MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday:  English 10:00 am  
            Spanish 11:30 am  
            Igbo 1:00pm  

Weekdays: 7:00am  

Saturday:  9:00 am  (followed by Eucharistic Adoration and The Holy Rosary)

Rectory (Rectoria) Office Hours/ Horario de Oficina: 
Monday-Fridays: 10am-3pm  
Lunes-Viernes: 10am-3pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
Saturdays:  After the 9:00am Mass  
Sundays:  After the 10:00am and 11:30am Masses  
Call the rectory outside the scheduled time.

Weekly Prayer Groups 
Wednesdays/Miercoles: 7:00 – 9:00 pm (Spanish/Espanol)  
Thursdays:  7:00 – 9:00 pm (English)

Parish Clergy  
Rev. Cyprian Onyeihe, Administrator

Pastoral Staff  
Edna Augusta, Religious Education Coordinator  
Charlie Harris, English Choir Director  
Yolanda de la Cruz/ Rosa Medina, Spanish Choir Co-Directors

Sacrament of Matrimony  
A minimum of 6 months is required to begin the process of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Please call the rectory to set up a meeting with the priest to discuss the process. Dates are not reserved by phone contact.

Sacrament of Baptism (for Infants):  
Parents must be active members of our Parish and are required to attend one session of baptismal instruction held on Tuesdays from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Please call the rectory to make the necessary arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK  
Please notify the rectory when a family member is sick to set up regular communion visits.
Weekly Readings and Memorials

Sunday, February 19, 2017
Readings: (LV 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 COR 3:16-23; MT 5:38-48)
10:00AM- Anna & Andrew Vavrica (+)
   Req: Vavrica Family
11:30AM- Carmen Manas (sick)
   Req: Aida & Ángel Alejandro

Monday, February 20, 2017
President’s Day
Readings: (SIR 1:1-10; MK 9:14-29)
7:00AM- Marcelle Davis (+)
   Req: Maureen Webb

Tuesday, February 21, 2017
St. Peter Damian, bishop and Doctor of the Church
Readings: (SIR 2:1-11; MK 9:30-37)
7:00 AM- Intentions of Tess (birthday)

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Fiesta de la Cátedra de San Pedro, Apóstol
Readings: (1 PT 5:1-4; MT 16:13-19)
7:00AM-

Thursday, February 23, 2017
St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr/ Obispo y martir
Readings: (SIR 5:1-8; MK 9:41-50)
7:00AM-

Friday, February 24, 2017
Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Fridays
Readings: (SIR 6:5-17 MK 10:1-12)
7:00AM-

Saturday, February 25, 2017
Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Readings: (SIR 17:1-15; MK 10:13-16)
9:00AM- Kelly Creighton (+)
   Req: Linda Burke

Please Pray for the sick:
Ángel Alejandro, Aracelis Alejandro, Emma Allen, Rafaelina Almonte, Elvin Alvarado, Juana Alvarado, Carmen Ávila, Angela Battle, Sgt. Tonia Chestnut, Lillian (sister of Cristina Dominguez), Juan Pablo Espinza, Lori Figueroa, Rosalina Flores, Rafael Flores, Manuel García, Rafael Ginés, Martiza Gonzalez, Edith Harris, Ghislaine Jacobs, Drosula Katsibra, Edith Labriel, Michael Martinez, Joseph and Nancy Mazzella, Digna Meléndez, Leonora Moorehead, Avelino Moreno, Juana Moreira, Neville Nelson, Nicole Niles, Gerri Orfei, Antonia Rodriguez, Shanique Rollins, Eric Roman, Guillermina Rosario, Ashley Steadman, Theresa Sylvan, Victoria Torres, Andrew “Morris” Vavrica, Marina Vázquez, Aníbal Vázquez, Iris Velásquez

