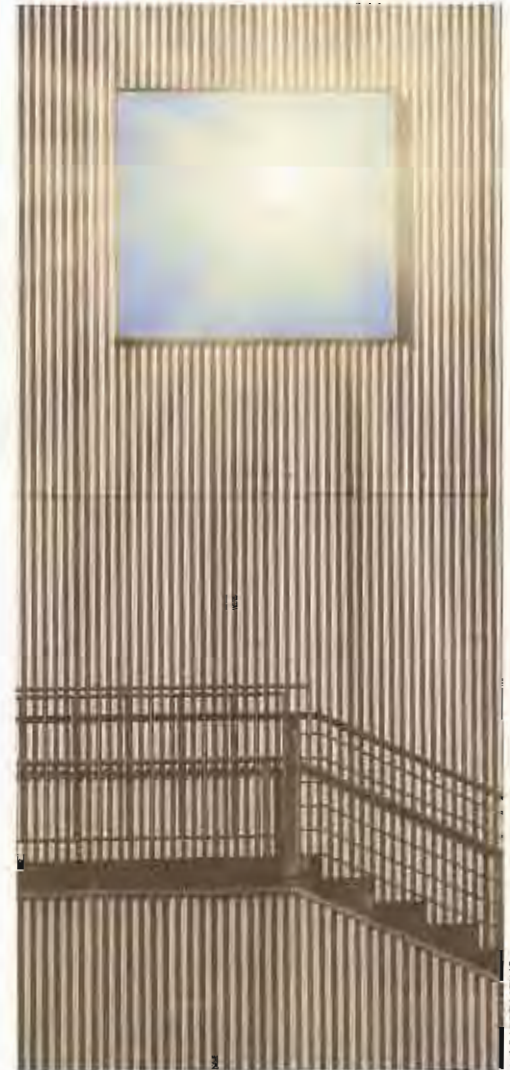
Dear Weary,

Yes, the Catholic Church teaches purgatory exists. But the Church doesn't see purgatory as a punishment per se, although it does involve suffering. Rather, the Church teaches that purgatory is a state of purification and healing (see *On Christian Hope [Spe Salvia]*, 45). When is the purification and healing enough? When they have helped each of us become fully and completely the wonderful human being God always meant us to be.

It may be that your pains have done their job, that heaven immediately awaits you. But suppose you didn't have enough time for life and God's grace to complete you personally? That's what purgatory is for. What is the pain of it? Some say it is Jesus himself present to us. Think of Saint Peter catching the eye of Jesus on his way to die, after Peter had denied him. Peter wept bitterly, Luke's Gospel says (see 22:62). That is like the purification of purgatory. Our love for Jesus pains and purifies us.

We Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory. We have Masses said for them and bring the Mass cards to wakes and funerals. How consoling to be able to touch our deceased loved ones with the aid and comfort of the prayers and sufferings of Jesus and our own prayers and sufferings in union with his.

*John Hamroque, C.Ss.R.*



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>January 12</b> Weekday Heb 1:1-6 Mk 1:14-20	<b>January 13</b> Weekday Heb 2:5-12 Mk 1:21-28	<b>January 14</b> Weekday Heb 2:14-18 Mk 1:29-39	<b>January 15</b> Weekday Heb 3:7-14 Mk 1:40-45	<b>January 16</b> Weekday Heb 4:1-5, 11 Mk 2:1-12	<b>January 17</b> Saint Anthony, abbot Heb 4:12-16 Mk 2:13-17	<b>January 18</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42