

January 17, 2010

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997  
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144  
[www.stjohnvianneyparish.org](http://www.stjohnvianneyparish.org)

Friends in Christ Jesus,

Earlier this week a devastating earthquake shook Haiti. Because of the quake--falling buildings and such--thousands of people have died, while thousands more were injured. The entire place is now in a state of chaos. If you would like to help the people of Haiti, the best way to do so is financially. To donate to this most urgent matter you can contact a variety of reputable charitable organizations such as the Red Cross or Catholic Charities. And please keep the people of Haiti in your daily prayers.

Have a blessed week.

Fr. Scott Mansfield



**January 22nd**  
Day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

**Rosary Leaders Wanted** for the 4PM and 10AM Mass. If interested please contact Ed Urich or give an Usher your name and phone number. Thank You.

### Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

### Holy Masses

Saturday .....4:00PM

Sunday.....8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

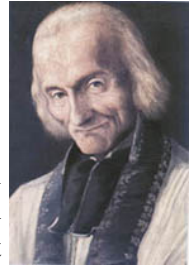
### Sacrament of Confession

Saturday ..... 3:00-3:45PM

### Upcoming Events

- Food Collection for St. Felix Pantry ..... 1st Sunday of every month
- Parent's Meeting for First Confession ..... January 17th 11:15AM
- Pot Luck ..... February 13th after 4PM Mass
- Stations of the Cross ..... Starting February 19th, Fridays at 6PM
- Rick Torretto Classes ..... Starting February 19th, Fridays at 7PM

## On Prayer I by Saint John Vianney



See my children; the treasure of a Christian is not on the earth, it is in Heaven. Well, our thoughts ought to be where our treasure is. Man has a beautiful office, that of praying and loving. You pray, you love--that is the happiness of man upon the earth. Prayer is nothing else than union with God. When our heart is pure and united to God, we feel within ourselves a joy, a sweetness that inebriates, a light that dazzles us. In this intimate union God and the soul are like two pieces of wax melted together; they cannot be separated. This union of God with His little creature is a most beautiful thing. It is a happiness that we cannot understand.

We have not deserved to pray; but God, in His goodness, has permitted us to speak to Him. Our prayer is an incense which He receives with extreme pleasure. My children, your heart is poor and narrow; but prayer enlarges it, and renders it capable of loving God. Prayer is a foretaste of Heaven, an overflow of paradise. It never leaves us without sweetness. It is like honey descending into the soul and sweetening everything. Troubles melt away before a fervent prayer like snow before the sun. Prayer makes time pass away very quickly, and so pleasantly that one does not perceive how it passes. Do you know, when I was running up and down the country, at the time that almost all the poor priests were ill, I was praying to the good God all along the road. I assure you, the time did not seem long to me.

We see some persons who lose themselves in prayer like a fish in the water, because they are all for God. There is not division in their heart. Oh, how I love those generous souls! Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Colette saw Our Lord and spoke to Him as we talk to each other. While we, how often we come to church without knowing what we come for, or what we are going to ask! And yet, when we go to one's house, we know very well what we are going for. Some people seem to say to God, "I am going to say two words to Thee, to get rid of Thee." I often think that when we come to adore Our Lord, we should obtain all we wish, if we would ask it with very lively faith, and a very pure heart. But, alas! we have no faith, no hope, no desire, no love!

There are two cries in man, the cry of the angel and the cry of the beast. The cry of the angel is prayer; the cry of the beast is sin. Those who do not pray, stoop towards the earth, like a mole trying to make a hole to hide itself in. They are all earthly, all brutish, and think of nothing but temporal things, . . . like that miser who was receiving the last Sacraments the other day; when they gave him a silver crucifix to kiss, he said, "That cross weighs full ten ounces." If there could be one day without worship, it would no longer be Heaven; and if the poor lost souls, notwithstanding their sufferings, could worship, there would be no more Hell. Alas! they had a heart to love God with, a tongue to bless Him with; that was their destiny. And now they are condemned to curse Him through all eternity. If they could hope that they would once pray only for one minute, they would watch for that minute with such impatience that it would lessen their torments.