The Sanctuary Lamp was donated for the Intentions of Mary, Wendy, and Keneth White,

for the recovery of Neville Nelson & Ashley Steadman

Elvin Alvarado

In memory of Joan Revan & Gregory M. Ilaw

Pearl Blake

Marcella Bullock, Leon Bullock, John Bullock, Jr.,

Parishioners’ Weekly Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Collection Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>$2,335.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,335.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please call the rectory to submit the name of an ill family member or friend.
**Next Film Night:**
**Tuesday, February 21st at 7pm in the church. All are welcome!!!!**

**Black History Month Celebrations**
**Black History Month Film Series**

**2/21/17- “Race—Jessie Owens Story”**

*Part 2*

This film chronicles the career of 1936 Gold Medalist sprinter, Jesse Owens. Who competed in the Berlin, Germany during the Nazi Regime.

**2/28/17—“The Ernest Green Story”**

This film tells the story of the “Little Rock Nine”. 9 High school students who in 1957 became the first Black students to attend the all-white Little Rock High School (in Arkansas)

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**On–Going Activity Reminders**

- Join us for Eucharistic Adoration and to pray the Holy Rosary on Saturdays, immediately after the 9:00am Mass.
- The Altar Rosary Society welcomes new members. Any ladies interested in joining this group, please come to Saturday prayer of the Rosary after the 9am Mass.
- The Religious Education Program takes place on Saturdays (September –May) from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Nativity School Auditorium. For more information, please speak to Edna Augusta, program coordinator, 917-346-5378.
- Nativity Kids Group every 2 weeks, Saturdays 12pm-2pm in the church. All ages welcome! Please call Edna for more information.
- Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group - Wednesdays, 7:00PM-9:00PM. (For more information please contact, the Rectory)
- Weekly Prayer Group (in English) Thursdays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the church.

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**Actividades Actuales**

- Acompáñenos para Adoración Eucarística y a rezar el Santo Rosario los sábados, inmediatamente después de la Misa de las 9:00 am.
- La Sociedad del Rosario del Altar da la bienvenida a nuevos miembros. Para todas las damas interesadas por favor venga al rezo del santo rosario los sábados después de la Misa de 9:00am.
- El programa de instrucción religiosa (catequesis) se lleva a cabo los sábados de 10:00am a 11:30am en el auditorio de la escuela. Para más información por favor hable con Edna Augusta, coordinadora del programa, 917-346-5378.
- El Grupo de Niños, cada dos semanas, los sábados de 12pm-2pm en la iglesia. Todas edades están bienvenidos. Por favor contacte a Edna por más información.
- Todos están invitados a asistir a las reuniones de El Grupo de Oración (en español) los miércoles de 7:00 a 9:00pm en la Iglesia. Para más información por favor contacte a la Rectoría.
- Grupo de Oración (en inglés) cada jueves a las 7:00pm en la iglesia.
Celebrating Black History Month:

The Saints

St. Cyprian of Carthage/ San Cipriano de Cartago
(September 16th)

Biography: http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=6198 (English)

Biografia: http://mercaba.org/TESORO/san_cipriano.htm (español)

Prayer of St. Cyrian of Carthage

For Prisoners and Correction Officers

Most gracious Father,
bless with your special care
all penitentiaries and homes of refuge.
Look with pity on those who are housed there.
Guide and protect those who have returned to the world.
Grant all of them true contrition for past sins,
and strengthen them in their good resolutions.
Lead them along from grace to grace
so that by the help of the Holy Spirit
they may persevere in the ways of obedience and humility,
and in the struggle against evil thoughts and desires.
Grant the Holy Spirit
to those engaged in teaching and training them,
that they might have a right judgment
with respect to those entrusted to them.
May they labour for love of your with deep humility
and singleness of purpose,
purity of heart and life,
and true zeal for your glory
and the salvation of souls.
Give them faith and love
to sustain them in disappointment,
love and patience toward those under them,
and in your own good time
crown their work with an eternal recompense.

Amen.

