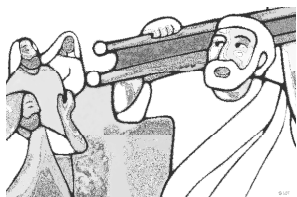


February 22, 2009: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." — Mk 2:11-12

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, February 22 (Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12)

8:00 am- Louis R. Kallus
10:30 am- Leon Bujnoch
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, February 23, St. Polycarp (Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29)

7:00 am- Leon Klekar, Sr.
10:00 am- Anton & Julie Sassin (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, February 24 (Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37)

7:00 am- Dominic Loth

Wednesday, February 25, Ash Wednesday (Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20; 6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

6:45 am- F. J. Chaloupka Family
8:05 am- Ethel Bludau
12:05 pm- Ernest J Bohuslav
6:15 pm- Joe J. & Stella Smolik



Thursday, February 26 (Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25)

7:00 am- Louis, Stazie & Jerome Haas
10:00 am- Living & deceased members of Paul & Hedwig Etzler Family (Stevens)

Friday, February 27 (Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15)

7:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Frank & Jo Nell Janecek's 49th Anniversary
8:05 am- Richard & Stazie Jahn
12:05 pm- Ludwig & Louise Pustejovsky

Saturday, February 28 (Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32)

5:30 pm- Anna Lee Bridges

Sunday, March 1 (Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15)

8:00 am- Ann & William Butschek
10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule (February 25th):

St. Mary's: 6:00 p.m.; **Moravia:** 7:30 p.m.

Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Mass Sponsor: John & Evelyn Pavliska in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Vigil Light Sponsor: In memory of Eugene Novak by his family.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,726.50; Loose-\$1,160; Children's-\$60; Catholic Ed.-\$1,718; Right to Life- \$355.

Promise of Marriage: Andrew Henke & Sheila Wenske on February 28.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Magdalene Kloesel, mother of Delores Jasek. *May she & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Altar Server Training on Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in church for new and current servers in 4th Grade and up.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- JCDA Induction at 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m. in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.
- High School Youth Spectacular, Holy Family, Victoria.
- Czech Heritage Day, Sacred Heart Parish, Flatonia. Mass 1:30 p.m. Music, song & svacina 2:30 – 7:30 p.m. P.O.L.K. of A. Dancers. Gifts from the Czech Republic.
- Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in the church.
- Parish Finance Council meet, 6:00 p.m., Mary's House.
- Parish Advisory Council meet, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House
- Men's ACTS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Moulton Parish Hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- RCIA Class, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- CCD: Grades K – 11th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.
- Spiritual Book Study Group will not meet.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m. in church.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- Confirmation Retreat, 8:30 am–4:00 pm, Family Center. Attendance is mandatory for all Confirmation Candidates.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Deacon Marvin Fikac, Mary Laas, Jacque Holchak, Alvin Rosenauer, Frank Luke, Macey Moeller, Margaret Flores, Mary Ann Gaitan, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Debbie Fishbeck, Josie Ohnheiser, Clint Brewer, Mason Leibham, Josie Muniz, David Tomek, Riley Mika, Joyce Svetlik, Louise Tesch, Mary Bonorden, Marie Grafe, Loraine Butschek, Jesse Cavazos, Bernice Woytek, Evelyn Henke, Lillie Sitka, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Thelma Mikulenska, Alphonse Steffek, Bill Chapline, Maggie Volcik, Matthew Walker, Amanda Conniff, Marcella Henke, Margaret Timm, Madeline Lakey, Sylvester Garza, Harry Jackson, Helen M. Appelt, Luke Bludau, Mary Kaiser, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Hedwig Greer, Josephine Matejek, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Milada Netardus, Agatha Janak, Anita Kallus, Leonard Kubena, Hubert Etzler, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Anita Drabek, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, nursing home residents & the homebound.

Novena for rain is being held Feb. 15–23 at 7:30 p.m. in church. Please come & pray for the much needed rain.

Raffle Prize Donors are needed for the Spring Picnic. Please call the Rectory at your earliest convenience if you are able to donate a raffle prize. *Thank you!*

Anniversaries

John & Evelyn Pavliska 60 years Feb. 23

Perpetual Adoration: An adorer is needed on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury, 798-3224.

