

FEBRUARY 26, 2012: First Sunday of Lent



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." — MK 1:14-15

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

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, February 26 (Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15)

8:00 am- Louis R. Kallus & Carolyn Steffek

10:30 am- Mary & Floyd Simmons & Floyd, Jr.

5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, February 27 (Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of KJT #5

10:00 am- Tom & Rosie Tousek (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, February 28 (Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15)

7:00 am- Dolores Ludwig

Wednesday, February 29 (Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32)

7:00 am- Louis & Annie Krenek

8:05 am- Betty Hernandez

12:05 pm- Living & deceased members of Catholic Daughters Court Sacred Heart No. 797

Thursday, March 1 (Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12)

7:00 am- Frank & Anna Tupa Family

10:00 am- Alton Heinzl (Stevens)

Friday, March 2 (Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26)

7:00 am- Julius & Sidonia Mikulenska, Benefactors

8:05 am- Kelly Wood

12:05 pm- Frank & Mary Grahmann Haas & Family

6:00 pm- Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 3, St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin (Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48)

8:00 am- ProLife Intention

5:30 pm- David Etzler

Sunday, March 4 (Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10)

8:00 am- Shawn & Ryan Drozd

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: Bob Kubena in memory of Mary & Floyd Simmons & Floyd, Jr.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Leo & Evelyn Hoffer in honor of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary.

Vigil Light: Special intention for employment.

Our Gift to God: Env.-\$5,130.50; Catholic Ed. Envelopes-\$1,542; Loose-\$1,365; Childrens-\$30.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Lester Woytek*, father of Randy Woytek & brother of Harvey Woytek; & *Boyce Rother*, husband of Anita Rother. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Promise of Marriage: Sarah Grahmann and Jason Jansky on March 10, 2012.

Flowers last week at the Altar of Sacrifice were in memory of Josephine Janak.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

-Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Family Center. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.

-Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

-Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., Church.

-Abby Johnson, Pro-Life Speaker, 7:00 p.m., Church.

-Mens ACTS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Moulton.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-Choir Practice, 6:00 p.m., Church.

-Adult Education Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

-CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

-No English Second Language Class.

-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 pm, Church Cry Rm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

-First Friday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in Church. The intention this month: *For our government leaders & for the maintaining of our religious freedoms.*

-Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 p.m., Church.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

-First Friday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

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

-S.H.C.S. Fish Fry, KC Hall. Drive thru 5:00-6:30 pm. Inside hall 5:00-7:00 pm. Tickets \$8 each.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

-Serra Club Mass, 8:00 am, St. Michael Church, Weimar.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

-Jr. Confirmation Retreat, 8am – 6pm, Family Center.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Doug Blumberg, Dan & Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Anita Bohuslav, Paul Najvar, Irene Bordovsky, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Red Kahane, Theresa (Alvin) Steffek, Liz Woytek, Hank & Marion Morris, Angela Hermes, Chris Layton, Wade Amsden, Vernell Bozka, Denise DeBord, Frank, Patrick & Robben Nemeck, Geneva Strmiska, Bea Heinzl, Brenda Bludau, Lois Dornak, Patricia Schlageter, LaNora Konvicka, Bobby Lee Drozd, Anne Mae Technik, Sandra Mozisek, Benedict Brosch, nursing home residents & the home-bound.

Anniversaries:

William & Patty Hermes	30 years	Feb. 27
Frank & Jo Nell Janecek	52 years	Feb. 27
Brad & Glenda Popp	25 years	Feb. 28
Melvin & Mary Ann Jurica	52 years	Feb. 28

From the Desk of Father John

Tuesday evening, the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools Office and Bishop Fellhauer recognized a distinguished alumnus from each of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria. Congratulations to Doris Fenner from Sacred Heart for being recognized.

As we begin this Lenten Season, let us pray that it will be a time of true spiritual growth for all of us. Let's not let it slip by us.

This Monday through Wednesday afternoon, I will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, visiting my priest friend in the nursing home there.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News
Office 798-4251**

2012-13 School Year Registration Feb. 1 – March 13
Registration fee \$100 per student if paid by March 13 and \$150 per student if paid after March 13. The 2012-13 budget is in development stage, so please register your child/children as soon as possible. Limited tuition assistance is available for those persons who qualify. Come by the school office for a tuition assistance application, which must be completed by May 2 and must include a copy of your 2011 W-2 Forms. All information provided will be strictly confidential.

Box Tops for Education: A check in the amount of \$1,070.10 was received through the Box Tops for Education. Please keep sending in your Box Tops labels!

