

# Mary Help of Christians Church

5980 University Drive, Parkland, Florida 33067

March 2010

## A Call to a Stewardship Way of Life

Pastor:  
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**“While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.”**  
(Luke 8:29)

“Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body...” (Phil 3:21)

What a gift Peter, James, and John received, chosen among the chosen, to experience the Transfiguration.

What a gift our Lord gave these men in revealing to them, although they did not understand, what they would one day become.

What a gift we have as we gather here around the table of the Lord to experience the same thing that the three disciples experienced up on that mountain: the glory of our Lord revealed in this Eucharist.

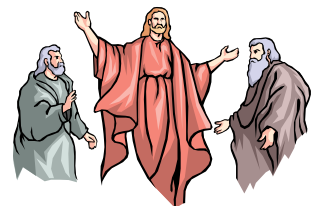
What a gift our parish received yesterday as we had Dr. Scott Hahn come and speak to us about these glorious gifts that our Lord bestows on us through the Church every single day. As I sat and listened, I longed for every single member of my parish community to be able to hear Dr. Hahn’s transformative testimony and his unique view on the richness of our faith. I took copious notes throughout his presentation particularly on his talk about the Mass. He spoke of how he first experienced the Mass as an observer when he was a Presbyterian and how he slowly started to see Jesus reveal himself through the reading of the Scriptures and the Breaking of the Bread just as Christ had done with the disciples of Emmaus. Dr. Hahn explained how he felt at this heavenly banquet that we as Catholics, including this unworthy priest, so often take for granted. We long for heaven and all the glories that God has in store for us, but the last thing I wrote from Dr. Hahn on my legal pad was this: “We don’t have to die to go to heaven. All we have to do is go to Mass!”

All those beautiful heavenly images and hymns that were revealed to St. John in the Book of Revelation are present right here when we celebrate the Eucharist. What a gift!

We don’t have to travel up to Mount Tabor to experience the Transfigured Christ. We experience him right here! Right here in the Mass, as we receive this heavenly food, it is Christ himself that begins to change our lowly bodies to conform with his glorified body as St. Paul tells us in the second reading. Which means that during this weekly encounter, during this weekly celebration, during this weekly participation of “heaven on earth”, when we receive Christ’s very flesh in Holy Communion, we too are transfigured as Christ was on that mountain.

What a gift!

Which is why we must never take what we do here for granted, but ask, beg, and implore the Lord to give us the faith to be able to clearly see this heavenly reality unfold in our humble little church around this humble little table. Here we become transfigured. Here we become one body. Here we become divine!



What a gift!

- Fr. Manny - February 28, 2010

## Free to Choose

Remember the Easy Button from the Staples ad? How nice it would be if we had an easy button to push every time we were faced with a choice, especially when we know in our hearts that the right choice is also the more difficult choice. But sadly, due to our human inheritance there is no easy button.

An excerpt from *The Return of the Prodigal Son*  
A Story of Homecoming

- Henri Nouwen

*"The Father's love does not force itself on the beloved. Although He wants to heal us of our inner darkness, we are still free to stay in the darkness or step into the light of God's love. God is there, God's light is there. God's forgiveness is there. God's boundless love is there. What is so clear is that God is always there, always ready to give and forgive, absolutely independent of our response. God's love does not depend on our repentance or our inner or outward changes."*

*"God is urging me to come home, to enter into His light, and to discover there that, in God, all people are uniquely and completely loved. In the light of God I can finally see my neighbor as my brother, as the one who belongs as much to God as I do. But outside of God's house, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, lovers and friends become rivals and even enemies; each perpetually plagued by jealousies, suspicions, and resentments."*

So, we have freedom. We can choose to work daily to improve our lives, through learning more about our beautiful faith, through daily prayer and attending Mass and through participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Only then can we bring ourselves closer to our loving Father. It is only then that we will truly experience freedom.

### Holy Week Schedule

**Monday**, March 29 - **7 PM** - Parish Reconciliation Service  
**Holy Thursday**, April 1 - **7 PM** Mass of the Lord's Supper  
**Good Friday**, April 2 - **3:00pm** - **Stations of the Cross**  
**7:00pm** - **Veneration of Cross**

Easter Saturday, April 3 -

Easter Sunday, April 4



**Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.**

C. S. Lewis

### Forgiveness



Louis Smedes, author of several books on forgiveness, notes that we do not forgive simply because we are supposed to forgive. We forgive because we need to be healed. Forgiveness is said to have three stages. I don't deny what the person did nor do I pretend it wasn't wrong. But...

Instead of identifying the person totally with what they did to hurt me, I begin to see them as a person like me - imperfect but still someone God loves.

I give up my 'right' to get even. Vengeful thoughts do not make the other person suffer. They hurt me. So, I just plain rinse my mind of those kind of thoughts.

I stand next to the Lord and together with him look at the other person. For sure Jesus wants good things to happen to them. So, with the Lord's help (and some struggle), I begin to look at the other person the way the Lord does.

### REDISCOVERING THE MASS

Join Fr. Manny on March 11, 18, and 25 at 7:30 pm

Learn how to better enhance your experience of the Eucharist by learning the history and meaning behind the actions of what you see and do every Sunday.

### Around Our Parish...

#### Spiritual Growth:

#### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Thursdays 7:30-10:00 AM and 5 - 7 PM

Rosary Mondays 7:00 PM in Church

Men's Prayer Ministry Tues. 6AM P-A

Men's Bible Study Monday 7:30 P-A

Women at the Well

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8 AM

1st and 3rd Mondays 7:30 PM

#### Upcoming Community Social Events

Women's Club 2nd Tue each month

**Fish Fry Friday March 19, 2010**

\* 2 seating at 6 or 7 pm \*

**Late Nite Catechism -**

**Till Death Do Us Part** October 15, 2010

**Parish Festival** November 18-21

*There are many opportunities for you to come join us. Consider yourself invited!*