Source: http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p00372.htm

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017

Mass and Ashes Distribution Schedule

Misas y Distribución de Cenizas

7:00AM/ 9:00AM/ 7:00PM-Mass and Distribution of Ashes

12:00PM-Distribution of Ashes

Ash Wednesday is a day of Abstinence, Fasting, and Prayer

Catholics between the ages of 18-59 are asked to eat 1 regular meal and 2 small meals on this day and all Catholics ages 14 and older are asked to abstain from eating meat.

El Miércoles de Cenizas es un día de abstinencia, ayuno, y oración

Los católicos entre las edades de 18-59 se le pide que comer solo 1 comida regular (y 2 comidas pequeñas) en este día y todos los católicos las edades 14 y mayores son frecuentes de abstenerse de comer carne.

Lenten Offering (for Adults and Children)

What will be your Lenten Sacrifice and Offering this year? Children can pick up their Lenten Offering Booklet in the entrance of the Church starting Ash Wednesday.

¿Cuál será su Sacrificio Cuaresmal y Ofreciendo este año?
Los niños pueden recoger su Folleto de Ofrecimiento Cuaresmal en la entrada de la iglesia empezado el Miércoles de Cenizas.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Will be available upon request during Lent.

Estará disponible a la solicitud durante la Cuaresma.

Oracion de San Cipriano

San Cipriano, suplico que aquellos que estén ligados con hechizos, embrujos, y poseídos del maligno, les desateis, les desembrujeis,
para que el lobo rabioso no tenga dominio sobre _________
(nombre).

San Cipriano, ruego preservarme de todos los maleficios, arterías, perfidias de Lucifer; cuidad la vista y el pensamiento mio; sean llenos de confusión los que atentan contra mi vida, que mis enemigos sean confundidos y alejados, mantenedme triunfante sobre ellos eternamente.

Amen.
Chair of St. Peter

St. Peter was the prince of the apostles and the first pope. Jesus said to him, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). After Jesus went back to heaven, St. Peter preached the Gospel. He guided the small but growing Christian community. At first, Peter labored in Jerusalem and in Antioch, two big cities of the east. Later, he went to preach the Gospel in Rome, the capital of the world. What chance did Peter have to perform his great task for the Lord? His Master had been crucified but then had risen. Who would believe that? The evils of pagan Rome would drown his voice no matter how dedicated he may be. But the Holy Spirit was alive in Peter. He courageously took up the ministry Jesus had left him. Never again would Peter deny his Lord. Never again would Peter put his own personal well-being before the good of the Church.

The feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome reminds us that St. Peter started the Christian community in that city. The special chair is a symbol of the authority that was given to him by Jesus. Kings of old sat on thrones and ruled. Peter's chair is a symbol of his authority from Jesus to rule the Church.

St. Peter was martyred for the faith, but down through the ages there has always been a bishop of Rome. He is the pope. The pope rules the whole Church, as St. Peter did, in Jesus’ name. We call the successor of St. Peter the Holy Father.

Reflection: Take a moment today to offer thanks to God for all the good that is done through the leadership of the Church.

St. Polycarp/ San Policarpo (February 23rd)

Biography/Biografía
http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/saints/P/stpolicarp.asp (English)
http://www.ewtn.com/spanish/Saints/Policarpo.htm (Espanol)

St. Tarasius/ San Tarsicio (February 25th)

Biography/Biografía
http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/saints/T/sttarasius.asp (English)
http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarsicio (espanol)

St. Peter Damian (February 21st)

Biography/Biografía
https://scrc.org/experience/feast.php?view=51 (English)
http://www.ewtn.com/spanish/Saints/Pedro_Damian.htm (Espanol)

"...Let us faithfully transmit to posterity the example of virtue which we have received from our forefathers." (St. Peter Damian)
Something to Think About......

