Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever wondered why February 14 is dedicated to the celebration of romance and human love?
The origins of this custom begin with a decree of Claudius, who was Roman Emperor in the middle of the third century. Claudius was having difficulty filling the ranks of the Roman army for his many wars, and his theory was that the men were too attached to their families to leave home for battle. In order to "fix" this, Claudius made marriage illegal in the Roman Empire.

Of course the Christians, and all men of good will, living in the empire could not follow this unjust decree, and so they would celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in secret. The priests of Rome risked their lives to witness these clandestine marriages. One of these priests was named Valentine. Father Valentine was a very holy and zealous priest in Rome. Along with St. Marius and his family, he was a great support and encouragement to the Christian martyrs as they suffered and died for Our Lord. He knew that his time eventually would come to give glory to His Savior with his blood.

Father Valentine was witnessing a marriage one night when he was caught and arrested by the Roman security forces. While in prison for the "crime" of witnessing marriage, he converted his jailer by restoring sight to the jailer's daughter. After the Prefect of Rome could not convince Valentine to re-nounce his Catholic faith, he commanded that Valentine be beaten by clubs and then beheaded. Valentine entered into glory on February 14, 270.

The memory of Father Valentine's heroic sacrifice lived on in the Roman Church. It was especially remembered that he was killed for witnessing a marriage. Father Valentine began to be considered a martyr for Christian marriage. This led to his feast day becoming the occasion of the reform of an old pagan custom of matchmaking, making it a celebration of the dignity and beauty of Christian marriage. In England, in the 15th century, love letters even began to be called "Valentines." All of this cultural development occurred because St. Valentine had shown that Christian marriage is so holy that it is worth even the sacrificing of a priest's life.

Jesus Christ has elevated marriage between two baptized persons to the level of a Sacrament. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a sign of His Love for His Bride, the Church. In Holy Matrimony, the husband and wife are empowered and consecrated by Christ Himself to love each other exclusively, the fecundity whereby they are always open to new life and the indissolubility whereby they are a sign of Jesus's unbreakable bond with us. Pray for your brother priests, that we will be willing to follow your example and to lay down our lives to preach the truth about marriage in the Church and in the world. St. Valentine, Martyr for Marriage, pray for us!

Pray for me, Father Joseph Previtali
Parish Announcements

**Upcoming Events**

**Our Lady of the Pillar**

**Monday Nights**
Adult Catechism with Father Joe
7:30pm–8:30pm @ New Hall

**Third Tuesday of the Month**
Knights of Columbus Meeting
Old Hall—7:00pm

**Tuesday Nights**
Bible Study
5:30pm–7:00pm @ Conference Room

**Miércoles por la Noche**
Estudio de la Biblia
7:00pm en el Salón Viejo (Old Hall)

**Saturday Morning**
Legion of Mary Meeting
Conference Room
9:00am–11:00am

**Second Sunday of the Month**
Hospitality after 8:00am Mass (Old Hall)

**Clases de Bautizo Para Padres y Padrinos**
El cuarto Viernes del Mes
7:00pm en el Old Hall (Salon Viejo)

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Please note our new speakers in the church vestibule and side chapel-family room. Thank you to our generous parishioners who donated the funds and coordinated the installation and sound testing. These speakers were installed especially to assist our young families with children to be able to participate in the Mass even as they calm their children. All families with children of all ages are always welcome at all our Masses. Let's continue to create an environment of welcoming of and patience with our youngest Catholics, who are the future of the Church!

Por favor tenga en cuenta nuestros nuevos altavoces en el vestíbulo de la iglesia y capilla lateral-habitación familiar. Gracias a nuestros generosos feligreses, que donaron los fondos y coordinaron la instalación y las pruebas de sonido. Estos altavoces se instalaron especialmente para ayudar a nuestras familias jóvenes con niños pequeños para que puedan participar en la Misa aun cuando calmen a sus hijos. Todas las familias con niños de todas las edades son siempre bienvenidos en todas nuestras Misas. Vamos a seguir para crear un ambiente de acogida y paciencia con nuestros jóvenes católicos, que son el futuro de la Iglesia!

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**St. Patrick’s Day**
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Sponsored Annually by
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
Saturday March 18th
New Hall of Our Lady of the Pillar
No Host Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner at 7:00pm
Tickets $25.00 each
Children aged 12 to 18 $10.00
12 and under FREE

**TRADITIONAL IRISH LIVE MUSIC**
Lighthouse String Band
50/50 Pot O’ Gold Raffle
$5.00 a ticket or 5 for $20!

**TICKETS and INFO**
Brian (650)799-0011
Bob (650) 464-0164
Jim (650) 867-5018
hmbknights@aol.com

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT**
COUNCIL'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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**BASEMENT CHURCH CLEANING**
We are going to be cleaning out the church basement at the end of February. If you have any items stored there, please let us know at the parish office so that it does not get thrown away.