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"Our Father who art in Heaven!" Oh, how beautiful it is, my children, to have a father in Heaven! "Thy kingdom come." If I make the good God reign in my heart, He will make me reign with Him in His glory. "Thy will be done." There is nothing so sweet, and nothing so perfect, as to do the will of God. In order to do things well, we must do them as God wills, in all conformity with His designs. "Give us this day our daily bread." We are composed of two parts, the soul and the body. We ask the good God to feed our poor body, and He answers by making the earth produce all that is necessary for our support. . . . But we ask Him to feed our soul, which is the best part of ourselves; and the earth is too small to furnish enough to satisfy it; it hungers for God, and nothing but God can satiate it. Therefore the good God thought He did not do too much, in dwelling upon the earth and assuming a body, in order that this Body might become the Food of our souls. "My Flesh," said Our Lord, "is meat indeed. . . . The bread that I will give is my Flesh, for the life of the world.' The bread of souls is in the tabernacle. The tabernacle is the storehouse of Christians. . . . Oh, how beautiful it is, my children! When the priest presents the Host, and shows it to you, your soul may say, "There is my food." O my children, we are too happy! . . . We shall never comprehend it till we are in Heaven. What a pity that is!

**Parent's meeting for First Confession has been changed to Jan 17th at 11:15AM.  
Please bring a copy of your child's Baptism record.**

A young executive was leaving the office late one evening when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document here, and my secretary has gone for the night. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a **Breakfast on Sunday, January 24th** after the **7:00 AM** and **9:00 AM** masses. The delicious breakfast will be served in **St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Father D'Arco Hall**. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, juice, coffee and other goodies,

**COST ONLY \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.** Please join us.

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The Knights of Columbus, in conjunction with United Blood Services, will be holding a **Blood Drive on Sunday, January 24th** at **St. Thomas Aquinas Church**. When you have successfully donated, in appreciation of your being a hero to others in need, you will **receive a thank you ticket good for the Knights of Columbus breakfast** after the 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM masses.

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**"Art reproductions of "THE CRUCIFIXION"** are available! Some 8 x 10 – inch color **reproductions of Michael Carpenter's** beautiful painting still can be purchased at the Knights of Columbus breakfast in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Father D'Arco Hall on Sunday, January 24th. Stop by or reserve your print in a protective sleeve by calling Bill McCarty at 681-0570. **Still Only \$10.00.**

## Defending Our Faith - A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

### Last Days and End Times: Will Catholics be Left Behind?

Before delving into non-Catholic beliefs of the Millennium and Rapture, I want to start with what the Church says. We need to show a continuity in what the Church teaches, what some of the Early Fathers of the Church wrote and what our Magisterium teaches.

Catholics believe in a form of the “rapture,” but properly defined and understood as noted above. The term “The Rapture” is unique to beliefs held by Fundamentalist and Evangelical Christians, rather than Catholic. We will start at the beginning with Rev. 20:1-10: “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be loosed for a little while.” The battle fought between Satan and God is described in two scenes; the first tells of how Satan is brought under control for a time only (vv 1-3); the second describes his last assault on the Church and what happens to him in the end (vv 4-6). Between these two scenes comes the reign of Christ and his followers, which lasts a thousand years (vv 4-6).(1)

St. Augustine, (345-430AD) interpreted the thousand year reign as the period between the Incarnation of the Son of God and his second coming at the end of time, a period during which the devil’s scope is limited and the devil is in some way enchained; although “he desires to do us harm, he cannot do so because his power is subject to another’s power [...] He who gives him the ability to tempt, also gives his mercy to the one who is tempted. He has restricted the devil’s ability to tempt people.” (De Serm. Dom in monte,2,9,24).(2)