“I heard a Christian speaker talking about needing to avoid certain movies and TV shows. Is it really a big deal what kind of entertainment I watch, listen to or read? Isn’t it better to know what is going on in the world than be closed off? “

This is an extremely important question. Not only is it pressing (we decide on our entertainment on a daily basis), but it is also deeply personal. All of us must choose how we will entertain ourselves. Let’s clarify the importance of the situation. While we could look at this from a cultural perspective, let’s skip that and bring things a little closer to home. There is a psychological principle that has been termed “the law of exposure.” This states that the things we expose ourselves to have an effect on us. Music affects our moods. I have a friend who listens to “death metal.” He knows that it makes him angry and frustrated, but he listens to it anyway. Language affects our own language. I have another friend who finds himself swearing left and right after a “weekend with the guys.” Images affect how we see other people. I talk to many men and women who find themselves in sexual sin after viewing certain photos or videos. To deny “the law of exposure” is to deny reality. Some people like to claim immunity, but this is simply a lack of self-knowledge. And it is not limited to people of a certain age. I don’t know how much sillier we could be than when we will turn off the TV for a child, saying, “You shouldn’t be watching this,” but then return to it ourselves.

Does the fact that I am in my 30s mean that I am unaffected by these images and ideas? Certainly, I am better equipped to discern the truth, but if a movie is bad for a child, how can I be so confident that it is good for me? If it is garbage for a 12-year-old, then it is garbage for me, even if I have learned how to sort through the garbage a little better. Just as important, we live in a free market society. We vote with our dollars. What do you spend money and time on? For example, I know a number of Catholics who went to see “The Da Vinci Code” or “The Golden Compass” even though these movies are clearly anti-Catholic. It does no good to claim, “I don’t agree with them!” The people making this entertainment don’t care if you agree or not. Your interior motivation matters, but it is not absolute. Once they have your money, you have already stated that you are on their side. And if the movie is evil (or promotes evil ideas), then you just gave $9.75 to the cause of evil. (How much did you put in the collection plate? In the end, all of those numbers will be made known and there will be no room for excuses like, “It was only a movie!”). Entertainment is never “only entertainment.”

Every form of media presents some philosophy of life, a belief about the world, the human person and God. These ideas mean something, because ideas have consequences. Every great (and every terrible) movement started with an idea. Have you ever noticed that every dictatorship first seeks to control the media? Because when you control the media, you control ideas, and once you control ideas, you can lead people wherever you want. Rather than attempt to list movies, TV shows or songs, it is more important for our purposes to have some principles that we can apply. We only have room for one in this column today. When encountering some form of entertainment, ask yourself, “Does this reveal the dignity of the human person or in some way distort or obscure it?”

Another way to phrase the question is, “Does this entertainment reveal Truth and Beauty?”

Some art does this in ways we wouldn’t expect. Flannery O’Conner is arguably the finest American fiction writer of the last century. She wrote about sin and grace in a powerful and truthful way, but it was not pretty. I always thought her stories were grotesque, but they were true. She revealed beauty through writing about ugly things. It is the difference between the violence and gore in “Saving Private Ryan” and that found in the “Saw” movies. Pope Benedict once wrote, “We may never be entertained by the suffering of others.”

What does this mean when it comes to “Ultimate Fighting Challenge”? Will I have to change my TV watching? The next thing we need is conviction. If something is bad for me, then why would I expose myself to it? If I am going to be a follower of Christ, I need to be the kind of person who makes a decision. Are you the kind of person who can make a decision? Are you willing to? If you are convicted that “this entertainment does not uphold human dignity,” are you willing to then not watch it?

Seriously, to say, “no matter how funny this new ‘The Hangover’-style comedy is, it is not good for me and so I won’t watch it.” Because, in the end, all of this entertainment will pass away. What will remain, for good or for ill, is the kind of person it has fashioned me into.

Father Schmitz is director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and chaplain of the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Reach him at fathermikeschmitz@gmail.com

This Q&A and others can be found on Fr. Mike’s website: thecatholicspirit.com /faith/focus-on-faith/seeking-answers/dont-fear-prayers-dont-make-difference