Annual Fund: The 2012 Annual Fund materials were mailed out in December. We have received \$51,305 as of January 24. Thank you very much to all who have already donated. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating to the Annual Fund this year. If you would like a packet sent to you, please call the school office.

**Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124
Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

Feb. 29: Penance Service for 9th, 10th & 12th Grades.

Mar. 4: Jr. Confirmation Retreat, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Family Center.

Mar. 7: Penance Service, 3rd-5th Grades.

Mar. 14: No class – Spring Break.

Mar. 21: Penance Service, 6th-8th Grades.

Mar. 28: 2nd Grade students & parents Last Supper Feast, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Family Center.

Every First Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of His Body and Blood and of the holy Priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us on Thursday for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our Diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

Perpetual Adoration – An adorer is needed on Thursdays at 12:00 midnight. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord in prayer and adoration, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

The *Disciples on the Journey* resource books are available at the Rectory for \$2.50 each.

Healing Mass, 10:00 am, March 3, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria, celebrated by Fr. Phi Nguyen.

40 Days for Life – Houston: The Confirmation students of Sacred Heart Parish will be traveling to Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Houston on March 3 to participate in the campaign "40 Days for Life" to pray for an end to abortion and for the protection of unborn babies. We will have Mass at Sacred Heart at 8:00 am that morning and then leave for Houston. If you are interested in going, please call Fr. Tommy to sign up. Seats on the bus are extremely limited. Car-pooling may be needed.

Registration for NEW Altar Servers being accepted now: Sacred Heart Parish is accepting applications from boys and girls of the parish to become an altar server for the parish. The requirements to be a server are as follows:
1. Must be a baptized or professed member of the Catholic faith.
2. Must have already received First Holy Communion.
3. Must be currently enrolled in at least the 4th grade.
4. Must be a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church.
5. Must be mature enough to understand and carry out the responsibilities of the altar server with attention and reverence.
6. Must have the support of one's parents or legal guardian. The blue registration forms are available on the table in the narthex of the church. Forms are due to Fr. Tommy by Friday, March 9, 2012.


A new policy for booking Mass Intentions has been adopted in order to allow for more people to book weekend Masses. When booking Masses you will be able to book one weekend Mass and one weekday Mass. This policy also applies when booking separate Masses for different people. You will need to choose which Mass to book on the weekend, and then book the remaining Masses on weekdays. *Your understanding and consideration in adhering to this policy will be appreciated.*

Pro-life speaker Abby Johnson is coming to share her conversion story on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Abby was a pro-abortion employee of Planned Parenthood until she had a conversion and is now a prominent advocate of the pro-life cause. She will also be speaking with the high school students of Sacred Heart School on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Everyone is invited to these talks.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL VOCATIONAL SHOP FUND – In memory of their parents (\$50) & Frank Matula (\$15): Alton & Bernice Michalcik. **In memory of Daniel Wick:** Elroy & Barbara Holik-\$15.
SACRED HEART QUILTING CIRCLE – In memory of Helen Appelt: Larry & Doris Grubert-\$10.

1st Sunday of Lent – It was just two months ago that we celebrated Christmas. Remember back to that holiday season? Festive lights, glorious decorations, glittering trees, colorful poinsettias, family meals, joyous celebrations, Christmas gifts. Somewhere in all of that mix, it was likely that there was also a Christmas Nativity scene. Maybe it was a family heirloom carefully set up in a corner so that it wouldn't be disturbed. Or possibly your family Nativity scene last Christmas was hand-drawn artwork by one of your school children that was proudly displayed on the refrigerator. (Maybe it's even still there!)

Wait a minute! Isn't this the First Sunday of Lent? Why all the talk about Christmas? Because like Christmas itself, the First Sunday of Lent always has a Gospel that reminds us that Jesus is truly human! With all the stories of the past few weeks (healings of Peter's mother-in-