**LIMPIEZA DEL SOTANO DE LA IGLEISA**
Vamos a limpiar el sótano de la iglesia a finales del mes de Febrero. Si ustedes tienen cosas guardadas allí, por favor, háganoslo saber a la oficina de la parroquia para que no los tiremos a la basura.

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**Pray for Our Parishioners Who are Sick**

Sick Relatives & Friends/Parientes y Amigos Enfermos
Pray that God’s, healing power will fill them with strength and hope.

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We are happy to announce the addition of Randy Chang to our parish staff as our new parish bookkeeper. Randy comes to us with many years of successful experience in bookkeeping and accounting in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. If you have a question or need related to parish finances, Randy can be reached at the parish office. Welcome, Randy!

Nos complace anunciar la incorporación de Randy Chang a nuestro personal de la parroquia como nuestro Nuevo Contador. Randy viene a nosotros con muchos años de experiencia exitosa en manutención de libros y contabilidad en la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco. Si tienen alguna duda o necesidad relacionada con las finanzas de la parroquia, pueden buscar a Randy en la oficina de la parroquia. Bienvenido, Randy!
Your Offerings | Supporting Our Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Collection</th>
<th>2nd Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Pillar $ 4,163</td>
<td>$ 1,832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Refuge $ 219</td>
<td>$ 156</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Anthony’s $ 190</td>
<td>$ 106</td>
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Second Collection this week: Annual Appeal

February 19: Religious Education
February 26: Annual Appeal
March 5: Building Fund
March 12: Annual Appeal

Your Offerings | Supporting Our Parish

WEDDINGS/ BODAS

Couples planning to be married must contact a priest well in advance of the wedding date. They must also receive personal preparation for entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person, the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Archbishop’s office has been consulted. It should be noted that Catholics, in order to marry validly, must marry before the parish priest or his delegate and two witnesses. A civil marriage or a marriage before a non-Catholic minister is not a valid marriage. Couples in such “marriages” should contact a priest to have the situation rectified.

Las parejas que estén planeando casarse incluyen que se pongan en contacto con un sacerdote antes de planear la boda. Las parejas también necesitan recibir preparación personal durante la preparación del Matrimonio. Si cualquier persona de la pareja a estado casado/a anteriormente con otra persona el Sacerdote no puede poner la fecha del matrimonio hasta que la oficina de la Arquidiócesis lo apruebe. Tienen que tener en cuenta que para que el matrimonio sea válido los Católicos, necesitan casarse frente a el Sacerdote de su Parroquia y dos testigos. Un matrimonio civil ante una persona que no es Católica no es válido para la Iglesia Católica. Parejas que estén en esta situación deben contactar a un Sacerdote para que su situación se arregle.

....continued: on the Baptizing of Christ

Hence the Holy Ghost is said to have descended upon Christ, not by reason of His being united to the dove: but either because the dove itself signified the Holy Ghost, inasmuch as it “descended” when it came upon Him; or, again, by reason of the spiritual grace, which is poured out by God, so as to descend, as it were, on the creature, according to James 1:17: “Every best gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.”

Reply OBJ 3: As Chrysostom says (Hom. xii in Matth.): “At the beginning of all spiritual transactions sensible visions appear, for the sake of them who cannot conceive at all an incorporeal nature. So that, though afterwards no such thing occur, they may shape their faith according to that which has occurred once for all.” And therefore the Holy Ghost descended visibly, under a bodily shape, on Christ at His baptism, in order that we may believe Him to descend invisibly on all those who are baptized.

Reply OBJ 4: The Holy Ghost appeared over Christ at His baptism, under the form of a dove, for four reasons. First, on account of the disposition required in the one baptized—namely, that he approach in good faith: since as it is written (Wis. 1:5): “The holy spirit of discipline will flee from the deceitful.” For the dove is an animal of a simple character, void of cunning and deceit: whence it is said (Mt. 10:16): “Be ye simple as doves.”

Are you or someone you know dealing with or challenged by the end of their marriage?

The Archdiocese of San Francisco has a special ministry for men and women who have experienced the pain of separation and divorce. We believe that the Church has a rich treasury of people, Holy Scripture, tradition, and pastoral ministry on which it can draw to serve its members whose marriages end in divorce.

We strive to lay open this wealth and make known Christ’s abundant healing love so that all who suffer from separation and divorce might experience healing, reconciliation and new life. We also recognize that separated and divorced people, through their vulnerability, suffering, courage, faithfulness and patient endurance bear witness to Christ and His redeeming grace in the world. They are not mere recipients of the Church’s compassion; they are as well, ministers of that compassion. “May the church be the place of God’s mercy and love, where everyone can feel themselves welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Gospel.” - Pope Francis.