From the Desk of Father John

Before He began His public ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. He prayed, fasted, confronted temptation, and prepared for the journey that was to come. During Lent, we imitate Jesus in self-denial. We pray, fast, and give alms. Using God's Word and centuries of spiritual practices and devotions, we can, little by little, set aside what distracts and harms us, open our lives to deep conversions to the Lord, and emerge ready to enter into the lasting joy of life with the Risen Christ.

Lent begins with ashes – a traditional sign of mourning, grieving, and repentance for both Jews and Christians (Is. 58:5; Matthew 11:21). Through the early centuries of Christian history, those who committed serious sins had to do public penance, sometimes for years. Penitents were organized into an "Order of Penitents"; the process was ritualized and culminated on Holy Thursday, when the penitents were readmitted to the Eucharist.

One of the signs of a penitent was ashes or dirt on the person's head, often at the beginning of their penance. By the early Middle Ages, the practice became a more general Lenten tradition for all Christians, focused on the beginning of Lent. It became a way for Christians to publicly mark their sorrow for sin and to symbolically ready themselves to cast that sin away and open themselves to God during the weeks to come.

Today, as we receive ashes on our heads, usually traced in a Sign of the Cross, we're reminded of who we are: creatures in need of God's love and forgiveness.

The readings of Ash Wednesday offers us good guidance, not only for this day, but for the journey we are taking throughout the next few weeks.

- Joel calls us to return to the Lord through our prayer and fasting.
- Paul appeals to us not to "receive the grace of the Lord in vain" (2 Cor.5:20-6:2).
- Jesus reminds us to pray, fast, and give alms with an eye to please only God, not impress other people (Mt.6:1-6;16-18).

During Lent, Catholics are required to fast, and abstain on certain days, in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert. Church law defines "fasting" as eating one regular-sized meal and two small meals. "Abstaining" is refraining from eating animal flesh. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Of course, Church laws are designed to guide a broad range of people in various states of life. We are always welcome to go beyond the minimum by perhaps engaging in a more vigorous fast, abstaining from another food if you are a vegetarian, or fasting an extra day during the week. Wednesday, for example, has been another traditional fasting day for Christians throughout history.

Traditionally the observance of Lent have been structured around three practices: fasting, praying & almsgiving.

Christians throughout history have found these to be the building blocks of Lenten spiritual growth. They work in two ways: they help cleanse our lives of what distracts us from God, and that new space gives God's grace more room to take root and flourish.

Our Lenten hope and prayer is that in imitating Jesus' sacrifice, we become more like Him in every way.



The Youth ConneXion



February 22: High School Youth Spectacular, Holy Family Parish, Victoria. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Liturgy celebrated with Bishop Fellhauer. Delicious lunch, great music, workshops, fun & fellowship! Ends at 6:00 p.m.

Religious Education – Janice Busselman 798-3124

February 25: Ash Wednesday Parish Mass 6:15 p.m.; 10th Grade participate.

March 4: Penance Service for 3rd – 5th Grades.

March 11: Penance Service for 6th – 8th Grades.

March 18: No CCD classes; Spring Break.

March 25: Penance Service for 9th – 11th Grades.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News (361) 798-4251

***Magazine Drive:** February 10 – 24. 40% of the price of the magazines remains with our school. Please renew your subscriptions or place new orders with our school. Thank you for your support.

***2009-2010 School Year Registration:** March 2–April 6. Details & forms will be included in the March newsletter.

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's – 6:30 p.m. on Fridays during Lent.

Disciples on the Journey Lent 2009: Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated 2009 to the Word of God in Scriptures. Bishop Fellhauer is strongly encouraging all Catholics in the diocese to use *Disciples on the Journey* to reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings. Make a decision to either join a *Disciples on the Journey* group in our parish, or invite your family or friends to join you in your home to share & reflect on the Word of God this Lent.