How has Our Lord restricted the devil’s ability to tempt? Take a look at our previous monographs on the Sacraments, the Church, and Mary and the Saints. God has given us such ways to curtail the devil’s power to tempt. In any case Rev. 20:7-10, the Biblical authority of the Parousia, notes there will be a second battle after the thousand years. Satan will be allowed to roam the world with Gog and Magog (John’s symbol for powers that wreak vast destruction (cf. Ezek 38 -39).) However, Satan will be overthrown and completely defeated. Evil against the world is now crushed forever. The devil and the ungodly will suffer forever. (3) After this devastation there will come the resurrection of the dead and the General Judgment. The Judgment is described by using the metaphor of two books-one the actions of man (cf. Dan 7:10); the other, a special book with the names of those predestined to eternal life (cf. Dan 12:1); the Apocalypse is John’s way of teaching us two truths;1) we have free will to act as we will and that there is a grace of predestination; 2) the second death is eternal damnation. What does this mean? Paul VI in *Creed of the People of God*, 12 and 28, notes that “Christ ascended into heaven, and will come again, in glory, to judge the living and the dead, each according to his merits: those who respond to the Love and Piety of God will enter into eternal life; those who rejected him to the very end [are cast] into unquenchable fire.” Who are the people of God? [...] “the souls who die in the grace of Christ, those who must be purified in Purgatory, as well as those carried directly by Jesus to heaven like the Good Thief, make up the people of God beyond death, who will triumph fully on the day of Resurrection when their souls will be united once more with their bodies.”(4)

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Catholics do not attempt to place a specific date of “the Rapture” and Millennium even though some Christians, have attempted to ‘figure out’ the time of the Second Coming. All have resulted in embarrassment, confusion and in some cases loss of faith. (5) We Catholics, on the other hand know date setting is not an option; Jesus told us, “But on that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven, not the Son, but only the Father” (Mk. 13:32). He did warn his disciples to be prepared always for his return: “Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come”(Mk.13:33). How do we handle not knowing and yet being always ready? The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that since the Ascension, Christ’s coming again in glory is immanent. This Second Coming could be accomplished at any moment, yet it may be delayed.(6) The Catechism continues: “Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers (cf. Luke 18:8; Mt. 224:12).(7)” There will be religious deception, apostasy, and the rise of the Antichrist, a movement that will deify man while denying God and Jesus Christ.(8) Olson notes three Catechetical events that will occur before the Parousia . Of the first event, the Catechism states, “Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers [ cf Luke 18:8; Mt 24:12] In the twentieth century alone, more Christians were killed than all other centuries combined. He muses that maybe the time of trial is in progress. He further points out that within the last few centuries, many, many nations have abandoned Christianity, that this coupled with the rise of socialism, secular humanism and neo-paganism shows disbelief on a grand scale. This may be the period of great persecution and apostasy, commonly called the “Tribulation”.(9)

The second event in Jesus’ discourse with his disciples concerns the gospel being preached throughout the whole world before the end comes. (Mt. 24:14) We don’t know if this has occurred yet. We Catholics do know that the gospel must be preached to as many people as possible.(10)

The third event will occur when “the Church teaches Israel’s recognition of Jesus as the Messiah which will take place prior to the Parousia.”(11) We do not know how or when this will happen; we do know it hasn’t yet happened.

This is our Catholic faith. We need to know and understand it in order to discuss this reality with others who believe differently. If we just join our lives to Jesus, keep his Commandments, use the Sacraments, and follow the precepts of the Church Christ founded, we do not need to worry when these events will occur.

Over the next few weeks, I will discuss what Fundamentalists and Evangelicals believe and provide a fair but forceful critique of an unsupported though popular belief.