Jesus is truly human

law, a leper, a paralytic, and the casting out of a demon) we could begin to think of Jesus only as some kind of miracle-worker. To do that would remove Him from a clear and concrete association with us. For centuries, the church has clearly taught that Jesus is completely and thoroughly human just as He is completely and thoroughly divine.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus was tempted, just like we are tempted. He had the opportunity to accede to the wiles of Satan. Instead, He emerged from the desert to proclaim a Gospel of repentance. We hear this story of Jesus' humanity as we begin Lent to give us encouragement for the next forty days. We often begin Lent with a lot of enthusiasm. We are ready to change our lives. But changing how we live is difficult, and temptations are rampant. The Gospel tells us that angels came and ministered to Jesus while He was being tempted. Start Lent by asking a friend or a family member to be an angel for you in the next forty days, to ask you occasionally how your Lent is going. 2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETICS – **In memory of Frank Matula:** Leroy & Anita Etzler-\$20; Pat & Gayle Henke-\$40; Bobby & Carol Bludau-\$20; Larry & Agnes Greer Family-\$10; Donald & Ruth Muehr-\$15; Gus & Margaret Miller-\$30; Gilbane Building Co.-\$100; Winstead Attorneys-\$250. **In memory of Urban Hemmi:** Bobby & Carol Bludau-\$20. **In memory of Herman Spoede:** Robert & Barbara Grahmann-\$20. **In memory of Emmerlin Dworsky:** Leon & Kay Steinocher-\$20; Brian & Janice Bludau Family-\$25; Mike & Rose Patek-\$20; Glenn & Donna Leopold Family-\$20; David & Mary Polasek-\$20; Terry & Ervin Bludau Family-\$50.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL CAFETERIA – **In memory of Emmerlin Dworsky:** Clarence & Diana Wenske-\$20; James & Monica Vanek Family-\$15; Edna Mae Wehman-\$10.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUND – **In memory of Lawrence Grubert, Sr.:** Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Koehne-\$10; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gerlich-\$10; John & Laverne Trojcak-\$15; Margaret Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Frank Matula:** John & Laverne Trojcak-\$15; World Presidents' Organization-Austin Chapter-\$150; Margaret Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Helen Appelt:** John & Laverne Trojcak-\$10; Bill & Margaret Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Gene Drozd:** John & Laverne Trojcak-\$10. **In memory of Anita Kallus:** Judy Schneider-\$10; Bea Butschek-\$10; Franklin & Nola Bohuslav-\$20; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10; Larry & Doris Grubert-\$10; Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15; Margaret Bludau-\$10; Brandon & Jennifer Noska-\$25. **In memory of Ernest Schulte:** Marvin & Barbara Koehne-\$10. **In memory of Carolyn Boyd:** Evelyn Schaefer-\$20. **In memory of Caroline Polasek:** Don & Corky Jones-\$25; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10; Rosemary Hermes-\$15; Roger & Beverly Janak-\$50; Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15; Robert & Leona Steffek-\$20. **In memory of Gilbert Butschek, June Janak, John Lell, & Mrs. Patrick (Rose) Melnar:** Bill & Margaret Bludau-\$40. **In memory of Daniel Wick:** John & Beverly Haas-\$10; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Dominic Konvicka:** Viola Konvicka-\$15. **In memory of Irene Carley:** Margaret Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Chris Jares:** Edward & Patty Grahmann-\$20; Mark & Karen Janak-\$10; Darryl & Cheryl Steffek-\$10; Marvin & Imelda Orsak-\$20. **In memory of Betty Jean Hemmi:** Ella Mae Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Emmerlin Dworsky:** Trey & Jennifer Kraatz Family-\$20; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10; Rosemary & Phillip Hemmi-\$10; Robert & Kim Henke Family-\$10; Anthony & Rachel Siegel-\$10; Margaret & Sharon Bludau-\$20; James & Tonie Brooks-\$10; Pam & Everett Bludau-\$10; Edward & Patty Grahmann-\$20; Richard & Frances Henke-\$20; Anna & Anthony Etzler-\$20; Robert & Carol Rother-\$20; Franklin & Nola Bohuslav-\$20; Gary & Cindy Mucala-\$20; Billy & Bev Hrcncir Family-\$20; Bruce & Gayle Wesson-\$20; John Paul & Shanna Clark Family-\$20; Brian & Christine Haas-\$20; Robert & Barbara Grahmann-\$15; Mark & Karen Janak Family-\$15; Bo & Pam Wick Family-\$10; Sacred Heart 7th Grade Class-\$16; Dennis & Gerardette Haas-\$20; Larry & Doris Grubert-\$10.

DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – **In memory of Joe Strauss, Joe "Pepe" Patek, & Lois Orsak:** Tommy & Elsie Grahmann-\$30.

DWAYNE JANAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND – **In memory of Gilbert Butschek(\$40) & Gene Drozd(\$10):** Guntram & Elaine Janak Family.

HENRY & ELIZABETH HENKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – **In memory of Herman Spoede:** Larry & Doris Grubert-\$10.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Genesis 9:8–15
Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:12–15

MONDAY

Matthew 25:31–46

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father . . .”

TUESDAY

Matthew 6:7–15

“ . . . your Father knows what you need before you ask . . .”

WEDNESDAY

Luke 11:29–32

“ . . . something greater than Solomon is here!”