The IWBS Sisters "Come and See" Weekend: February 28 – March 1 for single Catholic women, 18 – 50 years old, at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria. High School Seniors are welcome even if they are not yet 18 years old. For information, log on to www.iwbsvictoria.org, email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or call 575-7111.

Contribution Statements for 2008 are available upon request. **Please call to request your statement BEFORE coming by the Rectory to give us time to prepare your statement.** Thank you.

FINANCIAL REPORT – JANUARY, 2009

Church Income:

Sunday Collection	\$ 34,445.50
Other Donations	3,775.48
Religious Articles	987.49
Family Center Rental	825.00
Church in Latin America Collection	191.00
Interest Income	<u>5,416.75</u>
Total Church Income	<u>\$ 45,641.22</u>

Church Expense:

Salaries	\$ 6,501.49
Utilities	1,503.48
Church Expense	2,725.40
Rectory Expense	83.91
Office Expense	1,452.87
Religious Articles	756.52
Family Center Expense	199.20
Medical Insurance & Pension	2,592.00
Repairs	580.45
Church in Latin America Collection	191.00
Building Insurance	1,528.12
Property Taxes	<u>785.61</u>
Total Church Expense	<u>\$ 18,900.05</u>

School Income:

Field Trips	\$ 73.00
Bus Fees	175.00
Pre-K Tuition	5,400.00
K-12th Tuition	46,330.00
Extended Care	1,805.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	2,910.00
Memorials	2,570.00
Extravaganza	17,965.00
Shop Donations	20.00
Library	25.00
Donations	14,110.00
Gym Fund	60.00
Interest	4,196.41
Miscellaneous	<u>1,140.60</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$ 96,780.01</u>

School Expense:

Salaries	\$ 64,808.24
Contracted Services	651.86
Office & Teaching Expense	1,025.00
Extended Care Supplies	69.07
Postage	130.95
Staff Development	349.00
Assessment Fees	89.00
Public Relations	700.00
Textbooks	172.79
Library Expense	438.00
Utilities	5,225.40
Custodial Supplies	1,521.98
Plant Repairs	1,163.77
Bus & Vehicle Expense	1,619.16
Payroll Taxes	4,772.30
Medical Insurance	11,112.84
Retirement	3,177.78
Worker's Compensation	3,245.19
Property Insurance	2,438.71
Convent Expense	787.55
Acquisition of Equipment	4,951.00
Technology	10,200.87
Miscellaneous	<u>2,145.32</u>
Total School Expense	<u>\$ 120,795.78</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT – JANUARY, 2009

Parish Income	\$ 142,421.23
Parish Expense	<u>- 139,695.83</u>
Parish Balance	<u>\$ 2,725.40</u>

Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Mass sponsors are needed. If you are able to sponsor one or both, please come by the Rectory at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!



Prayer for Rain: Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. We place our trust in You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

At the Rosecrance Rehabilitation Center in Rockford, Illinois, both adolescents and adults come to be treated for serious addictions to drugs and alcohol. For many, their families have brought them there, no longer able to understand, control, or live with a disease which threatens to take their loved one's life if allowed to continue. Caring counselors combine physiological and psychological treatment, but also impart to the residents the need for a spiritual awakening, a need to renew their faith, lift themselves up from their addiction and walk away. It's through the faith of others that they can do this.

The crowds are banging on the door; Jesus is literally being kept from His teachings by the very people He is trying to reach. So overwhelming are they that they climb onto the roof of His house, and tearing a hole in it, they lower down a man paralyzed, begging Jesus to cure him. And He does, but the Gospel of Mark specifically says, "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven.'" It is through the faith of those around the paralyzed man that his illness is relieved, and he is able to stand up and walk away.

From its beginning through death, human life is surrounded by guardians, those whose watchful eyes offer care and intercession (CCC 336). No one is forgotten, no one is cast aside even though it seems no one cares. Even as Christ walked to Calvary and those who had followed Him now turned their back on Him, a woman steps forward to wipe the sweat and blood from His face, a man steps forward to carry His cross when He no longer can. Through the faith of others, we are never alone.

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The Miraculous Prayer: Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus & place it on your own broken heart where your own Father sees it. Then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen.