"The Church is definitely against divorce, and divorced people are strongly against divorce as well, but the Church isn’t against divorced people." - Father Al Grosskopf, SJ.

The Catholic Divorce Ministry has a meeting to answer questions and offer help, at the support group that meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 7:30 P.M. at the Parish Center, St. Stephen Church, 451 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco. Please call Father Al at 415-422-6698 for more information.

www.OurLadyofthePillar.org
Secondly, in order to designate the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, which are signified by the properties of the dove. For the dove dwells beside the running stream, in order that, on perceiving the hawk, it may plunge in and escape. This refers to the gift of wisdom, whereby the saints dwell beside the running waters of Holy Scripture, in order to escape the assaults of the devil. Again, the dove prefers the more choice order to escape the assaults of the devil. Again, the dove tears not with its beak. This refers to the gift of understanding, wherewith the saints nourish themselves. Further, the dove feeds the brood of other birds. This refers to the gift of counsel, with which the saints, by teaching and example, feed men who have been the brood, i.e. imitators, of the devil. Again, the dove builds its nest in the cleft of a rock. This refers to the gift of piety, by reason of which the saints are free from unreasonable anger. Again, the dove builds its nest in the cleft of a rock. This refers to the gift of fortitude, wherewith the saints build their nest, i.e. take refuge and hope, in the death wounds of Christ, who is the Rock of strength. Lastly, the dove has a plaintive song. This refers to the gift of joy, wherewith the saints delight in bewailing sins. Thirdly, the Holy Ghost appeared under the form of a dove on account of the proper effect of baptism, which is the remission of sins and reconciliation with God: for the dove is a gentle creature. Wherefore, as Chrysostom says, (Hom. xii in Matth.), “at the Deluge this creature appeared bearing an olive branch, and publishing the tidings of the universal peace of the whole world: and now again the dove appears at the baptism, pointing to our Deliverer.”

Fourthly, the Holy Ghost appeared over our Lord at His baptism in the form of a dove, in order to designate the common effect of baptism—namely, the building up of the unity of the Church. Hence it is written (Eph. 5:25-27): “Christ delivered Himself up... that He might present... to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing... cleansing it by the laver of water in the word of life.” Therefore it was fitting that the Holy Ghost should appear at the baptism under the form of a dove, which is a creature both loving and gregarious. Wherefore also it is said of the Church (Cant 6:8): “One is my dove.”

But on the apostles the Holy Ghost descended under the form of fire, for two reasons. First, to show with what fervor their hearts were to be moved, so as to preach Christ everywhere, though surrounded by opposition. And therefore He appeared as a fiery tongue. Hence Augustine says (Super Joan., Tract. vi): Our Lord “manifests” the Holy Ghost “visibly in two ways”---namely, “by the dove coming upon the Lord when He was baptized; by fire, coming upon the disciples when they were met together... In the former case simplicity is shown, in the latter fervor... We learn, then, from the effects of the Holy Ghost in the same way. Because from the very fact that the tongues were cloven... in the dove recognize unity.”

Secondly, because, as Chrysostom says (Gregory, Hom. xxx in Ev.): “Since sins had to be forgiven,” which is effected in baptism, “meekness was required”; this is shown by the dove: “but when we have obtained grace we must look forward to be judged”; and this is signified by the fire.

Art. 7: Whether the dove in which the Holy Ghost appeared was real?

OBJ 1: It would seem that the dove in which the Holy Ghost appeared was not real. For that seems to be a mere apparence which appears in its semblance. But it is stated (Lk. 3:22) that the “Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape as a dove upon Him.”

Therefore it was not a real dove, but a semblance of a dove.

OBJ 2: Further, just as “Nature does nothing useless, so neither does God” (De Coelo i). Now since this dove came merely “in order to signify something and pass away,” as Augustine says (De Trin. ii), a real dove would have been useless; because the semblance of a dove was sufficient for that purpose. Therefore it was not a real dove.

OBJ 3: Further, the properties of a thing lead us to a knowledge of that thing. If, therefore, this were a real dove, its properties would have signified the nature of the real animal, and not the effect of the Holy Ghost. Therefore it seems that it was not a real dove.

On the contrary, Augustine says (De Agone Christ. xxii): “Nor do we say this as though we asserted that our Lord Jesus Christ alone had a real body, and that the Holy Ghost appeared to men’s eyes in a fallacious manner: but we say that both those bodies were real.”

I answer that, As stated above (Q[5], A[1]), it was unbecoming that the Son of God, who is the Truth of the Father, should make use of anything unreal; wherefore He took, not an imaginary, but a real body. And since the Holy Ghost is called the Spirit of Truth, as appears from Jn. 16:13, therefore He too made a real dove in which to appear, though He did not assume it into unity of person. Wherefore, after the words quoted above, Augustine adds: “Just as it behooved the Son of God not to deceive men, so it behooved the Holy Ghost not to deceive. But it was easy for Almighty God, who created all creatures out of nothing, to frame the body of a real dove without the help of other doves, just as it was easy for Him to form a true body in Mary’s womb without the seed of a man: since the corporeal creature obeys its Lord’s command and will, both in the mother’s womb in forming a man, and in the world itself in forming a dove.”