**PEACE**

- (1) The Navarre Bible New Testament, pp. 684-685, inc. notes
- (2) Ibid, p. 685
- (3) Ibid, p. 685, notes to Rev. 7-10
- (4) The Navarre Bible New Testament, p. 686,cf. notes re Rev. 11-15
- (5) Will Catholics be “Left Behind”?, Carl E. Olson, p. 36
- (6) Catechism of the Catholic Church, 673
- (7) CCC, 675
- (8) Will Catholics Be Left Behind, Carl E. Olson, p. 37
- (9) Ibid, p. 38
- (10) Ibid
- (11) CCC, 674, noted in Will Catholics Be Left Behind, Olson, p. 39



Are you interested in encouraging young scientists? St. Thomas Aquinas School is seeking qualified Science Fair judges for the school's Science Fair on January 26, 2010. Please contact Mary Rogel at 948-0277 or email at mlrogel@hotmail.com. Thank you for supporting our school.

**Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan © – www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com**

In today's second reading, St. Paul speaks of the distribution of gifts. In marriage, it is wise to assess each other's gifts and use them in complementary ways. When it comes to managing money, work together to set priorities and review progress, but let the person who has the bent for detail manage the day-to-day responsibilities.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to [bulletin@sjvnm.org](mailto:bulletin@sjvnm.org). We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

***Prayer Corner***

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ For healing and a great recovery for Sharon Thompson after surgery, and for her husband, Bob. (1/17)
- ◆ For Nick Lombardo health and peace to his family with his illness. (1/10)
- ◆ For healing for Joan Bock, and strength and God's care for her and for her family. (1/3)
- ◆ For Fr. Whorton on his deployment, and his family, that they all remain under God's loving care. (Till he returns)
- ◆ For the strength and courage of the disabled, sick, elderly, and dying
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.
- ◆ For the lonely that they find comfort in the heart of Our Blessed Mother Mary as she too suffered the loneliness of Christ's death.

Prayers are kept on the list for a month then need to be resubmitted.

Thank you for your prayers.

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Jan 16th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Therese Lopez Ed Uhrich Eddie Crespin	Esther Wilcox	JD Strickland	Emilio Crespin Victoria Perez Josh Storms	Annette Montoya Connie Dudon
Sun Jan 17th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	James Sandoval Tom Anderson John Christensen Mike Philbin	David Schutten	Evelyn Romero	Dominic Ortiz Alura McClellan Sergio Guillen	Julie Burnside April McClellan
Sun Jan 17th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Gary Vigil	John Jenkins Carrie Jenkins Ana Padilla	Peggy Riley	Josh Kast Delaney Kast Delicia Garcia Karla Del Cid	Rosie Root Rochelle Quinones
Sat Jan 23rd 4:00PM	David Crawford	Mike Philbin Phillip Griego Therese Lopez	April Karen McClellan	Anna Sellman	Jamie VLS Jessica VLS Josh Storms	Bill McCarty Pam McCarty
Sun Jan 24th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	James E Dory Jim Cutler John Christensen Juan Serna	Ana Marie Hartenhoff	Jose Guillen	Jacob Valdez Rocky Peyton Sergio Guillen	Jose Guillen David Schutten
Sun Jan 24th 10:00AM	Donna Madrid	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Gary Vigil	Pinky Bjornstad Rosie Root Coz Madrid	Pinky Bjornstad	Krista Savela Delaney Kast Josh Kast Amanda Vigil	Ana Padilla Peggy Riley

## Observations on Growing Older

*~You miss the days when everything worked  
with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.*



Earth people, do not treat me like a Martian.

God

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**Boo Abortions?**

<b>Parish Directory</b>	
Vicar .....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator.....	Ed Uhrich
Communications.....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair.....	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair .....	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan .....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher.....	Carl E. Beyer
Head Altar Servers .....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector .....	Peggy Riley
Head EM .....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD .....	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker.....	Harlan Harrington
Head Grounds and Interior Cleaning.....	Coz Madrid
Head Welcoming Ministry .....	Loretta Tafuro
Parish Website.....	<a href="http://www.sjvnm.org">www.sjvnm.org</a>
Concerns / Questions.....	892-1511
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals .....	St Thomas Parish - 892-1511

**IN GOD WE TRUST**