THURSDAY

Matthew 7:7–12

“Ask, and it will be given you.”

FRIDAY

Matthew 5:20–26

“ . . . be reconciled to your brother or sister . . .”

SATURDAY

Matthew 5:43–48

“Love your enemies . . .”

Give Us a Sign

At baseball games the third base coach gives “signs” to the batter before every pitch. The gestures can be quite imaginative: pull the left ear, wipe the bill of the cap, touch a finger to the nose. These gestures may signal the batter to bunt, take a pitch, or do nothing, for not every sign is important.

This Sunday’s readings show that, like an attentive batter, we need to watch carefully to make sure we see and understand the signs around us.

Genesis 9:8–15 tells us that the rainbow is God’s sign of the covenant. Every time we see a rainbow, we can be assured of God’s promise not to destroy the world again by water. What’s interesting in this reading is that God makes this covenant with “every living creature,” not just with humans. Is there a stronger ecological statement in the Bible than this?

In the reading from 1 Peter, the sign is the water of baptism, through which God saves us anew. So, we go from God using water to destroy the world to experiencing salvation through this same water.

Finally, in the reading from Mark, we again see the power of the waters of baptism. Although not a part of *this* reading, Jesus is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness only after he has been baptized with water from the river Jordan. For Jesus, baptism is a sign that he must now begin his life of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

We all must learn to recognize signs from God and realize what they call us to do.



The Faith of the Church

Signs are important. We find them everywhere and use them often to communicate through words, images, and gestures. Sacraments are also signs. What makes them different from other signs is that Jesus uses the signs of bread and wine and water and oil to confer his life and grace upon us by the power of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of the Church (Cf. *US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p 169).



Questions of the Week

Through the sacraments, we recognize Christ’s presence among us through ordinary objects, such as water and oil. Can we live in such a way that others will recognize Christ’s presence through our lives?

Adults

What is one thing that I can do or say this week to be a sign of the living Jesus Christ for others?

Children

What is one thing I can do this week to show Christ’s love by respecting others?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Following his baptism, Jesus went into the desert for forty days of prayer to prepare himself for his mission to proclaim God's Good News of salvation.

We, too, have been baptized and sent out into the world to proclaim this good news. What are we doing to prepare ourselves for this mission?

The Church calls us to fast—eat less lavishly—on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. These minor forms of penance are mini-desert experiences meant to help us focus and pray about what truly matters.

Traditionally, during Lent, people

practice sacrificial giving. For some, this means "giving up" candy or drinks, while for others it means giving more of their time, talent, or treasure.

What sacrifices are you prepared to make during this Lenten season? Here are a few suggestions: turn off the TV and spend quality time with your family; give money you normally spend on luxuries to help someone in need; set aside 15 minutes each day to read the Bible or other spiritual material, and purposely place yourself in God's presence.

By doing such little things, we are made into signs of God's Kingdom here on earth.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. As a family, agree on the sacrifices you will make collectively this Lent, such as doing without desserts or bottled drinks, and how you will share with others the money saved through these sacrifices.

In the workplace or in school. Each day, choose one person to pray for in a special way. Write the person's name on a slip of paper and carry it with you. Add a new person to pray for each day.

In the community. Look for ways that you can volunteer your time and talents to benefit people in need.



Meditation Moment

The movie *An Officer and a Gentleman* concerns a selfish young man who wants to be a naval flight officer. He is totally self-centered. A tough drill sergeant sees through him and makes it a point to challenge him with a variety of tests and ordeals. In the process of meeting these tests, the young man discovers his soul and undergoes a change of heart. He graduates from boot camp not only an officer but also a gentleman. It is this kind of discovery of soul and change of heart that Jesus invites people to make in today's reading.

For reflection . . .

What does it mean to find one's soul?

CONSCIENCE IS THE WALKIE-TALKIE SET BY WHICH GOD SPEAKS TO US.

JAMES J. METCALF

ADAPTED FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Open Our Eyes, Lord

God, our Father, Signs of your love and care for us are everywhere for us to see, if only we have the eyes of faith. Give us these eyes. Open our minds, so that we may develop a sacramental imagination and experience your presence in all of creation. Open our hearts, so we may learn to care more deeply for everyone we meet and everyone in need. Open our hands, so we may serve others freely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature . . . for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds . . .

Genesis 9:12-13

Profile in Faith

Mother Catherine Spalding

Mother Catherine Spalding (1793-1858) founded the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. In 1813, at the age of 19, she became the first superior of the community. Today, this community has missions around the world, focusing primarily on education and healthcare.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR

† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
November 21, 2011

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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