Reply OBJ 1: The Holy Ghost is said to have descended in the shape or semblance of a dove, not in the sense that the dove was not real, but in order to show that He did not appear in the form of His substance.

Reply OBJ 2: It was not superfluous to form a real dove, in which the Holy Ghost might appear, because by the very reality of the dove the reality of the Holy Ghost and of His effects is signified.

Reply OBJ 3: The properties of the dove lead us to understand the dove’s nature and the effects of the Holy Ghost in the same way. Because from the very fact that the dove has such properties, it results that it signifies the Holy Ghost.

Will continue next week.
Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,
¿Se ha preguntado alguna vez por qué el 14 de febrero está dedicado a la celebración de romance y amor humano?

Los orígenes de esta costumbre comienzan con un decreto de Claudio, quien fue emperador romano en la mitad del tercer siglo. Claudio estaba temiendo dificultades para llenar las filas del ejército romano por sus muchas guerras y su teoría era que los hombres eran demasiado apegados a sus familias para abandonar el hogar e ir a la batalla. Con el fin de “arreglar” esto, Claudio hizo el matrimonio ilegal en el Imperio Romano.

Por supuesto, los cristianos y todos los hombres de buena voluntad, que vivían en el imperio no podían seguir este Decreto injusto y, por tanto, iban a celebrar el Sacramento del Matrimonio en secreto. Los sacerdotes de Roma arriesgaron sus vidas para ser testigos de estos matrimonios clandestinos. Uno de estos sacerdotes fue nombrado Valentín.

Valentín era un sacerdote muy santo y ferviente en Roma. Junto con San Marius y su familia, fue un gran apoyo y aliento a los mártires cristianos que sufrieron y murieron por nuestro Señor. Él sabía que su tiempo eventualmente vendría a dar gloria a su Salvador con su sangre.

El Padre Valentín estaba presenciando un matrimonio una noche cuando fue capturado y arrestado por las fuerzas de seguridad romana. Mientras estaba en prisión por el “delito” de ser testigos del matrimonio, él convirtió a su carcelero por restablecer la vista a la hija del carcelero. Después de que el prefecto de Roma no pudo convencer a Valentín a renunciar a su fe católica, mandó que Valentín fuera golpeado con palos y luego fue decapitado. San Valentín entró en gloria el 14 de febrero de 270.

La memoria del sacrificio heroico del Padre San Valentín vivió en la Iglesia Romana. Es especialmente recordado por haber presenciado un matrimonio. El padre Valentín comenzó a ser considerado un mártir para el matrimonio cristiano. Esto condujo a que su día de fiesta se convirtiera en ocasión de la reforma de una antigua costumbre pagana de emparejamiento, convirtiéndola en una celebración de la dignidad y la belleza del matrimonio cristiano. En Inglaterra, en el siglo XV, cartas de amor, incluso comenzó a llamarse “Día de San Valentín.” Todo este desarrollo cultural ocurrió porque San Valentín había demostrado que el matrimonio cristiano es tan sagrado que vale la pena incluso el sacrificio de la vida del sacerdote. Jesucristo ha elevado el matrimonio entre dos personas bautizadas, al nivel de Sacramento. El Sacramento del Matrimonio es un signo de su amor por su esposa, la Iglesia. En el santo matrimonio, el marido y la esposa son facultados y consagrados por el mismo Cristo para amar a unos a los otros como él ama en la Cruz: con un amor que es libre, total, fiel y fecundo. San Valentín sabía esto y sabía que era una realidad digna de su sangre. Él murió para que los esposos y las esposas cristianos pudieran vivir el matrimonio casto de la santidad conyugal. De hecho, él sabía que todos los esposos y esposas están llamados a ser santos específicamente como esposos y esposas! San Valentín, sacerdote y mártir, rezar por todas las parejas casadas. Ruego que tengan la fuerza necesaria para confiar en el amor de Dios como el fundamento de su matrimonio. Concédale un amor profundo por los bienes del matrimonio: la fidelidad por lo cual se aman uno al otro exclusivamente, la fecundidad para que están siempre abiertos a una vida nueva, y la indisolubilidad en virtud del cual son un signo del enlace irrompible de Jesús con nosotros. Oren por nosotros, sacerdotes, que estaremos dispuestos a seguir tu ejemplo y a poner nuestras vidas a predicar la verdad sobre el matrimonio en la Iglesia y en el mundo. San Valentín, mártir de matrimonio, ¡ruega por nosotros!

Oren por mi, Padre José Previtali